

Tribal Co-management Public Meeting for the JDSF management Plan – October 29 (Fort Bragg) and October 30 (Ukiah)

Chart Paper Notes from Facilitated Break Out Groups

Opportunities for CALFIRE

Building relationships with tribes and funding mechanisms

- Make right and build right relationship with tribes
- More native people working on projects (for- profit groups)
- Look at other models—chumash marine sanctuary, bears ears monument
- Tribal enterprise/jobs for co-mgmt
- Tribal input on research
- Ask tribal educators for field tours
- Continue reaching out to tribes and eliciting tribal input on co mgmt.
- Opportunities for JDSF to facilitate all tribes for gathering
- In house training
- Securing funding for co-mgmt
- Workforce development for tribal members

Policy and legislative change

- Comply w/ AB 1284 + AB52
- Further explore conservation easement on state land
- Protect sacred sites
- Definitions for cultural practices
- Written policy codifying relationship btw tribal engagement/TAC
- Conducting EIR prior to MP
- Opportunities for the tribes—land back—co governance
- Tribal education opportunities
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Management Plan goals

- Can we enhance current JDSF “bucket” to enhance tribal values-more scientist involvement
- Continue access efforts
- Include JAG recs into MP
- Protect sacred sites
- Look broadly for other examples global, outside region
- Updating language in plan re tribes

Cal Fire goals

- Build more common language and understanding
- Clarity and transparency

- Better communication
- Consider renaming of forest
- Sharing info re tribal use
- Build trust with environmentalist
- Catch up with new climate paradigm
- Tending/assist in living cultural resources
- Improved transparency
- Contact form for tribal members to contact CALFIRE
- CAL Fire to see forest as living being/change relationship with forest
- Mendo unit as model of relationship demonstrating co-mgmt leadership raised local w/ tribes
- Educate the public
- Desire for more tribal speakers
- More tribal people at JAG meetings
- Publicize directives
- Create cultural science

GOALS for CalFire

Communication + Transparency

- Present the whole picture be clear with whole plan and process
- Online co-mgmt FAQ for public
- Transparency and communication—multi modal communication
- Find a way to educate public re: tribal use/history

Policy

- MOU w/ non tribal orgs who have capacity for cultural practitioners to steward
- Maintain distinction sovereignty confidentiality
- Develop a definition of restoration
- Tribal involvement throughout project development
- CalFire get back into management/business in JDSF
- Change the mandate from 1942
- Add an “exemption” cat X to OPR to expedite cultural projects
- Don’t change mandate
- Cultural easements
- Hire native cultural practitioners to do the work and increase the abundance of cultural resources of our people (tribes)
- Intergovernmental panel
- Identify lands that can be given back
- Fully implement AB52
- Within domain a designated cultural landscape

- Meet and exceed goals of recent legislature

Funding + Relationship building for tribes

- Enhancing relationship w/ tribes
- Keep building on co-mngmt
- Create funding and capacity for a permanent position held by a tribal member by state rather than grants. This person would have a roles overseeing tribal matters on JDSF
- Don't let CalFire goals supersede tribal goals
- Continue & deepen relationships with TAC for best co mgmt. outcomes
- Share high level tribal info concerning the process of outreach without disclosing the names of the tribes be clear with information
- Tribes share in economic outcomes from management and projects
- Calfire puts in the budget a line item to support tribes in co-mgmt
- Continue to work with local tribes on projects
- Protecting integrity of TEK
- Funding for TAC
- Contract with, bring local tribal businesses
- Workforce development opportunities
- Education center for public re: tribal role
- Help w/ capacity building
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Practices

- More in depth arch surveys
- Opportunities for common citizens to weigh in on management
- Enhance botanical surveys to include cultural resources
- Carbon sequestration
- Look @ chumash model of co-mgmt don't just satisfy law
- Continue timber sales
- Old growth production
- Carbon sequestration wildlife corridors/rare plants and more
- Explore other models
- Once available, detailed description of methods used in mgmt. plan
- Focus on healing instead of fight
- Manage for climate change

Concerns

Accountability/Future

- Lack of communication w/ from TAC
- Moving targets

- Big picture isn't presented
- Both parties will/could look towards different directions regarding co-mgmt resulting in conflict due to purpose of JDSF
- Turnover at CalFire
- Preparing for any potential future conflict
- Distrust due to anonymity of TAC
- Confidentiality—worried about transparency, worried govt is dividing the tribes and not allowing them to work together
- Don't believe that CalFire will stop a project when, even if tribes want it when money is involved
- Balance of TAC vs other agencies/ the state
- Follow through on projects
- How to maintain current progress
- CalFire staff turnover—who in CalFire will replace Gunn if he leaves?
- The work of enhancing tribal values will not be done by native people or will be evaluated on “results” and “deliverables”
- Lack of transparency in this process setting a precedent for future government
- How do tribes that are local join process
- How do we know CalFire is not dividing the tribes just to conquer them

Funding

- Engagement resources are tribes compensated for the input sought by JDSF
- Unfilled CalFire position for tribal liaison
- Not all 2022 JAG recs implemented yet
- Funding for TAC
- Lack of CEQA for mgmt. plan
- No evidence tribal advisory council exists
- Tribes often don't have resources to participate in co-mgmt
- Respecting confidentiality allowing tribes to respond to projects they wish to. Representing TAC publicly is a choice
- Fire abatement can be a “cover” for anything. Conflict with money and health of forest
- In depth information provided

Policy

- Gov to gov doesn't include practitioners in private practice
- Executive order could be cancelled by the next gov, not a good way to develop policy
- CEQA needed on FMP with full EIR
- Need better definition of co-mgmt TAC is only advisory
- In the future, tribes wont have veto power or strong input on projects
- Shutdown of forest management

Management

- Importing of conifers from dry climates as adaptation to climate change
- Management goals too human-centric
- Language itself can confuse topics
- Difference between belonging to forest and forest belonging to humans
- Confusion around difference between co-mgmt and advice
- Staff balancing priorities so all projects occur on forest staffing
- Management doesn't necessarily help reduce fire risk

Other:

- Including environmentalists
- Can TAC send representative to public meeting
- Finding common ground if possible

Oct 29 jdsf-qa

Mon, Nov 11, 2024 8:06AM 29:17

SPEAKERS

Chief Gunn, Public, Kevin Conway, Facilitator MG, Facilitator JD

F Facilitator JD 00:13

Just for ease, we're just going to draw questions at random out of our box, our basket, and the appropriate person will answer. okay, our first question, and we really appreciate you all doing this. Thank you so much for participating. Does the management plan provide a process for tribal co management of scientific research to reflect tribal interests and practices?

K Kevin Conway 00:42

So the management plan is going to lay out goals for our research program over the next 10 years. And you know, we plan on incorporating tribal relationship, building access to information exchange throughout but there's not a specific item right now in our current management plan that asked us to, you know, do like Western research on ecological knowledge. That may be something that comes out of this process and into the plan, but our current management plan does not, and I anticipate that our goals for our tribal relationships will be kind of weaved throughout, including in our research section.

C Chief Gunn 01:25

So even though our specific current management plan doesn't address that, we're working on a research project right now in the pygmy where we're going to be burning and part of that project is reaching out to the tribes in the beginning as we develop the project. But look at the project, make sure again, that there's no gathering resources that we're going to be affecting, that we're burning under the right fish that are get involved from the beginning as the project's getting going

F Facilitator JD 01:50

Okay. So we've got two questions that are similar but different, so I'll ask them both at the same time, and hopefully, if there, if it needs further clarification, let me know. The first one is, Will logging continue in sacred sites, slash, culturally important sites while this process gets started? And the second is, how do you stop logging until co management, slash, joint community consensus is achieved?

C Chief Gunn 02:15

So again, we do have a current management plan. We're working on the rewrite the current management plan will go, will go into when the new management plan takes effect. But any, just like the research project I just talked about, any, any logging project that's happening the tribal Advisory Council, is going out and feet on the ground, on the land, looking at the project, expressing any concerns, looking at the site, looking at the area, and there are specific measures in CEQA that are required, and I can tell you right now that we're going above and beyond that, so where we're hearing what the tribes are saying, and we're respecting those resources outside what California is considered a sacred site or a site. So we have that process, and then we also have the standard CEQA process where we do the the notifications that are required to each tribal government on the northern Mendocino contact list. So we're going out with the tribal Advisory Council. That's not stopping any, any specific tribe from reaching out to Cal Fire and going out alone and doing your government to government to government consultation and then through the CEQA process

F Facilitator JD 03:26

Okay, define co management in terms of jdsf, timber sales and any or all non commercial, silviculture practices. How will tribal input facilitate decision making?

C Chief Gunn 03:39

So it already is facilitating decision making. So again, the tribes are consulted with the tribal advisory council, consulting with, or consulted with, and then we're making decisions on the ground that are that are going to benefit Cal Fire and that are going to benefit local tribes. There's certain areas on the forest, again, that I'm that aren't considered what is normally like a boilerplate, a sacred site, but are of benefit to the tribes that when they they say, Hey, we want to we want to look at this area. Want to develop this area, or this area should be protected. And we listen. It's not just Cal Fire saying we're going to kick down doors, going to log this area. It's a collaborative effort where we go out on the ground and we talk about priorities and concerns of Cal Fire and in the present.

K Kevin Conway 04:29

And I just wanted to, you know, also highlight that Cal Fire and jdsf, are a flex organization, we've got all kinds of different goals. And so we have projects that we JDSF, CAL FIRE, are sponsoring and developing to advance our missions, and we're bringing in, providing information to tribes on that, but we're also working on creating projects directly with the tribes that are focused on advancing tribal priorities. So there's kind of two types of projects we are working on to advance our mission. And there may or may not be tribal interest in participating in there multiple resources, interested in participating in protection of those resources, and we very much want to protect those resources 100%, but we're also then working developing projects that the purpose is for helping our tribal partners.

F Facilitator JD 05:29

Okay? I looked at the three new THP summaries online. Where was tribal input included? There's three questions, do the tribes approve of the plans taking 30 to 50% of the mature wood. Do tribes approve of cutting trees 40" and 48 inches diameter?

K Kevin Conway 05:47

Yeah, so we have, I think they're referring to the three plans that we have that our JAG advisory has now reviewed and approved as being consistent with our forest management plan and our new vision, and I can tell you that the platform was made available for the tribes to learn about the plans, express their concerns, for us to convey why we're doing what we're doing out there. And it's going to be frustrating that some of those conversations are happening confidentially, and we're talking about things that are not public and not wanting to be made public by the tribes. So we we have a platform available. We are providing the information and ability to work with us on developing these plans. But again, these are plans for Cal Fire is putting forward. in the bucket over here that's advancing a lot of our priorities in there. So there's opportunities for that to overlap. Incorporate tribal priorities into it, we will .That may or may not be public on why we decided to develop the plan in such a way. But now a lot of this stuff is and when it comes out into the CEQA process, it's going to be in Section six, which is a confidential section, right? So we put a high priority on maintaining the confidentiality of our sites and of the relationships that we are building until such time that we are given permission to make this public

F Facilitator JD 07:30

okay, will there be thorough environmental review of the draft management plan? Option A from jdsf There is no environmental review.

K Kevin Conway 07:43

Yeah, so, you know, we'll, we'll draft the management plan, and then we will make some revision to it, bring it to the board of forestry as part of that process, the board as a public agency has requirement to comply with CEQA, and it will be complied with.

F Facilitator JD 08:01

Why revise the forest management plan before tribes are established as Co-governors under AB 1284, sorry,

K Kevin Conway 08:13

you know, so maybe I'll just, you know, frame this that relationships take a long time to develop, right? We have direction from AB 1284, to SB310 we got the governor's executive orders 1284 to administrative policy right? we are working on finding a place to incorporate all of these into our actions we very much plan on incorporating them into our management plan

but, you know, we don't like any of the information in the management report we never have perfect information we are working on very long cycles and were working with very complex ecosystems that have a lot of.. yeah, that are going on change the constantly. So this planning process also the goals in 1284 but it's not a necessary requirement to finalize on action. Before we I think they're very much out of the skills working, or what we have in front of us.

C Chief Gunn 09:13

And then again, when we look at develop and evaluate projects, we are meeting with the tribes. We're talking about tribes. There's one specific project that came up lately to where in consultation with the tribe. You know, we asked, Is this your priority? Is there something you want done in that space? The answer was, No, we killed the project. So in my mind, that's the that's the Co management. that's the like, hey, we think that this is a good project. What do you think? we don't like that project, we don't want to go forward with it. The answer is, ok were not going forward with it though there is a stipulation of that, like we're already established with those relationships, having those conversations about projects and moving forward in a positive way to where its a beautiful place.

F Facilitator JD 10:15

Okay. Next question, ensuring a broad scope of indigenous involvement. Question mark, it's ensuring a broad scope of indigenous involvement?

C Chief Gunn 10:29

Yeah, the travel advisory council and the people down there are probably tired of seeing my number come up. Uh were in communication at 6:30 in the morning You know, almost single day. But yeah, exactly. I have no problem standing behind the board and tribal advisory council. Were talking everyday and communicating its a good thing Highlight of the day.

K Kevin Conway 10:58

I'll just add. You know, not every tribe on our contact list, has projects that's participating in the travel advisory council, but we are still sending out letters when we are first starting to plan cross-projects to prioritize providing that participation, even though we've got this like really good relationship. Our tribal Advisory Council and platform to exchange information. We are also prioritizing, providing information early, providing that platform

C Chief Gunn 11:39

I got a call day before yesterday from a tribe that we reached out to about the forest management plan, and they essentially said we'd like to defer to the local tribes in that area. We're a little bit further away, so we'd want to defer to the local tribes in that area. So that's an example of us reaching out way further than tribal nation

F

Facilitator JD 12:01

Do foresters can. Conduct cultural resource surveys? If so, do they have paraprofessional training? If so, can you describe the extent of training hours? How often is training renewed? Who conducts training?

K

Kevin Conway 12:17

I'm happy to point you to our cultural resource protection page online that describes all of this. CAL FIRE's website, but our professional foresters have about a week of training for their original archeological certificate. Then they have to do a training once every five years to maintain the currency of that. That's also important to note that what it does, it allows our foresters that are covering bottom ground and are acting as the representative for the landowner, so no existing archeological sites are aware on the property while they're out there doing their doing their other duties also looking for cultural resources, sites. They're working underneath the professional archeologists CalFire has, and really their duty is to find, to protect and to report the sites. So we're not asking our foresters to do investigations of the sites, draw attention to the sites they are really there to find them, identify them, come up with a protection measure so that we can learn from them in the future, and reporting them so that there is a record of them. [indistinguishable word] projects.

F

Facilitator JD 13:38

Why don't Whoa, sorry, why don't you have tribal involvement on THPs early and often, like your examples shared today?

K

Kevin Conway 13:48

Yeah, I mean, we, we are. That's, again, we're doing early outreach with and providing the platform for information exchange. It is a project that we're doing. It's one of the projects that we talk about, it's a it's a relatively new process, right? THPs, they take us, you know, at least two years to develop a THP takes us another year to have it permitted go out contract. It might take us one or two years to catch up. So when we come up with processes, it's always a lag to incorporate [indistinguishable word] to our THPs. Since we went through a bunch of THPs, a few years ago, finished operating, a lot of the ones that we already had on the books, all of the new ones that you've seen have followed this process,

F

Facilitator JD 14:43

and just so everyone's aware, there is a diagram in the back of the room that shows the THP process, and easier to read squares and circles and arrows. Okay, is AB 1284, only relevant when a tribe makes a request? Or are you required to have a written agreement with tribes regarding management?



K Kevin Conway 15:07

I mean, you know, I think AB 1284 encourages CAL FIRE to do a lot of the things that we're already doing, that executive order that the governor has already passed for us is to devise in legislation a tool for us to help work on this but you know, written agreements are not requirements. Relationships that were developing have much of what we've accomplished so far that we shared with you today have been without formal written agreement in place outside of the gathering agreement to access to property it's been, as they are, relationships developing and interests capabilities to conduct the project, yeah. And

C Chief Gunn 15:59

yeah and then there's different levels of agreements, right? There's a government to government consultation with in the in the state, I'm not even in the federal system, in the state system, I'm like down here, and the tribes as sovereign nations would be talking up here. They wouldn't be having that with me. I could talk with interactions on JDSF, interactions on projects, interactions with fires in Mendocino County. But, in a high level government to government consultation I'm not even in the room not even

F Facilitator JD 16:31

local Tribal input to the JDSF management plan. What are the plans? If more tribes want to be involved now that the project is in progress,

K Kevin Conway 16:40

welcome them into the process,

C Chief Gunn 16:46

bring that to the tribal Advisory Council that's already established from local tribes and see, see what their feelings are on in those conversations. I let the tribes guide those other things. I don't try to put sideboards on them, so that, in my mind, that would be a tribal decision, at least the way I feel about it. There were tribes initially that we invited to be part of it, and due to other obligations that maybe distance from JDSF they decided not to be part of it, but that's their decision.

K Kevin Conway 17:16

The question on the management plan itself, we did send out letters to the tribe requested participation through all of the tribes on the northern Mendocino list, including, you know, invitations to all of these public meeting ability to work in CAL FIRE

F Facilitator JD 17:33

Brandon is great, but why not include your archeologist on the tribal Advisory Council? I'm not sure which archeologists are referring to. Just wrote the question, so which archeology? Yeah, you understand it? Okay, great, yeah,

C Chief Gunn 17:53

I don't know. Sometimes you know, if we have a specific concern, we can bring an archeologist to talk about that specific concern and deal with that issue. But how to say this sometimes that's not the appropriate venue for an archeologist to be there to have comfortable conversations. Okay,

F Facilitator JD 18:20

all right, is there revenue slash, expense sharing anticipated in co management?

K Kevin Conway 18:28

Well, in the new vision, CAL FIRE made a commitment to fund some projects that we develop through our tribal advisory council. The proceeds from timber sales may or may not be a part of the project that we're developing, but you know, that's an open question on any project that we develop, who's going to bring, what tools, what funding to accomplish it, project by project basis.

F Facilitator JD 18:58

Okay, this next card has like four questions on it, so we'll take them one at a time. Will the new management plan have a direct or indirect impact to stewardship management and projects in and for jdsf, will the new management plan have a direct or indirect impact to stewardship management and projects in and for jdsf,

K Kevin Conway 19:21

yes, a direct impact on helping CAL FIRE prioritize where we're going. Here

F Facilitator JD 19:31

are THPs considered CEQA projects subject to AB 52 tribal consultation.

K Kevin Conway 19:38

Yes,

F

Facilitator JD 19:40

is that the tribal Advisory Council process going to be put into writing as a formal policy, and then it says before notice letter,

K

Kevin Conway 19:53

maybe it's something we're talking about. It may or may not be public, like the JAG charter is public.

F

Facilitator JD 20:00

Are you going to incorporate CNRA's upcoming strategy toolkit in the CO management planning

K

Kevin Conway 20:07

Of course

F

Facilitator JD 20:10

What laws allow Cal fire to keep all documents and membership of tribal Advisory Council confidential?

K

Kevin Conway 20:22

You know, CEQA allows for it to be a confidential process. I don't know that we've dealt with too many public PRAs on tribal work, and whether or not how we keep that confidential. Yeah, exactly. We do special tribes that they requested it to be confidential...a duty to protect them, and part of protecting is....

F

Facilitator JD 20:58

Do projects come? I think we've already answered this one. But maybe, do projects come to the tribal advisory council before the tribal Advisory Council, wait? Do projects come to the tag? before the tribal Advisory Council sees them? And can the tag? Maybe they mean the JAG? Yes. Thank you. Do projects come to the JAG before the TAC sees them? And can the JAG act on a project that the TAC rejects?

K

Kevin Conway 21:30

So So yes, we are providing notification to tribes prior to bringing the projects to the JAG if the project was rejected by the TAC. I don't think we would bring it to the JAG.

C Chief Gunn 21:45

The project we just killed didn't make it to the JAG or public or anywhere, because of that, you know, consultation of working with the tribes and, you know, seeing if this is a project that they've supported, they did not. They killed the project. JAG doesn't know about it, and the project's done.

K Kevin Conway 22:09

Just like we don't get credit for we don't, don't get credit for pulling wildlife out of our timber harvest plans either prior to the bringing them out

F Facilitator JD 22:19

this one, I'm not sure if I can read it properly, so I may need some help. But where is the letter by tribal Advisory Council? What about sits by tribal people?

K Kevin Conway 22:38

Yeah, I'm not sure. If they're asking, like where tribal citizens can go to get information, I would say to their elected official tribal governments, [indistinguishable word].

F Facilitator JD 22:54

Okay. How do you expect a tribe to participate with no funding or personnel? Okay? Explain the difference between a sacred site and an archeological site, since one is defined by tribal groups and one is defined in the public resource code,

K Kevin Conway 23:16

yeah, you know, I think maybe what that's asking is right? We have sites that record and show evidence of past use, and then we have places that are special, that are spiritual, that maybe have resources that are important to tribes. I think it's that latter that we're really learning a lot more about some of these interactions. Think we are pretty well versed in protecting evidence of past use, and what we're really learning about is like, where on the landscape is important, what resources are important, and we're hoping to clue in some of where our forest is at. But that's what some of the conversations around modifying projects are due to use really learning how to incorporate this. maybe theres opportunities for us to steward a particular resource or enhance a particular resource or maybe theres areas that we walk away from whether its wildlife or an animal site or the protection of a resource that we want to pick up without the contribution of tribal partners,



C

Chief Gunn 24:27

and then, just like tribal advisory council meetings, we let the tribes lead that conversation. We would let them lead that conversation of what the difference is, and if they even wanted to explain that to us, but we would hear what their concerns are. We work together to address those concerns, with those priorities, and we would let the tribes lead that conversation

F

Facilitator JD 24:48

Okay, that's all the questions that we have. Miles, would you like to come up and introduce our next element? Oh, sure. I.

F

Facilitator MG 25:09

We're trying to still update that everybody has a chance to have the... if you could tell Estelle to pass it up that would be great so while we're waiting for the last questions to come in, what we're going to do is there's been a lot of coming at you information, so we want to spend the rest of the meeting with you now giving your input. So in a moment, we're going to break into some smaller groups, and I want you to think about a variety of three different things to think about. What are the opportunities for CAL FIRE to meet these state directives in this new management format of Co-management in the update plan? What are some concerns you have about the CAL FIRE and how that's going to be implemented? And then, what goals do you see for Cal Fire in the management plan. So start thinking about that while we ask this next question, and then we'll kind of go into some detail. Let you give some of your input on those areas.

F

Facilitator JD 26:09

Okay, the next question is, why don't we have a native speaking for this plan? Why don't we have a native speaking for this plan?

C

Chief Gunn 26:39

I think that's designated by the tribal Advisory Council. There have been invitations to the tribal advisory council to come to the meeting, to speak at the meeting. It's a lot easier. I mean, I wish that I could share all the things that we're doing, but I haven't been given that permission yet, but they've Definitely been invited to meetings and invited to have a speaker.

P

Public 26:57

(Asks question not recorded by mic)

C

Chief Gunn 27:36

I hear what you're saying, and I would talk to President Whipple, I would talk to Michelle, I

would talk to Neil, and I would talk to Park on that.

K

Kevin Conway 27:44

I'll just add, you know, this is something that's in that bucket too of right? CAL FIRE doing this plan, because we're required to do this plan. It's something that is advancing the interest of Cal Fire. We are reaching out and encouraging tribal input into the plans. Incorporate those plans. But really this is a requirement of Cal Fire, so the tribes left on their own vices, they would maybe not write this plan, right? They're not required with something that's a responsibility of Cal Fire.

F

Facilitator JD 28:20

Okay? This is the last question in camp one THP is being billed as a wildfire Resilience Project. How does felling trees reduce wildfire risk, especially trees measuring up to 46 inches, as stated, the intent make any sense at all, managing for trees survival, for their resiliency to deal with increasing adverse environmental conditions to come. Seems to make sense. Felling them, does not, does not. How is that? JD, how is it that? JDF, how is it that jdsf, believes it does?

K

Kevin Conway 28:59

that sounds like an invitation to our next meeting on November.

F

Facilitator JD 29:05

Well, we have a slide coming up that will tell you about that meeting, a little off topic for this one, so we'll reserve that so people can get their input to the smaller groups. Thank

F

Facilitator MG 29:17

you for your pointed questions and the responses, and obviously, if there's more information and further questions you have for any of the CAL FIRE folks here today, feel free. They're here to talk with you after the meeting, or if you want to have an aside conversation with them, they're open to answer those questions. If you wanted to follow up to one of your questions you had and you feel it wasn't answered completely. So this is your turn to talk. We were here last for our last meeting. It's going to be a similar process. We're going to break up into six different groups. I'm going to have you count off through six, and if you say the number one, you're in group one. If you say the number two, you're in group two. It's the easiest way to do this quick way to do this quickly.

Oct 30 Q and A

Wed, Nov 06, 2024 9:37AM 25:36

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

forest management plan, tribal consultation, minor forest products, local tribal member, trail naming, sacred sites, prescribed fire, old growth protection, tribal advisory council, cultural burning, public input, conservation easements, land back, tree removal, redwood management

SPEAKERS

Chief Gunn, Valerie Stanley, Facilitator MG, Kevin Conway, Estelle Clifton, Facilitator JD, Helen Lopez, Public

F Facilitator JD 00:00
We're gonna, so I'm gonna read all of the questions, and then either Kevin or Chief Gunn are going to answer

F Facilitator MG 00:14
I know people want to hear their own questions especially but others do too

F Facilitator JD 00:17
also we're, you know, still recording and folks on the webinar zoom are also hearing our questions and hearing answers. So the first one is, why is Cal FIRE drafting an FMP before reaching an agreement forward approval by Governor, in parentheses, with tribes through government to government consultation.

K Kevin Conway 00:42
So you know, the forest management plan will be able to incorporate in the future, changes in public policy, changes in public needs, changes in our agreements with tribes. So, you know, we have both these things working along parallel paths, you know, and we are working on both. But you know, to write the forest management plan, we don't need that condition in place. And once we have any agreements, we'll be able to accommodate those in the forest management plan. And if not, if there's some significant changes, you know, we always have the ability to go back and work with the board of forestry on on making significant updates, if necessary.

F

Facilitator JD 01:21

What are minor forest products? And then in parentheses, it says, farmer,

K

Kevin Conway 01:28

yeah. So you know, for our permitting process, minor forest products, those things such as firewood, mushrooms, those are, most of them. Those are two big categories, but things, things other than than timber,

F

Facilitator JD 01:47

Will the proposed new tribal representative slash liaison job be a local tribal member, or would a local tribal member have preference or be preferred by Cal Fire?

K

Kevin Conway 01:58

Preferred? Yes, with the state processes, we've looked into whether or not we can directly target hiring folks from local tribes, and we do have some challenges there. We're trying to work through that. There's some policies at the state level that are trying to help us out on that front so currently we don't have that ability. But, you know, yes, we would love that addition to our team.

F

Facilitator JD 02:19

Could someone pronounce the new trail name again.

V

Valerie Stanley 02:32

Valerie. So this is in coastal northern Pomo, because I'm the one who named the trail. It's Ca Sil Xale Dah

C

Chief Gunn 02:42

I butcher it every single time. She wont let it go.

P

Public 02:45

Can you say that that again?

V

Valerie Stanley 02:47

No, listen, okay, no, Ca sil xale dah when it, you'll see on the rock its Ca sil xale dah its phonetic,

K Kevin Conway 02:58
This next one is for you

P Public 03:00
okay, thank you.

C Chief Gunn 03:02
I don't think so.

F Facilitator JD 03:03
Okay. What happens if a tribal co manager in quotes says, Stop cutting trees while we study the forest for a few years, or even 25 years or more, some of these trees being cut were here before our great grandparents were born.

K Kevin Conway 03:21
So do you want to talk a little bit about bit about how we've revised projects? And

C Chief Gunn 03:25
yeah, it's actually each project now, when they're being developed, whether it's a fuel break or, timber harvest plan, we bring that before the tribal Advisory Council. We also notify the local tribes if there's any issues of concern with what's identified as a sacred site or what is sacred to the tribes. So we've even talked about projects that aren't identified in California law, what actually considers a sacred site. If there's a tribal concern in that area, then we either work through that concern, or if that concern cant be worked through, then we've killed projects before, so that that's already happening, that project or not, not that project, but that process is already being followed, and there's already good, good work being done on that.

F Facilitator JD 04:10
Write another piece of paper for us, please, just so we can work through this. Yeah. What steps is CAL FIRE taking to change the mandate from reliable economics to healthy forest.

K Kevin Conway 04:22

K Kevin Conway 04:23

You know, we're going to, you guys are going to help us write some of these goals into our management plan that we're going to focus on here in the next 10 year period. You know, I think as we go through this process, we review our last management plan, we review the management plan before that, and where we've been, you know, we show a lot of development and change and evolution, from our original mission to show how to manage second growth timber to really showing how sustainable forestry can include optimizing things such as carbon, wildlife, clean air, watershed. A incorporating tribal concerns. Now, right? You know, people bring concerns forward to us, and I think we've shown a lot of ability to incorporate those in the projects,

C Chief Gunn 05:12

and then coming from the fireside. My, my, one of my major passions is prescribed fire, and I also want to get cultural burning on JDSF at landscape level. I'm not talking to 20 acre projects, 40 acre projects. I'm talking 1000 acre projects. Is, is what I want to do, even if, in my career, if I did 1000 acres a year, I'm never going to dent that forest. So we need to do landscape level projects that way. We don't deal with like the CZU complex, what they're dealing with on the coast. You know, everybody's mindset and thought process was, our our redwoods will never get affected. They're, you know, they're old growth, they're this, they're that, and then all of a sudden you go down there after that fire, and everything is gone. So we don't want that here. We want fire, good fire under good conditions, where we have resources at scene, putting good smoke in the air, rather than a devastating fire that's going to move out of that forest and take out communities. So that's one of my goals, to make it more easily.

K Kevin Conway 06:02

Yeah, I think it's a good opportunity to, you know, remind we started the first meetings with some of our kind of overall public policies are in place around management of the state forest. But, you know, we do not receive a general fund appropriation, so we are self funded through the management of our forests. You know, our demonstrations are not to show people how to spend grant monies. Our demonstrations are to show people that they can incorporate these values into their forest management without fully giving up the economics. And we've got various silvicultures that we employ, or both for our forests, that we can demonstrate that to different landowners that balance all those objectives in different ways. And so, you know, we work with that across the landscape, and we work that on that on a project level basis. And so we look forward to hearing what those objectives should be through this process here, and then also as we develop specific projects to meet those through working with us at our Jackson advisory group.

F Facilitator JD 07:03

How does CAL FIRE define old growth? My understanding is anything over 200 years old or less, any trees standing before the gold rush? Are there protections in place for old growth? Redwoods, Douglas firs and other native trees?



K

Kevin Conway 07:19

Yeah. So Lynn is going to yell at me. I'm going to get some of the details wrong here, but our current management plan does define an old growth tree, and we provide protection to our old growth reserves. So those are collections of old growth trees that you know exist in groups as as their own ecosystems. But we also protect individual old growth trees within any of our projects. And so those are trees that exist prior to 1850 ish, and have any beyond that you know, that have various characteristics. So you know, if they've got reiterated tops, if they've got deep furrowed bark, they've got large limbs, right? We're looking for all of these characteristics that old growth trees have, so that we're not just looking at an age yes or no, it's really ecosystem function that we're trying to retrain retain across the landscape. Alright?

F

Facilitator JD 08:19

Why is the information regarding members of the TAC, the Tribal Advisory Council, confidential, and how do you think that affects confidence of the public and knowing whether Cal Fire is working effectively with the tribes and the TAC

C

Chief Gunn 08:32

so that that information is remained confidential at the request of the tribes through years and years. You know, the the tribes about their trust or their, yeah, their trust broken many times by divulging resources or what they're working with, and all sudden, that information gets out in the public the I mean, I'm taking the tribes lead on this one. They don't want to, they don't want to release the representatives that have been designated by the tribes to work on the Tribal Advisory Council, or the tribes that are represented on the Tribal Advisory Council, I can say, and I happen to give an approval to say that they're local tribes.

F

Facilitator JD 09:09

All of cultural collaboration is laudatory, but it seems like it's only cultural concerns that are being addressed, not the harvest plans or forest management true?

C

Chief Gunn 09:23

No I think we're identifying all stuff. And the Tribal Advisory Council, not only do we talk about fuel breaks, research projects, timber harvest plans, but we also talk about projects that the tribes want to do, and those projects, hopefully, as they start to get completed, I won't have to announce anything. You'll actually drive out on the forest. You'll see what's going what's going on out there. So we're working on a bunch of a variety of things.

F

Facilitator JD 09:46

Okay, this one problem for you. I think jdsf History page says a Tribal Advisory Council was established provide better communication between jdsf, the unit, and local tribes, which is underlined, does that include the public? As well. In many previous jag CAL FIRE meetings, the

tribes clearly stated they wanted transparency. They want the public, not just the tribes, to know what the council is doing. Why is the reason for all the secrecy? What kind of public input process avoids that part of the input? Similar, I think, is the Tribal Advisory Council or the TAC advisory group involved in reviewing draft environmental impact reports for projects.

C Chief Gunn 10:16

I think the public input process is through the JAG process, and then the tribal input processes is through the tribes, either through their tribal governments or through the Tribal Advisory Council. So there's two parallel paths there, right? The general public can come to the JAG meetings, where we discuss all the research projects, all the fuel breaks, all the timber harvest plans, and then the Tribal Advisory Council on the tribes, when they get notified those tribal members, can go up through their tribal governments or to the Tribal Advisory Council and voice their concerns that way. I don't think they would be involved in any environment. I don't know Kevin he could answer that one.

K Kevin Conway 11:01

Yeah, so I think that brings us to, you know, kind of the the two buckets of projects, right? We've got projects that Cal Fire is advancing because they advance our goals, and then we're working directly with tribes that are working, you know, creating projects that develop in advanced tribal interest. Specifically, if those ones come and they rise to needing some kind of a secret document, environmental review document, right? Those are all coming through public processes, and you have opportunities to to comment on those, to know about them, all of our timber harvest plans, those are coming to our Jackson advisory group and then going into the timber harvest permitting process, which is also a public process, so you have multiple pathways to comment on those plans.

F Facilitator JD 11:50

So it says our members from the tribal advisory group closed, I think we sort of answered that, but address that one again,

C Chief Gunn 11:57

yeah, so again we we invited a bunch of local tribes to participate in the Tribal Advisory Council. I would lean on the Tribal Advisory Council and take their lead on that. If they wanted to invite additional tribes, other than the six tribes that that currently participate on the Tribal Advisory Council, that would be up to them. You know, a lot of the tribes that I've spoken with kind of defer to the local tribes that are closest to the area for for guidance on jdsf. So I'm not sure that any tribes from out of the area would want to participate, but if they did, I would lean on the tribal advisory council to decide which tribes are participating.

F Facilitator JD 12:33

if you could talk to identify the tribes we want to talk to the tribal advisory council members?

If you can't tell or identify the tribes, can you tell who the tribal advisory group members are?

C Chief Gunn 12:38
No.

F Facilitator JD 12:40
Was there a bidding process before selecting Alta archeology?

K Kevin Conway 12:47
Yeah, so there was a competitive bid to help us review the forest management plan, and so Clifton, Clifton environmental was a successful bidder on that, and her bid package included Alta archeology, including all of the great staff you have here today helping out with the review process.

F Facilitator JD 13:06
Why is the management plan not going through a CEQA EIR process when clearly there will be significant impacts to begin with, because the urgency for climate crisis mitigation and the opportunity for and directed to carry out negotiations with tribes were not on the table when the last full EIR was done in 2007 question mark also the new tools you mentioned in the presentation. AB 1284, and SB 310, were not in existence.

K Kevin Conway 13:36
So first CEQA so both Cal Fire and the board of forestry are responsible to comply with CEQA, and we will through the process. Once we have a draft plan, we'll know more about what that will look like for the new tools such as the legislation. Right? A lot has happened since 2016 and really much of our current document was written in 2008 so a lot has changed, and hopefully, you know, through some of the presentations you saw tonight, we're able to take those change directions, those change needs from the public, and incorporate them in our operations. You know, prior to having a new management plan in place, and then we put a new management plan in place, we're definitely going to be having it reflect all of these new these new tools and directions that we're getting, but it's also going to be flexible enough to allow us to react and respond to things that will happen over this next 10 year period, which I know we all think when we look forward, that it's going to be stable finally, but it never turns out to be the case,

F Facilitator JD 14:39
since Cal Fire is resistant to using this input session as a bona fide public hearing. What do you plan to do with the comments received here and on email? Will you respond to concerns brought up, and how on the record?

K

Kevin Conway 14:53

Yeah, so I mean this whole thing is a input process into us writing our forest management plan draft. So. So when we come out with that draft, you're going to see how we've reflected these in there. If you don't think they're adequately reflected in there, you're going to be able to, you know, put that back to us and challenge us to to adopt that draft, to add additional things in there from this initial round. We're not going to do a formal response to every comment that we are capturing. You know, what's written down, we're capturing what's being responded to right here, and that's all going to inform how we write that draft. Once we have that draft, Estelle's team is under contract to respond to all the questions that come in and to show you either how we've adopted or changed the draft to reflect them or give you the rationale for why they're not.

E

Estelle Clifton 15:52

Yeah, thank you for for that. So yeah, the there will be answers to specific questions after the draft comes out, like just spoken. But also, it is our goal to be transparent and take your feedback. Now we're starting to transcribe it. We have, like alluded to in the beginning of the meeting. Maybe we'll never get our actual access to the web page we want to run and be able to freely work in. But even if that doesn't ever happen, we'll still, we're still gathering this information and going to put minutes, err like notes from this meeting back out, because transparency is really important, and that's built into our game plan and what was in our proposal to CAL FIRE. So we also so, so even though it won't be a formal comment response to each thing that will come after the draft, but I do plan, and we are working on those notes now. It's just that the reason they aren't up from the last meeting, if you'll see the agenda, and how rapid these meetings are falling into place, how it took a lot of time to get the contract in place we've scheduled in these meetings, and all of us to be able to make the same dates was actually a very time consuming process. So and we're designing the next meeting currently, while we're holding the current one. So it's not because we don't want those up at this moment. It's because we're also designing the future meetings, and that's the answer.

K

Kevin Conway 17:22

And I'll just add, if you, you know, continue to be dissatisfied, you have another opportunity to come to the board of Forestry and Fire Protection when the plan is delivered there, and they are ultimately the body that is tasked with approving or asking us to modify the forest management plan.

F

Facilitator JD 17:40

How will you consult with indigenous people whose ancestral land, Jackson forest, is, but who are in quotes so far, not part of your chosen advisory group?

K

Kevin Conway 17:52

Yeah, so the advisory group, right? It's one, one platform that we have to interact and we get to work pretty intensely with tribes. But that doesn't take away that we are also providing opportunities early in our planning stages to comment and work with Cal Fire individually on any project that we're working on. So we're using the entire northern Mendocino Native American contact list to provide that early notification and then also to provide all those required notifications once we have the project more developed and we're putting it into

C Chief Gunn 18:26

and then one thing that I always am very careful of is I have specific tribal members that are very passionate, but I don't want to undermine their tribal governments, right? Even though you have a specific member of a tribe, I need to work with their tribal government. And if I didn't, I would undermine their sovereignty. So I work with the tribal governments, not with individual tribal members. If that makes sense,

F Facilitator JD 18:47

how is CAL FIRE going to be held accountable when our comments are not on the record?

K Kevin Conway 18:52

I think we cover how we're going to capture the comments.

F Facilitator JD 18:57

What values are the department or the are the department, slash tribal partners looking to achieve with the cultural burnings.

C Chief Gunn 19:08

Each individual tribe has different opportunities and different life ways that they want to address when they're doing cultural burning. And it's not for me to let that out to the general public. As for the tribes to release that information,

F Facilitator JD 19:21

it is the position of the Save Jackson forest coalition that jdsf should be designated as an ancestral Pomo and coast wailaki Cultural Landscape under CEQA AB 52 Oh, is it the position? Oh, it is. There was a question mark in front of that. What is your response to this position, and would you collaborate with the ancestral tribes to these lands, to have this cultural landscape listed on the State and National Registry of Historic Places.

F Facilitator JD 19:21

K

Kevin Conway 19:51

Yes, I think this is something, you know, we've recognized that we we know of a series of discrete sites across the landscape. And we have worked on through tours and communication with some tribal representatives. You know how those might all be connected? So something that we recognize, it's something that we've used to really heighten our survey efforts to see if we can find additional evidence. It's things that our eyes are being open to to look for evidence, not just of that past land use again, but like some of the natural resources that might have been cultivated, and they're still a signature from over time or ability to to help connect those those in the future. So, you know, we recognize that even though we have discrete areas that we protect in the middle of projects, that people were moving all around the landscape, that they were using the landscape for various reasons, and they were Moving from, you know, place to place, and the uh, (speaker pauses to read question) yeah, so the question is, as far as cultural landscape and the National Registry of Historic Places, you know, I think we'll, You know, leave that to be determined with our relationship with tribes. If that's something that's a that's of interest, you know, I think we've, we've had the ability to have conversations about how to advance those interests. So that includes that,

F

Facilitator JD 21:35

did the JAG identify the term Native American as an outdated colonizer term? indigenous, native, tribal, First Nation that question?

K

Kevin Conway 21:46

Yeah, I think, you know, it's been suggested that we refer to local tribes, and so you'll find that language a lot through our presentations. But you know, a lot of the legislation, a lot of the administrative direction still uses Native Americans. You know, that's a concept that we'll talk about how to address in our management plan going forward. And we hope to hear more from our tribal partners during those meetings. And if there's suggestions on how to appropriately and respectfully address them in the plan, you know, we're happy to have those suggestions.

F

Facilitator JD 22:19

Why do you ask tribes what they are gathering. Does this inform restoration projects or just collect data?

K

Kevin Conway 22:27

Yeah. So we haven't, you know, we set up our agreements so that the tribes themselves have an agreement with Cal Fire to allow their citizens to come out to the forest to gather for their own purposes. We've offered assistance. You know, we have a number of botanical surveys on the property. We have some knowledge of where things are around the property, if they need help finding anything. But if they don't want that assistance from us, you know, they are in a place where they don't need to let us know where, what or when they're they're gathering.

F Facilitator JD 23:04

If Tribal Administration is small, does CAL FIRE offer help to apply for the grants? Notion by Helen,

H Helen Lopez 23:16

the programs always identify a subject matter expert, and there's a contact information so that you can reach out to them, and they're more than happy to help. Of course, it's in a competitive basis or so. There's limitations, but there is, I have seen through CAL FIRE that there's a lot of willingness to help everyone. So, yeah, small, but the programs do have subject subject matter experts.

F Facilitator JD 23:44

Applying as you must CEQA AB 52 to the THP process and the tribal co management agreements or agreement, or agreements. Are you informing the tribes that mitigation measures under AB 52 include conservation easements and land back. And are you willing to apply such measures in the revised co management plan?

K Kevin Conway 24:08

Yeah, so given that we are state owned lands that we steward, I'm not sure that the conservation easements are necessarily applicable to that. You know, land back potentially, but you know, it directs surplus lands to be offered and made available. And I think so far as Cal Fire looked through their portfolio of lands, we do not have surplus lands right now to offer.

F Facilitator JD 24:32

Can tribes disagree with Cal fire on the removal of trees, on jdsf, and succeed in lobbying that removal or THP,

C Chief Gunn 24:41

yep. Sorry, yes.

F Facilitator JD 24:49

Have you or will you consider letting redwoods grow for 300 to 500 years before harvesting so folks in the future can have some fine grained special type wood that's already rare.

K Kevin Conway 25:00

.....

Sure, yeah, it's a great concept. We currently don't have that in our management, but we do have the growing of trees for 300- 500 years plus, because we are adding to our old growth reserves through our late seral development area. And that's a great invitation to come to our next series of meetings to hear a little bit more about the different silvicultural prescriptions and goals that we have, and then help us refine those for the next 10 year period



Facilitator JD 25:31

that completes our questions.