

CFLR Ecological Indicator Progress Report

Project Name: Accelerating Longleaf Pine Restoration

State: Florida

Initial Landscape-scale Desired Conditions for the life of the project as defined by the Collaborative

The “landscape” should be the landscape identified in project proposals or subsequently approved proposal edits. See page three of the original guidance for further information.

Desired Conditions Target for Fire Regime Restoration: 36 % change (relative to the desired condition) occurs across 38 % of the landscape area by 2014 date.

1. Please include 1-5 quantifiable desired condition statements upon which the above target is based. These statements should reflect the initial project goals as outlined in project proposals. Further guidance on what should be included in these statements is available in **the original Ecological Indicator Guidance** on page 4.

Project Goal:

Within the CFLR project area the district will plan and implement projects to rapidly restore the longleaf pine ecosystem in North east Florida. The CFLR area consists of 567,000 acres around the Osceola N.F. and Okefenokee N.W.R.

Desired Conditions Statement-

Calculations/Explanations/Assumptions:

The restoration of the Longleaf Pine (LLP) ecosystem is accelerated (but not limited too) by 3 main treatments.

- 1.) Timber Harvesting -12,429 ac. complete- Removing the timber from overstocked slash and LLP stands.
- 2.) Roller Chopping- 1,158 ac. complete- This site specific treatment with a single pass roller chopper targets saw palmetto. Roller chopping accelerates Ground Cover Restoration by reducing the saw palmetto that “chokes out” native herbaceous species.
- 3.) Hazard Fuel Reduction/ Rx Burning- 200,000 ac. complete- Prescribed burning or Mulching/ mastication treatments.
- 4.) Total Acers Treated = 215,587

2. Desired Conditions Target for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Condition: 40% change (relative to the desired condition) occurs across 11% of the landscape area by the end of FY 2014.

The following quantifiable desired condition statements is what the above target is based on and reflects the initial projects goal as outlined in the project proposal

Project Goal:

Improve habitat for endangered and other wildlife species, improve conditions for the normally diverse groundcover, and reduce the risk of insect and disease outbreaks. Silvicultural Treatments will be accomplished by thinning mature LLP stands, mixed longleaf/slash stands (selective slash removal), and converting slash pine plantations to LLP. Improve 43,465 acres, producing additional RCW breeding pairs. Enhance prescribed burning, fuel reduction, LLP restoration, and groundcover restoration will also benefit numerous other species including Northern bobwhite quail, Eastern wild turkey, Bachman's sparrow, Eastern meadowlark, and white-tailed deer.

Protect the flatwoods salamander by breeding ponds with open grassy ecotones and surrounding open grassy pinelands. CFLR funding will provide a significant opportunity to improve habitat for the FFS. All acres within critical habitat of FFS and most of the acres within the FFS Conservation Area will be treated under this proposal.

Reduce hazardous fuels and restore LLP dominance, improve habitat by accelerating longleaf pine restoration for endangered and other wildlife species, improve conditions for the normally diverse groundcover, and reduce the risk of insect and disease outbreaks. Silvicultural treatments will be accomplished by thinning mature LLP stands, mixed longleaf/slash stands (selective slash removal), and converting slash pine plantations to LLP.

Desired Conditions Statement 10 yrs.: Wildlife security has increased across 11% of the landscape (65,920 acres)

Expected Progress toward desired conditions in 5 years:

- **Good= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across 28% or more of the CFLR landscape area.**
- **Fair= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across 18% or more of the CFLR landscape area.**
- **Poor= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across less than 0%-29% of the CFLR landscape area.**

3. Desired Conditions Target for Watershed Condition: 8 % change (relative to the desired condition) occurs across 1 % of the landscape area by FY 2014.

The following quantifiable desired condition statements is what the above target is based on and reflects the initial projects goal as outlined in the project proposal

Project Goal:

Approximately 400 miles of non-system roads, trails, and old firebreaks will be closed and obliterated. Where these disturbances function as channels and alter the natural laminar and subsurficial flow of water, hydrological restoration will be fostered by blocking vehicular access, pulling roadside berms back into roads, light disking to increase ground cover, recon touring erosion features and ditches to restore normal hydrologic sheet flow, planting containerized trees and shrubs, and/or seeding/planting of native groundcover species. The maintenance/

restoration of system roads will be performed under receipts generated from stewardship contracts, and in some cases, through Knutson-Vandenberg funds generated from traditional timber sales.

This proposal will actively restore approximately 309 miles over a ten year time frame by blocking road access, planting containerized trees and shrubs, light disking to increase ground cover and/or recontouring ditches and berms to restore normal hydrologic sheet flow. 2 miles of fire lines will be rehabilitate annually, a total of 90 miles being treated over the 10 year period.

Desired Conditions Statement 10 yrs.: Road and Trail indicator Ratings improve in 1.0 % of the landscape (752 ac)

Expected Progress toward desired conditions in 5 years:

- **Good= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across 5.6% or more of the CFLR landscape area.**
- **Fair= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across 3.6% or more of the CFLR landscape area.**
- **Poor= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across 0%-29% of the CFLR landscape area**

4. Desired Conditions Target for Landscape Scale Invasive Species Severity: 3 % of the CFLR landscape area (relative to the desired condition) was restored by reducing invasive species severity (preventing, controlling, or eradicating targeted invasive species) to meet desired conditions by 2014.

The following quantifiable desired condition statements is what the above target is based on and reflects the initial projects goal as outlined in the project proposal

Project Goal:

The ONF utilizes the U.S. Forest Service Southern Region's non-native invasive species (NNIS) strategy for identification, control, containment, education, prevention and removal. In comparison to many conservation lands in Florida, the occurrences of NNIS) on ONF are of relatively low intensity. This proposal however will allow for much needed treatment of currently known NNIS occurrences. Species of major concern include Japanese climbing fern, torpedo grass, skunkvine, mimosa, camphor tree and Chinaberry.

Desired Conditions Statement 10 yrs.: Invasive species establishment will be made less likely by improving resilience across 1% of the landscape (172 acres).

Expected Progress toward desired conditions in 5 years:

- **Good= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across 2.1% or more of the CFLR landscape area.**
- **Fair= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across 1.35% or more of the CFLR landscape area.**
- **Poor= Expected progress is being made towards desired conditions across less than 0%-29% of the CFLR landscape area.**

Scoring for National Reporting

Landscape-scale scoring

Few (if any) CFLR-funded Landscapes propose to meet every proposed desired condition on every acre or achieve landscape scale objectives through the mechanical treatment of every acre within their landscape boundary. Rather, multiple projects with multiple objectives (fire risk reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, stream restoration, etc) should facilitate meeting these broader objectives. Scoring at this level reflects the degree to which individual Landscapes are moving towards Desired Conditions at broader spatial extent. Landscape-scale scoring is conducted by the multi-party monitoring group at each Landscape.

- Good = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across ___60_% of the CFLR landscape area.
- Fair = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across ___40_% of the CFLR landscape area
- Poor = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across ___0_% of the CFLR landscape area

“Expected progress” will be defined using 5 year benchmarks for FY2010 projects and 3 benchmarks for FY2012 for each DC based on a percentage of the lifetime outcome specified in each Landscape’s proposal.

Current Project-scale Evaluation (Based on the Collaborative’s landscape scale monitoring)

Ecological Indicators	Datasets and/or databases of records used	Good, Fair, Poor and (%) landscape across which progress is being made towards desired conditions	Are you achieving your CFLRP objectives? (Y/N)	If NO, briefly explain...
Fire Regime Restoration	FACTS	Good	Y	
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Condition	FACTS	Fair	Y	
Watershed Condition	FACTS	Fair	Y	
Invasive Species	FACTS	Fair	Y	

Narrative (optional):

Project-scale scoring¹

Each management action funded through CFLR will have its own project-level objectives that are designed to contribute to achieving Desired Conditions at larger scales. Project-scale scoring should reflect how well the results of an individual management activity met the objectives for that project. Individual projects may not meet every desired condition of the CFLRP project. Project-scale scoring is conducted following completed management activities by the multi-party monitoring group at each Landscape.

- Good = 75% or more of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual **project-level** objectives.
- Fair = 26% - 74% of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual **project-level** objectives.
- Poor = 25% or less of implemented treatments result in in measurable progress towards individual **project-level** objectives.

Current Project-scale Evaluation (Based on and aggregation of the Collaborative's project level monitoring)

Ecological Indicators	Datasets and/or databases of records used	Project Level Good, Fair, Poor and (%) treatments resulting in measurable progress as defined above	Are you achieving your CFLRP objectives? (Y/N)	If NO, briefly explain...
Fire Regime Restoration	FACTS	Good	Y	
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Condition	FACTS	Good	Y	
Watershed Condition	FACTS	FAIR	Y	
Invasive Species	FACTS	FAIR	Y	

Narrative (optional):

¹ An individual activity might not need to lead to a fully restored acre (for example), but if it sets the landscape up for the next treatment it may still get a good rating. For example if a successful thinning doesn't restore a fire regime, but it sets up landscape for subsequent burns that might, it could still receive a "good" rating.