

Briefing Paper

Pacific Northwest Region – *Regional Office*

Topic: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program in the PNW

October 2014

Background: Under Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Congress established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program. The intent of this program is to plan and implement large-scale, collaboratively developed forest restoration projects that put people to work in the woods, restore forests, and reduce long-term fire management costs. The legislation authorized up to \$40 million per year for implementation of these projects over 10 years, and appropriations bills have funded this work every year since 2010.

CFLR projects were selected nationally through a competitive process, with the help of a public advisory committee. In order to be considered, each project needed to have a long-term restoration strategy and a specific collaboratively-developed proposal for the life of the project that explained how treatments would meet the goals of the program, including a proposed budget, landscape area, and monitoring plan.

The PNW now has 5 of the 23 projects selected by the Secretary of Agriculture for CFLR funding:

- Deschutes Skyline, selected in 2010
- Tapash (Okanogan-Wenatchee NFs), selected in 2010
- Lakeview Stewardship Unit (Fremont-Winema NFs) selected in 2011
- Southern Blues Restoration (Malheur NF) selected in 2011
- NEW Forest Vision 2010 (Colville NF) selected in 2011

By law, CFLR funds can only be used for project implementation and monitoring (not for planning), and must be matched by other monies (regular FS appropriations, product value, partner contributions, etc.). For example, in FY13, the five projects in the region expended \$8.4MM of CFLR funds, matched by \$12.5MM, creating an estimated 533 jobs and a total labor income of \$49.1MM. From FY15-19, Oregon projects are scheduled to receive a total of about \$35MM in CFLR investments based on their approved proposals.

The CFLR program is resulting in changes on the ground. In 2014, the five projects reported restoring more than 25,000 acres of National Forest lands, reducing hazardous forest fuels on over 74,000 acres, and selling about 110MM board feet of commercial timber. Over the 10-year life of CFLRP, about 500,000 acres of Oregon forests are planned for restoration.

Long-Term Goals: One of the biggest benefits of CFLR is the engagement of public collaboratives in the management of their forests. The projects all have engaged and enthusiastic collaborative partners, as they see landscapes restored due directly to their work with the agency. The Forest Service is serious about making effective use of the CFLR resources and our partners' energies in restoring landscapes and working collaboratively.

Summary:

- The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program is funding collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration and monitoring of 5 priority landscapes in the PNW.
- CFLR leverages local resources with national and private resources, encourages the utilization of forest restoration by-products to offset treatment costs, benefits local rural economies, improves forest health, and engages the public in management of the National Forests.



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Contact: W.C. (Bill) Aney, Eastside Restoration Coordinator

541.278.3727 waney@fs.fed.us