

CFLR Project (Name/Number): Shortleaf-Bluestem Community/CFLR018**National Forest(s): Ouachita 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. FY13 Matching Funds Documentation**

Fund Source – (CFLR Funds Expended¹)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2013(\$)
CFLN (includes \$25,678 of CFLN carryover)	\$1,739,957

Fund Source – (Carryover funds expended (Carryover to in addition to CFLR/CFLN)² (please include a new row for each BLI))	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2013(\$)
NFTM	115,000
NFVW	88,000
NFWF	18,093
WFHF	138,582
TOTAL	\$359,675

Fund Source – (FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI)³)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2013(\$)
NFTM	411,368
CWKV	569,239
NFVW	48,152
NFWF	179,151
WFHF	694,760
SRS2 (S2R801)	490,315
SRS2 (S2R812)	42,894
TOTAL	\$2,435,879

Fund Source – (Funds contributed through agreements⁴)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2013(\$)

Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions⁵)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2013(\$)
National Wild Turkey Federation (Turkey monitoring)	\$15,000
Arkansas State University (Turkey monitoring)	5,744
University of Arkansas, Monticello (Economic monitoring)	5,000
USFS Northern Research (Bird monitoring)	5,000
Central Hardwoods Joint Venture (Bird monitoring)	8,000
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (Turkey monitoring)	31,200
Native Expeditions (Environmental education)	4,500

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.

³ This amount should match the amount of matching funds obligated in the PAS report.

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.

Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions ⁵)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2013(\$)
Monarch Watch, University of Kansas (Environmental education)	2,000
Buffalo River National Park Service (Prescribed burning)	40,000
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (RCW translocation)	1,900
The Nature Conservancy (Vegetative monitoring)	46,000
TOTAL	\$164,344

Fund Source – (Service work accomplishment through goods-for-services funding within a stewardship contract ⁶)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2013(\$)

Approved by (Forest Supervisor): /s/ John W. Baswell, Jr.

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

NEPA projects within the CFLRP project area within MA 21 (Old Growth Restoration), MA 22 (Renewal of the Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Grass Ecosystem and Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) Habitat) and ABBA (American Burying Beetle Areas), were completed at a cost of approximately \$209,077.

In 2013, RCWs were translocated with partnership efforts between Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) and the Ouachita National Forest. Five pairs of RCWs were translocated from Sam Houston National Forest to the ODWC managed lands of the McCurtain County Wilderness Area (MCWA) and the Forest. The MCWA is almost completely surrounded by the Shortleaf-Bluestem Community project area in Oklahoma. The RCW population is treated as one population between the MCWA and the Forest. Working in partnership on joined lands will aid both state and Federal lands in increasing genetic diversity as well as boost population numbers. ODWC leverage match is \$2,000 for translocation, outfitting of new recruitment clusters and maintaining their existing clusters.

In addition, habitat improvement work was conducted on the MCWA by ODWC consisting of thinning new and existing stands on approximately 800 acres and cooperatively prescribed burning on 3,700 acres. ODWC leveraged match cost for the burning was \$62,900 and leverage funding for thinnings was \$34,000. Total leverage from ODWC is \$98,900.

Beginning in 2002, partnership efforts with Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) and the Forest has been occurring for reciprocal translocation of RCWs. Movement of birds is to augment populations between southern Arkansas at Pine City and for the Forest CFLRP area. In 2013, ANHC translocated 2 birds to the CFLRP area. This along with coordination efforts is considered matching in kind labor worth \$1900. Translocating these birds from Pine City to the Forest includes knowledge of bird’s particular gender and or age and is dependent upon monitoring efforts by ANHC on state lands. This partnership of ANHC and the Forest to provide particular birds needed by either partner aids in increasing breeding clusters and overall success for state and federal lands thus improving overall genetic diversity. Leveraged funds for monitoring pre-translocation from ANHC is \$1500 for FY13.

Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC), along with Forest Service personnel, accomplished about 200 acres of prescribed burning in FY 2013 on private lands. These burns occurred within 10 miles of the CFLRP Forest landlines. AFC’s cost for these cooperative burns was approximately \$5,000.

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.

Leveraged Funding in FY 2013

Activity Description	Source of Funding	Projects	Amount (\$)
NEPA Planning	NFTM NFWF WFHF NFVW	Upper Sugar Creek (ABB) Nella, Ross Creek, West Walker Mtn, West Haw Cr (MA22) Lower Cossatot (MA 21) Southern Pine Beetle Suppression (MA21 & MA22) 3 DM's for WSI (MA21 & MA22)	\$209,077
McCurtain County Wilderness Area (MCWA) Management	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation	RCW Translocation Timber thinning Prescribed Burning	2,000 34,000 62,900
Stevens Prescribed Burning	Arkansas Forestry Commission	Private lands burned within 10 miles of Forest boundary lines	5,000
Management Area 22 RCW Translocation	Arkansas Department of Natural Heritage	Monitoring for RCWs to go from Pine City to CFLRP	1,500
TOTAL			\$314,477

2. Discuss how the CLFR project contributes to accomplishment of the performance measures in the 10 year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan⁷, 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 main activities of our CFLRP work is prescribed burning with commercial and non-commercial thinning to move towards a restored landscape. CFLRP funding has accelerated these activities through our achievements of the performance measures of the 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan. The project area encompasses 350,000 acres, about 20% of the Ouachita NF. For 2013, 54,461 acres were prescribed burned, 7,141 acres were mechanically treated, and 71,700 ccf of timber was sold within the project area to restore native landscape conditions.

In cooperation with state agencies in Arkansas and Oklahoma, 807 acres on state lands and about 200 acres on private lands that surround the CFLR area were treated with prescribed fire. Annual fire occurrence in the last 10 years has ranged from 34 and 187 wildfires. For 2013, 34 wildfires occurred on the Ouachita National Forest: 26 of these were due to human causes and 8 were due to lightning. All wildfires occurring from natural ignition sources on the Ouachita are evaluated for management strategies of multiple objectives, however due to the exceptional drought conditions this summer, and the State and County burn bans all wildfires this year were managed under a variety of suppression strategies. This resulted in none of the wildfire acres needing to be treated with post-wildfire restoration treatments. In FY13, over the entire Ouachita National Forest, a total of 107,559 acres were prescribed burned.

In order to achieve accelerated acreage burned and thinning activities, CFLRP funding has to come early in the FY. The greatest limiting factor in accomplishing our projected burning acres was the timing of receiving funds. The funds were received too late in the FY to fully operate the burning program. Most of the burning on the Ouachita National Forest occurs from February through May. Receiving funding early would have allowed additional aircraft and crews. And no burning could occur in the latter part of the FY due to the drought.

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).

The drought restricted prescribed burning in the late summer, partially due to burn parameters but mostly due to a Forest Plan Design Criteria that does not allow prescribed burning in counties where a burn ban is in place. Beginning in August 2013, the entire CFLRP area was under county-wide burn bans and remained under the bans until mid-September 2013. High KBDI's, though declining, remain in a receding western portion of the Ouachita National Forest, including a significant CFLRP area in Oklahoma and some acreage on Districts within the Arkansas CFLRP area.

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	33,041 acres 54%
Number and percent of non-WUI acres treated that are identified through collaboration consistent with the <i>Implementation Plan</i>	28,561 acres 46%
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> .	54,461 acres 88%
Number and percent of acres treated by mechanical thinning, through collaboration consistent with the <i>Implementation Plan</i> .	7,141 acres 12%
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	54,461 acres 88%
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?

Assumptions used for generating the TREAT model numbers that contracts and timber sale dollars assumed to remain within the impact area, did indeed stay within the area. Contract costs and workplans were used to estimate percentages and numbers plugged into the TREAT tool. Harvest volumes and products were based on historic and current utilization from timber contracts and sales.

FY 2013 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY13 CFLR/CFLN/ Carryover funding only):

Type of projects	Direct part and full-time jobs	Total part and full-time jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income⁸
Commercial Forest Product Activities	7.6	18.4	\$405,043	\$831,536
Other Project Activities	5.3	7.0	211,795	273,801
TOTALS:	12.9	25.4	\$616,838	\$1,105,337

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/submittedproposals.shtml#tools>.

FY 2013 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY13 CFLR/CFLN/ 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	138.6	343.9	\$7,812,859	\$15,996,742
Other Project Activities	14.1	20.0	561,120	791,955
TOTALS:	152.7	363.9	\$8,373,979	\$16,788,697

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

Agreements/Contracts and Monitoring for CFLRP increased hiring of locals workers.

- **Turkey monitoring with National Wild Turkey Federation, Arkansas State University and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission:** The Ouachita Mountains Shortleaf-Bluestem Alliance collaborative and the public voiced concerns of prescribed burning on the Eastern wild turkey. In 2013, this collaborative contributed \$84,170 and with an additional \$40,000 from CFLRP funds, 7 part-time jobs were created and a PhD student funded.
- **Vegetative monitoring with The Nature Conservancy:** FY13, 50 plots were established and monitored by TNC within the CFLRP area in Oklahoma. These plots required 15 TNC employees and 4 volunteers, spending one week in local motels, stimulating the local economies. FY13 Funding: \$30,000.
- **Bird monitoring with USFS Northern Research Station and Central Hardwoods Joint Venture:** In 2013, bird monitoring was conducted by the USFS Northern Research Station in collaboration with the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture. These bird points are at the vegetative plots established by TNC. FY13 Funding: \$16,000.
- **Economic monitoring with University of Arkansas:** Economic stimulation from agreements, contracts, partnerships and multi-party monitoring and the related benefits will be evaluated for impact by the partnership efforts of SebaScott Development Council (non-profit) and the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Reporting of the economic influx will begin to be reported annually in 2014. FY13 Funding: \$72,363.
- **Prescribed burning with Buffalo River National Park Service (NPS).** Without funding, the local Buffalo River NPS would have laid off 7 employees due to budget cuts. Instead under the agreement, the NPS retained these employees to outfit a 7 member wildland fire crew for FY13. NPS is attractive because of their close proximity to the project area, giving them the ability to travel back home when bad burning weather conditions are forecasted. Under the Reimbursement or Advance of Funds Agreement, funds will be transferred directly to NPS, resulting in no travel cap being charged to the Ouachita NF. Annual Funding for 2013-2017: \$75,000.
- **Prescribed burning with the Oklahoma Native American Tribes.** There are approximately 70 people qualified for prescribed burning among the tribes in Oklahoma. Funding over the next 5 years will support tribal members to prescribe burn on the Forest: Annual Funding for 2013-2017: \$85,000 for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and \$85,000 for the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma.
- **Prescribed burning with Bureau of Land Management:** Funds were obligated in FY13 to support a 6 person crew for up to 4 rotations of 14 days each plus travel. Annual funding for 2013-2017: \$75,000.
- **Prescribed burning with The Nature Conservancy:** Local hires will occur by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to provide hand crews to accelerate burning. Annual Funds obligated to TNC are \$50,000.

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/submittedproposals.shtml#tools>.

- **Additional helicopter for prescribed burning:** this helicopter (ship) and the associated crew will be used to burn additional acres. Obligated funds of supplying an additional ship, crew and plastic spheres: \$65,000.
- **Environmental education with Native Expeditions:** Funded environmental education from 2013-2017 annually of \$32,000. These funds hired 3 part time employees.
- **Monarch Watch, University of Kansas:** Contracted with Monarch Watch for native pollinator seeds collected on or near Forest lands to be grown into plugs for students within the CFLRP area to plant in the spring of FY14. Cost \$3,000.

All of the above prescribed burning agreements had funds obligated in FY 2013. These agreements will allow the Forest to continue burning in early FY14 even if funding for FY14 is delayed.

The local communities benefitted through an agreement that funded environmental educational training from a non-profit business, Native Expeditions. Over a 1,000 students were taught within the CFLRP area about the importance of our local ecosystems, the flora and fauna, and the tools needed to restore these native landscapes. These students assisted USFS in restoration efforts with a graduate student from University of Kansas to plant pollinator plants for school yard habitats and to re-establish pollinator sites on the Forest. The seeds for these pollinator plants were collected on Forest and grown by Monarch Watch, University of Kansas.

Native Expeditions is working with six EAST (Environmental And Spatial Technologies) Lab high schools in creating videos of the tools needed for restoration to showcase at the EAST conferences as well as share with other schools. These videos will encompass and give on-the-ground examples using subjects such as the endangered RCW recovery, prescribed burning, landscape history, pollinators and timber management, etc. The goal is to teach science standards and core curriculum, such as adaptation, biodiversity, human impacts, etc. with these on-the-ground examples of management. In addition, local educators along with the highly trained GIS staff at Native Expeditions are training EAST Lab high school students how to compile 20 years of fire history, commercial and non-commercial thinning. This huge project of creating GIS layers to display restoration efforts over a landscape scale will be used for competition at EAST Lab high school conferences and give the Forest a great management tool.

This same non-profit will be hiring local high school students and area teachers in FY14. High school students will be teaching environmental education at community events, additional schools, nursing homes and other venues.

In 2013, approximately 47% of the timber sold off the Ouachita National Forest came off the CFLRP area. This timber from the CFLRP area is valued at over \$2,225,047 on the stump and equates to over 71,700 ccf. These sawmills hire over 150 employees, have 80 loggers cutting the timber and another 20 people transporting the timber to the mills for a total of 250 families benefitting directly from the timber industry. In FY 2013, all timber sold within the CFLRP areas was bought by purchasers within the impact area. Timber purchases in FY 2013 are shown below:

Location of Purchaser	Volume of Timber Sold (ccf)	Sale Value (\$)	Within CFLRP Impact Area?
Little River County, Arkansas	15,929	\$347,620	Yes
Polk County, Arkansas	6,050	\$289,822	Yes
Pope County, Arkansas	7,855	\$410,557	Yes
Scott County, Arkansas	18,150	\$470,551	Yes
Howard County, Arkansas	15,744	\$561,833	Yes
Yell County, AR	7,972	\$144,664	Yes
TOTAL	71,700	\$2,225,047	

CFLR funding as well as matching funds provided funding for chainsaw treatments to move areas toward a restored condition. Contractors within the impact area of the project were awarded task orders as follows:

Funding Source	Location of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Within CFLRP Impact Area?
CFLN	Garland County, AR	\$20,176	Yes
CFWF		23,664	Yes
CFLN	Scott County, AR	150,866	Yes
CFKV		49,220	Yes
CFVW		36,368	Yes
CFWF		41,400	Yes
CFLN	Yell County, AR	26,619	Yes
CFKV		7,463	Yes
Total		\$355,776	

In FY13, working in partnership with local County governments, through MOUs, roads, access and road crossings were improved. Scott County, Arkansas road crews resurfaced 11 miles on three roads, replacing culverts and providing better access on Forest lands. The Leflore County, Oklahoma road crews constructed a safer stream crossing on Forest lands. All of this work conducted by the counties resulted in watershed restoration and maintenance and improved water quality by reducing further erosion.

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

Desired condition of the shortleaf pine-bluestem woodland are open overstory canopies, mid-stories with little woody vegetation and native understory vegetation of grasses and forbes. These conditions can be achieved with timber harvesting, WSI/TSI, and effective prescribed burns. Long term perpetuation of the overstory shortleaf pine-bluestem community is accomplished by seedtree and shelterwood regeneration harvesting. Advanced stages of restoration (as represented by Fire Regime Condition Class 1 (FRCC1)) are characterized by an open mid-story and a grass understory with a fuel loading of 2-4 tons/acre.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) and Forest Service are monitoring vegetative responses. The “Objectives-Based Vegetation Monitoring Program to Determine Project Success” plan was completed by TNC. The vegetative monitoring will help quantify and qualify if project activities are moving the landscape towards the desired range of ecological conditions. All 100 plots have been established and vegetative monitoring completed on all 100 plots. A report will be delivered to all partners in December 2013.

The Ouachita National Forest collaborated with the Mark Twain NF (Missouri – Pine-Oak Woodlands Restoration CFLRP) and Ozark NF (Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Restoration CFLRP) to share techniques for vegetative and bird monitoring. Both Arkansas forests are conducting the same vegetation monitoring protocol with TNC and ANHC, with the Mark Twain NF doing similar vegetation monitoring with the addition of floristic data. Data will be collected at all points every year for 3 years (2013-2015), with 3 years of no data collection (2016-2018), followed by 3 more years of data collection (2019-2021). Central Hardwoods Joint Venture will be analyzing the bird data and submitting interim reports after each year, with more consolidated reporting after the first 3 years of data collection. This collaboration will allow comparison of landscape responses on multiple forests within different ecoregions within the shortleaf-pine range.

The Ouachita National Forest collaborative, Ouachita Mountains Shortleaf-Bluestem Alliance, expressed concerns on the prescribed burning program on Eastern Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). The collaborative developed a partnership to understand the potential impacts of our burning program on this ground nesting bird. In 2011, partners including

Arkansas State University, National Wild Turkey Federation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and USFS began researching the effects of prescribed burning on the bird’s demography and habitat use in the shortleaf pine-bluestem community. In FY12 and 2013, turkeys were captured and outfitted with GPS and VHF transmitters and released at trap sites. Annual progress reports are submitted to the Forest Service every year, and the final report (PhD dissertation) submitted approximately one year after field research is completed. Preliminary findings are showing that hens are nesting immediately adjacent to or within a recent prescribed burn area with young poults being led by the hens to forage into recently burned areas.

6. FY 2013 accomplishments

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished¹⁰	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)¹¹
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	687	50,011	RTRT
		398	44,706	CWKV
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	1,625	257,527	NFVW
		581	102,256	CFLN
		126	18,980	CWKV
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	26,433	1,039,325	CFLN
		23,580	189,120	CWKV
		1,103	173,036	NFVW
		648	116,640	NFTM
		47,364	1,042,008	WFHF
		3,895	322,006	NFWF: Not pulled into PAS, but an additional 8,000 acre equivalents were accomplished for red-cockaded woodpecker structural improvements at 32 sites within the CFLRP area.
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN	Miles	0	22,000	22 miles of maintenance was completed that was not picked up in the RAR for PAS, with a total funding of \$22,000 out of specified road work completed by timber purchasers.
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	0	44,800	Approximately 224 miles of maintenance completed that was not picked up in the RAR for PAS, including funding of \$44,800 out of CMRD and road work completed by timber purchasers.
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	0		
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	0	586,009	Timber purchaser improvements of 0.9 mile totaling \$52,800; Approximately 11 miles of improvements were funded with Secure Rural School (SRS2) funding in Scott and LeFlore Counties, for a total funding of \$533, 209.
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	0	285,500	Approximately 5.7 miles of road improvements were completed by timber purchasers totaling about \$285,500.

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 system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD	Miles	0	4,680	15.6 miles were accomplished but not captured in the INFRA Database at a cost
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	1,550	167,000	CFLR
		915	100,200	NFTM
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	20,045.8	(included in treatment costs above in TMBR-VOL-SLD)	
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	3,692	84,916	CFLR
		77,774	1,594,367	NFTM 71,700 ccf were completed; not the 81,466 ccf pulled from PAS Report, due to TIM inaccuracies within reported payment units.
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	332	Treatment cost for this measure included with TMBR-VOL-SLD (above)	CFLR
		5,884*		NFTM *A total of 5,884 tons were removed from within the CFLRP area. As reported above, one sale area with several payment units straddled the CFLRP boundary, and an estimated 808 tons lying within the sale area (as reported in TIM and PAS) but outside of the CFLRP area were pulled into PAS, accounting for the total of 7,024 tons.
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	8,359	348,847	CFLN
		11,179	268,463	WFHF
		1,998	137,909	CWKV-WF
		2,381	149,976	CWKV-VM
		700	30,048	NFWF
		1,806	19,050	NFTM
		619	61,660	RTRT
		1,519	257,527	NFVW
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	8,654	361,159	CFLN
		20,761	498,576	WFHF
		1,643	113,406	CWKV-WF
		112	7,055	CWKV-VM
		1,741	74,732	NFWF
		130	12,950	RTRT

7. **FY 2013 accomplishment narrative** (summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress) (please limit answer to three pages).

During FY2013, the Ouachita National Forest made progress toward overall project objectives, as shown above.

Accomplishments in FY13 directly related to the three main restoration treatments aligned with proposed project progress with the exception of prescribed burning:

- ❖ Timber was sold on 4,673 acres, with 2,465 acres of timber with harvesting reported as completed within the CFLRP area. The acres of timber that has been sold (accomplished) is 78% of our project proposal of 6,000 acres per year. The payment units reported as completed remains significantly below the proposed annual pace. This

is indicative of a timber market still in the process of bottoming out, where payment units purchased over the last two years have yet to be logged.

- ❖ Treatments designed to reduce the density of non-commercial trees within the forest CFLRP communities totaled 7,021 acres: 4,689 Wildlife Stand Improvement (WSI); 965 acres of Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and 1,367 acres of Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT). This total of 7,021 exceeded our proposal of 5,000 acres.
- ❖ Prescribed burning totaled 54,461 acres, with an additional 7,141 acres of mechanical fuels treatments within the CFLRP area, totaling 61,602 acres. This is well short of the proposed 100,000 acres.

In 2013, Forest accomplished 15.6 miles of trail tread maintenance within the CFLRP area on Sugar Creek Trail to reduce sedimentation.

Restoration treatments produced 71,700 ccf volume of timber sold, most of which is high value southern yellow pine sawtimber all sold to local mills within the impact area of the project.

With our partners we continue to monitor the effects of our management on the project area associated with the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW). We continue to see a rise in RCW population numbers from 28 in 1990 to 158 in 2013, along with a continued increase in active clusters (currently 75 active).

In FY13, partnership contributions were almost doubled, from \$86,332 in FY12 to \$164,344 in FY 13. The Forest projects to even further exceed partnership efforts in FY14.

Progress on Three Key Treatments for Shortleaf Pine – Bluestem Grass Restoration

Treatment	Acres Accomplished		Cumulative Total	Proposed Accomplishment total at Year 2	% of Proposed Total
	FY 2012	FY 2013			
Prescribed Burning (Acres)	44,805	54,461	99,266	155,000	64%
Non-commercial thinning (WSI, TSI)	3,660	7,021	10,681	8,000	134%
Volume of timber sales sold	69,206	71,700	140,909	83,000	170%
Timber harvest area (acres):					
Accomplished -	4,966	4,673	9,372	10,000	94%
Completed -	160	2,465	2,625	10,000	26%

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)
FY13	63,947 acres
FY 2012 & FY 2013	53,718 + 63,947= 117,665 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):

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.

Opportunities for management of natural ignition wildfires for multiple objectives are limited on the Forest with only about 20% of fires having natural ignition as a source of cause. In 2013, two fires (one 350 acres and another of 555 acres) were managed for multiple benefits. There were no cost changes due to different management of wildfires. Opportunities for other than full suppression of wildfires were limited in late summer, due to drought conditions in Arkansas and Oklahoma. All other fires were controlled at initial attack and remained relatively small resulting in no BAER treatments.

With treatments in FY13 along with post treatments over the past 25 plus years, almost 190,000 acres in the CFLRP area of 350,000 acres is in a stage of restored condition. About 60,000 acres are in FRCC condition class one and only require periodic prescribed burning to maintain condition. Main treatments within the Forest CFLRP area are timber management to remove the mid-story and reduce the overall basal area and prescribed fire to further reduce fuels. Implementation of burning is on a three-four year rotation. Three rotational burns are needed to fully restore the landscape. Continually burning on rotation will maintain the desired condition. Burning continues to be the restoration bottleneck due to number of acres needing to be burned. The Forest has to have the utmost number of burning days with the necessary aircraft and crews to accelerate to our proposed 100,000 acres. In 2013, receiving funds late in the year greatly limited the ability of acquiring additional aircraft, crews and most of all it limited the number of burn days available.

Forest-Wide Design Criteria AQ004 was identified during a five-year review by the Forest as a limitation to prescribed burning. This design criteria states “burning will not be conducted when county burn bans are in effect.” The Forest staff plans on addressing the extent of limitation associated with this design criteria, including a possible amendment. In FY13, county burn bans prevented burning from the beginning of August to mid-September over the entire CFLRP area.

10. Describe any reasons that the FY 2013 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)

As stated above, the receiving of CFLRP funding late in the year made it impossible to take advantage of early season burning. This lack of funding in the beginning of the FY was by far the greatest limiting factor in barely exceeding 50,000 acres in the CFLRP area. Possibly another 40,000 acres could have been done if funding would have been received in a timely manner. Most of the burning occurs from February through May and funding was not received until June. To make up for the shortfall in FY13 of acres prescribed burned, the Forest exceeded accomplishments in commercial and non-commercial thinning.

11. Planned FY 2015 Accomplishments

Performance Measure Code¹³	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount (\$)
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	320	\$60,000
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	34	\$4,100
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	99,900	\$1,382,800

¹³ Please include all relevant planned accomplishments, assuming that funding specified in the CFLRP project proposal for FY 2015 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 (\$)
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN	Miles	88	\$40,000
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	178	\$35,000
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	2	\$2,000
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	3	\$180,000
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	18	\$900,000
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	5,800	\$1,160,000
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	41,500	\$1,305,000
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	10,000	
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	35,000	\$980,000
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	65,000	\$1,820,000

12. **Planned FY 2015 accomplishment narrative** (no more than 1 page):

FY15 program of work is projected to achieve our grant proposed planned activities. In order to achieve these goals, several ongoing NEPA projects will need to be accomplished in FY13. Planned projects for FY15 (and FY14) include 100,000 acres of prescribed burning, 6,000 acres commercially thinned, sale of over 40,000 ccf and 5,000 acres of WSI/TSI, funded both with CFLN and matching funds.

In addition, herbicide treatment of invasive species, road decommissioning, trail maintenance, stream crossings improvements, re-establishment of milkweed and other native plant species, environmental education efforts, possible continuation of turkey research are planned for FY15. Also in FY15, RCW habitat improvement work will consist of providing artificial inserts for nesting and roosting, improving nesting and foraging habitat by commercially thinning

stands and accomplishing mid-story removal through contracts and stewardship work, removing flying squirrels from cavities for this endangered species. Habitat restoration will continue on the ABB sites to increase population numbers of this endangered species.

13. Describe and provide narrative justification if planned FY 2014/15 accomplishments and/or funding differs from CFLRP project work plan (no more than 1 page):

The Ouachita National Forest has no plans to deviate for planned accomplishments and/or funding levels as outlined in our CFLRP proposal and work plans. However, if funding is reduced either in grant or appropriated funds, the accomplishments projected for FY14/15 will need to be adjusted. The most intense accomplishment is prescribed burning. This accomplishment is primarily weather dependent. If prescribed burning activities are not conducive due to weather conditions, then accomplishments may be increased in other areas to achieve restoration goals.

The majority of our improved roads and maintenance of high clearance roads has been accomplished through timber sale purchases during FY13. With roads funding being reduced over the last few years, these accomplishments continue to be funded through this source. However, with the cost of road maintenance and improvement greatly increasing over the past few years, the cost of maintaining and improving our roads associated with timber sales may be at a cost approaching or exceeding the cost of the sale. This has resulted in fewer dollars available for Knutson-Vandenburg Trust Fund (KV) work planned within the project. With this reduction in KV funds, we would need to look at other sources (appropriated funds) to accomplish our planned work. If appropriated funding is not available, the Forest may have to deviate from planned activities. Also, the high cost of road work within a timber sale could exceed the cost of the sale, resulting in the timber sale not being sold, which in turn would greatly affect our planned accomplishments.