



Sustainable Forest Action Coalition

542 Main St., Placerville, CA 95667

Organization Representatives

Laurel Brent-Bumb (530) 621 5885 chamber@eldoradocounty.org

Bill Wickman (530) 283 0973 billwickman@sbcglobal.net

May 2, 2013

Debra Whitall
Regional Office, R5
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

RE: SFAC Sub Committee Meeting On Social and Economics

Dear Deb:

SFAC wishes to thank Joe Stringer, Mark Metcalfe and yourself for participating with our SFAC sub-committee to continue our discussions on Social and Economics and how we can work together to assure that there is an understanding of the importance of this element in relation to all planning and project level NEPA documents. The SFAC sub-committee members are Bill Wickman (Plumas Co and SFAC Spokesperson), Jack Sweeny (Ex Eldorado Co Supervisor and Land Surveyor), Marcia Armstrong, (Siskiyou Co Supervisor), Sean Curtis (Modoc Co Resource Advisor and CA Farm Bureau) and Frank Stewart (Butte Co and State Fire Safe Council). This group has met on February 8th and April 15th to create a framework that better measures the impact of National Forest policies and management on our counties and communities. The desired outcome is to provide a better balance in the NEPA analysis of Forest Plan and project impacts on the "triple bottom line" of social, economic and ecological elements. Our group is working with Warren Jensen of the California State University, Chico, Economic Development Department. The following will outline our discussion and the continuing efforts to work together to develop a meaningful and workable matrix that can be adapted by the Forest Service.

As a result of these two meetings, we have developed and continue to work on the following items.

- a) Developing a matrix that will display the key statistical indicators to be used as a check list for planners as they work on projects. The hope is these same indicators can be used to provide more complete input and analysis of individual Forest Plans as the Region moves through the current Forest Planning process. The statistical indicator areas being developed are:
 - a) Social Capacity
 - b) Civic Capacity
 - c) Infrastructure Capacity
 - d) Cultural Capacity
 - e) Economic Capacity

Participating Counties:

Amador • Butte • Calaveras • Colusa • Del Norte • El Dorado • Glenn • Inyo • Lassen • Modoc
Nevada • Placer • Plumas • Shasta • Sierra • Siskiyou • Tehama • Trinity • Tuolumne • Yuba

In addition to these indicators, projects will analyze the individual outputs (i.e. AUM, Volume, etc) that will benefit or impact.

- b) We discussed Chapter 5, Socioeconomic Dimensions of Restoration, from the R5 Ecological Restoration Implementation Plan. This document was developed as a result of the Regional Foresters Leadership Intent letter of May 2010 that indicated the Regions desire and need to increase the pace and scale of ecological restoration within Region 5. This document and Chapter are being used as the guide for individual Forests to develop their Ecological Restoration Implementation Plan.
- c) Deb and Joe discussed the current capacity within the Region to address these S/E issues. Deb and staff have the commitment to work and develop a meaningful S/E guide for use at the forest and project level. At this time, individual forests and districts do not have the capacity to do this work. We agreed that more education and training as to how S/E and their relationship to the ecological indicators must be forthcoming.
- d) The group agreed on the following items that we can begin working on at the Forest and County level to begin this process.
 - a) At the beginning of a project, the Forest or District will coordinate with the County to determine the individual projects Area Of Influence and establish indices's to measure progress toward a desired future condition of healthy rural economies and communities in our Forest Counties.
 - b) Continue to develop the Indicator check list. This list needs to be scalable and Warren will do a review of existing data that is available. Mark provided some resource areas that this review can start with, i.e. Chapter 6 of the Bio-regional assessment document and Headwaters documents.
 - c) Develop a sample Purpose and Need that addresses S/E. The Region felt that Chapter 5 of the Leadership Intent was a beginning point for describing the Desired Condition for the P/N.
- e) We discussed the need to continue to work on this element because the time frame for completion of all R5 Forest Plans can still be at least 10 years out. The desire is to provide education, training, a guide and coordination with Counties in the interim to assure that all Forest level projects will begin addressing and analyzing S/E against the ecological elements. The desired outcome is to have a NEPA document that will better provide the Deciding Official with a complete analysis of the "Triple Bottom Line" and not just the ecological elements as today's documents.
- f) We discussed the need to enter into some sort of agreement or partnership to provide funding to Warren to continue his role in this effort. Given that the Region and Counties do not have the capacity to do the review and development of this process, it is critical that we provide adequate funding to accomplish the necessary review and development.

The SFAC wishes to thank all those involved in this critical process and we look forward to a successful report out at the May 29th meeting in Sacramento.

Sincerely,



Bill Wickman and Laurel Brent-Bumb
Representatives for SFAC

CC: SFAC members
Barnie Gyant, Deputy RF