

DRAFT - SUMMARY

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

LAKE TAHOE WEST RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, July 10, 2019

Tahoe Fire Protection District Station 51, 222 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, CA 96145

All meeting materials are publicly available on the Lake Tahoe West website

<http://nationalforests.org/laketahoewest>. For questions please contact the program manager/facilitator

Sarah Di Vittorio at sdivittorio@nationalforests.org or (530) 902-8281.

Meeting Synopsis

On July 10, 2019, the Lake Tahoe West (LTW) Stakeholder Community Committee met at the Tahoe Fire Protection District Station 51 in Tahoe City to reconnect over progress made in recent months on the Lake Tahoe West Landscape Restoration Strategy (LRS) and brainstorm collaborative opportunities and potential challenges for stakeholders and agencies in the implementation of the Strategy. Attendees were provided packets for the afternoon workshop which included the agenda and each of the six LRS Goals and their respective Objectives. Chief Schwartz of the Tahoe Fire Protection district set the context for the meeting by discussing lessons learned from the Camp Fire in Paradise, CA, and how it sets the context for the importance of interagency and collaboration in forest communities. Sarah Di Vittorio reviewed the 6 Goals from the Landscape Restoration Strategy with the group. Brian Garrett and Forest Schafer presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group highlighting four key themes grouping existing projects within the Lake Tahoe West region that actively meet the Goals and Objectives of the LRS. Attendees then identified other projects within and near the LTW perimeters through indicating the project location, category, and offering a verbal description of the project. Following a short break, the attendees broke in to two groups to discuss four key questions. After 30 minutes, the two groups reconvened to discuss how they answered questions regarding how agencies and community groups can support one another and collaborate to propagate the Landscape Restoration Strategy in their respective communities.

Contents

Meeting Synopsis	1
Action Items	1
Opening Remarks	1
Agenda Review and Landscape Restoration Strategy Document Review	2
Presentation.....	3
Map Session	5
Group 1 Key Themes	7
Group 2 Key Themes	7
Other Comments and Discussion.....	8
Next Steps	8
Attendees.....	8

Action Items

Bri Tiffany will add Dan Blood (dblood@skihomewood.com) to the SCC List.

Opening Remarks

Sarah Di Vittorio of the National Forest Foundation opened the workshop with an update on nearing completion of the Landscape Restoration Strategy. The day's workshop was described as an opportunity to reach out and reconnect moving forward to the next phase of the Landscape Restoration Strategy. The 17 attendees each introduced themselves and their respective agencies.

North Tahoe Fire Protect District Chief Michael Schwartz then offered the formal welcome for the workshop. Utilizing photographs of a visit to Paradise, CA, he highlighted parallels between the Camp Fire and fire potential in and around Lake Tahoe communities. Several key similarities highlighted were transportation bottlenecks, dense stands of conifers, and the presence of benzene producing plastics. Like areas around Lake Tahoe West vicinities, Sierra Pacific Industry's shaded fuel breaks highlighted successes of strategically placed fuel breaks and thinning work. Chief Schwartz ended his welcome with the positive note that organizations, both individual and collective, have never "looked this far down the road," as the Lake Tahoe West project does.

Agenda Review and Landscape Restoration Strategy Document Review

Sarah Di Vittorio provided an overview of the agenda for the afternoon. She then began the central presentation for the workshop by providing a recap of the Landscape Restoration Strategy.

- Landscape Restoration Strategy Recap and Key Points
 - The purpose of the LRS is to provide a *science*-based approach to landscape level project management.
 - The LRS offers a collaborative framework.
 - The document is for an informed audience but avoids technical jargon in favor of accessible language.

Sarah then expressed appreciation for participating stakeholder groups. The community committee helped initiate partnerships and identify values and quantification. She explained that the workshop was an important opportunity to check in and provide input, as well as explore how stakeholders fit in to the process moving forward.

- Document Content Recap
 - There are 6 Goals in the Landscape Restoration Strategy.
 - Each Goal has associated Objectives with more specific metrics.
 - The document provides strategy and prioritization guidelines for managers for implementation.

The group then collectively overviewed the Goals and Objectives handout provided at the start of the workshop. Sarah updated attendees on the LRS process. The first draft was released on May 31st, 2019 and was received in depth and beneficial comments back. Feedback included identifying specific areas where science can be more strongly linked to social benefits. The second draft is targeted for release in July 2019 and the final draft for release in late August 2019.

The use of consultants in future stages of the Landscape Restoration Strategy was then discussed. Upon completion of the current phase, consultants will take over stakeholder meetings and communication facilitation.

Presentation

Brian Garret (B) and Forest Schafer(F) jointly presented the PowerPoint used for the workshop. The presentation covered the categorization of four key categories of community interest groups.

- Fire and Fuels Management and Mitigation
- Habitat Restoration and Resilience
- Watershed Restoration and Resilience
- Community and Economic Wellbeing

Brian reiterated that a major goal for the day was to bring the community committee stakeholder group up to date on LRS planning and to seek increased engagement based on suggested inputs as finalization of the LRS occurs.

- Landscape Restoration Strategy Recap and Key Points (B)
 - The strategic document is based on the Landscape Resilience Assessment (LRA) which looked at current conditions and identified if they are resilient or not.
 - The LRA was utilized to inform strategy for the LRS.
 - Scientific modeling identified management actions needed for the landscape and how various scenarios may play out.
 - Forests are still in recovery from Comstock Era Mining.
- Landscape Restoration Strategy Recap and Key Points (F)
 - As Goals were developed, they were formed and shaped by inputs from the science and community committees.
 - As the LRS progresses, there will be an increase in both the pace and scale of work being done.
 - Specific objectives were developed for each goal, including but not limited to the following.
 - Goal 1: 40,000 out of 60,000 acres of the LRS region need thinning.
 - Goal 2: 8,000 to 9,000 out of 10,000 acres on the West Shore needed treated. This vicinity is where high severity burns leading to increased erosion are anticipated.
 - Goal 3: 780 acres of meadow restoration. Meadow risks include encroachment from trees at the boundaries.
 - Goal 4: Restore 9 miles of stream channels in areas of increased sedimentation.
 - Goal 5: 5,000 more acres of treatment in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Thousands of acres have already been treated.
 - Goal 6: Consideration for disposal of treatment byproducts is required. Byproducts are a limiting factor for Goals and Objectives to be accomplished.

Forest noted the Landscape Restoration Strategy can successfully be seen in action in existing projects around the Lake Tahoe West footprint. The majority of projects specifically identified in the LRS are related to Fire and Fuels Management and Mitigation.

- Fire and Fuels Management and Mitigation (B)
 - While fire is the major tool for landscape restoration as well as most publicly discussed and recognized, it is not possible to use fire as the first choice in many situations.

- The LRS allows for prioritization of other tools to ensure when fire is used it is effective.
- Roads, trails, and ridges should be used for strategic placements of thinning and burns in both the WUI and general forest.
- Access to areas requiring treatment remains a major challenge, particularly slopes over 30 degrees.
- Burning is difficult to keep up with due to various constraints, such as air quality.
- Accessing areas to remove biomass is preferred over burning, while aerial removal is cost prohibitive but may be used when it is right for the landscape.

Brian continued the discussion on fire and fuels through discussing paradigm shifts. PACs, are critical species habitats at high risk of burning due to fuels. There must be additional/new considerations and approaches for PACs around communities. PACs are associated with late seral habitats. The goal is to reduce risk of losing PACs in high severity fires while reducing risk to adjacent communities. Additionally, species benefit from diverse landscapes as opposed to homogenous swaths. Additional paradigm shifts include the removal of 30" or greater diameter at breast height (DBH) trees in some situations. This depends on stand conditions. Scenarios include in or around channels that need woody debris, or areas of competition between species, as well as bark beetle dangers. It was reiterated that the Objectives focus on getting more work done in a shorter amount of time.

Forest discussed the emphasis on thinking about community role in building resilience along the West Shore. The PowerPoint highlighted existing projects. The sample active projects highlight LTW Goals and Objectives in action. There are several multi-thousand-acre projects currently active.

Having covered the Fire and Fuels topic, Brian transitioned to Habitat Restoration and Resilience, and discussed LTW as an "all ownership" strategy that looks at the full landscape for needs to be resilient in the future.

- Habitat Restoration and Resilience (B)
 - Meeks Meadow is a 300-acre restoration project focusing on removing encroaching trees.
 - Baldwin Meadow has a similar project as well.
 - There are 780 acres identified in the LRS for Habitat Restoration
 - Within the Goals and Objectives, projects have various time frames. Meadows are a relatively short-term project due to comparatively less physical demands and also limited acreage.

One of the key tenets of the Lake Tahoe West strategy is considering how different parts of the landscapes influence one another, Forest explained. What is happening within the general forest influences what happens in the lake and in all areas in between. Forest structure impacts water availability through snowpack, cover, and temperature.

- Watershed Restoration and Resilience (F)
 - Meeks Meadow is a prime example of linking multiple resources with multiple values. Meeks Meadow links to Meeks Marina and is related to recreation, water use, parking, and camping.
 - Highway 89 poses major challenges to aquatic species, as it restricts fish passage.

Brian then discussed the importance of getting channels in functioning condition as they relate to fire. Even with managed fire, there are pulses of sediment delivery. In order to use fire as tool, the systems must function as sediment traps.

Lake Tahoe is a strong example of the link between communities and landscape.

- Community and Economic Wellbeing (F)
 - There is a wealth of new science underpinning ecological resilience.
 - Ecological resilience is community resilience too.

The LRS aims to avoid duplication of efforts. The Sustainable Recreation Working Group (SRWG) is active in the recreation community and the Highway 89 corridor. The LRS aims to leverage connections with groups that are already having success in independent project implementation. This provides opportunities for alignment of projects.

Stakeholder Question: What is the SRWG?

Stakeholder 2 Response: The Sustainable Recreation Working Group is a new group formed by multiple interests and agencies to define sustainable recreation and set a path for action moving forward. They are from TRPA.

Team Member Response: The SRWG manages the State Route 89 Recreation Management Plan.

Team Member 2 Response: They are similar to the Highway 28 (Nevada side of Lake) projects.

Stakeholder Question: The ski area has its own goals that are in alignment with LTW for skiers, but they have limited personnel. Regulations can be unclear; who do we talk to to ensure we're acting in accordance with regulations while not being redundant in efforts.

Stakeholder 2 recommends contacting Bruce B. at TRPA.

Team Member Response: Ski areas and LTW share some objectives. What is desirable for skiers can also be desirable for resilient landscapes.

Stakeholder Comment: This gets into a bigger issue of communication. The League gets lots of comments and confusion throughout the summer. There is a lack of communication and messaging out to the public. This is a common challenge.

Map Session

A large wall map was put up identifying the LTW project color coded with the workshop's four categories. Participants were able to identify their own projects that may not have been addressed yet. Other Lake Tahoe West Projects

- North Tahoe Fire
 - FEMA CTC lots.

- Tamarack Project. 100 acres on west side, has steep slopes that exceeds 30%. CTC has fuels grant, if steep slopes code changes goes through, the work can be done.
- OHV
 - Rubicon is getting work done to improve dips and drainage issues in roads, help make ohv trails more sustainable.
 - Rubicon Trails Foundation is funding this work.
- State Parks
 - Treated a third of acreage on west shore, periodic retreatment every 20 yrs
 - Burton Creek project, meadow stream restoration near dam
 - Failing dam, old structure
- Aquatic invasive species removal, control program
 - Removed aquatic weeds in Emerald Ba
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District
 - Removing aquatic invasive species (AIS)
 - The League is a great resource to call if you see new AIS, communication is important!!!
- The League
 - Citizen Science Tahoe App
- Liberty Utilities Project
 - USFS working with LU and CTC. Liberty Utilities uses and All Lands approach.
 - Improve forest health around transmission powerlines
 - USFS is getting close to having a NEOA decision to allow work to occur on USFS property
 - Approximately 77 miles of transmission line from Kings Beach to Stateline
 - Clipped out built environment
 - Connecting the dots to work that has already been completed in the WUI
 - Removal of hazard trees next to lines
 - Implementation set to begin this fall, with focus on corridor resilience next year
 - Parts of the project are near Tahoe City
- Homewood:
 - Homewood's master plan, happening over next 20 yrs.
 - First 200 yards of dirt has been broken, starting with simple road that needed to happen
 - Master Plan: new lodges, condo, snowmaking, clearing and grubbing trails so they can handle snow making and larger volume of people.

Breakout Session

Attendees split into two groups to discuss the following four questions. After the questions were complete a report-out was held back to the full group.

- What elements of the Landscape Restoration Strategy are you most excited about?
- What elements of the Strategy do you think will be the most challenging to implement?
- What are some ways that stakeholders can support agencies in implementing the Strategy?
- What are some ways that agencies can support stakeholders in implementing the Strategy?

Group 1 Key Themes

- There is a lack of information in the LRS regarding water infrastructure.
- How do we communicate the LRS to the business community?
- How do we engage second homeowners and property owners?
- “Communication, communication, communication!”
- The LRS needs a specific Communications Plan with approachable language targeted to private stakeholders.
- There is discussion in the LRS about needing to change policy, but not how to make that happen.
- There is discussion in the LRS about how it can be used elsewhere, but not information on how to make it operational. There needs to be context for how it can be applied. This would be beneficial for funding agencies.
- There should be much more of a link to the clarity of Lake Tahoe. Be more direct in more places about connection to water quality.
- Include direction towards engaging with land users so they’re “not surprised” by work in their communities.
- In reference to the potential bike path project coming through – coordinating placements on the landscape could lead to co-designing projects and eliminating redundant or competing work.
- Stakeholders can help agencies by being educated and passing the message. Lots of people want to help, are civically and environmentally minded, and want to be engaged.
- Agencies can develop non-science targeted information.
- Leverage connections with business communities that understand what’s happening on the landscape and how it relates to customers and business.
- Agencies need to provide opportunities as well. Not just The League coordinating volunteer days. Design projects around opportunities.

Group 2 Key Themes

- Fire organizations and partnerships can be leveraged to extend message.
- One missing piece from the LRS is clarity on the importance of fire suppression. Fire suppression will continue to play a role.
- There is incredible overlap between forest health and increasing project pace and scale going hand in hand with opportunities and access for both recreation and emergency response.
- Public education will be a challenge. It will be essential to tailor communications differently to groups based on unique interests.
- Offer information and condense actions in a “What to Expect” format by region or potential impacts.
- Allow space for the public to voice discomfort.
- Red tape may prove to be a challenge. Identify ahead of time where various permissions are needed.
- Stakeholders can support agencies by communicating to constituents through condensed goals and outlines. Have materials available ahead of time.
- Build relationships from agencies to stakeholders.
- Leverage the collaborative nature of the LRS.
- Keep the document as short as possible.
- Be more intentional in how we solicit what groups need.

- Identify the value of incentives in order to implement strategy together between stakeholders and agencies.

Other Comments and Discussion

Stakeholder: Increased work in project areas leads to an increased danger to workers and the environment. Pre-attack planning will be essential to ensure areas that have been restored are not utilized as staging areas. There are limited areas on the West Shore for emergency staging.

Next Steps

There will be a meeting with the Science Committee in August. It was challenging to set up the models initially and this has resulted in remaining modelling to be accomplished. Several results are still pending.

The next joint stakeholder meeting will be September 3rd. This meeting is to seek recommendation to pass the LRS on to the Executive Committee for approval. At that time there will also be more concrete plans for Phase 3 of the LRS. The goal is to continue to meet monthly. Once the new consultants are active, it will be possible to discuss engagement further.

Stakeholder engagement will occur October through December, with project scoping in January 2020.

The workshop was adjourned 3:57pm.

Attendees

CAORV- California Off Road Vehicles
 CTC – California Tahoe Conservancy
 HW- Homewood
 FWS – Friends of the West Shore
 NFF – National Forest Foundation
 CSP – California State Parks
 TFFT – Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team
 TF- Tahoe Fund
 TRCD- Tahoe Resource Conservation District
 NTFPD – North Tahoe Fire Protection District
 TRPA – Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
 USFS LTBMU – U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
 TAMBA- Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association
 SSCoC- South Shore Chamber of Commerce
 LSLT- League to Save Lake Tahoe

Stakeholder Science and Community Committee Members

1. Doug Barr, CAORV
2. Dan Blood, HW
3. Mollie Hurt, Tahoe RCD
4. John Jones, TF
5. Dan Shaw, CSP
6. Michael Brumbaugh, LTBMU

7. David Reichel, TAMBA
8. Steve Teshara, SSCoC
9. Zach Bradford, LSLT
10. Eric Horntvedt, NTFPD
11. Michael Schwartz, NTFPD

Staff

1. Forest Schafer, TFFT
2. Brian Garrett, USFS LTBMU
3. Christine Aralia, CTC
4. Maddie Brown, NFF
5. Bri Tiffany, NFF
6. Sarah Di Vittorio, NFF

Lake Tahoe West Stakeholder Community Committee Workshop

North Tahoe Fire Protection District
Station 51
July 10, 2019



Welcome!

Agenda at a Glance

Opening Remarks: Chief Schwartz

Landscape Restoration Strategy Review

Landscape Restoration Strategy Goals and Current Projects

Stakeholder Projects on the West Shore

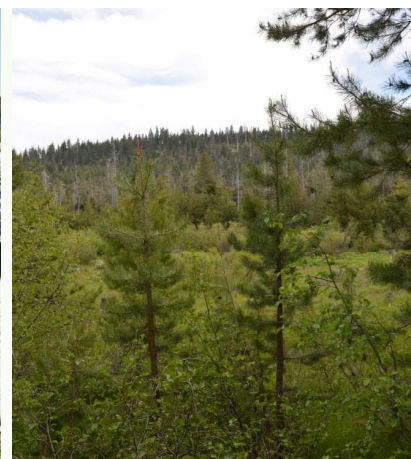
Agency and Community Roles: Breakout Session

Discussion

Closing

Opening Remarks

Chief Schwartz



Landscape Restoration Strategy

Where we've been, where we are, and where we're going...

- Landscape Restoration Strategy overview
- Role of Stakeholders in getting us here
- Next Steps for Lake Tahoe West

Landscape Restoration Strategy Goals

1

Forests recover
from fire, drought,
and insect
outbreaks

2

Fires burn at low to
moderate severities
and provide
ecological benefits

3

Terrestrial and
aquatic ecosystems
support native
species

Landscape Restoration Strategy Goals

4

Healthy creeks and floodplains provide clean water, complex habitat, and buffering from floods and droughts

5

People live safely with fire and enjoy and steward the landscape

6

Restoration is efficient, collaborative, and supports a strong economy

Fire and Fuels Management and Mitigation

1

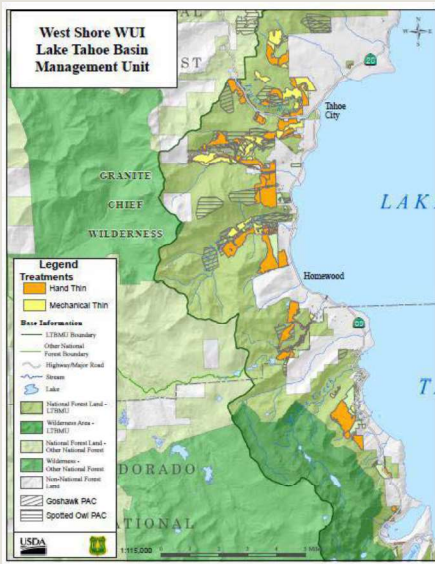
2

3

4

5

6



- West Shore Wildland Urban Interface Healthy Forest and Fuels Reduction Project
- Dollar Creek Forest Health and Biomass Project
- North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Community Wildfire Protection Plan Implementation Project
- Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act 16 Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project
- Program Timberland Environmental Impact Review
- California State Parks Mitigated Negative Declaration Environmental Impact Review



Habitat Restoration and Resilience

1

3

4

6



- Meeks Meadow Restoration Project

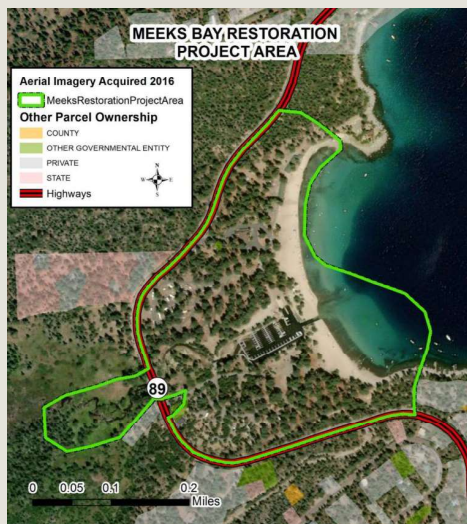
Watershed Restoration and Resilience

1

3

4

6

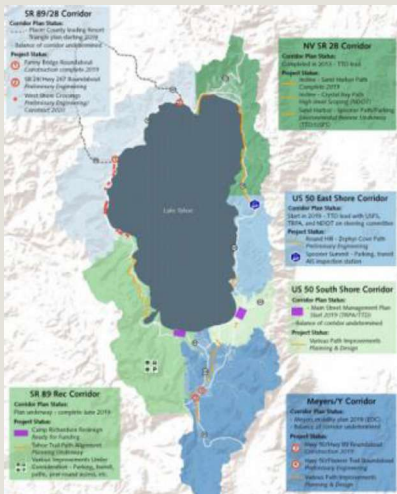


- Meeks Marina Restoration Project

Community and Economic Wellbeing

5

6



- In order to not operate redundant efforts, LTW coordinates with the Sustainable Recreation Working Group
- State Route 89 Recreation Corridor Management Plan

Envisioning Agency and Community Roles

Breakout Session



What elements of the Landscape Restoration Strategy are you most excited about?

What elements of the Strategy do you think will be the most challenging to implement?

What are some ways that stakeholders can support agencies in implementing the Strategy?

What are some ways that agencies can support stakeholders in implementing the Strategy?

Explore how stakeholders and LTW agencies can support one another to implement the Landscape Restoration Strategy and achieve a more resilient landscape.

Share Discussion Themes



FIRE AND FUELS
MANAGEMENT AND
MITIGATION



HABITAT RESTORATION
AND RESILIENCE



WATERSHED
RESTORATION AND
RESILIENCE



COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Next Meetings:

August 6th, 2019 (Stakeholder Science Committee)
September 3rd, 2019 (both Stakeholder Committees)

Key Contact Information

Brian Garrett

brian.garrett@usda.gov

Forest Schafer

forest.schafer@tahoe.ca.gov

Sarah Di Vittorio

sdivittorio@nationalforests.org