

# FY 14 CFLR Ecological Indicator Progress Report

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**Project Name: Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters**

**State: Idaho**

## **Background**

This Ecological Indicator Progress Report identifies the four Ecological Outcome Measures to be included in the five- year national summary report to Congress. Each Ecological Outcome Measure identifies desired conditions/outcomes to be achieved at the project-level and landscape-level over the planning horizon, objectives and methodology of measurement, monitoring types and indicators of changed conditions, spatial and temporal scales being considered, associated data sources and costs, and responsible individuals implementing this plan. The Progress Report includes the project-level and landscape-level evaluation and scoring, and the portion that will be included in the five-year national summary report to Congress.

## **Payette Forest Coalition Goals**

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) shares ideas and priorities with the Payette NF regarding two categories of restoration: Vegetation Treatments and Road and Recreation Infrastructure. Public investment in these restoration treatments will restructure the WLSH landscape and move the forest from the current condition towards a desired condition. The PFC expects that the public investment to restore ecological function at a landscape scale will also help sustain the economies of local communities.

## **Landscape-Scale Scoring - Initial Landscape-scale Desired Conditions defined by the Collaborative**

### **Ecological Outcome Measure 1: Fire Regime Restoration**

1. Desired Conditions **Target for Fire Regime Restoration at Landscape-scale: 43%** change (relative to the desired condition) occurs across 5.7 % of the landscape area by the end of FY **2014**. There are 676,000 acres of NFS lands within the CFLRP area.

**Project Goal:** To reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, including through the use of fire for ecological restoration and maintenance and reestablishing natural fire regimes, where appropriate.

**Desired Conditions Statement – 8-yr:** Move fire regimes toward historic conditions.

#### **Expected Progress toward Desired Condition in 3 years:**

- Good = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across at least **86 %** or more of the CFLR area.
- Fair = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **10 %** or more of the CFLR area.
- Poor = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across less than **<5 %** of the CFLR area.

## **Ecological Outcome Measure 2: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Condition**

### **Wildlife**

2a. Desired Condition **Target for Wildlife Habitat Condition at Landscape-scale: 30%** change (relative to the desired condition) occurs across **15 %** of the NFS lands and 10% of all lands in the CFLRP area by the end of FY 2014.

The following quantifiable desired condition statements are what the above target is based on and they reflect the initial project goals as outlined in the WLSH project proposal

**Project Goals:** Improve habitat for the northern Idaho ground squirrel (NIDGS) and species associated with dry ponderosa pine forests (Family 1 as represented by the white-headed-woodpecker) while maintaining habitat for mixed-conifer habitat associated species (Family 2) as represented by MIS/focal species and sensitive species of conservation concern.

**Desired Condition Statement (10 year):** Priority habitat has been improved and/or maintained for wildlife across 15% of the NFS lands (10% of all lands) in the landscape. Expected progress requires that the project:

- Move priority forest stands towards the Historic Range of Variability (HRV),
- Treat forested stands using a wildlife prescription,
- Ensure that wildlife implementation and effectiveness monitoring is ongoing.

**Expected Progress toward Desired Condition in 3 years:**

- Good = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **21%** of the CFLR landscape area.
- Fair = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **9-20%** of the CFLR landscape area.
- Poor = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across less than **9%** of the CFLR landscape area.

### **Fish**

2b. Desired Conditions **Target for Fish Habitat Condition at Landscape-scale: 20 %** change (relative to the desired condition) occurs across **2%** of the landscape area by the end of FY **2014**.

The following quantifiable desired condition statement is what the above target is based on and it reflects the initial project goals as outlined in the WLSH project proposal.

**Project Goal:** Improve fish habitat conditions in at the subwatershed scale in ACS Priority, WCS Focus Watersheds, or other identified emphasis watersheds, and to maintain fish habitat in all other subwatersheds.

**Desired Condition Statement – 8-yr:** Habitat improvement and maintenance is tracked by two components:

- Status of the Composite Habitat Index Score and the scores of the seven indicators that make up the index score (Al-Chokhachy et al. 2010) for subwatersheds.
- Status of bull trout patches within the CFLRP (RMRS-GTR-224).

**Expected Progress toward Desired Condition in 3 years:**

- Good = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **2 %** of the area (more than one or more of 46 6<sup>th</sup> HU watersheds).
- Fair = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **>0 to <2 %** of the CFLR landscape area (less than one of 46 6<sup>th</sup> HU watersheds).
- Poor = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **0%** of the CFLR landscape area (none of 46 6<sup>th</sup> HU watersheds).

### **Ecological Outcome Measure 3: Watershed Condition**

3. Desired Conditions **Target for Watershed Condition at Landscape-scale: 75 %** change (relative to the desired condition) occurs across **5 %** of the landscape area by the end of FY **2014**.

The following quantifiable desired condition statement is what the above target is based on and it reflects the initial project goals as outlined in the WLSH project proposal.

**Project Goal:** To maintain and restore the productivity and resilience of watersheds and their associated aquatic systems on NFS lands.

**Desired Condition Statement – 8-yr:** Improve the proper function of the Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic (SWRA) resources in all watersheds.

**Expected Progress toward Desired Condition in 3 years:**

- Good = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **25 %** of the CFLR landscape area (14 watersheds).
- Fair = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **43 %** of the CFLR landscape area (23 watersheds, plus East Fork Weiser River).
- Poor = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **32 %** of the CFLR landscape area (19 watersheds, minus East Fork Weiser River).

### **Ecological Outcome Measure 4: Invasive Species Severity**

4. Desired Conditions **Target for Landscape Scale Invasive Species Severity at Landscape-scale: 49 %** 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 the end of FY **2014**.

The following quantifiable desired condition statement is what the above target is based on and it reflects the initial project goals as outlined in the WLSH project proposal.

**Project Goal:** To prevent the establishment of new noxious weed infestations and document the effectiveness of mitigations implemented for a particular project.

**Desired Condition Statement 8-yr:** No increase in noxious weed populations.

**Expected Progress toward Desired Condition in 3 years:**

- Good = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **43 %** or more of the CFLR landscape area.
- Fair = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across **34 %** to less than **43 %** of the CFLR landscape area.
- Poor = Expected progress is being made towards Desired Conditions across less than **34 %** of the CFLR landscape area.

**Current Landscape-Scale Evaluation**

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	Fair (30%)	Yes	30% represents the percent of acres treated among the planned treatment-acres among the 17 projects
Wildlife and Fish Habitat Condition	Fish – FID  Wildlife – FACTS, WIT, monitoring reports	Fair (1%) - Fish  Good (28% of target landscape area of 15% ) - Wildlife	Yes - Fish  Yes - Wildlife	
Watershed Condition	WFC, WCATT, and documented monitoring results	Fair (46%)	Yes	.
Invasive Species Severity	FACTS	Fair (40%)	No	No landscape scale measurement of progress. Noxious weeds are treated on all major transportation routes within the CFLRP and only show an increase in approximately 10% in population since the advent of CFLRP. The assumption is that noxious weeds are effectively being prevented from spreading into the remainder of the CFLRP landscape via the treatment along major transportation routes.

## **Project-Scale Scoring**

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.

## **Ecological Outcome Measure 1: Fire Regime Restoration**

### 1. Desired Conditions **Target for Fire Regime Restoration at Project-scale:**

**Desired Conditions Statement:** Move fire regimes toward historic conditions.

**Score:**

- Good = Greater than 75% or more of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.
- Fair = 26-74% or more of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.
- Poor = 0 – 25% or more of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.

## **Ecological Outcome Measure 2: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Condition**

### **Fish**

#### 2a. Desired Conditions **Target for Fish Habitat Condition at Project-scale:**

**Desired Condition Statement:** Habitat improvement and maintenance is tracked by two components:

- Status of the Composite Habitat Index Score and the scores of the seven indicators that make up the index score (AI-Chokhachy et al 2010) for subwatersheds.
- Status of bull trout patches within the CFLRP (RMRS-GTR-224).

**Score:**

- Good = Greater than 75% or more of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.
- Fair = 26-74% of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.
- Poor = 0 – 25% of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.

## **Wildlife**

### **2b. Desired Conditions Target for Wildlife Habitat Condition at Project-scale:**

**Desired Conditions Statement:** Projects must meet the following to qualify as wildlife improvement projects with measurable progress: 1) move priority forest stands towards HRV, 2) treat forested stands using a wildlife prescription, 3) insure that wildlife implementation and effectiveness monitoring is ongoing.

**Score:**

- Good = Greater than 75% or more of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.
- Fair = 26-74% of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.
- Poor = 0 – 25% of implemented treatments result in measurable progress towards individual project-level Desired Conditions.

## **Ecological Outcome Measure 3: Watershed Condition**

### **3. Desired Conditions Target for Watershed Condition at Project-scale:**

**Desired Condition Statement:** Improve the proper function of the Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic (SWRA) resources in all 4 MCCM watersheds. All watersheds within MCCM have been classified as priority. The East Fork of the Weiser River is a high priority Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) watershed and a Focus WCF watershed due to the presence of an isolate, local population of bull trout (MCCM FEIS, p. 1-13).

**Score:**

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

## **Ecological Outcome Measure 4: Invasive Species Severity**

### **4. Desired Conditions Target for Landscape Scale Invasive Species Severity at Project-scale:**

**Desired Condition Statement:** No increase in noxious weed populations.

**Score:**

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

**Current Project-scale Evaluation**

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 (86%)	Yes	86% represents effectiveness of treatments in aggregate across the 17 projects
Wildlife and Fish Habitat Condition	Fish – FID Wildlife – see above	Fair (60%) - Fish Fair (63%) - Wildlife	Yes - Fish Yes - Wildlife	
Watershed Condition	Best professional judgment	Good – (80%) 8/10	Yes	
Invasive Species Severity	FACTS	Poor (25%)	No	No project level measurement of progress.  Pre- and post- weed inventories were not completed within any activity areas for the first three CFLRP projects -- only roads have been inventoried. Noxious weed treatment has increased on roughly 10% of road systems within the CFLRP.