

SCALE

SIERRA TO CALIFORNIA ALL-LANDS ENHANCEMENT



Sierra Institute for Community and Environment's Sierra to California All-Lands Enhancement (SCALE) project is a network of collaborative groups working on landscape-scale forest restoration and community development across California. This project developed out of Sierra Institute's broader work at the intersection of forest management and rural community well-being. By promoting successful collaboration at the community-level, the SCALE project promotes restoration that improves forest resilience, supports local economies, and strengthens community capacity to adapt to change.

Through the SCALE project, the Sierra Institute facilitates a peer-learning network of forest collaboratives by: convening bi-annual meetings designed to share key lessons; building the capacity of collaboratives by promoting awareness of key state and federal policies, funding, and authorities; and collectively identifying strategies to achieve landscape-scale, cross-boundary restoration of healthy, resilient forests.



WORKING TOWARDS COLLABORATION AT SCALE

We also work with the USFS Pacific Southwest Region, individual collaboratives, and other partners to address key barriers through the development of systematic solutions, such as work to identify and promote contracting mechanisms that enable restoration work to benefit local economies (see inset below for more accomplishments).



LOCAL IMPACTS AT A LANDSCAPE SCALE

Drawing lessons from over ten collaborative groups, we have addressed local contracting issues, helped define “local”, and built capacity to accomplish restoration across boundaries.

Next, we're identifying best practices to maintain collaborative capacity for restoration over time.

As collaboration continues to gain traction across the West, our work provides support for collaboratives as they navigate social, political, and environmental changes. For example, though some groups are currently supported through federal programs, such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program or the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, uncertainty over the future of these programs necessitates an adaptive approach to ensure ecological and community benefits over the long-term. We work with collaboratives to navigate social and political challenges such as these, while helping them identify strategies to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration.



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