

CFLR Project (Name/Number): Selway-Middle Fork

National Forest(s): Nez Perce-Clearwater, Bitterroot

Responses to the prompts in this annual report should be typed directly into the template. Example information is included in red below. Please delete red text before submitting the final version.

1. Match and Leveraged funds:

a. FY15 Matching Funds Documentation

Fund Source – (CFLN/CFLR Funds Expended ¹)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2015(\$)
CFLN	\$1,637,994

Fund Source – (Funds expended from Washington Office funds (in addition to CFLR/CFLN) ² (please include a new row for each BLI))	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2015(\$)
NFRR	\$ 1,551,650 ³
Total FY 15 CFLR Program Funding	\$ 3,189,644

Fund Source – (FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI) ⁴)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2015(\$)
CMRD	n/a
CMTL	(\$35,712.00)
CWK2	\$178,305.12
NFRR	\$69,439.95
SRS2	\$416,919
SSCC	\$75,000
Total FS Appropriated Match	\$677,758

Fund Source – (Funds contributed through agreements ⁵)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2015(\$)
n/a	\$415,004.15

Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions ⁶)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2015(\$)
n/a	\$422,821.15

¹ This amount should match the amount of CFLR/CFLN dollars obligated in the PAS expenditure report. Include prior year CFLN dollars expended in this Fiscal Year.

² This value (aka carryover funds or WO unobligated funds) should reflect the amount expended of the allocated funds as indicated in the FY15 program direction, but does not necessarily need to be in the same BLIs or budget fiscal year as indicated in the program direction.

³ Actual expenditure of NFRR (WO carryover) based on local record keeping.

⁴ This amount should match the amount of matching funds obligated in the PAS expenditure report. These funds plus the Washington Office funds (unobligated funds) listed above should total the matching funds obligated in the PAS report.

⁵ Please document any partner contributions to implementation and monitoring of the CFLR project through an income funds 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.

⁶ Total partner in-kind contributions for implementation and monitoring of a CFLR project. Partner contributions for Fish, Wildlife, Watershed work can be found in WIT database. Please list the partner organizations that provided in-kind contributions.

For Contracts Awarded in FY15

Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract	Totals
Total amount of stewardship credits charged for contracts awarded in FY15 ⁷	\$ 00.00
Total revised credit limit for contracts awarded in FY15 ⁸	\$ 00.00

For Contracts Awarded Prior to FY15

Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract	Totals
Total amount of stewardship credits charged in FY15 ⁹	Lodge Point - \$277,470.03 Iron Mountain - \$2,000.00 Interface Fuels - \$51,205.14
Total revised credit limit for open and closed contracts awarded and previously reported prior to FY15 ¹⁰	Lodge Point - \$284,500.00 Iron Mountain - \$131,841.64 Interface Fuels - \$51,205.14
FY 15 Stewardship Credit Match (FY 15 charges minus previous years charges)	\$279,470.03

b. Please provide a narrative or table describing leveraged funds in your landscape in FY2015 (one page maximum). Leveraged funds refer to funds or in-kind services that help the project achieve proposed objectives but do not meet match qualifications. Examples include but are not limited to: investments within landscape on non-NFS lands, investments in restoration equipment, worker training for implementation and monitoring, and purchase of equipment for wood processing that will use restoration by-products from CFLR projects. See "Instructions" document for additional pinformation.

Leveraged funds in landscape for FY2015

Description of item	Where activity/item is located or impacted area	Estimated total amount	Forest Service or Partner Funds?	Source of funds
Invasive species management	246 acres of private lands	\$36,945	Partner	Idaho County Invasive Plant Management
Invasive species post treatment effectiveness monitoring	72 sites	\$7,200	Partner	Idaho County Invasive Plant Management
Fire mitigation/fuel reduction	34 acres of private lands	\$54,500	Partner	Idaho County

⁷ This should be the amount in the "stewardship credits charged" column at the end of the fiscal year in the TSA report TSA90R-01.

⁸ This should be the amount in contract's "Progress Report for Stewardship Contracts, Integrated Resources Contracts or Agreements" in cell J46, the "Revised Credit Limit," as of September 30. Additional information on the Progress Reports is available in CFLR Annual Report Instructions document.

⁹ This should be the amount in the "stewardship credits charged" column at the end of the fiscal year in the TSA report TSA90R-01.

¹⁰ This should be the amount in each contract's "Progress Report for Stewardship Contracts, Integrated Resources Contracts or Agreements" in cell J46, the "Revised Credit Limit." For open contracts, this should be as of September 30. For closed contracts, this should be at the time of contract closure.

2a. Discuss how the CLFR project contributes to accomplishment of the wildland fire goals in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan and describe the progress to date on restoring a more fire-adapted ecosystem, as identified in the project's desired conditions. This may also include a description of the current fire year (fire activity that occurred in the project area) as a backdrop to your response (please limit answer to one page).

2b. 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 will be documented in Question #6):

***Note: Responses to questions 2a and 2b were combined for ease of reporting by Forest Staff

The summer of 2015 was an extremely busy fire season across the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF's. Unseasonably warm and dry conditions started in June and persisted through October. Lightning occurred early in June, resulting in many fire starts throughout North Central Idaho and within the CFLRP planning area. The Bailey fire (final acreage: 1,527 acres) started on June 13th and continued to be active through the end of September.

Hot and dry conditions persisted through mid-July, when a much needed rain event tempered the fire behavior and provided much needed relief for forest fuels. Initial attack was moderate in July throughout the CFLRP area. Initial attack forces were successful on all new fires in the roaded front. Three new large fires started in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in mid-July: Meeker Fire (final acreage: 2,406 acres), Roll Creek Fire (final acreage: 8,382 acres) and Rock Point Fire (final acreage: 220 acres). Suppression forces staffed the Rock Point fire in an effort to prevent fire from spreading into the Bitterroot Valley, while the Meeker and Roll Creek fires were managed for Resource Benefits.

Hot and dry conditions returned after the Mid-July rain event and persisted for another 6 weeks. On August 10th, a dry lightning storm rolled through North Central Idaho resulting in 130 new fire starts, including numerous fires threatening the communities of Kamiah, Syringa and Lowell. By weeks end, North Central Idaho had over 245 new fire starts, including over 120 on Forest Service jurisdiction. Local resources were stretched thin due to the sheer amount of fire starts and the threat to local communities and infrastructure.

Within the CFLRP area, 5 new fire starts occurred in the backcountry and over 35 new fires started in the roaded, front-country. Initial Attack was successful on all but three fires in the front-country: the Slide Fire, Wash Fire, and the Woodrat fire all escaped Initial Attack. Type 1 Incident Command Teams were brought in by the Forest, to manage the Slide Fire, Wash Fire and Woodrat Fires.

The Slide Fire, which threatened the Selway and Lowell communities for three weeks this summer, burned 10,000 acres and cost approximately 6 million dollars to suppress. Slide fire managers utilized structure protection plans developed for a proposed landscape burn (Fenn Face Prescribed Burn) in the fire area, as well as utilizing the Fenn Face firelines-which eventually stopped the fires progression towards the community of Lowell. BAER teams have requested \$153,500, to help rehabilitate recreation facilities, repair trails, treat noxious weeds and repair road damage.

The Wash fire burned 36,555 acres, cost approximately 3.0 million to suppress and threatened the Selway and Elk City communities for 2-3 weeks. BAER teams have requested \$163,400 to rehabilitate recreation facilities, repair trails, treat noxious weeds and repair road damage.

The Woodrat fire (6,459 acres), most of which burned on IDL protection, cost 4.0 million to suppress. IMT's and ground forces were able to utilize previously burned areas (Swan Creek Prescribed Fire) and mechanically treated areas (Interface Fuels), to help protect local communities (Syringa) and facilitate tactical operations. Woodrat threatened the Middle Fork and Syringa communities for 3 weeks this summer season. BAER funds have been requested (\$78,175) to rehabilitate recreation sites, treat noxious weeds and repair road damage.

The Wilderness fires burned over 21,885 acres and cost approximately \$283,500. This amount includes suppression activities on Rock Creek Fire, and 10 other fires managed for resource benefits. Structure protection operations on bridges, buildings and Lookout towers were all successful within the complex. BAER funds have been requested to help rehabilitate trails within the fire area(s).

The CFLRP area had 65 wildland fires this season, encompassing over 74,899 acres. Fires managed for Resources Benefits, totaled 20,885 acres and cost approximately \$83,500. Moose Creek RD also accomplished 13,392 acres of vegetation treatment with the Wildland-Urban Interface, and 6,049 acres of fuel treatment within the non-WUI areas of the CFLRP. Preparedness funds spent to train and maintain local fire management forces, amounted to \$500,000.

Particularly noteworthy was the success of the recently completed treatments of the Interface Fuels project, surrounding the community of Syringa. The fuels reduction work, reported on over the past few years, functioned exactly as planned and gave the fire fighters a safe and effective place from which to anchor their containment lines when engaged with the Woodrat Fire. More information is included in the "media links" section towards the end of this report.

The last two fire seasons have underscored the need for landscape restoration and strategically placed treatments. Fires are occurring at an increasing rate and scale within the Clearwater Basin. While some of this can be attributed to climatic conditions and extremes in weather, elsewhere, forest conditions due in large part to insect and disease mortality are contributing towards fuel loadings that make it difficult or impossible to safely engage or suppress fires. The result is large scale fires and the unwanted effects they can bring.

Anecdotally, there are now dozens of examples across the Forests and Selway-Middle Fork landscape where past forest management slowed or stopped fire spread entirely. Additionally, the fires of 2015 re-burned intensely through several areas that had recently burned, raising questions of future fire effects on burned landscapes. The Forests, CBC and other partners are currently working to capitalize on post-fire monitoring opportunities that will validate the need for and location of proposed treatments that can affect future fire behavior while still acknowledging its importance as a needed ecological process.

3. What assumptions were used in generating the numbers and/or percentages you plugged into the TREAT tool? Information about Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool inputs and assumptions available here – <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/documents/cflrp/R-CAT/TREATUserGuide10112011.pdf>.

Assumptions for the CFLR funding tables:

Funding and Employment

Instructions	Amount
Enter Funding:	4,027,815
Enter number of years for project implementation: Enter total number of years of anticipated funding for proposals and work plans; Enter "1" for annual reports Annual	1
Annual Project Funding	4,027,815
Enter percent of this funding that is going to be used for contracted work within the impact area:	70%
Enter percent of project funding that is going to be used for Force Account Implementation & Monitoring: This is the only place Force Account is tracked.	25%
Total Percent Must be less than or equal to 100%	95%
Enter Annual Force Account FTEs For Implementation & Monitoring:	35

Description	Types of Products	Project Percent
Equipment intensive work	No commercial products. Includes chipping in the woods and mechanical treatments such as non-commercial logging, mastication. Grapple piling. Excavator work, tree-tipping, etc.	5%
Labor-intensive work	No commercial products. Includes labor intensive, simple mechanical treatments such as thinning with chain saws, hand piling, prescribed burning, tree planting, etc.	15%
Material-intensive work	No commercial products. Projects where materials represent a significant portion of project costs. Includes road work, culvert replacement, in-stream restoration, fence construction, some trail work, etc.	50%
Technical services	No commercial products. Includes stand exams, marking, layout, biological surveys, cultural surveys, invasive weed spraying, etc.	15%
Professional services	No commercial products. Includes studies completed by scientists, engineering design, acquisition or analysis of remotely-sensed data, scientific modeling, workshops, etc.	5%
Contracted Monitoring (Does not include in-kind and volunteer contributions)	Services Contracted for monitoring	10%
Totals -- must be less than or equal to 100%	n/a	100%

Assumptions for the full project details:

FY 2015 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY15 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover funding):

Type of projects	Direct part and full-time jobs	Total part and full-time jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income ¹¹
Commercial Forest Product Activities	26	56	\$911,002	\$2,171,667
Other Project Activities	69	77	\$1,959,532	\$1,749,584
TOTALS:	95	133	\$2,870,534	\$3,921,251

FY 2015 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY15 CFLR/CFLN/ WO 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 ¹²
Commercial Forest Product Activities	26	56	\$1,356,402	\$2,171,667
Other Project Activities	91	101	\$2,016,695	\$2,392,663
TOTALS:	117	157	\$3,373,097	\$4,564,330

4. Describe other community benefits achieved and the methods used to gather information about these benefits. How has CFLR and related activities benefitted your community from a social and/or economic standpoint? (Please limit answer to two pages).

The Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Corp (CBYCC), initiated through the CFLR project as a pilot in 2012, has blossomed into a robust program that has attracted considerable attention from partners and other Agencies in the Clearwater Basin. Last year's outreach activities were very successful, drawing a much larger number of applicants than in 2014, with over 50 young adults applying for 20 positions. The CBYCC's model fills a unique

¹¹ 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>.

¹² 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>.

niche, utilizing an educational component paired with project work to provide youth an opportunity to develop their work ethic while accomplishing important and much needed restoration work. It is the vision of the CBC and Forests that the investment in the CBYCC will pay dividends towards maintaining the relevance of National Forests and other public Lands with the younger generations. Many of the youth exit interviews indicated gratitude for the opportunity to work locally and in the outdoors.

The success of the program has drawn financial and in-kind support from other Agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Labor and Bureau of Land Management. The program will again expand in 2016 to include additional partner work in the Clearwater Basin.

More information on the CBYCC including video clips can be found at the Clearwater Basin Collaborative's website:

<http://www.clearwaterbasincollaborative.org/>

A sustainable youth program was a major component of the Selway-Middle Fork CFLRP proposal and as such has been folded into the Project's monitoring program due to the established project management structure and advisory capacity offered by the MAC. Due to the greater program capacity needs of the Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Corp (CBYCC), a subset of the MAC, dubbed the Youth Council, is serving as the decision-making body for the youth program. The program's goals for 2016 include expansion in order to reach additional communities within the Clearwater Basin, continued diversification of funding streams, and expansion of the CBYCC's target participants to include older students that may be able to operate mechanized equipment and are focused on fewer projects such as trail maintenance or forestry projects.

5. Based on your project monitoring plan, describe the multiparty monitoring process. What parties (who) are involved in monitoring, and how? What is being monitored? Please briefly share key broad monitoring results and how results received to date are informing subsequent management activities (e.g. adaptive management), if at all. What are the current weaknesses or shortcomings of the monitoring process? (Please limit answer to two pages. Include a link to your monitoring plan if it is available).

Third party monitoring continues to be a joint effort between the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forest and the Clearwater Basin Collaborative's Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC) The MAC members represent a very diverse array of ecological and social expertise from multiple agencies, governmental entities, academic institutions, and private industry and is beginning to function more and more as a technical advisory panel for entities to provide peer review on proposed monitoring projects. Just by being aware of other organizations internal monitoring and research efforts has enabled the MAC to leverage their collective knowledge in order to build a better strategy for applying limited resources to important data and monitoring gaps within the CFLRP. The MAC has over 60 representatives and continues to attract additional partners as projects are implemented.

In FY15, continued annual effectiveness monitoring projects were completed:

Collection and analysis of socio-economic data – building on the initial baseline assessment from 2012 and the update addendum for 2013, a 2014 assessment of the CFLRP contributions to the local and regional economy is underway. The annual data collected is a combination of TREAT results, county and state labor data, and qualitative information collected in the impacted communities. With the addition of a 2015 socio-economic addendum in early 2016, the MAC will have completed 4 years of annual monitoring from which trends should start to emerge.

There has been significant interest from the MAC to evaluate the impact of CFLRP-related restoration activities on ecosystem services such as recreation, water quality, etc. However, the various methodologies, interpretation of meaningful data, and a general uncertainty about how more information regarding ecosystem services would better inform further monitoring or management activities led the MAC to begin developing a work plan for identifying and analyzing an array of ecosystem services including approximate costs and an evaluation of the potential usefulness of the information. This activity is currently underway and should yield a final product in early 2016.

The Aquatic Habitat and Fish Population monitoring project initiated in 2014 was contracted and implemented in 2015. The project assessed 27 miles of critical habitat within the Clear Creek watershed, which is the focus of the Forests' Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project. The project objectives included identification of potentially suitable salmon and steelhead spawning habitat, characterization of current stream channel and fish habitat conditions, determination of spatial distribution and relative abundance of salmonids, evaluation of potential barriers to fish migration, and establishment of baseline datasets for determining impacts to aquatic habitat that can be attributed to the implementation of land management activities. As part of the project, 2 additional monitoring stations were established in tributaries of Clear Creek and electrofishing surveys were conducted at four of the monitoring stations within the watershed. Due to the sharing of information at MAC meetings, 3.5 miles of private land were also assessed in the lower reaches of Clear Creek during the field data collection phase of the project. The funding for this portion of the project was provided by the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District through a grant from the Idaho Department of Lands and will result in additional funding made available for stream restoration projects on private lands through the Conservation District. At the close of FY15, all of the data had been collected, the analysis is underway, and a final report is due by the end of the calendar year.

In 2014, the MAC approved a project to contract a full scale review of various invasive species management stakeholders and all of their treatment activities, the gathering of baseline data for invasive species present in the Selway Middle Fork CFLRP area and their treatment history, the determination of treatment efficacy and reasons for success or failure, and identification of ways in which weed management can be improved. In 2015, the MAC as well as other partners used the Weeds Management Assessment to begin developing a curriculum and outreach program to increase the available capacity for identification and inventory, treatment, and monitoring of weeds. This effort is scheduled to launch in early 2016 with a series of contractor training workshops targeting the private sector to increase the availability of licensed applicators, timber sale weeds inspectors, and wash station infrastructure. Additionally, as part of the post-fire recovery effort, information regarding the identification of new invaders and species selection for reseeding will likely be added to the outreach materials developed. The MAC will monitor the effectiveness of these activities to increase the scope and scale of weeds management by multiple partners within the CFLRP area.

The Johnson Bar fire in 2014 burned a significant portion of the CFLRP area adjacent to a major watershed and fishery. At the spring MAC meeting, members reviewed a proposal from the Rocky Mountain Research Station to quantify the effects of post-fire salvage logging by ground-based skidding, skyline logging, and helicopter logging and associated erosion mitigation treatment on soil properties, surface cover, and hillslope-scale erosion rates. The MAC approved the project and various avenues for funding are under consideration for FY16. Salvage logging is a divisive issue on the Forests and this project will help start answering questions about the effects of different logging systems on sediment delivery and erosion post-fire and effective mitigation techniques.

2015 was an interesting year for the MAC as several monitoring projects were completed and the members began working with the Forests and other partners to determine how to best use monitoring data to improve the effectiveness of project and program delivery within the Selway-Middle Fork CFLRP. Nonetheless, the partnership between the CBC-based MAC and Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests continues to be an effective means to collect and share information.

The importance of the monitoring program has been stressed by many in the CBC and Forests. Results and data take time to accumulate and require a long-term vision and commitment to bring together. The availability of CFLR funding to validate the program and project effectiveness has proven to be instrumental towards achieving those

goals. Participants and even critics have noted the trust that has been established through the monitoring program and encourage continued support in following through on determining if project objectives are being met.

An example of how multiple data sources are being pulled together to better inform restoration planning is the Forest’s fisher monitoring efforts:

In 2013 the Forest Service initiated a collaborative research project to address critical information gaps concerning habitat selection by fisher in multi-successional, mixed-use forests where many restoration treatments are planned. There are many questions such as if and how fishers use different successional stands for foraging and how large of open areas fishers will traverse within their home ranges. These questions are germane to forest managers planning vegetation management projects, timber harvest, and for long-term efforts to restore western white pine on the landscape, which can involve creating substantial openings in the forest canopy. Several fishers were trapped and fitted with GPS collars which track their movement over time. Data collected will be used to inform forest attribute layers and predictive models that will increase the accuracy of the analysis necessary for NEPA and ESA project documentation.

6. FY 2015 accomplishments

A column labeled “Proposal Goals Measured” was added to the accomplishment summary table in order to accurately describe how the performance measures link to the goals outlined in the Selway-Middle Fork restoration proposal – how we are measuring success. The following table identifies the proposal goals and their abbreviations used in the accomplishment summary table.

Accomplishment summary table

Goals from Selway-Middle Fork Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Proposal	Abbreviated As
1. Ensure adequate protection of rural communities, private land and Wild and Scenic River values from uncharacteristic wildland fire.	WUI / Fire / Fuels
2. Re-establish and perpetuate a landscape that has a diversity of vegetation communities that are resilient in the presence of wildfire, invasive species, insects, disease and climate chan	Resilience and Diversity
3. Restore/maintain forest structure, function and ecologic processes that promote aquatic health and diverse aquatic native species habitat including bull trout, steelhead and westslope cutthroat trout.	Aquatic Restoration
4. Restore/maintain forest structure, function and ecologic processes that promote habitat for a large variety of native terrestrial species including mule deer, elk and other big game.	Terrestrial Restoration
5. Eliminate or contain noxious weeds to the greatest extent possible.	Weeds
6. Promote landscape conditions that allow fire to function as the primary ecosystem restoration agent within the Middle and Upper Selway River watersheds	Fire Regime Restoration

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished <small>¹³</small>	Proposal Goals Measured	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)¹⁴
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience WTRSHD-RSTR-ANN	Acres	3,518	All goals are represented by this performance measure	Integrated	Integrated

¹³ Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record.

¹⁴ 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	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished ¹³	Proposal Goals Measured	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)¹⁴
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	54	Goal 2: Resilience and Diversity, Goal 4: Terrestrial Restoration	\$28,908.36 \$2,360.00	CFLN NFRR
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	22	Goal 2: Resilience and Diversity, Goal 4: Terrestrial Restoration	\$4,023.00	CFLN SSCC
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	3054.2	Goal 2: Resilience and Diversity, Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration, Goal 4: Terrestrial Restoration Goal 5: Weeds	\$464,750 \$223,000	\$230,000 - CFLN \$30,500 - CFRR \$15,500 - NFRR \$8,000 - NFRW \$22,750 - BAER \$20,000 - Idaho County Weed dept. \$20,000 - Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Div. \$30,000 - Nez Perce Tribe Bio-Control \$52,000 - Back Country Horseman \$8,000 - Idaho Fish and Game \$20,000 - RAC (Idaho County Weed Dept.) \$3,000 - University of Idaho - weed dispersal modeling \$3,000 - University of Montana - monitoring \$2,000 - CBC - education \$150,000 - CFLN02 \$45,000 - CFRR02 Forest Match \$23,000 - MCC partner match \$5,000 - Outfitter partner match
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions. S&W-RSRC-IMP	Acres	48.82	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	n/a	n/a

performance measure, but the type of funding might be two different BLIs and CFLR/CFLN.

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished¹³	Proposal Goals Measured	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)¹⁴
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-LAK	Acres	108.99	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	\$134,000	\$104,000 – CFLN \$20,000 – IDFG (Partner) \$10,000 - NFRR
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	13.75	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	Integrated	n/a
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	103.99	Goal 4: Terrestrial Restoration, Goal 2: Resilience and Diversity, Goal 6: Fire Regime Restoration	Integrated	Integrated with invasives and timber
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN	Miles	126.84	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	\$52,287.00	\$30,000 - CFLN \$7,287 - CFRD
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	235.47	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	\$158,707	\$7,287 - CFRD match \$82,000 - partner \$40,000 - CFLN \$29,420 - CFRR
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	10.37	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	\$48,806	SSCC
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	27.07	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	\$241,573	\$124,508 – CFRR \$29,265 – CFRR \$87,800 - CFRR
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	0.4	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	Integrated with timber sales \$185,052	CFRR
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage STRM-CROS-MTG-STD	Number	2	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	\$109,040 Also partially integrated with costs of road maintenance	\$102,625 - CFRR \$6,415 - CFRD

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished ¹³	Proposal Goals Measured	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) ¹⁴
Miles of system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD	Miles	805.4	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	\$668,145.00	\$5,518 - CFRR02 \$14,967 - CFRR02 \$64,482 - CFRR02 \$11,500 - CFRR02 (MCC Match) \$1,200 - Outfitter match \$298,250 - CFLN \$136,741 - FS Match - CFTL (CMTL) \$130,183 - Partner match \$5,304 - Outfitter match
Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD	Miles	12.9	Goal 3: Aquatic Restoration	\$166,273.00	\$16,325 - CFTL02 \$72,000 - CFRR02 (MCC) \$20,000 - CFLN \$57,948 - FS match CFTL (CMTL)
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard LND-BL-MRK-MAINT	Miles	N/A	Necessary for all goals	n/a	n/a
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	50	Goal 1: WUI/Fire /Fuels, Goal 2: Resilience and Diversity, Goal 4: Terrestrial Restoration, Goal 6: Fire Regime Restoration	Associated with volume sold	n/a
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	8741.8	Goal 1: WUI/Fire /Fuels, Goal 2: Resilience and Diversity, Goal 4: Terrestrial Restoration, Goal 6: Fire Regime Restoration	Associated with volume sold	n/a
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	542.6	Same as above	\$1,006,377	\$579,000 CFLN \$98,800 CFK2 \$328,577 CFRR
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	Pull number from PAS report	Same as above	Associated with volume sold	n/a

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished ¹³	Proposal Goals Measured	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) ¹⁴
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	6049	Goal 2: Resilience and Diversity, Goal 4: Terrestrial Restoration, Goal 6: Fire Regime Restoration	n/a	n/a
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	13392	Goal 1: WUI/Fire /Fuels, Goal 2: Resilience and Diversity, Goal 4: Terrestrial Restoration, Goal 6: Fire Regime Restoration	n/a	n/a

7. FY 2015 accomplishment narrative – Summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress.

(Please limit answer to three pages.)

The Selway Middle Fork CFLR Project maintained another year of high productivity in FY 15 despite numerous challenges. The consistent accomplishments maintained by the Forests in the CFLR Project were due in large part to the emphasis our partners have invested in the program. The following summaries describe how the Forests and Clearwater basin Collaborative are working to continue making the CFLR Program successful and remain a good investment:

NEPA and Planning

At the start of the fiscal year, considerable reassessment of project opportunities was required within the Selway-Middle Fork Landscape due to the impacts of the 2014 fire season and last year's 13,000 acre Johnson Bar Fire in particular. Work on the Middle Fork Vegetation Management Project EIS was cancelled as a result of a large portion of the project being burned by the fire. Instead the Forests shifted focus towards salvage and rehabilitation opportunities.

The time sensitivity required by salvage planning required the Forests to reprioritize some ongoing NEPA projects while the Johnson Bar Fire Salvage EIS was developed. Scoping for that project, initiated in mid-October 2014, proposed approximately 3,000 acres of salvage harvest to create desired conditions such as promoting establishment of resilient species and early seral conditions; reducing future fuel loadings and watershed restoration while recovering some timber value burned in the fire. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released for comment in mid-April, 2015 which was an impressive accomplishment given the project's size and complexity. Up-front involvement by the Regulatory Agencies in the development of the proposed action and in subsequent consultation allowed the process to move efficiently. Release of the Final EIS and Draft Record of Decision were unexpectedly delayed by the historic fire season the Forests experienced in 2015, however the project is currently in the final days of the objection period. Resolution of objections and a Final Decision are expected early in the 2nd quarter of FY 2016.

Steady progress was made on the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration Project and a Final Decision will be signed

as soon as the final Biological Opinion (BO) is received from the National Marine Fisheries Service. As of this writing the final BO is pending. The Final EIS and Draft Record of Decision for Clear Creek were released in late February, 2015 (see media links section) and three objections were received and addressed. After review, the Forests received instruction from the Regional Forester to update the wildlife and fisheries sections which was completed in consultation with the Regulatory Agencies and Nez Perce Tribe.

The Clear Creek project has been the focus and cornerstone of the Selway-Middle Fork's CFLR landscape since early in the program. At almost 10,000 acres of treatment, the project is ambitious and has drawn controversy; however the Forests and the CBC are committed to ensuring the project results in meaningful landscape outcomes. Considerable energy has been invested towards resolving concerns both formally and informally through the objections process, collaborative efforts and other diplomatic approaches.

The Lowell WUI project was also initiated with scoping in October of 2014 (FY 15). Proposed actions would reduce fuels on approximately 300 acres surrounding the community of Lowell, Idaho. The project was originally scoped as an Environmental Assessment utilizing the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) authorities; however, after discussion with the Idaho Roadless Commission, it was decided that the Farm Bill amended HFRA CE authorities would be a better planning tool considering the increasing insect and disease mortality and allow for additional efficiencies. The 2015 fire season again reinforced the need for community protection projects such as Lowell WUI, but at the same time caused delays in completing the decision for Lowell WUI. The project is now back on track and a Decision Memo is expected by the end of 1st quarter of FY 16 (December, 2015).

Forest Management

Forest management and timber harvest activities continued on both the Lodge Point Commercial Thin (sold FY 12) and Iron Mountain Vegetation Restoration Projects (sold FY 14) this year. When complete, these projects will have contributed over 10 million feet of timber to local mills while reducing fuels in the WUI areas of Lowell and Elk City, as well as improving the resilience of forests within the project area. The nearly three quarters of a million dollars in retained receipts generated by the Iron Mountain Project contributed significantly towards additional forestwide accomplishments by funding other restoration activities.

Watershed Restoration

The watershed restoration program and longstanding partnership between the Forests and Nez Perce Tribe continues to benefit immensely from the CFLR program. The Forests reinvested an additional \$400,000 in an agreement with Tribe's Department of Watershed Resources Management in order build capacity and continue watershed restoration activities across the project area. The Tribe has a vested interest in restoration of this landscape and brings important resources, expertise as well as financial support to the program. Completion of watershed restoration activities such as culvert replacement, road decommissioning and road improvements are an important step towards the overall landscape and forest restoration program as well. By accomplishing these activities ahead and independent of the forest restoration, the Forests are able to demonstrate the upward trend required in some watersheds before vegetation and timber management activities can take place. CFLR funding has been vital in accomplishing these activities that would have been historically tied to a timber project.

Trail Management

Trail management has been an under celebrated, yet large component of the Selway-Middle Fork Project since the Project's selection in 2010. Give the Project's unique mix of Wilderness and Roadless areas; a well maintained trail system is vital in providing administrative access for Wilderness management and fire management, as well as providing recreational access for the public.

Due to additional CFLRP funding targeted to the Forests trails program, the Forest was able to open and accomplish critical deferred trail maintenance earlier in the spring season and later in the fall season on primary access trails in the CFLR project area. This work also aided in protecting critical watershed resources by repairing

slides and stabilizing sources of runoff that could potentially result in erosion. This supplemental funding enabled the Forests to invest in partnership trail maintenance crews, utilizing Montana Conservation Corps, Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, and Valley Cat trail maintenance crews. These crews productively opened and maintained trails all season including performing repair of trails in fire affected areas, brushing and heavy deferred maintenance work.

MCC crews in the CFLRA area cut 2,419 trees out of trail corridors, brushed and/or repaired tread on 76 miles of trail, maintained 908 drainage structures, built 25 feet of rock wall, and built 1 puncheon bridge.

SBFC crews maintained 392 miles of trail this year. They cut 3903 trees out of the trail, brushed 136 miles of trail, and repaired 31 miles of tread, and hiked over 2000 miles collectively.

NSA (National Smokejumpers Association) maintained 6 miles.

Valley Cats (motorized off-road user organization) opened, brushed and repaired 13 miles of trail outside the wilderness in the CFLRA area.

Invasive Species Management

The Nez Perce-Clearwater Invasive Plant Management program treated approximately 3,050 acres of invasive plant species in the CFLRA project area. The CFLRA area is part of the Upper Clearwater Cooperative Weed Management area, which emphasizes early detection and rapid response of new invaders. Spraying of herbicide was the primary treatment mechanism and was completed through an IDIQ contact, Forest Service personnel, and several partners: Back Country Horseman, Idaho County Weed Department, Nez Perce Tribe Bio-control Center, and Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Division. Focus of the program was treatment of new invaders in the wilderness, Forest Service/private land boundary, highly traveled roadways and trails, and education.

Education is a key part of the Invasive weed management program. Forest Service recreation personnel, Nez Perce Tribe, and Back Country horseman are key advocates in the back country and wilderness. Education materials and posters are posted at trailheads and passed out at community events. A two-day, multi-agency cooperative event, titled "2015 Native & Invasive Species Workshop", provided 60+ individuals with quality information and pesticide applicator license credits. Agreements with University of Montana, University of Idaho, and Idaho Fish and Game provide further education and monitoring opportunities. An additional accomplishment was 87,000 acres of invasive weed inventory completed by the Nez Perce Tribe Bio-control Center in the Selway River drainage; 10,000 acres (identified through modeling) was focused survey. The discovery of Rush Skeletonweed, a particularly invasive species, in the CFLR area has triggered a new focus and plan of action for future invasive weed project priorities.

In concert with regional forest carnivore monitoring priorities on the Nez-Clearwater and Bitterroot Forests, crews established 10 bait station/camera set sites during the winter of 2014-2015 do collect data on rare species presence and habitat preferences for fisher, wolverine and lynx. The data collected from these surveys will provide valuable baseline information on habitat use and populations of these species that will apply to project work outside the Wilderness on both Forests.

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?¹⁵

Fiscal Year	Total number of acres treated (treatment footprint)
FY15	24,741
FY10 thru FY14	81,705
Total project footprint to-date	106,446¹⁶

Footprint by Fiscal Year (acres)
FY10 – 5,784
FY11 –16,768
FY12 – 24,597
FY13 – 29,509
FY14 – 5,04717
FY15 – 24,741

Please briefly describe how you arrived at the total number of footprint acres: what approach did you use to calculate the footprint?

Approach used to calculate the footprint

Approach	Acres/Miles
Road decom	4 acres/mile
Culvert replace	0.1 ac each
Bridge replace	0.1 ac each
Road improve/maint	4 ac/mile
Trail Imp/maint	0.5 ac mile
Fuels/Fire	acres
Wildlife	acres (no duplication with fire)
Veg improve/est -)	acres (no duplication)
Weed treatment	acres
Timber acres treated	acres

9. Describe any reasons that the FY 2015 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).

Cumulative accomplishments are generally tracking consistent with planned expectations outlined in the Selway Middle Fork CFLR proposal and 10 Year Expected Outputs report. Now six year’s into the program, most reporting areas are nearing or above 60 percent of planned expectations with several areas in excess of 100 percent. Notable exceptions in the timber sale acres and volume sold are expected to be resolved and caught up to planned levels when the final Records of Decision are signed in early FY 16 for the Clear Creek Integrated Restoration (CCIR) Project and Johnson Bar Fire Salvage Project. Implementation of the CCIR project constitutes the bulk of the landscape level planning that the Forests and CBC have been working on since early in the CFLR program. The timber and /or stewardship sales associated with that decision are expected to last well beyond the end of the

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Does not include weed acres treated by biocontrols since accurate acreage assessment is difficult. Estimated to be approx. 50,000 additional acres treated by biocontrols yearly.

¹⁷ Reduction in annual accomplishment due to resource benefit fire acreages not being claimed in FY 14 as a result of active management beyond the end of the fiscal year.

10 year CFLR project timeframe.

ESA consultation continues to be a time consuming process for the Forests, and Regulatory Agencies to work through and has resulted in accomplishments not being met as planned for some of the larger, landscape scale projects. The Selway Middle Fork Landscape is fortunate to provide important habitat for a variety of listed species, however the juxtaposition of habitat for threatened or endangered species against the areas most critically in need of restoration has proven to be a challenge for project development and planning. Personnel turnover and capacity issues within each of the respective Agencies has caused additional challenges and made it difficult to nurture the long term relationships necessary for efficient consultation to occur. Each of the Agencies have been working diligently to better align their missions and working relationships and significant progress has been made towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the process. As an example, the National Marine Fisheries Services assigned a hydrologist to the Forest's Interdisciplinary Team to help in the early stages of project design for the Johnson Bar Fire Salvage project so that subsequent consultation could be accomplished in a timely and well-informed manner. To-date the process is working very well.

10. Planned FY 2017 Accomplishments¹⁸

Performance Measure Code ¹⁹	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount (\$)
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience WTRSHD-RSTR-ANN	Acres	N/A	N/A
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	550	\$162,104
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	150	\$22,350.00
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	3,500	\$350,000
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC	Acres	N/A	N/A
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions. S&W-RSRC-IMP	Acres	N/A	N/A
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-LAK	Acres	N/A	N/A
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	Integrated	N/A
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	N/A	N/A
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved RG-VEG-IMP	Acres	N/A	N/A
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN	Miles	30	\$50,000
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	100	\$176,000
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	10	\$70,000
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	12	\$205,000

¹⁸ Please note that planned accomplishments are aggregated across the projects to determine the proposed goals for the program's outyear budget justification. These numbers should reflect what is in the CFLRP work plan, with deviations described in question 12.

¹⁹ Please include all relevant planned accomplishments, assuming that funding specified in the CFLRP project proposal for FY 2017 is available. Use actual planned funding if quantity is less than specified in CFLRP project work plan.

Performance Measure Code ¹⁹	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount (\$)
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	4	\$40,000
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage STRM-CROS-MTG-STD	Number	3	\$220,000
Miles of system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD	Miles	720	\$550,600
Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD	Miles	20	\$130,000
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard LND-BL-MRK-MAINT	Miles	N/A	N/A
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	N/A	Associated with below costs
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	112,459	Associated with below costs
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	28,300	\$650,000 CFLN
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	N/A	Associated with volume sold
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	2,500	\$250,000
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	1,250	\$100,000
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands SP-INVSP-FED-AC	Acres	N/A	N/A
Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests on Federal lands SP-NATIVE-FED-AC	Acres	N/A	N/A

11. Planned FY 2017 accomplishment narrative (no more than 1 page).

Watershed restoration activities, weed treatments, wildlife habitat improvements, fuel reductions and road and trail maintenance are expected to be accomplished commensurate with current levels or levels identified on the ten year Project Expected Outputs report. Additionally there are plans to accomplish some costly but critical maintenance on a portion of the upper Selway Road that continues to slump into the river causing sedimentation. Planned accomplishments are assuming CFLN funding remains at current levels.

12. Describe and provide narrative justification if planned FY 2016/17 accomplishments and/or funding differs from CFLRP project work plan (no more than 1 page):

The impacts of the FY 2015 fire season are still being assessed. It is possible that the Forest may need to divert resources and capacity towards rehabilitation and restoration of fire impacted areas outside the CFLRP area, which could have an effect on the FY 17 CFLRP Program of Work. It is too early to quantify the effects and subsequent adjustments that may need to be made in the outyears, however. The Forests will continue to work with the Region and partners to ensure resources are utilized most effectively and priority work continues.

13. Please include an up to date list of the members of your collaborative (name and affiliation, if there is one). If the information is available online, you can simply include the hyperlink here. If you have engaged new

collaborative members this year, please provide a brief description of their engagement.

Name	Organization	Affiliation
Aaron Miles	Nez Perce Tribe	Tribal Government
Alex Irby	PLAY	Motorized Recreation
Bill Higgins	Idaho Forest Group	Wood Products
Bill Warren	U of I, Clearwater Co Extension	Rural Economics
Brad Brooks	The Wilderness Society	Conservation
Dale Harris	Great Burn Study Group	Conservation
David Galantuomini	PLAY, Lewiston OHV Club	Motorized Recreation
David Cadwallader	Citizen at large	n/a
Don EbertClearwater	County Commissioners	Local Government
Greg Danly	Empire Lumber	Wood Products
Holly Endersby	Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Sportsmen
Jerome Hanson	Idaho Fish and Game	Director Clearwater
RegioJonathan	OppenheimerIdaho Conservation League Joyce DearstyneFraming our Community Business Development	
Larry Jakub	Citizen at large Citizen	n/a
Leo Crane	Lake & Leather Outfitters	Outfitters & Guides
Norm Tomlinson	Associated Loggers	Wood Products
Orville Daniels	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	Conservation
Randy Doman	Citizen at Large	Multipule Use
Robyn Miller	The Nature Conservancy	Conservation
Ron Aldrich	Citizen at Large	Local Business
Scott Stouder	Trout Unlimited	Conservation
Skip Brandt	Idaho County Commissioners	Local Government

14. How has your project increased support from partners in terms of in-kind contributions and funding?

(no more than one page):

The success of the CBYCC program has drawn financial and in-kind support from other Agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Labor and Bureau of Land Management. The program will again expand in 2016 to include additional partner work in the Clearwater Basin. Please see question 4 above for more information on the Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Corp.

15. Media recap. Please share with us any hyperlinks to videos, newspaper articles, press releases, scholarly works, and photos of your project in the media that you have available.

[New methods reduce firefighting danger](#)

During recent battles, agency officials discover that creating fuel breaks can help make missions safer.

SYRINGA - Swan Creek and Smith Creek roads parallel each other as they climb from U.S. Highway 12 and arch above this tiny community along the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River.

But the roads that pass through thick timber are different in key ways when seen through the eyes of firefighters.

The tops of trees that spring from the shoulders on either side of Swan Creek Road nearly touch, leaving the narrow lane dark and shady and perhaps claustrophobic to some travelers. Trees were thinned for 30 feet on either side of the first four miles of Smith Creek Road, leaving it sunny and airy. A few small timber sales open portions of

the road even further, and prescribed fire has been used to knock back undergrowth.

The thinning, logging and burning was called for by Phase 2 of the Interface Fuels Project, a small bite of the larger Selway-Middle Fork Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project. The goal was to create fuel breaks in the forest such that a crown fire - the type that jumps from treetop to treetop in dense forest - would be slowed or give firefighters safe access to make a stand against advancing flames.

Forest managers and firefighters say that goal was realized in August when the Woodrat Fire was marching toward private property and homes at Syringa. On Aug. 21, the second cold front in a week was bearing down on north central Idaho. The first, on Aug. 14, came on the heels of a lightning storm that started more than 60 fires. It led to rapid spread of the Lawyer 2 Fire that consumed more than 50 homes near Kamiah.

That same lightning bust started the Woodrat Fire on federal ground high above the Middle Fork. With firefighting resources stretched thin, the fire grew. By the time fire teams were able to marshal resources, the fire was well established. At times it was creeping for much of the day but afternoon winds sent it racing upslope.

Firefighters hoped to keep the blaze from crossing Swan Creek Road as it traveled downhill toward Syringa. But the closed canopy gave them few options. When firefighters attempted to make their stand, they faced dangerous conditions. The fire was burning in stands intermixed with western red cedar, and the tall trees were falling at an interval of one about every 20 minutes.

"You could almost set your watch by it," said Aaron Skinner, a fire foreman on the Lochsa Ranger District.

Skinner said it was clear they couldn't hold the road, so firefighters, including a hot shot crew, pulled out, monitored the blaze and made other plans. They notified landowners, called for the evacuation of Syringa and drew up a strategy to anchor their firefighting efforts off of Smith Creek Road where the fuel reduction work gave them a more secure environment to work.

The plan was to have hot shots hike above the road, toward the flames that were backing down slope, and start a series of back fires that would burn upslope and consume fuels in front of the main fire front.

Before such operations are undertaken, firefighters typically prep the area by thinning on either side of the road. Since Smith Creek had been pre-treated during the fuel-reduction project, valuable time was saved, Lochsa Ranger District Assistant Fire Management Officer Neal Cox said.

That night, they did the burnout operation and brought the fire downslope "under our own terms," Skinner said.

Mike Ward, coordinator of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project, said the fuel treatment worked as advertised. The logging, thinning and prescribed burning made it safe for firefighters to deploy their strategy.

"It's nice to know these things work," he said.

Now forest officials hope to expand on the idea and do similar projects around other communities. Ward said a plan is in the works to protect nearby Lowell. There are side benefits as well. The logging associated with the work brought in \$140,000 that forest officials were able to spend on water-quality improvement projects in the area, such as the replacement of culverts. It also created modest openings that Jerome Hansen, supervisor of the Clearwater region of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, said are good for wildlife like elk.

To Skinner, the fire foreman, it makes sense.

"We recommend people keep defensible space around their homes, (so) why not do that in the forest?" he said.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/outdoors/2015/feb/26/clearwater-collaborative-says-working-together-works/>

PUBLIC LANDS -- The Clearwater Basin Collaborative, a working group of various interests, from recreation and conservation to the timber industry, has issued a report listing its accomplishments in working out management issues for the Clearwater-Nez Perce National Forests.

<http://www.idahocountyfreepress.com/news/2015/feb/05/clear-creek-restoration-moves-forward/>

KAMIAH — The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests have released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision (ROD) that proposes a comprehensive program of restoration activities within the Clear Creek drainage, located in the Moose Creek Ranger District. It is the first large-scale suite of restoration projects analyzed as part of the Selway-Middle Fork Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) strategy. The project is notable because it considers a larger area with more extensive restoration treatments than most Forest analyses.

Signatures:

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)): Mike Ward

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s))²⁰: /s/ Cheryl F. Probert, Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Supervisor

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)): /s/ Julie King, Bitterroot Forest Supervisor

Appendix A – Match Summary

PARTNER, IN-KIND and VOLUNTEER

Partner / Cooperator Name	Match Amount
Nez Perce Tribe - Annual fisheries restoration program	\$916,000.00
Idaho Fish and Game - recurrent/ annual wildlife/habitat management	\$135,000.00
CBYCC Youth program - partner cash contributions	\$21,000.00
Outfitter In-Kind - weed treatments	\$5,000.00
CBC collaboration in-kind, monitoring and CFLR program management	\$73,940.85
Total	\$1,150,940.85

2015 AGREEMENTS

Match Amount (In-Kind and Non-	Cooperator Cash Contributions)
AGR - Selway Bitterroot Foundation - Trail Crew Liaison	\$29,963.40
AGR - Selway Bitterroot Foundation - Trail Maintenance	\$23,992.80
AGR - Montana Conservation Corp - Trail Maintenance	\$66,648.00
AGR - Clearwater RC&D - CFLRP Monitoring	\$31,592.00
AGR - University of Montana - Weed Surveys	\$2,484.26
AGR - Clearwater RC&D - Wildlife Habitat Monitoring	\$61,500.00
AGR - Clearwater RC&D - Clearwater basin Youth Conservation Corps	\$13,533.14
AGR - Idaho Dept of Fish and Game - High Mountain Lake Surveys	\$23,372.40
AGR - Boise State University - Avian Surveys	\$24,976.08
AGR - Nez Perce Tribe - Biocontrol/Weed Management	\$27,866.25
AGR - Nez Perce Tribe - Watershed Restoration	\$109,075.82
AGR - Valley Cats - Trail Mtce	\$7,817.00
Total	\$422,821.15

²⁰ If your project includes more than one National Forest, please include an additional line for each Forest Supervisor signature.

PARTNER, IN-KIND and VOLUNTEER

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AGR - Valley Cats - Trail Mtce	\$7,817.00
Total	\$422,821.15

Partner	Amount
CFLN	\$2,145,970.28
CFLR	n/a
WFHF (CFLN)	n/a
NFRR (CFLN)	\$1,551,650.00
Total CFLR program funding	\$3,697,620.28

Totals	Amount
Total FY 14 Partner Match	\$1,573,762.00
Total FY 14 FS Appropriated	\$548,184.86
Product Value	\$279,470.03
Total Project Match	\$1,853,232.03
CFLN	n/a
Total FY 14 Program	\$5,550,852.31

Percent Contribution	Percent
Percent CFLN	66.61%
Percent FS Match	33.39%