

## **Sierra Cascades All Lands Enhancement (SCALE) Briefing Paper: Summary of Key Issues Identified by the Collaborative Groups**

At the Sierra Cascades All Land Enhancement (SCALE) initial meetings collaborative groups – **Dinkey Creek Collaborative, Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG), and Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group** - shared key issues that they would like to see advanced through SCALE efforts. Many of the collaborative challenges that groups face were found to be consistent across the region. This document summarizes these key issues and discusses potential next steps to address them.

### **1. Local Contracting**

*The USFS has taken an initial lead to address these issues.*

- 1) Explore legal mechanisms to achieve ecological restoration and socioeconomic goals.
- 2) Define local communities, identify contractors in those communities, and provide support services that will help them register in the USFS contracting database (e.g., Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts, etc.).
- 3) Develop a statement of work that outlines specific steps to increase contracting, including, but not limited to an “opportunities menu” that describes other potential pathways to advancing local contracting and securing local benefit.
  - a. Socioeconomic goals will identify ways to support local communities and businesses, including building and maintaining local infrastructure.
  - b. Contracting award criteria will be developed that value local business and local workforce inclusion.
- 4) Develop a collaboration and local contracting “road show” that engages contractors and other interested parties to advance structured learning opportunities about the different tools and contracting vehicles that can be used to provide local benefit.

### **2. Socioeconomic and Ecological Monitoring: Achieving Triple Bottom Line Outcomes**

- 1) Review the socioeconomic and ecological monitoring requirements established in Collaborative Forest Landscape Act (CFLRA) legislation, including those post-CFLRA.
- 2) Review the socioeconomic and biophysical indicators currently employed by CFLR groups to better understand similarities and differences with current monitoring and develop more consistency where appropriate.
- 3) Discuss and develop strategies that foster buy-in and participation in socioeconomic and biophysical monitoring among a diverse range of collaborative participants, including the academic community and Pacific Southwest Research Station.
- 4) Research and share findings about how to achieve “triple bottom line” goals. Present socioeconomic monitoring best practices in both a formal presentation as well as a written document.

### **3. Budgeting and Inter-jurisdictional Collaboration**

- 1) Advance understanding of how collaborative groups currently structure and fund administrative and facilitation support services. Share findings from this inquiry with SCALE partners and engage in a dialogue about how to ensure reliable and effective administrative services and facilitation to each of the respective collaborative groups.
- 2) Provide clarity about the budget planning (e.g., project proposals) and the types of regular check-ins that can help collaborative groups develop a better understanding of where they are relative to established goals.
- 3) Engage the Forest Service in a conversation regarding regional lessons learned from budget planning and meeting collaborative goals. Establish an understanding of how the budget reflects collaborative priorities for the landscape and plan of work. Ensure alignment of the work plan and budget priorities.
- 4) Discuss how to engage agencies in cross-boundary work including inter-jurisdictional planning and collaboration.
- 5) Develop single site or “document library” to facilitate the sharing of individual group and other relevant documents, publications, and information, accessible to the three CFLR collaborative groups.
- 6) Review the USFS National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and share key points with collaborative participants.

### **4. All-Lands/Landscape Scale Approach**

- 1) Increase the pace and scale of restoration by creating and embodying an “all-land mentality” that engages public land managers, private forest landowners, local communities, and Tribal Nations to achieve collective goals.
- 2) Harness and strategically emphasize the power of our collective voice – three federally funded forest collaborative groups - and work together to influence political, funding, and business development opportunities.
- 3) Enhance public awareness and support for landscape-scale forest restoration through collective engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders in order to ensure that CFLRP is not just a “flash in the pan” and that the CFLRs become more durable.

### **5. Lessons Learned**

- 1) Identify and document success stories and lessons learned at both the individual group (e.g., ACCG, Dinkey, BHC) and joint group (e.g., SCALE) levels.
- 2) Reflect on lessons learned through a group dialogue that aims to better understand previous challenges as well as inform future management strategies.
- 3) Communicate success stories and lessons learned to a broad audience of stakeholder groups, including the Chief of the Forest Service, through a written document that is accessible and can be easily shared.