CFLR Project (Name/Number): SHORTLEAF-BLUESTEM COMMUNITY/CFLR018
***National Forest(s):* OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST**

1. Match and Leveraged funds:

a. FY16 Matching Funds Documentation

Fund Source – (CFLN/CFLR Funds Expended)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016($)
CFLN13	$37,223
CFLN16	$1,176,916

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.

Fund Source – (Funds expended from Washington Office funds (in addition to CFLR/CFLN) (please include a new row for each BLI))	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016($)
WFHF16	$58,000
WFHF14	$487,398
NFTM16	$282,937
NFWF16	$215,000

Due to year-end deadlines, an adjustment showing appropriate expenditures in a CFLRP-tagged job code (CFTM1816) was not completed. This resulted in an approximately $117,063 of the supplemental $400,000 not recorded in gPAS despite appropriate expenditures for timber sale preparation and administration on CFLRP projects.[1]

Fund Source – (FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI))	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016($)
CWKV13	$339,664
SSCC13	$118,956
CMRD16	$61,186
NFTM15	$356,819
NFVW16	$459,662
NFWF16	$34,127
WFHF16	$496,485

SSCC13 includes $100,000 of the 118,956 from retained receipts under the Buffalo II Stewardship Project that was used on a non-direct funded soil and water project. NFTM15/NFVW16 includes $318,750 from FNVW – Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership project funds. Total WFHF reported in database of record is $1,021,175.[2]

[1] 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.

[2] This amount should match the amount of matching funds obligated in the gPAS expenditure report, minus the Washington Office funds listed in the box above and any partner funds contributed through agreements (such as NFEX, SPEX, WFEX, CMEX, and CWFS) listed in the box below.

Fund Source – (Funds contributed through agreements)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016($)
N/A	N/A

Please document any partner contributions to implementation and monitoring of the CFLR project through an income funds agreement (this should include partner funds captured through the gPAS job reports such as NFEX, SPEX, WFEX, CMEX, and CWFS). Please list the partner organizations involved in the agreement. Partner contributions for Fish, Wildlife, Watershed work can be found in WIT database.

Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016($)
Arkansas State University (Turkey monitoring, presentations)	$12,200
National Wild Turkey Federation (Turkey monitoring, stewardship)	$2,200
University of Arkansas, Monticello (Economic monitoring)	$4,865
USFS Northern Research (Bird monitoring)	$4,000
University of Missouri (Bird monitoring)	$3,480
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (Collaboration, turkey coord.)	$2,800
Native Expeditions (Environmental education)	$17,900
Buffalo River National Park Service (Prescribed burning)	$42,000
The Nature Conservancy (Vegetative monitoring)	$12,753
Southern Research Station (Soft mast monitoring)	$500
Natural Resources Conservation Service – Oklahoma	$3,500
Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium (field trip logistics)	$7,080

Total partner in-kind contributions for implementation and monitoring of a CFLR project. Please list the partner organizations that provided in-kind contributions.

For contracts Awarded in FY16:

Service work accomplished through goods-for Services funding within a stewardship contract	Totals
Total revised non-monetary credit limit for contracts awarded in FY16	$0

This should be the amount in contract's "Progress Report for Stewardship Credits, Integrated Resources Contracts or Agreements" in cell J46, the "Revised Non-Monetary Credit Limit," as of September 30. Additional information on the Progress Reports is available in CFLR Annual Report Instructions document. Note: revised non-monetary credit limit for contracts awarded in FY16 were captured in the FY15 CFLR annual report.

b. Please provide a narrative or table describing leveraged funds in your landscape in FY2016 (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, research conducted that helps project achieve proposed objectives, and purchase of equipment for wood processing that will use restoration by-products from CFLR projects. See "Instructions" document for additional information.

Description of item	Where activity/item is located or impacted area	Estimated total amount	Forest Service or Partner Funds?	Source of funds
NRCS Western Arkansas Woodland Restoration Project (JCLRP)	**Shortleaf Bluestem Impact Area counties within 10 miles of CFLRP**	**$403,891**	**Forest Service funds, Partner Funds**	**USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service**
NEPA Planning – Includes inventories for cultural resources, biological resources, roads, and CSE; analysis and documentation; GIS support; support services; and fuels	**West Walker, West Haw, Golden Branch, North Blue Mountain, Cold Springs – Poteau Salvage, Porter Creek, Cove Creek, Bill Branch, and West Chula**	**$411,000**	**X Forest Service funds** **Partner Funds**	**NFTM, NFWF, WFHF, NFVW.**
Red-cockaded Woodpecker habitat improvement by prescribed burning	**McCurtain County Wilderness Area (MCWA)**	**$138,363**	**Forest Service funds** **X Parner Funds**	**Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC)**

Habitat improvement work was conducted cooperatively with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) by prescribed burning 8,139 acres in the McCurtain County Wilderness Area, which is surrounded by the Shortleaf-Bluestem Community CFLR Project.

In the final year of the Western Arkansas Woodland Restoration Project (WAWRP), a Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, the NRCS spent $403,891 on EQIP projects for individual landowners within 10 miles of the counties where CFLRP area is designated. The specific EQIP projects funded included CFLRP-related methods such as blading fire lines, executing prescribed burns, timber and wildlife stand improvements and timber sales.

In FY16, CFLR project inventory (cultural resource, biological, road, common stand exam, soil), environmental analysis and documentation (NEPA), and associated GIS and support services totaled approximately $411,000. This included NEPA decisions on prescribed burning (Golden Branch, North Blue Mountain, Porter Creek, Cove Creek, and Bill Branch) as well as watersheds West Walker and West Haw involving all of the methods within the CFLRP project proposal.

2. Please tell us about the CFLR **project's progress to date in restoring a more fire-adapted ecosystem as described in the project proposal**, and how it has contributed to the wildland fire goals in the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*. This may also include a brief 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). ***Where existing fuel treatments within the landscape are tested by wildfire, please include a summary and reference the fuel treatment effectiveness report.***

During fiscal year 2016 we treated over 66,000 acres of the landscape within the project area with prescribed fire. Treatments are designed to restore fire-adapted ecosystems through the reintroduction of fire onto the landscape. Prescribed fire treatments designed to reduce fire intensities conform to the National Fire Plan by reducing hazardous fuels. No significant wildfire occurred within the treatment area during this time. As more and more prescribed fire is added to the landscape, we anticipate the occurrence of wildfire within the treated areas to increase but the resistance to control and fire behavior characteristics decrease.

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 – Restoration documents cflrp R CAT TREAT User Guide 10 11 2011.

FY 2016 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY16 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover funding):

Project Type	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) Direct	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) Total	Labor Income - Direct	Labor Income - Total
Timber harvesting component	38	52	$2,107,565	$2,819,986
Forest and watershed restoration component	3	3	$34,033	$55,261
Mill processing component	49	126	$3,180,126	$7,443,514
Implementation and monitoring	15	19	$674,339	$819,931
Other Project Activities				
TOTALS:	**104**	**200**	**$5,996,063**	**$11,138,691**

FY 2016 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY16 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover **and matching funding**):

Project Type	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) Direct	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) Total	Labor Income - Direct	Labor Income - Total
Timber harvesting component	57	79	$3,188,490	$4,266,297
Forest and watershed restoration component	11	13	$147,179	$212,841
Mill processing component	73	187	$4,786,277	$11,165,834

Project Type	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) Direct	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) Total	Labor Income - Direct	Labor Income - Total
Implementation and monitoring	32	41	$1,623,557	$1,974,087
Other Project Activities				
TOTALS:	**173**	**321**	**$9,745,503**	**$17,619,059**

Values obtained from Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT) spreadsheet, "Impacts-Jobs and Income" tab. Spreadsheet and directions available at http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/submittingproposals.shtml#tools.

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). *If you have one story you could tell a member of Congress or other key stakeholder about the benefits in the community the project has helped achieve, what would it be?*

Vegetative monitoring with The Nature Conservancy: TNC completed plant community monitoring on 50 permanent micro-plots within the CFLRP area in Arkansas in FY 2016. During the actual monitoring time period, crews stayed in local hotels and purchased numerous meals from local restaurants and stores, thus adding to the local economy.

Bird monitoring with USFS Northern Research Station and Central Hardwoods Joint Venture: In 2015, bird monitoring was conducted by the USFS Northern Research Station in collaboration with the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture at 100 point locations. This work involved hiring a graduate research student to supervise the project and two technicians to assist with the surveys. These surveys also boost local economies with lodging and meals, etc. These bird points are located at the vegetation plots established by TNC. This coordination of survey points will allow comparison of flora and fauna changes over time at the same point on the landscape. To date bird point monitoring has occurred in FY13, FY14 and FY15. A report was received in FY 2016. FY16 Funding: No CFLR funding was used in FY 16. In kind contributions were $7,480.

In 2016, **according to the TREAT model, approximately 33.7% of the timber sold off the Ouachita National Forest came off the CFLRP area**. This timber from the CFLRP area is valued at over $1,072,843 on the stump and equates to 56,153 ccf. Sawmills processing that timber hired or steadily employed about 187 employees and had around 79 loggers involved in the cutting of the timber. In FY 2016, all timber sold within the CFLRP areas was bought by purchasers within the impact area. Timber purchases in FY 2016 are shown below:

Location of Purchaser	Volume of Timber Sold (ccf)	Sale Value ($)	Within CFLRP Impact Area?
Polk County, Arkansas	29,276	$549,276	Yes
Conway County, Arkansas	3,533	$50,737	Yes
Scott County, Arkansas	19,863	$302,668	Yes
Howard County, Arkansas	4,519	$113,721	Yes
McCurtain County, Oklahoma	1,962	$56,438	Yes
TOTAL	**56,153**	**$1,072,843**	

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	$59,508.00	Yes
CFWF		$30,015.00	Yes
CFLN	Scott County, AR	$74,392.00	Yes
CFKV		$6,009.00	Yes
CFVW		$41,000.00	Yes
CFLN	Polk County, AR	$32,000.00	Yes
CFHF		$18,000.00	Yes
CFKV		$9,000.00	Yes
CFTM		$6,300.00	Yes
Total		**$276,224.00**	

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).

Economic Monitoring – University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM): As a part of CFLRP, economic impacts of restoration activities were modeled by a graduate student at the University of Arkansas, Monticello using Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN), a regional economic simulation model. A regional economic area was defined which included 17 counties from Arkansas and Oklahoma: Conway, Garland, Hot Spring, Howard, Little River, Logan, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Polk, Pope, Pulaski, Scott, Sebastian, and Yell are the 15 counties of Arkansas and LeFlore and McCurtain counties are of Oklahoma. These counties are selected because they represent the primary impact area of the restoration project. IMPLAN was designed by the US Forest Service to estimate regional economic impacts for National Forests. It estimates local economic impacts based on the input-output model (Nielsen-Pincus and Moseley 2013). The graduate student performed work in FY 2015 and FY 2016 using inputs from FY 2014 work. Attributable to work in FY14, the Shortleaf-Bluestem Community Restoration Project (SBCR) created a total of 134 jobs at the regional and state levels (Arkansas and Oklahoma). Modeling findings include the following impacts from all funding:

Impacts on five sectors within Arkansas and Oklahoma in Fiscal Year 2014 (including impacts from CFLN, match, in-kind, and leveraged funds)

Category	Sectors	Direct	Indirect	Induced	Total
Employment	Agriculture	18.5	0.5	1.2	20.2
Employment	Manufacturing	11.7	1.5	5.0	18.2
Employment	Retail	0.6	1.0	11.8	13.4

Category	Sectors	Direct	Indirect	Induced	Total
Employment	Services	5.7	5.1	47.4	58.2
Employment	Government	16.9	0.1	7.1	24.1
Total Employment	**All Sectors**	**53.4**	**8.2**	**72.5**	**134.1**
Total Value Added	Agriculture	362,454.7	21,836.0	59,058.3	443,349.1
Total Value Added	Manufacturing	982,706.1	263,859.9	911,496.7	2,158,062.8
Total Value Added	Retail	26,715.7	88,131.9	794,716.3	909,563.8
Total Value Added	Services	291,209.7	463,886.6	4,026,871.1	4,781,967.4
Total Value Added	Government	2,834,887.7	8,583.5	603,458.0	3,446,929.2
Total Value Added	**All Sectors**	**4,497,973.9**	**846,297.9**	**6,395,600.4**	**11,739,872.0**
Output	Agriculture	595,667.9	49,007.6	168,756.9	813,432.4
Output	Manufacturing	1,599,139.9	797,069.7	2,419,113.6	4,815,323.2
Output	Retail	37,495.8	126,552.5	1,143,110.0	1,307,158.3
Output	Services	518,534.6	728,440.9	6,378,298.1	7,625,273.6
Output	Government	2,847,791.6	14,789.0	674,268.5	3,536,849.1
Total Output	**All Sectors**	**5,598,629.8**	**1,715,859.7**	**10,783,547.1**	**18,098,036.6**

Vegetation Monitoring – The Nature Conservancy: In January of 2016, TNC submitted the final draft of the baseline plant community monitoring report to the US Forest Service. This report was based on data that was collected in 2012 and 2013. In June of 2016, TNC collected plant community monitoring data from 50 permanent macroplots on the Oklahoma Ranger District on the Ouachita National Forest. These data, along with data from 50 more macroplots in Arkansas (collected in 2015), will be analyzed and included in the 2017 CFLRP plant community monitoring report.

The report submitted in 2016 compared baseline conditions to the desired ecological conditions for the CFLRP area. Analyses showed that 18% of the landscape was in the desired woodland condition (basal area of 35-70 ft^2/acre). Five percent of the landscape was in early seral stage, which met the forest objective. Many areas were still dominated by loblolly pine, rather than the desired overstory species: shortleaf pine. This was most evident in the Oklahoma macroplots. Overall, there was a scarcity of large overstory shortleaf pine trees (> 24" diameter-at-breast-height). Midstory tree density was much higher than desired across the landscape, regardless of covertype or topographic position. In light of this, treatments targeting the midstory layer should be an efficient and effective way of transitioning the system to the desired 80%+ woodland coverage in the landscape. The ground layer had high diversity in terms of species richness, but contained too many woody species and fewer graminoids than desired. Non-native species occurred at low frequencies and low abundances, which met the desired levels for the project area.

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.

Bird Monitoring – Northern Research Station/University of Missouri: Northern Research Station (NRS), along with University of Missouri (UM) and Central Hardwoods Joint Venture (CHJV) implemented bird monitoring to 1) determine changes in abundance in response to restoration activities in the cooperative forest landscape restoration project (CFLR) and 2) determine relationships between bird abundance and vegetation structure, composition, and management. Objective 1 will require bird surveys spaced over the duration of the project. However, initial results from objective 2 will be available after 3 years based on the current variation in structure and management that has already taken place.

NRS completed diurnal point count bird surveys at 95 points throughout the ONF (46 points in Oklahoma and 49 in Arkansas) in June 2015. These were the same points surveyed in 2013 and 2014; however, we were unable to reach 5 points in Oklahoma this past summer due to road conditions. Field crews surveyed bird abundance using point counts designed to estimate bird densities as opposed to relative abundance by accounting for species detectability. Detectability will be estimated using distance and time of detection models. Any points that received management activity (e.g. burn or thinning) after the initial vegetation survey in 2013 were re-measured in 2015. Total detections by species for all three years are listed below. Similar numbers of birds across all three years with the exception of a noticeable increase in Summer Tanager detections in 2015.

Data was analyzed to predict abundance of focal species in relation to key habitat parameters such as tree density, pine basal area, and fire history. In 2016 a final report was produced that explains results of this first phase of the bird monitoring for the cooperative forest landscape restoration project.

Species	Number of Detections in 2013	Number of Detections in 2014	Number of Detections in 2015
Acadian flycatcher	1	5	0
Bachman's Sparrow	2	1	1
Black-and-white warbler	3	8	8
Brown-headed Nuthatch	17	4	5
Eastern towhee	5	10	10
Eastern wood-pewee	23	29	21
Kentucky warbler	10	21	17
Northern Bobwhite	2	11	12
Ovenbird	6	7	7
Pine warbler	121	185	153
Prairie warbler	48	40	32
Red-cockaded woodpecker	0	1	0
Red-headed woodpecker	6	4	2
Summer tanager	78	70	111
White-eyed vireo	21	13	13
Worm-eating warbler	7	3	5
Wood thrush	0	1	0
Yellow-breasted chat	52	82	54

Soft Mast Monitoring – Southern Research Station/Stephen F. Austin University: The Southern Research Station participated in monitoring soft mast production in pine woodland forest restoration areas on the Ouachita National Forest. The project was initiated in August, 2014, and field for season 1 was completed in August 2015. Season 2 field work has also been completed and analysis of all field data has been initiated to measure the percent cover of mast producing species, analyzing fruit samples to determine production and analyze dry mass measurements.

6. **FY 2016 accomplishments**.

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost ($)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	165 248 215	$25,281 $9,672 $27,735	CFLN CWKV RTRT
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	658 1,046 25	$100,819 $160,038 $3,225	CFLN NFVW RTRT
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions. S&W-RSRC-IMP	Acres	268	$4,556	NFVW
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	24,811 7,196 515 722 2,797	$322,543 $280,005 $21,630 $249,090 $47,549	CFLN CWKV NFTM NFWF WFHF
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved RG-VEG-IMP	Acres	655	$100,215	NFVW
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	None		
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	6.3*	$25,830	CMRD *Difficulties in entering accomplishments caused no entries to be picked up by gPAS in INFRA

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost ($)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	5.8*	$31,320	CMRD *Difficulties in entering accomplishments caused no entries to be picked up by gPAS in INFRA
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	1,579 1,275 85 582	$78,950 $57,375 $4,250 $29,100	CFLN NFTM NONE SPFH
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	63,258	Treatment costs included in TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC (above)	NFTM
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	51,625 13,511 2,802	$529,441 $560,751 $72,852	CFLN NFTM SSSS
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	6,773	Treatment cost for this measure included with TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC (above)	NONE
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	1,427 267 963 131 12,173	$18,551 $10,413 $147,339 $16,899 $206,941	CFLN CWKV NFVW RTRT WFHF

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost ($)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	10,658 898 68 1,147 311 42,922	$138,554 $35,022 $10,404 $28,675 $5,287 $729,674	CFLN CWKV NFVW NONE SPFH WFHF

Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record. Please include the type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) if you have accurate information that is readily available. Please report each BLI on a separate line within a given performance measures' "Type of Funds" box.

7. **FY 2016 accomplishment narrative** – Summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress not already described elsewhere in this report. (Please limit answer to three pages.)

Good prescribed burning windows combined with adequate personnel on the ground led the Ouachita to a prescribed burning total unmatched in any previous year. Total fuels-related accomplishments topped 70,000 acres, substantially more than any of the previous five years since the inception of this grant in 2012. Partnerships with the National Park Service, Oklahoma Forestry Services, The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Choctaw Nation combined to provide needed resources to the ground prescribed burn teams that carried out the burns.

In a project financed by purely matching funds under the Oklahoma/Arkansas Woodland Restoration (OAWR) 2016-18, a Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership project, the Big Hudson Creek crossing was completed with a combination with other funding on the Forest to provide for the $519,394 total cost, as follows:

- $318,750 from JCLRP funding going directly to the contract with no salary or other overhead taken out.
- $40,000 was obtained through the Tulsa Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that had applied for grant funding for Leopard Darter habitat improvements.
- $40,644 from CWK2 funds for soil and water funding for the Forest.
- $20,000 from NFVW funds for soil and water funding for the Forest.
- $100,000 from SSCC funds from the Buffalo II Stewardship Project.

This project provided substantial habitat improvements for repopulation by the leopard darter, a species of fish listed as Threatened on the Endangered Species List, and also reduce sediment entering into the Buffalo Creek drainage that feeds directly into Broken Bow Reservoir, a drinking water supply source for southeast Oklahoma.

The Ouachita as well as the Ozark – St. Francis and the Mark Twain National Forests moved closer to having a 3-state collaborative during interactions with several partners this past year. Currently, the collaborative is known as the Ozark Ouachita Highlands Collaborative, and The Nature Conservancy, the National Wild Turkey

Federation, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission are all leading the effort towards a more formal organization. Productive meetings were held this past year as well as many phone calls and emails exchanged as we move toward a more formalized and "governed" group that will focus on shortleaf pine restoration, woodland restoration of all kinds, and general forest health across the landscape of Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri.

The Forest coordinated two successful field trips aimed at technology transfer in the restored CFLRP woodlands near Waldron, Arkansas. These field trips were sponsored and arranged by the Oak Woodlands and Forests Fire Consortium, and were a great success. Dr. Jim Guldin helped guide one field trip and the other one was hosted by retired Ouachita Integrated Staff Officer Larry Hedrick and Cold Springs – Poteau Ranger District Wildlife Biologist Warren Montague.

In another field trip, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) arranged and the Forest hosted officials from Zambia and Columbia on the same field trip, learning about prescribed burning, timber sale management, and wildlife treatments. McRee Anderson with TNC and Ouachita National Forest staff discussed management problems and potential solutions along with partnership ideas.

8. ***Review the gPAS spatial information sent to you by the Washington Office after gPAS closes out on October 31***

- **If the footprint estimate from gPAS is consistent and accurate**, please confirm and skip this question.
- **If the gPAS spatial information does NOT appear accurate**, describe the total acres treated in the course of the CFLR project below (cumulative footprint acres; not a cumulative total of performance accomplishments). What was the total number of acres treated?

Fiscal Year	Total number of acres treated (treatment footprint)
Total footprint of acres treated from start year through FY16.	169,224
FY10, FY11, FY12, FY13, FY14, and FY15 (as applicable- projects selected in FY2012 may will not have data for FY10 and FY11; projects that were HPRP projects in FY12, please include one number for FY12 and one number for FY13 (same as above)	FY12 – 48,625 acres FY13 – 63,947 acres FY14 – 53,143 acres FY15 – 45,658 acres FY16 – 10,618 acres

Total acres thru 2016 is representative of all acres treated from 2012 thru 2016. The total number for 2016 are those acres accomplished in 2016 that were not part of the previous year's footprint.

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

During FY 2012 through 2014, no treated acres accomplished were previously treated, so all acres were accumulated as treatments were implemented. In FY 2015, 45,658 acres were accomplished between prescribed burning, commercial timber sales and non-commercial stand treatments. Of these acres treated in FY 15, 4,981 acres were treated in previous years, and were deducted from the total treatment acreage. This process was also applied in 2016.

9. **Describe any reasons that the FY 2016 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).

This year, the Ouachita surpassed the total volume of timber sold that was estimated in the proposal, awarding 56,153 ccf on sales tagged with CFLRP. The cumulative total for the first five years of the CFLRP project on the Ouachita is now at approximately 332,094 ccf, slightly over the eight-year total in the proposal of 332,000 ccf. The Ouachita plans to continue to add to this total over the final three years of the project, however it is expected that the annual volumes awarded will decrease over the next three years due to NEPA decisions rotating outside the CFLRP boundaries.

FY 2016 provided prescribed burning accomplishments that were substantially higher than the previous year, with 70,965 acres of fuels treatments compared to 41,089 in FY 2015. However, prescribed burning will need to increase in the Shortleaf Bluestem Community project to reach the annual burning accomplishment of 100,000 acres envisioned in the proposal. The Forest continues to make CFLRP burning a high priority in its annual Priority Letter to the Forest and will emphasize this again in FY 2017.

10. **Planned FY 2017 Accomplishments**[3]

In an effort to simplify reporting, we've reduced the number of performance measures we are asking you for here. However, the ones below are still needed for our annual budget request to Congress. In our justification to Congress for continued funding each year, we have to display planned accomplishments for the coming year.

Performance Measure Code	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount ($)
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	320	$620,000
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	30	$4,500
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	0	$0
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	99,947	$2,898,463
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	2	$6,000

[3] 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 11.

Performance Measure Code	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount ($)
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
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	39,500	$1,027,000
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	5,000	----
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

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.

11. **Planned FY 2017 accomplishment narrative and justification if planned FY 2017/18 accomplishments and/or funding differs from CFLRP project work plan** (no more than 1 page):

Timber volume award figure is slightly below the proposal level of about 41,500 ccf and reflects NEPA decisions on watersheds that have rotated outside of the CFLRP boundaries. Despite this, continued implementation of existing decisions along with aggressive use of the Farm Bill (HFRA CE for timber harvesting of up to 3,000 acres) authority within existing insect and disease treatment areas will continue to carry substantial volume within the CFLRP area into the future.

12. **Please include an up to date list of the members of your collaborative if it has changed from the list you submitted in the FY15 report** (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.

The collaborative has grown, become broader-based and multi-pronged. There are still separate collaboratives for each CFLR project. The Interior Highlands Collaborative is a broader umbrella organization, focusing on oak woodland restoration as well as shortleaf-bluestem and other restoration opportunities (it also includes Missouri). Many members are active in more than one collaborative effort. Most of the collaborative work is accomplished jointly with our sister Forests, the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. Members of one or more collaboratives are listed below (heads of organizations or the primary organizational contact are listed when there are multiple members from the same unit). Those new to the collaboratives (or not shown on the FY15 listing) are italicized. All members participate in various projects and are invited to attend workshops/meetings.

- AES Shady Point, LLC – Lundy Kiger, AES Shady Point, LLC
- *American Bird Conservancy- Jane Fitzgerald, Jane Fitzgerald*
- Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society - Ben Batten, President, American Fisheries society, Arkansas
- Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society – Allison Fowler, President, Wildlife Society, Arkansas
- *Arkansas Forestry Association- President – David Cawein, Green Bay Packaging, Forestry Association, Arkansas*
- Arkansas Forestry Commission-Joe Fox, State Forester, Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission-Mike Knoedl, Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission -Darrel Bowman, Interim Director, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commision
- Arkansas State University - Tom Risch, Chair Department of Biological Science, Arkansas State University
- Arkansas Tech University – Chris Kellner, Professor of Wildlife Science, Arkansas Technical University
- Arkansas Wildlife Federation-Wayne Shewmake, President, Arkansas Wildlife Federation
- Audubon Arkansas – Brett Kincaid, VP and Executive Director, Audubon Arkansas
- Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Land Management
- Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Central Arkansas Water –Raven Lawson, Watershed Protection Manager, http://www.carkw.com/
- Central Hardwoods Joint Venture – Jane Fitzgerald, Coordinator, Central Hardwoods
- Cherokee Nation, Cherokee Nation
- Choctaw Nation, Choctaw Nation
- *Department of Arkansas Heritage, Brian Mitchell, Department of Arkansas Heritage*
- Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative - D. Todd Jones-Farrand, Science Coordinator, Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, Lower Mississippi Valley
- Monarch Joint Venture - Priya Shahani, Program Coordinator, Monarch Joint Venture
- Monarch Watch – Orely "Chip" Taylor, Director, Monarch Watch
- *National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, Tom Dailey, Assistant Director/Science Coordinator, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative*
- National Park Service- Kevin Cheri, Superintendent, National Park Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation-Jeremy Everitts, Regional Biologist, National Wild Turkey Federation
- Native Expeditions – Robin Gregory, Director, Native Expeditions
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, George Rheinhardt, NRCS State Forester, Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Oklahoma Biological Survey – Caryn Vaughn, Director, Oklahoma Biological Survey
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation – Joe Hemphill, SE Region Wildlife Supervisor, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Oklahoma Forestry Services – George Geissler, State Forester, Oklahoma Forestry Services
- Oklahoma State University – Ronald Van Den Sussche, Associate Dean of Research, Oklahoma State University
- Ozark Chinquapin Foundation, Stephen Bost, President, Ozark Chinquapin Foundation
- Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation – Nick Prough, Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation
- Scott County - James Forbes, County Judge, Scott County
- Shortleaf Pine Initiative – Mike Black, Shortleaf Pine Initiative
- Steve Osborne – *Individual*, jsteveosborne@gmail.com
- Tall Timber Research, Inc. – Ron Masters, Director of Research, Tall Timbers Research
- The Nature Conservancy AR – Scott Simon, Director, The Nature Conservancy AR
- The Nature Conservancy OK – Mike Fuhr, Director, The Nature Conservancy OK
- West Fraser Lumber Company – Mark Travis, West Fraser Lumber Company
- US Fish and Wildlife Service-Melvin Tobin, Field Supervisor, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service Ouachita National Forest-Norm Wagoner, Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service Ouachita National Forest
- US Forest Service Ouachita National Forest-Reggie Blackwell, Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service Ouachita National Forest-
- US Forest Service Northern Research Station – Frank Thompson, Project Leader, US Forest Service Northern Research Station
- US Forest Service Southern Research Station – Jim Guldin, Project Leader, US Forest Service Southern Research Station
- US Geological Survey- Deputy Director, US Geological Survey
- University of Arkansas, Fayetteville – James Rankin, Vice Provost for Research & Economic Development, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- University of Arkansas, Cooperative Extension Service, Tamara Walkingstick, University of Arkansas, Cooperative Extension Service
- University of Arkansas, Monticello – Sayeed Mehmood, Ass Prof, School of Forest Resources, University of Arkansas, Monticello
- *University of Missouri, Dept. of Forestry, Michael C. Stambaughm, University of Missouri*

13. Did you project try any new approaches to increasing partner match funding in FY2016 (both in-kind contributions and through agreements)? (no more than one page):

See the Fiscal Year 2016 Accomplishment Narrative on page 7 for an account of our use of the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership project as a match and also of new partnerships and a new collaborative continuing to develop.

We continue to engage AES – Shady Point, a coal-fired power plant in Oklahoma in hopes of setting up a biomass demonstration, however we have been unable to secure an MOU so far.

We also continue to fund a dozer unit with the Choctaw Nation as well as engaging with the Choctaw Nation Promise Zone in southeastern Oklahoma to develop deeper partnerships. Under the JCLRP, we will be

engaging with the Choctaw Nation in environmental education and landowner workshops on EQIP funding, stream improvements, and unpaved road management.

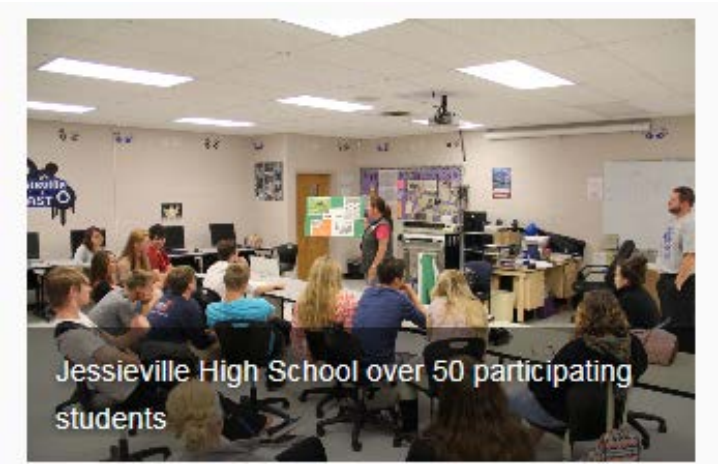
14. **Media recap**. Please share with us any hyperlinks to videos, newspaper articles, press releases, scholarly works, and photos of your project in the media that you have available. You are welcome to include links or to copy/paste.

As a part of involving youth in the activities of the Forest, the Forest held its usual fishing derbies:

Youth in the activities of the Forest Service

The Forest continued work with Native Expeditions to collaborate with youth and to provide community education about environmental education, Milkweed for Monarchs and Shortleaf Pine Bluestem Restoration. Results of that work may be viewed at Native Expeditions . Working with Native Expeditions, the Ouachita National Forest has brought information about forest resources and being prepared to explore and enjoy its bounty in a healthy and responsible way to 20 schools. During the 2015/2016 school year (FY2015) 3,500 students and 98 teachers benefitted from indoor/outdoor hands-on demonstrations that offer national education curriculum standards for the classroom incorporating curriculum from:

PLT (Project Learning Tree) Project Learning Team
Project WET (Worldwide Water Education) Worldwide Water Education
Project WILD Project Wild
Leave No Trace Leave No Trace


Jessieville High School over 50 participating students

Signatures:

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)):_____

For Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s))[14]:_____

(OPTIONAL) Reviewed by (collabative chair or representative): _____