

**Southern California National Forests
Inventoried Roadless Area
Road and Trail Analysis**

Collaborative Group Protocols

Overview

The Southern California National Forests Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) Road and Trail Collaborative Group is being convened to assist in collaboratively developing criteria for decommissioning roads and trails in IRAs and identifying project priorities based on those criteria in compliance with the Settlement Agreement approved for *California Resources Agency, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture*, and *Center for Biological Diversity, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture*. The primary purpose of the collaborative group is to develop a mutually acceptable set of criteria and a list of priority road and trail projects for the Forest Service to implement as funding allows. The proposal, or proposals, will be developed through collaboration, recognizing the diverse interests of the settlement parties while trying to address all interests within the constraints of the Forest Service's regulatory and administrative responsibilities.

Collaborative Scope

The collaborative group will evaluate National Forest System roads and trails and unauthorized routes within IRAs on the four forests. Under Settlement Agreement Item 3, the collaborative group has three tasks:

- a. Review the route inventory data
- b. Develop criteria for prioritizing route decommissioning and/or restoration projects
- c. Identify a list of priority roads and trails for decommissioning and/or restoration

Participation

Participation is open to representatives from the parties to the settlement agreement.

Each settlement party may bring as many representatives as needed to support the work of the group, and all party representatives may participate in group discussions as needed. If more than one representative participates, a single representative will be identified as the lead spokesperson for the party.

Meetings are open to the public for observation. If members of the public attend in addition to the settlement agreement parties, there will be a segment of each meeting available for public comment or questions.

Ground rules

- Respect
- Active listening
- Openness, acknowledge diverse interests
- Participate in good faith
- Brevity
- Interest based negotiations
- Seek solutions to satisfy all
- Commit to collaboration
- Serve as a liaison with your organization
- Follow through on commitments and actions
- Consensus-based decision making
- Support agreements reached

Consensus Based Approach

The collaborative group will complete the settlement agreement tasks using a consensus based approach. Each lead representative present at the meeting will be asked if he/she, or his/her organization “can live with” the proposal or idea. If all participants attending the meeting can live with a proposal or idea it will be adopted by the group.

Use of Caucus Groups

As with any negotiation it is common for parties with similar interests to caucus in private to discuss and clarify their mutual interests. Any party can request a private caucus during a meeting, and the group will make arrangements to accommodate that request. Caucus timeframes should be limited (10 to 15 minutes) to avoid disrupting the meeting schedule. Parties are encouraged to caucus prior to scheduled meetings.

Meeting Management

The Forest Service will host and manage the meetings with the consent of the group. The Forest Service project manager will facilitate the meetings, record agreements, disagreements, and provide meeting notes.

Meeting Agendas

Agendas for future meetings will be developed at the close of each meeting. Meeting agendas will be distributed to the group a minimum of one week ahead of the scheduled meeting data. If any party has material to share or discuss at the meeting, that material should be made available one week in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Working documents

The collaborative group's tasks include at a minimum two documents: the criteria for route decommissioning and/or restoration, and a priority list of routes. The collaborative group will strive to use a "single text" approach for document editing. The Forest Service will maintain the current version of the documents for the group, and the group will jointly edit that version during the collaborative group meetings using a consensus based approach.

Meeting Locations

Meetings may be conducted in person, by phone, over the internet, or a combination of all of the above. In person meetings will be at a location agreeable to the parties.

Meeting Notes

Meeting notes will include a copy of the agenda, list of attendees (both members and the public), summary of agreements or disagreements reached during the meeting, the most current version of draft working documents, and any assignments for future meetings. The notes will not include transcripts of member's statements or public comments. Participants will have the opportunity to review and comment on the notes before the notes are finalized. Agreements or disagreements reached will remain unchanged, but comments may be added for clarification. Edits will be made using the comment/notes function.

Publicly Available Materials

A website for this collaborative effort and associated public process will be established. All meeting notices, meeting notes, and relevant resource materials will be available on the website.