

Tuolumne County
Administration Center
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Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
of Supervisors*

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

David Goldemberg, *First District*
Kathleen Haff, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

Anaiah Kirk, *Third District*
Jaron Brandon, *Fifth District*

**Natural Resource Committee
Wednesday, December 6st, 2023 @ 10:00 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
2 S. Green Street, 4th Floor, Sonora, CA 95370**

AGENDA

1. Call the meeting to order
2. Public forum – The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes.
3. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on November 1st, 2023.
4. Consideration of recommendation for Natural Resource Committee 2024 Strategic Priorities (see attachment)
5. Consideration of recommendation for USFS SERAL 2.0 Comment letter draft (see attachment)
6. Partner agencies updates
7. Committee business
 - A. Staff reports and recommendations
upcoming events and recent ACWA Conference
 - B. Committee member reports
8. Adjourn
The next regular meeting scheduled for January 3rd, 2023.

In accordance with Government Section 54954.3(a), the public may comment on any item on the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance (i.e., auxiliary aids or services) in order to participate in this public meeting, please contact the County Administrator's Office, (209-533-5511). Notification 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting will enable staff to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility to this public meeting.

Membership Roster

Name	Position	Group
Anaiah Kirk	Chair	County
Kathleen Haff	Vice Chair	County
Jim Phelan	Member	TCRCD
Jim Maddox	Member	F&G PFAC
Dick Gaiser	Member	TC Ag
Chris Trott	Member	At-Large
Delegate	Member	Tuolumne Me-Wuk
Delegate	Member	Chicken Ranch Me-Wuk
Delegate	Member	Hetch Hetchy
Delegate	Member	GCSD
Delegate	Member	TUD
Sean Hembree	CAO Staff	County

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**Natural Resource Committee
Wednesday, November 1st, 2023 @ 10:00 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
2 S. Green St., 4th Floor
Sonora, 95370**

Minutes

1. **Call the meeting to order** – Chair Kirk called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. and confirmed a quorum was present.
2. **Members present** – Anaiah Kirk, Jim Phelan, Jim Maddox, Chris Trott, Adam Mazurkiewicz (Hetch Hetchy), Dianna Beasley (Tuolumne Me-Wuk), Eric Hall (TUD), Sean Hembree (staff)
3. **Public Forum** – The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes. – None
4. **Consideration of approving** the minutes of the meeting held on October 4th, 2023.
 - a. Jim Maddox made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1st, 2023. Chris Trott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Partner agencies updates** - None
6. **Committee Business**
 - a. Staff reports and recommendations
 - i. Sean Hembree provided an update of pertinent events as well as two submitted grants, and future grant opportunities.
 - b. Committee member reports
 - i. The Mule Deer Foundation completed mastication projects at two locations
 - ii. The upcoming TuCARE Summit will include a focus on insurance

and fire risk reduction updates.

7. Discussion Items

- a. Recommendations for 2024 Committee Strategic Priorities and actions including comments on the current draft and recommendations for an updated draft.
8. **Adjourned** – Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 11:06 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6th, 2023

DRAFT

Section 4 Attachment

Natural Resource Committee Strategic Priorities (*Proposed*)

1. Support our local water utility partners in their effort to modernize and improve water supply Infrastructure and mitigate risk.
 - o Example Actions:
 - Grant funding solicitation
 - Letters of support
2. Maintain awareness of pertinent State and Federal legislation regarding natural resources, land use, water, and water rights
 - o Example Actions:
 - TCWA/GSA
 - Prevailing wage requirement for forest treatment workforce
3. Maintain awareness of Tuolumne County Federal land use policy, planning, and implementation and provide recommendations and advocacy as appropriate.
 - o Example Actions:
 - NEPA/CEQA Comment
 - Scoping
 - recreation access, control overuse/misuse (day use and parking restrictions)
4. Promote landscape and watershed resilience through innovative solutions and capacity building.
 - o Example Actions:
 - Forest residue product and bioenergy supply chain facilitation
 - Agroforestry workforce capacity improvement
 - Ecosystem service market and risk reduction market development/support

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Section 5 Attachment

BOS SERAL Comment Letter

The County of Tuolumne Board of Supervisors enthusiastically endorses the Social and Economic Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) 2.0 project and welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed actions as provided in the scoping document. Please consider the Board recommendations as follows.

The County Board supports the utilization of the Emergency Action Declaration (EAD) for this Project. While it is important to conduct rigorous environmental review and well-designed treatment, the EDA is appropriate due to the emergent need and landscape conditions. The EAD will facilitate implementation at the necessary pace and scale. The unnatural, overstocked condition of the forest due to legacy forest management strategies has created an imminent threat to the health and safety of mountain communities, critical infrastructure, and the local economy. Additionally, it threatens habitat biodiversity, ecosystem health, and related benefits. In other projects and settings, 'green tape' regulations significantly throttle the pace-and-scale of forest restoration implementation. Through the EAD, the Stanislaus Forest has demonstrated its ability to respond expeditiously to the critical status of Forest conditions.

The County of Tuolumne stands ready to support the meaningful work of this project and is able to add capacity to the Forest Service for immediate implementation in conjunction with the ongoing work already taking place in SERAL 1.0. We can leverage our existing resources and networks as well as increase internal and external capacity to ensure SERAL 2.0 is implemented on the identified timeline.

Targeted Grazing: (section 2.05)

The Board of Supervisors supports the use of targeted grazing within the project. As noted in the Scoping Document, targeted grazing is a cost-effective means of fuel treatment maintenance. Recent advances in virtual fence technology hold promise to make this practice even more cost-effective and more granular in achieving vegetation goals while avoiding unintended damage. However, the scoping document indicates only sheep and goats will be used. By contrast, we recommend a strategy where the stock type is matched to the targeted vegetation density and the successional class of the treatment area. We recommend that the use of cattle should not be categorically excluded. Early treatment with goats and sheep is appropriate in most settings. Their self-selected forage type can be as high as 70% browse (non-herbaceous leaves and shoots). However, as the regrowth of woody perennial shrubs and invasive weeds are controlled and a transition to mosaic stands of trees and grasslands is achieved, a corresponding transition in stock type should also be implemented. Cattle are effective in the management of herbaceous plants and trampling undesirable understory brush when appropriately managed. The inclusion of cattle would also provide a meaningful pathway for local livestock producers to enter the targeted grazing market. We recommend that innovative local producers should be prioritized in consideration for targeted grazing contractors. Collaboration with existing grazing allotment leaseholders within the project area should also be considered. Lastly, we recommend that if early grazing treatments render desirable outcomes, then the total acres treated per year be increased accordingly.

DBH and tree removal selection???