



Dinke Landscape

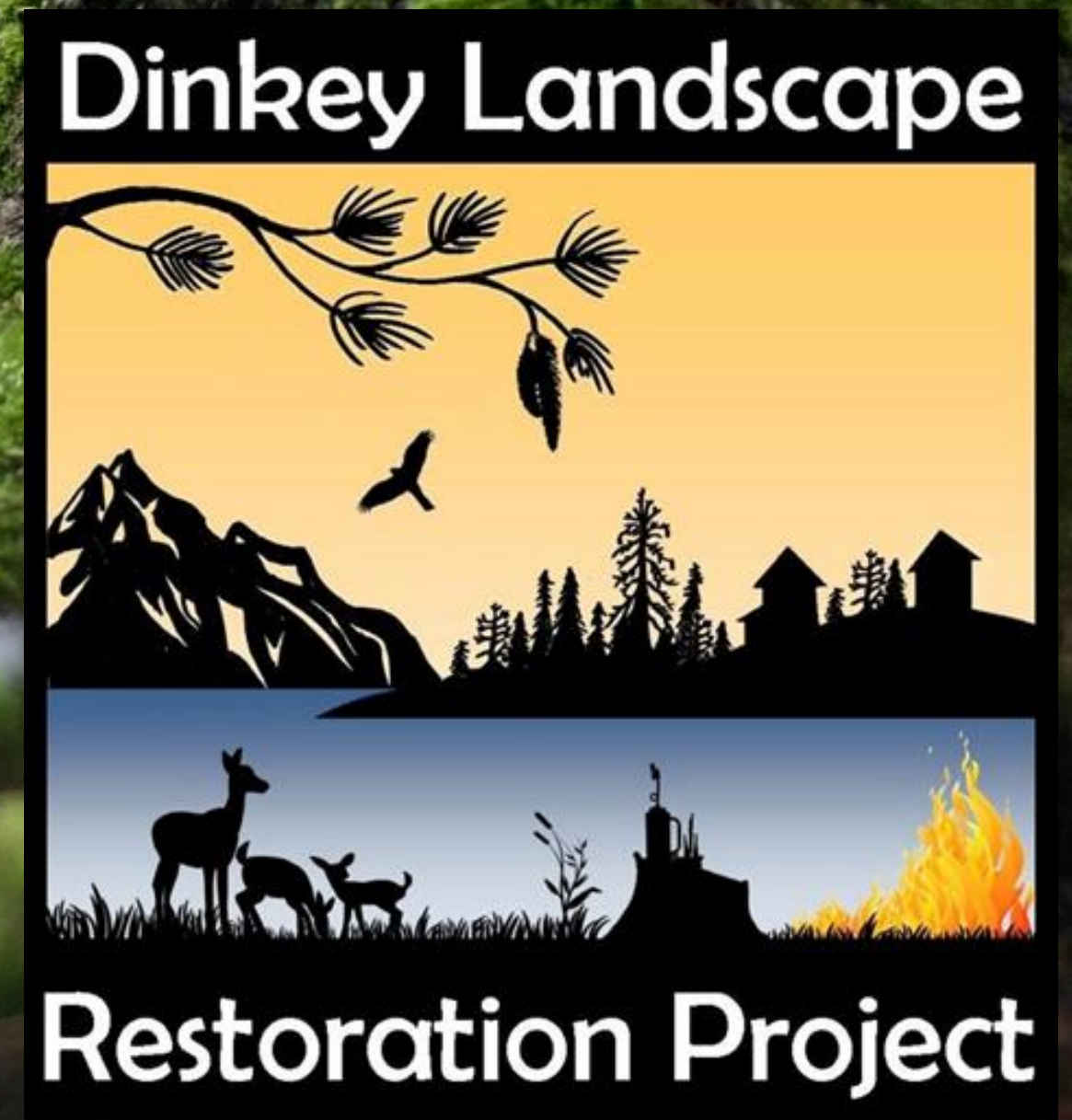


Restoration Project



The Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project. A Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) project covering 154,000 acres in California's southern Sierra Nevada Mountains in the Sierra National Forest.

Controlled burns, thinning, and watershed restoration will reduce the potential of mega-fire threat to more than 5,000 homes, improve conditions for sensitive species such as the Pacific fisher and California spotted owl, and add jobs to an area with high unemployment.



Dinke Collaborative

- Dinkey North and South 2009
- Eastfork 2011
- Soaproot 2011
- Kings River Experimental Watershed (KREW) 2011
- Snowy Patterson 2012
- Bald Mountain 2014
- Shaver Wishon 2016
- Blue Rush 2017
- Exchequer 2018
- Exchequer II 2019
- Landscape assessment process, fisher and owl marking ladder fuel, and reforestation guidance

Successes



Our Lessons from The Dinkey Collaborative: Challenges for Collaboratives

Limited change
in the system

Leadership,
member and
agency
turnover and
attrition

Broad
community
visibility and
engagement

Understanding
the value of
collaboration

Narrow base
of support
State and
Federal funding
dependency



Turnover and Attrition

Long Term Projects:

- Restoring ecosystems and building resilience takes a long time
- Long project timelines to address uncertainties, learning and adaptive management
- Long-term commitments support implementation and monitoring for accountability

Challenges:

- Turnover threatens trust between members
- Challenges the longevity of collaboration
- Hinders accountability within collaborative groups
- Impedes relationship development

Coleman, Butler, Stern and Beck, Journal of Forestry, Vol 119, 2021

Turnover and Attrition

Research finds that turnover is the most significant barrier to success.

Prepare for Turnover

- Recruit actively and constantly
- Build leadership pipeline
- Plan for overlap
- Hand off procedures and transition documents
- Mentoring
- Socializing and onboarding





Dinke and Broader Community Involvement

- Collaborative adheres to original footprint from 2009, many in Collaborative want larger footprint though
- Little success involving broader watershed partners
- No success involving the valley
- Fewer environmental groups participate
- Less success working with county and state (except for Cal Fire)
 - Collaboratives are rarely seen as the leaders, success attributed to agencies
 - Hard to know if community understands impact
 - Less visibility-hard to recruit new members
 - Narrow base of financial and administrative support
 - Values of collaboration not spread to community or other organizations

Narrow Base of Support

- CFLRP-no funding for forest service staff
- CFLRP-no funding for planning
- SNC-supportive, but Dinkey competing with all other SNC partners and projects
- Cal Fire-very supportive, but only funds on the ground projects
- RCD's-very effective support and partnerships
- California Forest and Fire Task Force-very supportive, but little connection with specific forests.
- USFS prioritizes regional priorities with Leadership team, not necessarily what the Collaborative prioritizes
- USFS staff are rewarded for outputs (acres treated, timber) not for collaboration
- Southern Sierra's have fewer NGO's, donors, forest products companies, and significant gap between valley and mountain

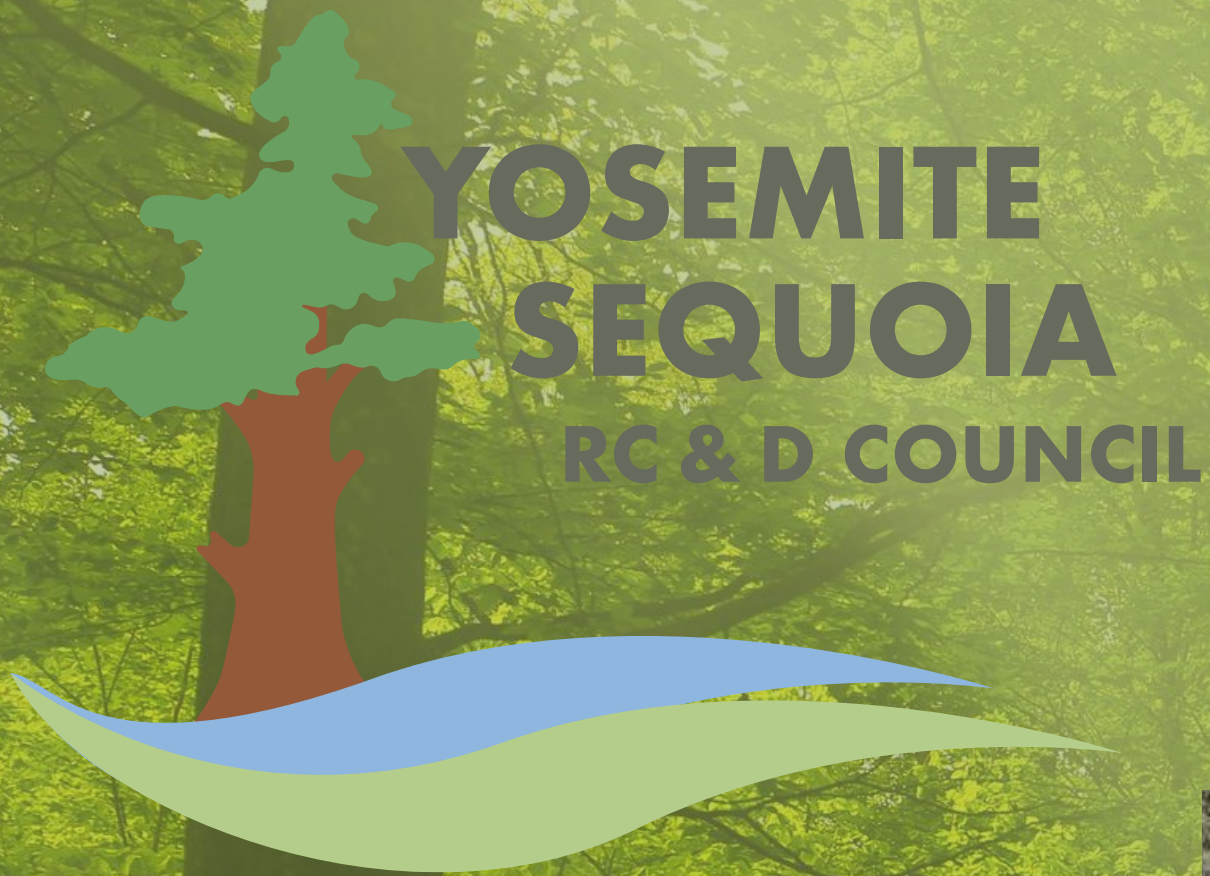


A photograph of a dirt path in a forest. The path is dark and leads into the distance. On the left side of the path, a bicycle is parked. The forest is dense with green trees, and sunlight is filtering through the canopy, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The path is bordered by logs and fallen branches on the left.

System Change?

Research consistently demonstrates that collaboration:

- Increase inclusiveness and transparency
- Foster learning, improved relationships and shared understanding.
- “Collaborative governance” emerged in 1990’s to describe collaboration as a new governance system to manage natural resources, involving landowners, NGO’s, local government, and many agencies.
- Research on how collaborative groups respond to change. But does the system respond and change with collaboratives?
- What would we see in California and the nation if the natural resource management system was changing?



Thank You!

