

**CFLR Project (Name/Number): Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Restoration Project/HPRP02**

**National Forest(s): Ozark-St. Francis National Forests**

**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 <sup>1</sup>	
Carryover funds expended <sup>2</sup> (please include a new row for each BLI)	\$959,000
NFTM	
NFVW	\$160,000
NFWF	\$420,000 (\$412,259.40 Tracking in PAS)
CWK2	\$140,000
WFHF	\$138,000 (\$94,642.99 Tracking in PAS)
	\$100,000
FS Matching Funds(please include a new row for each BLI) <sup>3</sup>	\$1,449,749
NFTM	\$411,971 (\$601,603.92 Tracking in PAS, including both carryover and matching funds)
NFWF	\$51,575(\$144,655.92 Tracking in PAS including both carryover and matching funds)
NFIM	\$46,000 (\$0.00 Tracking in PAS)
NFN3	\$48,520 (\$0.00 Tracking in PAS)
CWKV	\$67,076 (\$38,899.62 Tracking in PAS)
CMLG	\$175,756 (\$0.00 Tracking in PAS)
WFHF	\$328,150 (\$92,327.33 Tracking in PAS, including both carryover and matching funds)
Funds contributed through agreements <sup>4</sup>	\$120,184

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

Fund Source	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2012(\$)
National Wild Turkey Federation	\$5,340
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission	\$62,664
Arkansas Wildlife Federation	\$26,000
USGS AR Coop Unit	\$17,000
University of Arkansas	\$9,180
Partner In-Kind Contributions <sup>5</sup>	\$26,000
Arkansas Wildlife Federation	
Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract <sup>6</sup>	

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

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) received a Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration grant to continue habitat restoration efforts on Gene Rush and Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These WMAs are within the eastern corridor of the High Priority Restoration Project area. The AGFC received \$227,635 for habitat restoration. During fiscal year (FY) 2012 the AGFC accomplished 200 acres of wildlife stand improvement in Gene Rush WMA and 100 acres of wildlife stand improvement in Gulf Mountain WMA. With the funding, the AGFC also accomplished 300 acres of cedar removal. The cedar had a market value of \$25,000. The AGFC also accomplished 200 acres of non-native invasive species (NNIS) treatments.

Approved by : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Forest Supervisor

**2. Discuss how the CLFR project contributes to accomplishment of the performance measures in the 10 year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan<sup>7</sup>, 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 overall activities of prescribed fire use are moving the project area towards restoration, slowly achieving gains in performance measures of the 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> This should be the amount in the "stewardship credits charged" column at the end of the fiscal year in the TSA report TSA90R-01.

<sup>7</sup> 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).

The total five year history of fire occurrence in the project area shows an average of six fires per year burning approximately 100 acres each (33 fires for 3308 acres). The average size has increased due to strategy shifts in utilizing less direct attack methods to avoid placement of firefighters in hazardous terrain features, and in managing natural ignitions for multiple objectives. All natural ignition fires are considered for multiple benefit objectives during the suppression planning as they occur. Opportunities for this to occur are limited as natural ignition as a fire cause occurs on only about 10% of our wildfires.

The majority of all fires on the Ozark-St. Francis NF are controlled during initial attack and there has been no statistical change in that percentage resulting from the work in the project area. We are seeing fires burn with less intensity as a result of the fuels treatments and thinning that have taken place on other parts of the forest due to lowered and changed fuels conditions, and anticipate as more High Priority areas are treated we will experience the same benefits in the project area as well.

18156 acres of the landscape were treated with prescribed fire in 2012 in the project area and represents about 1/3 of the prescribed burning on the forest with 75% of those acres benefiting Wildland Urban Interface. To date no wildfires have burned into areas treated in the project area so no benefits have been realized as a result. As treatments continue, we anticipate seeing changed conditions resulting. All of the treatments are moving towards the desired conditions.

With the lower intensity of the wildfires, no post-fire recovery plans have been utilized, nor have any wildfire burned acres received any treatments.

Performance Measure	Units
Percent change from 10-year average for wildfires controlled during initial attack	No change
Percent change from 10 year average for number of unwanted human-caused wildfires	No change
Percent of fires not contained in initial attack that exceed a stratified cost index	0%
Number and percent of WUI acres treated that are identified in CWPPS or other application collaboratively developed plans	13617 acres 75%
Number and percent of non-WUI acres treated that are identified through collaboration consistent with the <i>Implementation Plan</i>	4569 acres 25%
Number of acres treated per million dollars gross investment in WUI and non-WUI areas	
Percent of collaboratively identified high priority acres treated where fire management objectives are achieved as identified in applicable management plans or strategies	N/A
Number and percent of acres treated by prescribed fire, through collaboration consistent with the <i>Implementation Plan</i> .	18156 acres 100%
Number and percent of acres treated by mechanical thinning, through collaboration consistent with the <i>Implementation Plan</i> .	0 acres 0%
Number of acres and percent of the natural ignitions that are allowed to burn under strategies that result in desired conditions	0 acres 0%
Number and percent of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems which are moved toward desired conditions	18156 acres 100%
Number and percent of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems which are maintained in desired conditions	0 acres 0%
Number and percent of burned acres identified in approved post-wildfire recovery plans as needing treatments that actually receive treatments	0 acres 0%
Percent of burned acres treated for post-wildfire recovery that are trending towards desired conditions	N/A

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

We followed guidelines described in the Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool User Guide.

**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 <sup>8</sup>
Commercial Forest Product Activities			\$0	\$0
Other Project Activities	4.7	6.4	\$153,979	\$209,956
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>\$153,979</b>	<b>\$209,956</b>

**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 <sup>9</sup>
Commercial Forest Product Activities	10.4	25.2	\$571,829	\$1,217,967
Other Project Activities	6.6	9.1	\$217,249	\$301,492
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>\$789,078</b>	<b>\$1,519,459</b>

**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 economic impact listed above, the HPRP and match funding contributed 21.6 jobs classified as FS Implementation and Monitoring. These jobs added \$654,970 to the Arkansas economy. This project creates jobs and contributes to the local and state economy through the purchasing of supplies and materials from local vendors. We tracked this through Fed Biz Ops, purchase orders, receipts, and purchase tracking spreadsheets. We utilized local vendors as much as possible. Some of the purchases also benefitted disabled veterans and small business associations. Revenue from the timber sale will be added to the counties/schools as well as provide for local jobs through harvest and processing of forest products. Economic benefit will also be realized through the creation and improvement of wildlife habitat accomplished by silvicultural treatments within the project area.

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

Multiparty monitoring is being accomplished through grants and agreements with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation, The University of Arkansas, The Audubon Society, and The Nature Conservancy. During 2012, we monitored 19 bird plots, 48 vegetation macro-plots, Region 8 bird monitoring plots, and management indicator species. We also utilized game cameras to document wildlife habitat use.

<sup>8</sup> 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>.

<sup>9</sup> 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 University of Arkansas together with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the National Wild Turkey Federation continued working on the turkey monitoring research. This year we captured 38 turkeys including 4 juvenile males. The 38 turkeys were fitted with GPS trackers and then released at trap sites. This research will continue during FY 2013.

**6. FY 2012 accomplishments**

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	Total Units Accomplished <sup>10</sup>	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) <sup>11</sup>
Acres of forest vegetation established	Acres	39	\$7,449	CWKV
Acres of forest vegetation improved	Acres	466	\$59,627 \$7,806 \$70,375	CWKV WFHF CWK2
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants	Acre	2,089	\$214,959	NFVW
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands	Acres	7,996	\$2,400 \$20,610	NFVW Partner Match
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions.	Acres	17	\$29,799 \$26,200 \$6,617 \$800 \$7,383	Partner Match NFVW WFHF CWK2 NFVW
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	83	\$20,250 \$82,750 \$6,000	NFVW NFWF CWK2
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	Miles	15.1	\$12,390 \$1,500 \$26,200 \$2,500 \$800	Partner Match NFWF NFVW WFHF CWK2
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	34,057.5	\$164,356 \$62,500 \$130,200 \$58,750	NFVW NFWF CWK2 Partner Match
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	Acres	4,144.8	\$151,956 \$48,520	NFVW NFN3
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage	Number	2	\$175,756	CMLG

<sup>10</sup> Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record.

<sup>11</sup> 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 <sup>12</sup>	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) <sup>13</sup>
Miles of system trail maintained to standard	Miles	40	\$43,994 \$5,478 \$13,000	NFVW WFHF Partner Match
Miles of system trail improved to standard	Miles	2.1	\$18,650	WFHF
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales	Acres	895	\$375,971	NFTM
Volume of timber sold (CCF)	CCF	5,197 32,337*	\$142,500 \$233,471	NFTM NFTM
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acre	3,336	\$73,392	WFHF
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire	Acres	14,820	\$354,758	WFHF

\*Timber volume sold (CCF) data was not captured in PAS due to user error.

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

The accomplishments reported in the above table assisted in meeting the following key goals stated in the CFLRP proposal:

- Secure funding to build oak ecosystem restoration capacity on priority, collaborative, public, and private projects throughout the HPRP landscape;
- Reduce the impacts from NNIS;
- Improve watershed condition; and
- Meet goals outlined in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan.

These goals were met by receiving more funding for ecosystem restoration and treating acres of NNIS, thus improving watershed condition and meeting goals outlined in the Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan. Because funding was secured late in the fiscal year, boundaries for the 537 acres of woodland restoration and timber sales were marked by force account. Next fiscal year we will improve our performance by having a contractor complete this task.

<sup>12</sup> Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

Treatments accomplished in FY 2012 as part of the High Priority Restoration Project included 2,089 acres of NNIS plant treatments; 83 acres of lake-habitat restoration; 2,427 acres of ground cover restoration; 32,057 acres of terrestrial habitat restoration; and 18,156 acres of prescribed burns. In addition to these accomplishments, 5,197 CCF were produced with timber sales within the project area. Ground cover restoration acres will not show in the Performance Accountability System (PAS). We started using the new codes in the database of record for ground cover restoration. The 2,427 acres of ground cover restoration consist of 1,215 acres of vegetation removal and 1,212 acres of herbicide application to control undesired vegetation.

Collaborators performed a series of accomplishments during the first year of the project. These accomplishments included ecological monitoring, trail work, feral hog trapping, noxious weed control, wildlife opening maintenance, and native species seeding. The Arkansas Wildlife Federation coordinated two work days within the project area. Volunteers from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Arkansas Tech University, The University of the Ozark, local citizens, and the Forest Service participated in these work days.

**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?<sup>14</sup>

Fiscal Year	Total number of acres treated (treatment footprint)
FY12	48,528
FY10, FY11, and FY12	48,528

**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):

Wildfire preparedness for the area is budgeted at \$198,000 for the units that sponsor the CFLRP inclusive of salaries, training and resource cost.

Opportunities for management of natural ignition wildfires for multiple objectives are limited on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests with only about 10% of fires have natural ignition as a source of cause. This year no unplanned ignitions were managed for multiple benefits. One fire that would have been managed under this strategy occurred after the directions to not manage fires for multiple objectives. There were no cost changes due to different management of the wildfires. Opportunities for other than full suppression of wildfires were also limited due to the onset of exceptional drought that occurred in Arkansas this summer. All fires were controlled at initial attack and remained relatively small resulting in no BAER treatments.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

**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)

The FY 2012 work shows more accomplishments than our project proposal and work plan. We achieved more acres than anticipated due to lower contract cost than originally anticipated. The challenges faced this year included: (1) receiving funding in FY 2012 instead of FY 2011; (2) receiving funding late in the fiscal year in multiple fund codes; and (3) creation of match work plans and job codes.

The Ozark-St. Francis and its collaborators were ready to start the project during FY 2011. In FY 2011, there was no selection of CFLR projects. However, our collaborators started working on our project. Therefore, our collaborators made an investment worth \$205,626 in FY 2011. This funding was intended as match for the first fiscal year of our project. The Ozark-St Francis accomplished 19,963 CCF of timber volume sold during FY 2011. This volume was intended as Forest Service match.

We received funding during the third quarter of the fiscal year in multiple codes. This created some complications with match funding. Early in the fiscal year we started working on match activities. The budget direction called for a creation of match work plans and match job codes. We were not able to create matching work plans for the following amounts and codes but still reflected the allocated funding as match because it was utilized in the HPRP: \$46,000-NFIM; \$50,000-WFHF and \$51,575-NFWF. We could not create a matching work plan because these funds were locked into contracts and agreements and we could not get clearance to change the codes to HP codes.

We worked on a solution to avoid issues related to match work plans, match projects, and receiving funding after the second quarter of the fiscal year. First, the Ecosystem Staff met with the Districts for a Resource Allocation Team meeting in May 2012 to prioritize the FY 2013 program of work. The program of work identified HPRP funded projects and match projects. This initial step provided enough information to organize FY 2013 work plans. Second, we created match work plans and job codes the first week of FY 2013. The ranger districts and collaborators started implementing match projects the first quarter of the new fiscal year. Third, we will make use of indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts. The Forests have a vegetation management IDIQ contract. Using this type of contract expedites the contracting process. The Forests are working on identifying other HPRP activities that could be contracted using an IDIQ contract.

Our collaborators also faced challenges. Some were not able to match the projected amount of funds due to changes in budget or grant availability. For example, the National Wild Turkey Federation originally approved the \$15,000 monitoring funding, but they had budget issues and had to reapprove the funding. It was approved in September 2012 but to date we still have not received the funding. We anticipate receiving the funding in November/December 2012. It is difficult to predict a partner's budget and match in the upcoming year, so our original proposal was submitted with our best estimate at the time. Another challenge was a decrease in the number of individual and group volunteers. Due to this fact, there was a lower in-kind value than was originally proposed.



**11. Planned FY 2014 Accomplishments**

<b>Performance Measure Code<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>Unit of measure</b>	<b>Planned Accomplishment</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	Acres	2	29,398
Acres of forest vegetation established	Acres	106	\$13,000
Acres of forest vegetation improved	Acres	1,139	\$134,846
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants	Acre	1,942	\$286,430
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands	Acres	35,000	\$72,740
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions.	Acres	103	\$161,000
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	20	\$222,920
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	Miles	7	\$10,678
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced	Acres	6,379	\$917,283
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance	Miles	91	\$23,751
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance	Miles	137	\$35,757
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage	Number	4	\$132,324
Miles of system trail maintained to standard	Miles	20	\$31,750
Miles of system trail improved to standard	Miles	5.1	\$30,600
Volume of timber sold (CCF)	CCF	5,000	\$191,000

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

The project will continue as planned in the proposal. We will continue to implement the strategy outlined in the challenges section to overcome the funding availability timing issue. We will continue to look for efficiencies to implement our program of work. One such efficiency is to contract project lay-out. We will use a portion of the funding to contract the lay-out of the projects for FY 2015.

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<sup>15</sup> 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.

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):

We do not expect a change in the funding request for FY 2013 and FY 2014.