

Gravelly Landscape Collaborative Charter
July 27, 2012
Updated October 12, 2012
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1. Purpose

The Gravelly Landscape Collaborative brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to develop ecologically appropriate, scientifically supported forest restoration projects that will benefit the forests, fish and wildlife populations and local communities.

Vision

A collaborative approach with diverse participation can foster trust, effective communication, and transparency in public forest management. By focusing on issues within a *zone of agreement*, we can advance stewardship that addresses current threats to our forests and benefits wildlife, local economies, and clean water.

2. Goals

Forest management that leads to healthy, resilient forest habitats that can:

- withstand natural insect outbreaks and fires,
- recover from these disturbances,
- adapt to change, and
- support wildlife, fishery and human uses into the future.

3. Organization & Governance

Public & Interested parties:

Individuals and organizations are welcome to attend GLC meetings and events. Attendance requires agreement to abide by this charter and its code of conduct. These individuals and groups may join the GLC mailing list and receive meeting announcements, notes and event information. The public is encouraged to participate in GLC meetings and discussions and share their concerns, suggestions and perspectives. The GLC website is also public and will post announcements and events.

Stakeholders & Technical Advisors:

A diverse group of stakeholders who are committed to participating on a regular basis and abiding by the code of conduct, charter and seeking consensus will be established. Stakeholders and Technical Advisors of the Gravelly Landscape Collaborative will represent diversity of interests and may represent specific organizations, agencies or participate as individuals. The collaborative will govern itself and its members according to this charter.

Identified interests include but are not limited to:

- Agriculture/Ranching
- Conservation

- Fisheries
- Hunting
- Wildlife
- Land and wildlife management agencies
- Landowners
- Local government
- Motorized recreation (summer/winter)
- Outfitters
- Timber
- Quiet recreation

Stakeholders & Technical Advisors Group: will serve as the Advisory Body for the Gravelly Landscape Collaborative. Membership in the Stakeholder & Technical Advisor Group is defined as those individuals who are willing to regularly attend meetings and who agree to participate according to the terms of this charter.

Stakeholder & Technical Advisor Group members will:

- Engage in collaborative problem solving to find solutions that address the range of interests brought to the table,
- Work with their own groups, organizations, and constituencies to understand and articulate their interests, to secure their on-going input and, as appropriate, to build support for final proposals,
- Adhere to the charter and code of conduct,
- Periodically review membership; identify missing interests; and recruit, as needed new members to ensure diverse participation in the collaborative,
- Participate actively in meetings. Only through constructive dialogue among diverse stakeholders can the Gravelly Landscape Working Group achieve its purpose.

Agency Representatives: Federal and state land and wildlife management agencies are an important resource for the Gravelly Landscape Collaborative. They participate in a technical advisor capacity representing their agencies to provide scientific and administrative information pertinent to the work of the collaborative.

Much of the landscape is managed by the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Madison Ranger District. District staff will serve as a member of the Stakeholder and Technical Advisor Group, explaining Forest Service process, budget, legal constraints and flexibilities, sharing information about the landscape, and answer questions or offer opinions as requested by the participants.

Stakeholder & Technical Advisor Group members will strive to attend all meetings of the GLC and assigned committees. If unable to attend, members shall notify the steering committee in advance of the meeting. There are no alternates. Recognizing that there are inevitable conflicts in scheduling that may prevent full attendance, the member will seek to be informed of actions taken at meetings at which the member is absent. Decisions made in a members' absence are binding. Members will be replaced if too many meetings are missed, as determined by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will periodically review its membership to ensure that all interests are represented. If a change in membership results in the absence of a specific interest, the Steering

Committee and Stakeholder & Technical Advisor Group will recruit new members who can represent the same or newly identified interest and/or perspective.

Sub-committees may be appointed by the steering committee as necessary to work on specific issues or tasks and report back to the full GLC. Committees shall function according to the Gravelly Landscape Collaborative charter and may recruit non-members to participate in committees based on their knowledge or experience on specific issues.

Steering Committee: The steering committee will be composed of 5-7 members of the working group, representing varied interests and will serve as the decision-making and administrative body of the GLC. All decisions (see section 4 on Approach) advanced by the Steering Committee will be supported through the consensus process of the Stakeholder and Technical Advisor Group and Steering Committee. The steering committee will be responsible for:

- Setting meeting agendas
- Managing communications
- Handle administrative work in between regular meetings.

Facilitator: The GLC may make use of a facilitator to assist in achieving greater understanding of its common objectives and consensus decisions regarding proposals or recommended projects. The Facilitator's role will be to ensure an effective collaborative process. The Facilitator will also ensure all interests are communicated and understood, the code of conduct is adhered to, and conflicts are resolved to the best of our ability.

4. Approach

The GLC will approach its deliberations as a collaborative problem-solving body seeking to produce consensus recommendations that address, insofar as possible, the needs and interests of all participants. As necessary, the group will work jointly to educate and build understanding regarding the participants' values and interests related to the issues, while also developing a baseline understanding of essential information and identifying zones of agreement.

Collaborative problem-solving is most successful when parties agree that their major interests have been heard, considered meaningfully, that other participants have made every effort to address their interests in any final recommendations, and that the final recommendations accurately characterize any outstanding differences.

Decision Making Process: The Steering Committee and Stakeholder & Technical Advisor Group will strive for consensus on all decisions.

The commitment to work for consensus means that the Steering Committee and Stakeholder & Technical Advisor Group will:

- Participate in the give and take of the process in a way that seeks to understand the interests of all;
- Actively generate proposals thought to be workable for all, and
- Work together to reach consensus.

Consensus means the willingness to go along with the decision either in active support of it or in not opposing it. The goal is for support of consensus decisions. Votes will be conducted via thumb-raising, full support (thumb up), can live with (thumb sideways), opposition (thumb down).

Where participants vote thumb sideways they will be encouraged and provided the opportunity to explain their concerns or reservations, and they will be duly noted. When participants vote thumb down, they will be required to explain their vote and provide an alternative, as discussed below. A sideways thumb cannot be interpreted as the intent to defer or delay a decision.

If the group is in general agreement on an issue with the exception of one or two members, the group will ask the dissenting members what it would take for them to raise their thumb. Dissenting members are responsible for proposing alternatives they believe might achieve group consensus.

Tentative agreements may be made at meetings pending the opportunity for members to consult with their necessary constituencies. This will be done on a timely basis.

Consensus discussions will include all those present. Consensus agreements must be supported (thumbs up and thumbs neutral) by the Stakeholder & Technical Advisor Group and Steering Committee members.

5. Logistics

Meeting schedule & location: TO BE DETERMINED

Meetings will be open to the public who are encouraged to voice their views and opinions within the framework of the meeting structure.

Meeting notes: distributed through GLC mailing list and posted on GLC website after review.

Code of Conduct: *Any participant in meetings of the collaborative will:*

Help create a respectful and productive working climate. We will speak our minds freely, but be brief and to the point so others may also speak. We will not rant or get on a soapbox. We will respect and comply with the behavior directions given by the facilitator. We will use a good faith effort to resolve differences through a peaceful process.

Endeavor to attend all meetings of the Collaborative and assigned committees. Recognizing that there are inevitable conflicts in scheduling that may prevent full attendance, the member will seek to be informed of actions taken at meetings at which the member is absent.

Come prepared to all meetings. The member will read materials submitted in advance of meetings and complete assignments accepted. We all value the importance of time well-spent in meetings.

Participate actively in meetings. Only through constructive dialogue among diverse stakeholders can we achieve our purpose.

Participate in and commit to complete committee work. It's where the rubber meets the road.

Challenge ideas, not people.

Give the same priority to solving the problems of others as your own.

Speak with candor. We need to be forthright with each other, avoiding the creation of false expectations, even as we strive to find points of agreement.

Treat others with respect, and listen carefully. We each bring different perspectives and histories to the Collaborative. No member and no viewpoint is less deserving than another to be heard.

Value one another's experiences. We will actively seek out differences of opinion. Disagreement can improve the group's opportunity to create better decisions.

Support the decisions of the Collaborative. Each member will report faithfully to third parties about the activities of the Collaborative and support the decisions of the Collaborative among colleagues and the public, even (especially) when it involves risk-taking beyond the comfort zone of one's core constituency. Members will not undertake actions outside of the Collaborative process intended to undermine the process.

Hold oneself and other members accountable to adherence to the purpose, convening values and goals of the Collaborative.