



**Yuba Forest Network**  
**Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting**  
May 7, 2021  
10:00am - 11:30am

**Contact:** Allison Thomson ([allison@yubariver.org](mailto:allison@yubariver.org)), Andrew Salmon ([andrew@yubariver.org](mailto:andrew@yubariver.org)), & Mary McDonnell ([mary@yubariver.org](mailto:mary@yubariver.org))

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**Meeting Notes**

[Click to view meeting recording](#)

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- **Attendees:** Allison Thomson, Mary McDonnell, Edward Smith, Andrew Salmon, Joanna Lessard, Bri Tiffany, Cameron Musser, Cherilyn Ashmead, Chris Dallas, Chris Friedel, Debie Rasmussen, Don Rivenes, Eric Sweet, Jamie Ervin, Janaia Donaldson, Jeff Lauder, Jenn Tamo, Jim Mathias, Juan Aguilera, Julie Fair, Keri Rinne, Leana Weissberg, Lon Henderson, Louise Miller, Mary Prunicki, Michael Bagley, Sara Nelson, Sarah Holyhead, Steve Garcia, Steve Graydon, Theo Fitandis, Jamie Jones, Nicholas Graham, Susan Dewar, Cynthia McArthur, Paul Cummings
- **Announcement:** In June, Allison Thomson will be starting a new position as Executive Director with the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council. We are sad to see her step down from her position with SYRCL and the YFN, but are both incredibly grateful for her contributions to the YFN and excited for her future work with the Yuba Fire Safe. We know we will continue to see and work with her. Congratulations, Allison!

**2. Yuba Forest Network Strategy for Forest Resilience**

- The Yuba Forest Network Strategy Subgroup is developing a strategic forest resilience document for the region. In close alignment with Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative's (TCSI) [Framework for Resilience](#), the Strategy Subgroup has collaboratively created a list of Desired Outcomes that demonstrate a shared vision for the Region. **Review the [Desired Outcomes here](#).**
- The Strategy for Forest Resilience document will be made available to all in the region and will include background information, key term definitions, Desired Outcomes, Actions, and Metrics. The objective of this document is to be a tool for stewards in the region in grant writing, project planning, implementation, and more.

- To inform the Actions of the Strategy document, the YFN is looking to its participating organizations to share their current or planned actions around forest resilience in the region by completing the [YFN Strategy Action Poll](#). Including YFN organizations' actions will lend to showcasing current and planned forest health work, identifying areas of need, and opportunities for collaboration.
- The Strategy Subgroup has also been working to define the Zone of Influence (ZOI) for the YFN. Currently the ZOI includes the forested areas of the Yuba and Bear River watersheds as well as Project Area boundaries from the [Fireshed Registry](#).
- Reminder that anyone is welcome to join the Strategy Subgroup or provide feedback/input directly to Mary at [mary@yubariver.org](mailto:mary@yubariver.org).

### 3. Small Group Breakout

- In breakout groups, attendees were asked to share their reactions to the YFN Strategy update and to share how they might envision using the document in their work.
- One breakout group shared that they plan on using the language from the document while writing grants and pointing to the document while implementing projects in the community. This group also shared that it would be useful if regional funders could adopt the document for their grant applications as an outline for objectives that projects should meet.

### 4. [Presentation: Fire, Smoke and Human Health Impacts -- Participants Needed](#)

*Ed Smith, The Nature Conservancy ([esmith@tnc.org](mailto:esmith@tnc.org)) & Dr. Mary Prunicki, Stanford Medicine ([prunicki@stanford.edu](mailto:prunicki@stanford.edu))*

- Prunicki and Smith study if the exposure to a wildfire is more detrimental to health than exposure to a prescribed burn in children. They are in need of participants in the health study. If interested, please contact Stanford to enroll [Prunicki@standford.edu](mailto:Prunicki@standford.edu) or visit [Wildfires and Health](#).
- Although the level of burning occurring in the recent years is near that of what occurred prior to 1850, the type of burning is different. Numbers of catastrophic wildfires have been increasing steadily since 1980.
- Wildfires contribute to climate change via large releases of carbon dioxide and impact air quality even as far as 3000 miles away from the fire location. A large proportion of wildfire smoke emissions are fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which is small enough to enter deep into the lungs and even the bloodstream.
- Some effects of the PM 2.5 once inside the body include: lung inflammation, systemic inflammation, and cancer, with higher risk for children. Prescribed burns result in less PM 2.5 emitted than a wildfire

### 5. [Presentation: Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest CCI Project Update](#)

*JoAnna Lessard, Yuba Water Agency ([jlessard@yubawater.org](mailto:jlessard@yubawater.org))*

- CAL FIRE awarded the Yuba Water Agency a \$4.5 million grant from the California Climate Investments (CCI) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Forest Health Program to implement 5,400 acres of forest health and fire risk reduction in Yuba County foothills. Partners include Plumas National Forest, Private Timber, Boy Scouts, and Yuba Water

- Recently, the project completed CEQA using the [California Vegetation Treatment Program \(CalVTP\)](#) checklist document, completed 1901 acres of treatments including chipping, pre-commercial thinning, and mastication, and installed road signs for treatment implementation.
- Next steps include completing treatments on Ingersoll, Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), and CHY land, starting treatments on Plumas NF land, Sillers, Donor, Boy Scouts, and Yuba Water Parcels, and tracking benefits from the grant.
- For more information see [Community Impact Grant and Loan Program Policy](#) and [Forest Health and Watershed Resilience](#)

## 6. **Presentation: Cal-TREX Yuba Report-Out**

*Chris Friedel, Yuba Watershed Institute ([chris@yubawatershedinstitute.org](mailto:chris@yubawatershedinstitute.org)); Steve Graydon, Open Canopy LLC ([open.canopy.fp@gmail.com](mailto:open.canopy.fp@gmail.com))*

- The Prescribed Fire TRaining EXchange (TREX) is a cooperative burning model developed by the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy. Over the years, there has been a large increase in number of participants and an increase in diversity of participants.
- With 12 participants and 10 new certified FireFighter Type 2s, the event was a success, completing Basic 40 wildland firefighter training, fitness test training, fire line construction, and much more.
- Steve Graydon of Open Canopy LLC served as the event's Lead Coordinator, Incident Commander, and Training Coach. The Steering Committee included representatives from 5 participating local/regional non-profit organizations: Yuba Watershed Institute, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Sierra Streams Institute, South Yuba River Citizens League, and Sierra Forest Legacy
- Goals for future TREX events include increased "span-of-control" to allow greater numbers of participants, greater integration with local prescribed burning programs, and prescribed burning prep and execution on private lands.

## 7. **Announcements**

- The Department of Conservation is extending the Watershed Coordinator grant that makes the Yuba Forest Network possible. Additionally, SYRCL staff recently applied for more funding to support the YFN.
- Registration is open for the free CalVTP Implementation Training. The training is being offered virtually on [Thursday May 13 from 9 am to 12 pm](#) and [Thursday May 20 from 9 am to 12 pm](#).
- The Sierra Fund presents: 2021 Reclaiming the Sierra Workshops on Mondays in May from 11 am to 1 pm. Register [here](#).

## 8. **Next Steps**

- All partners, be sure to complete the [YFN Strategy Action Poll](#) and to review the [YFN Desired Outcomes](#).
- Save the date for the next Quarterly Meeting, Friday August 6, 2021.