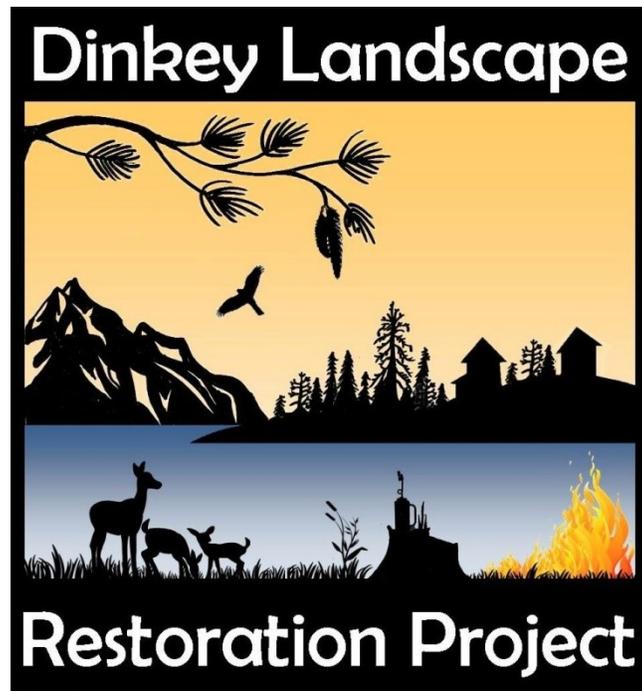


# The Dinkey Collaborative - Application for Extension in Funding



**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** Prepared jointly by members of the Dinkey Collaborative,  
Sierra National Forest and Pacific Southwest Region staff.

## PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

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The Dinkey Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP; 154,000 acres) is located on the Sierra National Forest in California and includes federal and non-federal lands (130,000 + 24,000 acres respectively). This is a mostly forested landscape with a long history of fire suppression. A recent drought, unprecedented in the last 1200 years (Griffin and Anchukaitis 2014), began mid-way through the initial CFLRP project timeline and wrought profound change through insect-related tree mortality.

Out of all the proposed CFLRPs, the Dinkey Landscape clearly experienced the highest tree mortality (> 90% in some stands; Fettig et al. 2019), as evidenced by the ‘Insect and Disease Mortality (2014-2018)’ data presented on the [Landscape Restoration Proposal Map](#). Now, half of the dead trees have fallen (Mortenson et al. 2019) leading to fuel loadings so vast they exceed the design limits of current fire and fuels models. Increased hazard from drought-killed trees was not accounted for in the map’s wildfire hazard potential data (Dillon et al. 2015). Also, fire hazard is inaccurately classified as lower within our boundary than in the open woodlands to the west. Likewise, the vegetation departure data (LANDFIRE 2016) misrepresents how departed most of our forested stands are (Safford and Stevens 2017).

We are requesting an 8-year extension in funding not only because of work that remains unaccomplished due to the enormity of tree mortality, but also because the drought created landscape-level setback for our forests. In a state renowned for devastating wildfire, the Dinkey Landscape sits in the epicenter of unprecedented fuel loading due to tree mortality. Though many of the dead trees have fallen, we are still anticipating the worst of the consequences in the form of hot burning, mega fires (Stephens et al. 2017) due to the sheer quantity and connectivity of combustible, large fuels. Our arid, Mediterranean climates predict these will be much more extreme than fires in high-mortality regions of the wetter, Rocky Mountain forests. High spot-fire production, and surface fire severity will make these fires very unsafe to fight. Such intense fires will kill many trees and hinder forest regrowth. The repercussions of large, stand replacing fires in the Dinkey Landscape are immense. We stand to lose: people’s homes (~5000) and livelihoods; recreation opportunities (1.5 million visitors a year) which support local economies (the Landscape is within 4-hours of ~ 16 million people); heritage lands of the Western Mono Indians; a giant sequoia grove (1/3 of the monarch sequoias died by fire in a nearby grove in 2017); societal goods including timber and high-quality water to one of the richest agricultural regions in the world.

We are requesting relatively long implementation window to ensure success of our extension-related goals. The Dinkey Landscape has 56,000 of 91,915 acres that remain untreated because of a host of unforeseen complications, including pivoting our focus to manage public hazards from tree mortality. An 8-year timeframe allows us to navigate the many weather and compliance issues that can delay projects; prescribed burns, in particular, have been delayed by

drought conditions, poor air quality and related restrictions from the air quality board, and timber industry resources being diverted to large fire recovery efforts across the State of California.

The Dinkey Landscape was originally chosen due to: a consensus for restoration among diverse stakeholders (environmental, timber industry, land owners, tribal, federal, state). Over the decade we have committed heavily to building relationships among our stakeholders, while these relationships are still fragile, they have been instrumental to our success and have led to no litigated projects occurring during our tenure. We have progressed from developing tools and relationships, to leveraging these and using all-lands approaches (Good Neighbor Authority, grants, agreements, etc.) to accomplish our broader restoration goals. Future funding of continuing restoration will be contribute to landscape-level work done throughout the southern Sierra Nevada on public lands stewarded by various agencies. As the Dinkey Collaborative moves into its next phase, we are already partnering with two other collaborative groups on another forest to increase the pace and scale of restoration outside of the Dinkey project area. We, along with the Sierra National Forest, have already won \$10 million over two large California Climate Investments grants as part of a large state-funded effort to do meaningful, large-scale restoration. While the drought severely affected the Dinkey landscape, it remains productive and capable of growing forests and providing ecosystems services into the future. Implementing our planned projects will push the landscape in a trajectory to repair forest resilience. Additional funding will benefit the forest and public alike. The southern Sierra Nevada is iconic: a winner of hearts of early conservationists like John Muir, home to giant sequoias, sweeping vistas of granite domes and the headwaters of the breadbasket of the nation.

## PAST PERFORMANCE

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The Dinkey Collaborative sprung to life in its first six years. We developed a prioritization strategy for our restoration work, created prescriptions for treating Pacific fisher habitat, completed NEPA for a third of the landscape (48,500 acres), forged relationships amongst ourselves and with experts and regulators who would guide us in our work and others who would help us accomplish it, and began implementing landscape restoration, leading the way for our region. Our landscape-level approach to management and our science-based treatments resonated across the Sierra Nevada, and now are commonly-used models for forest management. The idea of how to apply techniques like variable-density-thinning is now done on a regular basis but prior to the Collaborative, was not done operationally.

We, the Dinkey Collaborative, progressed on all of our goals, primarily strategically, restoring forests at highest risk (as determined collaboratively through a rigorous process) to make them more resilient to wildfire. We placed special emphasis on protecting our communities from future wildfires through treating our wildland urban interfaces. We have a long and highly reputable list of science partners, which have been actively engaged in helping us design treatments, and they have published a substantial body of research specific to the Dinkey Landscape. All of our work was guided by the best available science, particularly an interdisciplinary guide to managing Sierra Nevadan forests (North et al. 2009). For everything

we accomplished, we took care to craft treatments that would minimize disturbance to Pacific fisher and California spotted owl habitat.

Even with our early successes, we faced many barriers to accomplishing treating the acres we proposed in 2010. As we got off the ground, the local Air Pollution Control Board was extremely restrictive in the time windows and project sizes they allowed for our prescribed burning projects. One of our major triumphs, and one of the ways in which we adapted to unforeseen circumstances, was when a Dinkey Collaborative delegation successfully convinced the Board to allow us longer burn windows and project areas after communicating the significant need for wildfire risk reduction. Despite this victory in increasing the opportunity for prescribed burning, major external forces were already at work to counter our original 2010 proposed goals.

In 2013, the 23,000 acre Aspen Fire, ripped through an area northwest of the Dinkey Landscape and in 2014, the 14,000 acre French Fire burned on the other side of the river canyon. These fires marked the end of a period where the Sierra National Forest was known as the ‘asbestos forest’, the forest that never burned. Some tipping point had been passed due to forest fuel loadings, unintended human ignitions, and/or climate. Later came the Rough, Railroad and Ferguson Fires, clocking in at 150K, 12.5K, and 97K acres. After many years without significant wildfire, the Sierra National Forest diverted vital resources away from other efforts to fight them and this was a major slowdown in accomplishing treatments on the Dinkey Landscape.

Even more profound than the large fires were the sweeping widespread changes brought by the 2012-2016 California drought and subsequent tree mortality. The Sierra National Forest is widely-considered the epi-center (on average 85% of ponderosa pine died; Fettig et al. 2019) of an event that killed 150 million trees in the Sierra Nevada. The tree mortality event dramatically altered the course of the Sierra National Forest and Dinkey Collaborative work. And it’s not over, as the dead trees fall we face both an unprecedented public safety and fuel loading problem (Young et al. 2018).

To adapt to the unforeseen landscape-scale changes, we have sharply pivoted our priorities through extensive discussion and consensus. For example, we have: modified existing contracts where possible, supplemented and revised NEPA, undertaken one large, new project in the worst-hit area, removed 2,400 acres of roadside hazard trees to provide for public safety, strategically reforested across 2,300 drought-affected acres threatened with type conversion and supplemented our monitoring to track our rapidly changing conditions. We also adapted restoration projects underway by modifying contracts to reflect the new collaboratively agreed upon priorities when possible and by revising the NEPA documents and changing the treatment prescriptions to reflect new conditions. While all these are major accomplishments (we reforested 193% of our original planting goals after wildfire and tree mortality), they were not the acres of treatment we proposed in 2010.

While we at least began implementation on eleven projects and completed NEPA for twelve, we only prescribe burned 33% of the original 46,000 acres we intended, and mechanically thinned 37% of our planned 34,500 acres. As promised, though, we did close out eight miles of road and accomplish most of our meadow restoration goal (74%). These numbers are lackluster if not

## DINKEY COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION

viewed in relation to the unprecedented drought event. Given the entirety of what the last half decade brought us and our re-direct to focus on the imminent public safety issues wrought by the tree mortality, it is the result of substantial and persistent effort by the USDA Forest Service Staff and the Collaborative.

In spite of not meeting our original goals, the impacts of these acres treated still reverberated through our communities. Through 2018, we have supported 94 jobs a year in the wood products industry, sold 132,950 CCF of timber while supporting our local timber mill, made 17,900 green tons of biomass available and trained 144 youth in professional skills.

Our ecological monitoring indicates we were mostly effective where we treated, and how to tailor our management to meet our objectives (e.g. forest structure, wildlife habitat, etc.) We were innovative in our early use of LiDAR in partnership with University of Washington, which showed we were successful at meeting our objectives for habitat but not for forest heterogeneity, which now informs prescriptions. Through science collaboration, we also learned that our treatments did increase forest resiliency to drought (Restaino et al. 2018, Young et al. 2018).

The wide-ranging science partnerships that evolved with the Dinkey CFRLP have created a large body of monitoring data that has been used to develop insight into key questions facing the broader region. Perhaps even more importantly, the Dinkey Collaborative provided the interface to put the science into management action by demonstrating practical restoration treatments in Sierra Nevada Forests. Now we have the opportunity to influence post-drought restoration treatments in the southern Sierra through techniques developed to address our dramatically-changed conditions.

Despite setbacks, we treated a relatively high proportion of the landscape, all in shared partnership. By building a charter that emphasizes transparency and inclusiveness, and consistently following the guidelines we set out for ourselves, we have created trust, substantially reduced litigation and created a shared understanding of the need for restoration. In turn, we have effectively outreached our vision and circumstances (need for forest restoration) to the general public. The relationships built through the Collaborative are one of our most-valued legacies, and they have already kindled other collaborative efforts. That stated, these relationships were hard-won, in some cases, and still require ongoing nurturing.

Not only have we effectively leveraged relationships, but we have leveraged funds to accomplish work. We have matched the funds earmarked for the Collaborative with USDA Forest Service funds, and even exceeded them by nearly \$5.5 million over the life of the Collaborative. Our members have contributed more than \$350,000 in time. We have documented \$1.9 million dollars of restoration occurring on private, though given the difficulty of quantifying this, the actual number is much higher. Over the years, we have accomplished \$3.2 million dollars in goods for services through stewardship contracts and nearly another \$1 million in funds contributed through agreements. Clearly, we have established a legacy of leveraging funds from many different sources. Any extension in funding that we receive will continue to be well-matched to restore our forests.

## APPLYING LEARNING TO THE FUTURE

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Despite setbacks during the first ten years of the Dinkey Collaborative, the lessons that we have learned together through drought, wildfire and changing business practices will help us be successful in our next phase. The Dinkey Collaborative came to life as National Forests around the country were just beginning to think about how to accomplish true landscape restoration. As we began to acknowledge our funding and resource constraints on treating as extensively as we had hoped, we realized we had to come up with a prioritization approach, in order to be effective. We developed a method to prioritize treatment based on wildfire risk, restoration need and wildlife habitat, which we will continue to rely on. Additionally, using the Dinkey Landscape as a study area, researchers have recently modeled the most effective ways to strategically place forest treatments to reduce wildfire risk given future climate change scenarios (Krofcheck et al. 2017, Krofcheck et al. 2018), which are refining our understanding of how to place treatments.

We have also learned to be innovative in our business practices. When the Sierra National Forest realized they did not have adequate staffing to manage timber and stewardship contracts, we partnered with the National Forest Foundation to manage contracting on one initial project and plan to build our collaboration. We also expanded our Good Neighbor Authority to encompass the entire Dinkey Landscape. Through our partnerships, the USDA Forest Service joined forces with CAL FIRE (California's fire protection and forest administration agency) to strategically treat landscapes across boundaries for better protection of our communities. We worked with the Sierra National Forest to merge timber, silviculture and fuels crews and through that initiative, were able to accomplish more as we had many inter-trained staff that could jointly approach fuels and forest stand restoration efficiently. And as agency funding dwindled and need grew, we operationalized to successfully acquire grants to match CFLRP funds, We now have hired new staff who are dedicated to managing current awards while seeking new opportunities. Lastly, while we did not meet our prescribed fire goal in the first decade, we are now committed to expand our prescribed burn program with a NEPA decision that encompasses 770,000 acres across the forest. We also addressed a significant barrier to burning through a delegation from the Dinkey Collaborative successfully convincing the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District, that burn day availability was one of the main barriers to our prescribed burn program. They now understand the ecological and social costs of not using reducing forests fuels, which has eased the way for future burning.

The 2012-2016 California drought brought many hard-earned lessons. Through Dinkey CFRLP monitoring (Pile et al. 2019) and research done within the Dinkey Landscape we now know which tree species and densities are most susceptible to drought and how are forest management practices mitigated drought impacts (Fettig et al. 2018, Restaino et al. 2019) and future management needs given our dramatically changed conditions (Young et al. 2019). These studies provided the opportunity to understand how to restore our forests in the face of future, more severe droughts that we anticipate with climate change and reinforced the value of landscape-level treatments. Based on these studies, we think that had our treatments been more intense and widespread, beetle populations would not have exploded to the level they did, hence overtaking healthier stands. Finally, the drought related tree mortality taught us the importance of working

across ecosystems and geographic areas, because while some of our project areas were ravaged by the drought and now require another restoration entry, treatments done in other locations remain resilient to wildfire.

As we move into the next phase of the Dinkey Collaborative, we will continue to draw upon the culture of innovation (new tools, science and ways of doing business) we have developed over time. We also intend to capitalize on new technology and information as it becomes available such as post-mortality LiDAR that is currently being flown in the area as part of a California state grant. Finally, the Sierra National Forest continues to try to adapt to the needs of the future, and is currently in the process of restructuring our workforce around accomplishing our landscape restoration goals.

## ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

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Now, much more so than at the inception of the Dinkey Collaborative, there is a great need to perform restoration not only for the needed ecological benefits but to safe-guard our local economies and social systems from the imminent public safety and wildfire hazards associated with tree mortality. There are very high-levels of tree mortality in and around the Shaver Lake community, and this threatens year-long residents as well as the tourism industry that these communities depend on. These areas provide a highly-sought after retreat into nature from the metropolitan areas of Fresno, Bakersfield, Los Angeles and beyond.

Without action, it is not if but when our local communities will be damaged and human lives lost to wildfire. But even before the next wildfire occurs, in the wake of the tree mortality, people and our infrastructure (e.g., homes, utility lines, roads, facilities, etc.) are at risk from falling trees. Our local economies which require tourism dollars and forest products to be sustained, will suffer ([National Visitor Use Monitoring data](#) showed a 20% decline between 2017 and 2012 in visits) if we do not complete the fuels reduction and hazard tree removal projects we have started.

Fortunately there is growing public support, unlike ever before, to reduce wildfire risk through fuels reduction practices in light of the many large, high intensity wild fires that ravaged California communities' in recent years (Wozny 2019). Through these harrowing events, Californian's are becoming aware that the Sierra Nevada is one integrated socio-ecological system, and the cost of failure to restore our forests bears a human cost as well. The evidence for California's support for wildfire risk reduction is borne out through a significant state report on the need for change in forest management (Little Hoover Commission 2018), state budgets and codified through new bills being passed. In 2018, California's governor signed into law a senate bill that ushered in comprehensive fuel reduction and forestry management changes to mitigate wildfire risk and allocated money (\$200 million) to wildfire risk reduction projects on state and federal lands. In the last five years, the Sierra National Forest was funded twice by the State of California to reduce future wildfire risk, some of which contributed to Dinkey Landscape projects.

Increasing public concern over wildfire risk in the Dinkey Landscape and surrounding areas is not unfounded. The wildfire hazard potential map (Dillon et al. 2018) indicates that the majority of potentially burnable lands on the Sierra National Forest are classified as being at ‘high’ and ‘very high’ risk of wildfire hazard potential. The communities and private in-holdings located within the Dinkey Landscape are highly vulnerable to future wildfire. Local residents have recognized this threat, and hence developed the Highway 168 Fire Safe Council and related community wildfire protection plan in 2018, which in conjunction with the treatments planned within the Dinkey Landscape on USDA Forest Service lands, will serve to reduce wildfire threat.

Not only can we reduce risk of catastrophe through our restoration work, but we can sustain livelihoods through supporting the zero-waste sawmill at Terra Bella, which is the only large mill in the southern Sierra Nevada that can process logs of all sizes from Dinkey restoration projects, and is at risk of closing down. The mill provides an avenue to pay for some of the much-needed restoration on the Dinkey Landscape and surrounding lands. The mill has capacity to process small-diameter material in their high speed “Maxi-Mill”. Processing small diameter material (often ladder fuels and excessively overly abundant relative to historical numbers) also has broad social cohesion benefits as there is little controversy about the need to remove such material.

The Dinkey Collaborative has long, successfully dealt with controversial issues, especially surrounding California spotted owl (recent candidate species for listing) and Pacific fisher (proposed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act) conservation, by honing-in science-based prescriptions to treat fuels which protects wildlife habitat from high-severity wildfire, and by also restoring wildlife habitat. In partnership with the Pacific Southwest Research Station, we monitored the impacts of our treatments on the owl and fisher habitats (denning, nesting and resting), thus increasing our knowledge of these species and building trust with stakeholders. While our partners are still monitoring how the recent tree mortality has influenced wildlife habitat, preliminary results indicate that while species like Pacific fisher have lost habitat, they are still finding suitable habitat in areas where there is an abundance of remaining live trees (like drainage corridors). Wildfire-threat due to high fuel loading from dead trees in these habitats poses an even greater risk than initial habitat loss and we face a new social challenge in restoring it, but inaction brings higher risk (Peery et al. 2017).

The cost of inaction is so high because our forests are vulnerable, still recovering from early anthropogenic disturbances. In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, much of the mixed conifer and pine forests within the Dinkey Landscape were heavily-logged. Fire suppression, which also began around this time, led to overly-dense forests, more vulnerable to future fires and insect outbreaks leaving much of the Dinkey Landscape in uneven-aged second-growth forest. Our forests would have historically burned at high frequencies (as often as every 9 years in some forest types). Fire return interval departure data (Safford et al. 2018) developed for California, indicates that 92,000 acres of primarily coniferous forest in the Dinkey Landscape (154,000 acres total) is classified as ‘highly departed’ from the natural fire return interval.

Coniferous forest (sierra mixed-conifer, ponderosa pine, red fir, and subalpine) is predominate in the Dinkey Landscape (64%) while there are smaller components (23%) of blue oak woodland,

chaparral, and montane hardwood. Wet meadows comprise a small but critical 1% of the area. With the exception of subalpine, all coniferous forest types have changed dramatically with recent high mortality. Unfortunately, it wasn't the far too prevalent small stems that we primarily lost; it was the oldest and largest trees, particularly pines, which died at the highest rates. The standing dead number up to 80 times more than they would have historically (Young et al. 2019). Because many of the forests in the Dinkey Landscape are currently in a state of recovery of from drought and many of the former seed-producing overstory is dead and future trees are currently in seedling form, this landscape is highly vulnerable to wildfire and subsequent type conversion. We anticipate losing conifer forests in places without the continuation of the work we started.

On a brighter note, the terrific loss of trees to beetles and drought likely left the forest more resilient to future insect outbreaks. That stated, we are entering an uncertain era in our future climate, with more frequent, hotter droughts anticipated (Griffn and Anchukaitis 2014) and future epidemic insect outbreaks not beyond possibility. We are also bracing ourselves for exotic diseases (like 'sudden oak death' a *Phytophthora* common elsewhere in California) and rapid establishment of invasive weed species such as yellow star thistle, Italian thistle and medusa head in our suddenly more-open forests (though we have made significant headway in weed control in our first decade).

All of the watersheds within the Dinkey Collaborative were deemed "functioning at risk" within the watershed condition framework and this was primarily due to the condition of aquatic biota, but also road and trail conditions and wildfire risk. Currently, water boards across California are spending their reserves to remove soils from reservoirs in the wake of catastrophic forest fires, and this reality also threatens California's agricultural hub, the Central Valley, which the Dinkey Landscape is perched just above.

## PROPOSED EXTENSION AND TREATMENTS

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**Desired Conditions and Strategy.** With continued funding we plan to treat 65,000 acres to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and increase resilience of mixed-conifer forests, and thereby protect old growth forest including 2000-year-old giant sequoia trees in McKinley Grove. The restoration treatments we propose will continue to promote shared stewardship with stakeholders and increase partnerships (USFS National Goal #3, Sierra NF Leadership Intent #4). The work we will perform will improve the condition of forests (USFS National Goal #4) through ecological restoration (R5 Strategic Priority #1). We will also increase recreational opportunities through better and safer access to Sierra National Forest lands by removal of the significant number of hazard trees lining roads following the tree mortality (USFS National Goal #5). Finally, we will protect long-term carbon stores (California Carbon Plan) and reduce wildfire risk (CAL FIRE Program Goal). All projects in this proposal are included in Sierra National Forest long-term plans.

We will continue our cross-boundary prescribed burning done in collaboration among the US Forest Service, California State, Southern California Edison (a public utility), local tribes and private landowners. Our proposal complements the 2018 [Strategic Fire Plan for California](#), the [2015 State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (SWAP) and coordinates with the CAL FIRE fuel break

construction project. The High Sierra Ranger District contains five CAL FIRE systematically-selected, high-priority fuel reduction projects, three within the Dinkey Landscape, the most out of anywhere in California. These plans emphasize working with adjacent land owners and other partners to reduce fire risk to communities (Strategic Fire Plan) and improve resilience of forest to benefit federally or state listed focal species like California spotted owl, Pacific fisher, great grey owl, Yosemite toad, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and willow flycatcher and other forest resources (SWAP and Strategic Fire Plan). Additionally, we have two new state-of-the-science conservation strategies to guide our management of two focal species (Pacific fisher and California spotted owl; Spencer et al. 2016, USDA Forest Service 2019).

We plan to restore 413 acres of wet meadow and riparian habitat, which will benefit the aquatic species that inhabit them. While meadows are a small proportion of the overall landscape (1%), they provide an outsized contribution to overall system health through filtering and slowing water release so more of it is available longer to forest plants and wildlife (Viers and Rheinheimer 2011). Though we have already closed all the roads we originally planned to on the Dinkey Landscape, we will continue to look for opportunities to reduce unneeded roads to reduce erosion issues in our watersheds. Desired conditions for meadows in the project area include restoring native plant species associated with meadows, meadow hydrology that is functional and hydrologically connected to uplands and headwaters and habitat conditions that support species like the federally-listed Yosemite toad and yellow-legged frog, and state-listed willow flycatcher and great gray owl. Direct restoration of meadows and riparian areas, along with forest restoration and reducing the risk of high-severity wildfire all will result in higher-functioning watersheds.

The Dinkey Landscape harbors the McKinley Grove of ancient giant sequoias, some of the world's oldest and most massive trees. The requested funds would support critically needed restoration in this grove in partnership with Save the Redwoods League, who will contribute expert scientific knowledge on managing giant sequoias. Our goal is to restore a more fire-resilient age structure to the grove and restore periodic fire (every 10-15 years) that would mimic what occurred in this area before fire suppression. Recently, we lost more than a third of the monarch sequoias (the oldest trees) in the other grove on the Sierra National forest, due to wildfire in fuel conditions that are very similar to conditions in the McKinley Grove.

Our forest prescriptions are designed to protect old-growth structures like in our giant sequoia groves and elsewhere, improve habitat conditions for species like fisher and California spotted owl that are dependent on mature forests, and coax the stand back toward historical reference conditions (appropriate to forest type) that are known to be resilient to wildfire and climate change (Meyer and North 2019, Safford and Stevens 2018). These desired conditions tend to be more variable in tree structure and canopy density, with clusters of trees which consist of fewer shade-tolerant species than is typical of most our unmanaged/unburned stands. Our strategy is cognizant of topography in that we leave denser conifer stands in wetter canyon bottoms and northeast-facing slopes, and sparser conifer stands on ridge tops and southeastern slopes. By recreating landscape-level variability in stand structure (as would have occurred with natural fire regimes) and introducing controlled fire, we are returning to the range of conditions that Sierra

Nevada wildlife have evolved with over the millennia. The proposed projects combined with the pending forest-wide decision to implement prescribed fire will allow maintenance of the desired fire regime that is consistent with landscape position and improves habitat conditions for target species.

**Wildfire Risk Reduction.** Wildfires are inevitable, but uncharacteristically hot fires that destroy homes and level forests are not. Our strategy to reduce long-term wildfire risk on the Dinkey Landscape stems in creating defensible fuel profile zones (DFPZs), which are strategically located for effective fire suppression to protect communities. We placed DFPZs around Shaver Lake in the early 2000s. Unfortunately, the conifers in these zones died during the recent bark beetle epidemic rendering them less effective and require re-entry which is among our priorities.

The timely recognition of tree mortality consequences and our need to adapt, led to our developing a new project, Blue Rush. We reaffirmed the location of the DFPZs, identified the need to remove dead trees along major travel routes creating fire defense access roads, and located areas to reintroduce prescribed fire resulting in a comprehensive strategy for reducing wildfire risk which we will continue with project extension.

Our fuels treatments include mechanical thinning using different techniques, prescribed understory burning and pile burning often in combination. We now often rely on existing roads and natural features when thinking about placement, for greater efficiency in potential fire suppression activities. Our treatments emphasize reducing forest densities based on site-specific conditions and reducing ladder fuels with the aim to reduce flame lengths of potential wildfire to 4-feet, diminishing the risk of crown fire. We generally strive for our treatments to perpetuate ecologically beneficial wildfires away from our communities and to bulwark our fire suppression efforts nearer them.

In all of our fuel treatments we strive for efficiency in an all-lands approach by working with CAL FIRE (California's fire protection agency) to strategize on designing fuel treatments that work in unison across private and federal boundaries to protect the wildland-urban interface. We have strengthened this relationship by expanding our Good Neighbor Authority to include the entire Dinkey Landscape to allow for state dollars to achieve treatment on federal land. Our close relationship with CAL FIRE has been fostered since the USDA Forest Service began to collaborate with them in 1994 to create and maintain the Beale Fire Break which has prevented at least four wildfires from entering communities within the Dinkey Landscape.

We also sought efficiency in treatment through a strategy we developed to prioritize which landscape blocks to reduce fuels in first based on ecological need paired with wildland urban interface (WUI) priorities. We first broke the landscape up into sub-units and initially planned treatment and completed NEPA compliance for all those in the WUI then compared the remainder based on stand structure, composition, level of departure from the natural range of variability, and wildlife habitat and watershed values to prioritize our restoration. These dividends are paying off now that we have NEPA coverage for treatments designed to reduce wildfire risk smartly and efficiently in the areas of high-severity wildfire potential.

In the next phase of the Dinkey Collaborative, we will expand scale by revisiting Strategically Placed Landscape Area Treatments (SPLATs) that were planned but never implemented because of earlier sensitive species habitat constraints (now dramatically altered due to conifer mortality). SPLATs are large proportions of the landscape that have been treated to reintroduce a more natural wildfire regime. These disconnected treatments were designed to slow fire spread and soften intensity as they move across the landscape.

One new development that will also expand the scale of our work is the near-completion of forest-wide programmatic NEPA coverage for prescribed burning. This will allow us to have even more flexibility in our landscape to reintroduce fire using the latest science to refine priority treatment locations, and expand the scale of our treatments. Specifically, recent research analyzed how strategically-placed treatments on the Dinkey Landscape could be just as effective as treating the entire landscape even given future climate scenarios (Krofcheck et al. 2018).

Where it is prudent, leveraging managed wildfire to do the work to restore natural fire regimes tends to occur at larger scales, is more cost-efficient than treatment and safer than suppression (North et al. 2015). With this in the mind, the crafters of the revised draft Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan geographically designated a wildfire maintenance zone on the Dinkey Landscape, safely away from communities and infrastructure, wherein to allow managed wildfire for resource benefits.

Managed wildfire and proactive fuel treatments both represent substantial cost savings through reducing suppression costs (Thompson et al. 2013). There is an undercurrent of change occurring now where public consensus is growing that putting in the restoration dollars now, saves money later. Collaborative groups, such as ours, likely play no small role in this. Partnerships with local landowners, organizations and communities that we have developed through this collaborative have gained us support in our initiative to reduce wildfire risk. We will continue to engage in numerous community outreach events to educate the local public on the serious need for fuels treatments and the need for some short-term smoke impacts from prescribed burning operations. Finally, we will continue to work closely with our local air pollution control district to ease barriers to prescribed burning.

Climate change research done using Dinkey Landscape as a model, showed that fuel treatments here can be even more effective at reducing high severity fires in future climate scenarios, and extreme fire weather (Krofcheck et al. 2017). Given that we know fuel treatments in these ecosystems do reduce fire severity (Safford et al. 2012) and that we can expect more extreme weather and fires in the future, it demonstrates forethought to actively step-up thinning and prescribed-burning treatments now.

Once initial treatments are completed, we are committed to maintaining them. First-entry treatments are often the most costly, but after our initial heavy-lifting of removing high fuel loads is complete, we expect to be able to maintain them using prescribed fire which can be employed over larger areas when fuels are reduced and is more cost efficient than mechanical treatments.

## BENEFITS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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As in our other efforts, the Dinkey Collaborative has laid the foundation to build local community capacity, but the drought and tree mortality has complicated our efforts. On one hand the tree mortality has brought a surge of tree-removal work to the area and boosted the local economies, on the other, we expect this boom to be transient. We exceeded local capacity and estimate that tree-removal has brought 500+ workers to our area (Huffman et al. 2017). This influx of out-of-town labor has also led to increased revenue in the rental housing market, the hospitality industry, as well as the service/supply portions of the economy. Although the area workforce was at capacity due to tree mortality, the USFS still was able to award nearly three quarters its contracts related to the Dinkey Collaborative to local contractors. With the pulse in business, local contractors and businessmen have been able to invest in equipment and supporting infrastructure which will aide them into the future.

Through the Dinkey Collaborative, we have supported 94 jobs a year in the wood products industry. Our one remaining local mill at Terra Bella has directly benefited financially from restoration activities on the Collaborative footprint. Since we were conceived, the mill has received wood (132,950 CCF) from the project footprint and this has supported jobs that sustain the local economy. It is worth noting that the relationship between this mill and Dinkey Collaborative is reciprocal. The presence of the Terra Bella mill is important for creating a market for our forest products, thereby helping fund our restoration.

The Dinkey Collaborative is also supporting future infrastructure in the form of two nearby mill sites (< 30 miles) which are being converted into a biomass power plant and biomass utilization project. Feedstock coming off the restoration projects on the Sierra National Forest (of which the Dinkey Landscape is the leading producer) are critical for securing and maintaining private investment as well as public grants. A continuance of the Collaborative funding would help reassure investors that biomass removal/fuels reduction efforts will continue.

One of the biggest socioeconomic benefits of the Collaborative has been building trust among diverse stakeholders as we work together to design projects. There has been no litigation in our project area since the formation of the Collaborative because of the willingness and commitment of diverse stakeholders such as “environmentalists” and loggers/contractors to come together for a common goal. We have also operated inclusively, ensuring that members of various tribes, local residents, user groups, and industries are all represented and heard in our forums.

We have also invested in our future community through our ‘Hands on the Land’ program, in which we employ local high school students in forest-related positions. Over the years of the collaborative we have provided valuable on-the-job training for 144 area youth, which is tremendously valuable in our underserved, rural community where such professional-skill training is limited.

Perhaps even more essentially, the work our Collaborative does provides local community members with a safeguard from risk of life and property through wildfire risk reduction treatments. The Dinkey Landscape contains one of the most complex landscapes in the southern

Sierra due to the amount of development and wildland-urban interface. Protection for these communities underlies most of the discussions and decisions within the Collaborative.

Broadly speaking, our goals are to continue to invest in our local communities through outreach, jobs, forest products and youth-training programs, and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk. The metrics by which we propose to evaluate our progress are:

Enhance community sustainability:

- Maintain or increase number of workers employed by the project area each month, season, or year
- Maintain or increase number and/or type of trainings related to restoration completed by project work
- Maintain or increase the number and/or type of training opportunities for youth

Improve or maintain quality of life:

- Maintain or increase the number of jobs/shifts/amount paid to workers
- Maintain or increase fuels reduction acres in relation to areas considered to be at highest risk from wildfire

Improve capacity for collaboration:

- Maintain or increase extent to which stakeholders previously in conflict are now working together
- Maintain or increase the partner contributions (in kind time and funding) committed to shared project goals

## UTILIZATION OF FOREST RESTORATION BYPRODUCTS

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Our Dinkey landscape utilization strategy focused on the following components in our original proposal: producing viable timber sales focused on small sawlog (10” to 20” diameter breast height) harvests with the removal of larger trees (20” to 30” diameter breast height) to meet restoration objectives, and the removal of biomass material as markets and partnerships funds would allow. Stewardship dollars were to be used to remove biomass material (logs less than 10” diameter) and support fuels treatments. Restoration treatments planned in 2010 were expected to generate enough sawlog value to cover the cost of timber extraction, but not for small tree removal. Biomass extraction was expected to result from both thinning of young plantations (less than 30 years old) and pre-burn treatments designed to reduce smoke production.

Log milling infrastructure has not changed in the last ten years. The Terra Bella mill, located 90 miles from the project area, provides infrastructure for utilization of sawlog material. The mill services the Sequoia National Forest, Sierra National Forest, and parts of the Stanislaus National Forest. Another cedar bark and greenery mill is located 120 miles north of the project area. The

next closest mill is 264 miles from the Dinkey Landscape, and not feasible to ship materials too in a cost efficient manner, thus demonstrating the importance of the Terra Bella mill to our success.

Biomass electrical generation plants located in the central San Joaquin Valley near Fresno, California have seen plant closures creating challenges for biomass material transportation. The State of California provided mandated fixed price schedules to support the movement of biomass material; the price schedule created stability for the biomass industry but also allowed drought and wildfire related biomass material to flood the biomass market, resulting in price drops that were not anticipated in 2010. The net result of these challenges (plant closures, drought/fire material, price drops) has been that more funds were necessary to support biomass transportation. There is promise on the horizon, though, we have two new biomass plants being planned/built very close to our Landscape (< 30 miles) and it was just announced that one has received full financial backing. We also have helped secure funding in partnership with the Sierra Resource Conservation District (a state entity) for a portable biomass utilization unit for work on our landscape.

The Dinkey collaborative has produced 61 million board feet of timber harvest from Forest Service lands and an additional 71 million board feet from private lands and 16,000 tons of biomass (248,000 tons when private lands are accounted for). Timber sawlog estimates from 2010 were 45 million board feet Forest Service and 44 million from private lands owners. Higher restoration volume removal per acre and drought related mortality volume drove the overrun in harvested sawlog volume. We increased the scale and intensity of treatments after our monitoring data reflected that early treatments were not meeting the restoration objectives. The low value of biomass removal relative to planned was a result of market fluctuations. Biomass removal was largely funded through stewardship receipts.

The strategy for sawlog removals will remain similar moving forward. That is, restoration treatments will focus on removing understory volume and creating the growing space for fire/drought resilient species. This restoration strategy has proven successful in achieving restoration objectives for structure and we have refined these techniques over time. Our biomass strategy into the future is to seek partnerships with outside groups (state and county entities and other partners). We have been successful in securing California State grant dollars (~8 million dollars) to assist with biomass material disposal. Our biomass strategy is to accomplish the following: 1) secure funds to support biomass transportation to existing biomass processing facilities 2) develop avenues for monetizing biomass as biochar (the collaborative has helped to secure dollars for the development of mobile infrastructure) 3) support proposed new biomass facilities (small scale facilities have already been sited and are under construction). Our multi-attack approach will help us continue to usher in the new era in wood-product utilization.

## COLLABORATION

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When the Dinkey Collaborative formed 10 years ago, restoration was stalled, litigation threats were high, and there was little understanding of stakeholder or Forest Service constraints or interests. Since then the Dinkey Collaborative has developed mutual understanding of forest planning, forest resources, constraints, and how to meet joint interests; we have had no litigation of any projects on our landscape. Through our charter (attachment I) we have built a system by which to manage our work flow, responsibilities (to our work and each other) and outline our goals. Dinkey Collaborative includes 25 active members and another 25 members who participate in several meetings and work groups per year.

We have actively recruited a diversity of stakeholders and practiced inclusivity consistently over the last ten years. Dinkey Collaborative includes federally recognized tribes, California tribal members, backcountry equestrians, off road vehicle clubs, history associations, homeowner's associations, forest products companies, public utilities, conservation associations, and universities. While there is some turnover the same range of interests are represented at Collaborative meetings. We have always been focused, through group culture and organizational rules, on ensuring a wide range of views is represented in our work groups and that each voice is heard. We require consensus of all members for any of the recommendations we make to the USDA Forest Service.

The Dinkey Collaborative makes decisions by consensus with a fall back process of supermajority vote. To resolve disputes, we employ scientific joint fact finding. We have resolved conflicts over the role of prescribed fire, how to protect wildlife, and how to reforest after drought through turning to our science partners and joint fact finding.

The Dinkey Collaborative developed a Landscape Restoration Strategy in 2010. To implement the Strategy, the Collaborative developed a Landscape Assessment and Planning Process over two years. The Landscape Planning Work Group uses the planning process to prioritize restoration areas. After prioritization, we go on site-visits to view the areas, learn about treatment options and work through any additional details. Then, we choose projects and recommend them to the Sierra National Forest for planning and decisions, eight of which have been planned and seven implemented, at least in part. Additionally, the Collaborative has issued numerous letters of support for other projects outside of the Collaborative boundary which has been critical to securing funding from California State.

The Ecological Monitoring Work Group developed an ecological and socio-economic plan including which questions to ask, indicators to use, and data to monitor. Every year, our monitoring coordinator provides a draft report to the work group. The Monitoring Work Group helps revise and then presents the information to the Collaborative. The Collaborative uses this information to revise projects and to develop new projects which are then submitted for line-officer approval. In 2015 we held a science symposium to disseminate the lessons that we have learned through our monitoring and the lessons of our science partners with special emphasis on those that we should consider in making management decisions. Another science symposium is planned again in early 2020.

After 10 years of work together, we have developed and approved five projects as well as reviewed and approved three projects suggested by the High Sierra District. We have achieved a high-level of transparency through consistent and accurate reporting that is widely disseminated. Our monthly meetings are very well-attended by Collaborative members and Sierra National Forest leadership alike, even ten years in. Throughout our lifespan, we have maintained a permanent facilitator to manage our meetings and maintain our records. Collaborative members frequently meet with Sierra National Forest to help guide forest management on various issues even those occurring outside of our landscape. The Collaborative has also developed and reached consensus on guidance documents and tools to implement projects. We can say unequivocally, that we have significantly improved the amount of restoration in the Sierra National Forest compared to the rate before their formation.

### MULTI-PARTY MONITORING

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Throughout the lifespan of the Dinkey Collaborative, we have actively engaged in multi-party monitoring which has helped us create a culture of transparency. Specifically, we have monitored progress toward restoring forest stand structure and composition, as well as potentially deleterious effects from those treatments and existing road infrastructure on water quality, wildlife, fish and other aquatic organisms. We collaborated with the Pacific Southwest Research Station; the USFS R5 Ecology Program; University of California, Merced; University of California, Davis; and others to accomplish this monitoring. Additionally, we contracted with the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment to conduct socio-economic monitoring.

To develop our monitoring strategy originally, we underwent a rigorous process involving many interested stakeholders. First, we identified a group of willing partners which represented academia, NGOs, local landowners, place-based organizations, state and county agencies, and USDA Forest Service staff. We drafted a broad list of potential monitoring questions that addressed our various collaborative goals, and selected final monitoring questions based on criteria such as how sensitive the indicators were and how easily we could adapt management based on those characteristics. While the questions were well-designed with special care to be transparent, unbiased and meaningful, in retrospect, we brought forward too many of them. We have never been able to properly answer all the questions we sought out to, and additionally, with the severe 2012-2016 drought, we felt we should come up with additional questions to monitor our rapidly changing forests. We have learned we would rather answer fewer, key questions well, than to try and answer many questions superficially. Thus, with an extension of funding for the collaborative, we will collaboratively revise our existing monitoring questions further and develop new relevant ones and the recently revised Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan when finalized. We will place careful focus on monitoring questions that measure our treatment effectiveness treatments and unwanted side effects (e.g., invasive species, erosion, etc.), particularly in our newly-changed landscape following the drought.

Moving forward, we will undergo this process with members of the original working group as well as any new organizations/individuals who may offer a fresh perspective. Ultimately, Sierra National Forest line-officers and members of the Dinkey Collaborative steering committee will approve a revised monitoring plan. As in the last ten years, we will continue to have a dedicated monitoring coordinator who compiles multi-party monitoring efforts and any other relevant science being conducted on the Dinkey Landscape into an annual report (see the [2018 report here](#)).

Initially, we built trust among stakeholders in our monitoring strategy by using an external monitoring coordinator contracted through The Wilderness Society, by implementing a multi-party monitoring approach with highly reputable scientists, and by engaging diverse stakeholders in a transparent process to devise a monitoring strategy. While in any monitoring process there is a risk of bias, we seek integrity through using transparent methods and communicating any weaknesses in our studies. We have built trust among the collaborators in our monitoring by developing annual monitoring reports that clearly describe our shortcomings along with our successes.

Perhaps one of the greatest factors in building trust, is that our monitoring results are directly used to practice true adaptive management after being disseminated to line-officers for use in their decisions. For instance, after analyzing post-treatment LiDAR monitoring data we were able to adapt our prescriptions to better meet restoration objectives. In another example, when we monitored a well-used road and found a significant level of Yosemite toad (federally threatened) mortality, we innovatively raised the road-bed at a critical crossing point in partnership with research and transportation agencies. Subsequent monitoring showed under-road passage was well-used by toads and other wildlife, and mortality dropped to zero in the project area. Likewise, through our tracking of pacific fisher using radio telemetry, we were able to modify our treatment schedule and locations to minimize impacts and to devise marking guidelines. After training crews to use our new Pacific fisher marking guidelines, we monitored their marking efforts as a check on ourselves. Finally, our LiDAR, fisher and California spotted owl results have directly refined project planning.

Another trend in our monitoring that has increased confidence in our results is broad-scale monitoring involving multiple forests. By engaging in two such efforts (a red fir health study and treatment influence on tree mortality monitoring), we were able to better understand forest health phenomena over the broader landscape. As these projects involved even more partners and resources than typical, more data were collected with which stronger inference could be made. Although no formal plans have been made yet, efforts are developing to standardize monitoring across the collaboratives of California. Additionally, as the new forest plans become revised, there is promise of monitoring standardization throughout the Sierra Nevada region.

## READINESS TO IMPLEMENT EXTENSION

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The great benefit of all the preparation work that we have done to date, is that we are very ready to implement the balance of our projects. Prior to planning, we have undergone consensus

building on how to prioritize projects in a systematic way based on need and vulnerability and this will inform our operations moving forward. NEPA is completed for all of the projects we have proposed and prioritized (67,884 acres), and we will have the added flexibility to perform prescribed burning in many additional places on the Dinkey Landscape with the completion of the Sierra Forest-wide programmatic NEPA prescribed burn project.

All of the projects we will continue to implement with additional funds have been planned in accordance with the current Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan and appear in the forests' long-term program of work. They also align with the new revised draft land management plan which places high focus on wildfire risk and fuels reduction.

We have a diverse portfolio of tools and external funding sources at the ready to help us accomplish our next round of operations including contract types, grants, agreements, non-profit support, and the ability to garner and use external funding. The number of ways in which we have developed to help us do business in the last ten years, allows us to deploy the right method for each situation. We now have systems in place to procure matching funding (approximately \$2 million in 2020), and have established a pattern of winning funds and implementing projects successfully with them. We also have new staff in place that are dedicated to managing grants and partnerships and applying for new grants and building additional partnerships.

We have established a relationship with the National Forest Foundation to manage our future stewardship contracts, after testing this out on an initial project. We have expanded our Good Neighbor Authority to encompass the entirety of the Dinkey Landscape so that we can put state dollars to work on our landscape. We have also eased restrictions on prescribed burning through ongoing dialogue with our air board that stalled us earlier in our tenure.

## UNIT CAPACITY AND PROJECT FUNDING

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The Dinkey Collaborative is a nearly seamless body of people working together both in and outside of the USDA Forest Service. Forest Service staff have played critical roles in maintaining the function of the Collaborative and responding to the recommendations of the broader group. Consistently, the Collaborative has always had a dedicated coordinator and monitoring coordinator, active line officer engagement, and a strong ongoing presence of various key staff members, specifically our timber management officers, silviculturalists, recreation staff, fuels planners and technicians, the planning and ecosystem staff officers. It's a rare Dinkey Collaborative meeting that goes unattended by the Sierra National Forest Supervisor, Dean Gould. For the majority of the tenure of the Dinkey Collaborative we have engaged a science coordinator to help us disseminate the best and most relevant science. While over the years, we have experienced turnover in many of our key positions (we have had at least three coordinators and monitoring coordinators each), the transitions have been smooth and continuous due to the priority the Sierra National Forest places on these roles. There are a few cases of dedicated staff

## DINKEY COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION

members retiring, and coming back to the serve the Collaborative in a volunteer capacity. We expect key Forest Service roles to remain the same given an extension in funding.

Other key Forest Service personnel are doing the on-the-ground work. Cross-trained crews have been integrated recently between silviculture and fuels departments with close coordination with fire. The organized leadership staff and creative chain of command allows the crew to split up into squads to accomplish multiple projects at a time. Any department can utilize these crews, and they enable the forest to be able to allocate resources immediately. This limits downtime with travel and allows crews to be deployed in the most efficient manner. For the past two years this crew has been in place and provided help in: prescribed fire implementation and preparation, silviculture/timber stand improvement, timber sale preparation, initial attack and suppressive support, range support, fuel break maintenance, wildfire for resource benefit control, wilderness trail maintenance and OHV assistance.

We are requesting ~\$500,000 in funds to support our USDA Forest Service crews and partners to perform monitoring. Given the its importance to decision making, the transparency it illustrates trust it builds among our members and our commitment to monitoring in our charter, we feel that this scale of monitoring budget is appropriate given the numbers of acres we propose to treat. Funds will go to treatment effectiveness, wildlife and aquatics, archaeology, ecosystem & forest health monitoring.

Costs in treatment have greatly varied over the years. With tree mortality there was an uptick in the cost of local contractors given the surge in tree removal business. Now that the immediate need to clear dead trees from structures has diminished, we anticipate costs returning to prior levels. In our prescribed burning, we predict to reduce costs and treated areas increase with time and unit control lines can be based on existing roads and features. The Sierra National Forest will continue to reinvest retained receipts into Dinkey Landscape projects, as we have done for all of our projects.

By using a stewardship report we have gained efficiency by treating service work and timber in the same contract, thereby allowing us to make biomass treatments more efficient as they can be harvested with the sawlogs. We also expect more efficiency in processing woody biomass from our restoration projects. With financial backing recently secured on a local biomass plant within 30 miles of the Collaborative boundary, and another one being planned even closer, we anticipate more cost-efficient utilization of our small diameter material.

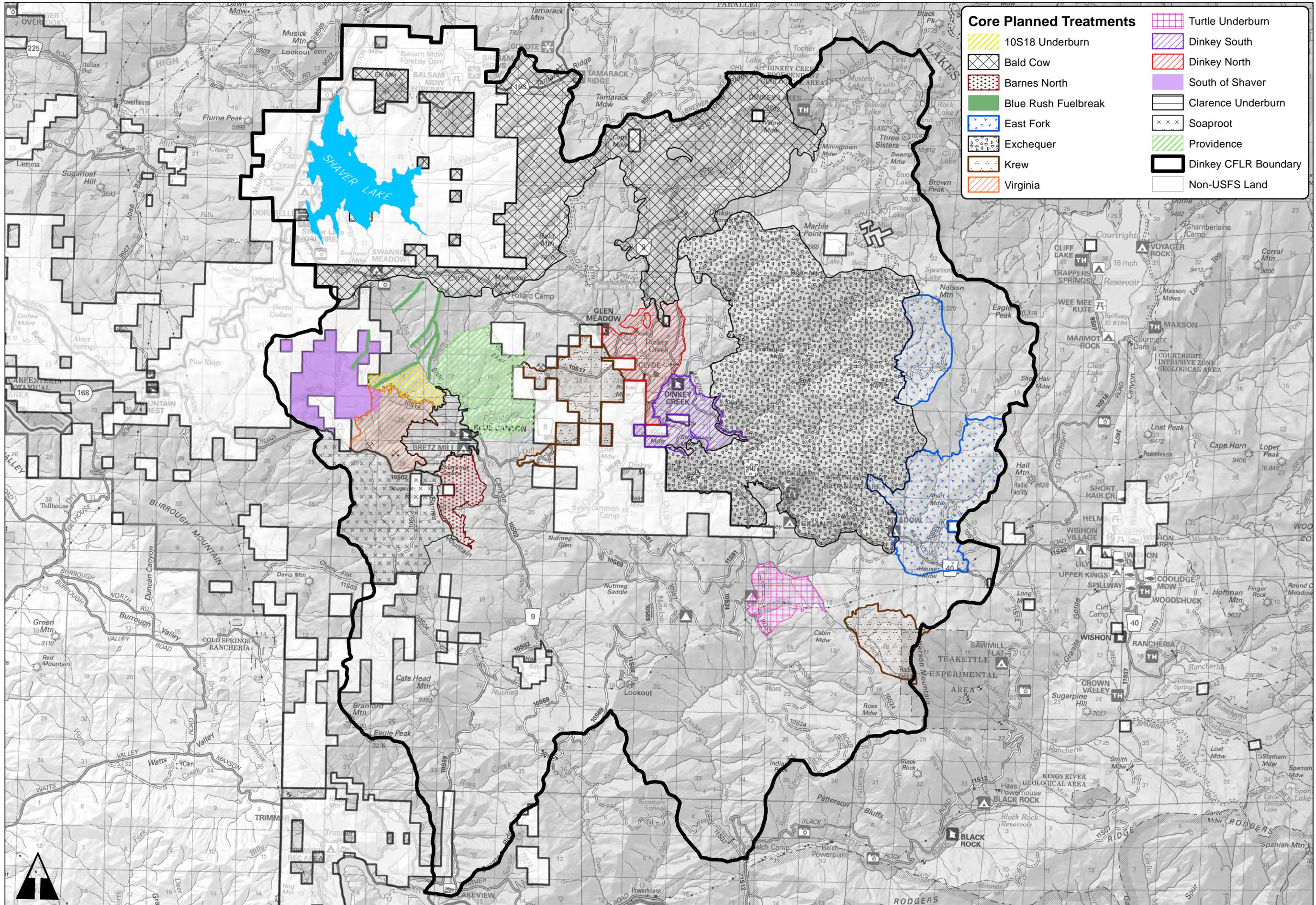
We expect to continue to leverage the diverse relationships, tools and strategies we have built over the years to accomplish work. Particularly in our relationship with CAL FIRE, we have learned how to coordinate our planning with shared information to reduce duplication of effort, and create treatments that act in concert to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. We will continue to grow our relationship with the National Forest Foundation, so they can free up USFS staff why they manage contracts. We also have been building up to accomplish larger projects and thereby foresee an economy of scale occurring in both planning and implementation. And, we will continue to seek external funds through grants similar to the ones we have already received from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, State of California, the Wilderness Society and the Wildlife Conservation Board. We currently have \$4.5 million invested in future Dinkey

## DINKEY COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION

Landscape projects from California State and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and we will continue providing at least an even match in other funds to perform work on National Forest Service Lands.

As we began to phase out of CFLRP funding, we plan to transition to relying more heavily on external funds and partnerships, whether this occurs in 2023 or after, and we have already been growing the infrastructure to do so. We have observed that the more successes the Collaborative has garnered, and the more established our relationships, the easier it has been to receive funds. This stated, our need right now is so great after the drought that we are in dire need of significant and consistent funding through the CFLRP program. When we have completed our planned treatments, the cost and effort of subsequent rounds of treatments will be reduced as much of fuel-buildup from the past century of fire suppression and the drought-related tree mortality will have been removed.

# Dinkey CFLR Projects - Sierra National Forest



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

CFLRP proposals are **not** expected to include ALL of the core treatment types below in their strategy - highlight those treatments that are core to your stated treatment objectives. Note that there are options to use "other" in this table.

Estimated treatments should include **all** planned treatments in the proposed CFLR landscape, regardless of landownership type. Provide an estimate of the % you expect to occur on NFS lands in column J, and list the other landownership types where you expect treatments to occur, if applicable, in column K.

Core Restoration Treatment Types	Please briefly fill in additional background information for the prompts below	Year 1*	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Years 5-10	TOTAL	Key treatment objectives	Estimated % accomplished on NFS lands (across all ten years)	Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private, etc.) where treatments will occur
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres)										
<i>Mechanical Thinning (acres)</i>		3200	3200	3200	3200	15299	28099	Forest Restoration, Fuels reduction, Wildfire risk reduction	95%	5%
<i>Prescribed Fire (acres)</i>		3100	3600	4100	4100	25737	40637	Forest Restoration, Fuels reduction, Wildfire risk reduction	91%	9%
<i>Other (acres)</i>	Plantation Fuels Reduction	750	750	750	750	673	3673	Fuels reduction & Wildfire risk reduction	100%	0%
<i>Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk</i>	Ladder Fuel Reduction	10	10	7	0	0	27	Fuels Reduction & Wildfire risk reduction	100%	
<i>Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - WUI acres</i>	Spatial Layer is the source of WUI designation	500	500	500	500	500	2500	Fuels reduction & Wildfire risk reduction	100% (could not procure acres from CAL FIRE)	
Invasive Species Management (acres)	Manual, mechanical, and chemical treatment	25	50	50	50	300	475	Invasive species eradication	80%	20%
Native Pest Management (acres)										
Road Decommissioning (miles)										
Road Maintenance and Improvement (miles)										
Road Reconstruction (miles)										
Trail Reconstruction (miles)										
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)										
Crossing Improvements (number)										
In-Stream Fisheries Improvement (miles)										
Lake Habitat Improvement (acres)		0	0	0	0	0	0			
Riparian Area Improvements (acres)		125	150	175	175	1300	1925	Meadow restoration & Riparian restoration	100%	0%
Soil and Watershed resources enhanced or maintained (acres)	Equals prescribed fire treatments	3100	3600	4100	4100	25737	40637		91%	9%
Priority watersheds moved to improved condition class (number)		0	0	0	0	1	1			
Stand Improvement (acres)										
Reforestation and revegetation (acres)		750	500	500	500	644	2894	Post-tree mortality restoration	100%	
Timber Harvest (acres)**	90% ground based/ 10% tethered logging	3200	3200	3200	3200	15299	28099	Forest Restoration, Fuels reduction, Wildfire risk reduction	95%	5%
Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres)										
Abandoned Mine Reclamation/Remediation										
Other										
Other										

\*Assume funding requested for Year 1 will be allocated in February 2020 at the earliest

\*\*Note that timber volume produced from the treatment is estimated in a separate attachment - Attachment C.

**CFRLP Proposal Attachment C: Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts**

\*Note that acres treated includes all acres treated within the CFLRP boundary. However, the projected annual harvested volume is only for NFS lands.

Fiscal Year	Estimate of acres treated annually that will generate restoration byproducts	Total projected annual harvested volume (ccf) from NFS lands	Expected percentage commercially utilized* from NFS lands
2020	4,100	21,000	19,950
2021	4,500	1,785	1,696
2022	7,213	3,584	2,688
2023	4,500	1,700	1,700
2024	4,000		
2025	5,000	5,100	5,100
2026			
2027			
2028			
2029			
<b>TOTALS:</b>	29313	33169	31134

*Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on NFS lands:  
 Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on other landownerships within the CFLRP boundary:*

\*Commercially utilized refers to the volume you expect to sell across all product classes (sawtimber, biomass, firewood, etc.)

1

FIRST	LAST	ORGANIZATION	Was This Person Involved in Proposal Development	Primary Issue Category	Second Issue Category	Third Issue Category
Joe	Kaminski	4WD Club of Fresno, Backcountry Horsemen	No	Tribal	Community Development	Fire management
Brittany	Dyer	American Forests	No	Environmental	State	Other
Denise	Tolmie	Bass Lake Ranger District, SNF	No	Federal	Other	Other
Sam	Atwell	Big Sandy Rancheria	No	Tribal	Community	Fire management
Miles	Baty	Big Sandy Rancheria	No	Tribal	Community Development	Fire management
Dan	Fidler	CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	No	Federal	Wildlife	Environmental
Jim	McDougald	Cal Fire	No	State	Fire management	Fire ecology
John	Stewart	California Assoc. 4 Wheel Drive Clubs	No	State	Recreation	Tourism
Amy	Duncan	California Conservation Corps	No	State	Recreation	Tourism
Jeff	Blewett	California Four Wheel Drive Association	Yes	State	Recreation	Tourism
Amy	Granat	California Off-Road Vehicle Association	No	State	Recreation	Tourism
Lee	Nave	Camp El-O-Win	No	Youth	Recreation	Tourism
Melinda	Van Bossuyt	Camp El-O-Win	No	Environmental	Recreation	Tourism
John	Mount	Central Sierra Historical Society	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Robert	Embry	Clovis Independent Four Wheelers	Yes	Recreation	Tourism	Other
Helena	Alarcon	Cold Springs Rancheria	No	Tribal	Community Development	Fire management
Moses	Bill	Cold Springs Rancheria	No	Tribal	Community Development	Fire management
Ernest	Marquez	Cold Springs Rancheria	No	Tribal	Community Development	Fire management
Pam	Flick	Defenders of Wildlife	No	Environmental	Wildlife	Wilderness
Dirk	Charley	Dunlap Band Mono Indians	Yes	Tribal	Community Development	Fire management
Rose	Coughlin	Focused Resources	No	Environmental	Community Development	Other
Jason	Ko	Forest Service	No	Federal		
Marc	Meyer	Forest Service	No	Federal		
Mark	Smith	Forester	Yes	Fire management	Fire Ecology	Wildlife
Trevor	Gillihan	Fresno 4 by 4	No	Recreation	Tourism	Other

Brenda	Negley	Friends of Nelder Grove	No	Environmental	Fire management	Tourism
Jerry	Keir	Great Basin Institute	No	Environmental	Research	Other
Stephanie	Barnes	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF	Yes	Federal		
John	Cielnicki	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF	Yes	Federal		
Joshua	Courter	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF	Yes	Federal		
Elaine	Locke	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF	No	Federal		
Molly	Murray	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF	No	Federal		
Brian	Osterholzer	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF	No	Federal		
Olivia	Roe	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF	Yes	Federal		
Kim	Sorini-Wilson	High Sierra Ranger District, SNF	Yes	Federal		
Pat	Gallegos	Highway 168 Fire Safe Council	No	Fire management	Fire Ecology	Other
Howard	Hendrix	Highway 168 Fire Safe Council	No	Fire management	Fire Ecology	Other
Cheryl	Burk	Huntington Lake Association	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Chris	Oberti	Huntington Lake Association	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Maureen	Barile	Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Ray	Laclergue	Intermountain Nursery	No	Environmental	Community Development	Tourism
Jared	Aldern	Land Owner	No	Tribal	Fire management	Other
Susan	Andros	Land Owner	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Rich	Bagley	Land Owner	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Linda	Ballentine	Land Owner	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Ken	Otteson	Land Owner	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
April	Smothers	Land Owner	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Dave	Van Bossuyt	Land Owner	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
David	Hartsveldt	Live Oak Associates	No	Environmental	Other	Other
Johnny	Siliznoff	Madera County	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism

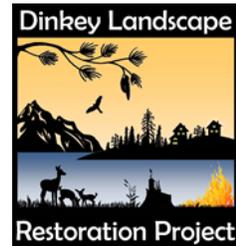
Kevin	Seman	Mule Deer Foundation	No	Wildlife	Fire management	Environmental
Kevin	Vella	National Wild Turkey Federation	No	Wildlife	Fire management	Environmental
Dee	Salazar	North Fork Chamber	No	Fire management	Community Development	Tourism
Ron	Goode	North Fork Mono Tribe	Yes	Tribal	Community Development	Fire management
James	Bethel	North Fork Rancheria	No	Tribal	Community	Fire management
Malcolm	North	North Lab, Muir Institute, University of California Davis	No	Research	Fire Ecology	Other
Rebecca	Green	Pacific Southwest Research Center	No	Research	Wildlife	Other
Andrea	Creighton	Pacific Southwest Research Station, USFS	No	Research		
Christopher	Fettig	Pacific Southwest Research Station, USFS	No	Research		
Megan	Kirtsch	Pacific Southwest Research Station, USFS	No	Research		
Kathryn L.	Purcell	Pacific Southwest Research Station, USFS	No	Research	Wildlife	
Eric	McGregor	PSW and Oregon State University	No	Research	Wildlife	
Robert	Turner	Recreation	No	Recreation	Community Development	Tourism
Chris	Catalano	Recreation User	No	Recreation User	Community Development	Tourism
Ramiro	Rojas	Region 5	Yes	Federal		
Sarah	Sawyer	Region 5	No	Federal		
Amarina	Wuenschel	Region 5	Yes	Federal		
Hector	Lara	Rio Bravo Fresno, Power Services	No	Utility	Fire management	Other
Shawn	Ferreria	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	No	State	Fire management	Other
Robert	Gilles	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control	No	State	Fire management	Other
Adam	Livingston	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	No	Environmental	Wilderness	Other
Allyson	Brooks	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	No	Environmental	Wildlife	Wilderness
Bridget	Fithian	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	No	Environmental	Wildlife	Wilderness
Lynn	Gorman	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	No	Environmental	Wildlife	Wilderness
Sue	Briting	Sierra Forest Legacy	Yes	Environmental	Wildlife	Wilderness
Jamie	Ervin	Sierra Forest Legacy	No	Environmental	Wildlife	Wilderness
Kent	Duysen	Sierra Forest Products	Yes	Forest Products	Fire management	Other
Darren	Mahr	Sierra Forest Products	No	Forest Products	Fire management	Other

Jonathan	Kusel	Sierra Institute	No	Environmental	Community Development	Other
Kyle	Rodgers	Sierra Institute	No	Environmental	Community Development	Other
Michael	Duarte	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Barbara	Fleming	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Jon	George	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Kristine	Gibson	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Dean	Gould	Sierra National Forest	Yes	Federal		
Jeff	Irwin	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Bob	Ivens	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Jody	Nickerson	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Alex	Olow	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Judith	Tapia	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Jeanette	Williams	Sierra National Forest		Federal		
Ann	Roberts	Sierra National Forests		Federal		
Jenny	Hatch	Sierra Nevada Alliance	No	Environmental	Wilderness	Other
Elissa	Brown	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	No	State	Environmental	Other
Sarah	Campe	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Yes	State	Environmental	Other
Blair	Duncan	Sierra Resource Conservation District	No	Fire management	Community Development	Other
Steve	Haze	Sierra Resource Conservation District	Yes	Fire management	Community	Other
John	Heywood	Sierra Resource Conservation District	No	Fire management	Community Development	Other
Craig	Jones	Sierra Resource Conservation District	No	Fire management	Community Development	Other
Kelly	Kucharski	Sierra Resource Conservation District	No	Fire management	Community Development	Other
Neal	Banta	Sierra Resource Conservation District	No	Fire management	Community	Other
Thomas	Catchpole	Society of American Foresters	No	Forest Products	Other	Other
Stephen	Byrd	Southern California Edison	No	Utility	Fire management	Other
Jeffrey	Pierini	Southern California Edison	No	Utility	Fire management	Other
Bobby	Kamansky	Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Watershed Program	No	Watershed	Environmental	Other
Narvell	Conner	Stewards of SNF	No	Recreation	Tourism	Other

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Steve	Cowdrey	Stewards of SNF	No	Recreation	Tourism	Other
Randy	Quenzer	Stewards of SNF	No	Recreation	Tourism	Other
Mike	Wubber	Stewards of SNF	No	Recreation	Tourism	Other
Craig	Thomas	The Fire Restoration Group	Yes	Fire management	Fire Ecology	Wilderness
Connie	Nielson	Upper Merced River Watershed Council	No	Watershed	Environmental	Wilderness
Robert	Hopkins	Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	No	Fire management	Community Development	Other
Justine	Reynolds	Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council	Yes	Fire management	Community Development	Other

Randy Moore  
Regional Forester  
Pacific Southwest Region  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA



December 12, 2019

Dear Mr. Moore

We are writing to register our support for continued funding from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) for the Dinkey Collaborative.

### **Past Performance**

The Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project has a well-known record of accomplishment. Beginning in 2010, a broad range of stakeholders decided to work together, using best available science, to restore critical ecological habitat. First, the Dinkey Collaborative developed and approved by consensus the Dinkey Collaborative Landscape Restoration Strategy. To implement that Strategy, they developed a Landscape Assess Process. The planning process includes reference conditions and indicators to rank deviation from reference conditions. Collaborative members used that process to assess and prioritize areas based on the quantitative value of each indicator. Using this process, the Dinkey Collaborative recommended five projects for ecological restoration. These projects went through complete environmental assessment, and forest staff have completed ecological restoration on 31,000 acres.

### **Collaboration**

The Collaborative includes Federally recognized tribes, California tribal members, backcountry equestrians, off road vehicle clubs, history associations, homeowner's associations, forest products companies, public utilities, conservation associations, and universities. Dinkey Collaborative discussions improve relationships as people learn about each other's perspectives and interests. Every year, the facilitator surveys Collaborative members to track changes in relationships. Over ten years of evaluating their collaboration, mutual trust, understanding, respect, shared responsibility, and accomplishment rank very highly.

Although, some of the Collaborative members work for agencies or groups that fund their participation, many volunteers their time for Collaborative meetings, conference calls, and work group meetings. Over the years, Collaborative members have contributed an average of 2,300 hours per year to meetings, field trips, and work groups.

### **Applying Learning to the Future**

Each project requires local and scientific information which improves the project as well as its implementation. To inform themselves, Collaborative members have regular updates from scientists working in the Southern Sierra area. Further, every year, the Sierra National Forest monitors the results of treatments to measure effects of restoration projects on the health and resilience of forests and forest meadows. Collaborative members review monitoring to revise projects and choose new projects.

The Dinkey Collaborative's response to tree mortality illustrates how they apply learning to the future. As the drought worsened, the Dinkey Collaborative reviewed all previous projects to maximize treatments. They also partnered with the California Department of Forestry and Fire (Cal Fire) to leverage treatment on Dinkey area projects to provide fuel breaks and reduce fuel loads.

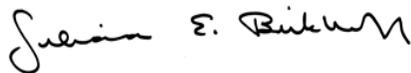
The Sierra National Forest and CAL Fire brought several fuel treatment projects to the Collaborative. The Collaborative used its landscape assessment process to review and approve these projects.

Finally, the Dinkey Collaborative developed tools and documents to guide future projects. The Collaborative developed the following guidance documents:

- Design Criteria for Projects Including Fisher Marking Guidelines
- Fisher Photographic Field Guide
- Dinkey Ecological Monitoring Plan
- Dinkey Collaborative Landscape Restoration Strategy
- Dinkey Socio-Economic Report
- Prescribed Fire Prioritization Criteria
- Prescribed Fire Planning Principles
- Dinkey Reforestation Framework
- Dinkey Collaborative Adaptive Management Framework
- Developed Great Gray Owl Marking Guidelines
- Ladder Fuel Identification and Treatment Guidelines

These documents as well as the commitment from Collaborative members ensure that the Dinkey Collaborative will continue to implement vital forest restoration. Without funds from the CFLRP, the Sierra National Forest would not be able to maintain critical pace and scale to improve watershed health, forest health, and reduce wildfire risk. We urge you to recommend the Dinkey Collaborative for continued CFLRP funding.

Sincerely;  
pp



Dinkey Collaborative Steering Committee

Kent Duysen  
Sierra Forest  
Products

Melinda Van Bossuyt  
Resident

Chip Ashley  
Resident

John Heywood  
Sierra Resource  
Conservation District

CC: Dean Gould  
Supervisor  
Sierra National Forest  
1600 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, CA 93611

Complete the table below and respond to the question at the bottom of the tab.

For 2010 Project extensions, fill in the annual funding request for the number of years requested for the extension (up to 10)

<b>Fiscal Year 1*</b>	<b>Funding Planned/Requested</b>
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	\$1,735,628
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	\$80,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	\$127,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	\$1,017,422
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$2,960,050</b>
CFLRP Funding Request	\$1,738,688
<b>Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$1,738,688</b>
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	\$60,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

**\*Assume funding requested for Year 1 will be allocated in February 2020 at the earliest**

<b>Fiscal Year 2</b>	<b>Funding Planned/Requested</b>
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	\$1,715,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	\$400,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	\$47,750
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	\$968,300
	Of this amount \$47,500 is CCI Grant estimate
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$3,131,050</b>
CFLRP Funding Request	\$1,738,688
<b>Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$1,738,688</b>
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	\$60,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

<b>Fiscal Year 3</b>	<b>Funding Planned/Requested</b>
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	\$1,000,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	\$400,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	\$47,750
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	\$468,300
	Of this amount \$47,500 is CCI Grant estimate
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$1,916,050</b>
CFLRP Funding Request	\$1,738,688
<b>Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$1,738,688</b>
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	\$60,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

<b>Fiscal Year 4</b>	<b>Funding Planned/Requested</b>
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	\$1,000,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	\$400,000

Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	\$47,750
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$1,447,750</b>
CFLRP Funding Request	<b>\$1,738,688</b>
<b>Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$1,738,688</b>
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	\$60,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	\$400,000
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>

<b>Fiscal Years 5-10</b>	<b>Funding Planned/Requested</b>	Calculated for years 5-8
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	\$4,000,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	\$1,600,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	\$191,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	\$1,200,000	
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$6,991,000</b>	
CFLRP Funding Request	<b>\$6,954,752</b>	
<b>Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	<b>\$6,954,752</b>	
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands		
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	\$240,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands		
<b>Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands</b>	<b>\$240,000</b>	

Please provide an **estimate of any funding needed for NEPA and environmental compliance** in support of the CFLRP Project. You may copy/paste the response to the Tier 1 template and/or elaborate with additional details as needed. *NOTE: CFLN can only be used for implementation and monitoring (not planning).* All NEPA and environmental compliance is complete

<b>SUM Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	\$16,445,900
<b>SUM Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands</b>	\$13,909,504



**File Code:** 1500  
**Date:** December 18, 2019

Dear Reviewer

Extended support to the Dinkey Collaborative is critical for the resilience of this landscape, protection of the communities in the immediate high-hazard areas and the preservation and further evolution of years of relationship-building. The hard work and strategic planning that the Dinkey Collaborative had started in earnest was unexpectedly detoured by historic drought, leading us to adapt our strategy to mitigate the subsequent tree mortality hazards. Needing to stray from our original plan of work along with a dramatically increased restoration need due to very high tree-mortality related fuels, has led to our proposal for additional funding. Despite the seriousness of our situation, it's not a landscape without hope. It is a productive landscape that will respond very well to restoration, leading us to be successful in carrying out our focus on reestablishing thriving and sustainable forest conditions. Strategic fuels work on the landscape will keep our communities safe and maintain our local industries, meeting our priority to enhance recreation opportunities and sustain infrastructure.

I believe that Dinkey has become a model for collaboration and building trust, which will pay dividends for many years to come. The rest of the Sierra National Forest and beyond has consistently looked to the Dinkey Collaborative for leadership on landscape-scale restoration and relied on the science that's been produced there. Additional support will allow the Dinkey Collaborative to continue to advise management not only on the Landscape footprint, but on other Sierra National Forest issues and in our inter-forest collaborations, assisting us to be good neighbors and promote shared stewardship.

Given changing conditions across the board, the Sierra National Forest is thinking differently about how we do business and how we accomplish work, particularly fuels reduction work in light of the devastating wildfires we have experienced recently both here and across California. We expect this will set the stage for innovative and effective Dinkey Collaborative work moving forward and that the Collaborative itself will continue to act as a seed for new thinking and methods, well beyond the Dinkey Landscape and even National Forest boundaries.

The work within this proposal, fits solidly within our Sierra National Forest out-year planning. Much loved by the public, provider of habitat for charismatic species like Pacific fisher and California spotted owl, and the headwaters to the nation's most productive agricultural regions, I cannot think of a landscape more deserving for restoration. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

DEAN GOULD  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Kim Sorini, Amarina Wuenschel



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