

Washington | Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative | 2015

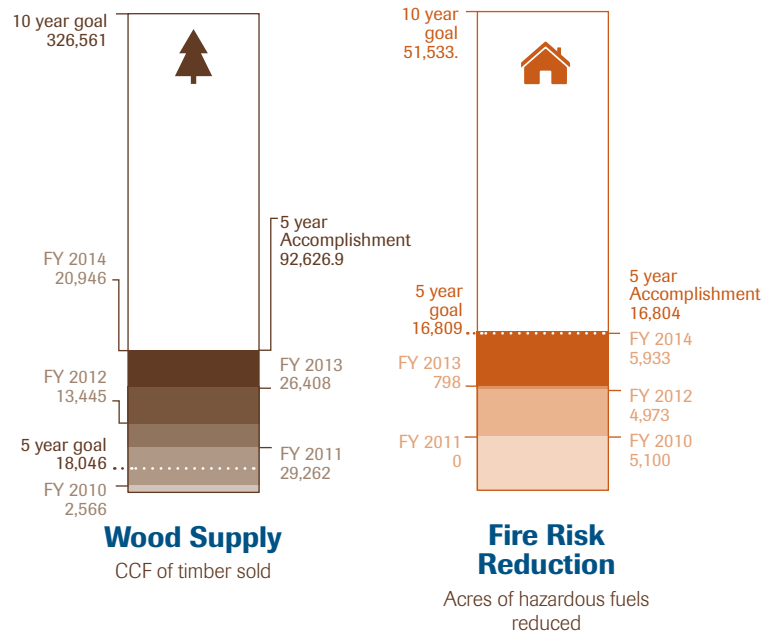


The Stuart Range overlooks the forests of the central Cascade Mountains, where the Tapash Collaborative is leading restoration efforts @ John Marshall.

The Tapash CFLR landscape in central Washington includes 1.6 million acres of dry forest with a recent history of large wildfires destructive to forest and community values. Tapash CFLR activities that reduce future wildfire risk are also increasing forest job opportunities, bio-energy development opportunities, salmon habitat and passage, water quality, and enhancing ecosystem resilience to wildfires.

Partners

- American Forest Resources Council
- Backcountry Horsemen
- Boise Cascade
- Chinook Pass Cabin Owners
- Conservation Northwest
- Eastern WA Dirt Riders
- Forterra
- Hwy. 410/12 CWPP Committee
- Hampton Industries
- Jeeping Nomads
- Kittitas Conservation District
- Mid Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- North Yakima Conservation District
- Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- South Central Washington Resource and Conservation Development Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Vaagen Bros Lumber
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Prescribed Fire Council
- Yakama Nation
- Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
- Yakima Ski-Benders





Phil Rigdon

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation have occupied lands in and around the Columbia Plateau in what is now Washington, Oregon and Idaho since time immemorial. The Yakama People have always felt a strong spiritual and cultural tie to their land, Mother Earth. The Yakamas have always been active stewards of the land, knowing full well how to manage their lands to provide for an abundance of foods and medicines while preserving and protecting their sacred lands.

In 1855, the Yakamas ceded some 10 million acres of land to the US government in exchange for the establishment of their 1.4 million acre Reservation. By doing so, the Yakamas maintained treaty rights in the Ceded Area and all Usual and Accustomed places, many of which are now part of the U.S. Forest Service lands. The Yakama Nation has seen the generational changes in the land as stories and memories have been passed down from one generation to the next.

This strong spiritual tie to the land is one of the reasons why the Yakama People are partners in the Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative, a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project. Having seen the changes to their forests, with growing concern about insect epidemics, diseases, and catastrophic wildland fires, the Yakama sought to act.

“We have experienced some of the same forest health problems on the Yakama Nation forest lands as those of our neighboring federal lands,” says Phil Rigdon, Deputy Director, Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources. “We have been rather successful in combating those forest health issues using scientific and traditional knowledge,” he says.

Rigdon notes the problems know no borders, which contributes to a sense of collaboration.

“I have found that the stakeholders often have more in common than we do our differences,” says Rigdon. “The protection, enhancement and restoration of these resources is something we all seem to agree on.”

The Yakama Nation owns and operates the only log milling facility in southeastern Washington. CFLR projects are an ideal mechanism to utilize small diameter logs on Forest Service lands to address the forest health issues, while also creating economic opportunities for the local economy.

The Yakama Nation successfully reduced the 200,000 acre outbreak of the Western Spruce Budworm on Tribal Lands. At the same time, the Nation has increased controlled burns and precommercial thinning to greatly improve forest health.

Says Rigdon, “We need to showcase our results to our neighbors in the hopes that our approach can be replicated through the CFLR Program. By restoring these important resources, we all benefit.”

To learn more go to www.tapash.org



Total acreage of landscape: 1.6 million

Results

- \$99,123 leveraged funds
- 3,966 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds removed
- 17,800 acres of wildlife habitat restored
- 558.5 miles of roads improved and maintained (gathered from combining the passenger and high clearance roads improved and maintained)



Timber marking in the project area.

Harvest after western spruce budworm outbreak. © Yakama Nation.

Contact information

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Oregon | Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project | 2015



Total acreage of
landscape: 690,723

Partners

- American Forest Resource Council
- Backlund Logging
- Bear Creek Timber Company
- Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
- Blue Mountain Forest Partners
- Boise Cascade
- Bureau of Land Management
- Burns-Paiute Tribe
- Crown Cattle Company
- Grant County Commissioners
- Grant County Forest Commission
- Grayback Forestry Inc.
- Harney County Commissioners
- Harney County Restoration Collaborative
- High Desert Partnership
- Iron Triangle
- Jerome Natural Resource Consultants Inc.
- King Inc.
- Malheur Lumbar Company
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- O'Rorke Logging
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Department of Wildlife
- Oregon State University
- Oregon Wild
- Pacific Northwest Research Station
- Prairie Wood Products
- Rush Creek Ranch LLC
- Southworth Brothers Ranch
- Sustainable Northwest
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Forest Service
- University of Washington
- Western Environmental Law Center



Protected old growth pine tree in the Southern Blues project area. © Susan Jane Brown

Priority restoration projects in the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLR reduce forest stand density, create a mosaic of historic structures, develop large trees, encourage a transition to more historically present fire resistant species, and improve water quality and wildlife habitat by restoring key components of the landscape. At the end of the ten year period, we will have restored the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem to a functional condition with greater ecological resilience to disturbance and created a predictable flow of work that retains current manufacturing infrastructure, supports new and emerging markets, and produces local economic benefits.

Grant County is a large, rural, natural resource-dependent county in eastern Oregon. Timber and ranching are its main industries, with over 60% of it federally-managed public land.

Here a history of conflict and litigation ceased virtually all commercial activity on federal lands. In short, both communities and forests were suffering due to the lack of restoration efforts and natural resource related economic activity.



Mark Webb

Mark Webb, Executive Director of Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP) and former county commissioner and judge, is part of a group that believes area communities, environmentalists, and the U.S. Forest Service need to “retool” their approach if forest and community health is to be improved. To meet this need, BMFP was created in late 2006.

Since then it has worked with the U.S. Forest Service to plan and implement five projects. The first project, at about 6,000 acres, took almost three years of hard work to complete; BMFP's current 42,000 acre project will take half that time.

Along with the Harney County Restoration Collaborative in Harney County, BMFP makes up the Southern Blues CFLR. Webb believes there is a two-fold benefit from CFLR investment.

“First, it promises to fund important work on federal lands in Grant and Harney counties for a number of years, which is vitally important for the area's resource-dependent communities,” he says. “And two, it will help the local collaborative process evolve, which will similarly ‘mature’ the Forest Service's approach to its federal land management responsibilities for the next generation.”

Results

- 320 jobs created or maintained annually
- 572.1 roads improved or maintained (passenger and high clearance roads improved and maintained)
- 68,581.1 acres of hazardous fuels reduced
- 15,687 acres of wildlife habitat restored
- 264,726.1 CCF of timber sales

Contact information

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Oregon | Lakeview Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project | 2015



Total acreage of landscape: 662,289

Partners

- Collins Companies
- Concerned Friends of the Fremont-Winema
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Lake County Chamber of Commerce
- Lake County Resources Initiative
- Lakeview High School
- Lakeview Ranger District
- Oregon Department of Economic and Community Development
- Oregon Wild
- Sustainable Northwest
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- U.S. Forest Service



Rebuilding a stream channel to restore connectivity for bull trout, made possible by CFLR. © Craig Bienz

Lakeview is an important water source for agriculture and wildlife. Rare wildlife in the project area include bald eagle and redband trout, as well as more common elk, pronghorn, and black bear. The area has been prioritized by the state for mule deer and sage grouse habitat restoration. CFLR Project treatments are improving water conditions, reducing the risk of destructive mega-fires, and fighting beetle infestation through brush removal and controlled burns.

Results

- 69 jobs created or maintained on a yearly average
- 704.5 miles of roads improved or maintained
- 160.1 miles of fish habitat restored
- 2,256.1 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds removed

Contact information

Jim Walls

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At the foot of the Warner Mountains in Lakeview, Oregon, Jim Walls can look out over the Great Basin to the east, a vast sagebrush sea that stretches for hundreds of miles. Tall and remote, the Warner Range reaches into the clouds and pulls down moisture for the forests that carpet its sides, home to a town long dependent on timber paychecks.



Jim Walls

Walls can also look back upon his own experience in Lakeview, where he began as a high school ranch-hand in the 1960s, and today serves as Executive Director of the Lake County Resources Initiative. In-between he enjoyed a 33-year career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service that took him all over the country.

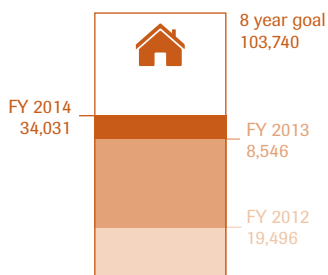
It was the sense of home that brought Walls back to Lakeview, where he says “it was like making a circle in coming back.”

But remoteness can be a challenge. Lakeview has few connections to outside communities or industries, leaving it vulnerable to the boom and bust cycle of timber and fires.

“Fire suppression, over-dense forests, and drought led to severe fires at the beginning of this century, which in combination with insects damaged a third of the nearby Fremont section of the National Forest,” says Walls. “We realized we needed a different path if families were going to survive.”

Since then the community has collaborated to accelerate treatments for forest health, energy supply, and job creation. One of its accomplishments has been the retooling of the Collins Pine mill, a \$6.8 million small diameter log facility supported by Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) treatments.

With a history of collaborative success at their backs, Walls believes “CFLR is our hope!”



Fire Risk Reduction

Acres of hazardous fuels reduced

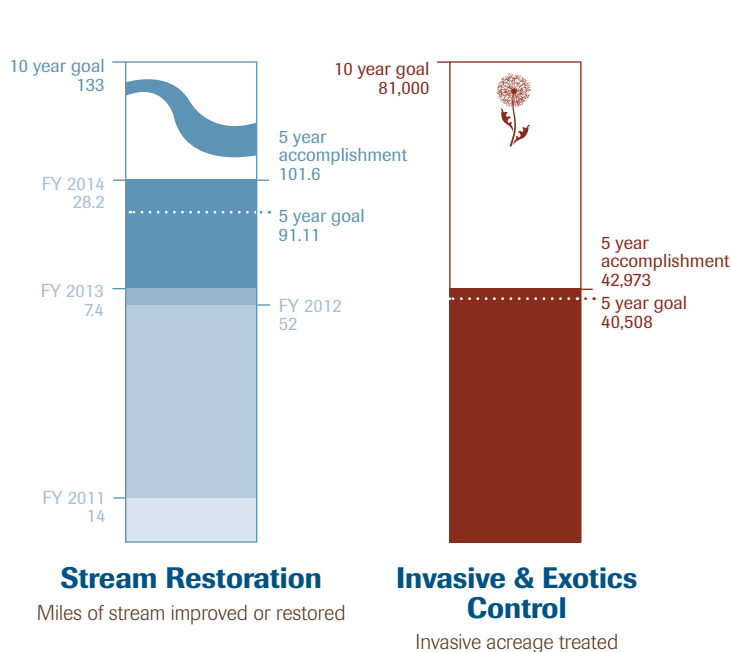


Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative Project © Traci Bignell

The Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative Project is pioneering new forest restoration efforts across 1.5 million acres in western Montana. The Project is uniting the goals of forest health and jobs that will restore clean water, improve wildlife habitat for elk and grizzly bears, and create economic opportunities for an existing skilled workforce.

Partners

- Big Blackfoot Chapter Trout Unlimited
- Blackfoot Challenge
- Bob Marshall Wilderness Federation
- Clearwater Resource Council
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resource Conservation
- Ecosystem Management Research Institute
- Forest Business Network
- Missoula County Community and Planning Services.
- Montana Conservation Corps
- Montana Department of Natural Resources
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- Montana Loon Society
- Montana Wilderness Association
- National Forests Foundation
- National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council
- Northwest Connections
- Ponderosa Snow Warriors
- Powell County
- Pyramid Mountain Lumber
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Swan Ecosystem Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- University of Montana
- University of Montana Biological Station
- U.S. Forest Service
- US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station
- U.S. Geological Services
- Wild Things Unlimited





Jeanette Nordahl

Jeanette Nordahl has been recreating in Lincoln since 1972 when her family bought land and built a cabin in the area. She fondly recalls weekends, summers, and winter vacations spent hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling the Upper Blackfoot Valley.

Nordahl lives full-time in the Upper Blackfoot Valley community of Lincoln and is an active member of the Ponderosa Snow Warriors, a snowmobile club. The club, originally formed in 1967 and boasting over 250 members, began partnering with the U.S. Forest Service about 17 years ago to fight noxious weeds in the valley. Jeanette serves as the project manager for this weed eradication program.

“Weeds have been an ever increasing problem here. Based on the memories I have of this place in years past, I just can’t sit by and watch the weeds take over,” says Jeanette.

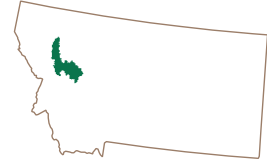
Besides being home to Jeanette, the area is also home to the Scapegoat Wilderness — the first citizen-initiated wilderness area in the country — and the world-famous Blackfoot River, which is an important area for elk, grizzly bears, lynx, and wolverine.

Jeanette is a strong supporter of the Southwestern Crown of the Continent work, and has been engaged in the effort to restore the forest since it started five years ago.

“The Southwestern Crown Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program is a critical tool for us to maintain our way of life — and keep the weeds out — here in Lincoln. We’ve also been able to start paying local contractors to do the work,” she adds.

“I have seen first-hand the benefits to people, water, and wildlife the work this program is doing,” Jeanette continues. “We’ve been able to fight weeds on three times the ground we used to cover. Areas that used to be infested with weeds are now covered with native wildflowers.”

“It is my hope that we can make the valley weed free and engage the younger generation in the fight,” offers Jeanette. “I am thankful the Southwestern Crown of the Continent project is helping make this hope come true.”



Total acreage of landscape: 1.5 million

Results

- 152 jobs created or maintained on a per year average
- \$26.5 million leveraged funds
- 101.6 miles of fish habitat restored
- 204.4 miles of roads improved or maintained (passenger and high clearance roads improved and maintained)



CFLR contractors on the job to help restore a stream in the Southwest Crown. © Anne Dahl

Tracking trout numbers in the project area. © Starrett Artist LLC

Contact information

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North Carolina | Grandfather Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project | 2015



Total acreage of landscape: 330,360

Partners

- Appalachian Designs
- Foothills Conservancy
- Forest Stewards
- Friends of the Linville Gorge
- Friends of Wilson Creek
- Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation
- Land of Sky Regional Council
- MountainTrue (formally Western North Carolina Alliance)
- National Park Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- North Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- North Carolina Forest Service
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Quality Deer Management Association
- Root Cause
- Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network
- Southern Research Station
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Western Carolina University
- Wild South



Controlled burn at Linville Gorge. © Gary Kaufman, U.S. Forest Service

The Grandfather Restoration Project landscape is located in Pisgah National Forest at the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Project will increase prescribed burning and other management practices on more than 40,000 acres of the Grandfather Ranger District. Along with restoring fire adapted vegetation, the Project seeks to improve wildlife habitat and forest composition in degraded stands, treat Eastern and Carolina hemlocks for the destructive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, treat sensitive areas including the Linville Gorge Wilderness and Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River for non-native invasive plants, and restore watershed health to benefit native trout and improve water quality.

Results

- 40 jobs created or maintained on a yearly average
- 14,332 acres of fuels
- 569 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds removed
- 13,176 acres of wildlife habitat restored

Contact information

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Josh Kelly loves the Southern Blue Ridge — spending both his work days and his down time roaming its forests. As Public Lands Field Biologist with MountainTrue, a grassroots environmental group working in 23 western counties, he is looking down the road to a forest future that is healthier, prettier, and more protective of nearby communities.



Josh Kelly

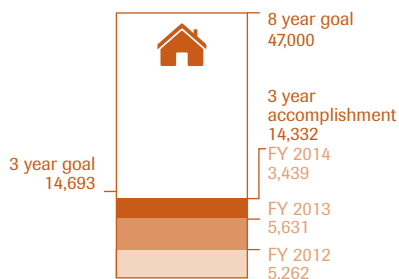
“In a few decades, the Grandfather District can once again be a place where fire is playing its natural role, helping promote forest health,” he explains. “People will see a forest with more variety — an open understory with more flowering plants, with grasses and young oaks that will attract wildlife, such as turkey and deer.”

The benefits will not stop at the forest edge, Kelly says.

“While forest health is important, the project will also be good for people in surrounding communities,” he continues. “It’s more than scenery. The Grandfather Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project will improve water quality, hunting and fishing opportunities, and neighboring towns will also be safer from wildfires that burn out of control.”

Kelly believes the CFLR project will be successful because a diverse group of people and organizations are working together.

“That adds a lot of strength to the project. It is just like in an ecosystem where multiple species each fill a role. With this partnership, multiple organizations each fill a role. This gives the project a lot of energy and resilience.”



Fire Risk Reduction

Acres of hazardous fuels reduced

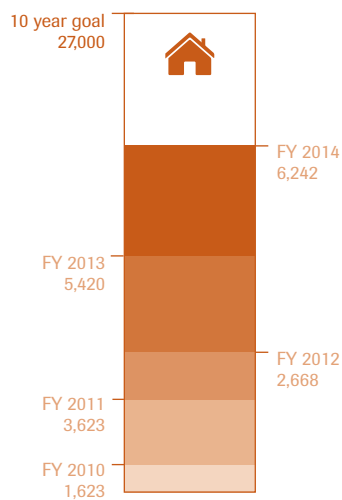


Alamo Bog, Jemez Mountains. Sediment cores from this unique wetland provide a record of forests and fire going back almost 9,000 years. © David Solis

The Southwest Jemez collaborative landscape consists of 210,000 acres within the Jemez River Watershed in north-central New Mexico. Southwest Jemez CFLR activities reduce wildfire risk while providing local jobs, in a area that has experienced devastating wildfires. The project will improve wildlife habitat, watershed conditions, and restore landscapes that contain over 4,500 heritage sites of the Jemez Pueblo Ancestral lands.

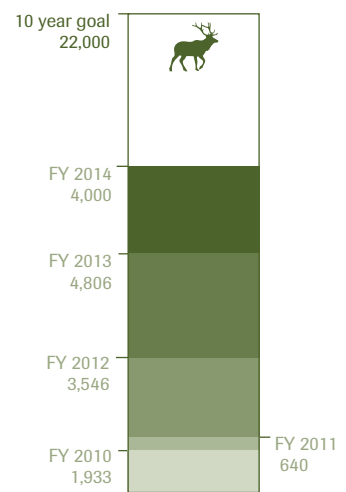
Partners

- Bandelier National Monument
- Forest Guild
- Hawks Aloft
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- New Mexico Environment Department
- New Mexico Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute
- New Mexico Forest Industry Association
- New Mexico Trout
- Northern Arizona University
- Pueblo of Jemez
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- USGS
- University of Arizona
- University of New Mexico
- U.S. Forest Service
- Valles Caldera National Preserve
- Village of Jemez Springs
- WildEarth Guardians



Community Fire Risk Reduced

Acres WUI hazardous fuel treatments



Wildlife Habitat Improved

Acres treated



Ann Cooke

Ann Cooke’s involvement in forest health is bookended by two historic fires.

In 2000, Cooke stood in her living room holding her two-week old newborn, with her roof opened in mid-addition, watching the smoke pour from the Cerro Grande Fire burning parts of Los Alamos, New Mexico, home to the famous nuclear research facility.

At that time she worried about her house; not because she thought it would burn, but rather whether the Los Alamos- based contractor would return. He might have other priorities closer to home to attend to.

The second fire was the Las Conchas Fire eleven years later. At that time the fire was the largest in New Mexico history (although exceeded the following year by the Whitewater-Baldy Fire), and resulted in flooding that shut down drinking water reservoirs in Santa Fe and further downstream in Albuquerque. Again Cooke watched the billowing smoke as the fire burned on the mountain side to the southeast of her Sierros Los Pinos neighborhood, but this time with a closed roof covered with metal state-of-the-art shingles and boxed eaves.

In between those fires Cooke became involved in one of the nation’s first Firewise Communities, and helped lead local efforts to make her neighborhood less conducive to dangerous fires. Those efforts continue today, and the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program plays a role in providing her community the tools they need to become better adapted to fire.

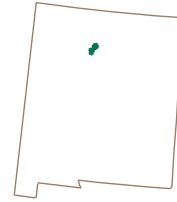
Previously, the plan for dealing with fires was to “prepare to evacuate and close the forest,” says Cooke.

Over the past five years the Southwest Jemez CFLR project has provided more tangible actions to improve the health of the forests, reducing the risk of catastrophic fire on nearly 23,000 acres, and improving wildlife habitat on nearly 15,000 acres more.

“Over the years I have detected attitude changes for many of my neighbors here, from a mentality of working against the Forest Service and their perceived abuses to one of working with the Forest Service to improve forest health,” Cooke notes.

“Our challenge today is recognizing that fire has a natural role in these mountains, and we don’t have the choice of stopping fires altogether,” she adds. “We don’t want to be selecting for fires that we can’t put out.”

“CFLR helps us manage our forests with fire in a more realistic way, and I encourage my neighbors to prepare for the eventuality of fire instead of depending upon the mistaken supposition that fire can’t happen here.”



Total acreage of landscape: 210,000

Results

- 76 jobs created or maintained on average per year
- \$10.0 million leveraged funds
- 22,808 acres of hazardous fuels reduced
- 230 acres treated through timber sales
- 14,925 acres of wildlife habitat restored



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Thinning treatments by the Forest Guild Youth Conservation Corps @ Anne Janik

Monitoring fish populations in San Antonio Creek. © Bob Parmenter

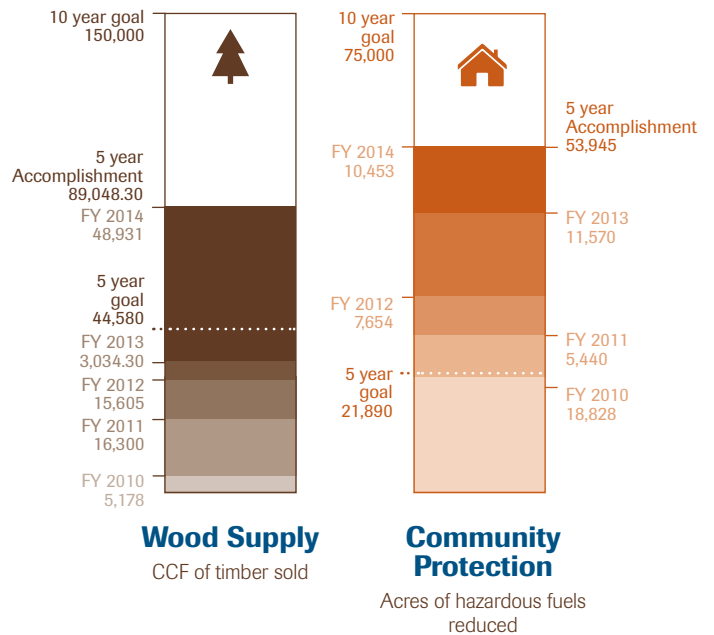


The Two Bulls Fire burning outside of Bend, Oregon, in June 2014 @ Ally Steinmetz.

The Deschutes Forest Collaborative Project in central Oregon spans 257,000 acres of forest that historically experienced frequent low-intensity fires. In recent decades, however, large high-severity fires here demonstrate the need for forest restoration to protect the area's two municipal drinking sources, three nearby cities, and dozens of high-use recreation areas. Harvesting and medium-sized trees reduces the catastrophic effects of fire, creates jobs, improves wildlife habitat, and provides clean, cold water for native fish.

Partners

- American Forest Resource Council
- Cascade Timberlands
- Central Oregon Cities Organization
- Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation
- City of Sisters
- City of Bend and Bend Fire Department
- Deschutes County
- Deschutes Land Trust
- Deschutes Recreation Assets Committee
- Enterprise Cascadia
- HM3 Energy
- Interfor Pacific
- Intermountain Wood Energy, LLC
- JTS Animal Bedding
- Miller Conservation Consulting
- Moon Country Sno-mobilers
- National Forest Foundation
- Ochoco Lumber
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Equestrian Trails
- Oregon State Snowmobile Association
- Oregon State University
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Wild
- Project Wildfire
- Quicksilver Contracting Co.
- Sustainable Northwest
- T2, Inc
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- TSS Consultants
- Upper Deschutes River Coalition
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service





Alan Unger

As a boy scout growing up in Redmond, Oregon in the 1960s, Alan Unger learned to respect and appreciate the Deschutes National Forest. He carries that respect and appreciation with him today in his current role as Deschutes County Commissioner.

“I had the privilege to grow up in this forest and I have a responsibility as an elected official to work with our communities to ensure the forest is here for generations to come.”

Alan has watched the forest shape and define Central Oregon his whole life — bringing living wage jobs and laying the foundations of downtowns during the timber era, and now bringing hikers, anglers, mountain bikers, and skiers to live, work, and play here.

“The beautiful mountains and forests that we see when we look out our windows everyday are what define Central Oregon living,” says Unger.

As County Commissioner, Alan is eager to maintain and restore the forests that are central to our quality of life and he believes that collaboration is the pathway forward.

“We need to move away from the past. We need all sides to understand that the old ways of doing business haven’t served the forest or the range of values in our communities. We can either work together to find a new way or we can watch the things we care about burn up in uncharacteristic wildfires.”

The Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) is an ideal forum to seek that new pathway forward. Alan has worked for over two years as the DCFP Chair to bring key stakeholders together to share their values, learn the science, seek common ground and find creative agreements to steward our forests.

“This represents a new way of doing business in the forest. Through collaborative baby steps we have built the relationships, the trust, and the transparency necessary to generate solutions that work for the community, for our Forest Service partners, and for our forests.”

Through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program the forests within the DCFP landscape are growing healthier, more resistant, and more resilient to disturbances like wildfire, while providing myriad benefits to the communities of Central Oregon. Moreover, restoration is and will continue to produce forest products that sustain mills and forest operators and help us extend our stewardship across the landscape.

To learn more go to www.deschutescollaborativeforest.org



Total acreage of landscape: 257,000

Results

- 76 jobs created or maintained on a per year average
- 103.2 roads maintained or improved (gathered from combining the passenger and high clearance roads improved and maintained)
- 45.7 miles of fish(stream) habitat restored
- 5,620.1 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds removed
- 8,566 acres of wildlife habitat restored



Stakeholder site meeting in the Glaze Meadow. © Amy Waltz

Post-treatment in the Sisters Area Fuels Reduction Project. © U.S. Forest Service

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Total acreage of landscape: 382,000

Partners

- Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center
- Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain
- Lightscribe Photography
- Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
- Mississippi Forestry Commission
- Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
- Mississippi State University Extension Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Resource Conservation & Development Program
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- University of Southern Mississippi



De Soto forest restoration through CFLR has created and maintained an average of 218 jobs annually. © Jimmy Mordica

The Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration and Hazardous Fuels Reduction project is one of the High Priority Restoration projects funded outside of CFLR. The longleaf pine ecosystem of De Soto National Forest is home to a broad variety of threatened and endangered species, including gopher tortoise and red-cockaded woodpecker, in addition to popular game species such as white-tailed deer and bobwhite quail. Through longleaf pine re-establishment and thinning treatments, the 382,000 acre CFLR project is improving wildlife habitat and making De Soto forests more resilient to wildfire, drought, insects, hurricanes, and climate change.

Results

- 218 jobs created or maintained annually
- 58,014 CCF of timber sold
- \$2.3 million leveraged funds

Contact information

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Will Breland has lived his entire life with the De Soto National Forest in his backyard.

“It has been my family’s playground for several generations. We hunt, hike, fish, and just enjoy the scenery here.”

Breland also makes his living in the forest as a timber buyer for Hood Industries. The company owns and operates a sawmill and two plywood plants in the Wiggins area, and employs about 700 people at just these three mills.



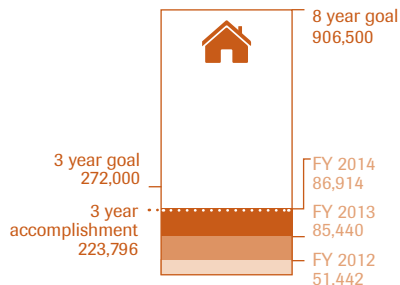
Will Breland

The company recently purchased two U.S. Forest Service timber sales that are part of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration and Hazardous Fuels Reduction High Priority Restoration Project (HPRP), and according to Breland, “It was a big deal for the Forest Service to sell timber to our company because they are the biggest land owner in the area.”

Breland offers the HPRP project has brought additional benefits to the local community.

“We are removing off-site species that were planted here years ago and thinning the longleaf pine stands. This is really improving the native wildlife habitat and will provide better wildlife populations for the future. The project is also providing local jobs for people like me and the logging crews necessary to remove the timber.”

“The HPRP project is helping us to manage our forests for both current and future recreation and business,” adds Breland. “I am glad to see some good forest management practices implemented on our National Forest here at home, and my hope for the future of Mississippi’s forests is sustainability. Ideally, we will be able to cut, manage, and move forward. Even though I work in timber sales, I enjoy spending time in the forests and don’t want to see them clear cut.”



Fire Risk Reduction

Acres of hazardous fuels reduced



**Total acreage of
landscape: 800,000**
(413,000 NFS)

Partners

- Boundary County Commissioners
- Boundary Soil Conservation District
- City of Bonners Ferry
- Elk Mtn. Farms
- Grizzly Bear Committee
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Fish & Game Commission
- Idaho Fish & Game Department
- Idaho Forest Group
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Kootenai Valley Sportsman
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Panhandle Lakes RC&D
- Pheasants Forever
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Vital Ground Foundation



Whitebark pine restoration with controlled burns in the Selkirk Mountains. © U.S. Forest Service

The Kootenai Valley provides winter range for big-game, with uplands providing habitat for caribou, grizzly bear, and lynx, as well as bull trout and other fisheries. Most of the fish and wildlife species native to the lower Kootenai watershed are still present. Thinning treatments are providing commercial timber and biomass opportunities, while controlled burns are reducing the risk of damaging mega-fires, improving water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, and addressing insect infestation across the 39,430 acre CFLR project area.

Results

- 154 jobs created or maintained on a yearly average
- \$20.7 million estimated total labor income
- 1,365.4 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds removed
- 67,863.8 CCF of timber sold
- 4,106 acres of hazardous fuels reduced

Contact information

Patty Perry

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
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For all of his 58 years Dan Dinning has lived in Boundary County, Idaho. His earliest memories are of fishing and hunting with his grandfather and father in the Hall Mountain area. All of his life has been spent enjoying the outdoors with his family, especially in the Selkirk Mountains.

Dan still lives in Boundary County and is working to keep those memories alive as a County Commissioner.

“I became a Commissioner to help the community maintain and grow the natural resource jobs that the lands provide, while seeking to restore health of the landscape.”

Dan is a strong supporter of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative CFLR, and has been engaged in the effort to restore the forest for over 14 years.

“The project is a critical tool for us to maintain our way of life here in Boundary County. It is putting people to work, improving water quality, habitat, and forest health. This is being accomplished with our Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative group.”

Dan adds, “It is my hope that my children, and many future generations will reap the benefit of what we are doing today, that they may share this place with their own families just as I have been able to do.”



Dan Dinning

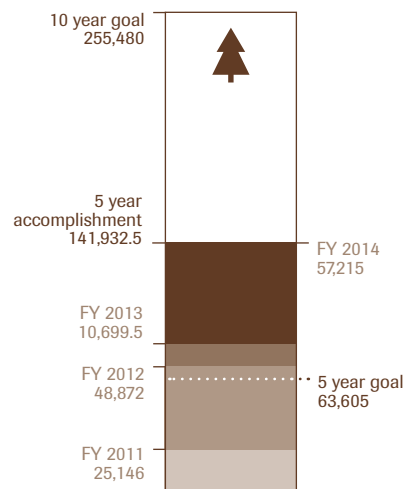


Healthy longleaf pine stands in the Osceola National Forest. © David Bryant, U.S. Forest Service

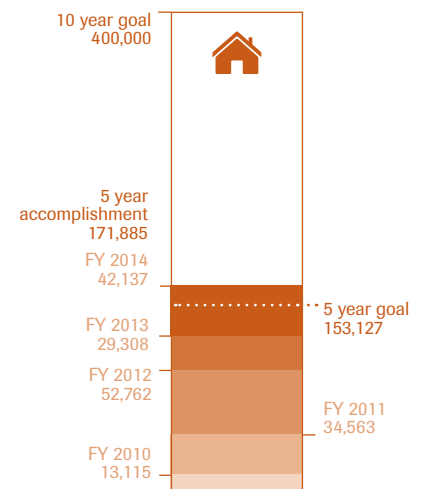
The 567,800 acres in Florida’s Osceola National Forest and adjoining lands within the Accelerating Longleaf Pine Restoration CFLR have substantial timber resources and a history of dangerous wildfires. CFLR activities that reduce wildfire risk also support job opportunities, bio-energy development, wildlife habitat, and the health of natural water systems.

Partners

- Florida Forest Service
- Georgia Department of Nature Resources, Wildlife Resources Division
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners (GOAL)
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Okefenokee Adventures
- Rayonier
- Superior Pine Products
- The Conservation Fund
- The Langdale Company
- The Nature Conservancy
- Toledo Manufacturing
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
- U.S. Forest Service: Osceola National Forest



Wood Supply
CCF of timber sold



Restoration With Fire and Fuels Treatment
Acres of hazardous fuels reduced



Sheldon Wilson

Sheldon Wilson, owner of WCC Services in Winter Park, does not equivocate about the value of the Accelerating Longleaf Pine CFLR project.

“This forest is healthier because of the work we’ve done here, made possible by the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program.”

Over the past year his contracting firm has employed forest workers to prepare sites in the Osceola National Forest for controlled burns.

“We’ve treated thousands of acres, mulching and roller chopping the palmettos that have spread through these longleaf pine forests due to a lack of natural fires.”

At its peak, America’s longleaf pine forests covered more than 92 million acres—an area nearly as large as the state of California. But as America grew, so too did the pressure on longleaf pine. By the turn of the 20th century, most mature longleaf was gone, leaving a region that had long depended upon forest resources struggling. Today, less than 4.4 million acres remain—a paltry 5 percent—making it one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America.

An icon of this nearly lost American forest type is the red-cockaded woodpecker, one of the most endangered birds in North America. These woodpeckers depend on the longleaf pine as a nesting tree, where they can raise their young in cavities protected from marauding snakes and other predators.

Fortunately, thinning and controlled burning projects like those in the Accelerating Longleaf Pine Restoration CFLR have proven effective in promoting the breeding success of red-cockaded woodpeckers elsewhere in the South.

“It gives me a great deal of satisfaction knowing that we are helping these birds, and other critters that depend on longleaf pine, while providing a good living to my employees at the same time,” says Wilson.

In Osceola National Forest alone, about 50% of the landscape is degraded due to fire exclusion and hydrologic alterations. These practices have resulted in destructive emergency wildfires; between 1998 and 2010 wildfire suppression in the Osceola National Forest cost \$31 million.

The Accelerating Longleaf Pine CFLR is an outgrowth of a larger cooperative effort, called the Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners (GOAL), formed to address the wildfire issues that have plagued the area. This association coordinates around the management of nearly 2 million acres of federal, state, and private forest lands in five counties within Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia, which includes the Osceola National Forest and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.



Total acreage of landscape: 567,800

Results

- 148 jobs created or maintained annually
- \$19.8 million estimated total labor income
- 59,021 acres of wildlife habitat restored
- 80 acres of invasive weeds removed



Contact information

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Director of Forest Conservation
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Planting longleaf pine seedlings in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program area.
© Jason Matthew Walker, Lake City Reporter

Healthy longleaf pine forests benefit native species, such as the Bachman’s sparrow.
© Mark Vukovich, U.S. Forest Service

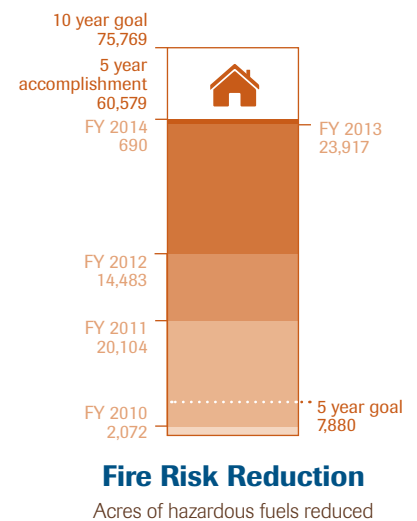
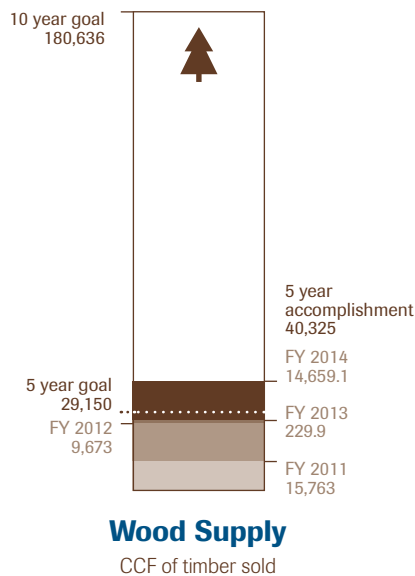


Forest Management project at Sweeney Hill, Elk City, Idaho. © Framing Our Community

The Clearwater Basin Collaborative offers a path away from the historic “timber wars” towards a more constructive future by meeting the needs of local communities, conservationists, the timber industry, sportsmen, and the Nez Perce Tribe. CFLR funds enable the Collaborative and U.S. Forest Service to take a strong step towards creating local jobs and restoring healthy forests.

Partners

- Clearwater County Commissioners
- Empire Lumber
- Framing Our Community
- Idaho Association of Loggers
- Idaho Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Idaho Conservation League
- Idaho County Commissioners
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Forest Group
- Idaho Outfitters and Guides
- Lewiston Off-Highway Vehicle Club
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Public Lands Access Year-round
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- The Great Burn Study Group
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Forest Service





Joyce Dearstyne

Joyce Dearstyne’s first memories in the Clearwater Basin of Idaho are helping raise an outdoor timber frame classroom. The timber for that classroom came from value-added wood products, and helped highlight the opportunity to diversify the timber-based economy of her declining town.

She loves her town of Elk City for its scenic beauty within the Nez Perce National Forest. The forest is home to majestic elk, moose, and mountain lions, spawning streams for salmon, steelhead and bull trout, and nesting areas for Snow and Canadian geese.

The Clearwater Basin is also important for people, as headwaters to the Columbia River Basin and water supplier to much of the Pacific Northwest. Of course, the Clearwater Basin provides places for people to enjoy their outdoor Idaho lifestyle, too.

Joyce is working to keep those memories alive as the Executive Director of Framing Our Community (FOC), a member of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC), and the Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater CFLR. FOC is a 501(c) 3 non-profit which provides programs that create jobs, improve forest and watershed conditions, and increase educational opportunities for people in the Clearwater Basin.

“I have found my passion and can’t imagine doing anything else,” says Joyce. “These forests have provided a haven for wildlife on the lands and waters, income for those who work in its mountains, and serenity for those who live within their confines.”

“The Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater CFLR project is a critical tool for us to maintain the historic way of life here in the Clearwater Basin,” said Joyce. “It is putting people to work with fuels reduction, replanting trees, eradicating invasive plants, and improving fish habitat by reducing sedimentation, lowering stream temperature, and removing pathogens.”

Since 2010, the project has created or maintained 417 direct jobs and 653 total jobs.

“I have seen the first-hand benefits to people, water, and wildlife that this program is doing, which I hope future generations will be able to share with their own families.” Joyce adds.

To learn more about the Selway Middle Fork Clearwater Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project, visit www.clearwaterbasincollaborative.org



Total acreage of landscape: 1.4 million

Results

- 131 jobs created or maintained at an average per year
- 712.45 miles of roads improved or maintained (gathered from combining the passenger and high clearance roads improved and maintained)
- 63.7 miles of fish(stream) habitat improved
- 15,766 acres of wildlife habitat restored
- 65.29 miles of road decommissioned



Aerial view of fuels reduction project at Root Ranch, a private in-holding in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. © Framing Our Community

Youth Corps are instructed about revegetation to stabilize stream banks and improve wildlife habitat. © Framing Our Community

Contact information

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Robyn Miller
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Total acreage of landscape: 344,393

Partners

- Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
- Arkansas Tech University
- Arkansas Wildlife Federation
- National Forest Foundation
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Ouachita Timber Purchasers Group
- Quail Unlimited
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Southwest Fire Use Training Academy
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- University of Arkansas at Monticello



Mark Morales of the Ozark National Forest describes the benefits of controlled burns. © McRee Anderson

The Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Collaborative project is one of the High Priority Restoration projects funded through of CFLR. The dense forests and open woodlands of the Ozark Highlands are important for a variety of wildlife species, including elk, turkey, Bachman’s sparrow, Ozark chinquapin, and the federally endangered Indiana and Ozark big-eared bats. Through thinning and controlled burn treatments, the Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Community CFLR is making the woodlands more resilient to wildfire, drought, insects, pollutants and climate change. These measures help maintain the area’s value for people, water and wildlife across the 217,892 acre High Priority Restoration (HPRP) project.

Results

- 97 jobs created or maintained on a yearly average
- 45,960 CCF of timber sold
- 72.5 miles of fish (stream) habitat restored
- 6,920.2 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds removed

Contact information

Martin Blaney
 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
 Habitat Coordinator
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Martin Blaney’s first memories of northern Arkansas were as a child fishing with his grandpa and visiting with his family in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains in the Arkansas River Valley.

“It’s a place which in some respects has not changed that much with time,” he says.

Today Martin lives in between the Ozarks and the Ouachita mountains, and for the past 27 years has been working to keep his memories alive as a wildlife conservationist. His role today with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission accomplishes habitat restoration and management, providing wildlife benefits across the landscape for the people of Arkansas.



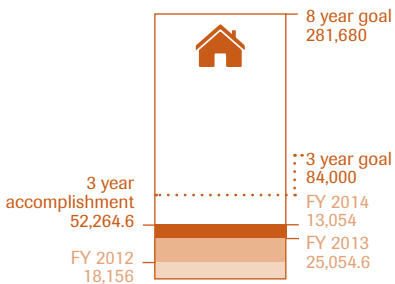
Martin Blaney

“I can’t imagine doing anything else,” says Martin. “The forests have provided a place for me, my family, and my career for years.”

Martin is a strong supporter of the Ozark National Forest and has been engaged as a conservation partner in the effort to restore the forest and its wildlife.

“The Ozark Highlands HPRP is a critical tool for us to maintain our way of life here in the Ozark Mountains. It is putting people to work providing recreational equipment, outdoor sporting opportunities, mom and pop stores, and forest resources.”

“It is my hope that one day my own grandchildren will be able to share this place with their own families,” adds Martin. “I am thankful the Ozark Highlands HPRP is helping make this hope come true.”



Fire Restoration Acres

Acres of hazardous fuels reduced