

Inyo National Forest Plan Revision Collaboration & Communication Plan

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Introduction

Each National Forest and Grassland in the United States is governed by a Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) in accordance with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Forest Plans set desired conditions, standards, and guidelines for management, protection, and use of the Forest. Monitoring conditions ensures projects are done in accordance with Forest Plan direction and determines effects that might require a change in the Forest Plan.

The Inyo National Forest's (INF) current Forest Plan was signed in 1988. Since that time much has changed regarding resource management of the National Forests. For example there are new scientific studies, social changes, and analysis available to guide management.

In 2012, the US Forest Service released a new Planning Rule. Eight National Forests were selected to be the first to implement the new rule and revise their Forest Plans. In February 2012, the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests were selected as the three "Early Adopter" Forests in California. The revised Forest Plan for the Inyo National Forest will incorporate information regarding changed conditions, the best available science, and new resource management issues.

A Forest Plan is a collaboratively developed and science-based framework for integrated resource management and for guiding project and activity decision-making. It does not authorize projects or activities or commit the Forest Service to take action, or, regulate uses by the public. In other words, no site-specific decisions will be made in a Forest Plan. A Forest Plan should not repeat laws, regulations or program management policies, practices, and procedures that are in the Forest Service Directive System.

Forest Plan Components

Forest Plans include the following components:

- **Desired conditions:** A description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, that are described in terms specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement. Desired conditions are what drive the plan. All management activities should be aimed at the achievement of the desired condition for those resources in the area where the project is located. Desired conditions can be thought of as goals that in part help define a collective vision for the National Forest in the future.

- **Objectives:** An objective is a concise, measurable, and time-specific statement of a desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions and should be based on reasonably foreseeable budgets. Objectives, along with the strategies used to accomplish them, can be thought of as the tools we will use to reach the desired conditions. Objectives are mileposts along the road toward desired conditions.
- **Standards:** These can be thought of as the rules the Forest Service will operate within as we develop projects to accomplish objectives and move closer to the realization of desired conditions. These are mandatory constraints on project and activity decision-making.
- **Guidelines:** Describe a constraint on project and activity decision-making that allows for departure from its terms, so long as the intent of the guideline is met. In other words guidelines are mandatory unless they are replaced by something that is equal to or better than the existing guideline.
- **Suitability of lands:** Specific lands within a plan area identified as suitable for various multiple uses or activities based on the desired conditions applicable to those lands. The plan also identifies lands within the plan area as not suitable for uses that are not compatible with desired conditions for those lands. Every plan must identify those lands that are not suitable for timber production (required by NFMA.).

Forest Plan Revision Phases

As guided by the Planning Rule, Forest Plan Revision will include three phases:

- **Assessment Phase.** The purpose of the assessment phase is to gather existing relevant information on Forest conditions and trends, and use this information to rapidly evaluate the sustainability of existing ecological, economic, and social conditions and trends within the context of the broader landscape. The assessment is used to help identify the need to change the existing plan, and to inform the development of plan components and other plan content.
- **Plan Revision Phase.** The goal of the Plan Revision phase is to decide which parts of the 1988 Forest Plan will be revised, and to develop, analyze, and adopt a revised plan. This work will be structured by the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, and will be

complemented by additional opportunities for communication and collaboration above and beyond what is required by NEPA.

- **Monitoring Phase.** After a revised Forest Plan is adopted, the Forest will enter the monitoring phase, the purpose of which is to monitor Forest conditions to determine whether a change to the plan or change to the monitoring program is warranted based on new information, whether a new assessment may be needed, or whether there is no need for change at that time. The Planning Rule requires a monitoring evaluation report every two years after adoption of a new Forest Plan.

This Collaboration and Communication Plan describes how the Inyo National Forest will work with its stakeholders — defined as those who are affected by or have an interest in the management of the Inyo National Forest — and the general public during the Plan Revision process.

Purpose

The purpose of the Collaboration & Communication (C&C) Plan is to:

- Define the public outreach, involvement and collaborative processes that will be used to develop a Forest Plan that is responsive to the interests of the Forest, other agencies, local government, additional interested and affected stakeholders and local Native American Tribes.
- Identify specific activities and communication tools that Forest staff will use to provide information, solicit input, engage in dialogue to understand issues and consider solutions that balance a variety of needs, and respond to public input on Forest planning.

About this Plan

Starting in October 2012, the Center for Collaborative Policy, California State University Sacramento (CCP) began working with the Inyo National Forest (INF) to develop this Communication and Collaboration Plan. CCP conducted informational interviews with a diverse array of over 50 individuals that are actively involved with the INF to better understand the issues they care about and to obtain their recommendations to the INF about how best to involve them and their networks in the Plan Revision process. This included (in no particular order) people whose work and interests include a variety of recreational activities (motorized and non-motorized); local government; local business owners; permittees who conduct business on National Forest land; local Tribes

(federally recognized and non-federally-recognized); environmental groups; and representatives of the Hispanic community.

CCP summarized for INF the management issues and the recommended involvement strategies that were identified as a result of the interviews. These recommended involvement strategies formed the foundation of the draft Collaboration and Communication Plan. CCP then worked with the Forest to develop strong interconnections between the steps in the planning process and the most effective strategies for engaging diverse audiences in the revision process.

The draft C&C Plan was presented to the public at two identical workshops held November 16 and 17, 2012 in Bishop. At the workshops, members of the public described their vision for a successful public participation process: one that is transparent, timely, inclusive, interactive, respectful, efficient, fosters community building, and results in a good plan for management of the Inyo National Forest. As described by the workshop attendees, a successful process would also use language that all could understand, provide ample opportunity for remote stakeholders to be involved, and provide well-understood sideboards (defined as law, regulation, and policy that comprise non-negotiable boundaries to the planning process.) Public comments on the draft C&C Plan were accepted at the workshop and until November 30, 2012. These comments were considered and many thoughts and ideas made a part of this C&C Plan. The result is a wide-ranging yet integrated set of communication and collaboration activities, purposely designed and sequenced to support public participation in the development of a revised Forest Plan.

The planning milestones and activities schedule will be reviewed and revised as necessary (no less than each year) to reflect the needs of stakeholders and the Forest Service to achieve the purpose stated above. The Forest Supervisor, the responsible official for the development of the revised plan, will make the final determination of schedule and staff activities.

Planning Milestones

2012	Prepare for Forest Plan Revision October – Dec 2012: Develop Collaboration & Communication Plan December 2012: Complete the Science Synthesis for Region 5 (Pacific Southwest Region) of the Forest Service
2012-2013	Develop the Inyo Forest Assessment Jan-Feb 2013: Provide overview of Plan Revision process and Forest Service initial draft summary of current conditions, future trends and system drivers for the Assessment; solicit public input and additional references Summer / Fall 2013: Share information developed by the Forest Service for Inyo National Forest Assessment Report; solicit public input for Assessment Report December 2013: Finalize Inyo National Forest Assessment Report January 2014: Availability of the final Assessment Report
2013-2016	Develop the Forest Plan and Conduct the Environmental Analysis <i>DRAFT Timeline (subject to change)</i> 2013-2014: Identify need for change in plan direction February 2014: Federal Register notice to begin Plan Revision/Notice to prepare Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) 2014: Develop and analyze proposed plan, including desired conditions, objectives, and standards February 2015: Circulate draft proposed plan and draft EIS for public comment 2015: Analyze comments and develop final EIS and proposed plan September 2016: Notice of objection period for the proposed plan December 2016: Notice of final plan approval
2016+	Implementation Monitoring Prepare biennial monitoring and evaluation reports

Public Participation and Collaboration

The goal of the Inyo National Forest’s Plan Revision process is to develop a Forest Plan that is responsive to those who are affected by or have an interest in the management of the National Forests, consistent with legal mandates. The Planning Rule requires the Inyo National Forest to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation throughout the Plan Revision process (36 CFR § 219.4). The Planning Rule defines a collaborative process as a structured manner in which a collection of people with

diverse interests share knowledge, ideas, and resources while working together in an inclusive and cooperative manner toward a common purpose (36 CFR § 219.19).

As part of a collaborative process, Inyo National Forest will engage people who participate in the Plan Revision process (“participants”) through a spectrum of public participation methods. The Forest will determine which methods are the most appropriate depending on the phase of planning, work product being developed, budget, and staff capacity. Public participation methods identified in the Planning Rule include informing, consulting, involving, and collaborating, as described here:

- Informing – The Forest will provide participants and the general public with balanced and objective information, and assist them in understanding work products prepared as part of the planning process.
- Consulting – The Forest will obtain participants’ feedback on draft work products at various points in the planning process.
- Involving – The Forest will work directly with participants to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered in the development of work products.
- Collaborating – The Forest will work directly with participants in preparing to make decisions at various points within the planning process, including (but not limited to) the development of alternatives and the identification of a preferred alternative. The Forest will create opportunities for dialogue to explore different perspectives, balance a variety of needs, and identify areas of common ground that can inform draft work products

Work products may include, for example, information on legal and regulatory requirements and the planning process; lists of available scientific information; summaries of trends in Forest conditions and drivers of Forest change; and alternatives for analysis.

In addition to this public participation, the Forest will also meet other requirements such as government-to-government Tribal consultation (36 CFR 219.4 (a)(2)); inviting interested agencies to participate as cooperating agencies (36 CFR 219.4 (a)(1)); coordination with related planning efforts by Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments (36 CFR 219.4 (b)); and the formal public input process under the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Forest will integrate concerns and recommendations from all these channels into Forest Plan Revision.

Participating in collaborative planning workshops does not limit anyone's activity during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Individuals who contribute collaboratively during the planning can participate in the NEPA process, including submitting formal comments or challenging decisions.

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)

The Federal Advisory Committee Act was enacted in 1972. It formalized a process for establishing, operating, overseeing, and terminating advisory bodies to Federal agencies. FACA is triggered when a Federal agency establishes a group and does so with the purpose of obtaining consensus advice or recommendations; it does not apply if the agency establishes a group to seek information from individual participants (41 CFS 102-3.25, definition of advisory committee).

The Inyo National Forest will not convene new advisory committees for the Forest Plan Revision process. Instead, the Forest will host meetings and events that are open to any interested members of the public, and will engage existing forums and collaborative groups. While the Forest will seek public input on proposed revisions and supporting documents, the Forest will not seek consensus. Individuals can provide their own personal opinions, advice, or recommendations to the Forest Service without triggering FACA. This is true even if several individuals in a group setting provide similar or identical opinions, advice, or recommendations.

Decision-making

Stakeholders will provide input to the Forest regarding their concerns and recommendations. Where possible, the Forest will encourage participants to provide suggestions that balance the various interests appropriate to Forest Plan Revision. Per the Planning Rule, the Forest Supervisor is the responsible official who will make the final decision regarding what is included in the revised Forest Plan.

Roles & Responsibilities

All stakeholders and Forest Service staff are encouraged to engage in dialogue as appropriate, to work together to understand issues and consider solutions that balance a variety of needs in Forest Plan Revision. In addition:

The **Forest Supervisor** has the authority and responsibility to manage the Plan Revision process, including determining the scope, methods, forum, and timing of public participation opportunities and approving the revised Forest Plan. The Forest Supervisor is the final decision-maker for the Forest Plan.

Forest Staff listen to, document, and respond as appropriate to concerns and recommendations provided by the public, agencies, and Tribes. Staff develop draft and final Forest Plan materials and provide for public review.

The public, including other Federal agencies, State and local governments, individuals, and public and private organizations or entities participate in the planning process and provide input and recommendations to the Forest.

Native American Tribes may participate in formal consultation with the Forest and also may provide input and recommendations to the Forest through collaborative planning workshops and other public input opportunities.

The **Forest Tribal Liaison** ensures that Tribes are aware of the planning process and opportunities for consultation and input.

The Public Affairs Officer prepares communication materials and works with all members of the public and agencies to provide information and opportunities to contribute during the planning process. The Public Affairs Officer is the point of contact for the public and media.

Facilitators ensure a fair and transparent process of public input and collaboration. Facilitators manage dialogue between agencies, the public, Tribes, and the Forest to ensure balanced participation and enhanced mutual understanding.

Stakeholder Interest Groups / Constituencies

Throughout the planning process, the Forest will strive to outreach to all of the diverse stakeholders who have an interest in the management of the Inyo National Forest. Some interest categories are listed below. Note that every individual likely belongs to several categories. The purpose of listing categories is to point to ways to conduct outreach; it is not meant to create divisions among interest groups.

- Business, e.g. Chambers of Commerce, local businesses that serve tourists / recreationists
- Ecology and Wildlife

- Energy (including Renewable Energy such as Biomass Processing and Wind, and Transmission)
- Environmental Interests
- Extractive Uses (including Mining and Timber)
- Fire Safety and Community Protection
- Gatherers (e.g. Fuelwood, Traditional Plants)
- Grazing
- Governments / Agencies
 - State, County, Municipal and other Federal Agencies, including Land Management and Resource Agencies
- Native American Tribes, Federally Recognized and Non-Recognized
- Under-represented Communities
- Non-Organized Users
- Landowners and Local Community Residents
- Recreational permittees
 - Dispersed (e.g. packers, guides)
 - Developed (e.g. campgrounds, resorts, ski areas)
- Recreational users (locally based, urban, national, and international)
 - Dispersed (e.g. anglers, artists, backcountry / cross-country skiers, birdwatchers, boaters, equestrians, hikers, hunters, motorized driving (e.g. ATV, OHV, 4x4), mountain bikers, rock hunters, snowshoers)
 - Developed (e.g. campers, picnickers, resort skiers)
- Scientists
- University Researchers and Students
- Water Supply Interests (e.g. LA residents, LADWP, local municipalities)
- Youth and NGOs that provide opportunities to youth

General Principles Guiding Collaboration and Communication

These principles were developed utilizing public input from the Fall 2012 interviews and workshops described in “About this Plan” above.

- Maintain clarity, consistency, and transparency with regard to expectations, process, sideboards (e.g. law, regulation, and policy that restricts what is possible), and timeline. Set a meeting schedule and stick to it. Includes presenting messages in layperson language.
- Meet deadlines, follow through, and connect input to outcomes and decision. Explain why input was incorporated, or why not.

- Define Forest Service Regional Office role and support, and connections with the other Early Adopter Forests in Region 5 (Sierra National Forest and Sequoia National Forest.)
- Conduct proactive, timely notification and involvement.
- Tailor outreach to audience; diversity of strategies and messages.
- Offer ways to engage on topics of interest, without requiring a major time commitment.
- Respect the “social capital” stakeholders expend for the Forest Service. Although Forest Service actions may be influenced by events beyond the Forest’s control, when possible avoid stopping, stalling out, or reversing course unexpectedly, which can damage trust and relationships stakeholder partners have with the Forest Service and with other stakeholders.
- Honor partnerships and volunteers. Provide acknowledgment, recognition, and solid guidance and support. Strive to match or exceed the effort and enthusiasm that volunteers invest in their partnership with the Forest Service.
- Provide opportunities for people where they already interact with the Forest Service.
- Get out into the field.
- Achieve small successes that build trust and a sense of concrete accomplishment.

Internal Forest Service Communication

Forest Plan Revision will require significant communication within the Forest Service, including within and between the Inyo National Forest, the other two California Early Adopter Forests, the Region 5 Regional Office, the Forest Service Washington Office and the Pacific Southwest Research Station.

To achieve this the following actions will be taken:

- Forest and District employees will be briefed on a regular basis so that they are up to date and knowledgeable regarding the status of the Plan Revision effort. This can best be achieved at District and Supervisor’s Office monthly meetings.
- Employees will be provided with a Plan Revision briefing paper that has the information about who to contact for more information about Plan Revision.
- Employees who have specific public contact or permit administration duties will have the information they need to share with their contacts.
- The three Region 5 Early Adopter Forests and the Regional Office will have regular information sharing meetings or conference calls so that all are aware of the status and progress that each is making and can coordinate on common elements of their Forest planning efforts.

Public Outreach and Involvement: Overview

National Forest staff will conduct several “**rounds**” of public outreach and involvement activities throughout the **three phases** of the planning process (Assessment, Plan Revision / NEPA, and Implementation Monitoring.) Rounds are defined as focused efforts over a period of several weeks to several months to engage the public in key phases of the revision process, such as obtaining public input on resource conditions and trends in the Assessment Phase or circulating the draft revised plan for public review. Each round will have an announced start and end date for the receipt of public input, which will then be used by staff to inform the next planning work product. Each round will include outreach efforts to provide information and updates to the public and/or encourage members of the public to become engaged in the planning process, as well as structured opportunities for public input, review, and comment, using various methods and tools to enable broad input. Where applicable, the Forest Service will use a collaborative approach to explore topics of interest and discuss solutions to issues. In this Collaboration and Communication Plan, outreach and involvement activities are grouped into two “tiers”.

- **Tier 1** activities are **priority activities** for public outreach and involvement. Forest staff intend to utilize Tier 1 activities during each of the three phases of the Forest Plan Revision process (Assessment, Plan Revision, and Implementation Monitoring.) The Forest Supervisor will determine the level and frequency of the activities as feasible, given available time, budget, and staff capacity.

- **Tier 2** activities are a menu of options from which the Forest Service will draw **selectively** during Plan Revision. Forest staff aim to use Tier 2 activities where they can make the most impact overall in the planning process, as feasible, given available time, budget, and staff capacity.

A later section of this plan, Public Outreach and Involvement by Phase of the Planning Process, contains initial suggestions of which outreach and involvement activities may be best suited to each phase of Plan Revision. This plan will be updated and modified as Plan Revision progresses. The Forest Service will work with stakeholders in an open public Design Forum to adaptively manage the outreach and involvement process, including determining which activities to focus on in each phase.

In addition to structured rounds of public involvement, the Forest Service may use any of the identified outreach and involvement activities between rounds in order to keep stakeholders informed and solicit focused input as needed and appropriate. All public outreach and involvement activities will be conducted transparently and in accordance with applicable Federal laws such as the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The table below provides a quick reference to all intended Tier 1 and Tier 2 activities, which are further described in the next sections.

Tier 1 Outreach and Involvement	Tier 2 Outreach and Involvement
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design Forum 2. Forest Service websites updates 3. Email announcements 4. Social media 5. Media relationships and releases 6. Outreach materials, e.g. fact sheets, postcards, visitor comment forms 7. Hard copies of documents 8. Tribal notification / briefings / consultation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inyo Tribal Forum 2. Under-represented populations outreach and involvement 3. Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open House 4. Collaborative Issue Forum 5. Town Hall listening sessions 6. Regional Status Update for all three California Early Adopter Forests 7. Video briefings 8. Brochures

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Federal, State, County, and Municipal public agency notification, and/or briefings 10. State, Congressional, and local elected officials notification and/or briefings 11. Forest permittee notification and involvement 12. Public workshops incorporating remote participation 13. Science Forum 14. Public review and comment 15. Additional volunteer efforts 	
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Public Outreach and Involvement Activities: Tier 1

This section lists all Tier 1 activities in a brief bullet list. The following section describes each activity in more detail. Tier 1 activities are **priority activities** for public outreach and involvement. The Forest intends to utilize Tier 1 public outreach and involvement activities during each of the three phases of the Forest Plan Revision process (Assessment, Plan Revision, and Implementation Monitoring.)

Tools are listed in no particular order or priority.

A. Tier 1 Outreach and Involvement

1. Design Forum
2. Forest Service websites updates
3. Email announcements
4. Social media
5. Media relationships and releases
6. Outreach materials, e.g. fact sheets, postcards, visitor comment forms
7. Hard copies of documents
8. Tribal notification / briefings / consultation

9. Federal, State, County, and Municipal public agency notification, and/or briefings
10. State, Congressional, and local elected officials notification and/or briefings
11. Forest permittee notification and involvement
12. Public workshops incorporating remote participation
13. Science Forum
14. Public review and comment
15. Additional volunteer efforts

B. Description of Tier 1 Public Outreach and Involvement Activities

1. Design Forum

The Forest Service will provide periodic opportunities for involvement in a Design Forum that will be open to all interested parties. The Design Forum will provide feedback to the Forest Service on its public outreach and involvement efforts, such as the design of outreach materials and public workshops. The forum will help to monitor effectiveness and adapt the Collaboration and Communication Plan as needed.

2. Forest Service website updates

Upload announcements, outreach materials, documents for public review, and final documents to Forest Service websites, such as the Inyo National Forest webpage, the Region 5 Forest Service website, and the Forest Service's "Our Forest Place" interactive website as appropriate. The Forest Service will develop a protocol to provide guidance on which types of documents will be posted to which Forest Service website(s).

- The websites will include a clear explanation of how people can participate, what kind of information or input is requested and how it will be used, and a timeline for the overall process.
- The websites will make information easily accessible and allow interested parties to track the status and development of draft and final analyses and decisions.

Significant new website uploads will be publicized by sending out an email blast and using social media to let stakeholders know that new content is available. Frequency and timing of website updates will vary depending on the availability of new content that would be of interest to the public.

3. Email announcements

Email announcements will be used for general communication about the planning process, including but not limited to: distributing information and fact sheets, providing updates on progress, distributing draft work products, publicizing upcoming public involvement and input opportunities, and providing reminders of comment deadlines. The Forest Service will make a concerted effort to clean up, organize, and add to existing contact lists.

a. Forest Service email lists

The Forest Service will maintain an email list of people interested in Plan Revision and will encourage stakeholders and the general public to sign up.

b. Partner distribution of email

The Forest Service will seek commitments from stakeholder organizations to distribute announcements to their own members.

4. Social media

Social media such as Twitter or Facebook may be used to complement email announcements. These tools would be used primarily to spread the word about Forest planning and to direct people to new content on the website such as workshop announcements and documents. Because of agency restrictions, community partners would need to be responsible for managing the use of Facebook, if used.

5. Media relationships and releases

In addition to news releases, the Forest Service will seek to develop relationships with reporters who would be interested in informing their audiences about Forest planning. For example, to reach the Hispanic community, the Forest may develop relationships with the Spanish-language newspaper *El Sol* and the Spanish-language DJ who hosts a radio program on KSRW. See Appendix 3 for a list of media on outreach list.

6. Outreach Material, e.g. Fact Sheets, Postcards, Visitor Comment Forms
 - a. At Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations

The Forest Service will place fact sheets and other outreach material created for each round of public involvement at key points of visitor contact such as Inyo National Forest Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations - Bristlecone Pine Visitor Center, Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Visitor Center, and the White Mountain Ranger Station.

Fact sheets will be designed to provide general information or answer frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding the Plan Revision Process or specific stages of that process. Postcards may be developed containing easy-reference website and contact information. Visitor comment forms will solicit input relevant to the planning stage. For example, during the Assessment Phase the forms will solicit input on current conditions and trends. Comment boxes or other means will be provided or forms may be mailed in.

Visitor Center staff will be informed about the Plan Revision process so that they may answer visitor questions or direct questions to other appropriate staff.

- b. In community locations as appropriate

Forest Service staff will work with community partners to make outreach materials available in community locations (such as libraries, post offices, outdoor stores, etc.) as appropriate. This may be an especially effective means of communication in small towns with limited Internet access such as June Lake.

7. Hard copies of documents

The Forest will make available hard copies of documents such as INF reports and NEPA documents related to Forest planning all stakeholders. To conserve resources, those who want to receive hard copies will need to opt-in to this service, for example through a sign-up link on the main website or by returning a postcard.

8. Tribal notification / briefings / consultation

Tribes encourage early, proactive engagement on issues with potential impacts. Forest staff will conduct briefings with local Tribes and ensure Tribes are informed of Plan Revision process, timeline, and milestones as well as public outreach activities and opportunities for comment, in addition to formal consultation.

The Forest Service has formal policies for government-to-government Tribal consultation to notify Tribes of agency actions that may have impacts to areas of Tribal interest, identify those potential impacts, and seek comment. The Inyo National Forest will invite the following Tribes to consult in the Plan Revision process:

- Antelope Valley Indian Community
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
- Bishop Paiute Tribal Council
- Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation
- Timbisha Shoshone of Death Valley
- Fort Independence Community of Paiute Indians
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe (Bishop)
- Mono Lake Kutzadika^a
- Benton Paiute Reservation - UTU UTU GWAITU Paiute Tribe
- Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony
- California Indian Basketweavers Association
- Kern Valley Indian Community
- Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
- Walker River Paiute Tribe
- Yosemite-Mono Lake Paiute Indian Community
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

The Forest will coordinate the Plan Revision process with related planning efforts conducted by federally recognized Tribes (36 CFR 219.4 (b)). Coordination includes identifying and discussing possible conflicts between the revised plan and the objectives of Tribal land use plans and policies.

The National Forest currently meets quarterly with the Bishop Paiute and Big Pine Paiute Tribes. Tribal communities have emphasized the importance of Forest Service staff visiting Tribal communities regularly to get to know the Tribe's members, even when there is no pressing issue to address.

To publicize planning activities, the Inyo National Forest may also connect with the successful Sierra and Sequoia Tribal Forums organized by the Forest Service, and/or the California Department of Water Resources' statewide Tribal Forum and Tribal listserve for the California Water Plan. Tribes will also be invited to participate as cooperating agencies in the planning process, and Tribal members are welcome to participate in all public meetings and workshops.

9. Federal, State, County, and Municipal public agency notification, briefings, and /or discussion forum

Staff will notify and/or conduct briefings with interested Federal and State land and natural resources management agencies (e.g. Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service) and local County and municipal departments (e.g. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, local planning departments, etc.) to ensure they are informed of the Plan Revision process, timeline, and milestones as well as public outreach activities and opportunities for comment. Rather than setting up new meeting times and locations, the Forest may request to be added to the agenda of groups with standing meetings. In some cases the briefings may focus on specific issues of particular concern to an agency. Staff may also work directly with staff of other agencies on specific issues of particular concern.

The Forest will coordinate the Plan Revision process with related planning efforts conducted by other Federal agencies and State and local governments (36 CFR 219.4 (b)). Coordination includes identifying and discussing possible conflicts between the revised plan and the objectives of other land use plans and policies.

Some agencies may wish to meet in a group forum to receive updates and discuss Forest planning. This may take the form of an informal "coffee hour" or more formal, agendaized meeting. Such an agency forum could include Federal, State, and local agencies that share legal responsibility for managing forest, land, wildlife, air, water, and other resources that are part of the Inyo National Forest, as well as adjoining National Forests. These meetings would provide an opportunity for multiple agencies to speak with each other at the same time and identify common resource management objectives for specific topics, and discuss

how to coordinate associated management policies, plans, and activities related to the revised Forest Plan.

Tribes, States, counties, and other local governments with jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be invited to participate in the planning process as cooperating agencies as defined at 40 CFR 1501.6.

10. State, Congressional, and local elected officials notification, briefings, and/or discussion forum

The Forest will brief State, Congressional, and local elected officials periodically on the Plan Revision process, including overall time, current status, progress to date, and key issues. The purpose is to ensure that interested elected officials are aware early in the process of Forest planning issues that affect their constituents, and have opportunities to provide feedback and recommendations directly to the Forest on specific issues. Ideally these briefings will coincide with Plan Revision milestones. These briefings may be a joint effort with participation of all three Forests undergoing Plan Revision, in the case of US Senators or other overlapping representation. The Forest will hold individual meetings with elected officials as needed.

Elected officials may wish to meet in a group discussion forum, or send staff to such a forum, e.g. Bishop City Council, Inyo County Board of Supervisors, Mammoth Lakes Town Council, Mono County Board of Supervisors, and possibly Congressional staffers may want to meet periodically as a group to receive joint updates and discuss Forest planning. These meetings would provide an opportunity for multiple elected officials to speak with each other at the same time and identify common objectives for specific topics, and discuss how to coordinate associated management policies, plans, and activities related to the revised Forest Plan.

11. Forest permittee notification and involvement

The Forest Service will notify interested and affected permittees at key intervals during the planning process. Staff will provide opportunities for permittees to provide input on components of Plan Revision that may impact their interests, or about which they may have information. Permit administrators will have information about Plan Revision to share with their contacts.

12. Public workshops incorporating remote participation

The Forest Service will convene public workshops in various locations throughout the planning process. Mammoth and Bishop are central locations, but workshops may also be convened in more distant communities such as Fish Lake Valley, Hawthorne, Lee Vining, Lone Pine, or Ridgecrest as needed. Workshop content and format will be tailored to each stage of the planning process to inform the public of the latest activities and work products and solicit input.

To the extent practical, each series of workshops will include a remote participation component to convey information and support solicitation of online input from non-local participants.

Workshop locations will focus on local communities, though there may be the need to do out-of-area workshops (e.g. in Los Angeles and/or the San Francisco area) at some point in the process. It may be efficient to plan out-of-area workshops as a regional initiative with joint participation by the three Early Adopter Forests in California. To the extent practical, these workshops will also include a remote participation component.

13. Science Forum

As needed, the Forest will host or co-host a focused Science Forum in which scientific and/or technical topics and information are discussed in greater detail than would generally be the case at a public workshop. As an example, a Science Forum could be convened to bring researchers, Forest staff, and the public together to discuss the research and data being used as Best Available Scientific Information during the Assessment and Plan Revision. Another appropriate topic for a Science Forum might be best practices for monitoring and adaptive management.

14. Public review and comment

Comment periods on publicly released draft documents will have clearly conveyed deadlines and procedures for submitting comments. The Forest Service will clearly convey to the public how their comments will be/have been used.

15. Additional partner / volunteer efforts

Many members of the communities around the Inyo are willing to contribute time, skills, and resources to aid in Forest Plan Revision. Staff may work with volunteers to determine how they can best assist with outreach and involvement at various stages in the planning effort. Staff may also solicit volunteer assistance from community members with special skills and connections, such as educators in planning or natural resources who might be able to lead student projects such as visitor surveys; local leaders of under-represented communities; and non-governmental organizations who bring at-risk youth to the Forest.

Public Outreach and Involvement Activities: Tier 2

This summary section lists all Tier 2 activities in a brief bullet list. The following section describes each activity in more detail.

Tier 2 tools may be used selectively as appropriate in any of three phases of the planning process (Assessment, Plan Revision, and Implementation Monitoring) depending upon the availability of Forest Service resources and community interest and support. These tools are listed in no particular order. Please note that “Tier 2” does not mean these activities are of lesser value than Tier 1; the difference between the tiers is whether a given tool will be a priority for each phase of Forest planning (Tier 1) or should be utilized more selectively (Tier 2).

A. Tier 2 Outreach and Involvement

1. Inyo Tribal Forum
2. Under-represented populations outreach and involvement
3. Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open House
4. Collaborative Issue Forum
5. Town Hall listening sessions
6. Regional Status Update for all three California Early Adopter Forests
7. Video briefings
8. Brochures

B. Description of Tier 2 Outreach and Involvement Activities

1. Inyo Tribal Forum

In addition to formal consultation and Tribal member participation in public meetings, Tribes with ties to the Inyo may wish to meet periodically in a multi-tribe group forum to receive updates and discuss Forest planning. An Inyo Tribal Forum might be modeled after the successful Sierra and Sequoia Tribal Forums. The Forest Service will discuss this possibility with the Tribes to determine level of interest in piloting an Inyo Tribal Forum. The Forest Service may also wish to host Southern Sierra Tribal meetings for issues common to the three Early Adopter Forests.

2. Focused public outreach for under-represented populations

Some outreach and involvement activities will be designed for under-represented populations. As described by the Planning Rule, this includes youth, low-income, and minority populations such as the Hispanic community. The Forest Service staff will work with community partners and the Design Forum to determine appropriate outreach and involvement activities for these audiences.

For example, to engage youth in Forest planning, Forest staff may work with educators and community leaders to hold a Youth Summit. Staff may partner with programs that bring youth to the Forest, and Tribes such as the Bishop Paiute who have conducted successful Tribal youth summits.

As another example, to involve the Hispanic community, Forest staff may partner with Hispanic community leaders, public health providers, and/or organizations such as LA CAUSA and the Bishop High School's Club Latino to hold workshops, which may be bilingual as appropriate.

3. Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open House

Forest staff may hold "open house" informational sessions in locations that draw visitors, such as a ranger station or visitor centers. These sessions would be designed to offer an opportunity to showcase Forest Plan Revision, provide one-on-one discussion between visitors and Inyo staff about Forest Plan Revision, and encourage visitor involvement and comment.

4. Collaborative Issue Forum

For issues on which there are diverse and competing perspectives, the Forest Service may convene one or more collaborative issue forums to identify and explore areas of common ground. Collaborative forums generally work iteratively on discrete issues. Any collaborative forum convened or supported by the Forest Service to work on issues related to Plan Revision will be open to the public and subject to applicable Federal law.

5. Town Hall listening sessions

Town Hall listening sessions are defined as meetings with particular communities or organizations for the primary purpose of listening to the concerns and stories of that community or organization. Forest Service staff's role in a Town Hall listening session is to listen and answer questions, as opposed to staff presenting information and asking for feedback from the public. Forest Service staff may use Town Hall listening sessions to gather general input at various planning stages, or to explore specific issues of particular relevance to a community or organization. Rather than setting up new meeting times and locations, the Forest may request to be added to the agenda of groups with standing meetings, for example the Regional Planning Advisory Committees in Mono County.

6. Regional Status Update

Staff may periodically produce a regional status update to update the public on progress and key milestones in the Plan Review process for all three Early Adopter Forests in California.

7. Video briefings

The Forest may develop and post online a select number of topical or periodic update video briefings designed to provide interested parties with information on current status of the revision process, accomplishments to date, tasks remaining, opportunities for participation, and / or particular planning topics. Video briefings, which may include recordings from previously-held public webinars, will be available for individual or group self-education; they will not be interactive. The purpose of video briefings is to make it easier for members of the public to quickly and easily obtain information that will help them understand the planning process as well as the context and main issues associated with different topics, and thus comment on

materials and/or participate in public involvement activities such as workshops. Video briefings will also help people understand what work has been completed and what decisions have been made.

8. Brochures

The Forest Service may produce and distribute additional outreach material such as overview or update brochures at key points in the process.

Public Outreach and Involvement by Phase of the Planning Process

Forest Plan Revision consists of three phases:

1. Forest Assessment
2. Plan Revision / NEPA
3. Implementation Monitoring

This section contains a description of each of the three phases and **initial suggestions for outreach and involvement activities that may be best suited to each phase**. Suggestions in this section represent the Forest's initial thinking. Actual outreach and involvement activities per phase will depend upon schedule, resources, and community interest. Some activities may require community volunteer support in order to be achievable, such as Youth Summits and Hispanic Community Meetings. The Forest Service will work with stakeholders in an open public Design Forum to adaptively manage the outreach and involvement process, including considering which activities to focus on in each round. The Forest Supervisor will make the final determination of which outreach and involvement activities will be pursued in each round.

A. Forest Assessment Phase

The purpose of the Forest Assessment is to gather existing relevant information on Forest conditions and trends, and use this information to rapidly evaluate the sustainability of existing ecological, economic, and social conditions and trends within the context of the broader landscape. The assessment is used to help identify the need to change the existing plan, and to inform the development of plan components and other plan content.

As required by the Planning Rule, the assessment will consider the following topics:

- Terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds;
- Air, soil, and water resources and quality;
- System drivers, including dominant ecological processes, disturbance regimes, and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change; and the ability of those terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in the plan area to adapt to change;
- Baseline assessment of carbon stocks;
- Threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate species, and potential species of conservation concern present in the plan area;
- Social, cultural, and economic conditions;
- Benefits people obtain from the NFS planning area (ecosystem services);
- Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies.
- Recreation settings, opportunities and access for a range of uses;
- Renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources;
- Infrastructure, such as recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors;
- Areas of Tribal importance;
- Cultural and historic resources and uses;
- Land status and ownership, use, and access patterns; and
- Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas.

Outreach and Involvement Recommendations for the Assessment Phase

Because the Assessment Phase focuses on gathering data related to Forest conditions and trends, recommended high value public outreach and involvement activities are related to reaching broad audiences and discussing existing data available to the Forest to ensure there is a common understanding of the information that will be used in future phases. Initial Assessment Phase outreach and involvement recommendations are:

- All Tier 1 activities
- Tribal Forum
- Town Hall Listening Sessions
- Under-represented populations outreach and involvement, e.g. youth summit, Hispanic community workshop

It is likely that the Forest will need to prioritize among possible activities based on available time and resources and community support and interest.

B. Forest Plan Revision / NEPA

The intent of the Plan Revision / NEPA Phase is to identify which parts of the existing Forest Plan should be updated, and to identify and adopt recommendations for that update. This phase includes and will largely be structured around the public involvement and environmental analysis requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Plan Revision / NEPA Phase is a 2-year process that will include elements of broad and focused engagement to identify the need for change in current plan direction as well as new plan components such as desired conditions and objectives. Outreach and involvement tools that may prove valuable in the Plan Revision / NEPA Phase will vary along the way. For example, the initial stages of developing desired conditions may benefit from broad engagement similar to the Assessment Phase with similar tools.

Outreach and Involvement Recommendations for the Plan Revision / NEPA Phase:

- All Tier 1 activities
- Town Hall Listening Sessions

- Under-represented populations outreach and involvement, e.g. youth summit, Hispanic community workshop
- Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open Houses
- Regional Status Updates

Later in the process as the Forest develops plan alternatives and conducts the environmental analysis required by NEPA, staff may want to use additional outreach and involvement tools such as:

- Collaborative Issues Forums
- Video briefings to provide background information on the process, decisions made, and current tasks

C. Implementation Monitoring Phase

The intent of the Monitoring Phase is to monitor plan implementation and resource trends, so that the plan can be adaptively managed and to make sure it is working as intended. Outreach and Involvement during the Monitoring Phase will likely focus on periodic check-ins with various audiences to discuss implementation progress and outcomes, and any need for change in management strategies. These check-ins will likely be triggered by the issuance of the Forest's monitoring reports every two years as required by the Planning Rule.

Outreach and Involvement Recommendations for the Implementation Monitoring Phase

- All Tier 1 activities
- Town Hall Listening Sessions
- Tribal Forum
- Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open Houses

Appendix 1: 2012-2013 Activity Schedule

A. Work already completed

1. Convened Inyo National Forest Planning Team
2. Conducted stakeholder and Tribal interviews
3. Presented findings of stakeholder and Tribal interviews
4. Drafted Inyo Collaboration and Communication (C&C) Plan
5. Hosted November workshops on Draft Inyo Collaboration and Communication Plan, and incorporated public input into Inyo C&C Plan
6. Posted revised plan on the INF website, began publicizing the revised plan utilizing the methods described herein.

B. Preliminary Overview of Involvement Opportunities for 2013

A more detailed schedule with specified opportunities will be available in early 2013.

1. Complete Tribal C&C Plan in early 2013
2. Late January / early February – Announce inauguration of Plan Revision process and planned public involvement opportunities
3. Conduct Round One public involvement
 - i. Includes Public Kickoff Workshops
 1. Early February
 2. 2 locations
 3. Review Plan Revision process, current status of bioregional assessment, Science Synthesis, summary of known information and references for 15 Assessment Topics. Solicit input on references, characterization of current conditions, and trends for the 15 Assessment topics.
 - ii. Additional public involvement opportunities to solicit input regarding conditions and trends likely through April 2013.
4. Conduct Round Two public involvement
 - i. Likely Summer / Fall 2013
 - ii. Present the assembled data to date on conditions and trends, and obtain public input on the content of the Assessment Report.

Appendix 2: Working Together: Agreements & Guidelines for Participating in Meetings

Use Common Conversational Courtesy: Avoid third-party conversations. Do not interrupt others.

All Ideas and Points of View Have Value: All ideas have value. The goal is to achieve understanding. Simply listen; you do not have to agree. If you hear something you do not agree with or you think is "silly" or "wrong," please remember that the purpose is to share ideas.

Be Honest, Fair, and as Candid as Possible: Help others understand you and work to understand others.

Avoid Editorials: It will be tempting to analyze the motives of others or offer editorial comments. Please talk about YOUR ideas and thoughts. Avoid commenting on why you believe another participant thinks something.

Efficiency: People's time is precious; treat it with respect and "share the air."

Think Innovatively and Welcome New Ideas: Creative thinking and problem solving are essential to success. "Climb out of the box" and attempt to think about the problem in a new way.

Invite Humor and Good Will

Appendix 3: Media Outlets

The Forest may work with the following media outlets to distribute information:

- Newspapers: El Sol de la Sierra, Inyo Register, LA Times, Mammoth Times, The Sheet, Sacramento Bee, Santa Barbara News-Press, Santa Clarita Valley Signal, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, Reno Gazette, Orange County Register, San Diego Tribune, Pahrump Valley News
- TV stations: Sierra Wave
- Radio stations: KSRW, KMMT, KIBS, KUNR, KPCC, KCRW

- Partner newsletters
- Magazines: AARP Magazine, Costco Magazine, Mammoth Sierra
- Local bloggers

Appendix 4: Recent local collaboration and communication models

Items in this appendix stem from stakeholder interviews conducted in October of 2012. This list captures some initial stakeholder thoughts, recorded in this appendix for future reference as planning proceeds. This is not intended to be a comprehensive or final list. There will be additional public input opportunities on this and other topics during the Plan Revision process.

The following processes were most frequently named by stakeholders as having methods or materials that may merit consideration as examples for Forest planning.

- Casa Diablo fuels and smoke management project (communication)
- Devil’s Postpile National Monument General Management Plan
- Lakes Basin Special Study (LABSS)
- Red’s Meadow blowdown (communication)
- Sherwin Area Recreation Plan (SHARP)
- Sierra and Sequoia National Forests’ Tribal Forums
- Travel Management Collaborative Alternative Team
 - Some stakeholders appreciated how this process gave leadership to stakeholder groups to work things out among themselves, though they felt there were problems when the implemented decision did not always match their recommendations. Others felt the process was troublesome for lack of openness and potential issues with FACA. While there are caveats to be mindful of, involved stakeholders report successes within the group.

Appendix 5: Potential Issues of Interest

Items in this appendix stem from stakeholder interviews conducted in October of 2012. This list captures some initial stakeholder thoughts, recorded in this appendix for future reference as planning proceeds. This is not intended to be a comprehensive or final list.

There will be additional public input opportunities on this and other during the Plan Revision process.

The following are issues that the National Forest knows stakeholders are interested in addressing. Some of these issues are at a planning level, and some are more site-specific. As a result, some, but not all, stakeholder issues will be addressed through Plan Revision.

- Adaptive management & ability to modify plan itself easily
- Biomass utilization
- Cell towers on Federal land
- Climate change (vulnerability, resilience, adaptation, mitigation; impacts on water supply, migration patterns, habitat, fire, etc.)
- Damage from concentrated use
- Digital 395
- Dispersed camping opportunities
- Education of FS staff, public, and Indians about Indian rights
- Education of public about forest services (providing clean air and water), user ethics, forest hazards
- Emergency management (e.g. if people flee to forest from cities during disaster)
- Fire management
- Fish habitat
- Forest contribution to local economy
- Grazing
- Guidance for partnerships
- Habitat connectivity
- Impacts to surrounding communities from influx of users (waste disposal, medical services, law enforcement, etc.) – payment in lieu of taxes
- Interpretation / signage of Indian history, significance, place names
- Invasive species
- Land tenure (e.g. June Mountain)
- Management of Inventoried Roadless Areas
- Marijuana cultivation (chemicals, violence)
- Mountain biking / lack of single-track trails
- Old growth forest
- Permits for Indian traditional practices and uses
- Pine bark beetle
- Plan for growing use / more visitors
- Potential listing of sage grouse or other species in future

- Protection of sacred sites
- Public access
- Recreation enhancement
- Renewable energy development, esp. wind
- Restoration efforts
- Scenic byway designation
- Special designations, e.g. wilderness or wild and scenic
- Sustainable management
- Timber
- Trail designations, including Travel Management Subpart A
- Upgrading facilities
- Visitor education / interpretation / signage
- Volunteer coordination / monitoring
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Appendix 6: Stakeholder initial suggestions for meeting structure / facilitation techniques

Items in this appendix stem from stakeholder interviews conducted in October of 2012. This list captures some initial stakeholder thoughts, recorded in this appendix for future reference as planning proceeds. This is not intended to be a comprehensive or final list. There will be additional public input opportunities on this and other topics during the Plan Revision process. Interviewees mentioned the following tips for meeting structure and facilitation, in addition to ideas represented elsewhere in this plan:

- Good documentation is important. Have a court reporter to take dictation from folks who are not writers.
- If individuals are acting counter-productively in meetings, talk offline with their group leadership to encourage more positive participation.
- If people develop shared agreements, have them sign documentation of that agreement.
- If using collaboration, be clear in advance about how recommendations will be used and who is making the final decision.
- Keep in mind that those who attend meetings are not necessarily representative of the broader population; at times organized efforts are made to “pack the meeting” with supporters of one viewpoint.
- Make materials available and downloadable online instead of or in addition to sending via email.

- Meetings are more likely to be well-attended if they are supported / hosted / advertised by community groups.
- Prevent participants who may be perceived as angry or threatening from congregating by meeting room exits. Have staff members available in the back of the room to talk with participants who need to vent.
- Quick turnaround of notes, posted to website, increases process credibility and utility of the notes for the participant.
- Some participants prefer to seek common ground in stakeholder groups that are led by stakeholders with minimal support from the agency to which the group will be making recommendations; others have concerns about exclusion of voices and application of the Federal Advisory Committees Act to this type of group.
- Take care to be inviting to the average citizen who does not necessarily know the jargon or have knowledge of the history or agencies.
- Use digital maps from Google Earth that stakeholders can match up with their own GPS waypoints.
- Use food and field trips to encourage social interaction.
- Use third party facilitation to create a safe atmosphere. Emphasize the enforcement of courtesy rules.
- Don't use adaptive management as a way to make questionable management practices more acceptable. Realize that monitoring plans are often under-funded and not fully implemented.
- Have clear triggers for actions and responsible parties designated to take those actions.
- Have scientists at public meeting to explain the science and the peer review process.

Appendix 7: Potential Additional Community Partners

- 4H Clubs
- Big Pine Indian Education Center (youth programs)
- Chambers of Commerce
- Chico State University
- Children in Nature Network
- Churches, church youth groups
- Civic clubs (e.g. in Big Pine and Independence)
- Community centers: Big Pine, Esmeralda County, Lee Vining, Crowley Lake, June Lake
- Fish Lake Valley Park Board
- Friends of the Inyo youth program
- Future Farmers of America (e.g. in Lone Pine)

- Grazing industry associations
- Hotel association
- June Lake Citizens Advisory Committee
- LA CAUSA
- Lions Clubs
- Local high schools student government and student associations, e.g. for Native American students and Bishop High School Club Latino
- Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation youth programs
- Mining industry associations
- Mono County Regional Planning Advisory Committees (RPACs)
- Mono Lake Committee youth program
- Public health organizations (links to underserved communities)
- Public TV stations
- Rotary clubs
- Cerro Coso Community College, especially classes linked with land management or planning
- Student Conservation Association