NORTHERN BLUES CFLRP LANDSCAPE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Executive Summary

This project would implement active treatments on 223,800 acres of National Forest land, along with an anticipated 300,000 acres of passive treatment via beneficial wildfire. Partners would implement an additional 297,000 acres of active treatments and 80,000 acres of passive treatments on private and tribal lands. Over 10 years this would result in over 900,000 acres of treatment (20% of forested CFLRP[i] landscape; see Appendix 1). Key elements of our proposal include:

- Project area:
    - lies within region of high biodiversity and serves as important wildlife corridor
    - has significant cultural value to area tribal nations
    - has experienced significant departure from historic range of variation in forest structure and composition, due in large part to long-term suppression of wildfire
    - has a high risk of wildfire based on forest conditions and natural ignition potential
- Extensive restoration efforts have been undertaken, and are ongoing, on adjacent private and tribal nation lands, in this region spanning Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington
- Area has strong history of successful cross-boundary, all-lands restoration activities; non-Forest-Service partners are ready and willing to engage in collaborative restoration
- Over-arching goal is to prepare the landscape for beneficial use of naturally ignited wildfire
    - Project Area is actively utilizing unplanned ignitions to accomplish forest management objectives (averaging 30,000 acres per year over last 6 years)
    - see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtwnNuWMY9E for an example of the area's most recent use of beneficial wildfire
- Proposed restoration would emphasize:
    - cross-boundary, collaborative efforts to mitigate fire hazards at Forest/private interface and protect communities at risk
    - a network of strategically located fuel breaks (consistent with forest types) throughout National Forest lands within the project area
    - specialized efforts to protect Endangered Species Act (ESA[ii]) species, cultural sites, municipal watersheds, and other values at risk
- Restoration efforts will:
    - maintain existing old growth stands by contributing to their resiliency
    - protect/favor old trees and move stands toward old-growth structures where feasible
    - shift the landscape toward a more historic range of variation/heterogeneity
    - utilize best practices that move watersheds toward fully functioning conditions
    - reduce long term cost of fire management in the region
- Project will NOT include establishment of new permanent roads
- Roads identified for decommissioning are in NEPA[iii]-completed areas
- Existing infrastructure is more than adequate to utilize products from restoration efforts and contractor base has capacity to implement treatments
- Forests are committed to making CFLRP the primary focus of management efforts

Project Summary

Project Maps

We have included 4 maps in this document as Attachment A (also available via the Webmap at: https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=79923c635b354eb2a07396224ab33cc2)

- Map 1: Project Area includes National Forest boundaries and associated wilderness and roadless areas, other governmental and tribal lands, and forest products infrastructure.

- Map 2: Shared Stewardship Opportunities for CFLRP Investment shows areas where partners are actively restoring lands adjacent to the Forests, points out cross-boundary priority areas, and identifies Forest Service priority areas for strategic fuels breaks and special resource protection.

- Map 3: Landscape Readiness shows recent large wildfires and areas of completed USFS vegetation management and prescribed burning efforts, as indicators of the landscape's readiness to receive wildfire as a management tool.

- Map 4: Wildfire Hazard Potential illustrates that much of the Project landscape has high or very high probability of extreme fire behavior, posing risks to communities, habitats, cultural resources, and other values.

Landscape Boundaries

Our Project Area (Map 1) is defined by the boundaries of the Northern Blue Mountain Cohesive [Wildfire] Strategy Partnership (CWS[iv]) and encompasses the Umatilla (UMF[v]) and Wallowa-Whitman (WWF[vi]) National Forests along with other governmental, tribal and private forestlands. The two Forests have extensive contiguous boundaries, a long history of cooperation, and a shared forest collaborative. Wildlife corridors, fish habit, and unique plant assemblages span the Forests. The Project Area has shared market and contractor infrastructure, coordinated fire protection responsibilities (via the CWS), and enjoys broad public support for reduced fire risk and enhanced forest health (Hartter, et al., 2017). Extensive restoration efforts have been undertaken and are continuing on the Forests and adjacent private and tribal lands (Map 2). Fuel, weather, and natural ignition characteristics make large, cross-boundary wildfires a recurring feature (Maps 3 and 4). Dense, homogenous stands and their associated forest health issues are common. The Forests' 3.8 million acres (75% forested) are too extensive to treat directly; this Project would employ targeted treatment specific areas to protect communities at risk, along with creation of strategic fire breaks and targeted, integrated restoration in high priority watersheds and of other high value resources. These actions (directly impacting about 8% of USFS forested land within the project area) would enable the Forests' to employ beneficial wildfire on a much broader landscape, enhancing its resiliency and restoring historic vegetation patterns. This is especially important given the Forests' nearly 900,000 acres of wilderness and 800,000 acres of roadless areas; unavailable for direct treatment but very much impacted by conditions on adjacent forests.

This Project Area represents a unique opportunity to improve ecological conditions across a massive landscape in the interior Pacific Northwest. It links restoration efforts of the Tapash CFLRP in eastern Washington, the Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters CFLRP in Idaho, the Deschutes and Lakeview CFLRP in central Oregon, and the Southern Blues CFLRP to the immediate south. The WWF and UMF cover the northern half of the Blue Mountains Ecoregion (BME), a geologically diverse and dissected landscape situated between the Great Basin to the south and the critically endangered Palouse prairie to the north. The combination of geology and topography produces a distinctive mosaic of vegetation communities and wildlife habitat, hosting over 250 native wildlife species including top predators like the grey wolf, seven large ungulate species, and a host of small mammals and birds. The region is an important corridor connecting habitats and animal migration routes between the Rocky Mountains and the Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges, and in addition to its forests includes imperiled mixed grass prairie, canyonlands, and high desert. Streams, rivers, and lakes crossing both the WWF and UMF provide important habitat for a variety of endangered native and anadromous fish species, including some of the furthest inland intact spawning habitat within the lower 48 states. Restoration focused on increased resiliency and reducing risk to these ecosystems and their associated values aligns with and supports the Oregon Governor's Wildfire Council strategy, Washington's Department of Natural Resources 20-year Forest Health Strategy, and neighboring tribal forest management plans.

Economic, Social, and Ecological Context

Forests in the BME range from dry ponderosa pine, to dry and moist mixed-conifer (ponderosa pine, grand fir, western larch, and Douglas-fir), to subalpine/cold forests (lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and whitebark pine) (Halofsky, et al., 2014). Wildfire was the overriding process that influenced historic forest structure. It created fine- and coarse-scale variability in habitat and species composition (Hessburg, et al., 2007); maintained rare, fire-dependent habitat types (e.g., aspen and whitebark pine); and provided sediment and logs to streams, changing flow regimes and refreshing spawning habitat for important fish species (Gregory, et al., 2003; Luce, et al., 2012).

Dry ponderosa pine and dry mixed-conifer forests (44% of UMF and WWF forestland) historically experienced frequent, low severity fires burning large areas every 12-25 years (Heyerdahl, et al., 2001; Johnston, et al., 2016; Johnston, 2017), resulting in low density stands of large, fire-resistant trees and open-canopy habitat. Moist mixed-conifer (35% of forested area) and subalpine/cold forests (21%) likely experienced complex disturbance dynamics and mixed-severity fires varying over space and time, leading to a heterogeneous landscape of uneven-aged, even-aged, and multi-cohort stands (Stine, et al., 2014; Hessburg, et al., 2000).

Historical photographs (Appendix 2) have documented widespread changes in the spatial complexity of forests across the BME over the last 80+ years (Hessburg, et al., 2000; Hessburg, et al., 2015). Livestock grazing, overstory timber harvest, and fire suppression simplified forest structures and increased densities of shade-tolerant species (Hagmann, et al., 2014; Hagmann, et al., 2013). Over the last 30 years dry and moist mixed-conifer forests in the Blue Mountains have experienced a deficit of low- and moderate-severity, and an excess of high-severity, fire (Haugo, et al., 2019) resulting in significant departure from historic stand conditions (Haugo, et al., 2015; DeMeo, et al., 2018). Fire regimes are significantly departed in 97% of watersheds on the WWF and in 75% of the UMF's watersheds (Potyondy & Geier, 2011), and much of the forested Project Area is currently classified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential (Dillon, et al., 2015). Every global circulation climate model indicates that annual temperatures will increase in the BME in the future, with vast implications for both wildfire and insect outbreaks (Halofsky & Peterson, 2017). Models predict a 6-fold increase in area burned with as little as a 1° C mean annual temperature increase (Littell, 2011; Halofsky & Peterson, 2017) and the BME is expected to experience the largest increases in wildfire likelihood in the Pacific Northwest, particularly in moist mixed-conifer forest types (Davis, et al., 2017).

The BME provides critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout, summer steelhead, and chinook salmon. The health and diversity of aquatic systems are central to these species' recovery. Watershed conditions are currently limited by roads, dams, stream channelization, and water diversions (Wissmar, et al., 1994). These factors, in addition to extensive removal of beaver in the Pacific Northwest prior to 1840 (McIntosh, et al., 1994), have in many places substantially reduced stream and riparian function. Less than 25% of the watersheds on the Wallowa-Whitman NF and 43% on the Umatilla NF are classified as "properly functioning" within the Watershed Condition Framework. The remainder exhibit varying levels of impairment, limiting their ability to be resilient in the face of uncharacteristically large and intense wildfire.

Over 55,000 acres of the BME is known to have been impacted by invasive plants (Quigley, et al., 1996) and large areas are susceptible to invasion (Buonopane, et al., 2013). Susceptibility is most prevalent in areas dominated by dry forest, grass, shrub or cool shrub types.

The Blue Mountains have a rich and diverse cultural history spanning more than 10,000 years. The Forests are within the ceded boundaries of several American Indian nations. Numerous archaeological and historical resources remain important to these peoples, including special plant locations, traditional hunting and fishing sites, other traditional use areas, and ancestral and spiritual sites.

The Blue Mountains have extensive undeveloped and backcountry areas that provide exceptional scenic and recreational qualities (including seven designated wilderness areas, a national recreation area, and 13 wild and scenic rivers). Local residents and visitors avail themselves of the Forests' opportunities for camping, backpacking, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, rock climbing, hiking, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle use, snowmobiling, cross-country and downhill skiing – making important contributions to local economies. As of second quarter 2019, recreation (including arts and entertainment, accommodations and food services, leisure and hospitality) accounted for 9% of jobs and 4% of wages in Northeastern Oregon (compared to 12% and 10%, respectively, for the natural resources sector) (Oregon Employment Department, 2019).

Despite shifts in technology, markets, and access to public land resources, Blue Mountains rural communities remain strongly connected to natural resource economies. Shifts in forest management policies, coupled with changes in the timber industry and global economics, contributed to long-term recessions. These changes contributed to the loss of working families, declines in school populations, stagnant wages, and dramatic rises in median age in rural communities across northeastern Oregon. Increasing frequency and area burned by wildfire, along with associated smoke, has created new social and economic challenges. Approximately 20 percent of the Blue Mountains land base is considered wildland urban interface (WUI[vii]); areas where wildfire can pose a substantial threat to life and property. Firefighter safety and increasing large-fire suppression costs are additional consequences and challenges.

While annual timber harvests from national forests in the Blue Mountains have declined dramatically (from a high of over 600 million board feet in 1989-90 to about 80 million board feet in recent years) this activity remains economically important to the region. Timber harvested on the WWF between 2014 and 2016 supported 115 jobs annually and generated $6,508,000 in labor income. For the UMF the annual average was 137 jobs and $8,258,000 (USDA, 2018). Local ranchers graze cattle on the grasslands and forested ranges of the national forests during late spring, summer, and early fall, contributing to regional cattle sales exceeding $153 million in 2017 (US Census of Agriculture).

Over the next ten years two of our sub basins alone will invest $24 million in watershed restoration work and local job creation; and the watershed restoration anticipated in this proposal would contribute an additional $10-15 million (Gecy, 2019). Lacking the additional active forest and watershed restoration in this CFLR, these ecological, social, and economic values are at substantial risk of continued degradation.

Landscape Strategy and Proposed Treatments

Desired Conditions and Strategy

Our Project's desired ecological conditions include a landscape resilient to wildfire, drought, pest and diseases; more historically-representative levels of forest heterogeneity, stand density, and species composition; healthy and resilient old, dry ponderosa pine forests and old growth stands; native plant communities of sufficient vigor to resist non-native plant species invasion; enhanced watershed conditions; and intact wildlife corridors with diverse habitats.

Our strategy in fire-adapted dry ponderosa and dry-mixed conifer forests will be to shift species composition to favor early seral species, reduce basal area and stand density, and restore structural features to forests in which fire-resistant large and old trees (e.g. ponderosa pine and western larch) can develop and remain intact through repeated disturbances and climatic fluctuations (Wisdom, et al., 2000). We will retain existing relict trees, old forests, and post-disturbance large snags and down logs to provide quality habitat for wildlife (Hessburg, et al., 2016). Treatments will be implemented with the intent of restoring spatial variability and structure, which will ultimately improve small mammal and bird habitat, understory plant diversity, snow retention, and historically representative fire behavior and spread (Churchill, et al., 2013). Improving growing conditions for native bunchgrasses and perennial forbs will decrease the likelihood of invasion by exotic plant species (Kennedy, et al., 2002; Corbin & D'Antonio, 2004).

In moist mixed-conifer forests we will use mechanical treatments and prescribed fire in previously harvested stands to restore historical successional patch size distributions (Hessburg, et al., 2007; Hessburg, et al., 2016). This will be coupled with enhanced use of beneficial wildfire to create and maintain stand structure and species composition diversity. Such complexity is critical to mitigating incidence of severe wildfire (Parks, et al., 2014; Stevens-Rumann, et al., 2016) and damage from insect and disease across extensive areas, and buffers against future climate change. It also creates the variation in successional stages and habitats that support a diverse suite of wildlife species ranging from black-backed and three-toed woodpeckers (early successional) to the American marten (late successional). Specific restoration activities will be required to maintain or expand special habitats, such as aspen and whitebark pine forests, ensuring these habitats are maintained with use of beneficial wildfire.

This proposal's strategic implementation of aquatic and riparian treatments will promote recovery and directly restore habitats that are first-tier priorities for ESA listed species. Across larger landscapes, however, recovery will take longer and must occur naturally over time. This will require that entire ecosystems respond effectively to disturbance. Managing vegetation and fuels as proposed will encourage wildfire to occur in a manner that's more historically common, reducing the risk of exceeding stream and riparian systems' ability to respond and recover in appropriate timeframes (Penaluna, et al., 2018).

By prioritizing projects across a broad, multi-forest region, we are planning at a scale that is commensurate with the multi-level patterns, processes, and dynamics that govern these landscapes (Ager, et al., 2016; Hessburg, et al., 2016). This approach also aligns with other regional CFLRPs and state, tribal and private partner efforts.

Wildfire Risk Reduction

This Project's strategy for reducing long-term wildfire risk is three-pronged:

A. Fuels and thinning treatments in areas adjacent to private and/or tribal lands, with cross-boundary cooperation anticipated. Featuring thinning and mastication operations followed by pile and/or broadcast burning. Similar treatments are ongoing across much of the adjacent land and anticipated in other areas as this project progresses.
B. Creation of strategic fuels breaks within the Forests that will facilitate control of untimely wildfire while providing enhanced opportunities for use of beneficial wildfire as a restoration tool. Featuring commercial and non-commercial mechanical treatments followed by prescribed fire.
C. Forest restoration in targeted areas of high value, such as remnant stands of old ponderosa pine, watersheds with impaired function, or other unique cultural or ecological features. Treatment types will be individually tailored to these sites.

Our overarching goal is to restore Project Area forests to conditions in which wildfire can once again play its important role as a natural process. We recognize, however, that habitats from which fire has been excluded for nearly a century will be at risk of permanent transition to alternate, unfavorable states (Davis, et al., 2019; McWethy, et al., 2019) unless they are first modified to manage fire intensity and extent. Our three strategies will be implemented in targeted locations (approximately 8% of USFS forested acres) to protect values at risk and enhance firefighter safety, reduce stand density where departed from the historic range of variability, increase heterogeneity, and maximize potential to capitalize on natural ignitions when they occur in desirable locations and under favorable conditions. They will be coupled with aquatic and noxious weed restoration to restore desired watershed conditions.

Explicit prioritization of project planning areas to contribute to forest resilience, limit wildfire transmission to and from the WUI, improve watershed function, and minimize insect and disease epidemics has been carried out on the Forests (Vogler, et al., 2015). The Forests have coordinated with partners on adjacent lands, and with CWPPs, to identify the treatment emphasis areas associated with this Project (Map 2, Attach. B).

Both Forests have management and suppression response plans in place that allow beneficial use of wildfire within the landscape and are completing preliminary operational delineations (PODs[viii]) (Thompson, et al., 2016). The Forests have a long history of sharing resources, and drawing upon partners, to accomplish prescribed burning. Existing arrangements include a prescribed fire assistance IDIQ[ix] contract, Good Neighbor Authority (GNA[x]) and other agreements with both the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and mutual aid agreements with local rural fire protection districts. The Northern Blue Mountains Cohesive Strategy Partnership actively represents all major local fire management assets. Our strategies anticipate a future in which climate change significantly increases fire risk and incidence (National Research Council, 2011) and where human development expands within the WUI (Stein, et al., 2013). See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtwnNuWMY9E for an example of recent use of beneficial wildfire to accomplish restoration objectives within our Project Area.

Benefits to Local Communities

Restoring fire-resilient forest landscapes will provide or protect clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and other critical ecosystem services. These outcomes are critical to local economies, help sustain and enhance the region's overall quality of life, and form the basis of local tourism.

Our communities will benefit from retention of existing forest industry and contractor jobs. Restoration projects also contribute new jobs through treatment contracting, monitoring, and research; and through supporting services and industries. A report to the Oregon Governor concludes that restoration activities make significant contributions to local economies: by their methodology we estimate that, should the project be funded for its full 10 years, it has the potential to result in $60 million of industrial output, $27 million in total income, and $1.4 million in state tax revenue (Rasmussen, et al., 2012).

The Project has the potential to contribute substantially to the supply of raw materials for local mills and contractors for at least 10 years. This longer-term supply is an essential key factor in retaining a viable wood products industry, including the mills, equipment, roads, and labor forces needed to carry out forest and watershed restoration and commercial timber management activities (Swan, et al., 2012). Local processing capacity is essential to maintaining healthy markets that increase stumpage values and improve the economic viability of forest restoration projects.

Finally, our communities will benefit from reduction of fire risk to property and life. This is a critical issue within our Project Area, given the extent to which private property, homes, and structures adjoin the UMF and WWF. Each county in our Project Area has a current CWPP to which our restoration treatments will contribute.

Key Metrics:

☐Maintain or increase number of workers employed by the project area each month, season, or year

☐Maintain or increase the number and diversity of wood products that can be processed locally

☐Maintain or increase the number and/or size of contracts offered each year to do restoration work

☐Maintain or increase number and/or type of trainings related to restoration completed by project work

☐Maintain or increase the number and/or type of training opportunities for youth

☐Maintain or increase acceptance of frequent, low intensity wildfire or prescribed fire

☐Maintain or increase use of the forest for subsistence

☐Maintain or increase the number of visitor days open for locals to recreate

☐Maintain or increase acres protected from fire through creation of defensible space, fuel breaks, and other fuels reduction projects

☐Maintain or increase fuels reduction acres in relation to areas considered to be at highest risk from wildfire

Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts

The Project's restoration activities are projected to produce 96,000 CCF[xi] of sawlogs and 24,000 CCF of small diameter non-saw logs annually (initially) and to increase as projects are fully implemented (see Attachment C). We have a strong timber industry presence within, or near to, the Project Area. These mills utilize all forms of roundwood fiber that would originate from the Project's treatments. Within 25 miles of the Forests' boundaries are three sawmills, one plywood plant, and an integrated post/pole/biomass facility. Cumulatively, they annually consume approximately 312,000 CCF of sawlogs with a top diameter of 6 inches and larger and approximately 52,000 CCF of small diameter non-saw fiber logs with top diameters of 3 to 5 inches. These log specifications account for most of the roundwood fiber volume generated by vegetation management on the Forests. In addition, there are three sawmills, a whole log chip facility, and a post and pole plant outside of the immediate vicinity which also purchase raw materials from the WWF and UMF (see Map 1). These additional mills, combined, utilize approximately 424,000 CCF of sawlogs and 49,000 CCF of small diameter non-saw fiber logs annually.

Planned reductions in wood supply from private industrial forest lands across the Northern Blues are a significant risk factor for the fiber utilization facilities in the region. Many of these facilities have been operating below optimum capacity (often only a single shift) for several years. This reality increases the importance of a consistent and predictable program of work on, and flow of products from, the National Forests (Swan, et al., 2012). Existing demand for wood fiber in all forms is sufficient to ensure full utilization of the Project's restoration products. Opportunities exist to market sawlogs and non-sawlog fiber logs together through timber sales, stewardship contracts and GNA timber sales - the aggregate value of which will offset and reduce the per-acre costs of restoration thinning and fuels reduction*. Furthermore, the long-term viability of the local timber industry and workforce requires confidence in the future and stability of management activities and wood flow from the National Forest system lands (Swan, et al., 2012), which account for over 70% of the region's forested acres.

CFLRP funding, when combined with appropriate contracting strategies, enhances the feasibility of treating marginal acres by subsidizing the cost of transportation – allowing treatment to occur in stands that would otherwise fail to be commercially viable. In addition, materials may be offered for sale within the forest through firewood and/or post permits. Additionally, our Project Area benefits from Integrated Biomass Resources' (Map 1) ability to utilize small diameter and/or low-quality material to produce posts and poles, fuel pellets, and firewood. This provides a key market for material that may otherwise lack commercial value. Finally, biochar opportunities are being researched and may serve as an important new market for restoration products.

*Based on recent restoration projects on the WWF and UMF, revenue from the sale of sawlogs and small diameter non-saw log material contributes an average of $200 per acre towards hazardous fuel reduction projects (Hawkins, 2019).

Collaboration

Our Project Area has a long history of forest management collaboration - an effort initiated in 2001 between Wallowa County and the Wallowa Valley Ranger District was one of the earliest forms of forest collaboration in the country. It developed a roadmap for all-lands stewardship that analyzed forest, range and watershed conditions across public and private land, built consensus for restoration priorities, and leveraged public and private investments in implementation. Our Area's collaboration has evolved and now collectively covers the public, private and tribal forestland within our proposed CFLRP Landscape. A key group of collaborative partnerships (Attach. D) coordinates and implements restoration efforts across our landscape:

- **Northern Blues Forest Collaborative** (NBFC): Covers 3.8 million acres across the UMF and WWF. Includes a diverse group of 45 signatory stakeholders. Formerly two collaboratives, the groups chose to merge to better align with the cooperative nature of the two Forests. The collaborative has engaged on numerous projects to date (Kahler, Thomas Creek, Glass, East Face, Lower Joseph Creek, Sheep Creek), including multi-party monitoring.
- **Northern Blue Mountain Cohesive [Wildfire] Strategy Partnership** (CWS): One of the first national CWS pilot projects, it represents all major fire management entities serving public, private and tribal lands with our area, keeping them focused on CWS pillars. Members strongly support each county's Community Wildfire Protection Planning groups, support use of beneficial wildfire on National Forest lands, and work to protect communities-at-risk.
- **My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership** (MBMW): A partnership of nine public and private organizations (Wallowa Resources, OR Dept. of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), OSU Extension, American Forest Foundation, CWS, OR Forest Resources Institute, WWF, UMF) serving 3,000 private forest landowners (600,000 forested acres) in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The partners focus on outreach to non-industrial private landowners and work with county-level partner/shared stewardship/CWPP groups (e.g. Western Blues Shared Stewardship Group in Mill Creek Watershed Project Area) to target areas where it is sensible to facilitate cross-boundary forest restoration projects. MBMW partners have brought in over $14.5 million to support wildfire risk reduction and forest health on private lands adjacent to the Forests.
- **Watershed Councils (e.g. Grand Ronde Model Watershed):** Convene diverse local, state, regional, and tribal resources in focused efforts to restore ESA-listed fish and their habitats across key watersheds. Over the past decade GRMW efforts have resulted in 140 miles of stream/floodplain restoration and $12.5 million of projects on National Forest lands.

These collaborative partnerships have developed a strategic process to coordinate restoration projects in high priority, high-wildfire-risk watersheds. Factors of success include: (1) leadership and support of region-wide partners within the NBFC, CWS, MBMW, & GRMW (2) county-level partner implementation teams to design and implement projects, (3) landowner networks to motivate landowners to be involved in cross-boundary restoration efforts, (4) a commitment to local workforce development training and multi-party monitoring and (5) concerted involvement with area tribes.

Our partnerships remain committed to shared stewardship and are engaged in four current and several other planned projects within the proposed CFLRP area. (See Attachment E)

Multi-party Monitoring

Our multi-party monitoring will be built as a learning, adaptive management process. All stakeholders will help shape and decide upon monitoring questions. Frequent reporting and use of results to validate or adjust treatments will close the planning/action/monitoring loop. Our efforts will be tailored to the treatments delineated in our Wildfire Risk Reduction strategy:

A. Boundary treatments: Extent to which risk of wildfire transmission to and from WUI areas has been mitigated, in manners ecologically and socially acceptable to adjacent properties, while enhancing fire-fighter safety. Key stakeholders and monitoring contributors include property owners and fire management agencies.
B. Strategic fuel breaks: Extent to which naturally occurring fire can be employed to restore historic ranges of variation in forest density/composition/structure, in safe and cost-effective manners. Key stakeholders/monitoring contributors include Forest fire management and ecological staff and NBFC members.
C. Targeted restoration: Extent to which the specific restoration targets are met for each unique project/resource. Key stakeholders/monitoring contributors would vary by project, but likely include Forest ecological staff, NBFC, and watershed councils.

Monitoring will be carried out on a subset of sites and results used to inform future treatments. Overarching goals of protecting/enhancing soil and vegetation resources, wildlife and fish habitat, and cultural resources will be incorporated into each project, as appropriate, both upland and riparian. Monitoring will also assess the project's success in meeting socioeconomic and infrastructure metrics. Efforts will be guided by Region 6 directives (DeMeo, 2019); take advantage of lessons learned by the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition (Malheur NF; in 8th year of successful CFLRP implementation); and build off metrics developed by the Wallowa-Whitman Collaborative (Moote, 2015). Region-wide questions will be included to leverage resources and integrate local and broad-scale impacts. Region 6 has committed to maintain datasets and facilitate reporting.

NBFC will oversee monitoring, working with Forest personnel and other partners. It will draw upon local resources such as PNW Research Lab scientists, the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center (Eastern Oregon Univ.), OSU Extension Service, Wallowa Resources, Baker Resources Coalition, the Ecosystem Workforce Project (Univ. of Oregon), The Nature Conservancy, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Nez Perce Nation. This offers opportunities to address relevant research questions, engage students in monitoring efforts, and develop worker-training programs to generate long-term monitoring capacity. Public educational opportunities will be offered describing the Project's restoration activities, monitoring programs, and results. Scientific forums will convey technical results to Forest personnel and forest management professionals to inform future management activities and zones of agreement, and to inform NEPA analyses. Given the multi-faceted nature of the Project's monitoring efforts, a single, dedicated, local monitoring coordinator will need to be identified/hired. Ideally this person would be accountable to the Project's collaborators (e.g. a Forest staff person on special assignment, or a 3rd party consultant on contract). We look forward to carrying out a rigorous and informative CFLRP monitoring program.

Readiness to Implement Strategy

The Forests are ready to begin implementing the proposed treatments. Over 487,000 acres are immediately available for targeted treatments, having completed NEPA compliant analysis with emphasis on protecting high value resources, re-establishing fire as a natural process on the landscape, and restoring watershed function. These areas were prioritized in forest planning schedules, working with collaborative partners in the development of treatment acres and design. Targeted treatments within this initial area could be completed within the first four years of the CFLRP, protecting shared boundaries, WUI areas, communities at risk, and critical watersheds. This would set up a significant landscape to take advantage of fire as a natural process, restoring a more historic fire severity matrix and addressing socioeconomic objectives.

As treatment of these areas are underway, the Forests will complete NEPA for additional acres, observing shared stewardship concepts. In a 10-year period the Project could result in 935,000 acres of forests on which fire can reliably play a natural role while reducing fire severity and protecting communities, watershed functions, and firefighting personnel.

The Forests share several IDIQ contracts for fuels work including non-commercial thinning, hand and machine piling, and prescribed fire implementation. Joint Agreements are in place with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), BLM, and Oregon Youth Authority for personnel, equipment, and aviation resources to implement prescribed fire. The Forests have relied heavily on contracting to accomplish fuels and vegetation treatments with a high degree of success in accomplishing forest targets. Several local contractors share work on both forests and increased workload is expected to build on these resources. The Forests are also in the process of putting together Good Neighbor Authority agreements with ODF, which would allow the forests to increase their capacity for implementation of commercial restoration activities. The Forests are well versed in both stewardship agreements and stewardship contracts and would use both vehicles to help accomplish the work.

Approximately 35-40 local forest consultants, loggers and forestry contractors exist in Northeastern Oregon, possessing skill sets (forestry services, hazardous fuels removal, home assessments, forest management plans, broadcast and pile burning, education, fire response, etc.) essential to fire risk reduction and forest/watershed health (Huber-Stearns, et al., 2016). A 2016 study indicates our contractor base has adequate capacity to address CFLR targets (Ellison & Jones, 2016), and we anticipate that capacity would grow given confidence associated with the CFLRP's 10-year workload. The workforce includes experienced individuals who know the environment, possess the equipment necessary for the work, and who have a strong drive to work locally. Both forest management and noxious weed management contractors reported availability to take on more work, particularly if it were local. Across the board "contractors want to secure local contracts that positively impact local forests, the local economy, and the local communities where they live, work, and hire employees."

Unit Capacity and Project Funding

This Project's intent is to restore natural disturbance and watershed processes across the landscape, such that it functions at a scale and across management designations that would not be feasible through active management alone. Key Project goals include developing an integrated approach for restoring a resilient landscape that provides social and ecological benefits, and reduced risk to lives, communities, and high valued resources. This strategy is not new to the Forests - there are numerous ongoing efforts with local and area groups and partners, and numerous projects where NEPA is completed, ongoing or planned, that were built using this strategy. This CFLRP would allow the Forests to increase and support collaborative involvement and provide funding to finish the work, with special emphasis on non-commercial work (fuel treatment) and integrated watershed restoration. Finishing the vegetation treatments quicker will hasten opportunities for using beneficial wildfire to achieve objectives.

The Forests are currently and consciously organized to efficiently meet fuels and timber targets, and therefore well organized to implement this strategy (over the past six years the two Forests have collectively implemented over 22,000 acres of mechanical treatments and 17,000 acres of prescribed fire annually, on average). Key roles are consistent with our organizational structure, with the Forest Supervisor taking the lead. Staff Officers for vegetation management and fire programs would be the leads for managing funding and coordinating project implementation. District Rangers lead the resources needed to implement the projects. There will be significant roles for many Forest staff, line, specialists, and program managers to serve - working closely with the collaborative and shared stewardship groups.

Successful implementation of the CFLRP is not expected to require significant change in organizational structure, although in some cases additional specialized capacity may be desired to increase efficiency and/or production. Our partnerships allow us to address capacity through GNA and other contracting arrangements, but to ensure these arrangements happen in timely manners the Forests may need to add staffing in contract development and representation. We are committed to using GNA, enterprise, contracting, temporary, or permanent positions as needed to accomplish the CFLRP objectives and understand that funding may not be renewed.

At the conclusion of the project term the Forests will remain committed to this Project's overall strategy. This Project will allow the Forests to increase the pace, scale, and quality of implementation, especially with essential non-commercial management and the use of beneficial wildfire. The ability to increase the opportunity to utilize wildfire has the potential to significantly increase resilience across this large landscape. Work will be scaled to available funding, and we anticipate the ability to leverage the efforts of partners in cross-boundary efforts. We anticipate that the budget for monitoring will be sufficient to meet the Project's objectives.

The Project's funding plan (Attachment F) illustrates the benefits of strong partnerships. The Forests currently have signed aquatics restoration partnership projects (stream and upland)

underway. We expect these to multiply under the CFLRP. We have a strong and proven partnership with ODF, which is ready to implement GNA agreements, assist in prescribed burning, and support beneficial use of fire on the landscape. Both Forests are committed to use base funding, trust funds, and supplemental funds to accomplish the CFLRP as their priority program of work. We anticipate at least 16% of matching funds to come from partnership in-kind or cash funding.

Acronymn Definitions

[i] CFLRP: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
[ii] ESA: Endangered Species Act; requires enhanced protections for species determined to be threatened, endangered, or of other concern
[iii] NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act; requires detailed assessment of federally managed land prior to treatment activities
[iv] CWS: Cohesive Wildfire Strategy. The Blue Mountain Cohesive Strategy Partnership coordinates wildfire preparedness and response across all relevant agencies in Northeastern Oregon and Southwestern Washington.
[v] UMF: Umatilla National Forest
[vi] WWF: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
[vii] WUI: Wildland Urban Interface. More than 20% of the Blue Mountain forested area is classified as WUI, meaning it has homes and other structures within forested areas.
[viii] PODs: Potential (or Preliminary) Operational Delineations. Planning tool combining local expertise and spatial statistical analysis to identify safest and most effective control lines for managing wildfires.
[ix] IDIQ: Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity. Federal contract allowing recurring and flexible delivery of supplies or services over the timespan of the contract.
[x] GNA: Good Neighbor Authority. In Oregon, GNA allows the Oregon Department of Forestry to partner with the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to increase forest management activities to improve forest health, enhance wildlife and aquatic habitat, assure recreational opportunities, and support rural economies.
[xi] CCF: 100 cubic feet of wood volume. Also known as a “cunit.”

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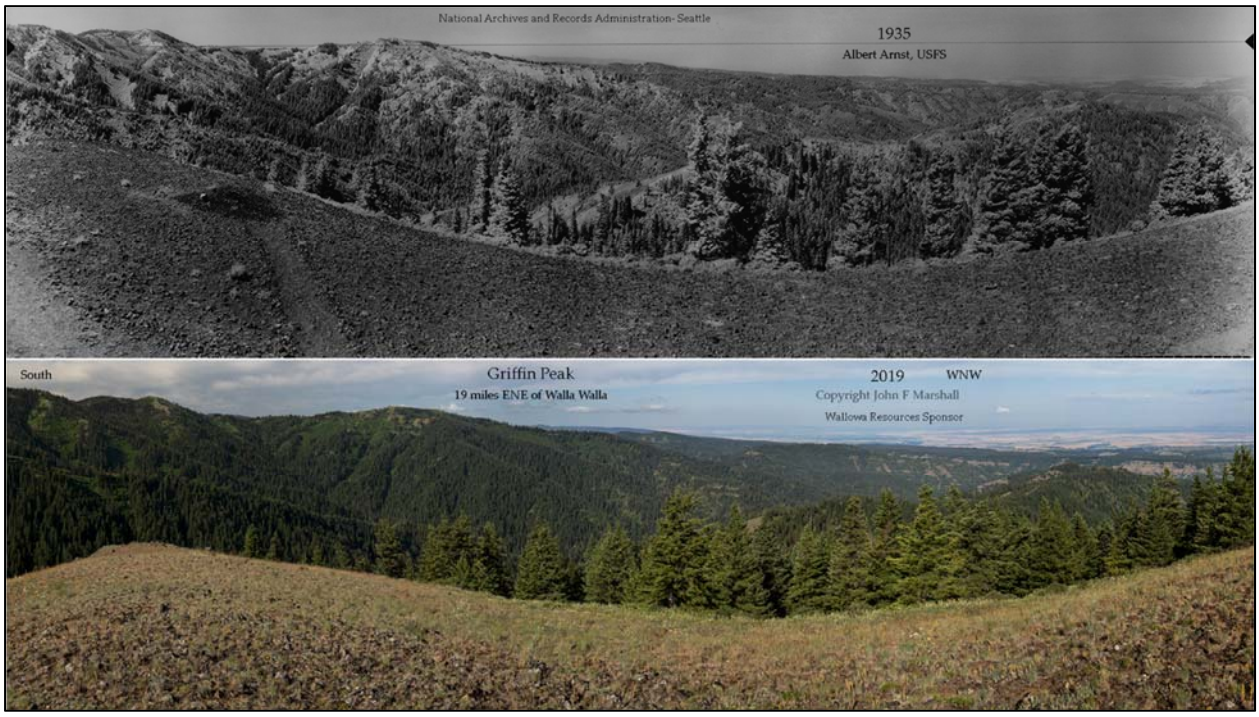
Appendix 1: Northern Blues CFLRP Landscape Details

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Total Northern Blues CFLR Project Area Acreage (Public/Private/Tribal/Other): 10,426,560 acres</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Total Forested CFLR Project Area Acreage: 4,535,191 acres (43% of CFLR Landscape)</td></tr>
<tr><td>National Forest (NF) Lands: 3,809,846 acres
(37% of CFLR landscape, including UNF and WWF)</td><td>Private/Tribal Lands: 6,146,427 acres
(59% of CFLR landscape)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Forested NF Lands: 2,834,900 acres
63% of forested CFLR landscape
75% of NF lands
Roadless/Wilderness: 1,686,531 acres (44% of Total NF Lands)
897,426 acres of Wilderness (6 Wilderness Areas)
787,692 acres of Roadless (56 Roadless Areas)
Forest Types:
Dry Forest Acres: 1,210,428 (44%)
Cold Forest Acres: 592,805 (21%)
Moist Forest Acres 951,979 (35%)
Forested Lands Status:
Reserved Acres: 474,330 (17%)
Restricted Acres: 611,363 (22%)
Actively Managed Forested Acres: 1,749,160 (62%)</td><td>Forested Private/Tribal Lands: 1,579,891 acres
35% of forested CFLR landscape
26% of Total Private/Tribal lands</td></tr>
<tr><td>NF Lands Readiness Status across CFLR:
Current NEPA Acres: 487,220 acres (399,132 forested acres)
Pending NEPA Acres: 423,112 acres (342,533 forested acres)
NF Lands Resiliency Implementation Areas (additional potential implementation acres identified by Forest Service Resiliency Team TBD through future prioritization and alongside collaborative partners): 727,780 acres (602,536 forested acres)
TOTAL acres = 1,638,112 acres (1,344,201 forested acres)</td><td>Private/Tribal Lands Readiness across CFLR:
Currently qualified/targeted for ODF/NRCS/OWEB funding: 641,869 forested acres
Fuels reduction, forest health improvement, watershed improvement
15% of forested CFLR landscape
41% of total Private/Tribal forested acres</td></tr>
<tr><td>NF Lands Acres To Be Treated [See Appendix B]:
Active Treatments: 223,800 acres (~ 8% of forested NF land; see Appendix B)
Passive Wildfire Acres: 300,000 acres (based on recent wildfire history it is reasonable to expect ~ 30,000 acres per year of managed unplanned ignitions)
TOTAL Active & Passive Treatments over 10 years of CFLR: 523,800 acres (~ 20% of forested NF landscape)
NF Landscape Ready to Receive Fire after Treatments: 935,000 acres</td><td>Private/Tribal Lands Targeted for Treatment [See Appendix B]:
Active Treatments: 297,800 acres
Passive Treatments: 80,000 acres
TOTAL Treatments over 10 years of CFLR: 377,800 acres (approximately 23% of forested Private/Tribal landscape)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bottom Line
523,800 acres Actively/Passively treated
~ 20% of the forested NF landscape
~ 12% of forested CFLR landscape</td><td>Bottom Line
377,800 acres Actively/Passively treated
~ 23% of the forested Private/Tribal landscape
~ 8% of forested CFLR landscape</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"><u>901,600</u> acres (~ <u>20%</u> of 4.5 million acre forested CFLR landscape)
will be actively or passively treated during the 10 Years of the CFLRP</td></tr>
</table>

Appendix 2: Historic and Recent Forested Landscapes.

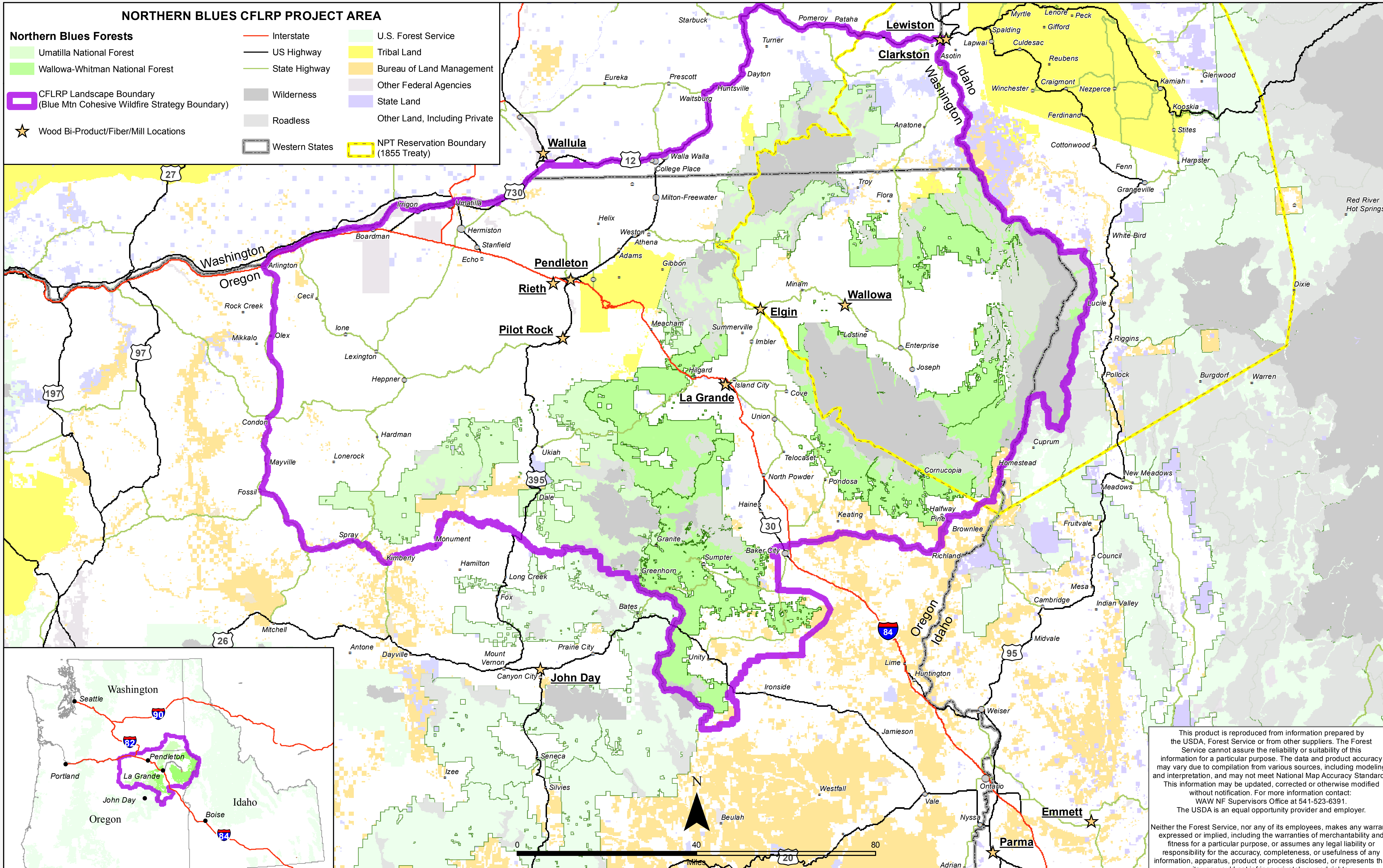
Forest conditions in Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington have been altered by long term fire suppression, overstory timber removal, and past grazing techniques. Forests have lost heterogeneity and increased in tree density, and their compositions have shifted toward shade-tolerant species. This has resulted in declines in forest health and heightened risk of large, intense wildfire.



MAP 1 - NORTHERN BLUES CFLRP LANDSCAPE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project area includes forested land and impacted communities within the boundaries of the Northern Blue Mountains Cohesive [Wildfire] Strategy. Map shows Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, associated wilderness and roadless areas, other governmental and tribal lands, and forest products infrastructure (starred on map).

Date: 1/24/2020



MAP 2 - NORTHERN BLUES CFLRP LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL
Shared Stewardship Opportunities for CFLRP Investment

Partners are actively restoring lands (diagonal orange stripe) adjacent to the Forests. Priorities for cooperative all lands efforts (red outlines) reflect significant opportunities for cross-boundary collaboration. Year 1-5 USFS priorities for strategic fuels breaks and special resource protection lie within NEPA-completed (dark green) or NEPA-pending (green striped) areas. Year 6-10 efforts would extend to Resiliency areas (grey striped).

Date: 1/24/2020

CFLRP Investment Opportunities Map

- CFLRP Landscape Boundary (Blue Mtn Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Boundary)
- CURRENT NEPA - NFS Priority Areas for CFLRP Implementation (strategic fuel breaks & high value/risk areas)
- PENDING NEPA - NFS Priority Areas for CFLRP Implementation (strategic fuel breaks & high value/risk areas)
- Current Veg/Fuels Implementation Areas (Private & Tribal)
- Potential NFS Lands Resiliency CFLRP Implementation Areas TBD through future prioritization/with collaborative partners
- Communities at Risk
- Current Cooperative Areas (all lands efforts where private & tribal partners are focused)
- Municipal Watersheds
- WA 20 YR Planning Strategy High Priority Watersheds
- Western States

Northern Blues Forests

- Umatilla National Forest
- Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
- Wilderness
- Roadless

- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road
- U.S. Forest Service
- Tribal Land
- Bureau of Land Management
- Other Federal Agencies
- State Land
- Other Land, Including Private
- NPT Reservation Boundary (1855 Treaty)

Western Blues
Joseph Creek
Meacham
Wallowa Front
La Grande Watershed
Baker City Watershed

N

0 20 40 Miles

MAP 3 - NORTHERN BLUES CFLRP LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL
Landscape Readiness

Recent large wildfires (red diagonal striped) emphasize their cross-boundary nature and shared risk.
Blue denotes completed USFS vegetation management and prescribed burning efforts which, when coupled with CFLR targeted efforts, set the stage for beneficial use of wildfire to meet landscape resilience objectives.

Date: 1/24/2020

Landscape Readiness Map

- CFLRP Landscape Boundary (Blue Mtn Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Boundary)
- Current Cooperative Areas (all lands efforts where private & tribal partners are focused)
- Veg/Fuel Treatments since 2009
- Past Large Fires since 2004
- CURRENT NEPA - NFS Priority Areas for CFLRP Implementation (strategic fuel breaks & high value/risk areas)
- PENDING NEPA - NFS Priority Areas for CFLRP Implementation (strategic fuel breaks & high value/risk areas)
- Current Veg/Fuels Implementation Areas (Private & Tribal)
- Potential NFS Lands Resiliency CFLRP Implementation Areas TBD through future prioritization/with collaborative partners
- Western States

Northern Blues Forests

- Umatilla National Forest
- Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
- Wilderness
- Roadless

- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road
- U.S. Forest Service
- Tribal Land
- Bureau of Land Management
- Other Federal Agencies
- State Land
- Text
- Other Land, Including Private
- NPT Reservation Boundary (1855 Treaty)

Western Blues
Joseph Creek
Meacham
Wallowa Front
La Grande Watershed
Baker City Watershed
Washington
Oregon
Idaho

MAP 4 - NORTHERN BLUES CFLRP LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL
Wildfire Hazard Potential

Much of the Project landscape has high or very high probability of extreme fire behavior, posing risks to communities, habitats, cultural resources, and other values.

Date: 1/24/2020

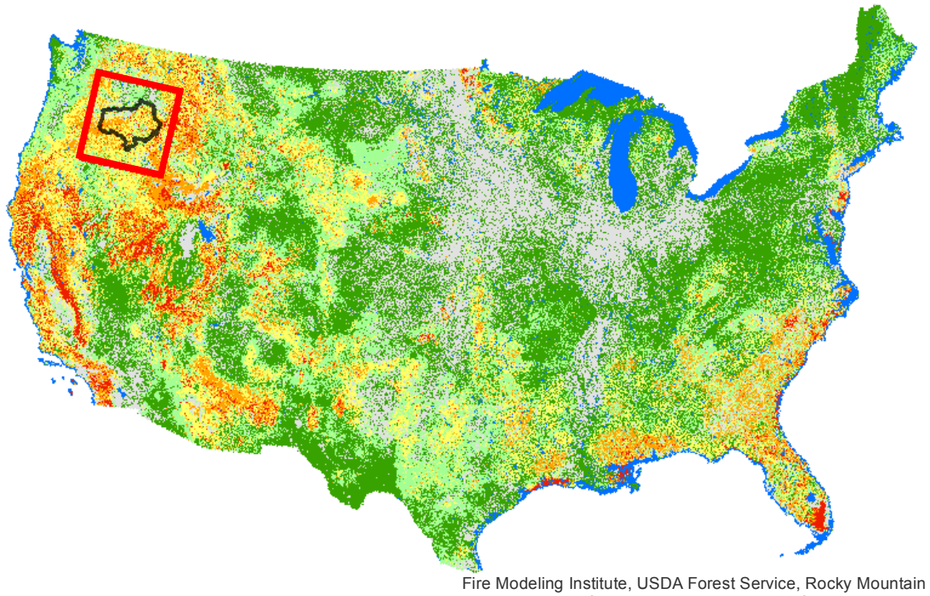
Wildfire Hazard Potential Map

- CFLRP Landscape Boundary (Blue Mtn Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Boundary)
- Western States
- Administrative Forest

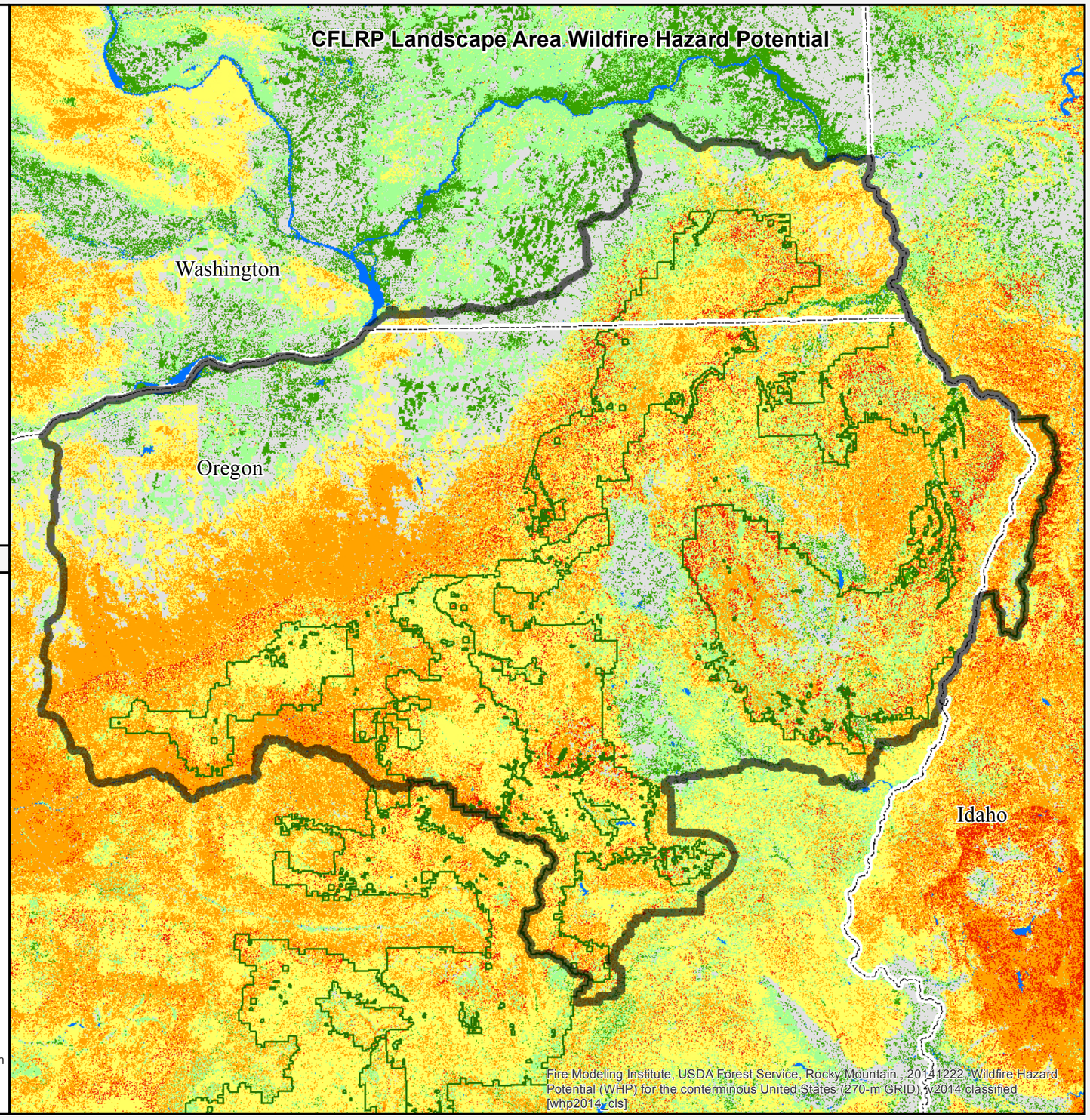
WHP Classes - Standard Colors

- Very Low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High
- Non-burnable
- Water

Nationwide Wildfire Hazard Potential



Fire Modeling Institute, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain , 20141222, Wildfire Hazard Potential (WHP) for the conterminous United States (270-m GRID), v2014 classified [whp2014_cls]



Fire Modeling Institute, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain , 20141222, Wildfire Hazard Potential (WHP) for the conterminous United States (270-m GRID), v2014 classified [whp2014_cls]

ATTACHMENT B: Planned Treatments (Northern Blues CFLRP)

Core Restoration Treatment Types	*Please briefly fill in additional background*	Year 1*	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Years 5-10	*TOTAL*	Key treatment objectives	Estimated % accomplished on NFS	Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private,
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres)		4400	28000	26800	27750	136850	*223800*		97%	Currently 7,700 acres of hazardous fuels reduction to be treated on private & other non FS lands using non CFLR funding sources within the CFLR project area & within Cross Boundary Cooperative Areas (ODF/NRCS***)
Mechanical Thinning (acres)		2600	10800	9800	8750	80000	*111950*	Strategic fuels Breaks	93%	Currently 19,800 acres of mechanical thinning to be treated on private & other non FS lands using non CFLR funding sources within the CFLR project area & within Cross Boundary Cooperative Areas (ODF/NRCS***)
Prescribed Fire (acres)		1800	18000	17000	19000	84000	*139800*	Landscape Restoration fire risk mitigation	54%	Currently 80,000 acres of prescribed fire to be treated on private & other non FS lands using non CFLR funding sources within the CFLR project area & within Cross Boundary Cooperative Areas (ODF/NRCS***)
Other (acres)		0	0	0	0	15000	*15000*		100%	
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk		1200	20800	23800	17850	100500	*164150*		95%	Currently 7,700 acres to mitigate wildfire risk to be treated on private & other non FS lands using non CFLR funding sources within the CFLR project area & within Cross Boundary Cooperative Areas (ODF/NRCS***)
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - WUI acres	CWPP See project maps	3200	7200	3000	9900	46200	*69500*		91%	Currently 7,100 of WUI acres to be treated on private & other non FS lands using non CFLR funding sources within the CFLR project area & within Cross Boundary Cooperative Areas (ODF/NRCS***)
Invasive Species Management (acres)		5000	9000	9000	9000	54000	*86000*	Restore and improve rangeland conditions, riparian area, and wildlife habitat	0%	Currently 86,000 acres of invasive species management to be treated on private & other non FS lands using non CFLR funding sources within the CFLR project area
Native Pest Management (acres)							*0*			
Road Decommissioning (miles)		8	10	10	10	0	*38*	Water quality TES fish habitat, watershed function, elk security	100%	Road decommissioning will only occur on current NEPA-ready acres
Road Maintenance and Improvement (miles)		172	193	211	230	289	*1095*	Public safety, access, watershed	100%	
Road Reconstruction (miles)				5		0	*5*	Public safety water quality	100%	
Trail Reconstruction (miles)			1.5		1	5	*7.5*	Improved recreational access	100%	
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)	Aspen restoration/ fencing, TSI, RX Fire	2000	20500	21000	21000	119000	*183500*		93%	
Crossing Improvements (number)		2	6	6	7	20	*41*	Fish passage, habitat access, risk		
In-Stream Fisheries Improvement (miles)		30.1	44	36	34.5	145.5	*290.1*	TES species recovery, reduction of flood		
Lake Habitat Improvement (acres)				20			*20*	Recreation access public access	100%	
Riparian Area Improvements (acres)		32	27	40	30	117	*246*	Improved riparian condition		
Soil and Watershed resources enhanced or maintained (acres)	TSI and RX Burning	2002.5	20605	21106	21105	119143	*183961.5*	Soil productivity	97%	
Priority watersheds moved to improved condition class (number)		1	2	3	2	6	*14*	Complete essential resoration needs		
Stand Improvement (acres)		1800	4300	4800	4750	28500	*44150*		83%	Currently 14,000 acres to undergo stand improvements on private & other non FS lands using non CFLR funding sources within the CFLR project area & within Cross Boundary Cooperative Areas (ODF/NRCS***)
Reforestation and revegetation (acres)		4200	4796	3800	3700	20000	*36496*		2%	Currently 35,800 acres to be reforested on private & other non FS lands within the CFLR project area using non CFLR funding sources & within Cross Boundary Cooperative Areas (ODF/NRCS***)
Timber Harvest (acres)**		22031	22470	20950	20000	113000	*198451*		32%	Currently 134,500 acres of timber to be harvested on private & other non FS lands using non CFLR funding sources within the CFLR project area & within Cross Boundary Cooperative Areas (ODF/NRCS***)
Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres)		5000	9000	9000	9000	54000	*86000*	Restore and improve rangeland		
Abandoned Mine Reclamation/Remediation				1		0	*1*	TES fish habitat protection, public		
Aspen Restoration acres						500	*500*	Enhance aspen stands, improve wildlife		

**Assume funding requested for Year 1 will be allocated in February 2020 at the earliest*

***Note that timber volume produced from the treatment is estimated in a separate attachment - Attachment C.*

****NRCS cannot commit to future dollars, but IS committed to the goals of the CFLR proposal of alligning treatments on public, private and tribal lands in strategic area*

ATTACHMENT C: Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts (Northern Blues CFLRP)

*Note that acres treated includes all acres treated within the CFLRP boundary. However, the projected annual harvested volume is only for NFS lands.

Fiscal Year	Estimate of acres treated annually that will generate restoration byproducts	Total projected annual harvested volume (ccf) from NFS lands	Expected percentage commercially utilized* from NFS lands
2020	22000	120000	100
2021	22500	118200	100
2022	20950	128000	100
2023	20000	120000	100
2024	18800	126000	100
2025	18800	132000	100
2026	18800	132000	100
2027	18800	132000	100
2028	18800	138000	100
2029	18800	138000	100
TOTALS:	198250	1284200	100
	Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on NFS lands:	33%	
	Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on other landownerships within the CFLRP boundary:	67%	

*Commercially utilized refers to the volume expected to sell across all product classes (sawtimber, biomass, firewood, etc.)

ATTACHMENT D: Collaborative Membership (Northern Blues CFLRP)

Forest Service staff representative(s) working with collaborative: (Please provide list of key staff):	Eric Watrud (Forest Supervisor, UMF), Tom Montoya (Forest Supervisor, WWF), Brian Goff (Integrated Vegetation Staff Officer, UMF), Steve Hawkins (Deputy Fire Staff- Fuels Program Manager, WWF), Mike Rassbach (Walla Walla District Ranger, UMF), Bill Gamble (LaGrande District Ranger, WWF), Kris Stein (Wallowa Mountains Office District Ranger, WWF), Melanie Sutton (GIS Data Services Analyst, WWF), Nathan Poage (Ecologist, Blue Mountains National Forests), Upekala Wijayratne (Ecologist, Blue Mountains National Forests), Andrew Stinchfield (Deputy Fire Staff- Fuels Program

Collaborative Member/Partner Name	Organizational Affiliation (if applicable)	Was this person involved in proposal development?	Primary Issue Category	Second Issue Category	Third Issue Category	If "other," briefly describe
Pam Hardy	[NBFC] Western Environmental Law Center	Yes	Environmental	Watershed	Other	Compliance with environmental laws
Susan Jane Brown	[NBFC] Western Environmental Law Center	Yes	Environmental	Watershed	Other	Compliance with environmental laws
Susan Roberts	[NBFC] Wallowa County Board of Commissioners	No	County	Forest Products	Community Development	
Paul Anderes	[NBFC] Union County Board of Commissioners	Yes	County	Forest Products	Community Development	
Kerry Kemp	[NBFC] The Nature Conservancy	Yes	Environmental	Other	Fire Ecology	Forest restoration
Mike Billman	[NBFC] Oregon Dept. of Foresty	Yes	State	Forest Products	Other	Federal / GNA
Jeff Costello	[NBFC] Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Facilitator	Yes	Community Development	Federal	Other	Partner & Stakeholder Engagement
Rex Storm	[NBFC] Association of Oregon Loggers	No	Forest Products	Other	Community Development	Forest access & active management for sustainability to minimize lossess from pests, wildfire, disease, decadence, and weather.
Nils Christoffersen	[MBMW & NBFC] Wallowa Resources, Executive Director	Yes	Community Development	Forest Products	Watershed	
John Punches	[MBMW] Oregon State University Extension (Extension Forester Wallowa, Union, Umatilla)	Yes	Other	Other	Other	Landowner Education, Fire Risk Reduction, Forest Management
Jacob Putney	[MBMW] Oregon State University Extension (Extension Forester Baker)	Yes	Other	Other	Fire Management	Landowner Education, Forest Management
Mike Cloughesy	[MBMW] Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Director of Forestry	No	Forest Products	Fire Management	Community Development	
Nathan James	[MBMW] Natural Resources Conservation Service Acting Basin Team Leader John Day/Umatilla and Snake River Basins	Yes	Fire Management	Other	Other	Plant Productivity and Health/Cross boundary landscape resiliency
Tom Fry	[MBMW] American Forest Foundation West Director	No	Fire Management	Forest Products	Watershed	Landowner Education
Joe Hessel	[MBMW & CWS] Oregon Dept. Forestry, District Forester NE Oregon District	Yes	Fire Management	Forest Products	Other	GNA & Shared Stewardship
Alyssa Cudmore	[MBMW & CWS] My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator	Yes	Fire Management	Community Development	Other	Cross boundary landscape resiliency
Willy Crippen	[MBMW & CWS] Blue Mountains Cohesive Strategy Partnership, CWS Coordinator	Yes	Other	Fire Management	Community Development	Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Implementation
Tessa Vermuel	[LCG] Western Blues Shared Stewardship Group, Co-Coordinator (*Western Blues Cooperative Area*)	No	Fire Management	Watershed	Forest Products	
Matt Howard	[LCG] Wallowa CWPP Group, ODF Wallowa Unit Forester (*Wallowa Front Cooperative Area*)	Yes	Fire Management	Forest Products	Federal	
Katy Nesbitt	[LCG] Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee, Natural Resource Director (*Lower Joseph Cooperative Area*)	No	County	Community Development	Other	Natural Resources Management
JB Brock	[LCG & CWS] Union County CWPP Group, Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Chair, Union County Emergency Manager (*La Grande City Watershed and Meacham Cooperative Areas*)	No	County	Community Development	Fire Management	
Kristen Walz	[LCG] North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Partnership Coordinator	No	Watershed	Wildlife	Environmental	
Steve Edwards	[LCG] Baker Resources Coalition, Coordinator (*Baker City Watershed Cooperative Area*)	No	Watershed	Community Development	Forest Products	

NBFC = Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
CWS = Cohesive Wildfire Strategy
MBMW = My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Leadership Team
LCG = Local Coordination Group/ Community Wildfire Protection Group/Watershed Council

NORTHERN BLUES CFLRP PROPOSAL (2020)
Attachment E (Letters of Commitment)

Table of Contents

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Northern Blues Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) Proposal...Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

January 3, 2020

Dear, Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

On behalf of the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (NBFC), we are writing in support of the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), submitted, in partnership, by the Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

The NBFC, representing approximately 47 diverse stakeholder groups, was formed out of the deep need to assist both the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests in improving the quality, scale, and pace of restoration among the increasing numbers of their combined 3.8 million total national forest acres that had fallen out of resilience - due to past management practices, fire suppression, uncharacteristic natural disturbances, and the effects of climate change. The mission of the NBFC is to help the USFS design and implement restoration efforts that promote overall forest resilience, healthy local economies, and vibrant communities that depend on our forests. To date, these stakeholder partners have worked alongside the USFS to develop 6 distinct restoration projects across both the Umatilla (Kahler, Thomas Creek, and Glass) and Wallowa-Whitman (East Face, Lower Joseph Creek, and Sheep Creek) National Forests - totaling over 260,000 acres of analysis and active treatment lands. Additionally, the NBFC has acted as a catalyst in helping the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests coordinate shared restoration efforts - thus this joint CFLRP proposal.

Members of the NBFC Steering Committee have taken a significant role in helping the USFS to develop this Northern Blue Mountains CFLRP proposal, through both the Tier I and Tier II phases. They also worked throughout the fall of 2019, meeting with individual stakeholders and partners, in order to build broad support for this CFLRP. If funded, the NBFC will remain committed to the full CFLRP process; through the planning and implementation stages within the priority Cooperative Areas identified in the proposal. They will take a leading role in the multi-party monitoring of the various restoration projects through the CFLRP. They will also act as "conveners", to help ensure that the other key partners in this collaborative effort remain engaged and informed, as we proceed. Finally, over the course of this 10-year CFLRP project, the members of the NBFC will contribute estimated in-kind resources (time, expertise, travel, & financial match), averaging $79,000/year for years 1-5, and increasing to $92,000/year for years 6-10.

We believe this joint-forest all-lands regional partnership will provide significant progress toward meeting the growing ecological, economic, and social needs across our NE Oregon federal lands, adjacent private and tribal lands, and local communities. We thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Sincerely,

Jeff Costello, *Facilitator*
Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
401 NE 1st Street, Suite "A", Enterprise, OR 97828
(541) 426-8053 Ext. #30
jeff@wallowaresources.org

"All Hands All-Lands"

Blue Mountain Cohesive Strategy Partnership

611 20th Street
La Grande, OR 97850
(541)963-3168

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) Proposal for the Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

December 23, 2019

Dear, Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

On behalf of the Blue Mountains Cohesive Strategy Partnership, we are writing in support of the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) being submitted by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The goals and objectives outlined in this proposal align well with our goals and vision of applying Cohesive Wildfire Strategy within the Blue Mountains area of Oregon and Washington.

The mission and vision of the Blue Mountains Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Partnership (BMCSP) is to work collaboratively amongst our partnership to make meaningful progress towards the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (CWS): ● Resilient Landscapes, ● Fire Adapted Communities, ● Safe and Effective Wildfire Response.

Our partnership includes the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, and other entities including five County Emergency Management Services, the BLM, BIA, and Rural Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts within the partnership area. The area encompassed by our partnership covers approximately 7 million acres in Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington. Within these lands served by the BMCSP, ODF and WDNR share approximately 3,500 miles of common forest protection boundary with the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests and the Department of Interior, and over 2,500 miles of common boundary with Rural Fire Departments. Our "all-hands all-lands" approach is to work collaboratively across these boundaries to further the goals of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy.

The BMCSP has been at the core for the development of the Eastface Pilot Project located on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and on state and private lands within the project area. This project has attained multiple funding mechanisms to implement CWS projects, which has included Joint Chief

funding, Supplemental Funding, and several other State and Private Forestry grants. To date, this project has treated over 10,000 acres of fuels reduction on private, state and federal lands within four separate Wildland Urban Interface (WIU) areas.

Our partners have been instrumental in implementing a new comprehensive Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) template that focuses on implementing the three goals of the Cohesive Strategy. To date, four county CWPP's have been updated using the new template, utilizing "all lands" West Wide Risk Assessment model in Oregon to develop priorities for action items. These CWPP's have identified several priority projects on National Forest lands that would be implemented with funding attained by the proposed CFLRP. We will be able to continue to provide in-kind support in the updating and implementation of CWPP's within the partnership footprint.

We are currently partnered with the Northeast Oregon Chapter of the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council working to find opportunities to achieve more prescribed fire treatment acres. This group has been key to getting new smoke management regulations that make it more viable to achieve burn objectives and acres burned. We are partnering together to work with communities within identified Smoke Sensitive Receptor areas (SSRA's) to develop community response plans that would allow exemptions to certain prescribed fire smoke regulations. These exemptions will greatly enhance opportunities to achieve prescribed burns within the CFLRP boundary area over the next 10 years. We will be assisting these communities in applying for grants for plan developments and implementation, and will be assisting in preparing these plans.

Over the life of this proposal, we will continue to support our partners with assistance, personnel time technical support including GIS assistance, as well as applying for and securing grants to assist with CWS implementation that we can contribute for matching funding opportunities on CFLRP projects.

We believe this joint-forest all-lands all-hands regional partnership will provide significant opportunities toward achieving the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy goals of Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Wildfire Response across our NE Oregon and SE Washington federal lands, our city and county partnership agencies, and adjacent private and tribal lands. Therefore, we thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Sincerely,

Willy Crippen
Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Coordinator
Blue Mountains Cohesive Strategy Partnership
611 20th; La Grande OR 97850
william.j.crippen@oregon.gov
Cell – 541-910-3143
Work – 541-963-3168

My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership
401 NE First St, Suite A
Enterprise, OR 97828
(503) 428 -3777
alyssa@wallowaresources.org
www.mybluemountainswoodland.org

The My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership connects landowners in Union, Baker, Umatilla and Wallowa counties with the knowledge, skills, and assistance they need to be active stewards of their forests. We work together to facilitate restoration projects on public and private forestland through education and effective, locally-driven, partnerships to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health and water quality, support sustainable markets and jobs, and increase the public's understanding of healthy forests.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
USDA Forest Service, Forest Management
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington DC 20250-1103

Monday, 06 January 2020

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) Northern Blues Proposal for the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests

Dear Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel,

On behalf of the My Blue Mountains Woodland (MBMW) Partnership, we are writing in strong support of the *Northern Blues* Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) Proposal being submitted by the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests. Several members of the MBMW's Leadership Team and our Coordinator were highly involved in writing this proposal. Its vision to support landscape forest restoration across ownership boundaries strongly aligns with our Partnership's goals and objectives as they are outlined within our MOU.

- MBMW is a partnership of nine public and private organizations (American Forest Foundation, Blue Mountain Cohesive Wildfire Strategy, Wallowa Resources, Oregon Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Service, Wallowa Whitman National Forest, and the Umatilla National Forest) serving all 3000 forest landowners across the 600,000 private forested acres covering Northeastern Oregon. We work together to facilitate restoration projects on public and private forestland through education and effective, locally-driven partnerships to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health and water quality, support sustainable markets and jobs, and increase the public's understanding of healthy forests. We connect forest landowners with the knowledge, skills, and assistance they need to be active stewards of their forests.
- We have developed a strategic process to coordinate forest restoration projects in high priority, high wildfire risk watersheds across all lands in a way that supports the social infrastructure and county level support needed to implement projects. One example of this strategy is the development and implementation of the East Face "all-lands, all hands" restoration project in the Elkhorn Mountains. East Face is a multi-partner project to plan and implement forest restoration treatments that reduce the risk of wildfire and improve forest health across 128,000 acres of federal, state, and family forestland. To date, the project has treated 5506 acres of private land, 220 acres of state land, and 9800 acres on federal land resulting in the return of steelhead to the municipal watershed; it's supported 264 jobs, $9.2 million in wages, approximately 22 million board feet of wood to local mills, a unique small diameter wood processing facility (Integrated Biomass Resources), and the emergence of both the Blue Mountain Cohesive Wildfire Strategy and MBMW Partnership groups.

- East Face has demonstrated to our partners in Northeastern Oregon that it is possible to perform forest and watershed restoration at this large scale and across ownership boundaries, while also keeping the community's needs and benefit front and center.
- Using East Face as a model, the MBMW Partnership focuses our collective resources to perform outreach to non-industrial private forest landowners, and work with county-level partner/Community Wildfire Protection Planning groups (e.g. Western Blues Shared Stewardship Group in the Western Blues Cooperative Project Area; the Wallowa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Group in the Wallowa Front Cooperative Project Area) to target areas where it is sensible to facilitate cross-boundary forest restoration projects. Since the partnership began in 2015 - there has been significant progress made on the private side of the line. MBMW partners have brought in over $14.5 million to support wildfire risk reduction and forest health on over 30 thousand acres of private lands adjacent to the national forest system lands. However, in order to implement these projects more holistically - we need similar resources to implement on Forest Service lands as well.

The Northern Blues CFLR Proposal would scale up the successes of the East Face Project across our CFLR Landscape into these strategically focused areas, incorporate our lessons from East Face and other similar projects, and provide the additional funding needed on Forest Service lands to complement the successes we are seeing on the private and tribal lands. The ten years of assured funding will assist our partnership place resources in the highest priority locations across the landscape, coordinate true cross boundary all-lands stewardship, and help educate landowners and managers about effective management.

MBMW, among other partner groups, coordinated the data gathering and partnership identification of several of the cooperative, shared stewardship areas identified within the CFLRP Proposal: (1) Western Blues (2) Meacham (3) La Grande City Watershed (4) Baker City Watershed and (5) Lower Joseph Creek. These are all areas with (1) high values at risk (municipal watersheds, communities at risk, etc.) and (2) have varying stages of significant shared stewardship interest from local community groups. These are areas that are important to all MBMW partners and where we have agreed we are going to be focusing our collective resources over the next 1-5 years of the CFLRP and beyond. Further, while the Nez Perce tribe did not write a formal letter of support for this CFLRP, the Partnership has been in close communication with the Nez Perce forestry and natural resource staff to ensure the CLFR's goals and objectives complement those of the Tribe's Forest Management Plan.

We cannot support the Northern Blues CLFRP proposal more strongly. It was developed through a collaborative process with our local communities and partners. We believe it has great potential to help restore both social and ecological resilience across the Northern Blues, and we highly encourage the CFLRP Review Committee to consider supporting this proposal.

Sincerely,

Alyssa A. Cudmore

Alyssa Cudmore
MBMW Coordinator, representing the MBMW Leadership Team

- **Eric Watrud**, Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service
- **Jacob Putney**, Extension Forester (Baker County) Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Service
- **Jay Gibbs**, Basin Team Leader, Natural Resources Conservation Service John Day/Umatilla and Snake River Basins
- **Joe Hessel**, District Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry Northeast Oregon District
- **John Punches**, Extension Forester (Northeastern Oregon) Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Service
- **Mike Cloughesy**, Director of Forestry, Oregon Forests Resources Institute
- **Nils Christoffersen**, Executive Director, Wallowa Resources
- **Tom Fry**, Director of Western Forest Conservation, American Forest Foundation
- **Tom Montoya**, Forest Supervisor, Wallowa Whitman National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service
- **William Crippen**, Coordinator, Blue Mountain Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Group

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/oweb
(503) 986-0178

December 12, 2019

Kathy Ramsey
Fisheries Program Manager
Umatilla National Forest
72510 Coyote Road
Pendleton, OR 97801

RE: OWEB funds committed to the Headwaters North Fork John Day watershed FIP geography

To Whom it May Concern:

In January 2019, the OWEB board selected the John Day Basin Partnership to receive a Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) award for the John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative, which is focused on restoring habitat for spring Chinook and steelhead, both of which are ESA-listed fish species. While board funds are appropriated on a biennial basis, the board's intent in selecting FIP partnerships is to fund watershed enhancement actions over a 6-year period. In July 2019, the board designated $4 million for the John Day Basin Partnership in its 2019-2021 spending plan and delegated authority to the Executive Director to award funds through individual project agreements during the biennium. The total investment over 6 years is intended to be $12 million.

The John Day FIP is focused on three subwatersheds, including the Headwaters North Fork, the Upper Middle Fork, and Butte/30 Mile Creeks. OWEB-funded FIP activities within the Headwaters North Fork subwatershed can be matched with funds available through the CFLRP program to increase the volume of restoration work that can be accomplished and accelerate ecological outcomes.

Under the FIP program structure, the Partnership selects projects for funding each biennium. The initial project list is provided on the attached table. Funds allocated to Headwaters North Fork total approximately $1.2 million for the 2019-2021 biennium. Subject to award via individual grant agreements, projects anticipated for funding are included in the attached table.

We look forward to a productive collaboration with the John Day Basin Partnership.

Sincerely,

Eric Williams
Grant Program Manager

Headwaters North Fork John Day							
Project Name	**Lead Implementer**	**2019**	**2020**	**Water Ac**	**Technical Assistance**	**Restoration**	**Monitoring**
Restoration							
Hidaway Creek	NFJDWC		X	$ -	$ -	$ 147,750.00	$ -
Granite Creek RM 7.5	CTUIR	X		$ -	$ -	$ 600,000.00	$ -
Junkens Creek Aquatic Organism Passage-ATV bridge	NFJDWC and USFS (NFRD)	X		$ -	$ -	$ 52,074.00	$ -
Junkens Creek Fence	Grant SWCD and USFS (NFRD)	X		$ -	$ -	$ 29,235.00	$ -
NF John Day Headwaters HDWD Hand Crew Initiative	TU	X		$ -	$ -	$ 44,896.00	$ -
Technical Assistaance							
Desolation Meadows Project Design	TU	X		$ -	$ 125,567.00	$ -	$ -
10 Road Relocation - Phase I	Grant SWCD	X		$ -	$ 58,295.00	$ -	$ -
Monitoring							
NF Temp + Flow_Desolation Creek Salmonid Productivity	ODFW	X		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 267,238.00
				$ -	$ 183,862.00	$ 726,205.00	$ 267,238.00
					Total OWEB investment for Biennium 1		***$ 1,177,305.00***

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

December 22, 2019

Dear, Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

The Oregon Prescribed Fire Council (OPFC) represents fire managers, regulatory agencies, academics, citizens, private industry, tribes, and other parties who implement, research, or otherwise support the appropriate use of prescribed fire in Oregon's fire-adapted and fire-dependent ecosystems. We are writing this letter to provide support for joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), submitted, in partnership, by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

We are committed to partnering in the implementation of the project by providing technical assistance in negotiation of agreements of shared ownership through cross-boundary implementation, as well as Oregon's new smoke management rules. OPFC has engaged throughout Oregon in regional collaboration with partner stakeholders including USFS, non-profit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, private and tribal landowners, and regulatory agencies. We are also committed to working on issues related to legal liability that currently prevent meaningful implementation of prescribed fire on private lands at a scale more commensurate with activities on federal lands.

Over the course of the next 10 years, OPFC expects to see expansion of prescribed fire across jurisdictional boundaries in the spirit of shared ownership and the all-hands, all-lands approach as outlined in the Cohesive Strategy. The Umatilla and Wallow-Whitman CFLR project area is established with such in mind and represents an approach to land and resource management inclusive of prescribed fire across jurisdictional boundaries at a scale that we support and promote.

Our organization plans to take a role in assisting with navigating Oregon's new smoke management rules and working through cooperative agreements in order to help this CFLRP succeed. Our contributions would be in-kind.

This partnership has the potential to enable significant progress toward meeting the growing ecological, economic, and social needs across federal lands, adjacent private and tribal lands, and local communities in northeastern Oregon. We thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Sincerely,

Amanda Rau
Oregon Prescribed Fire Council Chair
1890 City View Street
Eugene, Oregon 97405
(541) 968-5851
oregonrxfirecouncil@gmail.com

December 23, 2019

Secretary Sonny Perdue
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC. 20250
agsec@usda.gov

RE: Letter of Support for the Northern Blues Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Proposal

Dear Secretary Perdue and Members of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Federal Advisory Committee:

On behalf of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners, one half of the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (Southern Blues CFLRP), I am writing to express our strong support for the application for CFLRP funding submitted by the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests.

The Pacific Northwest is blessed with several existing large landscape restoration projects. These include the Lakeview Stewardship Landscape on the Fremont-Winema National Forest in south-central Oregon, the Deschutes Skyline CFLRP on the Deschutes National Forest in central Oregon, the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLRP on the Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon, and the Tapash CFLRP on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in eastern Washington. To our east in Idaho lies the Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters CFLRP on the Payette National Forest. These forests are part of fire-dependent ecosystems that are suffering from historic fire suppression, past logging practices that removed the largest and most fire-resilient trees from the forest, and other management practices that have severely degraded the ecological integrity of the Blue Mountains and Basin and Range ecosystems. It is exactly these degraded conditions that the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program were designed to restore.

While all applications for new CFLRP funding are located in important ecosystems deserving of restoration, what makes the proposal from the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla unique is that it is the "missing piece" within this broader ecological region: with the Tapash CFLRP to the north, the Southern Blues and Lakeview CFLRPs to the south, the Deschutes CFLRP to the west, and the Payette CFLRP to the east, the landscape in the center is represented by the proposed

Northern Blues CFLRP. Should the Northern Blues CFLRP be selected for funding, the entire Blue Mountains and a large portion of the intermountain west would be targeted for critical investment. Given the success of the existing CFLRPs in this region, it is conceivable that by working together, the Forest Service and its partners could actually restore millions of acres of fire-dependent forestlands. Implementing this large landscape restoration was the intention of Congress in enacting the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act, and we have a real opportunity to deliver on this vision with your support for the Northern Blues CFLRP application.

We look forward to working with our colleagues and partners on the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests to leverage what we have learned through implementation of our Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLRP, and urge you to support the "missing piece" represented by the proposed Northern Blues CFLRP.

Sincerely,

Mark Webb
Executive Director
Blue Mountains Forest Partners
541-620-2546
bmfp06@gmail.com

Eastern Oregon Counties Association
1001 Fourth Street, La Grande OR (541) 963-1014

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

December 23, 2019

Dear Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

The Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) supports the Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. EOCA represents 13 counties east of the Cascade Range in Oregon. Included in our member counties is a population base of well over 400,000. Also included with the boundaries of multiple Eastern Oregon Counties is the proposed Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman CFLRP.

EOCA is in support of the Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman CFLRP application for multiple reasons: getting much needed fuels reduction implemented, creating strategic fuel breaks, as well as employing businesses across our region.

While the CFLR implementation funds go only to FS lands - the goal of this CFLRP proposal is to promote an all-lands, cross-boundary forest restoration strategy that spans public, private, state and tribal lands, including municipal watersheds. There has been significant work done on the private and tribal side of the line and this proposal will provide funding to allow similar successes on FS lands. Particular focus is on the effects of disturbance processes on the National Forest lands and reducing risk to neighboring landowners who have invested in protecting their values.
The CFLRP will support work at this larger cross-boundary scale, to create a more resilient landscape.

For these reasons, EOCA is in support of the Umatilla & Wallowa Whitman CFLRP application.

EOCA would also like to recognize the large number of diverse individuals who wrote, proofread and commented throughout the entire process to complete the application.

Respectfully,

Susan Roberts, Chair
Eastern Oregon Counties Association

90 South 21st Avenue, Elgin Or 97827
541-437-1654
Boise Cascade Wood Products, LLC

Boise Cascade

January 3, 2020

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Dear, Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:
On behalf of Boise Cascade Wood Products LLC (BCC), Northeast Oregon, I am writing in support of the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), submitted, in partnership, by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.
In the northeast Oregon region, BCC utilizes 72 million board feet of peeler logs at our plywood plant and chips 200,000 tons of small diameter non-saw material for paper production. BCC depends on local sources of wood fiber, especially from the local national forests. BCC is part of the infrastructure needed by the national forests to perform fuel reduction and restoration projects. Utilizing both saw log and small diameter non-saw log material enables BCC to be key partners in helping the national forests utilize wood fiber byproducts generated by CFLRP projects. BCC sees opportunity in increased wood fiber production through CFLRP projects and is in position to incorporate these materials into its raw material acquisitions.
BCC believes this joint-forest all-lands regional partnership will provide significant progress toward meeting the growing ecological, economic, and social needs across our NE Oregon federal lands, adjacent private and tribal lands, and local communities.
We thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Sincerely,

John Fullerton
Wood Procurement Manager
NEO Region

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214-2537

tel 503 802-8100
fax 503 802-8199
nature.org/oregon

20 December 2019

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
USDA Forest Service, Forest Management
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington DC 20250-1103

Dear CFLRP Review Committee,

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Oregon would like to offer our support for the Northern Blues CFLRP proposal submitted by the Umatilla & Wallowa Whitman National Forests. The goals outlined in the CFLRP legislation and in this specific proposal are well aligned with TNC's priorities of restoring resilience in fire-prone forests by creating conditions that allow fire to play a natural role in these ecosystems.

In Oregon and throughout the western U.S., TNC works extensively with the Forest Service at local, regional, and national levels to support the conservation and restoration of fire-prone forests that have been dramatically altered by a legacy of past management. Our organization uses and produces locally-relevant science to help achieve conservation outcomes that benefit both people and nature. We are deeply committed to working with partners, including collaborative groups, tribes, counties, diverse community members and state and federal agencies to help accelerate the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration treatments across large landscapes and multiple ownerships.

As a nexus between the Rocky Mountains, Cascade and Siskyou mountain ranges, the Great Basin, and the Palouse Prairie, the Blue Mountains of Northeast Oregon are a critical habitat corridor for many native wildlife and fish species. Forests in northeastern Oregon also provide important ecosystem services to local communities, including provisioning of drinking water, timber products, and tourism and recreational value through hunting, hiking, and camping, among other activities. These activities are an important part of the local economy and local communities have a strong desire to maintain the health of these forests for the benefits they provide. Northeast Oregon, like many places in the western United States, has experienced many large wildfires in the past several decades and concern about forest resilience has become heightened as drought and climate change impacts continue to become more pervasive. Productive forests in the northern part of the proposal area also have high carbon sequestration potential but are projected to increasingly be at risk of loss due to future wildfire.

TNC has been an active participant in collaborative forest restoration efforts in the Northern Blues for over 8 years and in existing CFLRP efforts across the state for over 10 years, providing science support, technical assistance, project leadership as well as monitoring and contract support. We work diligently with our collaborative partners to identify where restoration treatments may help create or maintain more resilient forests and communities. TNC has a joint agreement with the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests to fund a TNC staff member to help the forests prioritize restoration strategies, effectively implement tangible actions that mitigate the risk of uncharacteristic disturbances and provide technical and scientific support to the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative.

We look forward to continuing to leverage the collective knowledge of our organization, as well as our partners and collaborators, to help shape a long-term landscape restoration vision on both the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests. We feel that this proposal has great potential to bring together partners and industry around productive and tangible conservation outcomes that can help restore both social and ecological resilience across this unique landscape. We urge the proposal reviewers to seriously consider funding this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Stern

Mark Stern, Forest Program Director
The Nature Conservancy in Oregon

North Fork John Day Watershed Council
691 N Hwy 395 PO Box 444 Long Creek, OR 97856 541 421-3018 www.nfjdwc.org

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Proposal (CLFRP) submitted by the Umatilla National Forest and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. This landscape scale, ridgetop to ridgetop approach aligns with the mission of the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC). NFJDWC is a non-profit organization that works with private landowners, public schools, and public land managers in the North and Middle Fork John Day River subbasins.

The NFJDWC, has been engaged in project partnerships for over 20 years with the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests and deeply values the opportunities, past, present and future, to leverage USFS funds with other funding sources to accomplish ridgetop to ridgetop restoration on National Forest Service lands in the North Fork John Day subbasin, as well as adjoining the private lands. Our partnership accomplishments on National Forest Service lands over the years have included projects that improve fish and wildlife habitat, remove fish passage barriers, maintenance and improve trails, restore sensitive riparian and upland habitats, and invasive species management.

Additionally, the proposal's focus on upland management of forest vegetation with the collateral benefits to fish and wildlife, watershed, and soils compliments work planned by the NFJDWC. Projects planned for 2020:

Technical Assistance/Planning

- As part of OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) first biennium funding, the NFJDWC is partnering with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), United States Geological Survey (USGS), and Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to collect QL1 (Quality Level 1) 3DEP LiDAR data in the headwaters of the North Fork John Day and upper Middle Fork John Day River. Once the data is compiled and shared with project partners, it will be used by to create watershed models, accurate landscape scale mapping, and inform restoration project design (engineered and concept).

Restoration

- The Junkens Creek ATV Bridge Restoration project, also part of the FIP funding opportunity, will address an adult and juvenile fish passage barrier for ESA-listed bull trout, Mid-Columbia River steelhead, and spring Chinook salmon in the Desolation Creek watershed. This project will also introduce habitat complexity through LWD placement.

Conservation Corps

- As a part of the John Day Basin Conservation Corps (JDBCC), the NFJDWC employs military veterans to work in the North Fork John Day Wilderness. This year's program is funded by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) Rails to Trails funding opportunity. The crews work in and around the North Fork John Day Wilderness. The crew will spend 7 weeks on 4-day hitches working on trail infrastructure of the Tower Unit of the North Fork John Day Wilderness. With the guidance and leadership of the Umatilla's North Fork John Day Ranger District, the crews will clear, maintain, and improve a backlog of wilderness trails to pack-stock regulation by removing downed snags and trees, brushing the trails to regulation, and improving drainage and erosion issues.

Youth and Education

- As part of the NFJDWC school year program, private foundation funding supports the implementation educational programs surrounding ecological needs of ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead, Chinook salmon, and the habitats that support their various life cycles. We deliver two programs in rural Ukiah, OR to junior and senior high students. These programs aim to raise awareness, provide exposure, and nurture stewardship in the student's local watershed(s).

We are excited to provide this letter in support of ridgetop to ridgetop landscape restoration that could be accomplished over the next 10 years in in the John Day Basin with partnership funding from the United States Forest Service's CFLRP program. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristen Walz
John Day Basin Partnership Coordinator
North Fork John Day Watershed Council
kristen@nfjdwc.org
541-421-3018

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

December 17, 2019

Dear, Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

On behalf of Oregon NRCS, we are writing in support of the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), submitted, in partnership, by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

Oregon NRCS has been working closely with our partners Oregon Department of Forestry, Forest Service, Local governments, private landowners, OSU extension, Wallowa Resources and other partners to develop an active working relationship. This working relationship has culminated in multiple successful public/private cross boundary fuels reduction, wildfire hazard reduction and forest health projects. Tens of thousands of acres have been cooperatively treated across Eastern Oregon removing multiple tons of fuel per acre. These treatments reduce the fire danger and increase forage for both livestock and wildlife.

NRCS has been actively developing project areas that are adjacent to planned or completed public lands work or state funded grants on private lands. Our strategic approach allows us to expand on the good work of our partners by expanding the footprint of the treatment area. Much of our work is prioritized around Wildland Urban Interface with the intent to provide a buffer that would enable firefighters the ability to more safely engage and protect communities if a wildlife occurs.

NRCS has utilized EQIP, RCPP and CStP funds to treat non-industrial private forest lands across eastern Oregon. Although we cannot commit future funds we have not received yet, we do intend to continue prioritizing our projects strategically located next to areas that our partners intend to work in the future or have already worked in the recent past. This approach has been supported and directed through our local work group process at the county level. Our conservation investment strategies have identified a need and plan to treat around 15 thousand acres of non-industrial private forestland over the next 3-5 years. If we reach that target our investment will be around 11.25 million dollars. We are actively identifying additional areas for future years and would likely continue with the same treatment levels 5-10 years out.

We believe this joint-forest all-lands regional partnership will provide significant progress toward meeting the growing ecological, economic, and social needs across our NE Oregon federal lands, adjacent private and tribal lands, and local communities. Therefore, we thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Sincerely,

Nate James
Acting Basin Team Leader
USDA-NRCS
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541-278-8049
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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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January 2, 2020

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) – Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Dear Mr. Perdue and Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

On behalf of Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), I am writing in support of the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), submitted, in partnership, by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

DNR remains supportive of those collaborative efforts, which share our own agencies vision and goals and include; science based large scale, all lands restoration approach, on high priority landscapes.

This proposal and its' larger landscape restoration approach is similarly articulated in DNR's 20-Year Strategic Forest Health Plan and Forest Action Plan. The first goal in this plan is the restoration of 1.25 million acres of forest in eastern Washington by 2037. Two of the initial priority watersheds identified by DNR include lands managed by the Umatilla and Wallow-Whitman National Forest. These high priority landscapes were selected from many other in large part because of the collaboration and track record of these National Forests. The State of Washington has invested significantly in forest health treatments on private lands, focused within priority watersheds. DNR is currently funding forest health restoration projects on private lands in these areas. In the development of this CFLRP proposal the commitment to support a shared stewardship/all-lands vision and approach to USFS work in NE Oregon and SE Washington was clear, and our partnership with these Forests is strong. By partnering in the CFLRP, DNR expects to meet the forest health restoration goals in the eastern Washington 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan.

While sharing our state boundaries with our USFS partners and others, DNR has benefited from a long standing investment and positive relationships with our colleagues across our border. This includes regional collaboration on various projects, education and outreach as well as participation in the Western Blues Shared Stewardship Group, Blue Mtn. Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Group and dispatch of DNR suppression resources through the Blue Mt. Interagency Dispatch Center in La Grande, Oregon.

In closing, we believe that in supporting the Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project Grant Proposal and our all-lands regional partnerships, you will help in our continuing efforts and provide significant progress toward meeting the growing ecological, economic, and social needs across our NE Oregon federal lands, adjacent state, private and tribal lands, and local communities. Therefore, we thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Sincerely,

Hilary S. Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry
Northeast Oregon District
611 20th Street
La Grande, OR 97850
Phone: (541) 963-3168
FAX: (541) 962-1058

"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests
December 18, 2019

Dear Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel,

On behalf of the Oregon Department of Forestry, Northeast Oregon District, I am writing in strong support of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), submitted, in partnership, by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. This large scale project would complement and further the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) ongoing efforts to implement the national Cohesive Wildfire Strategy on private, state, county and municipal ownerships in northeast Oregon.

In northeast Oregon, ODF and the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests have an excellent relationship that we take great pride in. Initially, built around the need to work together on fire suppression goals and objectives, the relationship has evolved significantly over the past two decades as we have worked together to mitigate wildfire risk and restore landscapes. Our combined leadership in this "all lands - all hands" cross-boundary approach was validated by obtaining funding for one of the nation's first Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership projects (East Face). We were also among the nation's leaders in adopting the National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy and obtained funding for the Northern Blue Mountains Cohesive Wildfire Strategy pilot project which has become a permanent part of our business. Partnerships continue to grow in northeast Oregon. Now virtually all of our wildfire mitigation, forest health and restoration projects are planned and implemented within the context of a larger partnership that also includes the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Wallowa Resources, O.S.U Forestry Extension Service, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, American Forest Foundation, private landowners, and representation from our Counties. The commitment to work together amongst these partners is codified in an MOU as part of the My Blue Mountain Woodland Partnership.

Additionally, the state of Oregon, through ODF's Federal Forest Restoration Program, has committed significant funds to further the pace and scale of forest management and restoration on National Forest lands in the Blue Mountains. Northeast Oregon District currently has two full time employees dedicated to working with the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests, and we stand ready to

add capacity in support of on-going and future timber sale activities and Good Neighbor Authority projects.

I am excited about the benefits our district would expect to realize over the next 10 years if the CLRP was awarded. These benefits include but are not limited to reducing hazardous fuels around WUI's and in the middle ground, increased forest health by targeting insect and disease prone stands, improving forest wildfire resiliency, returning fuel class conditions to historical norms through mechanical and prescribed fire treatments and creating landscape level fuel breaks where possible. The benefits realized on National Forest lands would extend beyond those boundaries and have multiple and lasting positive impacts on adjacent non-federal lands and communities.

Our history of success in working with private landowners to implement fuels treatment, watershed and forest restoration projects is unparalleled. ODF is committed to the My Blue Mountain Woodlands mission of "facilitating restoration projects on public and private forestland through education and effective, locally-driven, partnerships to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health and water quality, support sustainable markets and jobs, and increase the public's understanding of healthy forests". ODF foresters working with funding from Community Assistance and Western States Fire Managers grants, and in partnership with NRCS, provide technical assistance and financial assistance to private landowners adjacent to National Forest lands. Virtually all of the grant funding obtained by ODF, and a large portion of funding from the NRCS, for work on private land is targeted at project areas that are directly adjacent to National Forest lands. We vow to continue this trend and increase it if possible, to maximize the benefits of a successful CFLRP proposal.

I believe this joint-forest all-lands regional partnership will provide significant progress toward meeting the growing ecological, economic, and social needs across our northeast Oregon federal lands, adjacent private and tribal lands, and local communities. The Oregon Department of Forestry is deeply committed to doing all we can and we support our Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forest partners in the CFLRP proposal they have put before you. Thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal and recognition of our support.

Sincerely,

Joe Hessel
District Forester
Northeast Oregon District
joe.hessel@oregon.gov

Oregon State University
Extension Service
Union County

Extension Service – Union County
Oregon State University
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12/31/2019

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture

CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Dear, Dr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

On behalf of Oregon State University Extension Service Forestry and Natural Resources Program we offer our support of the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) submitted by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

As Extension Foresters we been actively engaged with many of the members of the CFLRP proposal development team through our other community engagement efforts, and we were honored to be asked to partner on this proposal's development. We offered research-based expertise, insights on specific needs in the proposed treatment areas (particularly the cross-boundary areas), and our perspectives on how this project would contribute to broader shared restoration and stewardship opportunities. Our direct contributions to the CFLRP proposal included active participation in planning and content development. In addition, John Punches served as lead editor, assembling the proposal document from rich content provided by the development team.

As part of this project we plan to develop and deliver educational workshops and activities for landowners, foresters, contractors, agency partners, and community members. Opportunities include public education on forest conditions and the implications of long-term fire suppression and climate patterns, tours demonstrating outcomes of restoration treatments, training in support of multi-party monitoring efforts, organization of shared-learning events in support of adaptive management, land management classes for private landowners in cross-boundary treatment emphasis areas, etc. Offering on-the-ground activities and tours will provide opportunities for community members to ask pressing questions with respect to fire risk reduction and the implications of active forest management, as well as first-hand examples of how landowners can achieve their management objectives. Lessons learned from the CFLRP will also provide content for our broader educational outreach through Extension bulletins and our regional Life on the Dry Side newsletter/magazine.

We believe this two-Forest, all-lands, regional partnership will provide significant progress toward meeting the ecological, economic, and social needs of NE Oregon communities, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the public, private, and tribal partners involved in the effort. Thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Sincerely,

John Punches
Extension Forester (NE Oregon)
(541) 936-1061
john.punches@oregonstate.edu

Jacob Putney
Extension Forester (Baker County)
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jacob.putney@oregonstate.edu

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

January 2, 2020

Dear, Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

On behalf of Wallowa Resources, I am writing in support of the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), submitted, in partnership, by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

Wallowa Resources was a core member of the proposal development committee, and coordinated the participation of all other partners. This role was natural given our two decades of partnership with the USFS in the Blue Mountains of Region 6 developing and implementing models for forest collaboration spanning from pre-NEPA landscape assessments, NEPA, project implementation and multi-party monitoring.

Wallowa Resources currently facilitates and administers both the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (serving both the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests) and the My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership working with NIPF landowners across four counties of NE Oregon. We have also facilitated and provided technical assistance to the development, implementation and periodic updates of Community Wildfire Protection Plans in our region, and we are currently supporting the development of Firewise Communities in WUI areas risk of wildfire. Starting this month, we are also launching a new regional workforce development and training partnership with Eastern Oregon University, locally known as the Rural Engagement and Vitality Center (REV).

The overarching purpose, and targeted outcomes, from this CFLRP proposal advance our core mission and purpose to empower rural communities to create strong economies and healthy landscapes through land stewardship, education and job creation.

If awarded, Wallowa Resources will continue to facilitate, administer and provide leadership to the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative and My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership. Furthermore we will offer and coordinate internships to increase youth engagement, and actively engage in monitoring to support broader community and landowner engagement, awareness and social license.

We believe this joint-forest all-lands regional partnership will provide significant progress toward meeting the growing ecological, economic, and social needs across our NE Oregon federal lands, adjacent private and tribal lands, and local communities. Therefore, we thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Sincerely,

Nils D Christoffersen
Executive Director

December 20, 2019

Levi Old
Trout Unlimited
2210 18th St.
Baker City, OR. 97814

Attn: Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture, CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) - Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Dear Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel,

Trout Unlimited (TU) is pleased to offer support for the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) submitted in partnership by the Umatilla (UNF) and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (WWNF). TU's mission to restore and conserve our nation's cold-water fisheries and their watersheds, aligns closely with the ecosystem-health objectives proposed in the CFLRP.

TU is actively engaged in planning and implementation with the UNF and WWNF for out-year and active restoration projects in the North Fork John Day Basin and Grande Ronde Basin.

TU just completed the primary implementation season on a large watershed restoration project in the Upper Grande Ronde River - WWNF. TU is leading a U.S. Veterans based program on the WWNF and UNF, which trains Veterans in natural resource careers and actively engages them in restoration efforts. TU is in the project planning stages for a large meadow restoration effort in the headwaters of the NF John Day with the UNF. For each of these efforts, TU provides a strong match funding amount through private and public grant sources. Thus far, TU has been able to match the respective National Forests with greater than a 1:1 Project Match.

For the CFLRP time period, TU is specifically planning for work in the Granite Creek Basin, a tributary to the North Fork John Day River. The suite of project's planned there will span the 10-year window of the CFLRP. The core partners in this effort include WWNF, UNF, NF John day Watershed Council, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. This effort also includes working to engage private lands on the public land borders in restoration. The project team will apply for non-CFLRP grant funds for private land efforts that seek to help the partners achieve whole watershed restoration.

TU plans to provide a minimum of a 1:1 match for all projects TU is specifically involved with on public land. TU will seek funding through private, state and federal grant opportunities. TU's local staff will be heavily involved in the coordination, funding, and project management to assist the National Forest's in delivering on CFLRP restoration objectives.

We believe the watershed restoration and conservation components of this joint-forest all-lands regional partnership will provide significant progress toward meeting the growing ecological, economic, and social needs across our NE Oregon federal lands, adjacent private and tribal lands, and local communities. Therefore, we thank you for your consideration of this CFLRP proposal. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Email: lold@tu.org.

Sincerely,

William J Old IV

Levi Old
NE Oregon Project Manager, Trout Unlimited

Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. ● P.O. Box 12339, Salem, OR 97309
503/364-1330 ● fax 503/364-0836 ● email: rstorm@oregonloggers.org

January 6, 2020

Sonny Perdue, USDA Secretary of Agriculture
CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) -- Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Dear Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel:

On behalf of the member companies represented by Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. (AOL), we are writing in support of the joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP), submitted, in partnership, by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

We support US Forest Service investment in this joint-forest all-lands regional partnership because it would energize needed additional progress toward meeting the growing economic, social, and ecological problems across these Northeast Oregon federal forest & rangelands, neighboring non-federal lands, and local communities. AOL urges your consideration of this CFLRP proposal.

Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. represents more than 1,000 logging and allied forest management companies statewide. These companies play a major role in management of private and public forests in Oregon—as forest operations contractors, purchasers, manufacturers, transporters, consulting professionals, and vendors of forest management services. AOL member companies commonly sub-contract or purchase Forest Service forestry, restoration, improvement, protection, and roading contracts. As such, AOL represents substantial expertise in management of Northeast Oregon's national forests.

Support CFLRP proposal through collaboration and regular timber purchaser interactions.
AOL agrees with the CFLRP investment concept and proposal development. We would be committed to our continued partnering in collaborative support to foster implementation of project success, moving forward. AOL staff has been since its origin in 2012, and would continue as, an active participating member of the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (NBFC), comprising the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman Forests. This project area has a long history of forest management collaboration - an effort initiated in 2001 between Wallowa County and the Wallowa Valley Ranger District.

Furthermore, AOL is an active participant in regularly scheduled timber purchaser meetings hosted by the forest industry, for which the US Forest Service is a participant to collaborate surrounding successful forest management programs. Additionally, AOL since 1995 has remained a long-standing community of place providing constructive collaboration and input into Blue Mountains forest planning efforts—including the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project and Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision.

AOL has a demonstrated record of ongoing collaboration within Blue Mountains national forests – showing our commitment to shared ownership in this CFLR strategy, implementation, and monitoring.

CFLRP proposal, and the Blue Mountains national forests, would both benefit through the active forest management services provided by private forest sector infrastructure, for which AOL represents.

Over the 2020's decade, he future sustainability of Blue Mountains working circle's national forests—and their now-declining unhealthy forest condition—is dependent on the viability and sustainable growth of the private forest sector infrastructure ("infrastructure" includes contract operations businesses and manufacturers), located in this working circle (Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, Malheur National Forests). We are keenly concerned for the future of the now-declining ecosystem health and eroding condition of these national forests, and the surrounding natural resource-producing communities. Regrettably, because of nearly three decades of declining (and less reliable) national forest management, this working circle's surrounding private forest sector infrastructure continues to experience declining investment and productive capacity.

In parallel, the rural national forest communities also continue to have declining resiliency, investment, workforce, and vitality. And, I sense that further harmful forest infrastructure attrition is imminent in this working circle, without urgent improvement in US Forest Service land management project quantity, value, certainty, and economic viability. This urgency is especially dire in this working circle, where forest sector disinvestment and rural community privation is chronic— largely related to the now-waning national forest project economic viability, certainty, value, and quantity.

Blue Mountains working circle national forest future providence is dependent on the capacity of their nearby private forest sector and rural communities. Frankly, Blue Mountains national forests and their future managed condition will rely on the agency's transformed recognition that the socio-economic vitality of private forest sector infrastructure urgently has become a vitally-important driver in all forest planning and project decision making, which is no less equal to ecological ideals. The true sustainable future of Oregon national forests—more than any other issue today—is wedded to a markedly improved socio-economic well-being of private forest sector infrastructure and expanded economic development within its tributary rural communities. The CFLRP project would be a catalyst to foster such needed improved socio-economic well-being of rural communities in the working circle.

The future sustainability and growth of AOL member businesses within the seven-county Blue Mountains working circle (Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, Malheur National Forests) is directly impacted by whether significant improvement/increase can soon be achieved in US Forest Service programs—for which the CFLRP initiative would certainly foster such improvement. We encourage effective national forest projects that promote accelerated active management of working circle federal forests through sawlog harvest, regeneration, managed growth, and forest protection— especially via the restoration of increasingly-overcrowded and unhealthy forests. AOL operations businesses and forest sector manufacturers (collectively, sector "infrastructure") seek a more reliable quantity of viable forest management projects and valued timber supply that would fund accelerated forest restoration on the Blue Mountains working circle's 5.5 million acres of national forests.

Were we to ignore addressing these serious socio-economic realities today in Blue Mountains national forest management, then this Oregon forest working circle would predictably suffer an ongoing

digression of forest sector investment—an exodus already harmfully experienced in the US four-corner states of AZ, NM, UT, and CO (where negligible forest infrastructure remains). There once existed a robust forest sector in those states; but prohibitionary national forest management since 1990 had destructively resulted in near total elimination of forest sector infrastructure. In those four-corner states, today tens of millions of acres of national forests are in a calamitous status and wanting for economic partners and infrastructure to aid in US Forest Service land management to remedy the forest health calamity. This same fate (digression of forest sector investment) would be a preventable and unacceptable outcome for the Blue Mountains working circle's national forests.

AOL, and its member companies, would provide the proposed CFLRP investment the economic viability to conduct increased needed forest restoration projects on Blue Mountain national forests and neighboring non-federal forestlands.

As described above, the forest and rangeland management projects cannot be implemented without private sector contracted services and purchases of economically viable service & goods sale projects. AOL would serve as a voice for the contract operations private sector to foster private investment—and concurrent Forest Service project efficiency upgrades—that would support increased certainty-value-volume of national forest contracts. AOL remains a conduit to support, with our business partners, those viable forest operational investments in the working circle. While the commitments by AOL and private business are largely in-kind, these economic and social investments in private sector capital, labor, and expertise are the necessary infrastructure for such a CFLRP project to be viable.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer supporting comment about the US Forest Service CFLRP proposal -- Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. If our comments create questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: 503-364-1330, or by email: rstorm@oregonloggers.org

Sincerely,
/s/ Rex D. Storm
Rex Storm, CF
Interim Executive Vice President
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

GRANDE RONDE MODEL WATERSHED

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La Grande, Oregon 97850

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http://www.grmw.org

January 13, 2020

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
USDA Forest Service, Forest Management
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington DC 20250-1103

RE: Joint Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) Northern Blues Proposal for the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests

Dear Mr. Perdue and the Members of the CFLRP Federal Advisory Panel,

On behalf of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW), I am writing in support of the *Northern Blues* Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) Proposal submitted by the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests.

The GRMW has been committed to habitat restoration and natural resource management on public and private land in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River Basins for over 25 years. GRMW's service area encompasses much of the land in the *Northern Blues* proposed project. Considerable amounts of restoration work funded through our program has been implemented on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest (WWNF) and will continue to be in the future. The forest restoration actions described in this proposal are a perfect complement to the instream restoration already taking place. GRMW intends to continue collaborating with the USFS on watershed restoration efforts on the WWNF.

Our natural resources, communities and citizens will benefit greatly from a successfully funded and implemented CFLRP. The rural communities in this area notice a tangible improvement from long term restoration funding. When multiple sources of long-term funding are made available our economy improves as jobs are created and sustained and ecological benefits are multiplied. GRMW will be funding restoration work on the WWNF in Fly Creek, Limber Jim Creek, Chicken Creek and the upper Grande Ronde River (2020-22). There is potential for future projects on the WWNF in Dark Canyon Creek, upper Grande Ronde River, Joseph Creek, Big Sheep Creek and Imnaha River (2023-2030). Pairing stream restoration efforts with the work in this proposal will create a whole watershed restoration approach that will have many benefits.

I believe by joining a CFLRP in the Northern Blue Mountains with local restoration efforts already underway we can meet ecological, economic, and social needs across our NE Oregon federal lands, adjacent private and tribal lands, and local communities. Therefore, I am excited to provide this letter of support and thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jesse Steele
Executive Director
Grande Ronde Model Watershed
jesse@grmw.org
541-663-0570

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 16, 2020

Vicki Christiansen, Chief
USDA Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1111

Dear Chief Christiansen,

We write to express our support for the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests' joint request for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) funds for the Northern Blues Restoration Project in Northeastern Oregon.

The Blue Mountains Ecoregion is a valuable habitat corridor for migrating wildlife. Freshwater habitats across the region support a range of endangered native and anadromous fish species. Wildfire historically shaped the forest structure in the Blue Mountains. In this region, dry ponderosa pine and mixed-conifer forests would experience low severity fires across the landscape every 12 to 25 years.

Unfortunately, forest stands are now out of balance as a result of too many high-severity fires and not enough lower-severity burns. The Northern Blues Restoration Project will seek to create a landscape that is more resilient to wildfire and drought, facilitating historic forest species and stand densities, with an emphasis on promoting fire resistant old growth ponderosa pine forests. The project will also foster native plants to help ward off invasive non-native species, while also promoting improved watershed health.

The Project will benefit local communities, ranging from improved air quality to supporting the local economy. The work will help retain forest industry jobs, with local mills likely to have a reliable 10-year supply of raw forest products. The project will also help create new jobs in the areas of research and monitoring.

Thank you for your full and fair review of the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests' joint application for CFLRP. Should you have any further questions, please contact Senator Merkley's Natural Resources Liaison Jessica Keys at 503-326-3386 or Senator Wyden's Natural Resources Director Malcolm McGeary at 503-326-7525.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

ATTACHMENT F: Funding Plan (Northern Blues CFLRP)

Fiscal Year 1* 2020	Funding Planned/Requested
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$720,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$53,721
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$50,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$3,426,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$4,249,721
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$3,148,509
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$545,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$40,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$3,733,509

Assume funding requested for Year 1 will be allocated in February 2020 at the earliest

Fiscal Year 2	Funding Planned/Requested
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$4,100,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$100,996
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$50,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$3,742,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$7,992,996
CFLRP Funding Request	$4,500,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$4,500,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$2,808,009
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$702,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$10,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$3,520,009

Fiscal Year 3	Funding Planned/Requested
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$562,500
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$92,645
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$50,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$3,900,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$4,605,145
CFLRP Funding Request	$4,500,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$4,500,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$ 517,500
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$ 579,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$7,500
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$1,104,000

Fiscal Year 4	Funding Planned/Requested
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$2,315,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$42,500
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$225,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$3,868,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$6,450,500
CFLRP Funding Request	$4,500,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$4,500,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$2,157,500
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$571,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$2,728,500

Fiscal Years 5-10	Funding Planned/Requested
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$5,055,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$240,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$900,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$23,575,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$29,770,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$27,000,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$27,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$3,875,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$3,426,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$7,326,000

Note RE NEPA and environmental compliance from UNF & WWNF: Current self stock of fuels work on both forests would require no additional NEPA. Current pending NEPA could be accomplished under existing forest budgets and may allow for shared NEPA teams from the 2 forests reducing costs to each individual forest. "Resiliency Planning Areas" Out Year NEPA in the 6-10 year timeframe would take advantage of data collected under the Blue Mountain Resiliency Project reducing NFMA associated costs allowing the forests to do work within existing budgets. Both forests are following and applying improvement of Environmental Analysis and Decision Making and Forest Products Modernization efforts. The forests are open and interested in accomplishing work more efficiently and making changes in how we do business in order to achieve success. Programmatic EA and agreements for heritage resources and instream restoration work at the regional level would reduce project planning costs. Further use of Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Agreements with state and tribal entities would also be used. Region wide science based restoration presentation in mixed conifer forests for use in collaborative groups could reduce costs.

ATTACHMENT G – Forest Leadership Letter of Commitment

The signature(s) below on the Tier 2 proposal reflects the Forest Supervisor(s) awareness of the eligibility, implementation, and monitoring requirements for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), as described in the Application Process Overview and Criteria for Tier 2 document. Prior CFLRP evaluations have highlighted the importance of leadership intent and support for CFLRP strategy implementation and a commitment to continued collaboration through project implementation and monitoring. The signature(s) below is/are taken to reflect the unit(s)' support for and commitment to the CFLRP project as outlined in the Tier 2 proposal.

If a unit would like to provide additional, optional, perspectives framing their support of this proposed CFLRP strategy and how it fits within the national forest's overall goals and program of work, please do so here. If this proposal spans multiple national forests, consider sharing key approaches to leadership coordination across these units.

On behalf of both Forest Supervisors on the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forest:

The CFLRP proposal is supported and in alignment with the program of work for both the Forests. Over a long period of time the leadership within these two forests have shared resources needed to effectively execute our programs of work. This has included but not limited to staff in the ecology, timber, hazardous fuels, forest health, range management and watershed programs. This sharing of our staff and funding has been necessary in order to meet the needs of our public that we jointly serve and to complete the necessary forest workload in the most efficient manner possible. The Forest Supervisors are committed to ensuring that we make this proposal the cornerstone of our forests program of work over the lifetime that this is funded. We jointly share a Forest Collaborative, Northern Blues Forest Collaborative, which has and will continue to greatly help both forests align their project priorities and associated monitoring across boundaries of both National Forests. This close relationship has made for better understanding and support by members of the collaborative, Eastern Association of Oregon Counties, Southwestern Washington Counties, Umatilla and Nez Perce Tribes and other important partners in the work that is being executed at the landscape level for the benefit of the public we serve and resources we have been entrusted to steward.

ATTACHMENT G – Forest Leadership Letter of Commitment

Forest Supervisor name(s) Tom Montoya and Eric Watrud

Unit name (s) Wallowa-Whitman NF and Umatilla NF

Forest Supervisor Signature(s) (Blue Ink Only)

Tom Montoya, or Delegated Authority:

Noole E. Livingston, Signing on behalf of Tom Montoya _____ Date: 1/6/2020

Eric Watrud, or Delegated Authority:

_____ Date: Jan 6, 2020