CFLR Project (Name/Number): _____Southern Blues Restoration Coalition, 17_____

National Forest(s): _____Malheur NF_____

1. Match and Leveraged funds:

a. FY16 Matching Funds Documentation

Fund Source – (CFLN/CFLR Funds Expended)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016($)
CFLN14	$294,269
CFLN16	$2,151,879.31

Funds adjusted from gPAS reports based on corrected time sheets that did not hit the system until November 2016. These adjustments affected CFLN17.

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($)
CFHF1716	$1,940,000

This value (aka carryover funds or WO unobligated funds) should reflect the amount expended of the allocated funds as indicated in the FY16 program direction, but does not necessarily need to be in the same BLIs or budget fiscal year as indicated in the program direction.

Fund Source – (FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI))	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016($)
NFVW	$74773
NFWF	$10,801
NFTM	$669,767
WFHF	$274,710
WFSU (Wolf Fire)	$134,750
Total	$1,164,801.00

Funds adjusted from gPAS reports based on corrected time sheets that did not hit the system until November 2016. These adjustments affected WFHF. 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($)
Batesville Plant-A-Tree Arbor Day Foundation Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Mule Deer Initiative National Forest Foundation Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	$906,226

*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($)
AmeriCorps	44238
Blue Mountains Forest Partners	198922
Burns-Paiute Tribe	32068
Freshwater Trust	95291
Harney County Restoration Collaborative/High Desert Partnership	19998
North Fork of the John Day Watershed Council	71279
Northwest Youth Corps	13911

Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016($)
Oregon Department of Forestry	35120
Oregon State University	2400
OYCC	4800
Powder River Correctional Facility	2780
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	4400
Sustainable Northwest	1950
Volunteers (includes local volunteer groups)	44292.80
Warm Springs Tribe	93500
Western Environmental Law Center, Susan Jane Brown	149955.71
Totals	$814,905.51

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 FY 16	$968,838.20

Note: revised non-monetary credit limits for contracts awarded prior to FY16 were captured in the FY15 CFLR annual report last year. 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.

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.

Description of item	Where activity/item is located or impacted area	Estimated total amount	Forest Service or Partner Funds?	Source of funds
Post fire emergency rehabilitation for invasives, flood mitigation, recreation, and road repair	Canyon Creek Fire footprint	$2,117,846.53	Forest Service funds	H6J1K816
UTVs for implementation and monitoring	Landscape treatment units throughout the CFLR project area	$36,000	Forest Service funds	BDBD
Woodpecker/Salvage Research (year 1)	Treatment units in the Canyon Creek Fire footprint	150,000	Forest Service Funds	NFTM

In 2016, the primary contractor on the stewardship contract doing a majority of the work in the SBRC project was once again able to add equipment to broaden implementation capabilities and keep up with increased workload. Our continued sustained yield of small diameter material has been used to attract business interest in the area, and that primary contractor has recently expanded into a post-and-pole operation based in Seneca, OR. Negotiations continue for a potential chip facilities as well as a torrefaction plant to be located in John Day, OR which could utilize 130,000 tons of biomass towards energy production each year.

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.***

The Southern Blues Restoration Coalition (SBRC) project work plan describes four restoration goals that tie in closely with all of the performance measures described in the *10 Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan*. From restoring landscape resiliency and improving collaborative and social capacity to increasing economic capacity and increased efficiency, the accomplishments this year moved the landscape towards meeting the performance measures outlined in the Comprehensive Strategy.

A total of over 101,490 acres of vegetation and fuels treatments have been completed within the SBRC project area in the first four years of the project. These treatments included everything from commercial harvest and biomass removal to landscape underburning. These treatments had integrated benefits of restoring landscape resiliency for wildlife, soil, watershed and range forage. Specific accomplishments were seen for wildlife and fisheries in the form of aspen restoration, riparian fencing and road closures.

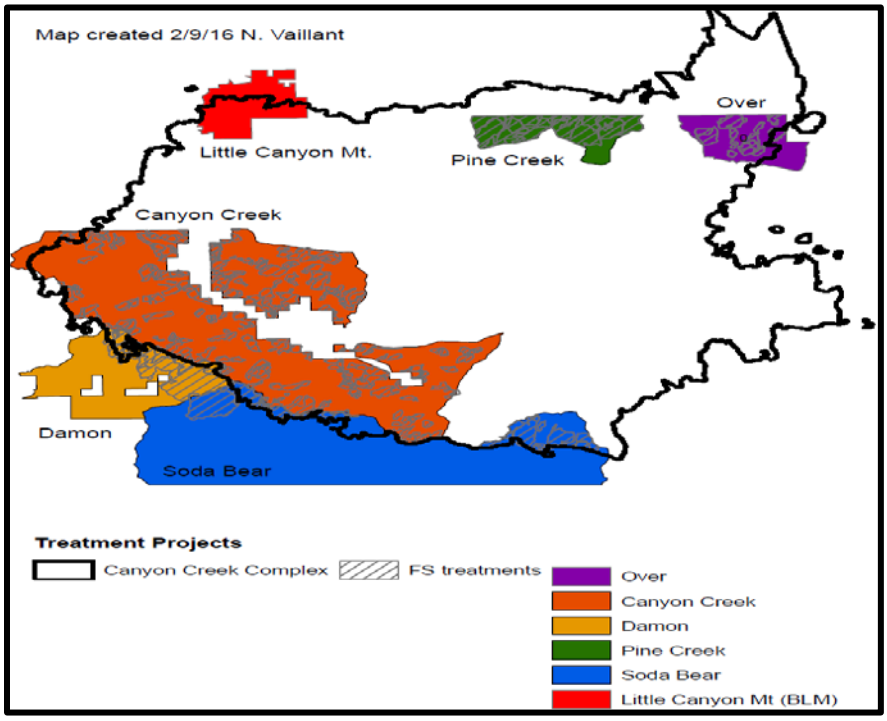

Figure 1. Canyon Creek Fire and treatment areas

With the expansion of the SBRC landscape in 2015, the total acres within the landscape of Malheur NF fire protection is 877,288 acres or approximately 51% of the entire Malheur NF. Pre-suppression expenditures for the year totaled $2 million within the SBRC landscape. There were 32 fires in the SBRC project area for a total of 253 acres burned. The majority of those acres were burned in the Wolf fire which was managed using existing roads instead of using a direct attack strategy, providing resource benefit in designated potential old growth foraging areas. These acres were accomplished using WFSU dollars and though there is currently no way to code these so that they will show up as part of our accomplishment in a gPAS expenditure report, they are included in our totals above as part of our matched funds. The initial attack success rate for fires within the SBRC was 100%

In 2016 the forest completed a fuels treatment effectiveness assessment of the 2015 Canyon Creek Complex with support from the Regional and Washington offices. The fire, which totaled more than 110,000 acres and destroyed 43 homes, impacted 254 Forest Service fuels treatments (see Figure 1 below) totaling 11,056 acres. In the end, 64,190 acres, 6.2%, of the SBRC project area were impacted by the fire. The northern units are outside of the SBRC area.

Fuels work was instrumental in containment efforts during the fire (note alignment of the southern boundary of the fire perimeter with project areas). Treatments varied in effectiveness for many reasons, including the extreme conditions that they were tested under. Several themes emerged that will improve future treatments:

- Shift from small, disconnected units to larger, contiguous units
- Interrupt fuel continuity where the objective is to be a barrier to fire spread
- Plan for Shifting Weather/Climate Conditions
- Treat across jurisdictional boundaries
- Broadening Rx fire windows - some burning better than no burning and burning is by far the most effective treatment

The webinar presentation of this assessment can be accessed here: FTE Canyon Creek Assessment presentation We have begun to implement many of these recommendations in FY16. From the report and other recent studies, it is clear that landscape burning is the most effective tool for fire resiliency of all of our restoration work. With that in mind we are focusing heavily on that tool. This year our landscape burning footprint was just under 9,000 acres, a substantial increase from our previous 5,875 acre 3-year average. With help from the Nature Conservancy, we have begun an integrated implementation planning framework to increase efficiencies across disciplines and burn larger areas.

Burned Area Emergency stabilization work occurred during the fall and spring of FY16 within the Canyon Creek footprint. Work focused on soil stabilization in critical corridors, with additional project work in roads, invasive plants and recreation. We received $2,117,846.53 in BAER funds to complete this work.

With CFLRP support we recently utilized supplemental Hazardous Fuels funding to begin contracting landscape burn implementation, with the first contract awarded in FY16. We also improved existing contracts for prescribed fire support and now have reimbursable agreements with Oregon Department of Forestry and adjacent BLM units to further increase implementation capacity.

CFLN funding continued to be the principle method for awarding work to the Malheur 10 Year Stewardship contract. As documented throughout this report, this has increased economic capacity in local communities and moved the Forest towards increased efficiencies.

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 TREAT User Guide 2015.

The numbers came directly from the end of year accomplishments and expenditure reports. The product distribution percentages came from information from TIMS and from the different contracts used. FTE were compiled from multiple personnel by dividing aggregated personnel expenditures by the mean (GS6/1) salary. Assumptions are based on all of the work being completed within the year it was funded.

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

FY 2016 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY16 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover funding)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)	Labor Income (Direct)	Labor Income (Total)
Timber harvesting component	72	95	5,775,671	7,039,319
Forest and watershed restoration component	26	30	219,656	323,565
Mill processing component	68	125	3,778,336	5,358,060
Implementation and monitoring	24	30	1,220,390	1,387,020
Other Project Activities	3	3	56,768	73,474
TOTALS:	192	283	11,050,824	14,181,438

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

FY 2016 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY16 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover and matching funding)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)	Labor Income (Direct)	Labor Income (Total)
Timber harvesting component	72	95	5,775,671	7,039,319
Forest and watershed restoration component	40	47	352,852	510,390
Mill processing component	68	125	3,778,339	5,358,060
Implementation and monitoring	45	54	1,927,549	2,190,734
Other Project Activities	4	5	86,067	111,396
TOTALS:	229	326	11,920,478	15,209,899

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?*

Blue Mountains Forest Partners and Harney County Restoration Coalition

The 2015 report of socio-economic impacts of CFLRP implementation, commissioned jointly by Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP) and the US Forest Service, is our benchmark for comparing impacts to the local communities after the initial phases of the CFLR project to the four years preceding CFLR investment. This study was completed by researchers with the Ecosystem Workforce Program (EWP) at Oregon State University.

This report reviewed a suite of factors, from where Forest Service contract investments were focused to trends in local investment and distribution of timber volume sales. Highlights from this report found that:

- Business located in Grant and Harney Counties captured about 2/3 of the value of the service contracts for CFLR work, a larger share than in recent years.
- Local businesses purchased more than 57 percent of the timber volume sold from the SBRC project. When the Stewardship Contract is included, this number jumps to 89 percent of volume sold from the SBRC project.
- Restoration work supported about 38 jobs per year in Grant and Harney Counties.[1]

[1] *White, E.M., E.J. Davis, and C. Moseley. 2015. Social and economic monitoring for the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Project, Fiscal years 2012 and 2013. Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper #59. 24 p. Available: http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp2.uoregon.edu/files/WP_59_0.pdf*

Restoration work on the Malheur National Forest (within the CFLRP area boundary) has increased since EWP's study was completed, and there is good reason to believe the above trends have held steady or improved.

Most of the CFLPR work is being executed under a 10-year Stewardship Contract. For 2016, we sought to supplement EWP's study with a more fine-grained analysis of some socioeconomic impacts/benefits that occurred between September, 2013 (when it began) and February, 2016. State and local data show:

- Unemployment numbers in Grant and Harney counties have dropped from 14% and 11.7%, respectively, to 8.1% and 6.8% since the Stewardship Contract began.
- Salaries increased along with the increased number of restoration jobs. The Malheur NF hired an additional 48 permanent employees and scores of seasonal staff to help ensure it meets its project planning, development, and administrative obligations. Iron Triangle, Malheur Lumber Company, and other subcontractors together hired 50 new employees to help ensure project implementation obligations and commitments are met.
- Malheur Lumber maintained operations, increased employment, and is moving forward with increasing capacity through improvements to the boilers based on the timber supply that will result from the Stewardship Contract.
- Iron Triangle increased the wages it pays its employees by nearly $1,000,000 to meet Stewardship Contract wage rates; and increased the number of contractors it uses in both counties and increased investment in equipment by over $5,000,000 to satisfy project contract requirements.
- Iron Triangle utilizes 4 contractors for logging and 2 contractors for hand-thinning and piling from Grant County, while it hired two additional employees and utilizes 3 logging contractors from Harney County.
- Home sales within Grant County have increased by over 200% since 2012, when the Stewardship Contract began (from 34 home sales in 2012 to 108 in 2015).
- Grant School District #3 has experienced a halt to its nearly 15-year decline in enrollment, from a high of 990 students to a low of 587 students, and in fact experienced a 4.8% increase to 615 students. This has resulted in additional local school funding coming from the State of Oregon.
- Indirect and induced benefits have been realized in all sectors of Grant and Harney economies, resulting in overall increased employment, increased wages and benefits to many employees, increased school enrollment, and increases in home sales.

The socioeconomic benefits resulting from CFLR and the 10-year Stewardship Contract are substantial. Grant County enjoyed most of these benefits due to the fact Iron Triangle LLC, which holds the 10-year Stewardship Contract, is headquartered here, as is Malheur Lumber Company and most of the Malheur National Forest offices.

Continuing a trend noted last year, more community members have shared their increased appreciation for what's happening with CFLR on the Malheur, as well as more willingness to consider a collaborative approach to public land management in Grant and Harney counties.

Particularly important to emphasize in all this is that public land restoration efforts are providing substantial socioeconomic benefits to federal public land dominated rural counties, and community members and organizations increasingly associate such benefits with the approach to restoration work exemplified on the Malheur under CFLR.

CFLR has also benefitted agency and collaborative efforts by fostering a context that facilitates a more informed, thoughtful, and partnership-oriented approach to public land management generally. In 2015 BMFP committed to revisiting post-fire management activities and salvage logging—historically a very contentious issue! In 2016, following the devastating Canyon Creek Complex fires, BMFP, Malheur National Forest staff, and researchers from the Rocky Mountain Research Station planned and executed a salvage project in the fire area that was specifically designed to promote scientific research and increase knowledge of the post-fire habitat requirements of woodpecker species of conservation concern. Salvage harvest is almost complete and researchers will monitor the project for the next four years. In 2015 BMFP also tackled management issues related to goshawk nest and post-fledgling sites. Current policy or practice in this area frequently hinders restoration activities as well as the agency's ability to address the long-term

habitat needs of goshawks in a responsible manner throughout the Blue Mountains, not just the Malheur. This work has continued and promises to provide a decision space in 2017 that will facilitate restoration efforts and better meet the habitat needs of goshawks. During 2016 BMFP and Harney County Restoration Coalition (HCRC) also worked with Malheur National Forest staff to address challenging issues related to roads and treatments in moist mixed conifer and riparian areas.

The nature and focus of these efforts represent particularly good examples of adaptive management being implemented within a collaborative context, represent significant milestones in public land management that likely would not have occurred apart from CFLRP support, and nicely illustrate how CFLR has enhanced planning and decision making in the restoration context and provided additional impetus to approach land management activities in a more informed, integrated, and responsible manner.

CFLR funding, focus, and expectations have enhanced our work relationship with the Malheur National Forest. This is reflected in better coordination and communication between the Malheur, BMFP, and HCRC, as well as increased trust. Once consequence of this is that the Malheur's scope of realistic work is large and consistent enough that contractors can confidently "tool" up knowing there's a much better chance their investments will prove worthwhile over time (personal conversations). That is significant. Another consequence is that we've seen a 3-fold increase in volume coming off the forest and going to area mills since 2012 (EWP reports referenced last year in question 15). Emerging challenges include that state smoke management guidelines, as well as aspects of Forest Service contracting procedures, appear to be the next areas of work to allow more restoration work to happen on the ground.

CFLR has helped bring about a more effective, mature, and publicly involved approach to public land management on the Malheur that has significant socioeconomic benefits for area communities. It has also spotlighted some issues at the state and federal level that significantly increase the cost and limit the effectiveness of public land management—at least management on a scale that will make a difference for forest and community health.

As noted last year, additional mill and biomass capacity would increase return on CFLR investment as well as increase socioeconomic benefits to area communities. Only one mill operates locally, and it can't handle everything that comes off CFLR projects. It targets ponderosa pine and is tooled to handle saw log sizes down to a 6- or 8-inch top. That focus and capacity addresses only part of what we need to remove from the forest, species and size wise, if we are to create resilient landscapes. Increased mill or industrial capacity that readily handles non-pine species found in the area, as well as smaller diameter material and biomass, would lower restoration costs and significantly increase community benefits by further solidifying existing jobs, creating more, and diversifying the value of natural resource products coming off federal private lands in the area.

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).

Multi-party monitoring of the ecological, economic, and social impacts of CFLRP implementation is being undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team that includes agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations. The following team members are currently undertaking monitoring work as part of the Southern Blues CFLRP Multi-Party Monitoring Program: Oregon State University College of Forestry (OSU), University of Oregon Ecosystem Workforce Program (EWP), Malheur National Forest (MNF), USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), USDA Forest Service Area Ecology Program (Ecology), USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region Headquarters, USDA

Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNWRS), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), Grant Soil And Water Conservation District (GSWCD), BMFP, and HCRC.

The Southern Blues CFLRP Multi-Party Monitoring Program currently consists of the following monitoring sub-programs (principal investigators in parentheses): Forest vegetation and fuels (OSU), white-headed woodpecker (RMRS), aspen (MNF), watershed restoration—riparian areas (Ecology), watershed restoration—fish passage (MNF/PNWRS), invasive species (NFJDWC/GSWCD/MNF), socio-economic monitoring (EWP/BMFP), multi-party field visits and collaborative effectiveness (BMFP/HCRC).

Forest vegetation and fuels (FVF), white-headed woodpecker (WHWO), fish passage, invasive species, socio-economic monitoring, multi-party field visits, and collaborative effectiveness programs are in their second year of implementation. The FVF, invasive species, and WHWO programs which have a significant field data collection component recently completed their third year of field data collection. The monitoring plan as well as reports and updates are available on the BMFP website here: Blue mountains forest partners multiparty monitoring

The primary mechanisms by which monitoring findings will be communicated to managers and incorporated into an adaptive management framework are summarized below.

SBRC Multiparty Monitoring Metrics and Delivery Status

Product	Delivery status
Regular informal communication between monitoring principal investigators and MNF interdisciplinary team members, MNF leadership, and membership of the BMFP and HCRC.	Ongoing
Regular presentations to BMFP and HRCR full group meetings.	10 completed to date, minimum of 6 in 2017
Annual monitoring reports for MNF and BMFP	Ongoing
Annual monitoring summit: One day meeting for monitoring PIs, managers, stakeholder groups, scientists, and the general public.	Ongoing

In May of 2016, BMFP hosted our first monitoring symposium to bring together all of the investigators across the project to share information and results to date. A flyer from that symposium is attached for reference. Through this and regular presentations at collaborative meetings, we have not identified significant weaknesses or shortcomings of our monitoring program. However, challenges that the monitoring team is currently addressing include developing robust databases compatible with Forest Service corporate databases, adapting and developing new fire behavior modeling tools, and in general creating the capacity to analyze, synthesize, and effectively communicate information from large datasets. Developing information that provides robust answers to monitoring questions takes considerable time, and our team is constantly challenged to build support, both fiscal and political, for long-term organizational commitments to our monitoring program.

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	1725.6	$207,072	CFLN, WFHF, RTRT, CWK2, Partner Match
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	2711	$385,320	CFLN, RTRT, SSCC, NFVW, NFTM, Partner Match

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost ($)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	979.6	$538,780	CFLN, NFVW, WFHF, NFTM, Partner Match
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC	Acres	0		
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions. S&W-RSRC-IMP	Acres	8382.89	636982	CFLN, NFVW, NFWF, NFTM, Partnership Match
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-LAK	Acres	0		
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	1.15	$199,000	CFLN, NFVW, NFWF, NFTM, Partnership Match
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	17078.1	251919	CFLN, NFVW, NFWF, NFTM, Partnership Match
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved RG-VEG-IMP	Acres	0		
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN	Miles	271.333	56437	CFLN, CMRD, WFHF, SSCC, Partnership Match
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	35.407	13879	CFLN, CMRD, WFHF, SSCC, Partnership Match
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	5.547	898.64	CFLN, CMRD, WFHF, SSCC, Partnership Match
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	4	1568	CFLN, CMRD, WFHF, SSCC, Partnership Match
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	123.976	25787	CFLN, CMRD, WFHF, SSCC, Partnership Match
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage STRM-CROS-MTG-STD	Number	0		

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost ($)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)
Miles of system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD	Miles	0		
Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD	Miles	0		
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard LND-BL-MRK-MAINT	Miles	183.75	52,553	CFLN, WFHF, NFTM
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	6100.2	0	CFLN, NFTM, CWK2, SSSS, WFHF
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	0		
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	103985.06	2,986,451	CFLN, NFTM, CWK2, SSSS, WFHF
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	9427.4295	102,765	CFLN, NFTM, CWK2, SSSS, WFHF
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	7756.5	$1,202,258	CFLN, RTRT, SSCC, NFVW, NFTM, WFHF
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	19827.1	$3,073,202	CFLN, RTRT, SSCC, NFVW, NFTM, WFHF, Partner Match
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands SP-INVSPE-FED-AC	Acres	0		
Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests on Federal lands SP-NATIVE-FED-AC	Acres	0		

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.

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.)

In addition to the accomplishments captured in the table above, we also had 6,003 acres accomplished under STWD-CNTRCT-AGR-AC as reported in gPAS.

FY16 was a banner year for the SBRC project on all possible fronts. As you can see from the tables above, we have increased our restoration efforts into a range of new performance measures, many for the first time. We are making strides towards our proposed road and riparian work throughout our project area using appropriated funds, partnership contributions, and monies generated through our 10-year stewardship. Our partnership contributions have tripled.

We hosted a number of visits on the forests including a Washington Office site visit specific to the SBRC project. This was an opportunity to share our work as well as gain valuable insights into the governance and future of the CFLR program. On May 12, the Malheur National Forest had the privilege to host 17 foreign dignitaries from around the world during the 2016 International Seminar on Forest Landscape Restoration. Participants represented branches of their governments that are similar to the US Forest Service, each interested to know how we manage our national forests here in the United States. Both visits highlighted our efforts in vegetation management as well as riparian conservation, and partnership work.

By the end of the fiscal year 27,998.74 acres (footprint) of vegetation treatments to restore the landscapes resiliency, improve wildlife habitat and restoring watershed condition were accomplished with a combination of service contract, stewardship contracts, partnership in-kind and force account work.

Additional portions of the third task order and a fourth task order on the Malheur National Forest 10 Year Stewardship Contract were negotiated and awarded this year. The contract allows for more restoration work as additional funds become available, however some work that had been reserved for the 10 year stewardship contract in the past is now reserved for other contracting opportunities, offering the forest better leveraging and widening the scope of investment potential in the area. This contract continues the help needed to meet the restoration goals of the SBRC proposal as well as providing local jobs for both the contractors and the local forest products processing facilities in the community.

Much of our work this year was related to the Canyon Creek Fire. Task orders in the 10-year stewardship were for salvage logging, including a unique initiative to conduct research on our MIS woodpecker species along with an area salvage project. This initiative was discussed during a workshop hosted by BMFP in 2015 and it is excellent to see those dialogues come to fruition. The research is expected to take four years to complete, and the forest and our partners look forward to seeing the site specific information broaden zones of agreement in post-fire salvage.

We also received our fuels treatment effectiveness assessment report which was highlighted above. A few key points from that report regarding size and connectivity of our treatments have fostered earnest discussions amongst the forest and our collaboratives. This tied in nicely with a visit from Dr. Jerry Franklin (University of Washington) this spring to tour dry forest projects that were implemented with the Franklin and Johnson research in mind. In all, we have agreed to revisit the approaches to riparian and wildlife corridors and take an even more holistic approach to landscape vegetation management.

Our partners continued to be a big player in the success of the project this year. The members of the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition provided important feedback on the effectiveness of the activities for adaptive management. Partners such as Susan Jane Brown (WELC), Patrick Shannon, Dave Hannibal (Grayback Forestry), Jack Southworth (HCRC), Zach Williams (Iron Triangle Logging), Mark Webb (BMFP) along with many others continue in the role of advocating for SBRC through educating other coalition members and challenging the Forest to constantly look for more efficient ways to conclude its business.

These partnerships proved increasingly important in 2016 through the heated attention the forest received for the Canyon Creek Fire. They were also essential during the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, which resulted in the closure of our district offices in Emigrant Creek as well as limited work in the field during that time. Interestingly, the occupation has resulted in increased interest and participation in HCRC.

Oregon OYCC youth crews as well as the Pacific Northwest Youth Corps helped complete several of the wildlife habitat improvement projects including aspen and riparian protection, riparian planting, building fence exclosures and installing road closure gates or slashing in roads. Our district biologists continued use of the Powder River Correctional Facility crews for riparian enhancement project work such as fence placement and improvement.

Once again, an AmeriCorps team worked on the Malheur assisting with a number of projects in the CFLR area, including riparian protection and trail work.

CFLN funds were used to hire additional summer employees to help prepare the many large contracts awarded this year. Fire crews worked the off season in the SBRC project either completing fuels reduction activities or preparing contracts. CFLN and match funds were also used to complete implementation monitoring of the many activities completed this year.

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

- **If the 2016 footprint estimate is consistent and accurate**, please confirm and copy below.
- **If it 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)?

Fiscal Year	Total number of acres treated (treatment footprint)
Total in FY16 27,998.74	Total footprint of acres treated from start year through FY16.
FY10, FY11, FY12, FY13, FY14, FY15, and FY16 (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))	FY10 – N/A FY11 – N/A FY12 – 7,776 FY13 – 12,113 FY14 – 14,596 FY15 – 9,875

If you did not use the database estimate, please briefly describe how you arrived at the total number of footprint acres: what approach did you use to calculate the footprint?

For FY16 we did use the footprint estimator. If we used the approach for 2016 that we had used in years past, our estimate would have been 19,434 acres treated although in prior years we also did not accomplish as much work in stream restoration or road decommissioning. Prior to FY16, we include prescribed fire treatments that were completed (under burned and pile burned). The assumption being that once we have put fire on the ground, we have met nearly all of our goals for restoration on that piece of ground. We also include our invasives and tree planting projects for the same reason.

From FY12-14, contracted acres that were accomplished (contract awarded) were included if the work contracted for would get the unit most or all of the way towards meeting the goals for restoration. In all cases these were stewardship contracts. Our approach towards the stewardship contract changed significantly in FY15 where we are not including all of the restoration activities in the same contract.

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).

In FY16 the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Project met or exceeded our proposal in many areas. We continued to see improvements in invasive weed treatments and road related maintenance activities. Although the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation resulted in office closures and limited field work for portions of the year, our staffs were able to meet or exceed targets. The Forest Wide Aquatic Environmental Assessment (EA) is being widely implemented and many of the increased accomplishments in watershed restoration work are a direct result. This EA provides many new opportunities for aquatic restoration in the SBRC project area. Activities include fish passage restoration, large wood placement, livestock fencing, riparian vegetation treatments and road and trail erosion control.

We remain behind on miles of road decommissioning but are beginning to see progress there as well. As with riparian treatments, the mechanical treatments need to occur before the road decommissioning will take place. We are beginning to close out portions of our 10-year stewardship contract and as that continues, expect the scale of these other treatments to increase as well.

10. **Planned FY 2018 Accomplishments**[2]

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	5000	250000
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	300	90000
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	12	45000
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	5000	250000
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	3	15000
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles		
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles		
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	120000	0

[2] 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 ($)
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	15000	150000
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	15000	1950000
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	15000	1950000

Please include all relevant planned accomplishments, assuming that funding specified in the CFLRP project proposal for FY 2018 is available. Use actual planned funding if quantity is less than specified in CFLRP project work plan.

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

The efforts to increase the pace of restoration continue. With the help of local and state elected officials and the Oregon Governor's Office, the goal is to sustain or increase annual outputs from restoration activities including the volume of commercial products and the acres of land treated over the next 10 years. The outputs listed in question #10 reflect that expectation. The total funds needed to attain those outputs exceed the SBRC proposal of $4 million of CFLN funds and $4 million in match funds. Through efforts from outside partners and the SBRC, we expect we will exceed the $4 million of match funds. We also believe with increased efficiency and leveraging of partnerships the cost per acre to complete these treatments will continue to be reduced.

Planned accomplishments will meet or exceed most performance measures in the SBRC proposal and work plan. One area that may fall short of meeting the defined performance measure is BIO-NRG, where we still have little local capacity to process small diameter materials. This is beginning to change, as noted above, with an increase in post-and-pole operations in Seneca and ongoing dialogues about chipping facility and a torrefaction plant.

As designed, the Malheur 10 Year IRSC Stewardship Contract has provided the consistency needed for continued economic growth in the local area. This continues to enable accelerating pace of restoration on the Malheur NF. We expect to start exceeding accomplishments originally planned for many performance measures going forward. We are moving into units with higher timber value, which has decreased the investment needed for the stewardship contract and enabled the forest to divert funds to other contracts, agreements, and force account work. We expect this to continue, which will increase our output and accomplishment overall.

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 only change from last year is that Oregon Wild has removed itself as a collaborative member.

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):

In FY16 we have seen a substantial increase in partner funding, in no small part due to the recent expansion of our CFLR boundary as well as due to increased workforce capacity across the Malheur National Forest. These contributions came from a variety of sources, including Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Mule Deer Initiative, reforestation partnerships, and Oregon Department of Forestry. Our staffs have been able to make time to use our successes through CFLR to leverage matching funds as well as in kind contributions for a wide range of projects, and we expect to see this trend continue.

In terms of in-kind contributions, both of our neighboring tribal partners have been working with the Malheur to substantially increase restoration efforts across ownership boundaries. The confederated tribes of Warm Springs and the Burns-Paiute tribes have been valuable partners.

In 2012-2013 and 2015 years, the SBRC project has exceeded the 50% match requirements. In 2014 and 2016 we were below that threshold. The most exciting accomplishment in FY16 has been the shift from appropriated funds to service work, partnership and in-kind contributions. A large part of the partnership and in-kind contributions has been a direct result of the 2015 CFLR expansion. The expansion area includes high priority watersheds, and with our forest-wide Aquatics EA as well as other planning efforts, staff have leveraged critical restoration proposals for matching contributions. The expansion area also brings more integrated work with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and other partners. Finally, this increase reflects an increase in professional capacity which enables our staffs to seek and leverage contributions. All of these trends we expect to continue into FY17 and beyond.

Fiscal Year	CFLN Funds/ Carryover Funds	Appropriated Match	Stewardship Credits	Partner Contributions	Annual Match Totals
2012	$1,935,470	$1,595,247	0	$253,346	$1,848,593.00
2013	$2,044,272	$3,924,552	0	$229,400	$4,153,952.00
2014	$2,865,573.51	$1,667,805.78	$401,764.58	$167,993	$2,237,563.36
2015	$1,803,756.65	$1,082,757.41	$663,315.80	$572,799.97	$2,318,873.18
2016	$4,386,148	$1,164,801	$968,838.20	$1,720,321.51	$3,853,960.71
Totals to date	**$13,035,231**	**$9,435,163.19**	**$2,033,918.58**	**$2,943,859**	**$14,412,942.25**

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.

- **Blue Mountains Forest Partners** web pages have a wealth of information, including recent research as well as our finalized Zones of Agreement: Blue mountains forest partners
- **High Desert Partnership** includes the Harney County Restoration Collaborative. Information on recent work can be found online here: High desert partnership
- **Ecosystem Workforce Program, Institute for a Sustainable Environment, University of Oregon Fact Sheets and briefing papers: U Oregon**
- **Canyon Creek Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Presentation:** FTE Canyon Creek Assessment presentation
- **Sustainable Northwest**, Blues Coalition Science, Management, and Collaboration Workshop: Sustainable northwest workshop riparian ecosystems

- **Canyon Creek Fire –** There was a tremendous amount written regarding the Canyon Creek fire in FY16. The forest's Fact Sheet and BAER report are online here: usda.gov detail malheur home

Signatures:

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)):_____

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s))[3]:_____

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

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

Southern Blues CFLRP Monitoring Symposium

12:00-4:00 PM, Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Juniper Room, Malheur Supervisor's Office, Patterson Bridge Rd., John Day

Schedule

12:00 – 12:45	White headed-woodpecker habitat
12:45 – 1:15	Spatial pattern monitoring
1:15 – 2:15	Landscape pattern
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 3:00	Riparian restoration
3:00 – 3:30	Invasive species monitoring
3:30 – 4:00	Forest vegetation and fuels

WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER HABITAT

The white-headed woodpecker (*Picoides albolarvatus*) is a regional endemic species of the Inland Northwest, breeding in dry conifer forests dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). This species may be particularly vulnerable to environmental change because it occupies a limited distribution and has narrow habitat requirements. Forests occupied by this woodpecker are the target of most restoration and fuels reduction activities, consequently the white-headed woodpecker is of conservation concern by land managers. To help guide restoration efforts, we are monitoring occupancy, nesting densities, nesting survival, and habitat suitability of the white-headed woodpecker in relation to restoration treatments on the Southern Blues CFLRP.

Contacts: Vicki Saab (vsaab&fs.fed.us), Kim Mellen-McLean (kmellenmclean@fs.fed.us), Quresh Latif (qlatif@fs.fed.us), Jonathan Dudley (jdudley@fs.fed.us), Ana Egnew (aeegnew@fs.fed.us).

SPATIAL PATTERN MONITORING

Restoring spatial variability within a stand is an important part of dry forest restoration. We monitored five variable density thinning treatments in the CFLR area and compared post-treatment spatial patterns to reference conditions. Treated stands generally had more individual trees, more uniform spacing, and fewer large clumps and openings relative to reference stands. The general importance of spatial pattern in forest structure and different techniques for variable density thinning will be discussed.

Contact: Gunnar Carnwath (gcarnwath@fs.fed.us).

LANDSCAPE PATTERN

Landscape patterns are biotic expressions initiated through the continuous interacting variation in soil, landform, climate, biota, and disturbance. The basic concepts of landscape pattern involves an understanding of vegetation patches and patch dynamics. The science of measuring and making sense of the ever shifting patterns of patches on the landscape is called landscape ecology. This science brings powerful capabilities to measuring and monitoring landscape condition and change. We present a tool that can be used by Collaborative members to measure, monitor, compare, and interpret landscape patterns of the Southern Blues over time. This presentation will provide examples showing how the tool can be used monitor the progress of the CFLRP initiative.

Contacts: Michael Jennings (michaeldjennings@fs.fed.us), Gunnar Carnwath (gcarnwath@fs.fed.us), Nathan Poage (npoage@fs.fed.us), Mark Riley (markriley@fs.fed.us)

RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Riparian management has been a major discussion point of many landscape restoration projects within the Southern Blue Mountains Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. There is significant scientific uncertainty regarding ecological responses in riparian systems to thinning and other enhancement activities. We report on riparian monitoring efforts in 2 project areas of the Malheur National Forest and present baseline data collected in 2015. Providing quantitative data on the efficacy of riparian treatments will contribute to shared learning between resource specialists and collaborative members, and provides opportunities to find new levels of agreement in previously controversial issues.

Contacts: Sabine Mellmann-Brown (smellmannbrown@fs.fed.us), Upekala Wijayratne (ucwijayratne@fs.fed.us), Gunnar Carnwath (gcarnwath@fs.fed.us).

INVASIVE SPECIES

We will present invasive plant inventory data and preliminary monitoring results of the distribution and trends of invasive plant populations in the CFLRP area. This will include (1) current inventory data across the Forest, (2) a case study of invasive plant inventory in the Camp/Lick project area, (3) unintentional spread of invasive plants due to ground-disturbing activities, and (4) prevention of invasive species establishment in disturbed areas through revegetation with native plant materials.

Contact: Joe Rausch (jhrausch@fs.fed.us)

FOREST VEGETATION AND FUELS

The FVF program is collecting detailed information about changes to overstory tree structure, understory vegetation, and surface fuels that result from MNF fuel reduction projects. We'll describe the areas where we're collecting pre- and post-treatment data, present some preliminary results, and describe how we're using data to adaptively manage to accomplish forest resiliency goals.

Contacts: James Johnston (james.johnston@oregonstate.edu), Kat Morici (Kat.Morici@oregonstate.edu), John Bailey (John.Bailey@oregonstate.edu)