

Inyo National Forest Plan Revision

Collaboration & Communication Plan

Version 11/15/2012

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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's 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 this 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 National Forest was selected as one of three "Early Adopter" forests in California for a number of reasons including a "need for change" in existing Forest Plan direction, and engagement in recent and successful collaborative efforts. Plan Revision for the Inyo National Forest will incorporate changed conditions, the best available science, and new public issues.

A Forest Plan is a collaboratively developed and is a 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 are expected to 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 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 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).

This Collaboration and Communication Plan describes how the Inyo National Forest will work with its partners, stakeholders, interested public, and Tribes during the Plan Revision process.

Purpose

The purpose of the Collaboration & Communication 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, interested and affected stakeholders and California Native American Tribes.
- Identify activities and communication tools to provide information and solicit input on forest planning from all of the above named groups.

About this Plan

After analyzing stakeholder issues and recommendations regarding Forest Plan revision and ideas for effective communication, the Center for Collaborative Policy, Sacramento State University, in cooperation with the Inyo National Forest developed the initial Collaboration & Communication Plan. The National Forest and the Center will periodically refine the Collaboration & Communication Plan with interested stakeholders. The planning milestones and activities schedule will be reviewed and revised as necessary each year to reflect the needs of stakeholders and the Forest Service to achieve the purpose stated above. **The Forest Supervisor 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 2013: Share information developed by the Forest Service for Inyo National Forest Assessment Report; solicit public input for Assessment Report Sept 2013: Finalize Inyo National Forest Assessment Report October 2013: Availability of the final Assessment Report
2013-2015	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: 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

Defining Public Participation, including Collaboration

The Proposed Planning Rule provides opportunity for participation in the assessment, plan revision, and monitoring. (36 CFR § 219.4 (a)) The Forest will regularly inform agencies, the public, and tribes about the planning process and materials being developed. The Forest will seek feedback on draft analyses and plan components such as standards and guidelines. At times, the Forest may work intensively with the public and representative stakeholders to revise and refine draft analyses and plan components. Collaborative involvement activities will create opportunities for dialogue to explore different perspectives and identify any areas of common ground.

During Forest Plan revision,

Collaboration is 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).

Collaboration, in the context of land management planning in the Pacific Southwest Region, is to engage diverse interested parties in developing understanding and widely supported options to issues of concern. The goal of collaboration is to develop a forest plans that are responsive to the interests of the forests, agencies, and the public.

Collaborative public involvement per the 2012 Planning Rule will be conducted parallel and in addition to other requirements such as government-to-government Tribal consultation, cooperating agency agreements, and the formal public input process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as further described in this Plan. The Forest will integrate concerns and recommendations from all these channels into Forest Plan Revision.

Decision-making

Members of the public, local governments, States, Federal agencies, and Tribes provide input to the Forest regarding their concerns, and recommendations that strive to meet the various interests involved in the Forest Plan. **The Forest Supervisor makes the final Forest Plan Revision decision.**

Roles & Responsibilities

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 make these available to the public.

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

- Native American Tribes, Federally Recognized and Non-Recognized
- State, County, Municipal and other Federal Agencies, including Land Management and Resource Agencies
- Minorities
- 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)
- Youth and NGOs that provide opportunities to youth

General Principles Guiding Collaboration and Communication

- 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 “plug in” on topics of interest, without requiring a huge time commitment.
- Respect the “social capital stakeholders” expend for the Forest Service. 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. Meet volunteers more than halfway.
- Find people where they already interact with the Forest.
- 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, and the Forest Service Washington Office.

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 Activities: 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 both outreach and involvement activities. “**Outreach**” is defined as providing information and updates to the public and/or encouraging members of the public to become engaged in the planning process. “**Involvement**” is defined as providing structured opportunities for public input, review, and comment, using various methods and tools to enable broad input and, where applicable, a collaborative approach to finding widely supported solutions to policy questions.

In this Collaboration and Communication Plan, outreach and involvement activities are grouped into two “tiers”.

- **Tier 1** activities are those that the Forest Service intends to do for every round of public outreach and involvement in the Assessment Phase and the Plan Revision/NEPA phase. Tier 1 activities may be used selectively for public involvement opportunities during the Implementation Monitoring Phase.
- **Tier 2** activities are a menu of options from which the Forest Service will draw for each round during the three phases. Tier 2 activities will be used to customize an outreach and involvement approach to best support the type of work to be accomplished in that round, within 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 Tier 2 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 Tier 2 activities to focus on in each round.

In addition to structured rounds of public involvement, the Forest Service may use Tier 1 or Tier 2 tools 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.

Public Outreach and Involvement Activities: Tier 1 (Summary)

This summary section lists all Tier 1 activities in a brief bullet list. The following section describes each activity in more detail.

All Tier 1 tools will be used for each round of public outreach and involvement during the Assessment and Plan Revision/NEPA Phases of the process. Tools are listed in no particular order.

A. Tier 1 Outreach Tools

1. Forest Service website updates
2. Email announcements
3. Media relationships and releases
4. Fact Sheets and Other Outreach Material
5. Tribal notification / briefings
6. Federal, State, County, and Municipal government agency notification / briefings
7. Briefings for State and Congressional representatives
8. Permittee notification

B. Tier 1 Involvement Activities

1. Tribal consultation
2. Design Forum
3. Public workshops including remote participation
4. Public review and comment
5. Opportunities for input from permittees, agency partners, and local governments

Public Outreach and Involvement Activities: Tier 2 (Summary)

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 will be used as appropriate in all three phases of the planning process, 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 should be utilized for every public involvement round (Tier 1) or should be utilized more selectively (Tier 2).

A. Tier 2 Outreach Tools

1. Focused public outreach for Tier 2 involvement activities
2. Brochures
3. Social media
4. Regional Status Update
5. Hard copies of reports and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents
6. Video briefings

B. Tier 2 Involvement Activities

1. Science Forum
2. Agency Partner Forum
3. Local Government Forum
4. Inyo Tribal Forum
5. Youth Summit
6. Hispanic Community Workshops
7. Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open House
8. Visitor comment forms at key points of visitor contact
9. Collaborative Issue Forum
10. Town Hall listening sessions
11. Additional volunteer efforts

Public Outreach and Involvement Activities: Tier 1 (Detailed)

All Tier 1 tools will be used for each round of public outreach and involvement during the Assessment and Plan Revision/NEPA Phases of the process. Tools are listed in no particular order.

A. Tier 1 Outreach Tools

1. Forest Service website updates

Upload all announcements, outreach materials, draft documents, and final documents to Inyo National Forest webpage.

- 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 website 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 possibly 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.

2. 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.

3. 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, for the Hispanic community this may include reaching out to Spanish-language newspaper El Sol and the Spanish-language DJ who hosts a radio program on KSRW. See Appendix 4 for a list of media on outreach list.

4. Fact Sheets and Other Outreach Material

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. Press releases may be designed to advertise specific public involvement opportunities such as workshops. 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.

Forest Service 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 post outreach materials such as news releases and fact sheets 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.

5. Tribal notification / briefings

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 Inyo National Forest consults with the following Tribes:

- 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 Kutzadikaa
- 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 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.

6. Federal, State, County, and Municipal government agency notification / briefings

Staff will conduct briefings with interested Federal, State, and local land and natural resources management agency partners (e.g. Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service) and local County and municipal governments (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Bishop City Council, Inyo County Board of Supervisors, Mammoth Lakes Town Council, Mono County Board of Supervisors, etc.) to ensure they are informed of 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. Agencies and local governments will also be invited to participate as cooperating agencies in the planning process.

7. Briefings for State and Congressional representatives

The Forest will brief State and Congressional representatives periodically on the plan revision process, including overall time, current status, progress to date, and key issues. The purpose is to ensure that State and Congressional representatives 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 forest undergoing Plan Revision. The Forest will hold individual meetings with State and Congressional representatives as needed.

8. Permittee notification

Forest Service staff who work directly with permittees (e.g. grazing, packing, mining, etc.) will discuss Plan Revision with the permittees in their program areas as needed based on resource issues and information needs.

B. Tier 1 Involvement Activities

1. Tribal 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. Tribes encourage early, proactive engagement on issues with potential impacts. They also encourage Forest Service staff visit tribal communities not just to discuss specific issues, but also to get to know their Tribal Councils when there is no pressing issue.

2. Design Forum

The Forest Service will provide 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.

3. Public workshops including 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 workshop 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.

4. Public review and comment

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

5. Opportunities for input from permittees, agency partners, and local governments

In addition to ensuring permittees and agency partners and local governments are notified about Plan Revision and opportunities for public involvement, staff will provide opportunities for permittees and agency counterparts to provide input on components of Plan Revision that may impact their interests, or about which they may have information.

Agencies and local governments may be invited to apply for Cooperating Agency status, which is determined based on jurisdiction by law or special expertise. The role and responsibilities of Cooperating Agencies is defined in section 6 of this Plan.

Public Outreach and Involvement Activities: Tier 2 (Detailed)

Tier 2 tools will be used as appropriate in all three phases of the planning process, 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 should be utilized for every public involvement round (Tier 1) or should be utilized more selectively (Tier 2).

A. Tier 2 Outreach Tools

1. Focused public outreach for Tier 2 involvement activities

Each round of public involvement may include Tier 2 involvement activities that require focused public outreach, such as Hispanic community workshops or a Youth summit. The Forest Service staff will work with community partners and the Design Forum to determine appropriate outreach tools for these audiences.

2. Brochures

The Forest Service may produce and distribute additional outreach

material such as overview or update brochures at key points in the process.

3. Social media

Social media such as Twitter may be used if there is community interest and staff judge that these tools would be effective at reaching additional key audiences that are not reached by other outreach mechanisms in place. At a minimum, social media tools would be used similarly to e-mail blasts 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.

4. 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.

5. Hard copies of reports and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents

The Forest will make available hard copies of reports and NEPA documents to Tribes, cooperating agencies, and other interested parties. To conserve resources, stakeholders and members of the public 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 returning a postcard.

6. 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 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.

B. Tier 2 Involvement Activities

1. Science Forum

The Forest Service may conduct meetings, open to all, of a Science Forum. The purpose of the Science Forum would be to discuss the research and data being used as Best Available Scientific Information during Plan Revision. The Science Forum may also discuss best practices for monitoring and adaptive management.

2. Agency Partner Forum

Partner 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, agendized meeting. Such a partner agency forum would include federal, state, and local agencies such as LA Department of Water and Power that share legal responsibility for managing forest, land, wildlife, air, water, and other resources that are part of Inyo National Forest. 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.

3. Local Government Forum

In addition to briefings of individual local government entities, local government representatives may wish to meet in a group forum with representatives from Bishop City Council, Inyo County Board of Supervisors, Mammoth Lakes Town Council, Mono County Board of Supervisors, and possibly Congressional staffers, to receive updates and discuss Forest Planning.

4. Inyo Tribal Forum

In addition to formal consultation, Tribes with ties to the Inyo may wish to meet in a 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 may also wish to host Southern Sierra Tribal meetings for issues common to the three Early Adopter Forests.

5. Youth Summit

Forest staff may work with educators and community leaders to hold a Youth Summit to engage youth in Forest Planning. This may be especially relevant at the beginning of the Assessment to involve youth in identifying current conditions and trends. 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.

6. Hispanic Community Workshops

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 bilingual workshops for the Hispanic community.

7. Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open House

In addition to intensive public workshops and visitor comment forms, 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.

8. Visitor comment forms at key points of visitor contact

Forest Service staff will develop comment forms to make available along with outreach materials at Visitor Centers and the White Mountain Ranger Station. These 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 in these locations for submitting comment forms, or forms may be mailed in.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Additional 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 minority communities; and non-governmental organizations who bring at-risk youth to the Forest.

Public Outreach and Involvement by Phase of the Planning Process

Forest Plan Revision consists of three phases:

- Forest Assessment
- Plan Revision / NEPA
- 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 Tier 2 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.

Assessment topics are required by the Planning Rule to include the following. Many topics will be looked at from a landscape scale with Forest Service Regional Office assistance to local forests.

- 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.
- These are more likely to be looked at from a Forest Scale by Forest Staff.
- 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 (required)
- Town Hall Listening Sessions
- Youth Summit
- Hispanic Community Workshop
- Science Forum
- Local Government Forum
- Tribal Forum
- Agency Partner Forum
- Use of social media to advertise involvement opportunities
- Comment forms at key points of visitor contact

*It is likely that the Forest will need to prioritize among these 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 process includes and will largely be structured around the components of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. The NEPA review process will run parallel with opportunities for focused public engagement and collaboration, beginning with the Assessment process (prior to NEPA), and continuing through the Need for Change,

Desired Conditions, Alternatives Development, and Analysis.

The Plan Revision / NEPA Phase is a 2-year process that will need to include elements of broad engagement as well as focused engagement. 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 (required)
- Town Hall Listening Sessions
- Youth Forum
- Hispanic Community Workshop
- Local Government Forum
- Tribal Forum
- Agency Partner Forum
- Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open Houses
- Comment forms in key visitor contact locations
- Use of social media to advertise involvement opportunities
- Regional Status Updates

Later in the process as the Forest develops Plan alternatives and conducts the Environmental Analysis, staff may want to use additional outreach and involvement tools such as:

- Collaborative Issues Forums
- Hard copies of reports and National Environmental Policy Act documents
- Briefings for State and Congressional representatives
- 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

- Website Updates and Email Announcements, particularly when the Forest's monitoring reports are issued
- Town Hall Listening Sessions
- Local Government Forum
- Tribal Forum
- Agency Partner Forum
- Science Forum to discuss new science that could have an impact on management strategies
- Ranger Station / Visitor Center Open Houses

Appendix 1: 2012-2013 Activity Schedule

A. Work already completed

1. Convene Inyo National Forest Planning Team
2. Conduct stakeholder and Tribal interviews
3. Present findings of stakeholder and Tribal interviews
4. Announce November workshops on Inyo Collaboration and Communication Plan

B. Fall 2012 (*Focus: Inyo C&C Plan, Preparing for Kick-Off of Assessment*)

1. Conduct **additional Tribal interviews** for incorporation in Tribal C&C Plan due in early 2013
2. Draft **Inyo Collaboration and Communication (C&C) Plan**
3. Share draft Inyo C&C Plan in **public workshops** November 16 and 17.
 - Obtain public input on Tier 1 and Tier 2 outreach and involvement

methods.

- Obtain public input on ways members of the public and organizations can support the planning process with volunteer assistance or other resources.
4. Incorporate public input and **finalize Inyo C&C Plan** in December
 5. **Post final Inyo C&C Plan** to website and announce via Tier 1 outreach methods.

C. Preliminary Overview of Involvement Opportunities for 2013

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

1. Early February – Announce inauguration of plan revision process and planned public involvement opportunities
2. Conduct Round One public involvement
 - i. All Tier 1 Involvement
 - ii. Includes Public Kickoff Workshops
 1. Early February
 2. 2 or 3 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
 - iii. Tier 2 activities as supported by Forest resources, stakeholders and the community
3. February – April – Additional public involvement opportunities regarding conditions and trends.
4. Summer - Public Involvement activities to present the assembled data to date and to 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 at the table. Do not interrupt others.

All Ideas and Points of View Have Value: All ideas have value in this setting. 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 of the workshop 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

Be Comfortable: Please feel help yourself to refreshments or take personal breaks. If you have other needs, please inform the meeting organizer.

Appendix 3: Process Agreements

- All meetings are open to the public
- All meeting notes, informational materials, and products will be made available to the public in a timely manner.
- Participants will listen to one another, seeking to understand and learn from each other’s perspective.
- The Forest Service seeks mutual understanding among participants and staff.
- The Forest Service seeks information from individuals, not consensus. The Forest Service can ask individual participants whether they agree with a recommendation. However, the Forest Service will not ask a group whether consensus exists among all participants.
- 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.

Appendix 4: Media Outlets

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

- Local bloggers

- Magazines: AARP Magazine, Costco Magazine
- 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

Appendix 5: 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 ample additional public input opportunities on this and other topics after the Collaboration and Communication Plan is finalized.

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 Alternatives Team
 - Some stakeholders loved 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 6: 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 ample additional public input opportunities on this and other topics after the Collaboration and Communication Plan is finalized.

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. Through the Plan Revision process, the National Forest will need to look at the existing Plan to identify which issues may be missing or insufficiently addressed in the Plan. 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 7: 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 ample additional public input opportunities on this and other topics after the Collaboration and Communication Plan is finalized.

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 8: 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
- Serracoso Community College, especially classes linked with land management or planning
- Student Conservation Alliance