High-Performance Partnership Report

Third Quarter FY2014

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United States Department of Agriculture

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INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, the USDA Forest Service (USFS) has maintained a commitment to working with a variety of organizations and interests while fulfilling our motto of 'caring for the land and serving people.' As such, the agency accomplishes much of our work through collaboration with a diversity of private, non-profit, and government partners, leveraging significant energy and support towards critical USFS mission activities. Strategic investments in partner-focused efforts allows the agency to accomplish more across broad landscapes and through broader constituencies.

Innovative public-private partnerships, in particular, are increasingly accomplishing goals in the agency's high-priority focal areas: water, restoration, youth, recreation, and urban environments. These achievements support the USFS's Public Private Partnership (P3) Strategy, established in 2011 to invite a diverse array of partners and beneficiaries to share in the care of our Nation's forests and grasslands. The P3 Strategy identified a suite of national-scale public-private partnerships that have become the agency's high-performance partnerships (HPPs). The HPPs are united by new and innovative features, such as:

- *Scaling* proven smaller scale projects to much larger landscapes;
- *Enabling* the circle of partners to include more diverse and broader number of partners;
- *Expanding* a greater public appreciation of the ecosystem services and benefits that accrue to communities;
- *Developing* new pathways for leveraging partner time, talent, and treasure at a nationally significant scale such as increasing the profile and capitalizing on the fundraising ability of our congressionally chartered foundations – the National Forest Foundation (NFF), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF).

The HPPs have been identified and are pursued to their fullest extent in order to emphasize the value of public-private partnerships and promote learning across the agency and its partners. These HPPs have expanded in number as new opportunities have emerged to partner in novel ways, at scale with private companies, service organizations, and other federal, state, and local agencies. The high-priority focal areas for public-private partnerships have also evolved to keep pace with the critical challenges and opportunities facing the USFS and its partners as follows:

- *Creating Strategic Opportunities in Water and Watershed Management* - The USFS is expanding innovative partnerships with water utilities, municipalities, private landowners, other private companies, and nonprofits to promote policies and investments that support watershed restoration and water quality improvement work in priority watersheds, spotlighting the direct connection between healthy forests and clean and consistent supplies of fresh water.
- *Promoting Increased Partnerships in Healthy Forests and Restoration* - Through innovative partnerships, nonprofits, community-based practitioners, committed corporations, foundations priority forest landscapes are being restored. Through collaborative endeavors, the public and private sectors are sharing in the broad benefits of healthy,

restored forest landscapes, including clean and consistent water supplies, reduced wildfire risk, carbon sequestration, and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.

- *Strengthening and Creating Pathways for Expanded Youth Engagement* - The USFS is strengthening existing partnerships and building new relationships to reach a greater percentage of America's youth and engage them in conservation education, service and employment opportunities. Such innovative partnerships across government, nonprofits, corporations, and foundations foster the next generation of land stewards by encouraging youth to spend time in nature, promoting health, and building lasting connections to the land.
- *Fostering Synergies in Recreation and Volunteerism* - Outdoor recreation builds the agency's constituency, promotes public health, and supports local, national, and international business. The USFS is exploring new partnerships with foundations, non-profits and committed corporations to restore and adapt recreation sites to meet the needs of a diverse American public for dispersed and developed recreation opportunities.
- *Developing Connections in Urban Communities for Forests and Grasslands* - As a part of expanding its focus on connecting to urban America, the USFS is fostering mutually beneficial conservation partnerships in urban areas with local government, the private sector, universities and nonprofits to connect people to natural resource conservation. These urban natural resource partnerships can support the deployment and utilization of information and tools that enhance the management of urban natural resources.

The intent of this update is to highlight the accomplishments of these national-scale, public-private partnerships (HPPs). Although each HPP is listed in only one focal area, many of these partnerships, by their nature, are accomplishing objectives that cross or complement multiple focal areas.

Also, there are many partnerships outside of the ones highlighted here that continue to make significant contributions at all levels of the agency. Although too numerous to track in this report, it is important to note that they are equally important in accomplishing and meeting the goals outlined in the P3 Strategy. . In light of this increased attention and use of partnerships, the Chief of the USFS has directed agency leaders to use all available tools to work with government, private, and non-profit partners (through HPPs and beyond) to leverage agency resources and increase the number of organizations engaged in meaningful partnership with the USFS.

GENERAL PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

General

Cultivating mission alignment with The Wildlife Habitat Council – Recently the USFS mobilized a staff member to work directly with an existing partner (The Wildlife Habitat Council - WHC) in order to identify opportunities for further alignment of USFS priority areas with the conservation work of the WHC. The assignment included a knowledge gap analysis and a review of innovative approaches to formulate recommendations to the WHC that also could help leverage USFS resources, expand agency capacity, and carry the collaboration into the future.

"G-WOW" Initiative ramps up its third summer of climate change teacher training – The "Gikinoo'wizhiwe Onji Waaban" (Guiding for Tomorrow) or "G-WOW" Initiative is a unique and place based approach to increasing awareness of how climate change is affecting Lake Superior's coastal environment, people, cultures, and economies. Two interesting paradigms were developed during the process. One was using a Native Culture to inform and shape the development of a project. The other was using a culturally important species (wild rice) to show the effects of climate change on modern humans. Both can be replicated elsewhere, but they took shape at the traditional center of the Ojibwe World on Lake Superior. The USFS through the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center partnered with the UW-Extension, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, NOAA, and the National Parks Foundation to develop and implement this innovative project. Click here for more information.

International partnership for technology development to combat illegal logging and trade internationally – The Forest Products Laboratory, an integral part of USFS Research and Development, and USFS International Programs have produced a prototype of its machine vision (MV) automated wood ID system that identifies wood samples. The system is being tested and refined through collaboration with international partners from Germany, China, England, Japan, Brazil, and Italy. The tool is intended to be used for field-level identification by law enforcement agents and by chain of custody or other quality assurance or supply verification personnel in private enterprise. By improving the ability of law enforcement, customs officials, forest products industries, and civic organizations to more quickly and accurately identify wood, MV will enable more efficient enforcement of and compliance with anti-illegal logging laws and policies like the Lacey Act, European Union's Timber Regulations, and Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act.

Water

Convening international natural resources professionals for hands on learning and sharing on watershed management – The 7th International Seminar on Watershed Management was held in the southwestern United States with 26 participants from 21 different countries in the spring of 2014. This seminar is designed for mid-career professionals who desire to take part in an interactive and intensive training and exchange program on integrated watershed management, including managing competing demands and conflicts as well as exploring the economic value of water and innovative solutions for sustaining and creating financial incentives that promote best management practices. The program is sponsored by the USFS International Programs with key inputs from many USFS units, private sector, NGOs, universities, and state and local government partners. Click here for additional information here.

Restoration

Innovative local investments in preventing wildfires could help offset the projected shortage of federal funds to fight them – In May 2014, more than 100 land managers, scientists, policy-makers and people from the private sector attended a workshop, "Investing in Restoration: Arizona's Forests and Watersheds," in Tempe, Arizona to brainstorm on how local communities can mitigate for wildfire by keeping their ecosystems healthy. The key goal was to identify local-scale funding mechanisms that could fast-track fire risk reduction measures, which have become particularly urgent in the face of the looming shortage of federal funds. Some of the most promising ideas that emerged included: instituting municipal water fees, biomass burning, establishing revenue bonds, and securing corporate donors. See additional information by clicking here.

Developing climate-smart adaptation strategies and implementation plans in Southern California – The California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) provided funding to EcoAdapt to conduct a vulnerability assessment, develop climate-smart adaptation strategies and actions, and generate implementation plans for focal habitats of the South and Central Coast regions of the CALCC, with a specific focus on four Southern California National Forests (Angeles, San Bernardino, Cleveland, and Los Padres). See additional information by clicking here.

Youth

Partnership for Youth engagement with underrepresented groups hits its stride in third year – A partnership introducing young minorities to the work of the USFS continues to grow between the USFS, Eastern Region (R9), Northern Research Station (NRS), Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, the National Hispanic Environmental Council, and 9th Annual Minority Youth Residential Environmental STEM Institute (New York). In addition to serving as a major sponsor for the STEM Institute this year, the USFS will hire 11 youth to work at various Region 9 and NRS units using the Youth Conservation Corps authority. Click here for additional information.

Mobilizing youth to gather meaningful natural resources career experiences and restore trails in North Carolina and Tennessee – The USFS Southern Region (R8), in partnership with the Wilderness Society and Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, mobilized a team of five corps members to complete a re-route of the Appalachian Trail and restore/manage other trails in important Wilderness Areas. See additional information by clicking here.

Recreation

50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act – To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the USFS has engaged a coalition of agency, non-profit, and university partners to host over 550 local communication events nationwide and three national events in the fall: the opening of the "Wilderness Forever" photography exhibit in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History on September 3, the actual Wilderness Act anniversary; Wilderness Week, hosted on Capitol Hill September 15-17; the first national gathering of the wilderness community in 25 years, the National Wilderness Conference and the public, outdoor 'Get Wild' Festival, held October 15-19 in Albuquerque, NM. See additional information by clicking here.

Get Outdoors Colorado event – On June 14th, the Get Outdoors Colorado partner collaborative hosted its seventh annual National Get Outdoors Day (GO Day) event at City Park in Denver, CO. The event introduced the inaugural GO Play! 5K race this year, along with over one hundred exhibitors from partner agencies and organizations. GO Day Denver drew approximately 10,000 visitors. The event featured a Great Outdoors Month Proclamation by Colorado Governor Hickenlooper and a 70th birthday celebration for Smokey Bear. See additional information by clicking here.

Urban Communities

Bringing urban forestry and the USFS to an international audience – WGBH (public broadcasting station) in Boston is helping bring urban forestry and the USFS to an international audience through PLUM LANDING, a new multi-media learning adventure for kids ages 6-9 that went live April 17, 2014. PLUM LANDING is using televised live and animated short videos, along with an interactive website, apps, social media and public service learning projects, to connect kids and families to nature. The USFS is featured in two live action videos which are part of this project – A Forest in the City and A City in the Forest, and is supporting outreach efforts with funding and expertise.

Engaging urban audiences to promote awareness and access to public lands in California – The USFS Southwest Pacific Region (R5) has been invited to work with the Western National Parks Association (WNPA) in developing an urban visitor center in downtown Los Angeles for nearby parks and national forests. The Center plans to open by the fall of 2015 and anticipates high public traffic and connection, particularly among diverse and under-served populations.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP HEADLINES
APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2014

Water and Watershed Management

National Water Replenishment and Enhancement Initiative – During this quarter, the USFS, Coca-Cola Company, and the National Forest Foundation (NFF) finalized 2014 restoration project selections. Coca-Cola committed $280,000 in support of projects on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Huron-Manistee National Forest and Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest. These projects, facilitated through the NFF, will help Coca-Cola achieve their 1 billion liter (~264 million gallon) replenishment goal as well as improve conditions of critical watersheds managed by the USFS.

Rocky Mountain Watershed Protection Partnership – The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest is participating in the development of a market-based "Colorado Conservation Exchange" that could help fund watershed restoration work on public and private lands in the Big Thompson and Poudre River watersheds. Potential financial investors include Northern Colorado water utilities, local breweries, and other community stakeholders.

Wasatch Legacy Project – The WLP funding subcommittee has met to develop additional funding mechanisms for partnership projects. Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort will be hosting a WLP fundraising event during their Oktoberfest activities this year. The group is exploring opportunities to use consumer incentives and other mechanisms to fund the partnership.

Western Watershed Enhancement Partnership – Washington State appropriated $132 million for the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) with a 50-50 cost-share requirement and allocated $25 million for the YRBWEP through their WaterSMART program. Efforts are currently underway to find federal funds to support a variety of projects that were idenified in the Record of Decision.

Healthy Forests and Restoration

America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative – As a part of ongoing USFS supported work on Longleaf Pine restoration, The Nature Conservancy recently completed a publication Longleaf Pine: Protecting and Restoring and American Treasure. The publication provides an excellent overview of the importance of longleaf pine forests and the range-wide partnership that is in place. The publication highlights the 17 local implementation teams and their collaborative work within significant geographic areas.

California Restoration with Power and Water Utilities – In June 2014, California allocated $42 million of its Cap and Trade Investment Funds to CalFire for forest restoration work. This allocation is significant because it is expected to continue in the future, with funding levels to be determined in the state's annual budget process. R5 has worked intensively with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and the State of California to orient Cap and Trade Investment Funds to forest restoration on both public and private lands as well as for support of biomass transportation and processing infrastructure.

Carbon Sequestration and Reforestation on National Forests – NFF is continuing to work with Spatial Informatics Group to develop a new carbon methodology for the restoration of southwestern ponderosa pine ecosystems. This effort is jointly supported by Salt River Project and the USFS.

NFF's Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences Campaign – NFF staff hosted former President Jimmy Carter and Senator Michael Bennet on the Camp Hale, White River National Forest campaign site to discuss the history of the site, ongoing collaborative planning efforts, and future restoration plans.

Western Utilities Fuel Reduction and Fire Protection Partnership – The Rocky Mountain Region (R2) and Xcel Energy finalized its five-year and annual partnership investment plans in June 2014. Total 5-year investments will be $4.1 million, with approximately $1.2 million to be contributed by Xcel Energy. Partnership goals include reducing hazardous fuels on 3,350 acres and treatments around 326 high priority transmission structures on three National Forests (Arapaho-Roosevelt, Pike-San Isabel, and White River).

Youth Engagement

21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) – As a part of the USFS emphasis on 21CSC efforts, 4,504 youth and 134 veterans have been engaged thus far in FY14 in meaningful conservation work. $10 million of USFS resources to date have been deployed in this effort thus far mobilizing nearly 1:1 partner leverage.

Youth Engagement in Conservation Initiative – Significant progress was made in the implementation of the 2014 Next Generation granting program sponsored through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), announcing nearly $2,000,000 in federal funds to diverse partnerships across the country that employ youth in meaningful conservation work. These federal funds will be matched by nearly $6,000,000 in non-federal funds, and will reach more than 600 youth. Project selections were finalized and announced by Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Under Secretary Butch Blazer in Denver, CO on May 22, 2014. Additional program information is available by clicking here.

Recreation and Volunteerism

Recreation Restoration, Adaptation, and Ski Area Campaign – The USFS has finalized policy guidelines (final directives were published in the Federal Register April 17, 2014) that will open opportunities for ski areas to promote year-round recreation activities that are natural resource-based and that will create additional jobs for local communities. These directives may also lead to more donations towards innovative recreation-based funds (e.g., the NFF ski funds), strengthening such program's effectiveness and resource improvement programs.

Urban Environment

Baltimore Restoration Partnership – State and regional leaders endorsed the need for Urban Tree Canopy goals and measures. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley held a special Governor's roundtable in April to discuss the need for a statewide strategy for protecting and expanding the state's tree cover. The roundtable featured the use and value of urban tree canopy (UTC) assessment, prioritization, and marketing tools pioneered by USFS scientists. The Governors of the Chesapeake Bay states, the Mayor of DC, and the EPA Administrator also signed the first quantitative urban tree canopy goal agreement as part of the Chesapeake Bay restoration strategy, establishing a clear need for UTC analysis tools (June 16).

Urban Waters Federal Partnership – As a part of the Green/Duwamish Rivers (Seattle) UWFP, and in partnership with EPA, NRCS and King County, the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station are demonstrating how economic incentives may be used to encourage private landowners to both improve water quality by reducing sediments and nutrients and restore native salmon habitat in the Middle Green. Farmers will be offered incentives to implement conservation practices or improve riparian land use.

High-Performance Partnerships

Quarterly Accomplishments and Ongoing Efforts

Creating Strategic Opportunities in Water and Watershed Management

National Water Replenishment and Enhancement Initiative

In 2011, the USFS through its congressionally chartered non-profit foundations (the National Forest Foundation – NFF; and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - NFWF) began working with the Coca-Cola Company (Coca-Cola) to restore watersheds and forested lands across the country. The organizations share mutual interest in watershed health: Coca-Cola is pursuing its sustainability and water replenishment goals, while the USFS and its foundations are ensuring an ample, clean drinking water supply and healthy fish/wildlife habitat. Funded projects rely on locally based partners, employees, and community volunteers to improve habitat.

In 2014, the following projects are underway:

- Prairie Creek Restoration (R9- Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie) - Building on the success of Coca-Cola's investment in 2013 at Midewin, this project removes at least twice the amount of drain tiles, which will improve groundwater infiltration, increase surface sheet flow, increase the time water is held on site in wetlands developed by tile removal, improve water quality and improve the regularity of flows in Prairie Creek. The USFS and NFF are working with The Wetlands Initiative (TWI).
- Upper Methow River Watershed (R6- Okanagan-Wenatchee NF) – This project aims to re-establish beavers in the Methow River watershed to places where they occurred historically. This re-introduction will result in dams that store surface water for late season delivery, raise groundwater levels, lower stream temperatures, and improve rearing and winter habitat for salmonids. Other partners involved include: the NFF, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Colville Confederated Tribes, NFWF, Western Native Trout Initiative, USFWS, Ecotrust, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, The Yakama National, Reclamation, and the Methow Watershed Council.
- Brayton Creek (R9- Huron Manistee NF) – This project involves the removal and replacement of one road stream crossing (two existing under-sized culverts) with a structure that is appropriate for the road and stream system. As a result, Brayton Creek will be returned to its natural channel and any downstream scouring will be eliminated. Gravel substrate will be uncovered, providing enhanced spawning opportunities for native fish. Other partners involved in this effort include: NFF, Oceana County Road Commission, and Great Lakes Fishery Trust.

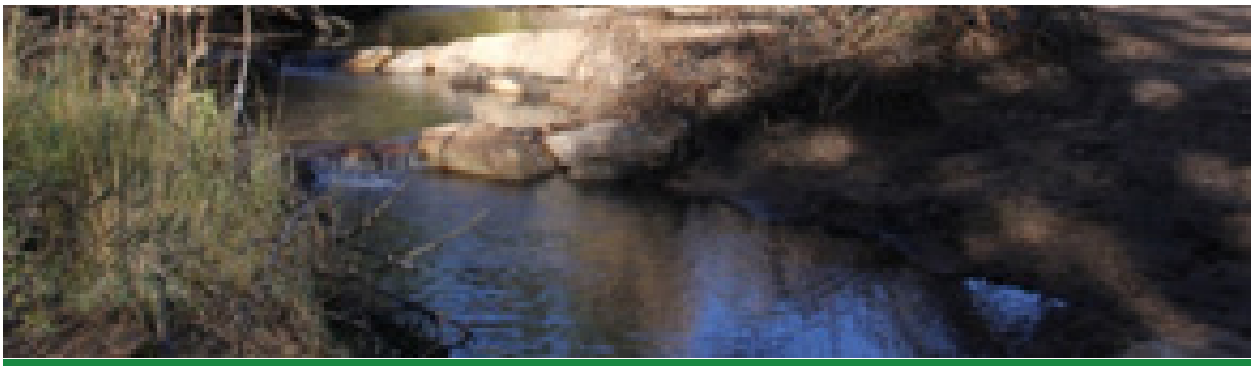
National Water Replenishment and Enhancement Initiative (continued)

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- During this quarter, the USFS, Coca-Cola, and NFF finalized 2014 project selections. Coca-Cola committed to funding up to $280,000 in projects located on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Huron-Manistee National Forest and Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest. These projects will help Coca-Cola achieve their 1 billion liter (~264 million gallon) replenishment goal, as well as improve watershed condition on USFS lands.
- The NFF is committed to matching these funds 1:1 dollars for projects within Treasured Landscapes sites (Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest) and a 0.5:1 match for projects outside of Treasured Landscapes sites (Huron-Manistee National Forest).
- Replenishment values for these projects were estimated to be total of 135-148 million gallons.
- The first successful beaver release occurred at the Upper Methow Beaver Reintroduction site in early June. These activities were documented and posted on the NFF website. The groundwater storage capacity for each beaver release is estimated at 36 million gallons per year. See the following for more information - http://www.nationalforests.org/blog/beavers-make-a-new-home-in-the-methow
- The NFF worked with the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Denver, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, and Colorado College to host a Friends of the Forest volunteer day on April 26th to repair a portion of the South Platte River watershed still suffering from the effects of the 12-year-old Hayman Fire.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- The USFS is working with Coca Cola to become more strategic in our approach to meeting restoration objectives, which includes concentrated efforts on focal landscapes. The Rio Grande Basin among other areas is under review.
- Work on the three 2014 projects will be initiated this summer and completed by the end fiscal year.
- Planning for late summer or fall field visits of Coca-Cola executives and partners to each of the 2014 partnership project sites is underway.



Rocky Mountain Watershed Protection Partnership

The USFS Rocky Mountain Region (R2) has been working with municipal water providers and corporations along the Front Range of Colorado to restore and foster the resiliency of over 40,000 acres of forested watersheds on National Forest System and private lands. The goals are to mitigate the effects of the pine beetle epidemic, reduce the risk of severe impacts from wildfires, maintain water quality, and restore areas burned by past wildfires.

Key partners involved in this initiative include: Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, Northern Water Conservancy, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Pueblo Board of Water Works, the National Forest Foundation (NFF), Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Vail Resorts, Miller Coors, and the Coca-Cola Company (Coca-Cola). Numerous other corporate, philanthropic, and non-profit partners have also been involved over the life of this initiative.

Since 2009, these partners have contributed $15 million and plan to invest another $13 million by 2018. Partner funds are being leveraged with federal appropriations to bring the anticipated total 10 year investment (2009-2018) to $56 million. Comprehensive partnership accomplishments to date include:

- 364,000 trees planted;
- 24,620 acres of hazardous fuels treatments completed;
- 355 acres of wetlands and riparian areas restored;
- 90 acres of invasive species treatments;
- 80 miles of trails and roads restored, constructed or decommissioned;
- 4 miles of stream channels reconstructed;
- 2,685 volunteers engaged with 19,000 volunteer hours; and,
- 1,065 youth employed or engaged.

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- For the Denver Water partnership, R2 completed 3,432 acres of hazardous fuel

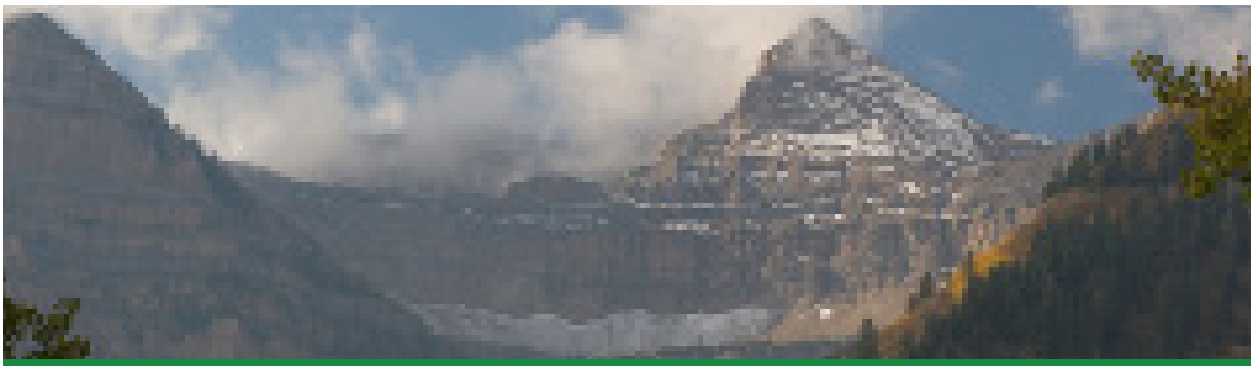
Rocky Mountain Watershed Protection Partnership (continued)

treatments this quarter, bringing the total acre accomplishment to 24,187 through the life of the partnership. Another 11,780 acres of hazardous fuel and reforestation projects are currently underway.

- For the Colorado Springs Utilities partnership, R2 completed 300 acres of hazardous fuel treatments near Crystal Creek Reservoir and initiated scoping for environmental analysis on 67,000 acres for a project on the Pikes Peak Ranger District. Current work includes wildlife surveys and a 200 acre mastication project.
- For the Aurora Water partnership, the NFF secured an additional $65,000 of contributions from Aurora Water (utility under the City of Aurora) which will be matched 1:1 by NFF to complete watershed restoration work along Trail Creek in the Hayman Burn area.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- R2 will continue discussions with Denver Water and the Colorado State Forest Service to explore expanding partnership efforts to include work on private lands in key watersheds. R2 will also continue working on a project opportunity list for fiscal years 2016-2020 to inform potential renewal of the Denver Water partnership.
- The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest will continue working with Reclamation, Northern Water Conservancy, and the Colorado State Forest Service to implement projects on private and public lands. Reclamation is planning to invest approximately $55,000 to support treatment at the East Portal of the Adams Tunnel that services the Colorado-Big Thompson (CBT) Partnership project.
- The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest is participating in the development of a market-based "Colorado Conservation Exchange" that could help fund watershed restoration work on public and private lands in the Big Thompson and Poudre River watersheds. Potential financial investors include Northern Colorado water utilities (e.g. Ft Collins Utilities, Greeley Water and Sewer, and City of Loveland Water), local breweries (e.g. New Belgium, Odell, and Anheuser-Busch), and other stakeholders.
- The Pike-San Isabel and White River National Forests are finalizing an MOU with Reclamation, Colorado State Forest Service, and South East Colorado Water Conservancy District to implement hazardous fuel reduction, post-wildfire mitigation, and forest health treatments in the Frying Pan and Arkansas watersheds near Reclamation facilities. This agreement is expected to replicate the CBT MOU. The MOU is anticipated to be executed by August 2014. Also contributes to the Western Watershed Enhancement HPP.
- The Pike-San Isabel and White River National Forests are also in early planning stages of establishing a larger collaborative in the Frying Pan-Arkansas that will prioritize watershed and forest health treatments and restoration. A variety of government, non-profit and private entities have expressed interest.



Wasatch Legacy Project

The Wasatch Legacy Project (WLP) is a partnership focused on sustainable recreation and improved watershed management along the Wasatch Front outside of Salt Lake City. The WLP is framed by an over-arching Memorandum of Understanding among all members of the partnership and multiple Cost Share and Participating Agreements to execute projects in the watersheds above Salt Lake City. For the past three years, the Uinta- Wasatch-Cache National Forest has contributed approximately $500,000 annually towards WLP projects (however in FY14 the amount, to date, has increased to approximately $700,000). This contribution has been matched nearly 1:1 by various partners

The WLP includes partners with state and local municipalities, ski resorts, non-profit organizations, and outdoor retailers, including: Alta Ski Lifts, Big Cottonwood Community Council, Brighton Ski Resort, Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Friends of Alta, Millcreek Community Council, Salt Lake City Corporation, Salt Lake Climber's Alliance, Salt Lake County, Save Our Canyons, Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, Solitude Ski Resort, State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources, Town of Alta, and the Wasatch Front Regional Council. In 2013, the WLP joined forces with the National Forest Foundation and became part of NFF's "Treasured Landscapes Campaign."

The WLP has a 3-year action plan that outlines annual projects such as trail restoration and maintenance, invasive species management, and youth conservation education.. In addition to these projects, the WLP has four large-scale restoration projects that are in various stages of planning and implementation:

- The Millcreek Native Fish Restoration Project-restoring native Bonneville cutthroat trout and historic stream channel conditions along 9 miles of stream in the Millcreek drainage. Total approximate cost is $1 million. In FY14 the Forest has invested $400,000, which has been matched 3:1 through partner contributions.
- The Silver Lake Visitors Center and Boardwalk Project-installing new interpretive materials in the Silver Lake Visitors Center and reconstruction of the boardwalk through the wetland that is utilized summer and winter. To date, the Forest and Salt Lake City have spent about $200,000 on interpretive sign design and construction.

Wasatch Legacy Project (continued)

In FY14, the USFS is spending approximately $75,000 for geotechnical reports and project design for the boardwalk.

- The Grit Mill Project-removing a broken down grit mill along the Little Cottonwood Canyon road, providing parking and interpretive signage for accessing popular climbing areas. In FY14, the Forest and partners completed the environmental analysis and design phase. Approximately $100,000 is also planned in FY 2014for demolition of the building and parking lot construction, mainly funded by the USFS and in-kind donations from partners.
- The Columbia/Rexall Mine Reclamation-remediation design and installation to improve water quality of the ground and surface water coming from this mine area. Salt Lake County developed the project design for the remediation. The NFF is working with the Tiffany& Company Foundation to fund part of this work.

Annually the Forest and other WLP partners complete:

- Approximately 150 miles of trail maintenance and restoration
- 10,000 hours of conservation education programming
- 200 acres of invasive species management

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- The analysis and environmental planning has been completed for the Millcreek Restoration, Grit Mill and Silver Lake projects.
- The WLP had its quarterly partnership meeting at the Silver Lake visitor complex to collaboratively review the boardwalk proposal and future site of interpretive panels.
- WLP member and director of partner group Cottonwood Canyons Foundation received the Intermountain Region Volunteer Organization award recognizing their outstanding contributions and commitment.
- WLP member, Save Our Canyons, is working with the Utah Conservation Corps and volunteers to survey visitors in three canyons within the WLP area. This survey will help the WLP better understand how visitors utilize the area and what they are looking for in their recreational experience. The WLP worked with Utah State University to use the same protocols as were developed for the USFS National Visitor Use Monitoring surveys.
- The Millcreek Fish Restoration project is in year 2 of implementation. Culvert replacement is underway (FS and FWS funding); finalizing the NEPA decision and Memorandum of Agreement with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office to allow removal of the historic dam (barrier) and power plant remnants; and design work will be complete on the barrier at Log Haven this summer with private funds from Trout Unlimited and PacifiCorp and implementation support from the State of Utah's heavy equipment operators.

Wasatch Legacy Project (continued)

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- The WLP has several activities planned for the summer around improvements to the Silver Lake Visitor's Center and surrounding trails. The new interpretive signs have been delayed; however installation is still expected at the Visitor's Center in August. The WLP is planning a "grand reopening" and media event involving the Salt Lake City and County mayors and other dignitaries. These new interpretive signs explain the importance of the watershed and clean water that it provides to the citizens of the Salt Lake Valley.
- The WLP now has a website which is intended to improve awareness of the Partnership and feature accomplishments and upcoming work events. It includes a calendar, which provides information and links to volunteer opportunities.
- The WLP continues to add members to the partnership, in the past quarter including two new partners: Big Cottonwood Community Council and Millcreek Community Council.
- The WLP funding subcommittee has met to develop additional funding mechanisms for partnership projects. Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort will be hosting a WLP fundraising event during their Oktoberfest activities this year. The group is exploring opportunities to use consumer incentives and other mechanisms to fund the partnership.
- The WLP communication committee has developed a Communication Strategy and several products to be used to raise awareness of the partnership. In addition, the WLP produced a YouTube video of the Millcreek Native Fish Restoration project.

Western Watershed Enhancement Project

By filtering rain and snowmelt and regulating runoff and soil erosion, healthy forests provide a supply of water for critical environmental functions and drinking water for millions of people. Managing water resources for drinking water supplies, agricultural production, flood control, hydroelectric power generation and holistic ecosystem benefits requires national cooperation in water conservation activities. The increasing magnitude of environmental and economic stressors affecting water supplies necessitates a collaborative, common and integrated approach to identifying opportunities to work together as partners in the stewardship of key water resources across the national landscape.

In support of the Western Watershed Enhancement Project, the US Departments of Agriculture and Interior established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in July 2013 to accomplish common goals and interests in water supply, quality, conservation, and watershed function. Additionally, related common interests will be addressed to improve wildlife habitat, restore wildfire-damaged resources, and reduce the risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire. Through this MOU, the USFS and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) have begun a new chapter of Federal cooperation, beginning with six pilot projects in the Northern, Rocky Mountain, Southwestern, Intermountain, Pacific Southwest, and Pacific Northwest USFS Regions. These pilots are designed to improve watershed functions and reduce the risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire across jurisdictional boundaries. This effort will also benefit water supply, irrigation, and hydroelectric customers over the long term. Working collaboratively with water users, the pilots will develop an avoided-cost approach, leveraging other USFS investments with partner contributions to support site-specific treatments.

- Rocky Mountain Region (R2) Colorado-Big Thompson Partnership (CBT): The MOU established in December 2012 includes the Reclamation, Northern Water Conservancy, and the Colorado State Forest Service. An initial partner investment of $190,000 in 2013 is helping support hazardous fuel treatments on 150 acres of private land. Also contributes to the Rocky Mountain Watershed HPP.
- Southwestern Region (R3) Pilot: The USFS is conducting restoration activities on forest and grasslands in the watersheds that drain into the C.C. Cragin-Blue Ridge Reservoir in partnership with Reclamation, Salt River Project (SRP), National Forest

Western Watershed Enhancement Project (continued)

Foundation (NFF) and the city of Payson, Arizona. These activities are designed to restore forest resiliency and function by decreasing the chance for uncharacteristic disturbances such as crown fire, and increasing the forest's capability to resist disturbance.

- Intermountain Region (R4) Pilot: This partnership is focused on watersheds adjacent to Reclamation's Anderson Ranch Reservoir, part of their Boise Project. Large fires adjacent to these reservoirs in 2012 and 2013 have shifted the USFS focus to fire recovery and restoration in the short- and mid-term related to the Trinity Ridge (2012) and Elk Complex (2013) fires.
- Pacific Southwest Region (R5): The Region continues to work with Reclamation to engage in their "WaterSmart Basin Plans," a large scale planning effort in three key California watersheds: the Truckee River Basin, the Sacramento/San Joaquin Basin and the Klamath River Basin. R5 and partners are contributing information for an avoided cost analyses to these plans to identify risks, costs, and mitigations for water delivery related to watershed health and fire risk.
- Pacific Northwest Region (R6) Pilot: This partnership is part of a larger effort around the Yakima Integrated Plan, which is focused on increasing water storage on existing Reclamation reservoirs within the Yakima Basin. Reclamation manages five reservoirs that surround the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Reclamation and the Washington Department of Ecology launched the Yakama Basin Integrated Plan in 2013. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is listed as a 'Cooperating Agency'. Proposed actions under the plan include habitat and watershed protection projects.

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- R3 Pilot: A coordination meeting occurred on 24 April 2014 with the partners at the Camp Verde Office of Salt River Project.
- R4 Pilot: The Boise National Forest is currently focused on proximate mitigation of effects from both fires through post-fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) work.
- R5 Pilot: A Truckee River Basin meeting was jointly hosted by Reclamation and R5 on April 16 to focus partners and stakeholders on watershed health and its link to secure water supply. The all-day meeting engaged agencies, NGOs and elected officials who are interested in the health of the Truckee watershed.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- R2 Pilot: The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest will continue working with

Western Watershed Enhancement Project (continued)

Reclamation, Northern Water Conservancy, and the Colorado State Forest Service to implement projects on private and public lands. The project is currently under contract and is being implemented. Reclamation made an initial contribution of $22,000 through an interagency agreement that will be used this summer to implement a fuel treatment project located at the West Portal for the Adams Tunnel of the CBT Project. Another 210 acres are planned for implementation in 2014 with approximately $145,000 in contributions from Reclamation and Northern Water. Also contributes to the Rocky Mountain Watershed HPP.

- R3 Pilot: NEPA analysis will begin in FY 2015 and is scheduled for completion in 2017. The anticipated level of analysis includes preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) to document effects, and will focus on the south central portion of the Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest within and adjacent to 6th code watersheds (East Clear Creek-Blue Ridge Reservoir, Miller Canyon and Bear Canyon) that drain into the reservoir. Wildlife and stand exam surveys in support of Four Forest Restoration Initiative task orders and future project analysis are underway. As applicable, this data can be used in any future analysis within the watersheds of interest. The C. C. Cragin-Blue Ridge Reservoir Forest Restoration Project NEPA work plan has been developed and approved for funding for approximately $154,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15).
- R4 Pilot: Fire rehabilitation efforts continue on the disturbed site. The Reclamation sites will be reevaluated to determine future work needed.
- R5 Pilot: The first phase of the Truckee River and Sacramento/San Joaquin studies are progressing and forest, region and key partners are engaged. The Region continues to track and identify potential public engagement in the Santa Ana and Los Angeles River Basin studies. In addition, R5 hopes to use the Mokelumne Analysis and an Earth Economic Analysis of the Rim Fire costs (commissioned by the San Francisco PUC) to inform these studies.
- R6 Pilot: Washington State appropriated $132 million for the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) with a 50-50 cost-share requirement and allocated $25 million for the YRBWEP through their WaterSMART program. Efforts are underway to find federal funds for projects identified in the Record of Decision.

Promoting Increased Partnerships in Healthy Forests and Restoration

America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative

The longleaf pine ecosystem once covered approximately 90 million acres in the Southern United States—but, by the early 1990s, 97 percent of this ecosystem had been lost. Diverse public and private partners began working in earnest in the 1980s and are continuing today to restore longleaf pine forests back into the southern landscape. In 2007, the USFS, Department of Defense, and US Fish and Wildlife Service harnessed a growing, multi-state interest in longleaf restoration. Alongside a Regional Working Group, these partners developed a Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine. The America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) is facilitated and managed collaboratively through the 33-member Regional Longleaf Partnership Council (LPC), a Federal Coordinating Committee, numerous state and local implementation teams, and several technical teams. The partners contributing through these various structures are numerous and can be found by clicking here. The public and private partners involved in the ALRI accomplished 1.38 million acres of longleaf restoration work in 2013 according to a report released in February by the LPC. All the findings and recommendations of the full report can be found on the ALRI partnership website.

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- The Longleaf Partnership Council met on April 7-8, 2014 in Biloxi, Mississippi. The LPC discussed plans to hold a 5-Year Celebration event in Washington DC during the summer and formed a planning workgroup. The LPC agreed to move forward with development of a communication strategy, 2014 Range-wide Accomplishment Report, and formed a workgroup to further explore a role for the Longleaf Stewardship Fund (LSF)/ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in the NRCS competitive Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- The Annual Southern Company/NFWF Partners Meeting took place held April 8-10, 2014 in Biloxi, Mississippi. This meeting recognized the many partners involved in longleaf restoration effort and showcased the work of the USFS supported Longleaf Stewardship Fund.
- The LPC formed the Gulf Recovery Team, which has convened several conference calls to help coordinate with partner organizations and to help collectively make the case that longleaf pine can help with gulf recovery. The Team continues to coordinate

America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (continued)

with state partners in Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama to develop understanding of longleaf related project proposals that are underway.

- As a part of ongoing USFS supported work on Longleaf Pine restoration, The Nature Conservancy recently completed a publication Longleaf Pine: Protecting and Restoring and American Treasure. The publication provides an excellent overview of the importance of longleaf pine forests and the range-wide partnership that is in place. The publication highlights the 17 local implementation teams and their collaborative work within significant geographic areas.
- The report Longleaf Pine Economics: Large Acreage Landowner Perspectives and Opportunities was completed for the NFWF by Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center based upon findings from a workshop held in January 2014. The report provides discussion and recommendations for (1) Market Development, (2) Growth and Yield, Tree Improvements, and Siliviculture, (3) Large-Landowner Incentives, and (4) Motivations, Barriers, and Opportunities for Longleaf Management.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- Planning is well underway for national anniversary events in Washington DC on July 22-23 in the Whitten Bldg. The event – progress and promise - will celebrate the partnership's successes and point to the future in maintaining the momentum to achieve the 8 million acre restoration goal. On July 22 the NFWF will hold a one hour press event to announce 2014 Longleaf Stewardship Fund grant awards. USDA Undersecretary Robert Bonnie will participate in the event, as well as executives from the Southern Company and International Paper. Afterwards, Secretary Vilsack will host a one-hour panel discussion with Chief Tidwell and others (includes representatives from USFWS, DOD, NGOs, industry, and private landowners). The last event on the 22nd will be a reception and awards event hosted by Chief Tidwell and Chief Weller, NRCS. On July 23 Robert Bonnie will convene a discussion with a core group of NGOs on out-year restoration needs for years 6-10 in light of declining federal budgets and a documented need to increase longleaf restoration on private lands.
- Other upcoming events: (1) International Paper's 1st Annual Forestland Stewards Stakeholder Forum - September 11-12, 2014, Charleston, South Carolina; (2) Longleaf Partnership Council Meeting – October 20-21, 2014, Mobile, Alabama; (3) Longleaf Alliance 10th Biennial Conference – October 21-24, 2014, Mobile, Alabama (ALRI 5-Year Celebration Regional Event – October 23, 2014 (as part of Conference), Mobile, Alabama).

California Ecological Restoration with Power and Water Utilities

Half of all surface water in California originates from national forest watersheds, with downstream consumers realizing an estimated value of nearly $10 billion every year. This partnership brings beneficiaries of these watersheds together to overcome resource challenges, including: (1) finding support for ecological restoration and reduce wildfire threat in critical headwaters and near key utility transmission lines; and (2) maintaining and expanding the biomass infrastructure needed to increase the pace and scale of restoration activities in California's forests. The overarching aim is to increase restoration work from 250,000 acres/year to 500,000 acres/year over the next 15-20 years. Partners in this initiative include: the USFS, the State of California, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA),Transmission Agency of Northern California, Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), the Nature Conservancy (TNC), Environmental Defense Fund, Sustainable Conservation, the National Forest Foundation (NFF), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Coca-Cola, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

The guiding document for this work is the USFS Region 5 (R5) Leadership Intent for Ecological Restoration which is supported by a diverse array of employees, partners and communities across the region. A companion document, a draft Ecological Restoration Implementation Plan, can be accessed here.

A suite of agreements, ranging in total length from one to five years, have been established to further implementation. In total $2.5 million committed agency dollars have leveraged an additional $6.5 million in partner dollars committed through length of all agreements.

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- The Mokelumne River "Avoided Cost Analysis" partnership analyzed and quantified future risks and costs utilities, ratepayers and tax payers may incur from large-scale

California Ecological Restoration with Power and Water Utilities (continued)

disturbance. It also looked at investments that could be taken to avoid these costs. The analysis is complete and was publically released in April. Partners include East Bay MUD, PG&E, and SNC, TNC, communities and other NGOs. Formal briefings with USFS and other agency leadership were held in April, as well. The Executive Summary and full report can be found by clicking here.

- In June 2014, California allocated $42 million of its Cap and Trade Investment Funds to CalFire for forest restoration work. This allocation is significant because it is expected to continue in the future, with funding levels to be determined in the state's annual budget process. R5 has worked intensively with the SNC and the State of California to orient Cap and Trade Investment Funds to forest restoration on both public and private lands as well as for support of biomass transportation and processing infrastructure.
- The San Bernardino NF is restoring a meadow within the Bluff Mesa project (Santa Ana River watershed). The Forest is using Helicopter logging this year to remove tree encroachment and improving the water table. The Forest is mobilizing staff, as well as volunteers from the Cal State University system, for pre- and post-treatment monitoring.
- The NFF staff is working to develop and implement multiple restoration projects covering riparian and chaparral habitats within the Treasured Landscapes site on the Angeles National Forest. Specific events include: The annual Spring volunteer day with 100 Alcoa employees to clean and repair Vogel Flats Picnic Area; co-hosted California (April) and National Trails Day (June) events in the Angeles NF with more than 150 participants; and led a Living Learning Laboratory volunteer day with 35 youth from John Marshall HS at Wildwood Picnic Area.
- The Cleveland National Forest initiated implementation of a project to attempt eradication of feral pigs in San Diego County in FY 2014.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- The next step of the Mokelumne River "Avoided Cost Analysis" partnership will be for the region and partners to work with key beneficiaries to both understand the analysis and to explore potential investments in the watershed. The Region also hopes to use the analysis in other watersheds such as those being studied in Reclamation's Basin Plans.
- As part of the Chaparral Initiative, the Region provided $320,000 to fund the beginning of a three year pilot study of the Santa Clara River Watershed in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. The Region will quantify the ecological and economic value of ecosystem services provided by the watershed across federal and non-federal lands under current conditions. The Region will then estimate the impact

California Ecological Restoration with Power and Water Utilities (continued)

of (a) four major fires in the watershed on these services (the Copper, Ranch Sayre and Piru) and how this changes over time, and (b) project how these services will change under future climates. This assessment will heighten public awareness of often undervalued and underappreciated non-forest landscapes by providing their $ value/acre; highlight the contribution of national forest lands to providing ecosystem services for the public; and ultimately to provide a foundation for developing market-based approaches to conservation on private lands, as well as developing strategies for funding restoration through Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes. The region will be working with partners to obtain funding for years 2 and 3 of this project.

- The region will also be participating in a new interagency effort, the Forest Climate Action Team. This team was tasked by the Cap and Trade legislation (Assembly Bill 32) to develop a Carbon Action Plan by the end of 2016. They will hold their kickoff meeting at the Governor's office on July 14, 2014.
- The restoration of the Rim Fire burned area has created a tremendous opportunity for collaboration and partnership with a wide variety of agencies and NGO's. Both the needs and opportunities are great. The Region estimates that there will be a need to plant approximately 35,000 acres as well as other meadow restoration, cultural site restoration and noxious weed removal. This area is not only loved by many both regionally and nationally but is the primary watershed for San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area providing 85% percent of water used by 2.6 million customers. Forest restoration and the protection of safe water delivery systems throughout the region is a priority for many partners, including: San Francisco PUC, PG&E, NFF, SNC, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties, tribal government and local and national NGO's. The Region is exploring many partnership opportunities (e.g., NPS, local utilities, etc.) and concepts (e.g., landscape level restoration projects). The Region has been working SNC who recently committed 1 million dollars to Rim Fire Restoration. The forest is now beginning work with the Yosemite Stanislaus Collaborative to leverage these funds and utilize this seed money to create larger partnerships and expand restoration efforts.
- The Region, the Cleveland National Forest, and partners are attempting to eradicate feral pigs in San Diego County. Feral pigs have the potential to damage sensitive riparian, oak woodland, and grassland habitats compete with native species, negatively impact drinking water quality, damage agriculture and rangelands, destroy archeological sites, and transmit diseases to livestock and humans within municipal watersheds. In FY2014, the Inter-governmental Pig Group plans to begin implementation of the Feral Pig Damage Control Project. The Cleveland National Forest is a member of an Inter-governmental Group established to address pig removal in an all-lands approach. The Group, bound by a Principles of Understanding, consists of

California Ecological Restoration with Power and Water Utilities (continued)

affected public entities that own or manage lands in San Diego County. Members of the group include: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USFS, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection, Helix Water District, Vista Irrigation District, Department of the Navy, Barona Band of Mission Indians, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. To date, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has raised approximately $600,000 in grant funds for monitoring and pig removal, the City of San Diego has contributed approximately $50,000 towards a project coordinator, and The Nature Conservancy has given almost $100,000 toward administrative efforts for the group. The Cleveland NF may mobilize $400,000 in funding for implementation in FY 2014.

- The Region is working with David Groves of Private Capital for Public Good to explore the potential for a "Pay for Success" or an "Environmental Impact Bond" as a demonstration project in Region 5. The USDA Undersecretary's Office has been engaged in these discussions.

Carbon Sequestration and Reforestation on National Forests

This initiative is designed to support reforestation projects on National Forest lands, while also helping organizations achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions through biological carbon sequestration. These actions are incentivized through the voluntary marketplace with an innovative program of the National Forest Foundation (NFF)—the Carbon Capital Fund.

The Carbon Capital Fund first started in 2008 with a pilot project on the Custer National Forest. Multiple years of experience has been accumulated with eight projects on four National Forests in USFS Regions 1, 2, and 5 (MT, CO, and CA). The NFF has facilitated eight carbon sequestration projects that cover 5,239 acres of national forest lands, which have involved planting 1,329,500 seedlings and are anticipated to offset more than 700,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. These projects directly improve wildlife habitat and water quality, while mitigating the effects of climate change. The two most recent projects were established on the San Juan (2011) and Angeles (2012) National Forests and will be registered on the American Carbon Registry (ACR). Nearly $5 million in partner contributions have been raised to fund this initiative to date. Corporate partners to the NFF on this effort include the Walt Disney Company, the Southcoast Air Quality Management District in California, El Paso Corporation, and Chevrolet.

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- NFF is continuing to work with Spatial Informatics Group to develop a new carbon methodology for the restoration of southwestern ponderosa pine ecosystems. This effort is jointly supported by Salt River Project and the USFS.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- NFF and USFS are hosting a Carbon Capital Fund Lessons Learned Meeting in Washington, DC on July 15th and 16th. This meeting will promote increased sharing and learning among project managers and to help participants better understand challenges and successes from the last five years of carbon demonstration projects.

NFF's Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences Campaign

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) launched this campaign in 2008 to address two critical challenges: millions of forested acres in need of restoration and millions of people unaware of how National Forests enrich their lives. Five and a half years later, more than 1.7 million acres are targeted for restoration and community engagement activities through work on fourteen Treasured Landscapes sites, restoring our damaged forests and Americans' connection to these public lands. A large portion of the campaign is centered upon keystone sites that are carefully selected based on conservation need and ecological values. Currently, there are 17 grants open across these sites with over $850,000 of work being actively accomplished.

The Campaign has targeted the following sites:

- Angeles National Forest, CA
- Coconino National Forest, AZ
- Deschutes National Forest, OR
- Idaho Panhandle National Forest, ID
- Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, IL
- Ocala National Forest, FL
- Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, WA
- Ozark National Forest, AR
- Pike National Forest, CO
- Tahoe National Forest, CA
- Tongass National Forest, AK
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, UT
- White Mountain National Forest, NH
- White River National Forest, CO

NFF's Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences Campaign (continued)

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- NFF staff hosted former President Jimmy Carter and Senator Michael Bennet on the Camp Hale, White River National Forest campaign site to discuss the history of the site, ongoing collaborative planning efforts, and future restoration plans.
- NFF staff organized and facilitated a two-day Ecologically Sustainable Recreation workshop for Tahoe National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and local businesses and nonprofits as part of the Treasured Landscapes campaign
- Staff held four Friends of the Forest® Days on Tahoe and Angeles National Forests involving more than 300 volunteers.
- Staff facilitated the eighth Friends of the Angeles group meeting, a local group dedicated to fostering community engagement in the Angeles National Forest.
- Staff hosted a Friends of the Forest® Day on the Pike National Forest campaign site with Coca-Cola employees.
- Staff convened and led one full stakeholder group meeting on the Camp Hale, White River National Forest campaign site to work on finalizing the "Shared Vision" document outlining restoration and cultural site preservation work on Camp Hale.
- The Fifth Annual "Ride for Two Rivers" was hosted by the Sister's Chamber of Commerce (OR) through an agreement with the NFF. More than 300 riders participated. This annual ride is a fundraiser that promotes restoration and visitation in the Deschutes National Forest.
- NFF staff participated in a beaver release project day on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest campaign site.
- NFF staff met with R6 leadership regarding staffing changes, current projects, and future projects on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest campaign site.
- NFF Staff facilitated one in-person and two teleconference meetings of the Silver Glen Spring Working Group – a stakeholder group addressing management on the Ocala National Forest campaign site work.

NFF's Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences Campaign (continued)

- NFF Staff facilitated one in-person meeting of the Panhandle Forest Collaborative, a formal collaborative that is part of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest campaign site work.
- NFF Staff participated in a meeting of the Wasatch Legacy Project in Utah that was focused on fundraising for both the Wasatch Legacy Project and the Treasured Landscapes campaign. The facilitation of this group by the NFF is part of the campaign site work on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest site.
- NFF Staff organized and facilitated one in person meeting of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Stakeholder Group. The group is still focused on the pending bison reintroduction, the reintroduction of prescribed fire at Midewin, and improved marketing of Midewin to Chicago area residents and visitors.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- NFF Staff is working with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA to establish an in-lieu-fee program to provide significant funding opportunities for Camp Hale. There is potential to scale this program for other National Forest restoration efforts.

Western Utilities Partnership

Wildfire has impacted electric transmission lines and corridors at both the local community level and national scale through direct wildfire damage to established lines and surrounding National Forest System lands. Some of these fires have included considerable loss of and impact on natural resources critical to human and biological populations. The USFS and Western Utilities Group (WUG) are working together in this new partnership to increase vegetation management efforts adjacent to transmission right-of-ways to protect public resources and utility infrastructure. Through cooperative efforts and investments, these two organizations are developing means to reduce the shared threats and expenses of severe wildfire, while mitigating resource, service, and land-access losses.

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- The Northern Region (R1) met with Northwestern Energy Corporation in April 15 to build executive relationship and share information. Common areas of interest around transmission infrastructure were identified and locate priority landscapes under the 2014 Farm Bill were recommended. R1, along with the Pacific Northwest Region (R6), met with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) on June 27to explore partnership opportunities that provide mutual benefit.
- The Rocky Mountain Region (R2) and Xcel Energy finalized five-year and annual partnership investment plans in June 2014. Total 5-year investments will be $4.1 million, with approximately $1.2 million contributed by Xcel Energy. Partnership goals include reducing hazardous fuels on 3,350 acres (which includes treatments around 326 high priority transmission structures on three National Forests (Arapaho-Roosevelt, Pike-San Isabel, and White River). The initial investment in 2014 from Xcel is $220,000 and will be focused on work around 53 high priority structures. A fire science analysis was completed by USFS and Xcel scientists and is now being prepared for publication. The document discusses the joint science needed to guide vegetation clearance standards and vegetation treatments for prevention of damage to lines and other infrastructure.
- The Southwestern Region (R3) continues to work with the Salt River Project and its partners around reforestation efforts to protect watersheds around the CC

Western Utilities Partnership (continued)

Cragin reservoir. The Agency has also started a dialogue with New Mexico Power to address a utility corridor in Northern New Mexico. Also contributes to the Western Watershed Enhancement HPP.

- The Intermountain Region (R4) is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to analyze two proposed multi-region/multi-forest transmission lines. Included in this analysis is a risk assessment looking at the increased fire risk due to new transmission lines. While findings are preliminary, it does appear that there is a definite increase in fire risk that could be mitigated with vegetation treatment projects in and adjacent to the transmission line right of way.
- The Pacific Southwest Region (R5) met with the California Public Utilities Commissioner Carla Peterman to further discuss biomass, forest health and fuels reduction, and to encourage the Commission to complete a proposed study on the societal benefits of forest related biomass energy.
- The Pacific Northwest Region (R6) also met with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) on June 27, 2014 along with the R1. They discussed the challenges and potential of developing small-scale wood energy throughout BPA's system. They also discuss the near term opportunity for BPA to become involved in Portland General Electric's efforts to stop burning coal at their Boardman, OR plant by 2020.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- The Pacific Southwest Region (R5) agreed with the Commissioner that representatives from the Commission would attend a field trip in the coming months to view firsthand the link between forest health, air quality, carbon sequestration, and bioenergy potential. Cap and Trade – the Region will be working with key policymakers to increase the Cap and Trade allocation for forest restoration (and biomass support) in future years. The Region is continuing to work with Calfire to encourage all lands approach to forest restoration with this year's funds. Also contributes to the California Ecological Restoration with Power and Water Utilities HPP.
- Maury Galbraith, from the Oregon Public Utilities Commission, continues to support the FS on a part-time basis to conduct a national analysis of the impact on large wildfires on transmission system reliability. The work will be a two-phased approach. Phase 1 will include work to quantify the cost and reliability risk that severe wildfire place on transmission power system operations. The information gained in phase 1 will inform phase 2, which includes research and data analysis to answer specific questions related to project location, risk, and types of treatments needed. This will help determine where to partner on treatments.

Strengthening and Creating Pathways for Expanded Youth Engagement

21st Century Conservation Service Corps

In 2010, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative to develop a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda. Recommendations within AGO included "to catalyze the establishment of a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) to engage young Americans in public lands and water restoration." The 21CSC is a national effort to put America's youth and veterans to work protecting, restoring and enhancing the nation's natural resources. As part of the 21CSC, public and private partners work together to support young adults and veterans on projects that contribute to the restoration of forest lands while providing career development to participants. The 21CSC goals are to:

- Build America's future—develop natural and cultural resources stewards.
- Put Americans to work—provide training and employment opportunities.
- Preserve, protect and promote America's greatest gifts—increase public access and use to public lands.

Currently, 134 non-profit organizations have stepped forward in announcing alignment with the 21CSC framework and are ready to engage and assist in developing new skills and career pathways for Americans, including youth, under-served and veteran populations. The USFS is the lead agency to facilitate the 21CSC membership review process. USFS staff in coordination with the USDA, Office of the Secretary accepts and reviews letters of interest from organizations that are interested in becoming 21CSC member organizations. These 21CSC member organizations are identified based on a review by 21CSC Working Group members review of responses submitted by organizations in a Letter of Interest regarding their alignment with eight 21CSC principles that focus on population served, participant eligibility, diversity and inclusion, term of service, organization of work, type of work, participant outcomes and leveraged investment.

The 21CSC is coordinated by a National Council of representatives from Federal agencies that formalized their mission through the signing a Memorandum of Understanding in January 2013. National Council membership includes leadership from the Departments of the Army, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, Environmental Protection Agency, the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The National Council works to: support program expansion, including by matching natural resource

21st Century Conservation Service Corps (continued)

management needs with 21CSC opportunities and identifying potential sources of funding and other resources; remove barriers and streamline processes for supporting 21CSC programs; support participant pathways to careers; facilitate technical assistance; develop and support partnerships; coordinate messaging; and ensure national representation. The working group are staff from the Federal agencies represented on the National Council charged with carrying out their agreements and actions.

Comprehensive partnership contributions to date include:

- The USFS has allocated approximately $4.7 million in support of 21CSC FY2014 programming to date. This includes carryover funds, fire transfer funds allocated to two regions, NFWF Next Gen projects, and nearly $2M to partnerships that employed youth and veterans on projects in every region.
- The Regions, Stations, and Area's (RSA) report investment of $10,408,826 on 21CSC projects thru 6/30/2014. These funds have leveraged $9,536,230 from partners for these projects.

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- To help assess and measure accomplishment and impact, the USFS completed the second round of data collection through June 30th, 2014. As a part of the USFS emphasis on 21CSC efforts, 4,504 youth and 134 veterans have been engaged thus far in FY14 in meaningful conservation work. The next data call is August 11, 2014.
- USFS Office of Human Resources & Management launched a team of program staff to establish an implementation strategy to clarify Public Lands Corps (PLC) eligibility and hiring procedures and build awareness among hiring managers about how to successfully recruit and hire 21CSC program participants using the PLC eligibility status and increase PLC hires.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- The USFS will establish a 2015 partnership with the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) to mutually fund select AmeriCorps grantees that conduct 21CSC projects. USFS investing $1.4 million; CNCS investing $1,629,224 which includes education awards for participating AmeriCorps members.

Youth Engagement in Conservation Initiative

Youth Engagement in Conservation Initiative has expanded the existing relationship between the USFS and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). In 2012, the USFS and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) joined forces to engage youth in the care and management of public lands. The Initiative has been implemented through two granting programs that support innovative, partnership-based youth engagement projects.

America's Great Outdoors (AGO): Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists. This program provides avenues for youth employment in resource related jobs. For the FY2014 there is a target of 700 youth reached and employed. During the first year of implementation (2012), partners (federal and non-federal) leveraged USFS investment six-fold, contributing $3.1 million. In FY13, BLM committed $1 million; Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) $250-500K; and Wells Fargo has committed to funding for five years (~$250K/yr).

Currently the USFS is collaborating with NFWF, BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Reclamation in the Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists (Next Generation) grants program.. The focus this year is to support innovative partnerships in conservation employment for young people (15-25 years), especially targeting urban, minority and tribal youth. Collectively, the initiative provides $1.9 million in federal funds to be leveraged at least 1:3 with non-federal contributions. The FS funds ($444K) are focused on supporting 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) organizations.

AGO: Connecting Youth with Nature. Bringing diverse federal and non-federal partners together will more than triple the USFS investment, providing more than $500,000 in partner contributions. This program engages youth through partnerships that integrate outdoor recreation, conservation education and conservation stewardship. The Connecting Youth with Nature project was led by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) through a sub-grant relationship with NFWF.

Youth Engagement in Conservation Initiative (continued)

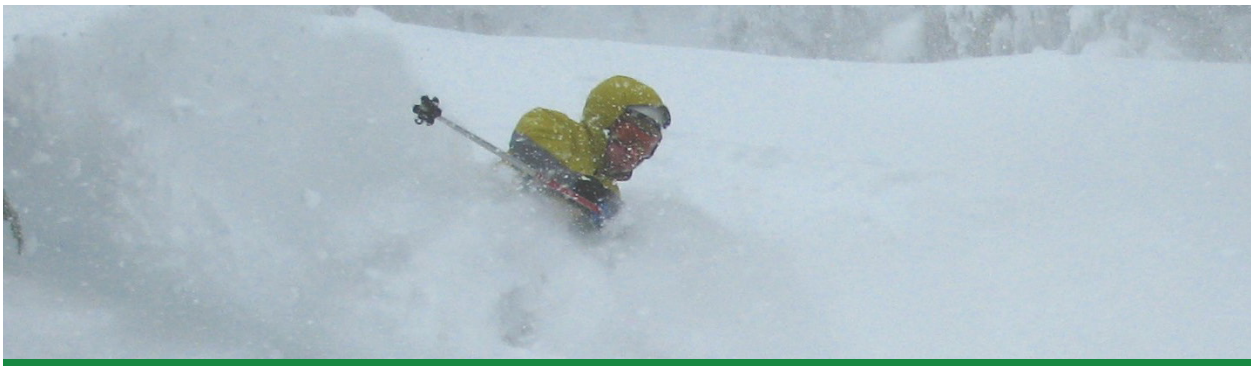
Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- Significant progress was made in the implementation of the 2014 Next Generation granting program, announcing nearly $2,000,000 in federal funds to diverse partnerships across the country that employ youth in meaningful conservation work. These federal funds will be matched by nearly $6,000,000 in non-federal resources, and will reach more than 600 youth. Project selections were finalized and announced by Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Under Secretary Butch Blazer in Denver, CO on May 22, 2014. Additional program information is available by clicking here. The joint DOI-USDA press release is available here.
- Within the above program, and working closely across multiple staff and units of the USFS, 15 proposals were selected for USFS funding through NFWF. The projects will be implemented in all USFS Regions and a Research Station. The USFS will invest $444,000 in the projects, and reach ~190 young people, and USFS funds are leveraged nearly three times by nonfederal contributions. The projects will chiefly be implemented in summer 2014, although some projects may extend for 18 months.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- NFWF is exploring additional corporate sponsorship opportunities to support Next Generation granting efforts.
- USFS leadership is very engaged in drafting an overall youth engagement strategy that will guide agency efforts into the future. The pillars of the strategy are emphasizing partnerships, providing meaningful conservation service and employment opportunities for young people, providing high-quality, effective conservation education, and building internal capacity to implement and sustain effective youth engagement programs. The strategy should be completed in early FY15.

Fostering Synergies in Recreation and Volunteerism



Recreation Restoration, Adaptation, and Ski Area Campaign

Since 2006, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) has collaborated with major ski areas throughout the country in various campaigns including the Ski Conservation Fund, NFF Summit Fund and Colorado Statewide Ski Conservation Fund.

The Ski Conservation Fund helps support projects focused on improvements in recreational infrastructure, wildlife habitat, watershed health, and community forestry. Currently, the Fund includes six major Colorado ski resorts --Arapaho Basin, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Breckenridge, Vail, and Beaver Creek and raises monies through voluntary contributions from lodging guests, skiers, snowboarders, ski school participants and other National Forest recreationalists. To date, the Fund has generated $4.1 million in in support of improvement projects on National Forests with participating partners.

The NFF Summit Fund will provide an opportunity for Summit County (CO) visitors to stay, play, and give back to the National Forest they enjoy. Through the Summit Fund, the NFF will partner with Summit County businesses to collect small, voluntary donations from visitors – giving guests the option of adding a dollar donation to their meal ticket or hotel stay. Funds will be used to support projects that enhance wildlife habitat, improve streams, restore native plants, and repair trails on the surrounding Dillon Ranger District. Additionally, through the NFF's partnerships with local conservation and stewardship groups, these funds help create jobs and provide volunteer opportunities in the local communities.

The NFF Statewide Ski Conservation Fund builds on the success of the White River National Forest Ski Conservation Fund to expand the model to over a dozen other ski resorts located on Colorado's National Forests. Through this program the NFF hopes to give all Colorado skiers the opportunity to invest in the lands they love. Contributions collected by participating resorts across the State will be pooled by the NFF and granted to local nonprofits to conduct on-the-ground conservation projects, The granted funds will rotate around all of Colorado's National Forests containing participating resorts on a three-year cycle.

In 2014, this Campaign will continue expanding the Ski Conservation Fund to more ski areas and lodges with a focus on the NFF's Treasured Landscapes campaign sites.

Recreation Restoration, Adaptation, and Ski Area Campaign (continued)

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- In the third quarter of FY 14, the NFF issued four grants to local conservation partners with more than $175,000 of funding from the program.
- The USFS finalized policy guidelines (Final directives were published in the Federal Register April 17, 2014) that increase opportunities for ski areas to promote year-round recreation activities that are natural resource-based and that will create additional jobs for communities with ski areas on the National Forests. Early estimates by the USFS indicate that expanding ski area recreation activities will increase by summer visits by 600,000; ski areas now average 23 million visits annually. Also expected are an additional 600 full- or part-time jobs and almost $40 million infused in local mountain communities. Furthermore, these directives may lead to more donations to innovative recreation-based funds (e.g., the NFF ski funds), strengthening such program's effectiveness and resource improvement programs.
- Ski areas nationwide have begun constructing natural resource-based summer features including zip lines, mountain bike parks, disc golf and various other year-round uses and programs.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- NFF plans to partner with Vail Resorts to host a Summit Fund launch event on July 24th, 2014.
- NFF staff are working to sign up new resorts and lodges in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest to participate in the Ski Conservation Fund.
- NFFstaff are working to expand ski-area partnerships in New Hampshire.
- NFF staff continued discussions with several Colorado ski resorts about the development of a statewide Ski Conservation Fund.

Developing Connections in Urban Communities for Forests and Grasslands

Baltimore Restoration Partnership

For over 15 years, the USFS has been working with the City of Baltimore and a host of locally based partners to improve the natural environment and the well-being of Baltimore residents The Baltimore Restoration Partnership is a new commitment between the USFS and the City of Baltimore, providing focused efforts on sustainability and the social and ecological restoration of inner city neighborhoods. The partnership brings together a number of USFS projects and initiatives in Baltimore, including the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, the Baltimore Wood Project, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and a new wildlife habitat initiative with the National Wildlife Federation.

- The Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES) is a Long-Term Ecological Research site that conducts research on metropolitan Baltimore as an ecological system. Since 1997, with leadership and support from the USFS, the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, and the University of Maryland-Baltimore, BES has conducted critical socio-ecological research, education, and community engagement.
- The Baltimore Wood Project is a demonstration project delivering USFS science and new technologies to help the City and its residents advance sustainability and restore neighborhoods. A key aim is to provide a restoration blueprint that can be replicated by other cities across the country, with a focus on reusing and recycling deconstructed building materials and urban wood waste, and rebuilding with a minimal carbon footprint using wood, a green building material.
- The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is a partnership of over 10 Federal agencies, coordinated by the White House Council on Environmental Quality and White House Domestic Policy Council, that seeks to connect economically distressed communities to their waterways, with a focus on local partners and action. Baltimore is one of 18 Urban Waters pilot locations (See the Urban Federal Waters HPP for more information).
- The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is taking its Certified Wildlife HabitatTM program to Baltimore, showcasing how urban residents, schools, and businesses can be recognized for being wildlife friendly. The USFS and the NWF are collaborating on a priority list of tree and plant species that not only contribute to local biodiversity but help to make our cities more resilient to climate change.

Baltimore Restoration Partnership (continued)

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- State and Regional Leaders endorsed the need for Urban Tree Canopy goals and measures. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley held a special Governor's roundtable to discuss the need for a statewide strategy for protecting and expanding the state's tree cover. The roundtable featured the use and value of urban tree canopy (UTC) assessment, prioritization, and marketing tools pioneered by USFS scientists (April 4). The Governors of the Chesapeake Bay states, the Mayor of DC, and the EPA Administrator signed the first quantitative urban tree canopy goal agreement as part of the Chesapeake Bay restoration strategy, establishing a clear need for UTC analysis tools (June 16).
- Baltimore sustainability programs and products recognized USFS partnership. Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake held a launch event for Baltimore City's Growing Green Initiative, a city-led effort to use sustainable, innovative, and cost-effective practices to transform vacant lots and stabilize distressed communities. The event featured the USFS partnership with Baltimore and a sneak peak at the Green Pattern Book, a guide for greening vacant land supported by the USFS (May 14).
- The USFS's Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) program launched Urban FIA in Baltimore. FIA program staff and new Urban FIA field crews came to Baltimore in June to begin its first Urban FIA field season. In addition to training crews on the new USFS urban FIA manual, the USFS held a listening session with Baltimore City and local partners to review and provide input to urban FIA goals and methodologies (June 2).
- The USFS began testing the ability of a bark filter to treat urban runoff. Parks and People Foundation staff spent their Earth Day installing a biofilter made of ponderosa pine bark pellets in a Baltimore neighborhood. Testing an urban application of the Forest Products Lab's filter is a key component of the Baltimore Wood Project (April 23).

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- The USFS continues to work with the City of Baltimore to develop a new MOU to frame the relationship and future opportunities. USFS leadership met with Baltimore's Office of Sustainability in June to discuss partnership goals and next steps.
- Plans for a Baltimore Wood Project partnership website progressed. USFS staff identified and met with a new web designer and discussed project plans, timelines, and revised budget estimates, and agreements were modified in order to jumpstart the project. USFS leadership met with Parks and People, a partnering non-profit, in

Baltimore Restoration Partnership (continued)

June to discuss goals for the site and current needs.

- The Urban Waters Baltimore pilot continues to bring a broad and diverse group of partners together around local environmental goals and projects. The USFS renewed its commitment to jointly fund Baltimore's "Urban Waters Ambassador," who serves as the coordinator for the Baltimore pilot and primary point-of-contact for the US EPA.
- The BES held an all-project meeting in April, and a quarterly science meeting in June that focused on long-term data collection. The BES annual meeting will be held on October 22-23 at Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, and is open to all partners and the public – this is an important annual celebration of the science and partnerships of BES.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Urban waters are being revitalized, local partnerships are better supported, forest resources are being restored, and community engagement is being fostered in urban watersheds across the United States through a unique union of fourteen federal agencies. Led by cooperating agencies and coordinated by the White House Council on Environmental Quality and White House Domestic Policy Council, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership closely aligns with and advances the work of various White House place-based efforts (e.g., the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative) to revitalize communities, create jobs and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the Nation.

In total there are 18 Urban Waters Federal Partnership sites. Staff from across the USFS support work at all 18 of the pilot locations. Executive staff also supports the partnership on national coordination efforts. USFS Research and Development staff serves as lead in five of the sites: Seattle, Denver, Northwest Indiana, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. USFS commits staff time, provides leadership and contributes some funding support toward pilot activities. For more information click here.

Quarterly Milestones Accomplished from April – June 2014

- Baltimore/Patapsco River (Baltimore): The first quantitative urban tree canopy goal agreement for the Chesapeake Bay region was signed by the Governors of the Bay states, the Mayor of DC, and the EPA Administrator in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement in June: http://peopleandtreesincities.wordpress.com/2014/06/16/taking-measurable-steps-to-expand-urban-tree-canopy-to-restore-the-chesapeake-bay/
- South Platte River (Denver): This partnership is focused on working across jurisdictions and disciplines to protect and restore the South Platte River and Watershed, from the headwaters on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest through the Denver metropolitan area. Over 50 different local municipalities, federal and state agencies, non-profit and corporate partners are actively engaged in the partnership. The Region has awarded $204,000 in grant funds to Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to help fund an Urban Waters Ambassador to coordinate the partnership,

Urban Waters Federal Partnership (continued)

and has also provided $100,000 to CSFS to help support local urban & community forestry projects in communities of high need in the partnership area. Awardees for the local projects include Bluff Lake Nature Center, Denver Parks and Recreation, Institute for Environmental Solutions, and South Suburban Parks and Recreation.

- Delaware River Watershed (Philadelphia, Camden, Chester, Wilmington): The first full partnership meeting was convened on April 4 at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Over 100 people attended the event, representing a wide range of multi-level government agencies and organizations across the tri-state area(federal and state agencies, municipal agencies, regional agencies, non-profit organizations, research institutions, and private firms. (Summary video and other materials posted to website: http://www.urbanwaters.gov/delaware/index.html).
- Green/Duwamish Rivers (Seattle): With seed funding from the USFS-PNW Station, the UWFP launched a new research initiative in the Middle Green this quarter. In partnership with EPA, NRCS and King County, this project will demonstrate how economic incentives may be used to encourage private landowners to both improve water quality by reducing sediments and nutrients and restore native salmon habitat. Farmers will be offered incentives to implement conservation practices or improve riparian land use.
- Northwest Indiana/Calumet River (Gary, Hammond): The National Park Service is preparing a draft Environmental Assessment for the "East Branch of the Little Calumet River Use Management Plan" for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and is seeking public comment. This document is a collaborative effort of the National Park Service, the USFS, and the Urban Waters Initiative to explore and evaluate a full range of recreational opportunities and the environmental impacts of those activities on the East Branch of the Little Calumet River which lies within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Ongoing Partnership Efforts

- For the second year, a joint USFS-EPA partnership with NFWF offered $645,000 in federal support, which will be paired with private funds, to local organizations through the Urban Waters Grant Program. Awards have been selected and NFWF will be issuing a press release on July 30, 2014.
- Delaware River Site: The second annual youth paddling events in all four cities with Wilderness Inquiry 24-foot Voyageur canoes has been planned, over two weeks in October. During last year's event, more than 440 students and 60 school chaperones and staff were engaged. The Delaware River Partnership will use the event to celebrate UWFP performance to date and plans for future.