

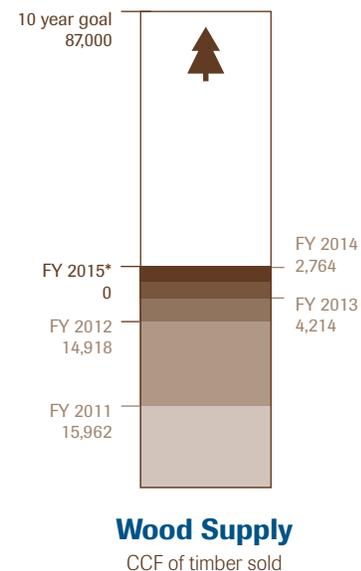


Controlled burn, Dinkey CFLR project area. © Carolyn Ballard, U.S. Forest Service

The Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project covers 154,000 acres in California’s southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Controlled burns, thinning, and watershed restoration will reduce the potential of mega-fire threat to more than 5,000 homes, improve conditions for sensitive species such as the Pacific fisher and California spotted owl, and add jobs to an area with high unemployment.

Partners

- Southern California Edison Forestry and Highway 168 Fire Safe Council
- Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy
- Huntington Lake Association
- Sierra Forest Legacy
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Stewards of the Sierra National Forest
- Sierra Forest Products
- Yosemite-Sequoia RC&DC
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Coarsegold Resource Conservation District
- North Fork Mono Tribe
- California Off Road Vehicle Association
- Stewards of the Sierra National Forest
- Yosemite-Sequoia RC&DC
- Backcountry Horsemen of California, San Joaquin Sierra Unit
- Intermountain Nursery
- UC Davis Cooperative Extension
- Central Sierra Historical Society
- Huntington Lake Big Creek Historical Conservancy
- San Joaquin Valley Leadership Forum
- UC Merced Southern Sierra Critical Zone Observatory
- California Association of 4WD Clubs
- Sierra Forest Legacy
- Camp El-O-Win



* Efforts to offer forest products from the project area were postponed, as the Forest focused their efforts on the removal of recently fire-killed trees. Fire-killed trees deteriorate quickly and delays can result in reduced merchantability and resultant reductions in removals, jeopardizing the effectiveness of the project.



Richard J. Bagley

Richard Bagley, Manager of Southern California Edison's Integrated Forest Management Program at Shaver Lake and Dinkey Creek, notes, "I have been so fortunate to work for a company that has encouraged me to use the latest science to guide the management of our lands." Southern California Edison supported Richard's participation in various public land management discussions, including the Dinkey collaborative group on the Sierra National Forest, which that preceded and served as the core for the Dinkey CFLR project.

The Dinkey was one of the first ten sites selected across the country, and Richard points to the test of time as a key metric. "The collaborative project has proven itself. We can and will get work done."

Since 2012, Richard watched as the collaborative spurred the Forest Service to implement fuel treatments, and in 2015, collaborative members put in 1600 volunteer hours. The collaborative group has developed close working relationships with a wide spectrum of stakeholders. Moreover, there have been ripple effects, and the project's impact extends beyond the original landscape. Dinkey collaborative members are working on additional projects, such as a fire policy group that is coordinating with state-level air quality policy makers. The Dinkey collaborative's ability to solve problems and overcome hurdles is a model, and the group's strategies are often shared with other collaborative groups.

What's next for the Dinkey collaborative group? Many, including Richard, quickly shift their focus to solving the ever-growing challenge of tree mortality in Southern California. Currently, dead or dying trees plague hundreds of thousands of acres of the Sierra National Forest. After finding that the treated forest areas seem to be more resistant and resilient to tree mortality, the collaborative is now asking tough questions, such as "should the group advocate for treatments that are more aggressive?" Over 30,000 acres of vegetative treatments have been completed within the project site: 14,333 acres of treatments on federal lands, plus 6,000 acres of treatments on land managed by Southern California Edison. Rich notes that the SCE treatments aren't reported as "official" CFLR accomplishments as they are not on National Forest System lands, but they're within the collaborative group's landscape of interest and meet project goals.

Looking back – and forward – Richard notes, "I would classify the collaborative effort as a success, and one that's now adapting to the new reality of major tree mortality and a draught-plagued state."



Total acreage of landscape: 154,000

2015 Results

- \$1.5 million estimated total labor income
- 467 acres of forest vegetation improved
- 9 miles of stream restored or enhanced



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