

## Tehipite National Forest Chair February 2016 Report

Submitted by Trudy Tucker, National Forest Chair, Tehipite Chapter

### Sierra Forest Planning Coalition

Chip Ashley and I represented the Tehipite Chapter on the Sierra Forest Planning Coalition conference calls in January.

1. Discussions relating to the three early adopter forests, the Sierra, Sequoia, and Inyo National Forests are working through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) previous information/comments concerning Species of Conservation and Concern (SCC), the Wilderness Evaluation process and the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) are written for the Draft EIS (DEIS).

2. Discussed the National FACA (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that met in Sacramento Jan. 14 & 15. Several; coalition members attended and reported discussions about:

How Adaptive Management and Monitoring plan components are developed; how early adopter forests will become compliant with the 2012 Forest Plan policies; standards and guidelines allow accountability and need to be part of the plan (FS Wash.DC leader said they need to be mandatory); comments from participants about FS employee turnover, lack of staffing, lack of consistency is a BIG issue and detrimental to the processes across the board; FACA committed will collect information from stakeholders; FS hadn't yet reached out to stakeholders (FS Coalition is working to present 2 to 3 stakeholder meetings, including urban outreach to those under represented). A big issue discussed how the FS sensitive species program doesn't fit with the SCC at the Forest level for project planning.

3. Will be developing items for the next Coalition Quarterly meeting with the Pacific Southwest Region 5's Regional Forester and Staff. This is a meeting unique to stakeholders...(the FS doesn't have these kinds of meetings with just anyone); the Coalition lobbied for and developed this access to top Forest Service leadership. We are very fortunate to be connected with and active part of this well connected Coalition!

### Reviewing Comments to be sent to Forest Service Regional Leadership

To meet the February 1, 2016, deadline, I reviewed and signed a second set of comments for SCC, the Wilderness Evaluation and the WSR, commenting on specific species/areas/rivers, and comments on the USDA Forest Service's processes that lack clarity, transparency and completeness that fail to meet their agency standards. All three documents are available for review. I am looking into finding a location to post these kinds of documents.

### USDA Forest Service National Document on Drought

Chip Ashley shared this link to a comprehensive document shared at the Dinkey Collaborative:  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/DROUGHT\\_book-web-1-11-16.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/DROUGHT_book-web-1-11-16.pdf)

*"Effects of Drought on Forests and Rangelands in the United States: A Comprehensive Science Synthesis"*. It's a 2016, 302 page document from the Research & Development section of the USDA Forest Service.

"This assessment provides input to the reauthorized National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and the National Climate Assessment (NCA), and it establishes the scientific foundation needed to manage for drought resilience and adaptation. Focal areas include drought characterization; drought impacts on forest processes and disturbances such as insect outbreaks and wildfire; and consequences for forest and rangeland values. . . . . Large, stand-level impacts of drought are already underway in the West, but all U.S. forests are vulnerable to drought. Drought-associated forest disturbances are expected to increase with climatic change. Management actions can either mitigate or exacerbate the effects of drought. A first principal for increasing resilience and adaptation is to avoid management actions that exacerbate the effects of current or future drought. Options to mitigate drought include altering structural or functional components of vegetation, minimizing drought-mediated disturbance such as wildfire or insect outbreaks, and managing for reliable flow of water."

### A THANK YOU "shout out" to a special volunteers, partners...

1. The Sierra Forest Planning Coalition leaders who drafted the documents submitted to the USDA Forest Service for the new Forest Plan Revision process for the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests – Sue Britting, Species of Conservation and Concern (SCC); Steve Evans, Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR); Stan Van Velsor, Wilderness Evaluation Comments.

2. To Chip Ashley for his continuing participation in discussions and reviewing above documents and for his

continued work representing the Tehipite Chapter on the Dinkey Creek and SF Planning Collaboratives.