

CFLR Project Southwest Jemez Mountains/CFLR006

National Forest(s): Santa Fe National Forest and Valles Caldera National Preserve

Responses to the prompts on this annual report should be typed directly into this template, including narratives and tables:

1. Match and Leverage funds:
 - a. **FY12 Matching Funds Documentation**

Fund Source	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2012(\$)	
CFLR Funds Expended ¹	CFLN	\$1,320,466
	CFLR	\$-63,609 ²
	Total	\$1,256,857
Carryover funds expended (HPRP funds or Carryover to supplement CFLR/CFLN) ³ (please include a new row for each BLI)		
FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI) ⁴	CMLG	\$-6,302 ⁵
	CMRD	\$4,421
	CMTL	\$613
	NFLM	\$4,001
	NFRR	\$1,442,742 ⁶
	NFTM	\$29,007
	NFVW	\$12,017
	NFWF	\$14,066
	RTRT	\$14,318
	SSSS	\$16,992
	VCVC	\$762,614
	WFHF	\$184,754
	Total	\$2,479,244
Funds contributed through agreements ⁷	NMED 319 Grant	\$69,768
	Secure Rural Schools Grant	\$68,005
	Total	\$101,005

¹ This amount should match the amount of CFLR/CFLN dollars obligated in the PAS report titled CFLR Job Code Listing and Expenditure Report – Detailed Analysis by Fiscal Year.

² Prior year adjustment

³ This value should reflect the amount of carryover funds allocated to a project as indicated in the program direction, but does not necessarily need to be in the same BLIs as indicated in the program direction. These funds should total the matching funds obligated in the PAS report titled Listing and Expenditure Report – Detailed Analysis by Fiscal Year minus the below matching funds.

⁴ This amount should match the amount of matching funds obligated in the PAS report titled CFLR Job Code Listing and Expenditure Report – Detailed Analysis by Fiscal Year minus the above carryover/HPRP funds.

⁵ Prior year adjustment

⁶ Includes \$860,307 NFRR funds as a supplement to CFLR/CFLN funds

⁷ Please document any partner contributions to implementation and monitoring of the CFLR project through an agreement (this should only include funds that weren't already captured through the PAS job code structure for CFLR matching funds). Please list the partner organizations involved in the agreement.

Partner In-Kind Contributions ⁸	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>NMED 319/RERI</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$100,614</td></tr> <tr><td>The Nature Conservancy</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$16,795</td></tr> <tr><td>Veteran’s Crew (fuels reduction)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$32,400</td></tr> <tr><td>FS Volunteer Archaeology crew</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$2,352</td></tr> <tr><td>YCC Crew (Fuels Reduction)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$4,780</td></tr> <tr><td>YCC Crew (Noxious Weeds)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$8,716</td></tr> <tr><td>International Forestry Rx Burn</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$61,012</td></tr> <tr><td>TNC Meals, Lodging, Admin support for International Forestry</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$4,850</td></tr> <tr><td>Grazing Permittee(San Antonio)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$16,560</td></tr> <tr><td>Wild Earth Guardians (WEG)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$9,229</td></tr> <tr><td>Great Old Broads for the Wilderness</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$5,665</td></tr> <tr><td>EPA-NMED-319</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$76,892</td></tr> <tr><td>EPA-NMED-RERI</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$35,480</td></tr> <tr><td>Los Amigos de Valles Caldera</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$21,213</td></tr> <tr><td>Jemez Pueblo</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$22,880</td></tr> <tr><td>Earthwatch</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$36,768</td></tr> <tr><td>VCNP Volunteers</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$167,032</td></tr> <tr><td>TNC other office support for G&A</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$5,099</td></tr> <tr><td>Grazing Permittee (Stock Tank)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$1,046</td></tr> <tr><td>NMED (Exclosures on San Antonio and Redondo Meadows)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$1,800</td></tr> <tr><td>Student Conservation Association (RERI match)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$115,566</td></tr> <tr><td>WildEarth Guardians (WEG)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$22,399</td></tr> <tr><td>TC Company</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$72,300</td></tr> <tr><td>Bandelier National Monument (Banco RX Burn)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$10,560</td></tr> <tr><td>Bureau of Indian Affairs(Banco Rx Burn)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$2,190</td></tr> <tr><td>The Nature Conservancy(Banco Rx Burn)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$7,590</td></tr> <tr><td>City of Santa Fe Fire Department (Banco RX Burn)</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$14,750</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$876,358</td></tr> </table>	NMED 319/RERI	\$100,614	The Nature Conservancy	\$16,795	Veteran’s Crew (fuels reduction)	\$32,400	FS Volunteer Archaeology crew	\$2,352	YCC Crew (Fuels Reduction)	\$4,780	YCC Crew (Noxious Weeds)	\$8,716	International Forestry Rx Burn	\$61,012	TNC Meals, Lodging, Admin support for International Forestry	\$4,850	Grazing Permittee(San Antonio)	\$16,560	Wild Earth Guardians (WEG)	\$9,229	Great Old Broads for the Wilderness	\$5,665	EPA-NMED-319	\$76,892	EPA-NMED-RERI	\$35,480	Los Amigos de Valles Caldera	\$21,213	Jemez Pueblo	\$22,880	Earthwatch	\$36,768	VCNP Volunteers	\$167,032	TNC other office support for G&A	\$5,099	Grazing Permittee (Stock Tank)	\$1,046	NMED (Exclosures on San Antonio and Redondo Meadows)	\$1,800	Student Conservation Association (RERI match)	\$115,566	WildEarth Guardians (WEG)	\$22,399	TC Company	\$72,300	Bandelier National Monument (Banco RX Burn)	\$10,560	Bureau of Indian Affairs(Banco Rx Burn)	\$2,190	The Nature Conservancy(Banco Rx Burn)	\$7,590	City of Santa Fe Fire Department (Banco RX Burn)	\$14,750	Total	\$876,358
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Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract ⁹	¹⁰ \$72,300																																																								

⁸ Total partner in-kind contributions for implementation and monitoring of a CFLR project. Please list the partner organizations that provided in-kind contributions. See “Annual Report instructions” for instructions on how to document in-kind contributions.

⁹ This should be the amount in the “stewardship credits charged” column at the end of the fiscal year in the TSA report TSA90R-01.

¹⁰ 72,300 was received through goods-for- services. However, the agreements were under the authority of the Trust and are not reportable *in the TSA database*. For the purpose of this annual report, those contributions are reported as “Partnership, In-kind”

b. Please provide a narrative or table describing leveraged funds in your landscape in FY2012 (one page maximum)

FY 2012 Implementation & Monitoring Projects Leveraged the SWJM CFLRP Project					
Implementation (I) or Monitoring (M)	Project Title (abbreviated)	Funding Source	Funding Amount	Description of Project	Source of Funding Figure
I	T.C.Company CFRP Grant	USFS-CFRP	\$120,000	CFRP grant to procure equipment to facilitate the startup of the Walatowa Timber industry	Grant Application
I	Paliza Rx burn Preparation	BIA	\$80,000	BIA funding for road work, mastication, and arch site preparation	Estimate from contact
M	Mercury Deposition Monitoring for Jemez Pueblo	EPA	\$17,000	This project monitors atmospheric deposition of mercury from forests, fires and human activities (e.g., power plants). Data are collected every 2 weeks.	Permit
M	Development of snow-water equivalent methods	Sandia Nat. Lab.	\$100,000	This project is monitoring snow water equivalent in the snowpack, related to forest stand structure and watershed hydrology.	Permit
M	Monitoring of Bald Eagle Populations	Volunteer	\$2,500	This project monitors the use of VCNP habitats by bald eagles each autumn.	Permit
M	Inventory of Fungi and Lichens	Volunteer	\$50,000	Inventory and distribution of fungi and lichens in the forests and grasslands of the VCNP. Includes fire effects.	Permit
M	Bryophyte survey of the VCNP	NMSU/US DA-ARS	\$13,677	Inventory and distribution of mosses in the forests of the VCNP.	Permit
M	Triatomine vector and <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> parasite distributions: A pilot study.	UNM	\$4,000	Distribution of the vector for Chagas Disease in the Jemez Mts, influenced by wood rats (<i>Neotoma</i>), whose distributions are influenced by forest structure.	Estimate from contact
M	High precision O2 analyses for ecosystem carbon exchange studies	DOE	\$62,500	Set up a weather station to study effects related to climate change.	Permit
M	Arthropod assemblages of gopher tunnels at the VCNP.	Volunteer	\$2,270	Surveys and inventories of insects to understand the biodiversity in the system.	Permit
M	Long-term vulnerability and resilience of coupled human-natural ecosystems to fire regime and climate changes at an ancient Wildland Urban Interface	NSF	\$499,500	Described as "Ancient WUI Effects". Will give us guidance as to how ancient peoples dealt with and used fires.	Grant awarded
		TOTAL (FY2012):	\$951,447		

Approved by : _____

Forest Supervisor

2. Discuss how the CLFR project contributes to accomplishment of the performance measures in the *10 year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*¹¹, dated December 2006. Please comment on the cumulative contributions over the life of the project if appropriate. This may also include a description of the fire year (fire activity that occurred in the project area) as a backdrop to your response (please limit answer to one page).

The Southwest Jemez Mountains project addresses the 10-year strategy, as demonstrated by these accomplishments:

- One hundred percent of the acres treated are within a Wildland-Urban Interface area.
- Treatments are governed by the goal of reducing fire intensities that conform to the National Fire Management Plan by reducing hazardous fuels.
- Treatments are also designed to restore fire-adapted ecosystems.
- All are identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).
- The Lead Partners' selection of acres treated was guided by the priority areas identified in the CWPPs.
- Fuel loads on a total of 2,668 acres were reduced by thinning and prescribed fire.
- Nearly all was accomplished through mechanical treatment located near forest communities.
- The SWJM CFLRP project partnered with Jemez Pueblo and T.C. Company through a Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) grant to remove and utilize small diameter trees from 784 acres thinned in 2011. The CFRP grant supported the creation of the *Walatowa Timber Industries, LLC*, a joint venture between T.C. Company and Jemez Pueblo Development Corporation. The goals of the Walatowa Timber Industries, LLC (WTI) are to create economic development in the Pueblo of Jemez and the surrounding community while restoring the landscapes that contain Jemez Pueblo ancestral lands. Establishing this viable point of utilization is critical to achieving the goals of the CFLR and the 10-year strategy within the SWJML.
- The VCT continues to do major rehabilitation work needed in the Las Conchas Fire footprint to protect its obsidian quarries, Indios Creek, and in gullies on the toe slopes of the Rio Medio.
- The San Juan (maintenance) Burn was planned for FY2012 but was not implemented until early FY2013. No other maintenance burns have been conducted since most are in the early stages of treatment.

3. What assumptions were used in generating the numbers and/or percentages you plugged into the TREAT tool?

For the CFLR only portion, the total funds expended was approximately \$1,286,000. Contract work for thinning, line prep, roadwork, wildlife work and monitoring accounted for approximately \$432,000. Of this total only 39% were to businesses within the impact area of Sandoval and Rio Arriba Counties. However, much of the other funds expended for contracting are to contractors in other nearby counties (Santa Fe, Bernalillo). The same is true of the overall program expenditures. Contracting totaled \$1.7 million (47%) of the overall \$3.8 million expended but only \$250,000(7%) were to contractors within the impact area.

Force account spending includes salary and other personnel costs. The remainders of the funds were expended on materials and supplies in support of activities including field preparation, survey, monitoring, and landlines.

¹¹ The 10-year Comprehensive Strategy was developed in response to the Conference Report for the Fiscal Year 2001, Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-291).

Forest product volumes reported in TREAT differ from those included in the accomplishments Table (Question 6.) because the volumes reported through the TIM reporting system were not identified as CFLRP funded. In addition, volume generated on the VCT could not be reported in TIM. The forest product volumes used in the TREAT tool are the actual volume removed from the landscape in 2012.

FY 2012 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY12 CFLR/CFLN/HPRP/Carryover funding only):

Type of projects	Direct part and full-time jobs	Total part and full-time jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income ¹²
Commercial Forest Product Activities	9.0	18.3	\$281,296	\$710,417
Other Project Activities	4.6	5.2	\$73,458	\$87,331
TOTALS:	13.6	23.4	\$354,754	\$797,748

FY 2012 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY12 CFLR/CFLN/HPRP/Carryover and matching funding):

Type of projects	Direct part and full-time jobs	Total part and full-time jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income ¹³
Commercial Forest Product Activities	11.6	23.6	\$363,697	\$917,037
Other Project Activities	6.7	7.5	\$106,007	\$125,810
TOTALS:	18.3	31.1	\$469,704	\$1,042,848

4. Describe other community benefits achieved and the methods used to gather information about these benefits (Please limit answer to two pages).

The new Walatowa Timber Industries, LLC (WTI) is an important source of economic development in the Pueblo of Jemez. The viability of the economic enterprise hinges on the forest restoration activities proposed under the SWJML. The WTI can handle all aspects of materials removed from forest-thinning activities from the forest to the yard (cut, skid, deck, remove, sort, distribution) it can also accept wood products from other contractors. It provides permanent and seasonal employment within Jemez Pueblo. Indirectly, the WTI creates additional economic stimulus through the purchase of fuel and other convenience items available locally and other purchasing in Bernalillo, Rio Rancho, Espanola, and Albuquerque. In addition, several projects accomplished in 2012 were contracted with local companies. Metrics of this economic stimulus will be available next year through the CFRP report.

Just under \$3.7 million was invested in CFLN and matching appropriated dollars with an additional 1.8 million in-kind and non-appropriated contributions These matching and in-kind contributions bring monitoring groups, volunteers, and contractors to the Jemez Valley. These groups all spend money on food, lodging, and fuel. They often bring friends or family and incorporate leisure time into their trips. In addition, projects conducted by the Forest Service, or through contractors, with CFLRP funds bring employees from other Ranger Districts and these contractors to the Jemez Mountains for several days. These employees and contractors also support the local economy through purchasing lodging, food and fuel. Project supplies are typically purchased in Rio Rancho, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo. There is no formal process in place to capture and quantify this stimulus.

¹² Values obtained from Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT) spreadsheet, "Impacts-Jobs and Income" tab. Spreadsheet and directions available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/submittingproposals.shtml#tools>.

¹³ Values obtained from Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT) spreadsheet, "Impacts-Jobs and Income" tab. Spreadsheet and directions available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/submittingproposals.shtml#tools>.

The SWJML also offers educational opportunities. The VCT has included restoration monitoring as part of its environmental education program. The Restoration Monitoring Project allows students to monitor (1) risk for uncharacteristic wildfire, and (2) wildlife habitat in untreated, treated, and soon to be treated forests on the Preserve. During this hands-on fieldwork experience, students use problem-solving techniques, develop research skills, and employ decision-making skills to test hypotheses and evaluate forest restoration projects.

In FY 2012 the Santa Fe National Forest initiated a major planning effort for the Southwest Jemez Mountains project for restoration treatments on 110,000 acres of Forest Service lands. This planning effort offered many opportunities for public involvement and public education. The Forest held seven public meetings to engage the public in drafting the Purpose and Need and the Proposed Action prior to beginning the formal NEPA process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Once scoping began officially, the Forest held four public meetings for review and comment on the proposed action. During each of these four public meetings, Forest Specialists gave presentations on smoke management, the basics of prescribed fire, and the basics of removing timber products. These meetings were held in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Jemez Springs. In addition the forest held three public field trips to thinning and burning project sites in the SWJ project as well as to the Las Conchas Fire area. A separate tribal field trip was held for tribes and pueblos interested in the project. The public meetings and field trips were well attended. In March 2012, the VC and the Santa Fe Forest hosted an annual meeting to present results of monitoring activities. Members of the public and collaborating agencies and organizations participated for the full day of information sharing. In addition to these meetings, the Forest has worked with various media to provide information to the public about the project. Numerous articles and news features have occurred this year.

Also in 2012 through the Fire Learning Network, The Nature Conservancy and the Santa Fe National Forest hosted 14 participants from Argentina, Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain and the US in the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange. Participants assisted with pile and broadcast burning in the SWJ project as part of their training.

As in prior years, project implementation has provided fuelwood at minimal cost to local communities in the Jemez Mountains and Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Bernalillo. In addition several projects were accomplished with partners and volunteers.

The CFLRP project supports 13 FTEs (full time equivalents) for the Forest and the preserve. With matching funds the number of FTEs rises to 37

5. Describe the multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process (please limit answer to two pages).

Multiparty Monitoring: The monitoring program for the Southwest Jemez Mountains CFLRP project is coordinated through the Valles Caldera Trust (VCT), Scientific Services Division, and the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF). The Nature Conservancy (TNC) functions as a neutral party, compiling the monitoring data sets and holding an annual “all hands” meeting of collaborators to evaluate the project’s accomplishments, past and future. In addition to the VCT, SFNF, and TNC, our collaborators include Jemez Pueblo, Bandelier National Monument (National Park Service), the US Geological Survey’s Jemez Mountain Field Station and the USGS Fish & Wildlife Coop Unit at New Mexico State University, Hawks Aloft, the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory/Smithsonian Institution (SEL/SI), WildEarth Guardians, the Forest Guild, the New Mexico Environment Department, Los Amigos de Valles Caldera, Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Trout, the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Desert Research Institute (DRI), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), University of New Mexico, New Mexico Tech, Highlands University, and the University of Arizona.

Observed Ecological Shifts: These monitoring observations fall under 3 categories:

The first is *forest biomass (fuel) reduction* through thinning operations and prescribed fire. Initial prescriptions for thinning second-growth Ponderosa pine forests were simply defined as removing all trees below a certain diameter class <9” or 11” dbh. This effectively removed all trees <60 years old, eliminating those age classes. Prescriptions were modified in 2011 to remove

most white fir, and leave different age classes of aspen, Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Contract specifications also required the retention of existing large, down woody debris (see Figure 1, below). Monitoring for responses of large mammals, birds, and vegetation to thinning operations is underway, with control and treatment areas established and sampled before treatment; post-treatment sampling is underway. Results of vegetation monitoring indicate steady increases in grasses and herbaceous wildflower species. Merriam's wild turkeys have already begun using thinned areas for mating and foraging. Pre-treatment bird sites were sampled in 2012, and post-treatment sampling is scheduled for 2013.



Figure 1 – Two photo points for forest thinning project (left before, right after), note retention of large woody debris

The second ecological monitoring shift observed is in *riparian areas* that were restored with woody shrubs and trees by WildEarth Guardians. Survival of plants was approximately 50% (the drought of 2011 caused considerable plant aboveground mortality, but many plants have stump-sprouted in 2012). No changes in water quality or quantity have been observed as yet, but it is still too early for the plants to develop effective canopy shade coverage or root stability of stream banks. Additional plantings are planned for 2014, and all will continue to be monitored.

The third major ecological shift was observed following *the Las Conchas wildfire* in summer, 2011, which burned approximately 30,000 acres of the project area. Monitoring sites were established in burned and unburned grasslands, forests, and streams, including many from before the fire. Monitoring results indicate that grassland vegetation recovered in <8 weeks for total cover, litter and bare ground, but that individual species exhibited significant increases/decreases in cover and height. Grassland pest insects (grasshoppers) were significantly reduced post-fire, but were recovering by late summer 2012; some other species of pest/beneficial grassland insects did not decline in burned sites. Grassland birds generally were less abundant, with fewer species in burned grasslands 1 year after the fire; some species (crows, sparrows) increased after the fire. Prairie dog populations in grasslands did not decline following the fire. Forest understory vegetation and forest-floor litter were significantly reduced by the fire, with concomitant increases in bare ground. Aspen sprouts were up to 2 m tall by September 2012. Forest birds remained abundant in both burned and unburned stands of Ponderosa pine and mixed-conifer, with 3 species significantly more abundant (Three-toed Woodpecker, American Robin, Mountain Bluebird); only two species significantly declined. Small mammals were generally unaffected by fire in the short term, as they sheltered underground during the fire; tree squirrels were killed by the fire. By fall, 2012, populations of chipmunks and ground squirrels were in decline in burned forest stands, but deer mouse populations were growing. Most forest invertebrates exhibited little impact from the fire, and were recovering quickly through 2012; moths were the exception, with significantly reduced species numbers and abundances. Flash floods in streams caused reductions of trout by 95%; however, native non-game fish survived in good populations. Ammonia concentrations likely caused the fish kills (streamwater ammonia was 2-3 times above the concentration needed for killing trout). Aquatic invertebrate assemblages survived the floods, and although reduced somewhat in species diversity and abundance, were found to be largely intact in 2011 and 2012. Water quality continues to suffer from high turbidity during and after spring snowmelt and summer thunderstorms.

Socio-economic Shifts: Forest product availability from CFLRP thinning projects has led to the creation of a new small-business in Jemez Pueblo; this collaboration between a private contractor and the Native American Pueblo (Walatowa Timber Industries, LLC) takes small-diameter trees and creates vigas (roof beams for housing), dimensional lumber, landscaping chips, firewood, and (in the near future) wood stove pellets. The collaborative is pursuing an agreement with Forest Guild to monitor the economic effects as the project ramps up in the next few years. To date, the contract/agreement still hasn't been finalized.

Evaluation of Partner Contributions to Project Success: Overall, the project has benefited enormously from partner collaborations. Partner organizations have provided specialized expertise to the monitoring program (e.g., bird monitoring by Hawks Aloft, riparian restoration and monitoring by WildEarth Guardians, fish monitoring by United States Geological Survey(USGS)/New Mexico State University(NMSU), Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Trout, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, and the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, large mammal monitoring by USGS/NMSU and (New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF), invertebrate monitoring by SEL/SI, climate monitoring by DRI, NOAA, NRCS) as well as organizational integrity and communication (e.g., TNC's "All Hands" annual meeting, and newsletter publications of partner Non-Governmental Organizations) NGOs). Volunteer hours for both implementation projects and monitoring activities have significantly increased in 2012, and will likely continue to do so as projects grow and mature. No legal appeals or suits have been filed in regard to the CFLRP planning or on-the-ground actions thus far in the program, and we will endeavor to collaborate with all partners to focus our energy and resources on the forest landscape, rather than the courtroom.

Road Decommissioning: A total of 3.2 miles of road were decommissioned within the SWJML; 2.4 miles of road were decommissioned in the VCNP in 2012 and 0.8 on the Santa Fe National Forest. The VCT included the decommissioning of non-system roads as a stewardship activity (goods-for-services) within forest thinning activities. The contractor used these non-system roads to access the project area as well as for skid trails and landing locations during operations. Following operations the roads were decommissioned by the contractor (drainage features were established and the road prism was obscured using slash, chips, logs and rocks).

6. FY 2012 accomplishments

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished ¹⁴	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) ¹⁵
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	Acres	11,990 ¹⁶	\$1,221,894	\$431,205 CFLN \$350,556 NFRR \$55,000 VCVC \$80,704 WFHF \$7,100 NFRG \$53,700 Goods for services \$201,619 Partners in-kind
Acres of forest vegetation established	Acres			
Acres of forest vegetation improved	Acres	861	\$518,776	\$407,337 CFLN \$80,704 WFHF \$30,735 NFRR ¹⁷
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants	Acre	21 (72) ¹⁸	\$33,100	\$7,100 NFRG \$26,000 NFRR
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands	Acres	0		
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions.	Acres	0 (27) ¹⁹	\$242,314	\$55,000 VCVC \$53,700 Goods for Services \$133,614 Partner in-kind
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	0		
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	Miles	3 (8.1) ²⁰	\$372,818	\$5,000 CFLN \$68,537 NFRR \$299,281 Partner in-kind
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	3,546	\$161,997	\$23,868 CFLN \$138,129 NFRR
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	Acres	7,245	\$174,740	\$64,735 NFRR \$68,005 Secure rural schools grant \$42,000 Jemez Pueblo
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance	Miles	21.7 (70.5) ²¹	\$133,916	\$100,000 NFRR \$33,916 CFLN

¹⁴ Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record.

¹⁵ Please use a new line for each BLI or type of fund used. For example, you may have three lines with the same performance measure, but the type of funding might be two different BLIs and CFLR/CFLN.

¹⁶ This measure is the summation of; FOR-VEG-IMP, INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC, RG-VEG-IMP, S&W-RSRC-IMP, HBT-ENH-TERR and TIMBER-SALES-TRT-AC that are included below in this table.

¹⁷ NFRR Costs include cost estimated by total salary expended in NFRR for implementation

¹⁸ Numbers shown in parenthesis are the total accomplishments where they differ from those reported in PAS. INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC was underreported in PAS due to the VCT access to the Database of Record as well as errors in coding

¹⁹ S&W-RSRC-IMP was underreported in PAS due to the errors in the coding of the initiative project in the Database of Record(WORKPLAN)

²⁰ HBT-ENH-STRM was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(FACTS)

²¹ RD-HC-MAINT was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(RAR) and errors in the coding of the initiative project

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished ¹⁴	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) ¹⁵
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance	Miles	47.9 (70.9) ²²	\$49,515	\$33,530 CMRD \$15,985 CFLN
Miles of road decommissioned	Miles	0 (3.2) ²³	\$48,000	\$15,000 CFLN \$33,000 NMED Grant
Miles of passenger car system roads improved	Miles	0 (24) ²⁴	\$10,800	\$10,800 CMRD
Miles of high clearance system road improved	Miles	0 (10) ²⁵	\$4,500	\$4,500 CMRD
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage	Number			
Miles of system trail maintained to standard	Miles			
Miles of system trail improved to standard	Miles	0 (9.1) ²⁶	\$167,032	\$167,032 Volunteer
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard	Miles	0 (6.0) ²⁷	\$74,001	\$70,000 CFLN \$4,001 NFLM
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales	Acres	230		
Volume of timber sold (CCF)	CCF	0 (9,196) ²⁸	\$93,750	\$62,500 NFTM/NFRR \$31,250 CFLN
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production	Green tons	0 (35,064) ²⁹	\$90,966	\$90,966 NFRR
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acre	0		
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland	Acres	2,668	\$1,362,224	\$457,343 CFLN \$402,343 WFHF \$445,238 NFRR Carryover \$57,300 Goods for Services

²² RD-PC-MAINT was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(RAR) and errors in the coding of the initiative project

²³ RD-DECOM was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(RAR) and errors in the coding of the initiative project

²⁴ RD-PC-IMP was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(RAR) and errors in the coding of the initiative project

²⁵ RD-HC-IMP was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(RAR) and errors in the coding of the initiative project

²⁶ TL-IMP-STD was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(INFRA)

²⁷ LND-BL-MRK-STD was underreported in PAS due to an error in the coding of the initiative project in WORKPLAN

²⁸ TMBR-VOL-SLD was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(TIM) and the inability to code fuelwood permit volume to initiative project in TIM

²⁹ BIO-NRG was underreported in PAS due to the to the VCT access to the Database of Record(TIM) and the inability to code fuelwood permit volume to initiative project in TIM

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished ¹⁴	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) ¹⁵
fire				
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands	Acres	0		
Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests on Federal lands	Acres	0		

7. FY 2012 accomplishment narrative (summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress) (please limit answer to three pages).

Collaboration

Staff from the forest, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Jemez Pueblo as cooperating agencies, completed analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act to conduct a prescribed burn on over 14,300 acres in the Paliza area. The Forest began work on the SWJM landscape EIS in 2012. A series of informational open house presentations and numerous field trips were held during the summer.

Under a grant from the New Mexico Environment Department, forest staff implemented the “Respect the Rio” program, a successful education program in its 5th year. Interns from the Student Conservation Association made education presentations(including our restoration objectives), conducted interpretive programs and made personal contacts with campers and visitors over the course of the summer.

The capacity to implement the core actions of the CFLN (forest thinning) increased significantly this year. The Valles Caldera Trust (VCT) collaborated with Jemez Pueblo Development Corporation and TC Company as they initiated the *Wawatowa Timber Industries, LLC* (hereinafter WTI). WTI has the ability to implement forest-thinning activities and utilize small diameter trees to the highest value with a 5-25 mile haul on NM 4 (the major haul route that bisects the SWJML).

The VCT’s role in the collaboration was to make the material from active thinning (the VCT awarded 764 acres of thinning in 2011 using CFLN funds) on the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) available for removal and utilization. This year, cut trees were sorted and used at their highest value (see Figure 2). In 2010 and 2011, thinning material was removed to Albuquerque for landscaping or to Jemez Pueblo for use as commercial firewood. These previous utilization efforts were helpful in implementing projects but did not have the capacity of utilizing the steady stream of material that will be made available under the CFLN. By incorporating a sorting yard, WTI can stock pile any number of products and will be able to grow capacity as product availability grows. WTI grew from the collaboration and successes of earlier efforts.



Figure 2 - Pictured below in order of value: Top Row (viga, rough-cut lumber, post) Bottom Row (firewood, livestock bedding, landscaping chips)

The cut-trees were removed in exchanges for services (slash disposal, road decommissioning, wildlife habitat improvement, trail surfacing) with an estimated value of just over \$70,000. Other accomplishments included prescribed burning of 360 acres that had been previously thinned under CFRP and ARRA grants. This burn was successful in reducing the density of conifer regeneration and eliminating residual biomass. The VCT and Forest Service implemented the prescribed fire with the support of the Department of Interior (NPS and BIA), The Nature Conservancy, and the City of Santa Fe which contributed labor and equipment for the burn.

The paragraph above mentioned goods for services agreements. The VCT intended to award those acres under a stewardship agreement under the authority of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (the USFS stewardship authority does not apply to the VCT). However, the Forest Service - Albuquerque Service Center, will not pay obligations incurred against grants and agreements entered into by the VCT. The VCT has been working with the Forest Service to develop a mutually satisfactory instrument in order to enter into agreements under its legislated authorities.

Restoration accomplishments

Preparation and Planning: Forest surveyors identified and marked 6 miles of landline boundaries in the project area. Forest archaeologists continue to survey and clear acres in the project area at the rate of approximately 1,400 acres per year. The VCT also completed archaeological survey and clearance of over 2,000 acres in support of ground disturbing restoration activities as well as an excavation project in support of post-fire erosion actions. Partners using grants and in-kind contributions completed the excavation. There was almost no archaeological survey on the VCNP prior to federal acquisition and therefore little information on which to reduce the intensity of surveys or even eliminate surveys from some areas. We have proposed to develop a model that will use current survey outcomes to support a strategic approach to archeological survey and reduce the costs of compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). 2011 funds were obligated to this effort, and will be leveraged in 2013 with support from a Joint Fire Science Program grant.

Planning under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is not funded by CFLN nor can it be counted as match. However, it is integral to meeting our objectives and is reported here for context. The VCT completed planning and decision-making on 530 acres of thinning to be awarded under contract or agreement during the first quarter of FY2013. The VCT also completed compliance under NEPA to permit repair and maintenance of roads impacted by post fire erosion and roads causing resource damage due to poor drainage, shape, and alignment. In late September of 2011, the Forest signed a decision on the Paliza Prescribed burn. This analysis was completed in cooperation with the Pueblo of Jemez and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Additional NEPA analysis is ongoing on both the VCNP and the Forest. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the CFLN activities on the VCNP and is about 75 percent complete and expected to be complete by the second quarter of FY 2013. On the Forest, a landscape level EIS is being prepared. This analysis will cover restoration activities within the forested and riparian environments as well as related road management actions within the SWJM landscape. A final decision is expected within FY2013

Thinning and prescribed burning: Staff from the forest is continuing work on the 14,300-acre Paliza Prescribed Burn. In FY2012 it completed contract work designed to prepare the control line. The Jemez Pueblo, the Veteran’s Corps, and the forest also continued working together to prepare and protect ancient archaeological sites from the future burn. A 739-acre prescribed fire was conducted around the community of Thompson Ridge. It reduced the existing fuel loads and reduced the fire hazard to this small community. On Virgin Mesa, the forest re-introduced fire on 129 acres through a prescribed burn. The forest completed the NEPA review on the 7,800-acre San Juan prescribed burn and is waiting for the appropriate burn window. The forest thinned 515 acres in the Los Griegos area and 134 acres in the Paliza area using contractors and in-house employees.

Riparian and understory vegetation: The Respect the Rio program hosted a clean-up of the Rio Guadalupe. It also installed bollards, which are short, stout wooden posts spaced closely together, along 1.5 miles of Forest Road 376 to prevent vehicles from driving in the adjacent riparian area. Forest range staff administered 5,575 acres of rangeland to standard, and removed invasive plants by hand on 4 acres. The forest’s fisheries biologist let a contract for the design of in-stream riparian structures that will improve fish habitat. Personnel on the Jemez Ranger District managed the construction of a pedestrian bridge over San Antonio Creek to the Hot Springs.

Riparian restoration activities were implemented on three of the VCNP’s four perennial streams: San Antonio, Jaramillo and Redondo Creek. Projects were funded by EPA grants administered by the New Mexico Environment Department. These projects used a variety of techniques ranging from the use of heavy equipment to restore historic stream channels and wetlands, to re-establishing native assemblages of woody plants, to volunteers constructing erosion control features. This work has been accomplished collaboratively with two non-profit groups as the lead: WildEarth Guardians and Los Amigos de Valles Caldera. The Performance Measure for reporting riparian is “miles”; the actual accomplishments as a measure of body of water improved are much greater than the “miles” reported. The comprehensive monitoring of water quality and stream morphology will allow us to report these accomplishments relative to water quality and riparian and watershed function at five- and ten-year benchmarks.

8. Describe the total acres treated in the course of the CFLR project (cumulative footprint acres; not a cumulative total of performance accomplishments). What was the total number of acres treated?³⁰

Fiscal Year	Total number of acres treated (treatment footprint)
FY12	1,702 Acres (SFNF 1,342, VCNP 360)
FY10, FY11, and FY12	11,613 Acres (SFNF 10,164 VCNP 1,449)

³⁰ This metric is separate from the annual performance measurement reporting as recorded in the databases of record. Please see the instructions document for further clarification.

9. In no more than two pages (large landscapes or very active fire seasons may need more space), describe other relevant fire management activities within the project area (hazardous fuel treatments are already documented in Question #6):

In the Spring of 2012, fire managers from the Jemez RD continued to expand discussions with local cooperators regarding fuels treatments and fire protection. As a contributing member to the Sandoval County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, progress was made across jurisdictional boundaries relative to risk reduction, efficient emergency responses, and landscape fuels reduction projects.

The 2012 fire season started on time in mid-May with human starts followed by lightning events in early June. The biggest fire on the District was the Bear Springs which started on June 3rd and became a type 3 event burning onto Jemez Tribal Lands as well. As Summer waned, indices and ignition potential climbed and the District Fire Management expanded to over 130 fire personnel daily. Due to the efforts, large fires did not occur. Over the course of the fire season fire crews patrolled over 23,700 miles of Forest System Road with 2,360 personal contacts conducted. 78 citations / incident reports involving significant resource impacts were issued. 138 abandoned campfires were suppressed and 18 Public Assists were conducted (accidents, medicals, S7R, etc.). A total estimated cost of the District Fire Suppression and Prevention efforts was 1.6 million. Of the 34 fires, 20 were human and 14 lightning caused for a total of 642 acres.

The District provided large fire support both within outside of the Southwestern Region and covered initial attack for other Districts on the Forest. Multiple training assignments and certifications were completed throughout the year resulting in significant forward progression and employee development. The District Fire Prevention Plan was re-written, and multiple fairs, events, and community meetings were attended.

On the Forest, fuels accomplishments for the year were quite impressive given the severity of the fire season. However, due to the WO restrictions, only 70 acres on the Guacamalla Piles was completed. The focus for 2012 was directed toward thinning projects such as East Fork (2 acres), Cerro Pelado (20 acres), Fenton Hill hazard tree abatement (10 acres), Smokey Circle (5 acres), and Thompson Ridge (15 acres). Over 1400 man hours were spent in support of the Paliza roads project, and 58 acres were thinned along FR 270 and FR 10 in support of the Paliza Rx. An additional 12 miles of line were prepared for burning on the San Juan Rx, SW Banco Bonito Rx, and Vallecitos Rx projects. All of these projects were administered by the District Fire Management, with the labor provided by the Inmate Work Camp Program.

Other accomplishments include

- The VCT collaborated with Bandelier National Monument to enter into an interagency agreement (Service First) to permit the VCT and Bandelier to share fire and fuels management resources on a reimbursable basis. This agreement was submitted for review to the USFS Grants and Agreements (who must review or approve grants involving reimbursement by the Albuquerque Service Center) in August. Once approved the intent is to increase the capacity of both agencies by sharing skills across boundaries.
- In early Fall of 2012, the Forest and the VCT entered into an agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) which permitted the TNC to bring fire practitioners/land-managers from Spain, Argentina, Mexico, and Costa Rica to participate in prescribed burning on the Forest and VCNP as part of a training and technology transfer program.
- Bandelier National Monument staff assisted the preserve and the forest in project preparation, prescribed burning, and monitoring. The preserve and Bandelier National Monument have initiated an interagency agreement that would create a shared fire and fuels organization. This agreement will be completed in FY12.
- Two RAWS stations were installed on the District in 2012
- One individual graduated the UNLV 401 Course of Study
- The Southwest Firefighter Program was re-initiated on the Jemez Pueblo

- Travel management was supported along with multiple projects of other non-fire functions.
- Four Prescribed Fire Burn Plans were written as shelf stock for implementation in 2013.
- Finally, multiple monthly meetings were conducted with the Jemez Governors' Office and Natural Resources Department regarding the Paliza Rx.

10. Describe any reasons that the FY 2012 annual report does not reflect your project proposal, previously reported planned accomplishments, or work plan. Did you face any unexpected challenges this year that caused you to change what was outlined in your proposal? (please limit answer to two pages)

In 2012, The Forest and the VCT continued to be impacted by the effects of the 2011 Las Conchas Fire. On the VCT, activities were redirected to post fire restoration still within the SWJM landscape. However, on the Forest some SWJM projects had to be delayed or postponed in order to redirect it's resources to post fire restoration. This has resulted in a short term impact to accomplishments for 2012 and the overall planning schedule for the next few years and may impact the 10-year schedule overall.

The Forest also was unable to implement two large scale prescribed burns due to a moratorium on the use of that tool during the extended national fire season in 2012.

We have also had (what we hope to be) minor setbacks related to the VCT's status as a wholly-owned government corporation managing National Forest System lands. As a government corporation and a stand-alone agency under USDA, the VCT does not share the same authorities for entering into grants and agreements as the Forest and the VCNP is exempt from federal procurement regulations. However, the VCNP pays an annual fee to the Albuquerque Service Center (ASC) for acquisition support including payment for invoices. Unfortunately, during this FY the VCNP was unable to enter into any reimbursable agreements under this authority and this has delayed the VCNP's ability to enter into stewardship agreements to implement forest-thinning activities. The VCNP is working closely with the ASC and USFS Grants and Agreements to develop instruments to allow us to enter into agreements under VCNP authorities and to obligate payments under those agreements.

The SWJM project also has unique reporting issues as it is the only CFLN landscape that includes lands other than National Forest System (NFS) lands. The SWJM includes the VCNP which, as a government corporation, has been unable to report accomplishments to some of the USFS databases of record. This has led to some accomplishments on the VCNP not being reported. As of October, 2012 the VCNP will be able to report accomplishments in FACTS and WORKPLAN. The collaborative is working with the RO and WO to address issues with the other reporting databases including TIM, INFRA and RAR.

11. Planned FY 2014 Accomplishments

Performance Measure Code³¹	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount (\$)
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	Acres	17,755	
Acres of forest vegetation established	Acres	0	
Acres of forest vegetation improved	Acres	2,570	\$1,336,400
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants	Acre	200	\$60,000
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands	Acres	54	\$16,200
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions.	Acres	31	\$139,500
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	0	
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	Miles	6	\$120,000
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	7,200	\$950,400
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	Acres	4,480	\$361,900
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance	Miles	0	
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance	Miles	0	
Miles of road decommissioned	Miles	33	\$116,000
Miles of passenger car system roads improved	Miles	147 ³²	\$389,550
Miles of high clearance system road improved	Miles		
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage	Number		

³¹ Please include all relevant planned accomplishments, assuming that funding specified in the CFLRP project proposal for FY 2014 is available. Use actual planned funding if quantity is less than specified in CFLRP project work plan, and justify deviation from project work plan in question 13 of this template.

³² Under the proposal, all roadwork was combined. This figure represents the total for road maintenance and improvement at all service levels

Performance Measure Code³¹	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount (\$)
Miles of system trail maintained to standard	Miles		
Miles of system trail improved to standard	Miles		
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard	Miles		
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales	Acres	900	\$105,150
Volume of timber sold (CCF)	CCF	25,998	
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production	Green tons	51,274	\$405,150
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acre		
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acres	6,800	\$1,489,200
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands	Acres		
Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests on Federal lands	Acres		

12. Planned FY 2014 accomplishment narrative (no more than 1 page):

Early in FY 2014 the Forest expects to have completed its landscape treatment EIS. Large scale treatments that will occur within forested areas thinning and prescribed burning will be implemented towards both hazardous fuels and landscape restoration objectives. Other treatments for watershed, fisheries, and road decommissioning will also begin to be implemented based on the EIS decision.

The VCT proposes to thin approximately 2,000 acres, use prescribed fire to improve/maintain conditions in forests and grasslands, decommission roads, continue erosion control within the Las Conchas fire burn perimeter, continue the eradication of Class I Noxious Weeds (Canada bull and musk thistles and oxeye daisy), begin the second year treatment of cheatgrass, and continue noxious weed inventory and prevention activities. The VCT, working with a non-profit group, has restoration work planned in riparian and rangeland areas (Valle Seco and Sulphur Creek). This project includes repairing a spillway in a large earthen dam, addressing head-cuts and other ongoing erosion, restoring historic wetlands and building fence to protect riparian areas from livestock grazing.

13. Describe and provide narrative justification if planned FY 2013/14 accomplishments and/or funding differs from CFLRP project work plan (no more than 1 page):

In general, planned accomplishments and funding will reflect what's outlined in the work plan. The forest is currently working on its landscape-level environmental impact statement. Once it's completed, the forest intends to offer a 10-year stewardship opportunity to accelerate restoration work. Accomplishments in: Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales, Volume of timber sold (CCF) as well as Acres of hazardous fuels, Vegetation Improved and others were to be accomplished through this stewardship contracting. In the SWJM CFLRP work plan the Forest anticipated these stewardship related activities (mechanical treatments) would be ramping up in FY 2013/14. It is more likely that this will occur in FY 2014/2015 mostly due to contract timing and reporting requirements. The effect of this is a delay rather than a reduction of the total accomplishment. Other Discrepancies from the work plan may occur based on actual versus planned costs, the results of cultural resource inventories that could limit the extent of treatment, environmental conditions impacting our ability to complete planned ignitions, or unforeseen administrative issues.

The collaborative continues to experience unforeseen issues including the Effects of the Los Conchas fire, delays due to national policy shifts like the Rx burn moratorium, funding delays due to continuing resolutions as well as other issues. Overall the collaborative is making progress but at a somewhat slower pace than the workplan described. However, at the same time the Forest and VCT has made some shifts in expending CFLR funds. When a project cannot be implemented in a particular year, the funding may be shifted to another project. If no other projects are ripe for implementation then the CFLR funds are not expended. In this way the project may have funding in the future and the Collaborative has not incurred additional match requirements.