Rogue Basin CFLRP Executive Summary

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) and partners request $ 39.8 million to implement the Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (RBCFLRP). Here are some of the key elements in the proposal:

- The Rogue Basin is a high priority landscape with a fire-dependent ecosystem that is comprised of two-thirds wildland urban interface and is among the most at risk landscapes across the Pacific Northwest.
- The RBCFLRP is informed by the collaboratively developed Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy, a 20-year strategy designed to reduce the threat of severe wildfires, restore watersheds and forests to a more sustainable mix of structural states, and promote forest climate adaptation across this landscape, and is in alignment with federal, state, and local restoration and wildfire risk reduction strategies and programs.
- The RBCFLRP will treat 145,000 acres over a ten-year period, primarily focused to reduce the potential of large fires originating and spreading from National Forest System lands to communities at risk. An additional 5,000 acres on adjacent BLM and private lands will contribute to accomplishing landscape objectives.
- The RRSNF is poised to increase the pace, scale, and capacity to complete restoration treatments with 82,000 NEPA-ready treatment acres, decisions on 60,000 acres to be completed in 2020 and decisions for an additional 151,000 acres expected to be completed by 2026. Restoration treatments also include 144,950 acres of hazardous fuels reduction accomplished through mechanical thinning and prescribed fire.
- Restoration treatments are expected to generate 492,150 ccf of harvested commercial timber by-product over 25,890 treatment acres on National Forest System lands.
- By utilizing adaptive management principles (testing, monitoring and applied learning), we expect to increase efficiency and reduce treatment costs by 30% over the life of the CFLR.
- The RBCFLRP brings together more than ten partnership organizations, and as input and support from the timber industry, county commissioners, and tribal representatives. The partners have a long history of successful collaboration and shared stewardship, including the nationally recognized Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project.
- Multiple funding sources for all-lands work in the Rogue Basin have been secured by the partners: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, a municipal water bond, State and Private Forestry, NRCS Joint Chiefs, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and private investments.
- The RRSNF and partners have prior experience with and plan to utilize all available tools including: Good Neighbor Authority, stewardship contracting, stewardship agreements, conventional timber sale and service contracts, memorandum of understanding, and other formal and informal partnerships.
- The RBCFLRP is expected to increase jobs locally and support a robust network of forest management and timber workforce contractors and local infrastructure, which includes twenty-two wood processing facilities in or adjacent to the RBCFLRP landscape.

Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (RBCFLRP)

Proposal Overview

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) and partners propose the Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (RBCFLRP) and request $ 39.8 million for 2020-2030. The proposed work will accelerate urgently needed restoration treatments to meet long-term, collaboratively developed strategic goals of risk reduction, landscape resiliency, improved wildlife habitat, watershed protection, climate adaptation, and social and economic resilience.

In developing the proposal, the RRSNF drew directly from a recent partnership effort with the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and others that led to the development of the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy (RBS)[1]. Completed in 2017, the RBS is a 20-year strategy to reduce the threat of severe wildfires and promote forest climate adaptation by reducing risks to natural resources and communities in a 4.6 million-acre landscape in southwest Oregon. The RBS developed a wildfire risk assessment and integrated conservation approaches across five landscape-scale objectives, targeting areas for restorative active management and areas that protect and promote critical complex late-seral forest and riparian habitat.

The RBCFLRP proposal, developed collaboratively with partners and based on the RBS, elevates ten priority projects and focuses treatments in the south-central portion of the RRSNF that has both the greatest potential to restore landscape resilience and to reduce community wildfire risk. An estimated 145,000 acres of treatment are proposed in three Counties in Oregon, and one in California. Treatments funded by the Collaboration Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) will occur primarily on the RRSNF and will be augmented by existing funded and anticipated future treatments on adjacent lands.

1.0 Rogue Basin Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project Map

The RBCFLRP proposes treatments in high priority landscapes to reducing wildfire risk to communities and to restore forest and aquatic habitats, balanced with habitat protection and necessary road maintenance, to improve watershed health in critical parts of the Rogue Basin landscape (Figure 1 and Attachment A).

2.0 Landscape Boundaries and Rationale

The landscape boundary for the RBCFLRP is the same as the boundary of the RBS analysis area. Within this area lies the 180,000 acre Focus Area (south-central portion of the RRSNF) (Figure 1 and Attachment A). Targeted treatments in the Focus Area will significantly reduce the potential for large fires originating on and spreading from National Forest System (NFS) lands to impact communities at risk in the Rogue Basin, based on the PNW Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment[2] (Figure 2).

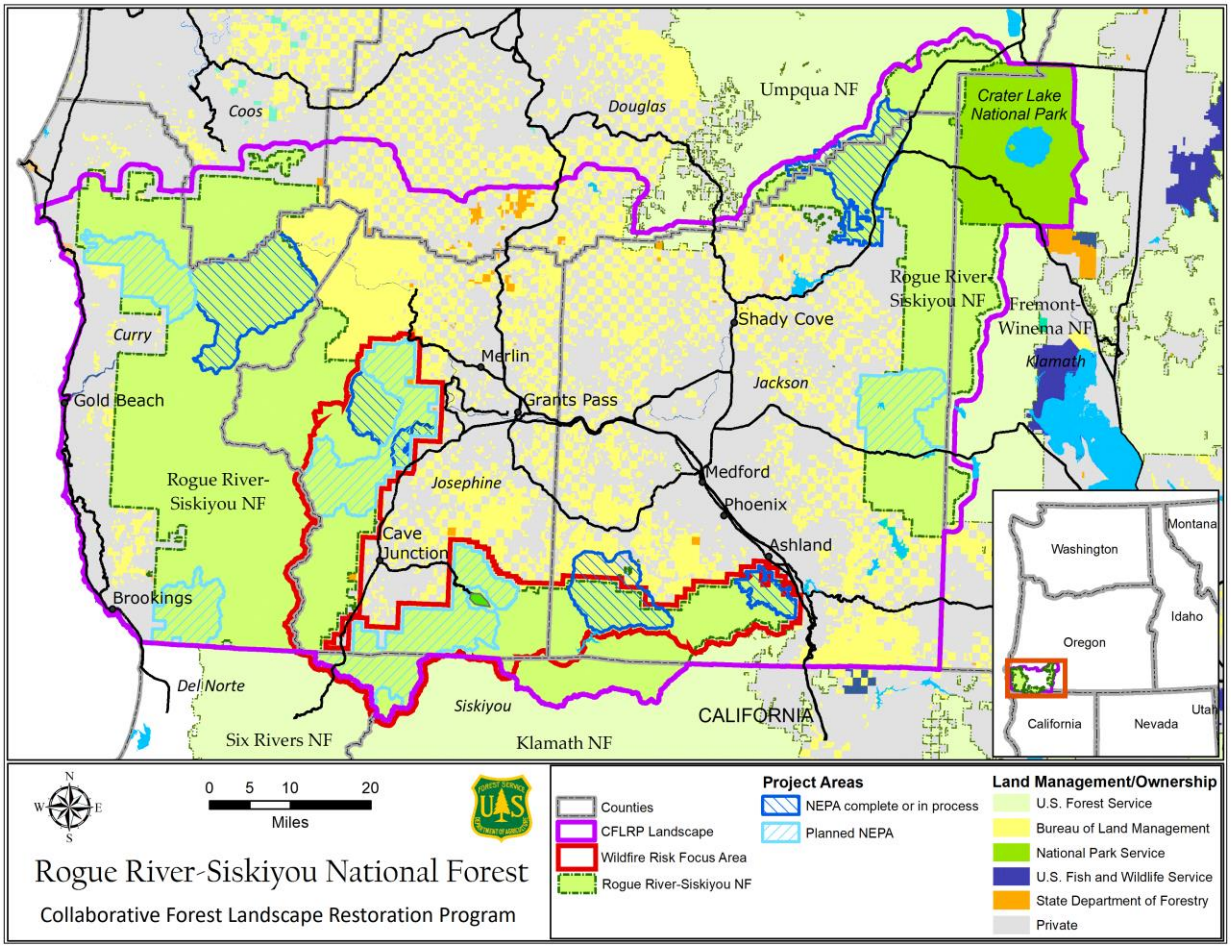

Figure 1: Rogue Basin CFLRP landscape and project areas.

The Focus Area lies within the northern Klamath Mountains, a complex range which functions as a climate refuge for biodiversity and is a global conservation priority. This region, with important connectivity to the coastal and Cascade Mountain Ranges, is critical for forest and aquatic habitats, with numerous dependent and listed species such as the Northern Spotted Owl, Pacific fisher, Coho and Chinook salmon and several rare endemic plants.

The complex physical and social landscape and the position of the NFS lands elevate the importance of strategic work at the basin scale and the recruitment of partner agencies and organizations to generate a more impactful, landscape-scale all lands approach. RRSNF lands border a complex checkerboard of Medford and Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management (MBLM, CBBLM) lands, industrial forests, and private lands. Over 3.1 million acres, nearly two-thirds of the RBCFLRP landscape, is mapped as Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), with 331,000 residents in a landscape prone to fire and a basin which accumulates smoke from surrounding regions.

3.0 The Rogue Basin is a Priority Landscape

The RRSNF has developed effective partnerships and capacity to work across borders in an *all lands* approach, reflecting a national strategy to demonstrate shared stewardship, perhaps best exhibited on the Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR) Stewardship Project. With Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Program funding, our collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local partners treated private lands adjacent to RRSNF lands. Treatments were subsequently augmented by securing the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funded Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) $6 million grant which will continue to bring match and leverage to the RBCFLRP.

The AFR model and the Rogue Basin Strategy were recently applied in a basin-wide effort, the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI), for which the RRSNF and partners secured a second $6 million FIP grant from OWEB, matched with $3 million in partner capacity.

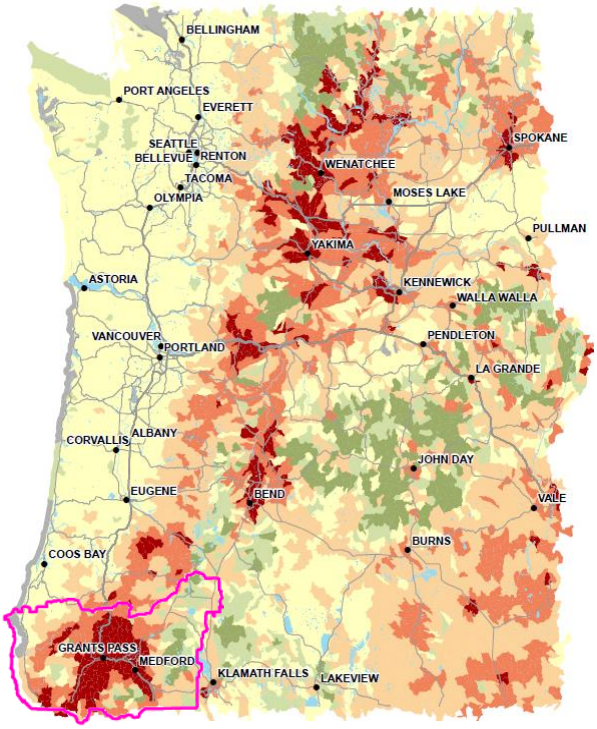

Figure 2: The Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk assessment shows the greatest risk in red. The Rogue Basin Strategy area is in pink.

The RRSNF is currently advancing several projects using diverse tools, including Good Neighbor Authority, Stewardship Authority, and projects aligned with the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy[3]. Partners, including the RRSNF, drew from the RBS to help local counties develop the Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan[4], strengthening the potential for future work in a cohesive, cross-boundary strategy. All of these efforts position the RRSNF and partners among national leaders of the shared stewardship concept; able to recruit co-investments to strengthen the RBCFLRP and other efforts aligned with the new Oregon Shared Stewardship Agreement. County leadership and collaborative partners endorse this approach.

The project areas include ancestral territory for many Tribes of southern Oregon and northern California. In spring 2019, the RRSNF and partners convened a Rogue Leadership Forum[5] where Tribal, local, state and federal leaders advanced a shared vision for integrated, cohesive forest and fire management. Integral to the RBS is the involvement of Tribes in the development, planning and implementation of forest management activities.

4.0 Economic, Social, and Ecological Context

4.1 Economic Context

The RBCFLRP landscape is centered over Jackson, Josephine, and Curry Counties of Oregon, where most of the treatments will be delivered and benefits derived, with peripheral treatments extending into Douglas County and Del Norte County of California. The regional

Euro-American settlement economy was founded on mining, agriculture, and ranching. These slowly transitioned through the 1900's to timber as dominant until it contracted following a 1980s recession and 1990s environmental constraints on federal timber production. Since then, the labor force has expanded towards health care, accommodation, food services, and real estate.

Unemployment and lower wages, partly in response to the changing timber economy, remains a serious concern. The 2018 percentage of labor-based income in the three-counties was 49.4%, far below the national average of 77.7%, reflecting both under-employment and a prominent retirement age population. Housing costs are a concern where a disproportionate percentage of households (55% compared to the national average of 46.8%) spend more than 30% of their total income on rent[6]; this also diminishes the capacity of households to mitigate smoke and fire impacts, especially for the vulnerable populations of young, old, and those with existing respiratory and other health concerns. Direct wildfire effects and smoke impacts during wildfire season have significantly impacted both the lives of residents and the economies of Jackson and Josephine Counties[7].

The region hosts a robust forest management and timber workforce of contractors with varied capacities and equipment, along with public and private wildland fire suppression capacity, part of which works in forest management, restoration, and prescribed fire in the "off season". Since 2010, regional jobs in timber and forest sectors have seen modest increases. Together, the workforce has untapped capacity to increase the pace and scale of landscape-scale forest restoration, fuels reduction, and maintenance of conservation actions, while providing safe and effective fire management. The maintenance of milling infrastructure and a viable and trained forestry workforce is key to forest restoration and fuels reduction goals, and for strong economic activity.

Within the 4.2-million-acre forested landscape, 2.6 million are managed by the RRSNF and Medford and Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management under varied legal land administrative conservation measures. The BLM recently updated their management plan, while the RRSNF operates under management plans as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan. Together the agencies are tasked with producing over 100 million board feet of timber annually to sustain jobs, the milling infrastructure, and economic activity (see sections 7, 8, and 12).

4.2 Social Context

The population in the core part of the basin (Jackson, Josephine, and Curry counties) in 2017 was 331,040 with a mix of urban, suburban, and dispersed housing in extensive wildland urban interface (WUI) areas within or near forest lands. Over 3.1 million acres, two-thirds of the RBCFLRP landscape, is designated as WUI. Jackson and Josephine Counties, with 17% of homes in the WUI, place in the 90th percentile of counties with WUI in the western USA[8]. While residents are familiar with an array of varied forest management activities, many misunderstand the different land management entities, their drivers and constraints.

Restoration and fuel management activities in the Rogue Basin can be difficult and expensive where much of the terrain is steep and distant from existing roads, and where byproduct timber is not produced, or receipts are unavailable. The checkerboard of BLM lands, industrial

forests, and private lands bordering RRSNF increases forest and fire management complexities and costs. Smoke management can be difficult in the Rogue Basin, which accumulates local and regional wildfire smoke. Managed fire is also a challenge with current vegetative conditions, landownership patterns and the high level of community concern about smoke impacts. This context demands strategic resource management supported by deep social engagement at multiple scales and across the basin to optimize cooperation among partner agencies, governments, Tribes, and organizations.

The need to reduce wildfire risk and smoke impacts, and the role of the US Forest Service Forest in mitigating these, have been raised to paramount public issues following recent catastrophic fire impacts in California, and the Rogue Basin smoke-filled fire seasons of 2017 and 2018. Using data from the regional quantitative wildfire risk assessment[9] (Figure 2), it has been shown that the Rogue River Basin has 16 of the top 25 ranked communities in Oregon for housing units exposed to wildfire[10] and seven of the top 20 for Oregon and Washington combined.

Numerous summits, workshops, and meetings, and media coverage have supported a diverse dialogue about appropriate responses to wildfire and smoke management. The RRSNF and partners have participated in numerous events and convened some of these discussions. Opinions range from renewed industrial, plantation forestry with road building and aggressive fire suppression to allowing fires to function naturally. In the middle is a growing segment of the population who take a pragmatic view, supporting projects like AFR that emphasize judicious, ecologically bounded forest thinning and reintroduction of prescribed fire. The dialogue has generated a groundswell of public interest and support for fuels reduction and forest restoration treatments, and the need for increased capacity to implement these activities. The ongoing dialogue also reinforces the importance of periodic maintenance to achieve long term cost efficiency.

Conflicts between timber production and protective conservation still resonate, yet collaboration on restoration projects and awareness of elevated fire risk have increased shared understanding and community support for active management to promote forest and community resilience. Broad collaboration on prominent regional projects, including the USDI Secretarial Pilot, and the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship project have increased social license. SOFRC and partners also completed a quantitative wildfire risk assessment as part of the RBS, and these were integrated into a community wildfire protection plan for Jackson and Josephine Counties: The Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan[11]. Both the RBS and the fire plan continue to advance public dialogue, understanding, and support for collaboratively developed, ecologically based restorative land management.

In 2018, the SOFRC board met with the local Medford Mail Tribune daily newspaper and shared our Rogue Basin Strategy with staff and the editorial board. They wrote two editorials and two articles in full support of this strategic approach and recently endorsed our RBCFLRP proposal. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has extensively supported our approach to protecting old growth wildlife habitat and has written letters of support. The RRSNF and partners also convened a leadership forum in April 2019[12] where leadership support for the restorative approach significantly increased.

The RRSNF and Rogue Forest Restoration Partners built and can demonstrate capacity in this complex environment through their successful engagement (see attachment D for more information about the partners and their accomplishments). Considering the Rogue Basin Strategy, experienced partners, endorsements from timber industry, county commissioners, and support from our local newspaper, the RBCFLRP responds to an urgent need with a highly leveraged opportunity and a high return on investment.

4.3 Ecological Context

Forests in southwestern Oregon were historically dominated by frequent fire regimes with 80% in Fire Regime Group I (frequent, low and mixed severity)[13]. In dry forests within the RBCFLRP landscape, the historical median site-level fire return interval was 8 years, ranging 5-15 years between fires[14]. This historical fire regime was disrupted between the 1850's and 1910 corresponding with the forced displacement of Native Americans and Euro-American settlement. Marked departure from historical fire regimes with extensive timber harvest targeting the largest trees has left Rogue Basin forests depauperate in late-seral conditions, but with an overabundance of younger closed forests. The Rogue Basin has among the highest restoration needs across USFS Region 6, with a mean percent restoration need for the basin of 53%[15], indicating substantial need for ecological thinning or thinning with fire to restore forest structural stage natural range of variation (Figure 3)[16].

The forests of the basin are dominated by Douglas-fir series, with Tanoak/Douglas-fir common closer to the coast, and Douglas-fir and white fir series common at low to mid-elevations. Historically in lower elevations and drier locations, forests were more open and included higher

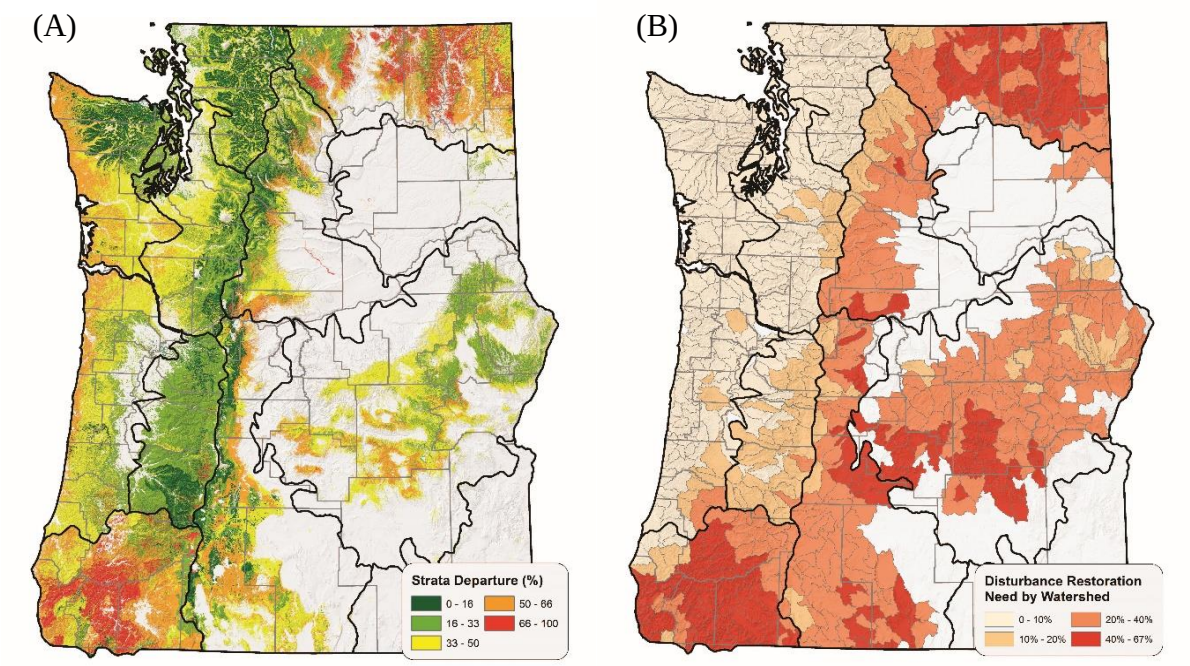

Figure 3: Two ecological perspectives on restoration need across Region 6 from DeMeo et al. (2018). (A) Fire regime condition class using a method that illustrates the need for both disturbance and growth to restore natural range of variation. (B) Disturbance restoration needs, where thinning is needed to restore more open forest and promote growth.

proportions of sugar pine, ponderosa pine, California black oak, and canyon live oak, all which have been dramatically reduced in relative abundance. Also at risk of disappearing are other vegetation types and associated habitats that historically formed a mosaic with conifer forests, including prairies, meadows, chaparral, and Oregon oak woodlands, all of which have been degraded and reduced through fire exclusion and associated conifer encroachment.

These conditions correspond with some of the greatest wildfire risk to people and habitats in the Pacific Northwest[17], and a high concentration of valued resources and assets within the Rogue Valley are at high risk of negative impacts from wildfire. Climate change is increasing fire probability and southwest Oregon has among the highest levels of large wildfire potential for the entire Region 6 under present and future climate scenarios[18].

Restoration of late-seral forests in appropriate settings is critical to the recovery of the Northern Spotted Owl[19] and Marbled Murrelet[20], and will benefit the Pacific Fisher (ESA listing candidate) and the special status Red Tree Vole. Uncharacteristically severe fires have been identified as the leading threat to late seral forests and northern spotted owl habitat, with 12-15% of old-growth forest lost in the Klamath region of southwest Oregon primarily due to wildfire and primarily on reserved lands[21]. When fires have occurred, it has been with 2.6 times more high severity fire than expected under historical fire regimes[22].

Watershed Condition

Improving watershed condition is an important goal of the RBCFLRP, combining forest restoration, road impact reduction, and stream work that support the physical and biological characteristics and processes affecting the hydrologic and soil functions ultimately supporting healthy aquatic ecosystems.

The 6th field scale watersheds where most of the RBCFLRP restoration treatments are focused are classified as either functioning properly, representing some of the highest quality non-wilderness watersheds within the Rogue Basin, or functioning at risk as assessed by the USFS Watershed Condition Framework[23]. Factors including poor water quality, quantity, aquatic habitat, fire regime condition, and road and trail conditions have degraded the at-risk watersheds. Forest structural conditions and fire exclusion have deprived many streams of large woody debris and sediment, degrading aquatic habitat critical for Coho salmon and other focal species including Chinook salmon and cutthroat trout. Current and projected declining trends in snowpack and increases in annual and seasonal evapotranspiration rates driven by warmer and drier conditions are impacting stream flows and threatening aquatic wildlife.

Drinking water source protection is an important concern across the Basin. The RRSNF manages two municipal watersheds: the Ashland Watershed that serves the City of Ashland; and Big Butte Springs that serves the City of Medford and adjoining communities. At least 100,000 acres of both Federal and private lands are managed in the Rogue Basin to protect drinking water for Medford, Grants Pass and smaller communities serving 225,000 people.

Forest Health

Insects and disease are an increasing concern, especially for Douglas-fir in lower elevation dry forests that have recently experienced elevated tree mortality during drought. Sudden Oak Death (SOD) has killed over 50 million oak and tanoak trees in California and Oregon with severe consequences to tanoak where it is a dominant component of the coastal forests; currently quarantined in a nine square mile SOD area in coastal Oregon. There is a risk that SOD will spread further inland and that a new introduced strain that is killing western hemlock may also kill Douglas-fir[24].

Invasive Species

A growing human population and an increasing trend of wildfire area and severity have increased the vulnerability of the Rogue Basin to the spread of damaging invasive plant species. Invasive plants are a threat to botanically significant species in the project areas. Restoration treatments that reduce the risk of severe wildfire will benefit the overall health of the Rogue Basin by reducing the opportunity for spread and establishment of invasive plants, and by increasing the populations of native plant communities reliant on low severity fire.

Roads and Trails

The RRSNF has an extensive system of trails and 6,500 miles of roads, many of which are deteriorating, contributing to degraded surface water quality and riparian conditions. Rain on snow events, steep terrain and geologically complex substrates such as granitic, clay and serpentine soils increase susceptibility to rotational failures and debris flows. Current appropriated funding pays for 5% of the maintenance need on the forest. Improved aquatic conditions and maintained road and trail systems in project areas will be an important budgeted objective for restoring landscapes within the RBCFLR project.

5.0 Landscape Strategy and Proposed Treatments

5.1 Landscape Strategy

The RBCFLRP proposal reflects an initial, high impact application of the collaboratively developed, 20-year Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy (RBS)[25]. The RBS, generated with broad Federal and State of Oregon agency engagement along with many other partners, prioritized 1.1 million acres across all ownerships, including 486,000 acres on the RRSNF, for treatment to restore ecological resilience or to increase community protection from wildfire (Table 1). With the given timeframe and budget constraints, the RBCFLRP will focus on approximately 145,000 acres of RBS-informed, strategically placed treatment (Attachment B).

Table 1: Acreage across the Analysis Area Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) lands are predominately Medford District BLM or Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest but include 117,000-ac of neighboring agency lands

Characteristics	USFS	BLM	Other	Total
Forested	1,768,273	833,804	1,506,637	4,108,714
RBS identified treatments	485,610	405,670	162,748	1,054,028
RBCFLRP treatment	140,000	2000	3000	145,000
Other veg.	13,480	10,652	68,381	92,513
Developed	37,735	22,907	260,641	321,283

The projects are focused on the south-central Rogue Basin, within a Focus Area which combines high potential to restore landscape resilience, WUI treatment, and the greatest potential to reduce community wildfire risk[26] (see Attachment A).

This proposal is designed to decrease the threat of uncharacteristically severe fire; increase forest resiliency to drought, fire, insects, disease and climate change; and provide sustainable vegetation, watershed conditions, and old growth habitat while meeting community needs for safety and security from wildfire. The RBS provides five objective functions by which planning areas can be prioritized- local- and large fire risk to communities, forest resilience (structural stages), Northern Spotted Owl (complex, closed, late seral) habitat, and climate resilience. These were also combined into a summed function. Each of the proposed RBCFLR project areas contain or overlap one or multiple high priority areas identified in the RBS (Figure 4).

The RBS integrates conservation approaches across landscape-scale objectives by targeting areas for restorative active management and protecting critical spotted owl and riparian habitat. Prescribed thinning and fire treatments are designed to reduce stand densities and fuel loads, open canopy cover in appropriate settings and accelerate growth of large trees. In other locations the treatments will reduce risk to timber or human assets, including homes in multiple communities, infrastructure, recreation areas, and water resources.

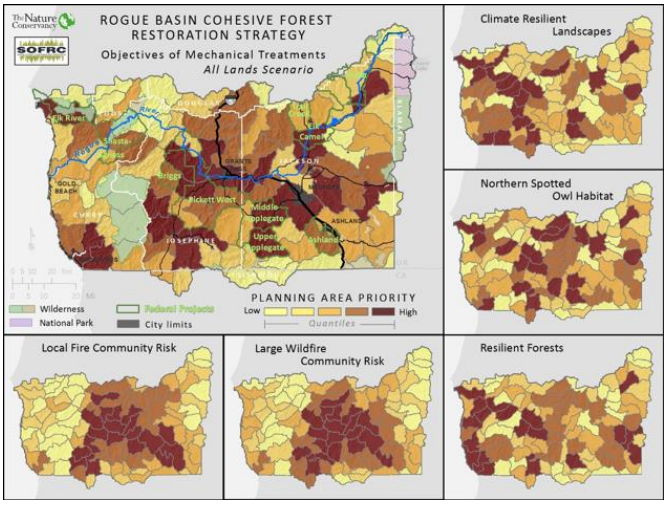

Figure 4: Rogue Basin Strategy (RBS) prioritization based on five landscape objectives: local fire risk, large wildfire risk, forest resilience, climate resilience, and Northern Spotted Owl habitat.

The goal of the integrated actions, along with untreated areas and managed fire, is to ease the forests onto a trajectory toward a sustainable dynamic mosaic of vegetation types and structural states, preparing the forests and landscape for present and future environmental conditions. By increasing forest vigor and avoiding large-scale severe disturbances, the RBCFLRP will promote gradual adaptation to climate change by avoiding

abrupt transitions among vegetation types[27]. Furthermore, by applying ecological thinning and prescribed fire strategically, the RBCFLRP will effectively integrate forest adaptation with carbon mitigation[28] and effectively stabilize carbon over the longer-term[29].

The restoration strategy of the RBCFLRP links with many other federal, state, and local restoration and wildfire risk reduction strategies and programs. There is a recently completed two-county Rogue Valley Integrated Community Wildfire Protection Plan)[30] for Jackson and Josephine Counties, and a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for neighboring Curry County[31] (that are coincident with the RRSNF. Other strategies and programs include: Good Neighbor Authority, Stewardship Authority, Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Project, NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program, USFS State & Private Forestry Restoration Programs, National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, Oregon Conservation Strategy[32], Watershed condition framework report and data[33], The Rogue Basin action plan for resilient watersheds and forests[34], and Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation in Southwest Oregon (*in press*).

5.2 Proposed Treatments

The majority of the 145,000 acres of proposed RBCFLRP treatment will be placed primarily in strategic locations within the Focus Area on the RRSNF (see Attachment B for planned treatment details). This work will also be strategically linked and complemented by both ongoing and planned restorative treatment on adjacent private and BLM managed lands. Even with full suppression, low-moderate severity fires contribute to achieving CFLRP objectives by reducing fuels and increasing resiliency.

The RRSNF has a robust suite of existing and potential matching funding which complement proposed work to be funded through the RBCFLRP, discussed in Section 12.2.

During years 1-3 of this proposal, implementation will build on treatment within the Focus Area where multiple agency and partner priorities overlap, and considerable work has already been invested, leveraging available resources to optimize landscape outcomes (Table 2). RFRI Partners, with State of Oregon funding, are already implementing related activities in the Upper Applegate, the Ashland Watershed, and on the Upper Briggs project where a recent low-severity fire is being followed up with additional, less expensive treatments. The RBCFLRP will expand the footprint that is ready and available for maintenance using prescribed fire. The investments in the Upper Applegate project will be complemented by priority treatment by MBLM on adjoining lands scheduled for treatments in the next five years.

The proposed restorative thinning and prescribed fire treatments in dry forests and woodlands in appropriate settings will benefit the nearby, existing complex old growth habitat, which is critical to the endangered Northern Spotted Owl, the threatened Marbled Murrelet, the Pacific Fisher (a listing candidate), and other dependent species. In dry forest types on warmer insolation sites, stands will be actively managed to increase open canopy structure. In cooler, moist sites the development of old growth stands will be promoted, as outlined in the RBS.

Table 2: Total Acres of Commercial, Mechanical and Prescribed Fire Treatments

Year	FY	Commercial		Non-commercial (acres)		Total Acres
		Acres	Volume CCF	Mechanical	Rx Fire	
1	2020	3,000	38,150	3,700	2,000	8,700
2	2021	5,200	39,600	4,900	5,000	15,100
3	2022	3,800	41,650	4,500	5,000	13,300
4	2023	1,900	43,750	4,200	7,500	13,600
5-10	2024 -2029	12,000	329,000	29,750	52,500	94,250

Thinning and prescribed fire restoration treatments will reduce stand densities and basal area and promote more drought tolerant species, thus reducing resource competition, improving individual tree vigor, and reducing the likelihood of insect and disease outbreaks and tree mortality. Restoration in appropriate locations are designed to restore the relative dominance of drought and fire tolerant species such as pine and oak. Special meadow, prairie, and open oak and mixed oak habitats in which conifers have encroached will be restored through thinning.

The road system will also be maintained and improved to provide for safe and effective wildfire suppression and public access. Within each planning area targeted invasive species populations will be treated.

By reducing stand densities and ladder fuels, the RBCFLRP reduces the proportions of high severity wildfire, which helps protect aquatic habitat and water quality by reducing the likelihood of uncharacteristic soil erosion and sedimentation.

All proposed treatments will improve watershed condition through improvements of the component indicators discussed above. The RBCFLRP proposed project areas intersect 16 watersheds that classify as functioning at risk in the Watershed Condition Framework[35].

6.0 Wildfire Risk

The desired condition for Rogue Basin forests is a landscape with less severe wildfires and reduced smoke impacts to communities, supported by a more sustainable, ecologically resilient condition that protects habitat and local communities. With proactive, strategically placed treatment and agreements in place, fire suppression certainty will increase and natural ignitions, within careful parameters, will be managed to achieve the resource objectives of reducing fuels, promoting ecological resilience, and minimizing long-term smoke exposure to communities.

Activities to reduce wildfire risk include ecological thinning, both with and without removal of merchantable material, pile burning, and prescribed fire. Pile burning offers the most certainty due to larger prescription windows, however current and future NEPA include larger and more prescribed fire areas. Proactive fuel reduction treatments and fire suppression will be enabled with proposed RBCFLR maintenance to the existing road system.

Reduction of severe fire reduces the potential for rapid shifts in vegetation types and promotes climate adaptation[36]. To reduce wildfire severity at local-scales, 50-75% of the analytical area needs to be treated, but at larger scales (>5,000 ac) 10-40% of the landscape has been shown

effective[37]. The RBS modeled a 37% wildfire risk reduction for the Rogue Basin by treating only federal lands on 21% of the landscape. Increasing the treatment footprint by only 20%, but across all lands, reduced wildfire risk by 70%, while reducing risk to communities and to core spotted owl habitat by 50%[38].

Consistent with these analyses, we will strategically place treatments on 17% - 65% of each project area (average of 47%), focusing treatments around resources at risk and working cross-boundary with partners to achieve all lands wildfire risk reduction, consistent with the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy[39]. We will also strategically locate treatments in areas of high wildfire risk to support potential suppression control lines, utilizing data from the Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (PNW QWRA) and the RBS. Ultimately this will reduce the cost and time spent during fire suppression and increase firefighting safety and the likelihood of success.

Social engagement and more effective fire use are core to the RBCFLRP wildfire risk reduction strategy. The Rogue Forest Restoration Partners are reinforcing at the Rogue Basin-scale the strong engagement capabilities and capacity built at the project-scale (e.g. Ashland[40]), and with the counties (i.e. the Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan[41]). The RFRP will build on a series of pre-fire spatial planning workshops that occurred in 2019 to inform and build support for proactive fuel reduction leading to safe and effective fire suppression. These workshops with the central concept of Potential wildfire Operational Delineations (PODs) included nearly 200 participants representing broad groups, including tribes with ancestral roots in the Rogue Basin[42]. Draft PODs were created in these workshops and the RFRP is working to finalize these PODs, with the objective of collaboratively implementing treatments in future projects.

7.0 Benefits to Local Communities

The Rogue Basin's scattered rural communities are surrounded by forests. The larger communities include Medford, Grants Pass, and Ashland. Each community has its own traditions and character and yet the combined population of Jackson, Josephine and Curry counties is greater than 331,000. These last few years of fire and smoke have brought these communities together to find solutions, either through pressure for more intense fire suppression or through articulating a need to treat landscapes to reduce fuels.

Desired social outcomes of the RBCFLRP proposal include protecting communities from wildfire and smoke, tribal representation in design, implementation, and monitoring, engaging rural under-represented communities, and improving relationships with federal, tribal, state, and private stakeholders through shared stewardship.

Social goals integral to the OWEB FIP project and the Ashland All-Lands Forest Restoration project (AFAR) are increasing the acceptance of frequent, low intensity wildfire or prescribed fire and the perceived benefits of restoration activities. Collaboration objectives include expanding partnerships, communication, shared decision-making, project inclusion, increasing match, and working on zones of agreement and finding common ground through project implementation, monitoring and engagement.

Economic outcomes for the project include support of the local timber products industry and enhanced workforce capacity through the creation of jobs. Restoration work includes

commercial thinning, non-commercial thinning, hazardous fuels removal, aquatic restoration, road maintenance, and prescribed fire.

The Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan for Jackson and Josephine Counties provides a comprehensive set of goals that incorporates the blueprint of the Rogue Basin Strategy. Goals include restoring and maintaining landscapes across all jurisdictions to be resilient to fires, and promoting region wide coordinated fire protection, communication, and local economic opportunities.

With the implementation of the Ashland Fire Resiliency project and the current OWEB FIP project, several programs have been developed and progress has been made toward community sustainability. The proposed RBCFLR will be working in the same project areas with the goals of increasing community sustainability through additional employment, contracts, contractors, training, youth crews, and wood product diversification, and the development of a restoration workforce.

Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP), an integral RRSNF partner, has brought an in-house workforce of fifty members to multiple stewardship projects in Region 6 and 5, and they have hired 25 contractors through best value awards, and employed four separate tribal workforces through partnership arrangements. In total, LRP is supporting 65 FTE positions and an additional 300 seasonal jobs and has collectively treated 68,000 acres and sent over 40 million board feet to local and regional mills since 2012 from USFS managed lands.

Reduction in the likelihood of severe, large, prolonged wildfires will maintain the rich cultural, tourist, and recreation industry in this area through the reduction of smoke impacts.

8.0 Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts

Refer to Attachment C for a summary of restoration by-product outputs.

Within and adjacent to the Rogue Basin, wood products infrastructure exists that has ample ability to process restoration byproducts generated under this CFLRP. The fifteen wood processing facilities within the RBCFLRP landscape are augmented by another seven mills nearby that purchase timber trucked from the landscape. The majority of milling infrastructure has the ability to process material with a minimum diameter of 5-6". Facility closures within the Rogue Basin have increased the costs of hauling material to mills, however the RRSNF has still experienced success in its ability to sell timber and restoration byproduct through a variety of implementation tools and strategies including: Good Neighbor Authority, stewardship contracting, stewardship agreements, conventional timber sale and service contracts, and other formal and informal partnerships. The Forest has a great deal of experience in utilizing this assortment of implementation methods, which allow flexibility and creativity in packaging restoration byproduct, contracts and agreements to get otherwise "non-economical" material to the wood products market. Additional funding can create even more possibilities.

The Rogue Basin is home to only one wood-fired cogeneration facility, Biomass One in White City. Past attempts made by the Forest to utilize biomass generated by timber sales has been unsuccessful due to a lack of biomass need from the facility or prohibitive haul costs to move material to the facility in White City. The forest will continue to pursue this market and explore

possibilities to utilize slash generated by restoration treatments. Other possible opportunities that have been explored but have yet to create a local market have included biochar and hydrothermal liquefaction. A new chip facility in White City also offers potential access for delivering biomass.

Various strategies to deal with the activity-created slash are being examined including the use of air curtain burners that produces lower smoke emissions compared to pile or broadcast burning. Curtain burners consume a greater variety of materials from green fuel to red slash and reduce fire risk and outbreak of insect problems. Based on limited use in the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project, residents in urban interface areas are more willing to accept air curtain burners to remove wood waste and slash fuel hazards adjacent to homes.

Feedback from industry professionals consistently cites unpredictable flow of timber from federal lands that stifles the private sector's ability to invest in infrastructure and explore niche markets. Predictable levels of byproduct over the life of the CFLR project can spark investment and sustain forest products infrastructure and markets in the basin.[43]

The local workforce focused on fuels reduction and restoration thinning has been increasing in recent years as efforts to develop a well-trained restoration workforce have been initiated in the Rogue Basin, southeastern Oregon, and northern California. This training effort has been led by the Lomakatsi Restoration Project through stewardship agreements and partnership with Tribes. Additionally, Southern Oregon is home to an extensive depth of contract resources that have been primarily engaged in firefighting during the summer but are now getting additional work in the fall and spring to help implement prescribed fire and fuels reduction work.

9.0 Collaboration

Collaboration for the Rogue Basin CFLR proposal developed through joint meetings and involvement of numerous partners (Attachment D, Attachment E). The Forest Service has been focusing on government to government consultation and relationship building with the local counties (Jackson, Josephine and Curry) and with the Tribes that have ancestral ties to the Rogue River Basin (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Coquille Indian Tribe, The Klamath Tribes, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Tolowa Dee-ni Nation, Elk Valley Rancheria and Quartz Valley Indian Reservation). The RRSNF has held face-to-face briefings with commissioners from each County and has been reaching out by phone and in person to many of the Tribes.

In 2018, SOFRC and additional entities created the ***Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership,*** bringing together partners who have been involved in restoration work throughout the Rogue Basin over the last 10 years or more (Table 3; see Attachment I for more on the partners). The RFRP was formalized to implement projects collaboratively, capitalizing on the capacities of diverse partners with varied mandates, networks, and member composition.

SOFRC board members include, in addition to LRP and TNC, Southern Oregon Timber industry Association and Southern Oregon University. The work groups of SOFRC engage with the Wild Rivers Coastal Forest Collaborative, the Medford Water Commission, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, and the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center. SOFRC has become the vital, go-to

collaborative leader by coordinating the RFRP framework. SOFRC is also vital for engagement of local groups, organizations, and individual stakeholder participants to ensure that the diverse interests of the Rogue Basin are well represented, heard, and empowered for constructive collaboration on ongoing and future projects.

Table 3: Partnership Organizations and Roles

Rogue Forest Restoration Partner	Roles and Skills
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative	Partnership coordination, community outreach and engagement, science delivery
The Nature Conservancy	Collaborative landscape assessment and design, multi-party monitoring, community outreach and engagement.
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Stewardship agreement administration and management, layout, design, monitoring, prescription development, implementation, service and timber contracting and management, workforce training and development, landowner recruitment, tribal engagement, community outreach.
Klamath Bird Observatory	Planning, Effectiveness monitoring, review of design and prescriptions.
USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest	Planning, design, implementation, monitoring, community outreach and engagement.
USDI Bureau of Land Management Medford	Planning, design, implementation, monitoring, community outreach and engagement.
Oregon State University Extension, Jackson/ Josephine Counties	Landowner recruitment, coordination, technical assistance, collaborative engagement and public outreach.
Oregon Department of Forestry	GIS coordination, collaboration and outreach, Good Neighbor Authority.
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service	Landowner technical assistance, financial incentives and planning
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program	Technical, administrative funding for private landowners

The ***RFRP governance charter*** outlines responsibilities, facilitation, decision-making procedures and organization. RFRP provides a dedicated partnership coordinator and facilitator. Decisions are made through consensus with the ability to have a 2/3rds majority if necessary. To date consensus has always been achieved.

The project that is among the most significant successes for members of this partnership is the 10-year ***Ashland Forest Resiliency*** (AFR) Stewardship Project. AFR has created a national model for an all-lands approach to restoring watersheds, providing wildfire risk reduction, and protecting wildlife habitat. Prior to AFR, the Forest Service had been in an adversarial state with

the environmental community of Ashland where litigation stalled any attempts for active forest management. By encouraging the community to develop their own alternative for the project and utilizing the core partners that included the City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy, the Forest Service not only expanded workforce capacity, but gained trust and social license from the community.

To date, AFR has leverage over $25 million, including a significant annual co-investment by the City of Ashland. In order to expand treatments to all-lands the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was incorporated into the partnership.

In addition to bringing benefits to communities as described in Section 5, Lomakatsi Restoration Project is a collaborative organization that provides the Forest Service vital workforce capacity, youth engagement, and enhanced tribal involvement. They support 65 full-time employees and provide hundreds of seasonal jobs, while supporting over 15 different contractors. They operate 10 stand-alone programs focused on forest and watershed restoration, workforce training and employment for youth and adults, and a thriving Tribal Ecosystem Restoration Partnerships Program.

For over 15 years Lomakatsi has worked in partnership with Native American Tribes and tribal communities throughout Oregon and Northern California to build sustainable ecosystem restoration programs. They have successfully created hundreds of tribal jobs through adult and youth workforce training programs, providing long-term employment.

RFRP successfully competed for a six-million dollar/six-year restoration project funded by a ***Focused Investment Partnership grant*** through Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The funding will be used to restore dry-type forests through conservation activities. This secure funding will complement work envisioned for the CFLRP by expanding restoration efforts in key project areas in the Rogue Basin incorporating an all-lands approach that includes BLM and private lands.

Partnership Tools and Alliances: Several additional partnerships and agreements are part of the toolkit for restoration implementation. These include:

- **Master Stewardship Agreement for Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest** (LRP, TNC, SOFRC)
- **Memorandum of Understanding** to increase the pace and scale of restoration (MBLM, RRSNF, SOFRC, ODF)
- **Stewardship Agreement with Medford BLM** (LRP)
- **Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON MOU**)-regional organization dedicated to restoration of oak habitat in northern California and southern Oregon (USFWS, NRCS, LRP, SOFRC, RRSNF, MBLM, KBO, TNC)

As detailed above, the RFRP partners are committed and have the capacity to implement the RBCFLRP. High priority restoration work in the Rogue Basin is vital to every one of the partners and they will be focused on implementation with or without the award of CFLRP funding. If the Rogue Basin CFLRP is selected, it would greatly enhance the partnership's ability to increase the pace and scale of this work to protect communities and enhance ecosystem health.

10.0 Multi-party Monitoring

The Rogue Basin CFLRP (RBCFLRP) multiparty monitoring will build on collaborative restoration efforts with the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP) and will broaden existing relationships. The Partnership will establish monitoring goals, and questions through a "bottom-up" process following regional guidelines[44] that are realistic and achievable, at appropriate temporal and spatial scales. This information will be regularly communicated to RRSNF management, partners, and the public.

Project impacts at landscape-scales will be evaluated relative to boundaries drawn to evaluate wildfire risk from federal lands that impact local communities, or by proportions of seral structural states within vegetation types at functional spatial scales (e.g. for Fire Regime Group 1 forests the 10-digit/5th level hydrologic unit code, averaging 85,000-ac in the Rogue Basin[45]).

Many of the RFRP members worked together to develop and implement successful collaboratively developed multiparty implementation and effectiveness monitoring of the 10-year Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project and the All Lands Restoration Initiative [46].

In developing the (RBS)[47], co-authors envisioned a tiered, multiparty approach with stand-scale implementation monitoring that will inform landscape-scale indicators and directly inform adaptive management. This vision has been partially realized through a Memorandum of Understanding among the MBLM, RRSNF, and SOFRC and associated all- lands mapping products https://arcg.is/1fWzGv which were utilized in developing this proposal.

The recently awarded Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant to the RFRP supports landscape-scale restoration in line with associated multiparty monitoring[48] across several federal and private project areas that overlap with the RBCFLRP geography. The associated multiparty monitoring plan will cover economic, social, and ecological indicators, and include a science advisory committee and a strategic communications plan. These RFRP monitoring efforts are still in development and will be integrated with the RBCFLRP monitoring.

Working with RFRP, the RRSNF will broaden support and input by engaging all interested parties (including Tribes and local government) to develop the RBCFLRP monitoring plan. Workshops with all interested parties will be convened to develop monitoring questions and goals. An inclusive process will be used to screen, rank, and agree on a set of questions to be included in the monitoring plan. The monitoring plan will include both environmental (e.g. fuels, species composition) and social/economic (e.g. timber produced, jobs supported) questions, and monitoring methods will be developed for each using a set of collaboratively developed indicators and metrics. Critical ecological questions related to fire regimes, fish and wildlife habitat, watershed condition, and invasive species will also be included in the selected list.

All necessary data collection, analysis, interpretation, tools, instructions, and roles of all parties will also be detailed in the monitoring plan. A science advisory committee will provide guidance to the plan development.

The monitoring plan development team will also work closely with all other CFLRP collaboratives in Regions 5 and 6 to agree on core monitoring questions, reporting schedules,

and guidance for decision-makers for a consistent adaptive management process that will occur over the ten-year project period, plus an additional five years beyond completion.

Several base assets will assist the RBCFLRP in addressing monitoring questions. A survey currently underway for RFRI will provide a baseline social assessment for RBCFLRP. Multiple regional assessments such as restoration needs[49] and regional[50] and basin-wide[51] wildfire risk assessments have been used for the RBS and provide ecological baselines.

Forest-wide resources include: LiDAR data and associated modeled forest structural metrics, aerial photography (e.g. NAIP), PhoDAR, LANDFIRE updates, Gradient Nearest Neighbor updates, vegetation plot data, existing location data for wildlife (e.g. Northern Spotted Owl, Pacific fisher) and invasive plant species populations. If collaboratively determined to be a priority for monitoring, the plan will explore methods to monitor wildfire effects on landscape-objectives and metrics. Metrics would take advantage of available tools such as LandTrendr and VeRDET, and readily available wildfire products including RAVG and MTBS datasets.

11.0 Readiness to Implement Strategy

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses and decisions are complete that allow treatments on approximately 82,000 acres of NFS lands of which 46,800 acres lie within the Focus Area of the Rogue Basin CFLRP proposal. The RRSNF will complete NEPA planning on three additional projects in 2020 for an additional 67,000 acres of restoration work (39,000 acres within WUI and 14,000 within the Focus Area). See Table 4 for a summary of the RRSNF NEPA strategy. Additionally, the Forest is requesting $200,000 (non-CLFRP funds) to increase and accelerate treatments in the Focus Area by contracting NEPA for the proposed Wild Rivers restoration project. Utilizing streamlined NEPA processes and partners to add capacity will provide for a NEPA analysis and decision that would promote increasing the pace, scale, and capacity to meet the CFLR objectives.

All the projects identified above are aligned with the Forest Plan and focus on ecological restoration, reducing the risk of wildfire, assisting in protecting communities, providing a sustainable flow of timber and other services, and providing stimulus to local economies.

The RRSNF plans to utilize multiple tools to accomplish the tasks identified in the application. These tools include, but not limited to service contracts, integrated resource timber contracts (IRTC's), integrated resource service contracts (IRSC's), timber sales contracts, partnership agreements, volunteer agreements, Master Stewardship Agreements, Supplemental Project Agreements, Good Neighbor Authority, as well as utilizing our various partners in new and innovative ways.

Table 4. RRSNF NEPA Strategy for Restoration and Fuels Projects

Project	Expected Decision	Planning Area Acres	Total Estimated Restoration Acres	Percent of planning area treated	Restoration Acres within Focus Area	Restoration Acres within WUI
Completed NEPA	N/A	N/A	82,000	N/A	36,800	37,400
Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration	March 2020	52,300	14,000*	27%	14,000	14,000
Stella Landscape Restoration	Fall 2020	66,500	43,000	65%	0	20,000
Shasta Agness Landscape Restoration	Fall 2020	92,200	11,000	12% (17%)**	0	5,000
Big Butte Springs Restoration	Fall 2022	55,700	20,000***	36%	0	2,000
Riverhouse Landscape Restoration	Fall 2023	74,800	48,000	64%	48,000	19,000
Lobster Landscape Restoration	Fall 2024	31,200	18,000	58%	0	500
Winchuck Landscape Restoration	Fall 2025	34,500	20,000	58%	0	9,000
Wild Rivers Landscape Restoration	Fall 2026	87,300	45,000****	52%	45,000	18,000

*Analysis includes additional 8,000 acres restoration on adjacent BLM lands.

**Number in parentheses excludes designated Wilderness.

***Restoration, fuels reduction within the Medford Municipal Watershed.

****Requested non-CFLR funding could advance the NEPA decision to 2023.

12.0 Unit Capacity and Funding

12.1 Capacity

The Forest intends to fill five additional positions that will be dedicated to ensuring a successful implementation of the RBCFLRP plan: 1) a CFLRP Project Manager who will manage all aspects of the RBCFLRP; 2 & 3) two currently vacant Assistant Fire Management Officer fuels positions; 4) a Forester, and, 5) a Forestry Technician. Both the Forester and Forestry Technician will also have contracting skills to assist with developing contracts for implementation. In addition, the RRSNF plans to add a new Silviculturalist position that will assist with silvicultural prescription development for RBCFLRP treatment units.

Increased workforce capacity needed to increase restoration at a landscape scale will be made available through contracting, partnerships, and using the authorities and tools discussed in sections 11 and 12. Additionally changes in “Base Funded” Fire employees have allowed for Units to share resources during prescribed fire season to increase internal capacity of specially trained resources.

The RRSNF has had extensive experience with large projects that utilized multiple funding sources and collaborative partnerships. The most notable is the long-term Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project, expanded with additional partner funding to become the Ashland Forests All-lands Restoration Project (AFAR). Recognized as a national model for collaborative implementation, funding included the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Program, ongoing City of Ashland funding, and funding by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board which selected AFAR as their first dry forest restoration Focused Investment Partnership.

12.2 Project Funding

Refer to Attachment F for the funding plan for the RBCFLRP.

The RRSNF will invest over $1,500,000 per year of appropriated funding annually except for the first partial year. These funds are program specific funds, trust and permanent funds. The RRSNF is committed to making the RBCFLR the Forest's program of work for the next ten years.

Match required for CFLRP funding would come from partner contributions, in-kind match, appropriated funding, and utilization of Good Neighbor Authority and stewardship receipts. Currently the Forest is implementing restoration work in forestry, fuels, and aquatics with non-federal funds. These include a six-year grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for $6 million, grants for aquatic restoration from NOAA Fisheries over $1 million, and the City of Ashland contributes funding for maintenance of treated areas within the Ashland Municipal Watershed ($0.2 million/year). It is expected that this funding will continue as we move into implementation of the CFLRP. In addition, NRCS funding on private land of up to $100,000 annually will contribute to match when the treatments are within the focus and project areas.

Anticipated Cost Savings: Many of the treatments identified in high priority areas in the RBS are initially expensive. Our intent is to reduce treatment costs by over 30% over the life of the CFLR by increased use of prescribed fire on larger units, regular maintenance and use of managed fire. By utilizing the adaptive management principles of testing, monitoring and applied learning, we expect to find increased efficiencies and reduced costs of restoration work. Comprehensive forest restoration that reduces the impacts and risk from large scale wildfire will reduce the cost of suppressing wildfires. The RRSNF has experience using implementation tools and strategies such as Good Neighbor Authority, stewardship contracting, stewardship agreements, conventional timber sale and service contracts, and other formal and informal partnerships that provide opportunities for cost savings.

Monitoring

This proposal calls for using 10 percent of the annual funding for monitoring, consistent with the collaboratively developed Rogue Basin Strategy (see section 10). The RRSNF currently lacks capacity to implement large scale-long term monitoring. However, recent project partnerships have developed robust multiparty monitoring led by The Nature Conservancy, the Klamath Bird Observatory, and Lomakatsi Restoration Project, with research conducted by Southern Oregon University and Oregon State University. RRSNF will rely on these and other partners for RBCFLRP monitoring and will integrate lessons from anticipated discussion with Region 5 and 6.

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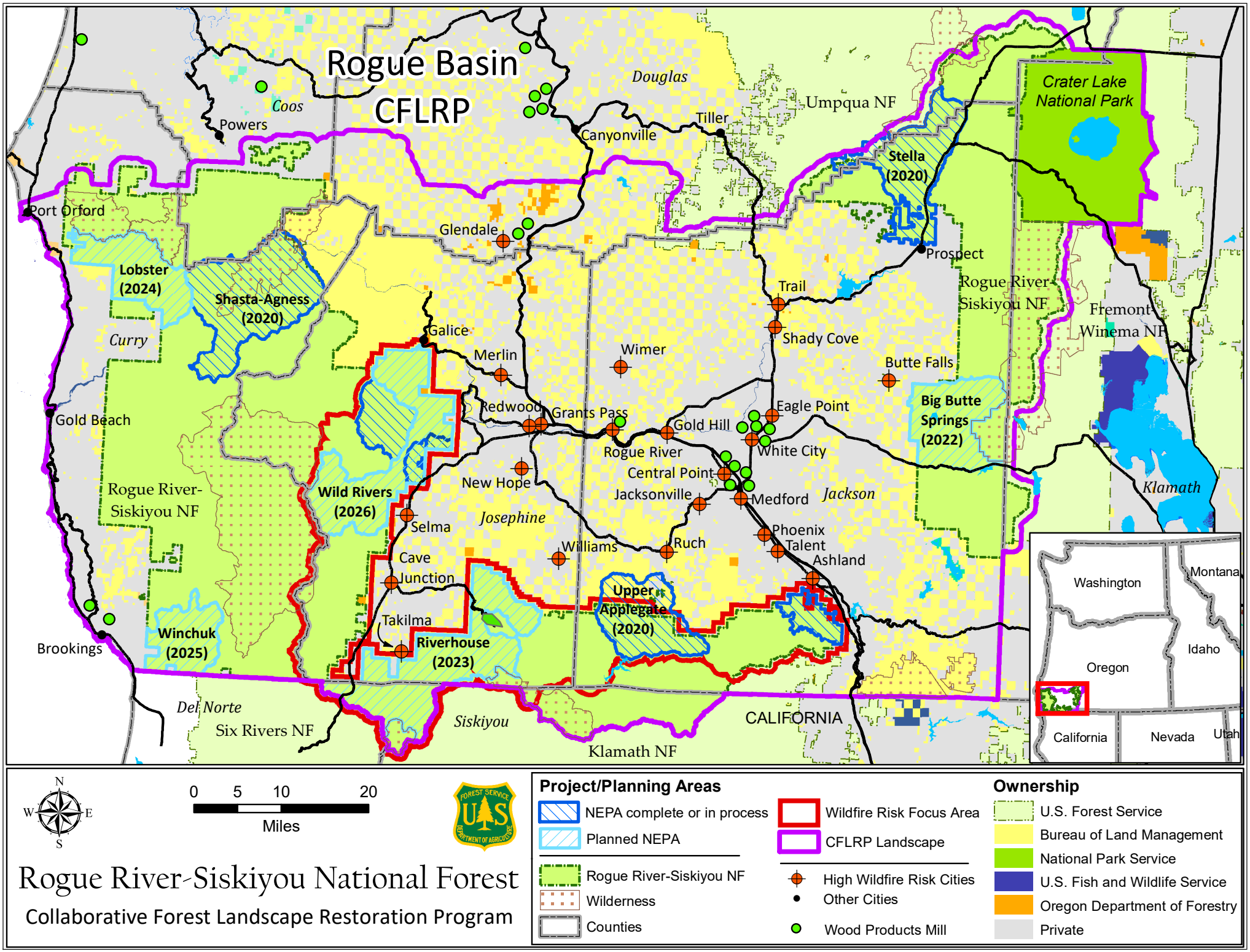
Rogue Basin
CFLRP
Douglas
Coos
Powers
Umpqua NF
Tiller
Canyonville
Crater Lake
National Park
Stella
(2020)
Port Orford
Glendale
Prospect
Lobster
(2024)
Shasta-Agness
(2020)
Curry
Galice
Merlin
Wimer
Trail
Shady Cove
Rogue River-
Siskiyou NF
Fremont-
Winema NF
Butte Falls
Big Butte
Springs
(2022)
Gold Beach
Redwood
Grants Pass
Gold Hill
Eagle Point
White City
Rogue River
Central Point
Jacksonville
Medford
Jackson
Klamath
New Hope
Rogue River-
Siskiyou NF
Wild Rivers
(2026)
Josephine
Selma
Williams
Ruch
Phoenix
Talent
Ashland
Cave
Junction
Upper
Applegate
(2020)
Takilma
Winchuk
(2025)
Riverhouse
(2023)
Brookings
Del Norte
Six Rivers NF
Siskiyou
CALIFORNIA
Klamath NF
Washington
Montana
Idaho
Oregon
California
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Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
Project/Planning Areas
NEPA complete or in process
Planned NEPA
Rogue River-Siskiyou NF
Wilderness
Counties
Wildfire Risk Focus Area
CFLRP Landscape
High Wildfire Risk Cities
Other Cities
Wood Products Mill
Ownership
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Oregon Department of Forestry
Private

Core Restoration Treatment Types	*Please briefly fill in additional background information for the prompts below*	Year 1*	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Years 5-10	*TOTAL*	Key treatment objectives	Estimated % accomplished on NFS lands (across all ten years)	Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private, etc.) where treatments will occur
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres)		8700	15100	13300	13600	94250	*144950*			
Mechanical Thinning (acres)		3700	4900	4500	4200	29750	*47050*	Risk reduction, fuels reduction, stand resilience	87	BLM, private lands
Prescribed Fire (acres)		2000	5000	5000	7500	52500	*72000*	Fuels reduction/maintenance	100	
Other (acres)										
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk		*8700*	*15100*	*13300*	*13600*	*94250*	*144950*		90	BLM, private lands
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - WUI acres	For Jackson and Josephine Counties, used the Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan, for Curry County, used the county's CWPP boundary.	7800	13500	12000	12000	86000	*131300*		83	BLM, private lands
Invasive Species Management (acres)		3000	5200	3800	4000	25000	*395300*			
Native Pest Management (acres)										
Road Decommissioning (miles)										
Road Maintenance and Improvement (miles)		80	80	80	80	480	*800*	Improve road consitions, reduce erosion	100	
Road Reconstruction (miles)		0	6	6	6	36	*54*	Improve bridges, road realignment, riparian protection	100	
Trail Reconstruction (miles)										
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)		6700	10100	8300	6100	41750	*72950*	Improve stand reslience and function	100	
Crossing Improvements (number)		3	3	3	3	20	*32*	Decrease erosion	100	
In-Stream Fisheries Improvement (miles)		7	7	7	7	40	*68*	Improve fish habitat	75	BLM, private lands
Lake Habitat Improvement (acres)										
Riparian Area Improvements (acres)		350	550	500	500	3500	*5400*	Improve riparian conditions/function	100	
Soil and Watershed resources enhanced or maintained (acres)										
Priority watersheds moved to improved condition class (number)										
Stand Improvement (acres)										
Reforestation and revegetation (acres)										
Timber Harvest (acres)**	60% ground based, 30% steep-slope (cable and tether logging), and 10% helicopter	3000	5200	3800	1900	12000	*25900*	Risk reduction, fuels reduction, stand resilience, provide commodities	100	
Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres)										
Abandoned Mine Reclamation/Remediation										
Other										
Other										

**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.*

CFRLP Proposal Attachment C: Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts

*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	3000	38,150	100%
2021	5190	39,600	100%
2022	3800	41,650	100%
2023	1900	43,750	100%
2024	2000	50,000	100%
2025	2000	52,000	100%
2026	2000	55,000	100%
2027	2000	57,000	100%
2028	2000	55,000	100%
2029	2000	60,000	100%
TOTALS:	25,890	492,150	
	Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on NFS lands:	100	
	Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on other landownerships within the CFLRP boundary:	0	

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

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Representatives	Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership NGOs	Rogue Forest Restoration Parntership Departments & Agencies
* Donna Mickley, District Ranger, Siskiyou Mountains District, RSF	Southern Oregon Forest Forest Restoration Collaborative	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
* Eric Burke, Natural Resources Staff	The Nature Conservancy	USDI Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program
* Bill Kuhn, Area Ecologist, RSF	Lomkakatsi Restoration Project	Oregon Department of Forestry
* Brett Brown, Fire Ecologist, Siskiyou Mountains Distirct RSF	Klamath Bird Observatory	Oregon Statue University Extension Program
		Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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
Jena Volpe	Bureau of Land Management Medford	*Yes*	Federal	Fire Ecology	Environmental	
Terry Fairbanks	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative	Yes	Environmental	Fire Ecology	Community Development	
Darren Borgias	The Nature Conservancy	Yes	Environmental	Fire Ecology	Fire Management	
Kerry Metlen	The Nature Conservancy	Yes	Environmental	Fire Ecology	Research	
Max Bennett	Oregon State University Extension	Yes	College/University	State	Environmental	
Erin Kurtz	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	No	Federal	Community Development	Environmental	
Marko Bey	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Yes	Environmental	Forest Products	Other	Stewardship Agreement Management
Shane Jimerfield	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Yes	Environmental	Community Development	Other	Ecological Restoration
Jill Beckmann	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Yes	Environmental	Fire Ecology	Other	Ecological Monitoring
Chris Rudd	Oregon Department of Forestry	No	State	Fire Management	Community Development	

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
Court Boice	Curry County Commissioner	Yes	County	Community Development	Fire Management	
Lily Morgan	Josephine County Commissioner	No	County	Fire Management	Community Development	
Belinda Brown	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Yes	Tribal	Youth	Other	Tribal Relations and Partnerships
Aaron Nauth	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	No	Fire Management		Other	Workforce Development and Management
Jaime Stephens	Klamath Bird Observatory	Yes	Wildlife	Research	Environmental	
Gregory Weber	Rogue Basin Partnership	No	Environmental	Watershed	Other	represents 20 aquatic and plant organizations
Court Boice	Curry County Commissioner	Yes	County	Community Development		
Cal Lee Davenport	USDI Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program	No	Federal	Wildlife		
Robert Kentta	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Tribal Council	No	Tribal	Environmental	Fire Management	
Mark Johnston	Coquille Indian Tribe	No	Tribal	Environmental	Community Development	
Teresa Bird	Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative	No	Environmental	Watershed	Fire Management	
Craig Harper	Medford Water Commission	No	Watershed	Community Development	Fire Management	

Letter of Commitment: 6 January 2020

Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) in collaboration with partners propose the Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (RBCFLRP), a 10-year strategic plan of ecological restoration. A suite of ten project areas across the Rogue Basin landscape are identified, including a focus area containing five projects in the south-central districts of the RRSNF, this landscape of 180,000 acres is the most relevant to reducing wildfire risks to nearby communities of Jackson and Josephine Counties, protecting habitat and reducing risks to watersheds.

Several of the RCFLRP partners were engaged in developing the strategy that underlies this proposal; the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy (RBS). This 20-year cross-boundary strategy identifies accessible acres in urgent need of restoration and wildfire risk reduction.

Treatments and funding by partners on adjacent lands bring match and additional leverage. They include the Bureau of Land Management, the USDI Natural Resource Conservation Service for treatments on private lands, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board support for treatment on both federal and private lands.

This landscape brings together partners from across the Basin representing the federally managed landscape, multiple communities, private lands, tribal organizations, fire management organizations and industry.

Development of the proposal. Partners who were developers of the proposal met numerous times, held robust discussions, analyzed, drafted and edited, argued, and agreed to the final proposal. They are all committed to implementing the proposal.

- Eric Burke, Natural Resources Staff Officer, RRSNF
- Donna Mickley, Siskiyou Mountains District, RRSNF
- Brett Brown, Fire Ecologist, RRSNF
- Bill Kuhn, SW OR Zone Ecologist
- Steve Burns, Aquatic Biologist, RRSNF
- Don Boucher, USFS, retired
- Terry Fairbanks, Executive Director, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- Kerry Metlen, Forest Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy
- Darren Borgias, SW OR Director Forest Conservation, The Nature Conservancy
- Jaime Stephens, Klamath Bird Observatory
- Jill Beckman, Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Marko Bey, Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Shane Jimerfield, Lomakatsi Restoration Project

Implementing the project, Implementers are supporters who have learned about the RBCFLR at any stage in the project development, and who share a sense of ownership and anticipate a role in collaborating in the project, or potentially entering into partnership and coinvesting to help the project secure the greatest return on investment for the resilience of our forests and communities, should it be funded. Supporters were consulted in advance or during development, and offered key coordinative perspective, issues of concern, opportunities, and guidance.

Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership Organizations and Key Representatives

- Max Bennett, Oregon State University, Forests and Natural Resources, Extension
- Marko Bey, Executive Director, Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Darren Borgias, The Nature Conservancy
- Brett Brown, USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
- Cal Lee Davenport, USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program
- Terry Fairbanks, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- Bill Kuhn, USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
- Erin Kurtz, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Kerry Metlen, The Nature Conservancy
- Donna Mickley, USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
- Chris Rudd, Stewardship Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry
- Jaime Stephens, Klamath Bird Observatory
- Jena Volpe, Fire Ecologist, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Medford
- Christina Beslin, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Medford

Support in concept. Supporters were consulted in advance or during development, and offered key coordinative perspective, issues of concern, opportunities, and guidance.

- Colleen Roberts, Jackson County Commissioner
- Lily Morgan, Josephine County Commissioner
- Court Boice, Curry County Commissioner
- Robert Kentta, Tribal Council, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- Pam Marsh Oregon State Representative, District 5
- Jeff Golden, Oregon State Senator District 3
- Kenny Houck, Illinois Valley Community Development Organization
- Craig Harper, Watershed Manager, Medford Water Commission
- John Stromberg, Mayor, City of Ashland
- Chris Chambers, Chief of Wildfire, City of Ashland
- Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association
- Ken Cummings, Hancock Timber

- Dave Schott, Southern Oregon Timber Industry Association
- Gregory Weber, Rogue Basin Partnership
- Alex Campbell, Oregon Solutions Regional Coordinator

Statement: We the federal, non-federal, and tribal cooperators are, or will be directly and substantively involved in the proposed Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project and have agreed to have our names or organizations listed in one or multiple ways:

USDA Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest	Merv George, Jr.
USDI Bureau of Land Management Medford	Elizabeth Burghard
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service	Erin Kurtz
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program	Cal Lee Davenport
Klamath Bird Observatory	John Alexander
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Marko Bey
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Eric Hartstein
Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative	Terry Fairbanks
The Nature Conservancy	Darren Borgias
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians	Robert Kentta
Coquille Indian Tribe	Mark Johnston

For more information contact:

Bill Kuhn, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 541-618-2057, william.kuhn@usda.gov

Terry Fairbanks, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, 541-292-4498
tfairbanks@sofrc.org

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 Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's request for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) funds for the Rogue Basin Landscape Restoration Project in southwestern Oregon.

The Rogue-Siskiyou proposal focuses on addressing wildfire risk to communities. People living in the Rogue Basin will benefit from investments in proactive fire risk mitigation work. This strategic, landscape approach compliments numerous efforts made on private, city, county, state, and other federal lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to our firefighters, communities, and natural resource lands. Additionally, improving wildlife habitat and protecting the watershed against long term effects of warming temperatures and drought helps protect downstream water supply for domestic, agricultural, and industrial use, as well as fisheries and the recreation and tourism business sectors.

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has a track record of success in collaborating with diverse partners to implement landscape scale fuels reductions, forest health treatments, and watershed improvements. With CFLRP resources, the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest will be able to expand that collaboration.

Thank you for your full and fair review of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's 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

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Tribal Council
P.O. Box 549 Siletz, Oregon 97380
(541) 444-8203 • 1-800-922-1399 ext. 1203 • FAX: (541) 444-8325

December 23, 2019

Merv George, Jr.
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

RE: Letter of Support for the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest's Collabrative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) Application

Dear Supervisor George:

We support the efforts of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership to collaborate in implementing landscape scale restoration projects that reduce hazardous fuels, implement forest health treatments and watershed improvements. The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests efforts to secure funding through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program will substantially increase active forest management and employment opportunities.

Restoring resilient landscapes is critical to ensuring long term watershed health, improving wildlife habitat, and protecting and enhancing resources utilized for traditional cultural uses.

Additionally, preparing watersheds to rebound and adapt to drought and climate change will aid downstream water supply needed for fisheries, domestic, agricultural, and industrial use, and to provide highly desirable recreational opportunities.

We valued participating in the Rogue Leadership Forum this spring where local, state, Tribal and federal leaders gathered to discuss a shared vision for integrated, cohesive forest and fire management objectives. We look forward to expanding our involvement in the development, planning, and implementation of forest management on the Rogue River-Siskiyou and within our ancestral territory.

Sincerely,

Delores Pigsley
Tribal Chairman

COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE

3050 Tremont Street North Bend, OR 97459
Phone: (541) 756-0904 Fax: (541) 756-0847
www.coquilletribe.org

Merv George Jr
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

RE: Letter of support for the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest's Collabrative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) application

Dear Supervisor George:

We support the efforts of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership to collaborate in implementing landscape scale restoration projects that reduce hazardous fuels, implement forest health treatments and watershed improvements. The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests efforts to secure funding through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program will substantially increase active forest management and employment opportunities.

Restoring resilient landscapes is critical to ensuring long term watershed health, improving wildlife habitat, and protecting and enhancing resources utilized for traditional cultural uses. Additionally, preparing watersheds to rebound and adapt to drought and climate change will aid downstream water supply needed for fisheries, domestic, agricultural, and industrial use, and to provide highly desirable recreational opportunities.

We look forward to expanding our involvement by providing a tribal perspective in the development, planning, and implementation of forest management on the Rogue River-Siskiyou and within our ancestral territory.

Sincerely,

Mark Johnston
Executive Director

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

January 2, 2020

Merv George, Jr.
Forest Supervisor
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

Dear Mr. George:

This letter is in support of CFLR funding for the Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project (RBCFLR). Large, dangerous wildfires not only are a threat to life and property in rural and "WUI" areas throughout the Rogue Valley, but also severely impact quality of life of all residents and even threaten the economic stability of the region.

The recently completed Governor's Council on Wildfire Response report (November 2019) calls for a major increase in funding for restoration treatments, ideally to be implemented through the kind of regional collaborative planning that has been completed in recent years in the Rogue Basin. Multiple analyses have consistently shown that communities in Southern Oregon are some of the most vulnerable to wildfire disaster in the nation. The State of Oregon recently made a major grant award to implementation of the Rogue Basin Strategy. The USFS has made significant investments in Ashland Forest Resilience projects, which have helped prepare the region reach to move to landscape-scale treatment efforts. Additional USFS support will accelerate this work greatly and demonstrate the USFS' commitment to continued partnership.

Regional Solutions (RS), a program of the Governor's Office, leverages state and other assets to address key regional priorities. RS helped found the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, and we look forward to assisting on the RBCFLR wherever appropriate.

Sincerely,

Alex Campbell
Regional Solutions Coordinator

SOUTHERN OREGON REGIONAL SOLUTIONS CENTER
37 N CENTRAL AVE, MEDFORD, OR 97501

PAM MARSH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 5
SOUTHERN JACKSON COUNTY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 31, 2019

Glenn Casamassa, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Region 6
1220 SW 3rd Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Support for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Rogue Basin CFLRP

Dear Regional Forester Casamassa,

I am writing to express my unqualified support for the Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (RBCFLR) proposal submitted by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in collaboration with Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership. As Representative for Oregon House District 5 and member of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response, I am advocating for policies and funding that will help mitigate risk and respond to the economic, health and environmental impacts of wildfire here in Jackson County, and for rural communities across the state.

RBCFLR applies proactive, landscape-level and strategic implementation for forest restoration and watershed improvements to benefit key landscapes within Jackson County's wildland urban interface. Projects proposed in the RBCFLR are a significant step towards reducing severe wildfire risk and smoke impacts that my constituents in Jackson County have experienced in recent years, and which are described in USFS Region 6 Quantitative Risk Assessment. By improving wildlife habitat and protecting the watershed against long-term effects of drought and climate change, the RBCFLR will also help to maintain water supply for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses, as well as fisheries, recreation and tourism that are vital to our regional economic strength.

This proposal complements numerous efforts made on private, city, county, state, and federal lands in Jackson County to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and resource lands. Here in District 5, the Ashland Forest All-lands Resiliency project has become a national trailblazer of collaboration for ecological restoration. As a former Ashland city councilor, I advocated for implementation of a surcharge on city water bills that provides significant local support for the project.

Capitol Address: 900 Court St NE, H-375, Salem, OR 97301 – Phone: (503) 986-1405
rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov - www.oregonlegislature.gov/marsh

I am pleased that the same group of partners is now proposing the RBCFLR. The project's collaborative governance structure will enable it to address the issues inherent in a complex land ownership pattern. In the process, the RBCFLR promises to become a model for other fire resilient communities throughout the nation by demonstrating the power of teamwork that brings agencies, local communities, nonprofits and other partners together around a common mission.

I strongly encourage the USFS Regional Office to support the RBCFLR proposal.

Best regards,

Pam Marsh

Pam Marsh
Representative House District 05
Southern Jackson County

Capitol Address: 900 Court St NE, H-375, Salem, OR 97301 – Phone: (503) 986-1405
rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov - www.oregonlegislature.gov/marsh

ROGUE VALLEY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
8383 AGATE RD.
WHITE CITY, OR 97503

Merv George, Jr. Forest Supervisor
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504

January 21st, 2020

RE: Support for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP)

Dear Supervisor George:

The Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Association (RVFCA) voted at their January 2020 meeting to fully support the Rogue Basin CFLRP proposal being submitted by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) in collaboration with the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP).

The RVFCA is a signatory to the Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan (RVIFP), the regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan covering our cities and communities throughout one of the most flammable landscapes in the country. The Rogue Basin contains 25 of the 50 highest risk Oregon communities, according to the 2019 USFS Region 6 ranking of communities at risk from wildfire. The RVIFP identifies the Rogue Basin Cohesive Restoration Strategy (RBS) as our favored strategy for reducing wildfire risk and protecting communities protected by the departments of the RVFCA. The CFLRP proposal is the most significant proposed investment in implementing the RBS to date, and we strongly support the RRSNF and RFRP application.

The RVFCA has been a long-time partner in wildfire response and prevention through the Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Cooperative, the Jackson Josephine Local Coordinating Group, the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, the Southwest Oregon Coordination Group, and various iterations of County-wide CWPP's dating back to 2005.

We support this proposal as a means of combining the federal Cohesive Strategy's three areas of focus by creating Fire Adapted Communities, Resilient Landscapes, and setting the stage for effective and safe response. Our firefighters commonly work across jurisdictions each summer to protect communities and resources. Firefighter safety cannot be emphasized enough and by changing the underlying fuel conditions, we can provide safer opportunities to protect our citizens, property, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and we stand together as a resource to assist with the community connections to openly and efficiently implement this critical work.

Sincerely,

Chief Mike McLaughlin, President
Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Association

JEFF GOLDEN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 3

OREGON STATE SENATE

December 31, 2019

Attention: Regional Forester
Glenn Casamassa
USDA Forest Service, Region Six
1220 SW 3rd Ave
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Support for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Rogue Basin CFLR

Dear Regional Forester Casamassa,

As State Senator for District 3, I support the Rogue Basin CFLR proposal submitted by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RSF) in collaboration with the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP). This landscape level strategic implementation of forest restoration, watershed improvements and risk reduction to communities and habitats is directed at key landscape areas of Jackson County within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

The magnitude of the risk to southwest Oregon is dramatically apparent in the recent USFS Region 6 Quantitative Risk Assessment. We applaud the efforts of the RSF in advancing proactive fire risk reduction and forest health while supporting the wood products and forest management sectors of our economy.

Projects proposed in the RBCFLR are vital to the residents of southwest Oregon especially for reducing the severe risks of wildfire and smoke that Jackson County residents have experienced in recent years. Wildfire mitigation, response and resilience are paramount in my District and many rural communities across the State.

In my District, the Ashland Forest All-lands Resiliency (AFAR) project is a national model for collaboration with communities and ecological restoration. The collaboration responsible for the AFAR is the same group of partners now proposing the RBCFLR.

The CFLR program has generated impressive benefits for people and the forests in nearly two-dozen landscapes from Florida to the State of Washington. Created in 2010, CFLR projects have treated more than 1.66 million forested acres. In Oregon, three CFLR projects—Deschutes, Lakeview and Southern Blues—support several hundred jobs, miles of road improvement and maintenance, strategic reduction in hazardous fuels, and habitat recovery, while also supporting steady and increasing restoration byproducts and economic activity.

Office: 900 Court St. NE, S-421, Salem, OR 97301 – (503) 986-1703 – sen.jeffgolden@oregonlegislature.gov

JEFF GOLDEN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 3

The RBCFLR proposal includes the necessary partners and strategies for diverse community engagement, increasing workforce capacity, youth training and building a culture that incorporates living with fire.

This project of collaboration across a complicated ownership pattern and intersecting roles in governance is a model for the nation in how to address wildfire in a cohesive strategy that brings together federal and state agencies, the local communities, and other partners. I encourage the Regional Office to rank highly the RBCFLR proposal and to leverage the fullest extent new funding under CFLR towards this project.

Restoring resilient landscapes is critical to ensure long term watershed health, provide for wildlife habitat, maintain timber production and economic activity, providing multiple public uses and access.

We look forward to a favorable response from your reviewers and working with you in partnership in the spirit of collaboration.

Sincerely,

Senator Jeff Golden
Chair, Campaign Finance Committee
Chair, Wildfire Response & Recovery Committee
Senate District 3 (Rogue Valley)

Office: 900 Court St. NE, S-421, Salem, OR 97301 – (503) 986-1703 – sen.jeffgolden@oregonlegislature.gov

ASHLAND
as you like it

Attention: Regional Forester
Glenn Casamassa
USDA Forest Service, Region Six
1220 SW 3rd Ave
Portland, OR 97204

January 9, 2020

RE: Support for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Rogue Basin CFLR

Dear Regional Forester Casamassa,

The Ashland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted unanimously at their January 2020 meeting to fully support the Rogue Basin CFLR proposal submitted by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RSF) in collaboration with the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP).

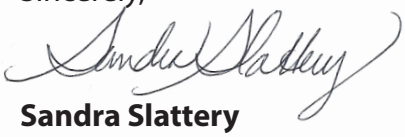
The Ashland Chamber has been extremely supportive of the restoration efforts of the Ashland Forest All-lands Resiliency (AFAR) project since its inception and are proud that it is a national model for collaboration with communities and ecological restoration. The collaboration responsible for the AFAR is the same group of partners now proposing the RBCFLR. We commend the efforts of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership to collaborate to implement landscape scale fuels reductions, forest health, and watershed improvement projects within the Rogue Basin.

The proposed projects are critical to the residents and businesses in southwest Oregon especially for reducing the severe risks of wildfire and smoke that Jackson County residents have experienced in recent years. The impacts reach far beyond just inconvenience but have dramatically impacted not only our visitor economy in southern Oregon but also the quality of life of residents which in turn affects business development and financial sustainability. While we have done extensive work in smoke mitigation and awareness, wildfire mitigation, response and resilience are critical components that need significant funding.

The risk to southwest Oregon is dramatically apparent in the recent USFS Region 6 Quantitative Risk Assessment. We applaud the efforts of the RSF in advancing proactive fire risk reduction and forest health while supporting the wood products and forest management sectors of our economy. Restoring fire resilient landscapes is critical to ensure long term watershed health, provide for wildlife habitat, maintain timber production, and provide multiple public uses. This project, through long term collaboration with others, is well poised to make significant improvements across a large-scale landscape that will establish long-term benefits for southern Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Sandra Slattery
Executive Director
Ashland Chamber of Commerce

Ashland Chamber of Commerce and Travel Ashland (Visitor & Convention Bureau)
PO Box 1360 • Ashland OR 97520 • 110 East Main St. • PO Box 1360 • Ashland OR 97520 • (541) 482-3486 • Fax: (541) 482-2350
ashlandchamber.com

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

January 6, 2020

Glenn Casamassa, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Region Six
1220 SW 3rd Ave
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Support for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Rogue Basin CFLR

Dear Mr. Casamassa:

The Medford Water Commission strongly supports the Rogue Basin CFLR proposal submitted by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) and the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP). The Water Commission provides drinking water for 140,000 people in the region and works with other providers to ensure clean and abundant drinking water for our growing population. Funding for the strategic, landscape level forest management approach outlined in this proposal will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, improve critical wildlife habitat, and protect the watershed against the long-term effects of drought and climate change. Implementation of the project will provide vital landscape scale fuels reduction and improve forest health and resiliency in a critical portion of the Rogue River Basin.

The collaborative nature of this project will also serve as a model cohesive strategy to address wildfire through the involvement of federal and state agencies, local communities, conservation organizations and other partners.

Restoration of fire resilient landscapes is critical to the future viability of this region. It will protect our sources of drinking water, ensure long term watershed health, maintain timber production and economic activity, improve wildlife habitat, and offer public access, recreation and many other public uses.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Ben Klayman
Water Treatment and Quality Director

Craig Harper
Watershed Administrator

200 S. Ivy Street, Room 177
Medford, Oregon 97501
Phone (541) 774-2430
www.medfordwater.org
water@medfordwater.org
Fax (541) 774-2555

Complete the table below and respond to the question at the bottom of the tab.
For 2010 Project extensions, fill in the annual funding request for the number of years requested for the extension (up to 10)

Fiscal Year 1*	**Funding Planned/Requested**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$792,600
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$100,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$350,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,402,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$2,644,600
CFLRP Funding Request	$2,994,600
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$2,994,600
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$300,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$50,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$350,000

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	$1,179,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$45,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$400,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$2,026,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,650,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$4,000,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$4,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$300,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$50,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$350,000

Fiscal Year 3	**Funding Planned/Requested**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,179,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$60,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$400,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$2,006,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,645,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$4,000,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$4,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$300,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$55,000

USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$355,000

Fiscal Year 4	**Funding Planned/Requested**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,179,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$55,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$1,000,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,416,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,650,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$4,000,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$4,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$300,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$50,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$350,000

Fiscal Years 5-10	**Funding Planned/Requested**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$5,544,000
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$300,000
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$6,000,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$10,056,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$21,900,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$24,000,000
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$24,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$1,800,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$300,000
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$2,100,000

Please provide an **estimate of any funding needed for NEPA and environmental compliance** in support of the CFLRP Project. You may

The Forest is requesting $200,000 to complete additional NEPA to support CFLR objectives. Utilizing streamlined NEPA processes and partners to add capacity will provide for additional decisions that would promote increasing the pace, scale, and capacity to meet the CFLR objectives.

Forest Service

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504
541-618-2200

File Code: 1580 **Date:** January 6, 2020
Route To:

Subject: Support for Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project

I fully support the Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (RBCFLR) proposal developed jointly with the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership. I have consulted with and have support from local County and Tribal Government partners. I actively involved the Forest Leadership Team and have worked closely with my Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRS) staff to ensure this CLFRP proposal compliments our ongoing program of work. We have anticipated the organization needs and our partners ability to assist the RRS with increasing capacity. This proposal would build on and expand our pace and scale of vegetative treatments aimed at protecting communities from the threat of high intensity wildfire.

I am fully aware of the eligibility, implementation, and monitoring requirements for the CFLRP. If this proposal is funded I am committed to supporting my staff and ongoing collaborative engagement with partners to secure the greatest possible return on investment in protecting and supporting resilience of our forests, communities, and our economy, while meeting our overall goals and commitments of the RRS.

MERV GEORGE
Forest Supervisor
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Attachment I

The Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership Member Organizations

In the spring of 2018, the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative and others organized in a new partnership, the Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP), to develop and propose a Rogue Basin scale forest restoration initiative. The initial effort succeeded in securing a $6 million grant over six years from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI). The RFRP committed to an additional $3 million in match.

Each of the core member organizations bring specialized expertise and proven records of constructive collaboration and high performance in planning and implementing successful landscape-scale restoration projects on public and private lands. The partnership leverages the complementary knowledge sharing and communication networks of each member. They share a similar view of the landscape and social context and have developed an adaptive management framework around key concerns and goals for forest and community resilience.

RFRP Agreements

The core partners also have a long history of partnership and cooperation in various configurations. They are currently linked through five memoranda of understanding (MOU) or other formal agreements, including:

- Memorandum of Understanding: A Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Partnership (SOFRC, RRSNF, BLM, ODF)
- Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network MOU (KBO, SOFRC, TNC, LRP, RRSNF, BLM, others)
- Stewardship Agreement 2013-2023: LRP and MBLM
- RRSNF Master Stewardship Agreement: RRSNF, SOFRC, TNC, LRP
- Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative Focused Investment Partnership (all partners).

RFRP Governance

The partners developed a governance charter which establishes the organizational structure and of decision-making process. New partners are considered on a case-by-case basis upon recommendation by a current member and must be approved by the Core member. Core Partners have agreed to serve for the duration of the six-year RFRI. If a core partner withdraws from the partnership, the Steering Committee will replace the organization in kind and function. A RFRP core member list-serve has been created and used for communication regarding RFRP business (e.g., upcoming meetings, operations, and collaboration). Affiliate, supportive members are also being recruited.

RFRP Core Member Competencies and Expertise

Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) provides staff to convene and coordinate the RFRP, including key roles in grant administration, planning, coalition building and public engagement. SOFRC began in 2005 as the "knitting circle," and later operated as the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative, bringing parties with diverse interests together to identify obstacles to socially, economically and ecologically beneficial federal forest management in SW Oregon. In 2010 SOFRC convened the *Solutions for Forest Conference* at Southern Oregon University. The three-day event drew 200 people for discussion of challenges to landscape-scale restoration, a field tour and identification of strategies to increase the pace and scale of restoration. The Pilot Joe restoration field-tour site was designated by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar in 2011 as a federal demonstration project. The project centered on reducing the risk of fire to Northern Spotted Owl habitat and promoting forest resilience. Drs. Norm Johnson of Oregon State University and Jerry Franklin of the University of Washington supported a collaborative effort founded on their Ecological Forestry Principles. SOFRC convened a multiparty monitoring team to develop and implement a monitoring plan. A fifth-year post treatment monitoring tour in 2018 provided the public an assessment which reinforced the importance of collaboration and public engagement.

SOFRC served as the initiator and facilitator for the development of the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy: A Collaborative Vision for Resilient Landscapes and Fire Adapted Communities (Metlen et. al. 2017) known as the Rogue Basin Strategy (RBS). The RBS serves as the strategic foundation for the Rogue Basin Forest Initiative. Terry Fairbanks, Executive Director, was a technical contributor to the Rogue Basin Strategy while she was the District Silviculturist for the Medford BLM. Terry has worked with TNC, LRP, KBO and OSU in a various works since 2008, including securing supplemental funding for a fire history study conducted by for TNC. She is a founding member of the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network, initiated the 10-year Medford BLM stewardship agreement with LRP. Terry contributed to the uneven-aged management restorative prescriptions development for the Medford BLM management plan. She worked for the USFS in western Oregon for 20 years before moving to Medford BLM in 2003. She retired from federal service in 2017 and started as SOFRC executive director in 2018.

Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP) has helped forge a gold standard for partnership with the US Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). They established the first Master Stewardship Agreement with the RRSNF for the Illinois Valley and carried that learning forward to the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) MSA, joining forces with TNC and the City of Ashland. Since then, LRP has applied the partnership framework under stewardship authority to the Fremont-Winema National Forest in partnership with the Klamath Tribes and TNC. With the NRCS and USFWS, LRP has established the nationally recognized Central Umpqua Mid-Klamath Oak Habitat Collaborative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) that addressed the decline of oak habitats on private lands in Douglas and Jackson Counties in Oregon, and Siskiyou County in California. LRP was the project sponsor for an expanded effort for private lands oak conservation through a successful Regional Conservation Partnership Program for the Klamath-Rogue Oak Habitat Restoration project across southern

Oregon and northern California. More recently, LRP and partners have leveraged the success of AFR to and all-lands approach as the Ashland All-Lands Restoration (AFAR) with funding awards from USDA Joint Chiefs and OWEB. As a non-profit, LRP often works as a partner accepting awards and subawards for partnership work, including cross boundary private lands work with funds subawarded by TNC. LRP is primarily responsible for implementation, including the ability to flexibly scale workforce capacity, both in-house, and by engaging contractors. LRP also invests in developing a local knowledgeable workforce through training. LRP applies expertise in project design, layout, and workforce management to accomplish large projects. LRP also has been successful in securing supplemental funding for outreach and education via school groups engaged in experiential learning outdoors in ways that help build conservation leaders for the future.

LRP has at its core the mission of "restoring ecosystems and sustaining communities" and has developed into a leading non-governmental organization demonstrating cost effective and efficient implementation with its knowledgeable and flexible workforce developed over the last 20 years. Lomakatsi has a proven record of success implementing restoration projects across thousands of acres of forests and miles of streams while training and employing hundreds of local workers. Marko Bey, Executive Director, and Shane Jimerfield, Program Director, lead Lomakatsi through agreement intricacies necessary to pioneer the use of the Master Stewardship Agreement to collaboratively accomplish forest restoration. Lomakatsi has been the go-to implementation and workforce partner for the project, demonstrating the necessary flexibility, capacity building, training, and community engagement to reach a broader segment of the local community. Lead technical support in the field is provided by Restoration Design and Implementation Specialist Josh Budziak; Lead Ecological Forester Jill Beckmann, and Restorations Operations Director Aaron Nauth, and others who guide both technical personnel and labor crews. LRP developed expertise as it expanded from managing other MSA's throughout the region to AFR operations. Lomakatsi has been working in close partnership with the Forest Service and a broad range of partners for the past decade, on four other large-scale stewardship agreements in Regions 5 & 6, implementing forest and aquatic restoration. LRP broadened partnership experience and capacity, particularly with USFWS, the NRCS, and TNC for the restoration of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Priority Oak Woodland and Prairie habitats, among others. Lomakatsi has leveraged over $13,000,000 in non-federal funding for all-lands restoration treatments across the Rogue Basin.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) provides a science foundation and leadership on monitoring and adaptive management design, along with guidance on public engagement for all aspects of the RFRP. TNC operates in partnerships around the world to advance a mission to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. TNC is a principle partner in the AFR MSA and the associated OWEB AFAR Initiative. The Conservancy brings experience from the ongoing work under an MSA with the Klamath Tribes, LRP, and USFS on the Fremont-Winema NF. TNC has also advanced formal partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management, including the Table Rocks oak restoration supported by NRCS, BLM, USFWS, and the Wildlife Conservation. TNC has a 50-year history identifying important landscapes and providing conservation planning for federal and state agencies in Oregon. TNC is a founding member of the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network and contributes at varied levels through the Fire Learning Network, the Fire Adapted

Community Learning Network, and the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (all national). TNC local staff inform large-scale ecological assessments and ecologically based management strategies tied to site-sensitive prescriptions and efficient multiparty monitoring.

The Nature Conservancy's Southwestern Oregon Forest Program Director, Darren Borgias, has been engaged in the AFR project since 2004, starting with the AFR community alternative technical team. TNC helped channel nearly $2 million in public and private funds in support of research, monitoring, and cross-boundary treatment to expand the all-lands approach at AFR. Under the leadership of Dr. Kerry Metlen, Forest Ecologist, TNC has published a scientifically credible fire histories and conducted ongoing research on stand reconstructions for Ashland and the broader Rogue Valley. TNC coordinated the primary funding sources for completing the Rogue Basin Strategy and Dr. Metlen led the technical team and writing for the report. Metlen provides ongoing leadership for science and monitoring in the RFRP. TNC in Oregon also completed a climate resilience analysis that guides conservation and restoration planning. Mark Stern, Director of Forest Conservation in Oregon works closely with the state and national forest restoration initiatives, networking with other demonstration sites around the country, mostly funded through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

The **Oregon State University Extension Forestry and Natural Resource (FNR)** coordinates with ODF and LRP on private landowner outreach engagement for the RFRP, and plays a key role in public education on forest management. FNR program's Agents and Specialists work every day to learn about the latest techniques in natural resource management, and then, through educational programs and materials, transfer this knowledge to client groups, such as forest owners, foresters and other natural resource managers, educators, loggers and forest workers. FNR Extension Agent Max Bennett has worked in the Rogue Basin for 18 years. Major areas of focus have included fire, forest health, ecological forestry, and outreach to new and inexperienced forest owners.

Partnerships are an integral feature of the local FNR program. Max has worked closely with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Jackson Josephine Small Woodlands Association, American Forest Foundation, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, local watershed councils and numerous other groups to develop and deliver educational programs and technical assistance for landowners and other clientele. Notable collaborative initiatives include Land Stewards, Tree School, Master Woodland Manager, Citizen Fire Academy, Student Watershed Assessment Teams, and My Southern Oregon Woodlands. As a result of these efforts the local FNR program has developed expertise in effective outreach and engagement strategies for private landowners. Max co-authored the Seven Basins Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2005) and served on the Jackson-Josephine Integrated Fire Plan core team. He has served on implementation review teams for both the AFR and AFAR projects. Max has been a board member of SOFRC since 2011, serving as vice-president in 2015-16 and as president in 2017. He was a member of SOFRC's Rogue Basin Strategy technical team and led the economic analysis of the RBS strategy. He was also a key player in the multi-party monitoring initiative for the Pilot Joe project.

The **Oregon Department of Forestry, Southwest Oregon District (ODF)** coordinates with partners in private landowner outreach, education, and engagement for the RFRP. ODF

promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of service forestry and wildfire protection. ODF provides a sustainable wildfire protection system to approximately 1.8 Million acres of private, county, state, and BLM-owned lands in SWO. ODF works with landowners, partner agencies, and all area stakeholders to help create more fire resilient forests and fire-adapted communities, helping to reduce the negative impacts of wildfires to all SWO residents.

ODF has been a front-runner in providing technical forestry assistance to private landowners in SWO since the mid 1970's. ODF provides technical forestry assistance to all area partners, helping to augment their capacities to plan and complete restoration activities on both public, and private lands. Since the beginning of the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), ODF foresters have provided cooperative work assistance in establishing EQIP project areas, locating participating landowners, completing forest inventory, and assisting landowners through the EQIP process. Today, these efforts have grown to include other cooperative work agreement opportunities that share agency resources and supplement capacities such as the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA).

In 2015, ODF implemented a Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (CWS) pilot project in the SWO District. John O'Connor became the CWS Coordinator for the District to assist area partners in more effectively developing and implementing landscape restoration and community protection projects across the District. This included providing linkages between private landowners, community groups, collaboratives, and federal land management agencies. Successful CWS projects date back to 2012 in the Illinois Valley where ODF, the USFS, and the BLM engaged local community and environmental groups in efforts to complete cross-boundary landscape treatments on both public, and private lands. These efforts continue today and have expanded into other areas including community engagement efforts within the Upper Applegate Road all-lands restoration project in the Applegate Watershed.

ODF assists all SWO partners in establishment and implementation of community outreach, education, and landowner engagement programs. In coordination with Oregon State University Extension Service (OSU), SWO ODF staff members John O'Connor and Nick Haile established the My Southern Oregon Woodlands (MSOW) private landowner outreach program in the SWO District. The MSOW program provides an outreach and education mechanism to communities that targets our landscape needs and will be one of the primary community outreach mechanisms for RFRP. ODF will be providing RFRP with forestry assistance as needed to plan, coordinate, and complete restoration activities on both public and private lands, including efforts under GNA and other cooperative work agreements.

Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) provides key science perspective on adaptive management and monitoring for the RFRP. KBO advances the conservation of birds and their habitats through science, education, and partnerships. They partner regularly with federal and state agencies, local NGOs, and industry to further oak and dry forest restoration.

KBO played a key role in the nationally recognized Central Umpqua Mid-Klamath Oak Habitat Collaborative Conservation Partnership Initiative led by LRP that addressed the decline of oak habitats on private lands in southern Oregon and northern California. That effort was expanded through a successful Regional Conservation Partnership Program for the Klamath-Rogue Oak Habitat Restoration project. For both initiatives, KBO integrated the best available science into

restoration planning, and led effectiveness monitoring to measure success. KBO coordinates the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network and led the efforts to establish the Charter and MOU. To further catalyze oak restoration in this region KBO is leading an OWEB Development FIP to create a Strategic Action Plan for oak habitats in the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network geography.

Additionally, for nearly two decades KBO has partnered with federal agencies (BLM, USFS, NPS, USFWS) and private timber industry to advance conservation actions in coniferous forest habitat. For example, we currently are engaging on and interdisciplinary planning team and contributing to monitoring efforts on the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in partnership with the Snoqualmie Tribe.

KBO furthers ecological restoration by fostering partnerships and contributing to the planning and monitoring necessary for adaptive management. KBO has generated a wealth of management-relevant science specific to oak and dry forests of this region and has co-authored the Partners in Flight conservation plans for both of those habitats in Oregon. KBO assists partners in the application of the best available science to plan treatments that will meet desired vegetative conditions with associated ecological response. Such planning requires a multi-disciplinary approach and multi-faceted implementation and effectiveness monitoring to determine whether restoration successfully reached desired conditions. And because birds are diverse in their habitat preferences, they provide good ecological indicators; thus, by understanding and managing for a varied array of bird species we promote healthy ecosystems that we all depend on.

KBO's monitoring expertise is focused on birds and vegetation. They implement long-term and applied ecological studies and maintain regional avian data and science delivery tools through Avian Knowledge Northwest (www.avianknowledgenorthwest.net). Jaime Stephens, KBO Science Director was recently awarded the Partners in Flight Leadership Award for her production and application of science implemented through partner focused science delivery that results in measurable benefits for birds. She has been implementing conservation relevant science projects, with a focus on birds and their habitats, in southern Oregon and northern California for over 15 years. This work has included extensive protocol development, study design, project management, reporting, science delivery, and conservation planning. She is supported by a team of five full-time science staff at KBO with expertise in data analysis, GIS, and scientific and popular writing.

The **USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF)** has emerged as a leader in collaborative forestry, a critical mode of operation necessary to overcome past conflict and has elevated the AFAR project successfully to garner ongoing funding to complete the federal lands portion of AFAR. The Forest Service focus on restoring Dry-type Forest Habitat has risen as a priority since it assessed the Upper Bear Creek Watershed for restoration need in 2003. In response, the RRSNF advanced the AFR purpose and need in 2004. The USFS has been the primary conduit for funding the AFR project which lies at the center of the AFAR cross boundary, all-lands FIP initiative. The RRSNF is expert in administration of its lands and agreements with partners to accomplish desired outcomes. RRSNF staff codified the work necessary on the federal lands and continues to provide a project manager to work with and facilitate the efforts of the partners on AFR. The FS has also been able to deliver funding for

cross-boundary work on private lands via the State and Private Forests program. This funding was channeled through the Fire Learning Network and The Nature Conservancy helped set the stage for advancing a comprehensive, cohesive landscape approach to restoring Dry-type Forests.

As project manager, Bill Kuhn of the FS draws necessary linkages to agency services in support of the project, particularly science and funding, but also inclusion of the FS interdisciplinary team for consultations on critical elements of concern. The continuity of the RRSNF interaction with partners has been critical to the success here. Siskiyou Mountain District Ranger Donna Mickley and by Merv George, Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor, are regular participants in the ongoing discussion about the project.

Bureau of Land Management Medford (MBLM) administers major portions of the Rogue River Basin and play a key role coordinating with the RFRP. The BLM mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently completed new resource management plans (RMPs) for western Oregon (USDOI 2016), and two records of decision that recognize the distinction between moist forests in northern Oregon and dry forests southwest OR. The RMP/ROD dry forest management direction incorporated aspects of the ecological forestry approach of Drs. Jerry F. Franklin and K. Norman Johnson. The Pilot Joe Project, planned in 2011 and implemented in 2012, was designed under the conceptual framework of Franklin and Johnson's Dry Forest restoration strategy. This demonstration project integrated ecosystem restoration, conservation of northern spotted owl (NSO) habitat, and commodity production over portions of the Middle Applegate watershed, an 80,000-ac landscape that is approximately 62% under management of USDI BLM. Building stakeholder confidence was needed to facilitate the process, so transparency was key — the BLM created a website for the Middle Applegate to post all meeting notes, official reports, and other related material for rapid, easy access to any interested party. More than a dozen field trips, and public meetings were held to discuss, evaluate, and prioritize sites and conditions for treatment. Even before this effort, the Medford District BLM had been an invested partner in the collaboratively developed Applegate Fuels demonstration project, started in 2002 and finalized in 2017. In this project, the BLM supported partner work with TNC and LRP through agreements, participated in monitoring indicator refinement, and completed necessary NEPA analysis to finalize the project.

Additionally, the Medford District BLM has been a core partner in advancing the Table Rocks Oak Climate Adaptation Project to conserve collaboratively identified key oak habitat and reduce wildfire risk in a premier public showcase and popular hiking destination in the Rogue Valley, situated in a multi-jurisdictional landscape on lands administered by several partners. The Table Rock Environmental Education program, which began over 20 years ago and marked the beginning of a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy, has incorporated the restoration work as curriculum, providing school children, teachers, parents, and members of the public throughout the Rogue firsthand knowledge of this work.

In recent years, BLM employees have provided technical expertise in participatory roles on the Rogue Basin Strategy Technical Team and the Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan. BLM employees have worked with several partners on agreements and projects, as technical advisors and have been substantially involved in project development and supported this work via several agreements as Program Officers. The BLM Fuels specialists bring many years of experiential knowledge in prescribed burning to the partnership and for the past three years, the BLM has hosted TREX participants on several prescribed burns, providing training opportunities crucial to increasing the pace and scale of restoration.

Other organizations engaged in similar conservation actions

The RFRP remains open and inclusive to partnering with organizations that are committed to implementing the *Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy*.