MEETING RECORD

**SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE**

Thursday, July 25, 2019 – 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Altadena Community Center, Altadena, California

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# Action Items

1. **CalTrans** to provide an update on status of Highway 2 closure.
2. **Matthew Bokach** will share the Monument program of work at the September meeting.
3. **NFF staff** will follow up with a registration link and more details for the National Public Lands Day stewardship event at Chantry Flat.
4. **NFF staff** will distribute the Collaborative contact list prior to the September meeting.

# Forest Service Update, Matthew Bokach

Matthew Bokach, Monument Manager for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument provide a Forest Service Update:

* Internal budget and hiring challenges:
	+ The Forest is still recovering from the Government shutdown.
	+ Forest staff are currently working to meet internal deadlines and send out contracts any delayed contracts.
	+ HR recently began hiring for a number of positions to assist with the current work.
* Jerry Perez, Angeles National Forest Supervisor sent his regards and is interested in attending a future meeting. He would like to attend a future meeting, once Ad Hoc committees have actionable next steps.
* Update on current Forest conditions:
	+ The area is drying out, and Forest personnel are preparing for fire season.
	+ During the week of July 4th, 6 fires burned on the National Monument (all human caused).
	+ Nationally, the peak fire season has not yet arrived. In previous years seasonal fire personnel have gone out 2-3 times by now to fight wildland fires, but this year they have not yet left the station.
* The Forest is still in discussions with Representative Chu to coordinate the signing of the Monument Plan, as well as the 5 year anniversary of the Monument Designation. The celebration will likely take place in October.
* Ricardo Lopez, Forest Engineer, provided an update on the Forest’s road conditions:
	+ The Forest is continuing to address storm damage from the last winter.
	+ Approximately ⅔ of the Forest’s large contracts have now been awarded.
	+ Other work includes ongoing road maintenance contracts.
	+ Status of Mt. Wilson road heading North (Highway 2): That is a Caltrans road. It was scheduled to be repaired by now but there was unexpected additional runoff, delaying the repairs.
		- **Action item: CalTrans to provide an update on status of Highway 2 closure.**
* **Action items: The FS will share the Monument program of work at the September meeting.**
	+ Next year’s program will look similar to the current plan. It is in development right now.
	+ FY 20 program of work will be brought to the Collaborative as soon as it is completed.
	+ Matthew currently expects to bring it to the September meeting, or the following meeting at the latest.

Member and Committee Roles in the Collaborative Discussion

The Collaborative broke into small groups to discuss the role of the Collaborative, as well as the roles of individual groups.

Topics:

* Part 1 (sketching exercise): 25 min
	+ What is the role of the Collaborative?
	+ What would this role require of SGMCC members?
* Part 2: 20 min
	+ What does your organization bring to the Collaborative? How do you see yourself contributing?

Following the breakout sessions, the group came together to share with the entire Collaborative. Each group highlighted a few key takeaways:

Group 1:

* The group discussed the Collaborative’s relationship with the Forest Service.
	+ The Collaborative bridges gaps to help the Forest manage the Monument.
	+ Different organizations tie into different resources because of the different kinds of partners:
		- Schools, NGOs, Non-profits, Government Organizations, Public Agencies, Businesses, Cities

Group 2:

* Organizations should bring relevant information to the Collaborative for discussion.
* The Collaborative should collectively ensure everyone is aware of pertinent issues within the community.
* Organizations should update each other on projects and funding opportunities.
* Everyone should respect each others’ time, resources, and commitments but still identify ID what they can bring to the table.
* The overall process for the group should be to inform, plan, share, and do.

Group 3:

* The Collaborative should seek to:
	+ Building public support
	+ Identify issues of public concern and bring them to the Forest
* Different groups feed information to each other and to the Collaborative.
* There is a two-way exchange of information. The Forest and Collaborative should both communicate about their needs.

Group 4:

* Group 4 discussed the relationship between the components of the Collaborative and the Monument, including the Master Plan, the Monument Designation, and partnerships.
* Group 4 highlighted the need for transparency among partner organizations and the Forest, as well as the public benefit of this working relationship.

Discussion:

Following breakouts, the groups came back together to discuss as a full Collaborative.

* What do we need from one another?
	+ Communication and transparency
	+ Priorities: Given our limited time, what goals can we hit?
* Matthew Bokach noted the shift in the relationship between the Collaborative and the Forest. Until this point, the Forest has held back and looked to the Collaborative to notify the Forest of its needs. It is possible that the roles are reversed at this point the Forest needs to tell the group what the Forest needs from them. Matthew will start planning how to lead conversations with the Collaborative at future meetings.
* Fabian Garcia, Angeles Partnership Coordinator, noted that the conversations needs to continue to go both ways- The Forest needs the community to identify its needs through the work of the Ad Hoc Committees as well. If these needs are not in the Forest’s current Program of Work, the Collaborative can work on bridging the gap.
* The group discussed Identifying goals each year. Finding something to work towards, while considering both the Forest and Collaborative/Community goals will be most effective.
* The Collaborative could use the Management Plan as a template with which it can identify goals and help accomplish any objectives the Forest is unable to achieve.

## Action Plan Updates and Discussion

## Trails and Recreation (Steve Messer, Committee Chair)

* The committee has been working on identifying project leads for priority project. So far, identified leaders include:
	+ Cattle Canyon project- Watershed Conservation Authority
	+ Mt Waterman- Mt Wilson Bicyclists Association
* Other project updates include:
	+ Los Pinetos- There will be a volunteer event with LA County and the Angeles in August.
	+ Sturtevant Falls- CORBA will be implementing with Edison funding. This project is ready to be implemented and will coordinate with Forest Service with their toilet project.
	+ OHV master plan- Public meetings have been announced for plan developments.
	+ San Gabriel Canyon master plan- The Collaborative can have input and provide outreach to respective constituents.
	+ Strawberry Peak trail- Monitoring is taking place on the north end reroute.
	+ OHV route restoration- Monitoring is in progress.

## Transportation (Daniel Rossman, Committee Chair)

* A representative from the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee was not present.
* Metro just announced the approval of the Transit to Trails Strategic Plan. Chantry Flat included as a priority project.

## Volunteer Engagement (Liz Reilly, Committee Chair)

* The committee has had 2 meetings with John Cho and Nathan Judy since the May Collaborative meeting.
* Members feel that there should be an interactive map of volunteer needs and opportunities.
* At this stage, in order to develop the database, map, and website, the following needs to be determined:
	+ A designer and web developer
	+ A group who can maintain this website
	+ Funding to develop and maintain the website
* The committee is currently discussing including a speaker’s bureau in this plan.

## Conservation Education (Claire Robinson, Committee Chair)

* The committee has developed signage templates for Copper Fire Sites through a NFWF grant
* The templates feature maps, cultural history details, and wayfinding to help people connect to the area.
* A prototype sign was completed for a Copper Fire site. The committee is reviewing the signage with the Angeles, and will be determining next steps, as well as areas where signage is needed (e.g. the Mt. Baldy area is a potential site that is well researched).
* The committee has put together a technical advisory committee from local groups.
* The idea is to use the LA County signage system for Forest trail systems for seamless interface with the user.
* The committee is assessing what type of maps exist and are looking to unify information.
* The next stage is implementation and the committee is applying for grants, but the project may not score well with Prop 68 because the target is not specific to under-served communities.
* They are looking for cross pollination across ad hoc committees to engage other communities, develop connections, gather more detail, and get organized.
* They will conduct a site visit with the Angeles.

# Announcements & Miscellaneous Business

* Michelle Nuttall- The Volunteer Committee is putting together a group of volunteers to conduct spotted owl surveys.
* Dianne Erskine Hellrigel- The Community Hiking Club is looking for photo submissions of California wildfires and wildfire recovery. There will be a reception to present these photos on September 19th at 7pm.
* Judy Shay- Palmdale Water District is restarting construction at Little Rock Dam before the end of the year.
* National Forest Foundation announcements
	+ The NFF is hosting a stewardship day at Chantry Flat to celebrate National Public Lands Day on September 28th. **Action Item: NFF will follow up with a registration link and more details.**
	+ **Action Item: The NFF will distribute the Collaborative contact list prior to the next meeting.**
	+ During the next Collaborative meeting, we will discuss membership and leadership of the Steering Committee.
	+ NFF will explore holding a meeting in a different location (more convenient for members on the west and/or north side of the Forest), as well as coordinate a field site visit.
		- Dianne Erskine Hellrigel suggested visiting the St Francis Dam National Memorial.
* **Action Item: During the next Collaborative meeting, the action plans of each Ad Hoc Committee will be pulled together into one document for distribution.**

# Participants

Ann Croissant

Ben Smith

Bill Reeves

Brian Robey

Carly Laddusaw

Claire Robinson

Dania Gutierrez

David Calkins

Fabian Garcia

Gary Boyer

Jean Flores

Jessica Golden

John Cho

Judy Shay

Kelley Carle

Liz Reilly

Matthew Bokach

Michelle Nutall

Ricardo Lopez

Sarah DiVittorio

Steve Messer

Suzette Mera

Tim Brick