

## **Lolo Restoration Committee Charter** **Revised December 7, 2009**

### **Introduction**

This charter serves to guide operations of the Lolo Restoration Committee (LRC), a group of volunteers participating in a multi-party effort to influence the Forest Service implementation of the 13 Montana Forest Restoration Principles on the Lolo National Forest. The LRC is a voluntary, private initiative, not convened or managed by the Forest Service.

This charter clarifies the roles of participants in the LRC and it may be modified by consensus of LRC members during any of the Committee's meetings to respond to conditions that arise during the period of its operation.

### **Purpose of the Lolo Restoration Committee**

The LRC will work to fulfill the following objectives while supporting and implementing the 13 Montana Forest Restoration Principles:

1. Work to influence the timely implementation of the principles in appropriate locations on the Lolo National Forest.
2. Serve as an information resource and knowledge base for USFS personnel on the Lolo National Forest.
3. Identify potential project design and implementation issues and seek solutions early in the site selection and project planning process.
4. Offer the agency input/knowledge regarding the potential effects of a proposed action/activity.
5. Other relevant issues that the Committee selects by consensus.

### **Association with the Montana Forest Restoration Committee**

The LRC was established by the Montana Forest Restoration Committee (MFRC) and operates consistent with the Montana Forest Restoration Principles. The LRC's decisions are not subject to approval and/or amendment by the MFRC.

### **Membership**

1. Membership on the LRC is open to any and all interested Montana Residents who support the Montana Forest Restoration Principles and their application to the Lolo National Forest.
2. The LRC will strive to maintain a membership that represents a balance of gender and a diversity of interests in the management of forest lands on the Lolo National Forest.
3. These members will assume primary responsibility for the documentation of the Lolo RC's activities and recommendations regarding project design and implementation, consistent with the MFRC's 13 principles.
4. There are no term limits for membership on the LRC.
5. Employees of the U.S. Forest Service serve as advisors and may not serve as members of the FRCs.
6. The process for adding new members will be as follows:

- a. Any current member of the LRC can nominate someone.
  - b. If there are no objections from the full LRC to the nomination, the nominee will submit a statement to the Executive Committee on why they want to be a part of the Lolo RC and they must be at least thumbs sideways on the Restoration Principles.
  - c. The Executive Committee will act as the filter for all nominees. The EC, by consensus, will determine whether to bring the proposed member to the full LRC for discussion and approval by consensus.
7. The LRC will establish subcommittees and or working groups as needed.
  8. Members of the LRC are responsible for reviewing the notes from each meeting for accuracy and to stay informed about decisions and discussions.
  9. The LRC will designate one or more of its members to serve as Chair/Co-Chairs. The Chair(s) will be responsible for establishing and maintaining an executive committee, calling meetings, communicating LRC activities to all interested parties, and working with the MFRC to supply and receive necessary information. The Chair(s) will supervise the preparation of LRC documents and strive to ensure that all relevant LRC duties are accomplished. The Chair(s) will sit on the Steering Committee of the MFRC.
  10. The LRC executive committee will be established and managed by the Chair(s) and will consist of 3 to 5 members of the full LRC who have been nominated and approved, by consensus, by a quorum of the full LRC. The Executive Committee will be responsible for recruiting new members, communications and media outreach, conducting an annual assessment of LRC effectiveness, and other duties as approved by the LRC.
  11. At the discretion of the LRC and its chair, other roles may be assumed by other LRC members during the course of its operations. These roles may be as members or chairs of subcommittees or as leaders of specific tasks, such as information gathering, as designated by the Committee.

## **Decision Making**

1. All LRC decisions will require consensus agreement. Decision making will be assisted by a voting procedure that uses three signals: thumbs up (approval); thumbs sideways (not full agreement, but approval with some reservations); and thumbs down (disapproval).
2. Any individual who expresses disapproval will work together with other interested LRC members to develop a solution and present any possible solutions to the full LRC at the earliest possible juncture.
3. The LRC may vote in between regularly scheduled meetings by use of a mutually agreed upon online voting mechanism as long as adequate time (ideally 5-7 days) is allowed. All online votes will be held consistent with other provisions in this charter.

## **Operations**

### *Meetings*

1. Voting members of the LRC will decide on the frequency of meetings, facilitation of meetings, and other procedural activities.
2. There will be no quorum necessary for meetings to occur and LRC operations to proceed, except for those meetings where a decision is made to approve a recommendation to the MFRC and/or the Forest Service.
3. If there is going to be a key vote, the matter should be made known to members before the meeting and the Chair(s) should make a good faith effort to get the vote of

- people not present. Proxies are allowed but require notification of the chair. 50% + 1 of all voting members, in addition to diverse representation, must be in attendance or vote via a proxy for approval of a recommendation to the MFRC or the Forest Service.
4. The public is welcome to attend any meeting of the LRC. The public shall sit removed from committee members. The facilitator and/or chair(s) may provide time during the meeting to comment or address the committee.

### *Conflict*

1. If a conflict arises within the LRC or a subcommittee of the LRC, the issue shall be raised with the chair(s) of the body in which the conflict is occurring. That chair(s) may choose discuss the issue with the full body. If resolution is not achieved, the issue may be taken to the chair(s) of the next highest body.

### *Recommendations*

1. Recommendations of the LRC to the Forest Service will be submitted by the Chair(s).
2. Recommendations of the LRC's Working Groups will be submitted to the full LRC for discussion/consideration, will be reviewed by all members of the Working Groups prior to submission and will be open for revision until approved at an LRC meeting.
3. Working Group members are encouraged to make independent suggestions to the full LRC or submit other independent ideas as the need arises.

### *Timeline*

TBA

### *Dissolution and Duration*

The LRC may dissolve at any time upon an agreed upon resolution for dissolution at a LRC meeting. Dissolution will not occur before the resolution has been brought before the MFRC Steering Committee for discussion and feedback. 75% of all voting members must be in attendance for approval of a dissolution resolution. Dissolution requires a simple majority vote, not consensus.

### **Conflict of Interest**

If any member of the of the MFRC or any of its committees has a direct or indirect financial, organizational or personal interest, in any contract relating to the MFRC's or committee operations, or in any contract for furnishing services or supplies to it, or on-going litigation in a project proposed through the forest restoration committee process said member shall fully disclose this fact to the full body of which she/he is a member. Upon such disclosure the member shall either a) abstain from discussing or advocating the substance of the matter, or b) with unanimous consent of all other members, offer her/his views on the matter/issue. Member shall not be counted during decision on the matter/issue.

The disclosure, and any discussion, shall be summarized in meeting notes.