

Dinke Collaborative Charter

Dinke Landscape Restoration Project, Sierra National Forest

Version 2, Adopted on February 19, 2013

Table of Contents

- 1. Purpose of the Charter1
- 2. Introduction to the Dinke Landscape Restoration Project2
- 3. Vision for the Dinke Forest Landscape3
- 4. Charge and Deliverables4
- 5. Collaborative Planning.....5
- 6. Compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.....9
- 7. Membership and Inclusion9
- 8. Roles and Responsibilities10
- 9. Organizational Structure11
- 10. Decision-Making within the Dinke Collaborative.....12
- 11. Process Agreements, Meeting Ground Rules, and Media Protocol14
- 12. Outreach and Communication16
- 13. Schedule of Activities and Charter Amendments.....17
- 14. Signatures for the Charter17
- 15. Appendix A: Information to be Included in a Project’s Proposed Action19

1. Purpose of the Charter

This charter explains the charge and deliverables; structure; planning and decision-making process; and the procedural guidelines for stakeholders who will work with the Sierra National Forest in planning and implementing the Dinke Landscape Restoration Project (DLRP).

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) legislation constitutes the foundation of the Dinke Landscape Restoration Project (DLRP) and work of the Dinke Collaborative. The Dinke Landscape Restoration Project Proposal (Proposal) and Dinke Collaborative Landscape Restoration Strategy (Strategy) constituted the basis upon which the Chief of the USDA Forest Service selected the project, and for this reason constitute important reference points for consideration in planning, implementation, monitoring, and funding. At the same time, it is also true these documents do not mandate specific outcomes of the DLRP, and the Dinke Collaborative has the discretion to recommend projects and outcomes that differ from the Proposal and Strategy.

The USDA General Technical Report PSW-GTR-220 provided an important reference document during the development of the Proposal and Strategy, and for this reason remains an important document for consideration in planning, implementation, monitoring, and funding. At the same time, several additional documents, like the PSW-GTR-237, are important references for the Dinke Collaborative, including but not limited to those maintained in the Dinke Collaborative’s Living Library by the facilitator. None of these

references limit the ability of the Dinkey Collaborative to rely on the best available and peer-reviewed science in its planning and other activities.

2. Introduction to the Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project

Congress established the [Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program](#) (CFLRP) under Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Per section 4001, the purpose of the CFLRP is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes, that in turn encourages ecological, economic, and social sustainability. Per section 4003(b)(3) it shall describe plans to

- (A) reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, including through the use of fire for ecological restoration and maintenance and reestablishing natural fire regimes, where appropriate;
- (B) improve fish and wildlife habitat, including for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species;
- (C) maintain or improve water quality and watershed function;
- (D) prevent, remediate, or control invasions of exotic species;
- (E) maintain, decommission, and rehabilitate roads and trails;
- (F) use woody biomass and small-diameter trees produced from projects implementing the strategy;
- (G) report annually on performance, including through performance measures from the plan entitled the '10 year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan' and dated December 2006; and
- (H) take into account any applicable community wildfire protection plan.

Additionally, per section 4003(b)(1)(D) the CFLRP shall fully maintain, or contribute toward the restoration of, the structure and composition of old growth stands according to the pre-fire suppression old growth conditions characteristic of the forest type, taking into account the contribution of the stand to landscape fire adaptation and watershed health and retaining the large trees contributing to old growth structure.

Additionally, per section 4003(b)(7) the CFLRP shall benefit local economies by providing local employment or training opportunities through contracts, grants, or agreements for restoration planning, design, implementation, or monitoring.

The Collaborative may choose to further define terms as necessary during the course of planning, including possibly developing a glossary.

The Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project (DLRP) is a science-based ecological restoration strategy that covers 154,000 acres in the southern Sierra Nevada within Fresno County, California, including 130,000 acres on the Sierra National Forest and 20,000 acres of Southern California Edison private land. The strategy is both a landscape- and stand-level approach that recognizes that fire is the dominant ecological process influencing ecosystem processes and vegetation dynamics. Coniferous forests, foothill hardwood forests, chaparral vegetation, montane meadows and riparian forests create one integrated landscape. The DLRP aims to create resilient ecosystems and enhance the ability to adapt to wildfire. Consistent with CFLRP, the Dinkey project will increase economic diversification and long-term contracts that can contribute to lower costs associated with small tree removal. It will promote fire resilience, public and firefighter safety, key habitat for sensitive

species, proper watershed function, healthy ecosystem processes, and landscape diversity. The Sierra National Forest will work with a stakeholder-based Dinkey Collaborative to implement the DLRP.

3. Vision for the Dinkey Forest Landscape

The greater Dinkey community, including California Native American Tribes and youth, will work together with Sierra National Forest to implement, monitor, and adjust a suite of ecological restoration activities. Through the open and transparent collaboration among a dedicated group of diverse members, and using the best-available science, the Dinkey Collaborative will make steady progress toward achieving the following goals by employing a wide variety of ecological restoration tools.

- Restoring and maintaining ecosystems adapted to fire
- Reestablishing natural fire regimes
- Promoting ecosystem diversity and landscape integrity
- Maintaining viable populations of the full complement of fish and wildlife
- Ensuring habitat connectivity
- Protecting fundamental ecosystem and watershed functions
- Increasing ecosystem resilience to stressors, which can include either a deficit or over-abundance of stand mortality and snag creation from insects and disease, and includes human-caused stressors (e.g., invasive species, habitat fragmentation, altered/suppressed disturbance regimes, air and water pollution), and
- Increasing the ability of ecosystems, habitats, or species to accommodate or cope with climate change impacts with minimal disruptions.

These efforts will benefit the landscape and its non-human residents, as well as provide the following benefits to local rural communities and people throughout California:

- Minimizing wildfire management costs
- Providing opportunities to recreate and enjoy nature, including non-motorized and motorized uses
- Supplying clean and plentiful water
- Protecting cultural and sacred resources, including enhancing native plant communities
- Offering meaningful and viable employment opportunities
- Contributing to the sustainable supply of woody biomass and small-diameter trees removed in ecological restoration treatments
- Supporting a viable tourism industry
- Safeguarding public health and safety, and air quality
- Providing public, cultural, administrative, and emergency access using a system of roads and trails that minimizes adverse environmental impacts, and considers the maintenance costs, management approach, and the use of volunteer labor
- Benefitting small businesses and economies, and
- Sustaining local cultures.

4. Charge and Deliverables

The Sierra National Forest is required to develop and gain approval from the Regional Forester for a work plan to implement the project, and corresponding budget by April 2011. The Sierra National Forest is also required to establish a multi-party monitoring program to provide a way for interested parties to collect, analyze, and share information together that advances the underlying goals of the proposed ecosystem restoration. Lastly, the Regional Forester is required to prepare an annual report on the project accomplishments. SNF has convened a stakeholder-based Dinkey Collaborative to support the Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project. Specific support includes:

- Provide useful input to the annual implementation work plan, which would include planned expenditures for staff, materials, and contracts;
- Work with the Forest to conduct an annual review of, and provide recommendations on, annual expenditures and accomplishments;
- Work with the Forest to develop consensus recommendations on proposed actions for site-specific restoration plans, including an assessment of sensitive species needs, fuel conditions, and ecological processes;
- Advise the Forest on the development of necessary environmental documentation;
- Work with the Forest to plan for and carry out corresponding monitoring programs and budgets, including the use of baseline data and performance measures, development of an annual monitoring report, and use of monitoring data in subsequent rounds of planning;
- Advise the Forest on the scientific review of proposed restoration plans and monitoring programs;
- Jointly carry out beneficial restoration activities through volunteer efforts, using monitoring information to inform efforts and manage adaptively;
- Work with the Forest to develop consensus recommendations on additional restoration decisions that emerge (for example, great gray owl marking guidelines).

The corresponding deliverables include:

1. Documented input to the annual implementation work plan; development of necessary environmental documentation; and scientific review processes.
2. Individual member recommendations on the proposed actions for a given project, and additional restoration decisions that emerge.
3. Information gathered through multiparty monitoring.

5. Collaborative Planning

The collaborative planning process is designed to support the timely and rigorous development of member recommendations on forest restoration projects. The attention to timeliness comes from the urgency of forest restoration work, such as addressing fire threats and declining wildlife populations, and the desire of the Forest and members to increase the scale and pace of restoration efforts. The attention to rigor comes from the desire of members and the Forest to ensure they have sufficient information and adequate time to make high-quality recommendations.

The Forest and Dinkey Collaborative members will work together to conduct planning activities and make recommendations that meet a timeline established collectively, as set forth in the group's annual schedule of activities (see section 12 below; as noted below, the schedule of activities is subordinate to and must fulfill the collaborative planning steps identified here). If the Forest does not meet the established deadlines for the provision of information and/or development of materials identified in the annual schedule of activities, the Dinkey Collaborative will in turn not be required to make recommendations on the dates identified in the schedule. The Forest will instead work with members to establish a new timeline for activities.

A. Consideration of Values and Information

The values, philosophies, and strongly held beliefs of all members must be respected and considered in the planning process. Members have diverse backgrounds and are passionate about the issues that the Collaborative is working on. See also section 11 on Process Agreements below.

The Forest and Dinkey Collaborative will consider the following types of information valid and relevant to planning, in no particular order:

1. Field experience
2. Subject matter expert comments, including people who are not Collaborative members
3. Peer-reviewed literature
4. Professional reports
5. Technical references or guidance documents

None of these types of information will limit the ability of the Dinkey Collaborative to rely on the best available science in its planning and other activities. In cases where members have concern about the use of a subject matter expert's comments, a professional report, or a technical reference or guidance document, they will submit their concern(s) in writing to the facilitator. The facilitator will then distribute this concern to all Collaborative members, so they can keep the concern in mind when working with that material.

B. Collaborative Planning Steps

1. The Forest and Dinkey Collaborative members (the group) develops landscape-level desired conditions. The group reviews these at minimum every three years thereafter, and revises them as necessary.

2. At the start of a project planning cycle, the group reviews annual planning goals and landscape-level desired conditions, and identifies potential areas where associated restoration activities could be conducted.
3. The group holds technical meetings (in-person or via webinar) and field visits to identify an initial boundary for the project; provide and develop information on topics that will be included in a NEPA scoping notice; and to develop initial proposed actions. (The topics that will be included in a NEPA scoping notice are listed below in section 15, which is Appendix A).
4. If a scientific or technical disagreement that is not readily resolved arises during this period, a member may propose that the Collaborative initiate joint fact-finding to develop a recommendation to adopt as the basis for subsequent planning (see the explanation of the joint fact-finding process below in this section). Following such a proposal, the Collaborative will agendaize the request for its next full Collaborative meeting, at which time it will discuss how this will affect the annual schedule of activities and decide whether to initiate joint fact-finding or to move forward without consensus on this topic. If the Collaborative decides to move forward without consensus, it will maintain a clear record of the outstanding disagreement so that all members are aware what topics remain unresolved.
5. At the time identified on the annual schedule of activities, the Forest provides the Collaborative with a complete draft of the proposed action for any comments and feedback. The proposed action is the document that Collaborative members will ultimately make recommendations on (Collaborative members will not make recommendations on the resulting scoping notice, which will be based upon and released at the same time as the Forest's final proposed action, see step 8 below.) The Forest will highlight areas where focused Collaborative input is requested. Members have two weeks to review this and, if needed, submit final information requests to the Forest. Members have an additional two weeks to submit to the facilitator initial proposed text on any part of the draft proposed action provided by the Forest. The facilitator compiles and distributes this information to members within one week. Members then have one additional week to submit follow-up questions to text proposers, which the facilitator will then compile and distribute within one week.
6. The group holds technical meetings (preferably but not necessarily in person) to work to develop consensus language for the proposed action, based on the text proposed by members. Members then have two weeks after the final technical meeting to submit revised proposed text on any part of the draft proposed action provided by the Forest. The facilitator compiles and distributes this information to members within one week. The group holds a final technical meeting that focuses on ideas that members have for creatively synthesizing revised proposed text to advance consensus.
7. The group holds a full Collaborative meeting and each member identifies her/his recommended text on each part of the draft proposed action. The facilitator compiles and distributes this information to members and to the Forest within one week.

8. The Forest subsequently distributes via email a draft proposed action to members, and checks for consensus on the project as a whole, using the “letter of support” template developed by members in 2011. Members then have two weeks to submit their letter of support on the project as a whole, and indicate any reservations. The facilitator compiles and distributes a summary of the letters of support, including any reservations. This is the end of the Collaborative input into the planning process; the Collaborative will continue to be involved in the development of implementation and monitoring.
9. The Forest develops a final preferred alternative and releases this to the public with a scoping notice that contains the information identified and developed with the Collaborative, and initiates the public NEPA environmental review process. The Forest develops an appropriate NEPA document for the project.
10. Collaborative members can also engage in the traditional NEPA environmental review process, including submitting comments and attending public meetings on the project.

C. Multi-Party Monitoring

- Per section 4003(g), Dinkey Collaborative helps to develop monitoring plans, which include performance measures for assessing the positive or negative ecological, social, and economic effects of implemented projects, as well as budgeting. The Collaborative may choose to create a sub-committee to work on design (objectives, species, methods, etc.), implementation, and analysis details.
- Monitoring occurs with stakeholder involvement.
- Technical advisors summarize monitoring and/or survey information.
- Dinkey Collaborative meets annually with monitoring program staff to learn about the information developed and latest scientific interpretations and analyses.
- As part of Planning, Dinkey Collaborative revisits stand-level desired conditions and develops proposed action based on previous years’ monitoring.
- SNF and Dinkey Collaborative co-host an independent science panel in 2015 and 2020 to interpret trends and adapt restoration efforts as needed.

D. Joint Fact-Finding: Using Scientific Information to Inform Decision-Making

Joint fact-finding allows stakeholders to engage with scientific experts to frame research questions, interpret research results and resolve technical or policy issues. The Collaborative will employ a joint fact-finding process in reviewing and using scientific information to inform its decision-making. When an issue emerges that merits scientific inquiry and discussion, the Collaborative will use this protocol.

Procedure

1. The facilitator or a member develops a short written Issue Paper identifying the key issues and questions in enough detail to communicate clear understanding of the concern. The Collaborative reviews this in short order, and the author makes any necessary revisions.
2. The Collaborative group organizes a technical advisory group (TAG) consistent with its charter to address the Issue Paper. The TAG can include members of the Collaborative, outside experts, or some combination of both. The Collaborative group or TAG will identify additional experts needed to supplement existing expertise, reach an informed outcome and promote understanding and resolution.
3. The Collaborative and TAG will identify relevant research for TAG participants to review in preparation for the first TAG meeting.
4. During the first TAG meeting, the TAG discusses relevant research papers gathered on the topic and knowledge gaps related to the Issue Paper. Member(s) raising an issue make a recommendation to resolve the issue, responsive to scientific review and other stakeholder interests.
5. The TAG works to develop a written recommendation for the Collaborative's consideration. If the TAG determines that it needs to gather more information to reach a recommendation on the Issue Paper, the TAG will schedule a subsequent meeting, considering the Collaborative schedule of activities, and inform the Collaborative either at a full meeting or via regular project correspondence. At the subsequent TAG meeting, the TAG considers the new information and develops a recommendation, consistent with the Collaborative group's decision making, noting areas of agreement and any disagreement. If the TAG cannot reach agreement, it may develop more than one recommendation for the Collaborative's consideration.
6. Two TAG members present its findings to the full Collaborative, answers both substantive and procedural questions, and advise the Collaborative as to its recommendation(s).
7. The Collaborative seeks consensus on what recommendations to adopt and whether to conduct further fact-finding, and makes a decision according to its standard decision-making process, including the documentation of differing perspectives. If the Collaborative cannot reach consensus and makes more than one recommendation to the Forest, the Forest will decide in a timely manner which recommendation it will adopt as the basis for subsequent planning.
8. The final outcome is recorded in the Issue Paper and documented on the website.
9. When the SNF takes action, this will also be included in the Issue Paper and circulated and posted.

E. Reporting

As required by the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act, the Sierra National Forest is to submit an Annual Report, Work Plan, and Business Plan, with quantitative assessments of strategy implementation. As listed in its schedule of activities, the Dinkey Collaborative will receive briefings on these documents, will have the opportunity to review drafts, and will receive final versions of the documents. The Collaborative will also be invited to provide draft language and material for the documents. Dinkey Collaborative member(s) can attend the FLRA online support meetings to track and access national information on FLRA implementation.

6. Compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act

PL 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, provides the basis for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects. This authorizes the U.S. Forest Service to convene a collaborative group for the purpose of project development. Specifically, it authorizes that such a group

- (2) be developed and implemented through a collaborative process that
- (A) includes multiple interested persons representing diverse interests; and
 - (B) (i) is transparent and nonexclusive; or
 - (ii) meets the requirements for a resource advisory committee under subsections (c) through (f) of section 205 of Public Law 106-393 (16 U.S.C. 500 note);

The Federal Advisory Committee Act ensures that advice by various advisory committees formed over the years is objective and accessible to the public. To that end, the Forest Service will publicly notice Collaborative meetings. And, all meetings will be open to the public and provide time for public comment.

7. Membership and Inclusion

The Dinkey Collaborative will include representatives of interest groups engaged in Sierra National Forest public lands management that represent a range of viewpoints. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Air Quality
- Community Vitality and Local Economic Development
- Ecology and Wildlife
- Fire Safety and Community Protection
- Forestry
- Governmental: Community, County, State, Federal and Tribal
- Industry (including Biomass Processing)
- Landowners
- Recreation, including non-motorized and motorized uses
- University Research
- Youth Education and Training

The Dinkey Collaborative will include representatives of California Native American Tribes in the project area. The Collaborative will also include representatives of public agencies that share responsibility for stewardship of public lands in California, including the U.S. Forest Service (Sierra National Forest), U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Sierra Resource Conservation District, California Department of Fish and Game, and local government.

Each of the interests represented on the Dinkey Collaborative are valid interests. Members will work to understand each other's interests, and develop recommendations that include and address of the range of ecological, economic, and social interests represented. This commitment to inclusion is a foundation of the collaborative process, and constitutes a fundamental part of acting in good faith; see also section 11 on Process Agreements below.

New Members: While membership is open, individual or groups must formally commit to uphold the spirit and guidelines of the charter by signing the charter. The Collaborative aims for members to make informed decisions. New members must therefore commit to understanding the information being analyzed and previous Collaborative discussions to participate in decision-making.

Attendance Requirements: Members in good standing must attend at least four meetings per calendar year or send an alternate. Members who are unable to meet attendance requirements will be deemed “inactive” and will not be consulted in their absence before decisions are finalized. The facilitator will record attendance at each meeting.

Alternates: To promote problem solving and continuity of discussions, members are encouraged to participate in meetings as much as possible. When unable to attend, the member may choose to send an alternate and notify the FS Program Manager and Facilitator. However, the member must brief the alternate with regards to previous discussions and agenda items so the alternate is informed enough to participate. Lastly, alternates will be asked to defer to the group if introducing a topic of discussion that has been discussed or agreed to previously in the alternate’s absence. In this case, the facilitator will ask the alternate to consult with members on the break to learn more about the topic of interest.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Sponsor: Sierra National Forest Supervisor serves as a resource for policy guidance on an as-needed basis for development and completion of the Dinkey Collaborative deliverables.

Dinkey Collaborative Members: Members (1) advise SNF staff on how issues might best be addressed and documents improved; (2) contribute expertise, data and information to clarify discussions, eliminate false assumptions, and advance innovation; (3) serve as the liaison to communicate information to and from their organizations and constituencies; and (4) act in a manner that will enhance trust among all partners and interested parties. Members are responsible for reviewing material in advance and being prepared to engage in substantive discussions during meetings. Members should attempt to attend every meeting to ensure continuity in discussions and decisions, and to ensure efficient work flow (rather than repeating conversations, revisiting previous decisions, etc).

U.S. Forest Service Program Manager: Serves as the programmatic staff of the Dinkey Collaborative. Responsible for executing the Dinkey Collaborative Charter. Responsible for providing meeting materials at least one week in advance and maintaining the public website. Responsible for making technical information available to members sufficiently far in advance for meaningful review and engagement. Responsible for overall project management and liaising with technical support. Responsible for making final decisions regarding the structure and content of the deliverables (the work plan, management plans, scientific reviews, and monitoring plans). Responsible for collaborative implementation of the DLRP.

Technical Support to the Dinkey Collaborative: Resource experts who function as technical advisors to the collaborative during ongoing discussions of the Dinkey Collaborative and its work groups. Technical advisors

participate in meetings to serve as an important resource to the Collaborative on complex scientific questions and issues.

U.S. Forest Service Tribal Engagement Support: Consists of the SNF Tribal Relations Program Manager. The Program Manager hosts a quarterly Tribal forum and will share information about the Dinkey Collaborative's activities with forum participants. The forum may also be used to discuss how to appropriately include confidential information about sacred sites and cultural resources in the Dinkey Collaborative's planning process, including direct government-to-government consultation as needed. The Program Manager will also advise on appropriate strategies for Tribal outreach and engagement.

Facilitators: Provides impartial leadership to the dialogue process and meeting management. Staff are content neutral, which means they will not try to promote a particular outcome for the group, but will advocate for a fair, effective, and credible process. Staff will help the Dinkey Collaborative stay within scope and follow the terms of the Charter. Specific duties include: (1) helping to formulate meeting objectives and agendas; (2) ensuring that all perspectives have an opportunity to be heard during discussions and captured in written documents; (3) overseeing the preparation of meeting notes, including points of agreement and disagreement; (4) serving as a confidant for members who wish to express concerns privately, whether about the substance of discussions or the dialogue process. Facilitation staff will also actively suggest methods to accomplish tasks. The facilitators will support capacity building with all Collaborative members, including interest-based negotiation and aiding the group to facilitating its own meetings.

If a member has a concern about the neutrality or performance of the facilitator, s/he should first speak with the facilitator and then the group. If the concern is unresolved, the member should discuss it with the appropriate program manager at the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution.

9. Organizational Structure

Steering Committee

To advance its work and to use the full Collaborative's time most efficiently, a small Steering Committee (2-5 members representing different interests, plus FS Program Manager and the facilitator) will meet regularly via teleconference to develop meeting agendas and meeting materials and to help manage the Collaborative's work more generally. The Steering Committee will focus on the process. The Steering Committee will not make substantive decisions about policy or management; however, the committee may occasionally provide feedback on proposals to improve them in preparation for a meeting. Members of the Steering Committee will be expected to have the passion, time, and resources needed to regularly and actively contribute to the committee's discussions. If a member repeatedly misses Steering Committee planning teleconferences, the Dinkey Collaborative will identify a replacement to ensure that the Steering Committee continues to fulfill its function.

Each Steering Committee member may identify an alternate representative to represent them periodically when their schedule conflicts with the meeting time. If the member repeatedly has to rely on the alternate to represent them, the Dinkey Collaborative will replace that member with the alternate.

Work Groups & Technical Advisory Groups

To advance its work, particularly on issues where consensus does not exist and to use the full Collaborative's time most efficiently, the Dinkey Collaborative may choose to create work groups to conduct specific tasks it identifies and technical advisory groups to conduct analyses and provide recommendations on scientific issues. The Collaborative will craft a clear charge and scope of work (in the meeting summary) for any work group or technical advisory group. Work groups and technical advisory group meetings will be open to the public, and their materials made available on the website. Both work groups and technical advisory groups can call on additional experts or stakeholders to inform their work.

Like in the full group, work groups and technical advisory groups will seek consensus in their recommendations and work products. Highlights, decisions, and action items will be recorded in meeting summaries or Issue Papers. In addition to regular progress updates, materials developed in work groups or by technical advisory groups will always be brought back to the full Collaborative for discussion, refinement as necessary, and adoption. Major products will tracked on the full Collaborative's schedule of activities, including dates for review by the full group.

Voluntary & Balanced Representation: Collaborative members may volunteer to participate in work groups or technical advisory groups; both will strive for balanced representation of interest groups. To ensure that work groups and technical advisory groups remain small enough to complete tasks expeditiously, collaborative members will caucus and identify appropriate representatives for different interests. All members will be expected to have the passion, time, and resources needed to do intensive work. Technical advisory group members will also be expected to have necessary technical expertise to participate in conversations and follow-up work. Sierra National Forest will provide logistical and technical support to help convene work groups and technical work groups and track their work products.

10. Decision-Making within the Dinkey Collaborative

This is an advisory rather than a final decision-making group. In working with the Dinkey Collaborative, the facilitators and technical staff will use a consensus-seeking approach and work diligently to find common ground on issues. To the extent that the Collaborative reaches consensus on recommendations, the final decision maker, the Sierra National Forest is likely to implement the recommendations.

Someone "in consensus" can abide by a decision. This may mean that they strongly support it, feel neutral about it, or choose to abstain from the decision. Each of these situations is considered being in consensus with a decision. The Collaborative will seek consensus in all its decisions. If consensus cannot be reached after good faith efforts (i.e., sharing of information, working to understand each others' concerns and interests, and working to develop inclusive solutions), the Collaborative has two subsequent decision-making procedures. The first applies to making recommendations on a proposed action. The second applies to all other Collaborative activities (e.g., monitoring, communication, civic engagement).

The Collaborative may choose to use decision-support tools when it feels these would benefit its deliberation and decision-making.

A. Decision-Making for Recommendations on a Proposed Action

This decision-making procedure assumes that Collaborative members have completed steps 1-5 of the collaborative planning process explained above. If at the end of step 5, Dinkey Collaborative members have made good faith efforts but are unable to reach consensus on a proposed action, they will use steps 6 and 7 to document remaining areas of disagreement and their individual recommendations to the Forest. As with steps 4 and 5, step 6 will involve a matrix of member-proposed text or other decision-making support tool. Step 7 will involve the “letter of support” template developed by members in 2011. This will allow individual members to document their recommendations on both the specific aspects of a project’s proposed action and the project as a whole.

If members cannot attend a meeting where restoration project recommendations will be made, they will be given an opportunity to submit their individual recommendations in writing within 7 days of the meeting.

B. Decision-Making for All Other Collaborative Activities

This decision-making procedure covers all areas of the Collaborative’s work that do not involve recommendations on a proposed action. This includes but is not limited to the design and content of the multiparty monitoring plan; the design and content of communication materials; participation in related events and groups; the exploration of topics relevant to forest restoration; and the hiring of consultants, and approval of their work plans.

If consensus cannot be reached after good faith efforts, the different recommendations on how to proceed will be documented, and members will use a 75% supermajority vote of members present at the meeting to decide which recommendation to adopt. Each member will have one vote. Every effort will be made to announce in advance whether any decisions are anticipated at a meeting, and members encouraged to attend, because without the benefit of hearing the Collaborative’s discussion they will not be able to make a fully-informed decision. The different recommendations and the final vote will be recorded in the meeting summary.

C. Documentation of All Decisions, and Engagement in NEPA

All decisions, agreements, recommendations, and reservations will be documented in the meeting summaries, summaries of individual recommendations, and/or individual letters of support, which are part of the public record and will be made available on the project website. This includes the names of those who support or oppose specific decisions, agreements, or recommendations.

Participating in the Collaborative does not supplant the right of members to engage in the traditional NEPA environmental review process, including submitting comments and attending public meetings on the project.

D. Timeframe

Through the schedule of activities, the Collaborative will agree to specific timelines for making recommendations on restoration projects. The schedule of activities will be adopted separately from this Charter; adopting this Charter does not imply approving the schedule.

11. Process Agreements, Meeting Ground Rules, and Media Protocol

Process Agreements

1. **Members agree to act in good faith in all aspects of this process and to communicate their interests.** Members agree to make a concerted effort to provide requested information to other members or to explain the reason why not. Tentative or sensitive information will be treated appropriately. In addition to providing information, acting in good faith also means that members will work to understand each other's concerns and interests, and to develop inclusive recommendations, as explained in the next item.
2. **Members agree to address the issues and concerns of the participants.** All members have a stake in the issue at hand. Members agree to validate the issues and concerns of other parties, and work to develop agreements that include all the issues under consideration. This includes the range of ecological, economic, and social interests represented. Disagreements will be viewed as problems to be solved, rather than battles to be won.
3. **Parties will express concerns and support in discussions of the Dinkey Collaborative that are consistent with concerns and support they express in other forums, including in sessions with the press.**
4. **Members agree to only make commitments that they intend to keep.**
5. **Members can request a caucus with other members of its interest group at any time.** This allows members to consult with other members that share their interests or with constituents outside of the meeting, for the purpose of exploring topics of concern and advancing agreements. Upon request from any caucus the facilitator will attend and consult with the parties during their caucus session.
6. **Meeting notes will be prepared with a focus on key points, ideas, and action items rather than as transcripts.** Unless very specific to understanding the content, references will generally be made to the content rather than the members. Meeting notes will be circulated within two weeks of meetings. Meeting notes will then be made publicly available on the public website.

Meeting Ground Rules

1. **Electronic courtesy.** Most of the participants have demanding responsibilities outside of the meeting room. We ask for your attention during the full meeting. Please turn cell phones, or any other communication item with an on/off switch to "silent." If you do not believe you will be able to participate fully, please discuss your situation with one of the facilitators.

2. **Be comfortable.** Please help yourself to refreshments or take personal breaks.
3. **Humor is welcome** and important, but humor should never be at someone else's expense.
4. **Stay focused on the charge and deliverables.** There are many related topics that people care about. The Collaborative cannot address all of these. The facilitator will help the group stay focused on the deliverables.
5. **Use common conversational courtesy.** Don't interrupt others. Use appropriate language. Avoid third party discussions.
6. **Treat each other with respect.** People are passionate about these issues and in many cases have invested their careers in this work. People offer their time, expertise, insight, and resources in these discussions. Please respect the work that people do to advance the conversation and create common ground.
7. **All ideas and points have value.** You may hear something you do not agree with. You are not required to defend or promote your perspective, but you are asked to share it. All ideas have value in this setting. If you believe another approach is better, offer it as a constructive alternative.
8. **Avoid editorials.** Please avoid ascribing motives to or judging the actions of others. Please speak about your experiences, concerns, and suggestions.
9. **Honor time.** In order to achieve meeting objectives it will be important to follow the time guidelines provided by the facilitator.

Media Protocol

Outside of meetings and if contacted by the press or an external party, members would:

- Clarify that they are not speaking on behalf of the Dinkey Collaborative.
- Represent comments made in these meetings as organizational or general group comments.
- Avoid personal references or expressing or characterizing the views or statements of others.
- Avoid using the press as a vehicle for negotiation.

Members reserve the right to express their own opinion to the press, but not the opinions of others. Participants can refer media inquiries to group members for individual comments.

The Dinkey Collaborative may periodically develop and approve joint statements to keep the public and media informed of its work, agreements, and progress. Members can speak freely about these joint statements.

12. Outreach and Communication

The Dinkey Collaborative will update annually its *Communication Plan* for outreach to a broad stakeholder community. The *Communication Plan* will also support the Collaborative's efforts to identify opportunities for sharing information, coordinating efforts, and integrating activities with other agencies, organizations, and California Native American Tribes that are active in the region. The Collaborative will ask partner organizations to support its communication efforts, including but not limited to the following:

Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative: Sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, this group is comprised of a diverse range of stakeholders from throughout Madera, Mariposa, and Fresno Counties with a common interest in the ecological, economic and cultural health of the Sierra Nevada. The group meets periodically and involves many stakeholders interested in the DLRP project area. The stated mission is: *The Sustainable Forests and Communities Collaborative initiates, encourages and supports efforts that promote a healthy sociological system of forests, watersheds and economies in the communities of the South Central Sierra through a transparent, collaborative and mutually supportive process within a diverse and committed stakeholder group.*

Tribal Forum: The Tribal Forum, organized by Dirk Charley from the Sierra National Forest, meets quarterly. The Forest Supervisor also attends.

Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council: Is a four county quasi-governmental 501(c)3 that is comprised of a diverse range of organizations, Tribal Governments, environmental, special districts and County government including one representative from the Board of Supervisors whose district lays within the Sierra Nevada in Mariposa, Madera, Fresno and Tulare Counties with a common interest in the ecological, economic and cultural health of the Sierra Nevada. The Council meets every other month. Their mission is *"To promote the quality and aesthetic value of our cultural, environmental, and recreational resources by improving the quality of life through diverse, sustainable economic development."*

Email List: A list of interested parties will also be developed to track people and organizations that wish to receive general communication and updates about the Collaborative's work, but do not want to be involved directly.

Periodic Updates: The Collaborative will periodically develop short, high-level summaries or briefing materials about their activities for outreach and communication purposes. The Collaborative may choose to create a Communication Sub-Committee to develop these products.

Website: The Collaborative, through the Forest Service, will develop a website to share all materials.

13. Schedule of Activities and Charter Amendments

The Dinkey Collaborative will convene in December 2010 and is expected to continue while the DLRP continues to be implemented. The **Science Symposium** will occur in 2015 and 2020.

At the beginning of each calendar year, the Dinkey Collaborative will agree to its schedule of activities. The schedule of activities is subordinate to and must fulfill the collaborative planning steps identified above in section 5.

During the year, the facilitator will work with the Sierra National Forest and the Collaborative to modify the Collaborative's schedule of activities as needed, and as consistent with the collaborative planning steps.

At the end of each year, the Collaborative will evaluate its progress toward meeting the DLRP goals and comment on the Forest's annual CFLR report. At this time the Dinkey Collaborative may choose to amend this Charter. At the end of every two years, beginning at the end of 2012, the Collaborative will renew its commitment and review its membership.

14. Signatures for the Charter

Dinkey Collaborative members will use this charter to conduct business and make decisions in planning and implementing the Dinkey Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project.

Dinkey Collaborative members are asked to approve the charter verbally, which will be recorded in the meeting summary. Members are also invited to approve the charter by signing it.

Approving the charter does not imply agreement with specific project or management agreements or recommendations.

The Collaborative will review the list of charter signatories each year to ensure it remains current.

We the undersigned affirm our commitment to the Dinkey Collaborative Charter.


Sierra National Forest Supervisor, Date


Name, Date

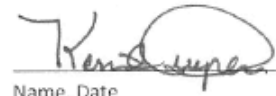

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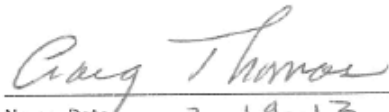

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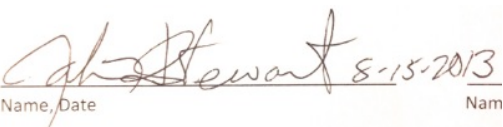

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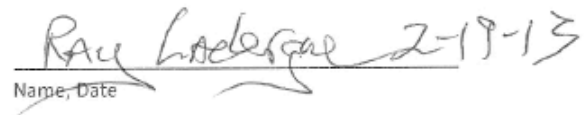

Name, Date


Name, Date


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Name, Date


Name, Date

Signatures above:

1. Supervisor Dean Gould
2. Stan Van Velsor
3. Mandy Vance
4. Larry Duysen
5. Craig Thomas
6. Richard Bagley
7. Justin Augustine
8. John Stewart
9. Pamela Flick
10. Stan Harger
11. Charles Ashley
12. Kent Duysen
13. Mark Smith
14. Steve Haze
15. Susan Britting
16. Ray Laclergue

Adopted verbally: (17) Honorable Ron Goode (May 16, 2013), (18) Joe Kaminski (May 16, 2013), (25) Narvell Conner (November 20, 2013), (26) Chris Oberti (August 8, 2014)

Adopted in writing: (19) Dan Fidler (July 25, 2013), (20) John Mount (July 25, 2013), (21) Anne Lombardo (July 29, 2013), (22) Justine Reynolds (July 30, 2013), (23) Brittany Dyer (August 8, 2013), (24) Erin Stacy (November 24, 2013)

15. Appendix A: Information to be Included in a Project's Proposed Action

This appendix is a general outline that identifies the information necessary for the Collaborative to make an informed recommendation on a project's Proposed Action. The categories of information listed below may vary depending on the nature of each project; this outline will serve as the starting point for the presentation of detailed Proposed Actions to the Collaborative.

1. Introduction
 - a. Background
 - b. Existing Conditions
 - i. Existing Stand Conditions Table covering
 1. Units
 2. total acres
 3. California Wildlife Habitat Relation habitat types
 4. average basal area
 5. average % stand density index
 6. mistletoe rating
 7. quadratic mean diameter for trees above 6" dbh
 8. Large snags/acre
 9. Large logs/acre
 10. Average tons per acre of dead/down fuels
2. Goals and Desired Condition
3. Purpose of and Need for Action
4. Proposed Action
 - a. Vegetation Treatment Prescriptions and Methods
 - i. Stand Prescriptions
 1. Commercial harvest treatments
 - a. Thin from below
 - b. Single tree selection
 - c. Sanitation
 - d. Table comparing target basal area range and existing basal area for treatment units with conifer stands proposed for commercial harvest
 2. Precommercial Thin
 3. Fuels Prescription
 - a. Activity Fuels and Natural Fuels Treatment Methods
 - i. Mastication
 - ii. Hand or tractor pile
 - b. Prescribed Fire
 - i. Burn piles

- ii. Broadcast burn
 - 4. Reforestation Principles
 - a. Tractor Site Preparation
 - b. Planting
 - c. Release
 - 5. Roads and Landings
 - 6. Summary table of all activities by treatment units, including total acres and no treatment acreage
 - 7. Map showing
 - a. project area
 - b. treatment units
 - c. all treatments color-coded
 - a. wilderness areas
 - b. wildland urban interface
- 5. Implementation Schedule
- 6. Non-Significant Project Level Forest Plan Amendment
- 7. Design Features
 - a. Visuals Resources
 - b. Wildlife
 - i. General wildlife
 - ii. General special status terrestrial and aquatic wildlife
 - iii. Special status terrestrial wildlife
 - iv. Aquatic wildlife
 - v. Botany (Forest Service Sensitive Plant Species)
 - vi. Invasive plants
 - vii. Soils
 - viii. Water resources
 - ix. Private land and special uses
 - x. Cultural/heritage resources
 - xi. Air quality
- 8. Monitoring
 - a. Visuals resources
 - b. Fuels
 - c. Wildlife
 - d. Invasive plants
 - e. Hydrology/soils
 - f. Heritage
 - g. Air quality