California Forest Management Task Force
Sierra and Eastside Regional Prioritization Group
Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Location: USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA

I. Introductions

- Welcome from Chris Anthony (CAL FIRE) and Danelle D. Harrison (USFS)
  - Recent wildland fires serve as a reminder of the importance of the work ahead of us in this group and the furtherance of the objectives of the Forest Management Task Force. D.D. and Chris really want this group to provide value to all the members. We know participation in this working group is in addition to an already busy schedule and full workload, but the success of the group is going to be largely dependent on the participation of the membership to collectively work together toward common goals.
  - An opportunity to give a collective voice to restoration champions
  - Ways to connect collaboratives and facilitate constructive dialogue
  - To work closely with the three other regional groups (Northern, Southern, and Coastal), to take a consistent approach; yet elevate issues important to the Sierra and Eastside of the State.

- Roll Call of Working Group members
- Purpose of first meeting/conference call

II. Review work group composition and identify any missing representation (Chris Anthony)

- Reasoning behind groups initially invited
  - Groups who were engaged with the Tree Mortality Task Force and part of the evolution to the Forest Management Task Force
    - Tree mortality task force was successful because of effective working groups within it
  - Entities integral to collaborative restoration on the large landscape scale
  - Groups who will contribute unique perspectives that will help us collectively be successful
    - This will be the largest working group in the task force because of our large land footprint (23 counties)
    - We will likely continue to add participants

- Potential missing representation
  - Are there key partners that we’re missing?
    - If participants know of good candidates – email D.D. and Chris
    - More wildlife members, utility companies?
III. Review of Forest Management Task Force Objectives and Working Groups (Terry O’Brien, Governor’s Office)

✓ Terry O’Brien – Governor’s Office
  • This working group builds on the tree mortality task force and forest carbon plan working group
  • Goal is to find solutions to the problems we are facing
    • Regional groups responsible for unique local aspects
    • Increase pace and scale of the work we are doing
    • Need greater sense of urgency
  • Task force is looking for solutions
  • Start at macro level at the main issues we are facing
    • THEN quickly move to micro issue to solve barriers to pace and scale
    • How do we leverage limited resources
    • What areas are at the greatest risk
    • What is in the way of us getting our work done
    • Where do we need to focus our resources
  • Come up with a list of recommendations of what we need to do immediately to reduce the risks we are facing
  • Be bold – think outside the box
    • $1B is a lot but not enough
    • Want to help the Forest Service
  • How do we get more infrastructure on the forest?
    • Treat more areas more economically

IV. Forest Health Grant Overview and Update (Angie Lottes)
  • CAL FIRE Assistant Deputy Director for Climate and Energy
  • Fire prevention and forest health grant deadlines upcoming
  • $155 million/year split between fire prevention and forest health (no guidelines for how it is to be split)
  • Fire prevention – fuels reduction and education, some prescribed fire, smaller projects (neighborhood size)
  • Forest health – upper and mid watersheds, want to reduce severity of wildfires, reintroduce fire into the landscape, only landscape-scale projects ≥ 1000 acres, mechanical fuels reduction, prescribed fire, biomass, federal and private lands, e.g. TCSI
    • Can be done on FS land, but don’t expect grant proposals directly from FS
    • Looking for eastern side high-desert projects
  • Previously, 205,000 acres with $91 million in 23 projects
    • 90,000 ac. mechanical, 20,000 ac. prescribed fire, 20,000 ac. pest mgmt., 65,000 acres of biomass utilization – 1 million bone dry tons
    • Reforestation, 3.5 million trees planted
  • Under the forest health grant program guidelines we can only treat federal lands adjacent to SRA lands
    • WG Member Question: Is there grant money for road maintenance to create opportunity for forest health projects?
    • Answer: There are funds available for maintenance if it is directly tied to acres treated and can be done in the time of the grant window – four year timeframe
    • Grant money can be used for environmental planning (NEPA/CEQA) if some treatment will be included in the grant as well
V. Legislative Update (Matt Dias, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection)
- Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is a 9 member, appointed statewide Board
- Create forest practice rules, regulatory practices for forest management on state and private lands
- Several exemptions in the forest practice rules for land owners to increase pace and scale
  - SB901 allowed the board to adopt new exemptions for small landowners (coastal district, 50 acres of timberland or less; northern and southern 100 acres of timberland or less)
  - Want to engage new landowners in forest management
  - Other exemptions have been coalesced – one permitting process
  - One exemption for road construction for forest fire prevention
  - Consolidate and clarify exemptions
- Working forest management plan – like a program EIR
  - Assessment of timberland that is programmatic in nature
  - Timber harvest noted to the department
  - Multiple landowners can participate
- Multiple landowners can participate in a non-industrial timber management plan
- Land-use planning: local coordination for safety ordinances and fire prevention
  - By 2021, mandatory that local jurisdictions adopt SRA fire-safe regulations in high-severity fire zones in LRA

VI. Review and verification of Sierra and Eastside Regional Prioritization Group Goals
(Danelle D. Harrison)
- Scope of the Group
  - Knowing the overarching objectives of our group, popcorn style throw out ways we want to make a difference
    - Stacy Corless – Mono County
      - Education and communication with the public
      - Help public understand the need for forest health projects and fire safety
      - Dale Nova – Use schools, fire citation issuances (more in SoCal than NorCal, larger fines), education from the top down and bottom up
    - Forest Schafer– CTC
      - What are the limits to forest health projects
      - Prioritizing work, thinking about the social context in different areas of the Sierra to get the work done
    - David Griffith– Alpine County
      - Roadless and wilderness areas need to be included in forest health projects too
    - Kim Carr – broaden the definition of high hazard zones re: management goal #2 – need framework for prioritization, build off from tree mortality task force
    - Series of tours for types of projects and issues – can these be virtual?
    - Doug Cushman – build capacity on the ground and the esteem of the workforce – extend seasonal employees, good paying jobs to entice good people
    - Gordon Martin, Inyo - Wood utilization
      - Mammoth Lakes wants a biomass plant
      - Kim Carr – private sector needs to be involved
      - Michelle Havens, Sequoia NF, dead trees falling = hazard and added fuel
- Review Management Goals
- Identify Collaboratives
✓ On the whiteboard or wall, have folks go up and write names of collaborative/projects  
✓ Can we do a “guide to Collaboratives” and associated map?  
✓ Solicit names from phone participants  
  ▪ Sierra Institute lists forest landscape restoration groups  
  ▪ CAL FIRE awardees  
    ▪ We don’t want to be missing Collaboratives who are funded by CAL FIRE!  
  ▪ Ad-hoc biomass working group  
  ▪ YSS – Yosemite-Stanislaus solutions  
  ▪ Lake Tahoe West  
  ▪ SOFAR  
  ▪ French meadows  
  ▪ TCSI  
  ▪ Alpine Biomass Collaborative  
  ▪ Amador Calaveras Consensus Group  

• Survey needs of the Regional Groups  
  ✓ Create a survey around the work being done  
  ✓ Tools, needs, information sharing, etc.?  
    ▪ Elevate OUR concerns to other working groups  
    ▪ Needs and barriers from existing collaboration and ones that aren’t stood up yet from achieving resilience goals  

VIII. New business and announcements (C Anthony, D Harrison)  
• Updates from Collaboratives  
• Bin Items  
  ✓ How do we engage Collaboratives  
• Action Items  
  ✓ Survey - next meeting. Forest and D.D.  
  ✓ Prioritization framework – tiers for funding etc  
  ✓ Outreach for collaboratives/connectivity  
  ✓ Working with the technical working groups  
    ▪ Tree mortality group next meeting?  
    ▪ Wood utilization group too?  

IX. Next meeting:  
December 7, 2018  
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.  
Conference Call  
✓ Next Governor’s Task Force Meeting, 12/10, 1-4pm. CAL EPA, Sacramento  

X. Closing comments/adjournment  
Need repository for our meeting notes, agendas, data etc.; can post to public facing site too  
Working Group website can be located here:  
✓ https://fmtf.fire.ca.gov/regional-prioritization-groups/sierra-and-eastside/