CFLR Project (Name/Number): Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project/CFLR014
National Forest(s): Lassen National Forest

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

1. Match and Leverage funds:

a. FY12 Matching Funds Documentation

Fund Source	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2012($)
CFLR Funds Expended[1]	$512,691
Carryover funds expended (HPRP funds or Carryover to supplement CFLR/CFLN)[2] (please include a new row for each BLI)	$0
FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI)[3]	CWKV $39,879.54 * RTRT $19,156.48 WFHF $319,419.50 NFTM $461,682.54 NFVW $28,476.78 NFWF $3,304.20
Funds contributed through agreements[4]	SRS2 to Fall River RCD $25,044
Partner In-Kind Contributions[5]	BHCCFWG $8,650 BBFSC $3,400 UNR $2,000
Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract[6]	$0

* Matching fund amounts shown are derived from obligated 2012 funds spent in the project area, but are not reflected in PAS due to matching accounts being set up too late in the fiscal year to be tracked in the system of record. Obligated funds are shown here to demonstrate the actual financial commitment to the project.

[1] This amount should match the amount of CFLR/CFLN dollars obligated in the PAS report titled CFLR Job Code Listing and Expenditure Report – Detailed Analysis by Fiscal Year.
[2] This value should reflect the amount of carryover funds allocated to a project as indicated in the program direction, but does not necessarily need to be in the same BLIs as indicated in the program direction. These funds should total the matching funds obligated in the PAS report titled Listing and Expenditure Report – Detailed Analysis by Fiscal Year minus the below matching funds.
[3] This amount should match the amount of matching funds obligated in the PAS report titled CFLR Job Code Listing and Expenditure Report – Detailed Analysis by Fiscal Year minus the above carryover/HPRP funds.
[4] Please document any partner contributions to implementation and monitoring of the CFLR project through an agreement (this should only include funds that weren't already captured through the PAS job code structure for CFLR matching funds). Please list the partner organizations involved in the agreement.
[5] Total partner in-kind contributions for implementation and monitoring of a CFLR project. Please list the partner organizations that provided in-kind contributions. See "Annual Report instructions" for instructions on how to document in-kind contributions.
[6] This should be the amount in the "stewardship credits charged" column at the end of the fiscal year in the TSA report TSA90R-01.

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

Amount	Entity	Investment	Date	Land Location
$184,129	Lassen Volcanic National Park	Northwest Gateway Forest Restoration project (timber marking, prescription development, biomass/slash removal)	Oct. 2011 – Sept 2012	Lassen Volcanic National Park
$47,000	Lassen Volcanic National Park	Northwest Gateway Forest Restoration project Resource Specialist cost	Oct. 2011 – Sept. 2012	Lassen Volcanic National Park
$13,000	Bureau of Land Management	Development of shaded fuel break approximately 200 feet by 0.45 miles (9.4 acres) along border between community of Cassel and BLM lands	Oct. 2011 – Sept. 2012	BLM
$72,612	Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group	Burney Gardens Meadow Restoration Project on Fruit Growers, W.M. Beaty, and PG&E lands (2,500 acres)	Oct. 2011 – Sept. 2012	Private

Approved by: /s/ Jerry Bird
Jerry Bird
Forest Supervisor
Lassen National Forest

Approved by: N/A
Forest Supervisor

2. Discuss how the CLFR project contributes to accomplishment of the performance measures in the *10 year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*[7], dated December 2006. Please comment on the cumulative contributions over the life of the project if appropriate. This may also include a description of the fire year (fire activity that occurred in the project area) as a backdrop to your response (please limit answer to one page).

The Burney-Hat Creek Basins project contributed to the goals laid out in the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*. The Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group (BHCCFWG) partnered with private land owners and the Fall River RCD to successfully support accomplishments on private lands in an all-lands approach that adds to accomplishments on NFS lands. Highlights of the FY2012 accomplishments include the following:

Goal 1 of the Implementation Plan is to improve fire prevention and suppression, and the implementation outcomes are the elimination of loss of life and firefighter injuries, and reduction of wildfire damage to communities and the environment. During the FY12 fire season, there were 16 natural ignitions that occurred on National Forest System lands within the project boundary, all of which were contained during initial attack. The Reading fire began in Lassen Volcanic National Park on July 23 and burned into the Lassen NF on August 8. The fire burned a total of 28,079 of which 11,071 acres were on the LNF and 17,008 were in LVNP. No significant injuries to firefighters occurred, neighboring communities were protected and no structures were lost or damage by the fire.

Goal 2 of the Implementation Plan is to reduce hazardous fuels, and the implementation outcome is the reduction of wildfire risk to communities and the environment. A total of 3,006 *acres of hazardous fuels were treated on NFS lands within the project area during FY2012.* Of these acres 1,677 were within WUI and 1,329 acres were outside of the WUI, but were within the project area. Pile burning was conducted on 115 acres, but no broadcast burning was conducted in the CFLR area.

Goal 3, Part A, of the Implementation Plan is the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems, and the implementation outcome is the restoration and maintenance of these ecosystems, using appropriate tools, in a manner that will provide sustainable environmental, social, and economic benefits. In FY2012, 1,471 acres of vegetation was improved and 962 acres of vegetation established on NFS lands. Mastication of brush fields and plantations within the project area contributed to ecosystem improvement, habitat improvements and benefits to the local economy.

Goal 3, Part A, of the Implementation Plan is the restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-adapted ecosystems, and the implementation outcome is the recovery of lands damaged by wildfire to desired conditions. During FY12, reforestation on the 2009 Hat Creek complex fires included 962 acres of fire-resistant species. Rapid fire assessment and BAER was conducted on the Reading fire and stages salvage and reforestation planned in FY13.

Goal 4 of the Implementation Plan is the promotion of community assistance, and the implementation outcome is the increased capacity to prevent losses from Wildland fire and realize economic benefits resulting from treatments and services. In addition to the vegetation improvement and fuels reduction work accomplished on the ground, the

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

BHCCFWG partnered with the Fall River RCD to support the formation of the Burney Basin Fire Safe Council (BBFSC) to promote community awareness and participation in wildfire loss prevention.

3. What assumptions were used in generating the numbers and/or percentages you plugged into the TREAT tool?
   - All commercial timber sold was processed in Shasta county.
   - All jobs created were in Shasta County
   - All income generated would stay in Shasta County

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

Type of projects	Direct part and full-time jobs	Total part and full-time jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income[8]
Commercial Forest Product Activities	0	0	$0	$0
Other Project Activities	12.7	15.4	$333,018	$432,085
TOTALS:	12.7	15.4	$333,018	$432,085

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

Type of projects	Direct part and full-time jobs	Total part and full-time jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income[9]
Commercial Forest Product Activities	136	281	$6,883,093	$12,542,758
Other Project Activities	6.1	8.1	$142,582	$214,513
TOTALS:	142.1	289	$7,025,675	$12,757,271

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

In addition to the benefits represented in the jobs and vegetation treatments above, forest products harvested through standard timber sales (non-stewardship) in the project area amounted to 167,986 tons from five active sales in 2012. During November of 2011, nearly 4,000 truckloads were moved from the forest to local sawmills and co-generation plants. The community benefits in direct and induced jobs, and economic surge was significant.

The BHCCFWG recognized the need for long-term community benefits including improvements to ecological services, recreation and quality of life. Camping, hiking, driving, horseback riding, off-highway-vehicle (OHV) riding, fishing, hunting, skiing, snowmobiling, and sledding are all activities that bring people to the area. This provides critical demand for services that support jobs in the local communities. The local forests provide recreation and lifestyle support for residents. Hunting, fishing and fuelwood cutting are among the most important.

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

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

The lower three and ½ miles of Hat Creek, below a PG&E hydroelectric project, were designated as the first wild trout fishery in California in 1970. The quality of sport fishing drew people from around the country and beyond, until a flow of silt in the late 1980s severely diminished productivity. Utilizing SRS2 funds from 2011, the BHCCFWG and Fall River RCD led an effort to restore lower Hat Creek. The Hat Creek Resource Advisory Committee was re-established to include PG&E, State F&G, California Trout, local fishing guides, USFS, other interested parties, many of whom were involved in the 1960s project that led to the special designation for the creek. Spring Rivers Ecological Sciences was commissioned to evaluate conditions and develop a restoration plan for the creek. That plan was completed in 2012. State grant funding has been sought by CalTrout for implementation of the plan. The ecological and economic benefits of the restoration effort tie directly into the purposes of the BHCCFWG and will bring benefit to the area recreation industry.

Shasta County RAC SRS2 funding was provided for accessibility improvements to Forest Service camp sites ($22,000) and fishing access ($38,000) along Hat Creek. The improvements were recognized by the BHCCFWG as important to serve a growing community of elderly and mobility-challenged people who have an increasing capacity and desire to visit the National Forest. Providing adequate recreational facilities and local services improves community economic conditions and benefits.

Ecological services benefits to the community will also be derived from the Burney Gardens project being conducted entirely on private lands. All lands management concepts and ecological restoration principles are exemplified in the collaborative approach to planning improvements for Burney Gardens. The project began as a 200-acre effort to reduce conifer encroachment on PG&E lands. Fruit Growers Supply Company, Sierra Pacific Industries and W.M. Beaty and Associates aided PG&E in developing a timber harvest plan that was approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Calfire). Following that success the same three land owners and timber management companies began work on a joint timber harvest and meadow restoration plan for lands they own and manage in Burney Gardens. This 2,500-acre project is one of the largest and most ambitious montane meadow restoration efforts in California. Suffering years of grazing and neglect, Burney Creek through the Gardens exhibits an entrenched channel, erosion and siltation that change the seasonal variation of meadow flooding and function. Encroaching conifers, mainly lodgepole pine, are converting the drying meadow to forest, causing the loss of important hydrologic function and a locally rare and important habitat type.

Shasta RAC SRS2 funds were used for the meadow restoration plan, and the timber companies worked jointly to develop a timber harvest plan (THP) that includes meadow restoration and grazing management. Working directly with Calfire at the local and state level has been critical to move an atypical THP through the process. Multiple companies doing a single THP is an uncommon and perhaps never attempted approach to planning landscape scale restoration. To include meadow restoration with the THP is unheard of. Different Departments of state government have review, approval and permitting authority over different aspects of such a project with the potential for significant time delays. Multiple meetings and several field visits have brought together the landowners/timber companies, PG&E, Calfire, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, the California Geologic Survey, the Fall River RCD, the Stewardship Council, the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, the US Forest Service, the Natural Resource and Conservation Service, Lassen Forest Preservation, the Pit River Tribe, and the Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group in a single effort to restore Burney Creek and Burney Gardens. Calfire

shepherded the timber harvest and meadow restoration plan through state reviews and the THP was approved in February of 2012.

Embracing an all lands management approach to landscape restoration of Burney Creek and Burney Gardens brings multiple benefits.

1. Restored rare habitat for migrating and resident wildlife.
2. Restored habitat on private lands between two separate national forest land units.
3. Restored and improved hydrologic function, water quality, and ecological services.
4. Reduction of fuels, and fire protection for communities and national forest lands.
5. Improved recreational opportunities.
6. Added employment opportunities.
7. Successful community-based collaboration as a foundation for future projects.
8. Ground breaking capacity building with state agencies and land owners.
9. Opportunities to increase the pace and scale of ecological restoration.
10. Movement toward sustainable forests and sustainable communities.

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

The Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project was approved in February 2012. The BHCCFWG and a monitoring plan sub-committee considered the overall needs for monitoring, expanding on the concepts presented in the project proposal. Development of a monitoring plan was begun in April. A draft plan was developed and work is on-going to finalize the plan. A monitoring coordinator position has been included in the new Forest workforce plan that is being finalized for approval. The position will be responsible for all monitoring efforts, tracking and reporting. Because 2012 was the first year of the Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project and the monitoring plan is in development, most of the monitoring was conducted through the Forest Service.

Monitoring within the project area has been ongoing for a number of years in support of planned and active timber sales. Wildlife, archeological, and stand exam data was collected as part of the continuous monitoring. Watershed and hydrologic monitoring has not previously been done and was focused on baseline information collection in 2012. Direction from the draft monitoring plan, the project proposal, approved vegetation management projects, and historic monitoring all informed monitoring activities in 2012. Monitoring was mainly tied to the following topics.

Wildlife Surveys: Surveys were conducted on 42,400 acres within the North 49 Project area, and on 50,000 acres within the Badger Project area for California spotted owl and northern goshawk. The survey work for these two areas was contracted out for a total of $73,400. The 8,071 acre Snow Mountain area within the CFLR Project boundary was surveyed for Pacific fisher, American marten, and Sierra Nevada red fox using camera-equipped bait stations. Reconnaissance surveys (not to protocol, but useful in identifying occupation) were conducted in the Snow Mountain area. A team from the University of California, Sacramento conducted inventories for invertebrates in four caves 6: Subway, Christmas Tree, North Christmas Tree, Rust, Subway and Pluto Caves. All caves are located in the Hat Creek Valley. The Forest donated campground space to the team for two days.

Archeology: Surveys for heritage resources (ancient and historic) were conducted on the Badger and the Whittington vegetation management project area. Archeological surveys were conducted on 58 acres of previously un-surveyed

ground for the Whittington project within the CFLR proposal area. A Finding of No Significant Impact was signed for the Whittington Project in 2012 and protection measures for heritage resources were developed for planned timber sales and service contracts. Following the Reading fire, Archeological surveys were begun and continued into FY13. A total of 559 acres were surveyed in 2012 on the Reading fire. All surveys were conducted by Forest Service archeologists.

Hydrology: Surface water is restricted in the Basins project area making groundwater of paramount interest. The groundwater flow in the area is very complex. Fractured basaltic aquifers are generally characterized using statistical extrapolations of known fracture orientations along with well data. However, this approach would be unreliable in the area. Methodologies for baseline data collection were coordinated with Gordon Grant, Ph.D., Pacific Northwest Research Center, USDA Forest Service, and Oregon State University. After examining the hydrology and geology of the Hat Creek valley, he recommended doing concurrent snow melt monitoring in areas that had been thinned according to different silvicultural prescriptions. Scott Tyler, Ph.D., Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno and Director of the Center for Transformative Environmental Monitoring Programs (CTEMPS) was contacted for implementation assistance. The National Science Foundation funds CTEMPS for the purpose of developing cutting edge technologies for monitoring applications, and transfers them to other scientists and engineers. A 750 meter fiber-optic line was strung through a timber sale unit where several treatments were close to each other (radial thinning, group selections, and diversity thinning). A no-treatment area was also present, and will serve as a baseline. Data will be extracted in the spring with the anticipation that reliable data will warrant a larger area be covered by instruments.

Given the sensitivity of many aquatic resources to water temperature, ten five-year temperature loggers were placed in Hat Creek and Lost Creek. All locations were upstream of Old Station. Loggers were placed where these creeks enter National Forest System Land, as well as above and below every major confluence. Hydrogeochemical techniques were used to measure the eight most common ions at locations feeding into Hat Creek. By plotting the data on a standard type of trilinear diagram, water samples were classified and compared. These data will serve as a baseline.

Stand Exams: Hundreds of stand exams were conducted for baseline information in the Badger, Shooter, Sluice Box and Whittington project areas, and as post-harvest monitoring on the Panner and North 49 timber sales. Stand exams provide useful and repeatable data that can track vegetation changes and response to treatments. Each stand exam is established with GPS coordinates and is marked to relocate and duplicate the exam.

Stand exam information was collected using the keyhole plot design. This consisted of four components:

- a variable plot to collect data for trees larger than five inches dbh,
- a 1/100 acre to collect data for saplings from 0.5 inches to five inches dbh and seedlings (less than 4.5 feet tall and 0.5 inches dbh)
- a 1/8 acre rectangular plot to collect small snag data (between five and 15 inches dbh) and down log data,
- a ¼ acre rectangular plot to collect large snag data (larger than 15.0 inches dbh).

Information collected during stand exams includes tree status (live or dead), species, height, diameter, crown length, crown position (dominant, co-dominant, intermediate, overtopped, or remnant), age, and defect (disease – dwarf mistletoe, crooks, forked tops, broken tops, dead tops, etc.).

Other information gathered during stand exam includes canopy cover using a densitometer between plots. Vegetative cover, including grass, forbs, and brush, was estimated in the 1/100 acre fixed plot. Fuels information collected included duff depth and overall fuel depth. Surface fuel loadings were estimated using the Photo Series for Quantifying Natural Forest Residues: Southern Cascades and Northern Sierra Nevada, GTR-PSW-56, NFES #1872.

Quincy Library Group (QLG) pre- and post-treatment monitoring plots were measured for several projects, including the Panner timber sale. Information was collected using nested fixed plots within the largest plot, which was 165 feet by 66 feet. Data collected included live and dead tree data along with downed logs. Each tree and log was assigned a number. Recorded information includes species, diameter, height or length, crown position, and crown ratio. Decay clay classes were also recorded for snags and downed logs. Duff, fuel depth, and fuel loadings were also recorded at six points along the axis of the longest plot. Canopy cover was recorded using a densitometer. Vegetation cover (brush, forbs, grass) was also identified and recorded.

6. **FY 2012 accomplishments**

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished [10]	Total Treatment Cost ($)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) [11]
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	Acres			
Acres of forest vegetation established	Acres	962	$85,143	RTRT
Acres of forest vegetation improved	Acres	1,472	$380,134	CFLN
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants	Acre			
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands	Acres			
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions.	Acres	150	$23,000	CFLN
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced	Acres			
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	Miles			
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	974	$87,000	WFHF
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	Acres			

[10] Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record.

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

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished [10]	Total Treatment Cost ($)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) [11]
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance	Miles			
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance	Miles			
Miles of road decommissioned	Miles			
Miles of passenger car system roads improved	Miles			
Miles of high clearance system road improved	Miles			
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage	Number			
Miles of system trail maintained to standard	Miles			
Miles of system trail improved to standard	Miles			
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard	Miles			
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales	Acres			
Volume of timber sold (CCF)	CCF	26,210	TIM	
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production	Green tons	27,402	TIM	
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acre	1,329	FACTS	
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acres	1,677	FACTS	
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands	Acres			
Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests on Federal lands	Acres			

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

A total of 4,086 acres were treated in the project proposal area in 2012. Most of the vegetation management and associated work on the Hat Creek Ranger District during 2012 was conducted in the Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project area. A combination of CFLR and other appropriated matching funds were used to cover project implementation such a layout, marking and cruising. Vegetation project preparation does not accomplish acres of treatment, but makes treatment possible. A great deal of time, effort and funding goes into preparation. Timber sale preparation was conducted on the Claim Jumper timber sale (sold in September 2012), Shooter timber sale, Sluice Box timber sale, and on the Northwest Gateway project in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Stand exams were conducted on the Claim Jumper Badger, Shooter, Sluice Box and Whittington projects to establish baseline information. Baseline and post-project monitoring was also conducted with a combination of funds. Post-harvest monitoring was conducted on the Panner sale.

Funding provided through the CFLR program allowed the Forest to accomplish pre-commercial (biomass) thinning in the Eskimo plantation, and contract layout in the larger trees of the Sunshine plantation slated for thinning in 2013. Biomass mastication was conducted on the Manchu (50 acres) and Manzanita 1 (297 acres) projects. Thinning on the Chuckle project removed 1,756 tons of biomass and 18 tons of sawlogs on 341 acres. Treating plantations and biomass in areas outside timber sale boundaries, where timber revenue cannot be utilized, was the paramount purpose of the project proposal. Implementing such treatments in the first year of the project was a priority for the Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group.

Forest Service employees continued hand thinning, piling and burning in the Old Station WUI. And 558 acres of machine thinning and decking of biomass was completed in the four corners area (intersection of state highways 299 and 89) adjacent to the southern boundary of McArthur-Burney Falls State Park. Sale of the decks is completed.

In September, a group of 80 high school students and 20 or more teachers and adults participated in a field course conducted by the California Forestry Challenge. The challenge is a competitive event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry issues. The field sessions were conducted in CFLR project area where the Old Station WUI project was completed in 2009. The service part of the challenge included removing small biomass trees (mainly encroaching white fir) from the Hat Creek riparian area and piling them for later burning. The challenge was partially funded with SRS2 Shasta County RAC dollars.

Project progress during 2012 was highly effective, especially for the first year of the program. During 2013 work planned in the project proposal will shift from green sales to Reading fire salvage operations, but should remain on track for planed accomplishments on a project-wide basis.

8. Describe the total acres treated in the course of the CFLR project (cumulative footprint acres; not a cumulative total of performance accomplishments). What was the total number of acres treated?[12]

Fiscal Year	Total number of acres treated (treatment footprint)
FY12	4,086 acres
FY10, FY11, and FY12	4,086 acres

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

The Burney-Hat Creek Basins area is a fire-adapted ecosystem. Lightning-caused wildfires are a common event during fire season. Of the 16 wildfires started on the Hat Creek Ranger District in 2012, 14 were within the CFLR Project area. All were managed on initial attach, and most were kept below one acre.

The Reading fire started from a lightning strike in Lassen Volcanic National Park (LVNP) on July 23, 2012. On August 8, 2012 the fire burned from LVNP onto the Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek Ranger District. The fire was contained on September 24 after burning approximately 28,079 acres. The Reading fire burned in the upper Hat Creek Watershed, entirely within the Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project area. Approximately 11,071 acres of the fire burned on National Forest System (NFS) lands. On the Lassen National Forest, the fire burned entirely within the planning boundary for the Badger Forest Health Restoration Project. The Badger Project had been three years in the planning phase and was nearing public scoping. Baseline information had been collected and forest stand information was under analysis.

The Reading Fire burned in a mosaic of severity that included unburned, low, medium, and high fire severity. As a result, there are areas where tree mortality is 100 percent while other areas still support a green tree component. Of the acres burned, approximately 5,000 acres were mixed conifer vegetation types and 2,070 acres were pine vegetation types. Within the 5,000 acres of mixed conifer, approximately 2,500 acres was considered suitable as late-seral habitat previous to the Reading Fire and included three northern goshawk protected activity centers (GPACs) and one California spotted owl protected activity center (SOPAC).

Within the LVNP, the Reading fire burned mainly in designated wilderness and no post-fire management actions are anticipated. In developed areas, hazard trees would be removed for public safety. Management actions are being planned for the Reading fire on National Forest System Lands. This includes salvage harvest of fire-killed and fire-damaged trees and reforestation. About 65 percent of the fire burned at moderate to high severity. Because of the severity of the fire throughout much of the project area, most of the conifer seed source (trees) was killed. Without reforestation efforts, conifer recovery would be very slow and the area could stay in the brush field/grassland stage for a century or more. Re-establishing native conifer cover quickly would minimize competition from brush and other vegetation. Brush, particularly manzanita, and grass are expected to recover naturally.

The *National Forest Management Act* establishes congressional policy to maintain forests in an appropriate cover of trees in accordance with forest plans. The direction in the Lassen LRMP, as amended, is to establish and maintain an all-

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

age, fire-resilient, native-species forest for multiple benefits and uses. The LRMP management prescriptions for this project area are dominated by T (Timber) and K (Rocky/Sparse), along with areas of A (Non-Timbered Wildlife), B (Range/Wildlife), F (Riparian/Fish) and V (Visual). The T and K management prescriptions emphasize wood production and utilization, and maintenance of timber stands, while sustaining other resource values. Without treatment, most of the severely-burned areas would convert to a brush dominated vegetative cover, slowing the re-establishment of a coniferous forest for decades or perhaps more than a century. This would greatly slow the return to the management prescription allocation conditions established in the LRMP.

During fiscal year 2013, post-fire management treatments will be planned and executed on NFS lands within the Reading fire parameter. This will greatly influence the Badger project, which will be delayed until the fire restoration work is conducted. Field work and planning have been initiated and an environmental assessment will be prepared for the Reading fire treatments. Initial estimates indicate that approximately 6,700 acres of moderate to high severity burned natural stands and plantations could be salvage harvested, and about 7,900 acres could be re-forested through planting. Not all moderate to high severity burned areas are suitable for salvage harvest.

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

Fiscal year 2012 was the first year of the Burney-Hat Creeks Basins Project, and the project proposal was followed. Project implementation focused on the preparation of planned 2012 and 2013 timber sales. The Claim Jumper timber sale within the CFLR Project area was offered and sold. Mid-year funding provided to implement the Project was used to conduct biomass treatments in plantations that do not have commercial value, but have very high fuel loads. Treatments are reflected in the table in section 6 above.

A challenge in 2012 was developing a multi-party monitoring strategy needed to implement the project proposal. Forest Service monitoring efforts met the need for 2012, but need to be built upon in future years to achieve effective multi-party monitoring.

Because the program was new to the Lassen NF, learning how to track and account for matching and leverage funding was a challenge. It was too late in the fiscal year before matching accounts were set up for tracking. All matching dollars shown in section 1 table a. were derived from obligated funds based on planned and known work. Most vegetation work in 2012 on the Hat Creek Ranger District was conducted within the project proposal area. Tracking of matching funds has been set up with needed account codes for FY13.

11. **Planned FY 2014 Accomplishments**

Performance Measure Code[13]	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount ($)
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	Acres	0	
Acres of forest vegetation established	Acres	0	
Acres of forest vegetation improved	Acres	2,900	
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants	Acre	0	
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands	Acres	0	
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions.	Acres	1,900	
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	0	
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	Miles	0	
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	2,130	
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	Acres	0	
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance	Miles	10	
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance	Miles	0	
Miles of road decommissioned	Miles	0	
Miles of passenger car system roads improved	Miles	0	
Miles of high clearance system road improved	Miles	0	
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage	Number	0	
Miles of system trail maintained to standard	Miles	0	
Miles of system trail improved to standard	Miles	0	
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard	Miles	0	
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales	Acres	0	

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

Performance Measure Code [13]	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount ($)
Volume of timber sold (CCF)	CCF	30,663	
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production	Green tons	0	
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acre	4,347	
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acres	1,540	
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands	Acres	0	
Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests on Federal lands	Acres	0	

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

Several timber sales and service contracts are planned for 2014. Because the terms of a timber sale contract allow for implementation to occur over a period of three to five years with options for extension, vegetation treatment is not likely to occur in the year of the sale. However, timber sales from previous years would likely be harvested. Currently there are five sold and open sales in the project proposal area. Four have been partially harvested and the fifth was sold in 2012. It is expected that harvest on some of these sales will occur in 2014.

As noted above in section 9, post-fire salvage harvest is anticipated in the Reading burn area. That harvest could begin in 2013 and is likely to carry into 2014. Fire salvage will be the primary vegetation treatments in the project proposal area in 2013 and will carry into 2014. This will include the removal of salvageable saw timber and biomass, and reforestation. Approximately 6,700 acres of moderate to high severity burned natural stands and plantations could be salvage harvested, and about 7,900 acres could be re-forested through planting.

In addition to Reading fire salvage, service contract work is anticipated in several locations. Completion of thinning on the Eskimo plantation and initiation of thinning on the Sunshine plantation will occur to the extent available funds allow. Thinning on the Whittington plantation using a combination of SRS2 and CFLR funding is already in the contracting phase.

Pile burning will continue. Opportunities for broadcast burning will depend upon vegetation treatment results, fuel loading and burn conditions. Broadcast burning is not planned for 2013 or 2014, but could occur after that time.

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

The CFLR project proposal and subsequent work plans for the Burney-Hat Creek Basins Project are based upon a continuing program of green-tree timber sales and biomass treatment service contracts. As described above, 2013 and 2014 will shift to primarily conducting Reading fire salvage of fire-killed and fire injured trees. Initiating reforestation is expected in 2014. During 2013 there will be plantation thinning in the Whittington project using SRS2 and CFLR funding. A green-tree sale in 2013 is unlikely considering the anticipated salvage volume and work load to prepare salvage sales. Green-tree sales are planned for 2014 in the Whittington and Shooter projects.

Service contracts for biomass treatments, beyond treatments conducted as part of a timber sale, may be reduced in 2013 and in following years from the work planned in the proposal. Capability to implement the proposal is influenced by matching support from forest-wide funding, timber sale trust funds, and leveraged funds. Unanticipated variability in these funding sources can affect available funds for service contracts. Regardless, efforts will focus on continuing to maximize all lands treatments within the proposal area utilizing available funding sources.

The Burney-Hat Creek Basins proposal projected the use of standard timber sale receipts as matching funds. Currently, the guidelines for CFLR implementation only allow services derived from stewardship contracts to be used as matching funds. As a result, it is anticipated that the project will struggle to produce enough matching funds to meet the required amount. The relatively healthy timber industry in the project area does not benefit from stewardship contracts. Implementation of the CFLR project needs to avoid unintended impacts to the industry, both large operators purchasing timber sales and small operators conducting service contracts. Regardless of program credit or not, treated acres and financial benefits from standard timber sales will continue to be reported in accomplishments to ensure there is a complete accounting of work accomplished in the project area. All work conducted in the project area adds to the all lands improvements and benefits on the landscape.

Funding for 2013, and projected for 2014, reduces the capability to conduct monitoring to the level projected in the proposal. Multi-party monitoring efforts may provide opportunities for partnerships and collaborative funding to support the project. Currently there are no external funding sources established to support monitoring.

The factors listed above will challenge full implementation of the project as proposed over its planned ten-year life. However, continuing collaborative efforts toward greater program support and a productive green-tree timber sale program will continue to support the envisioned ecological restoration and watershed improvements across the landscape of the Burney-Hat Creek Basins.