

**CFLR Project (Name/Number): Uncompahgre Plateau**

**National Forest(s): Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests**

**1. Match and leveraged funds:**

**a. FY16 Matching Funds Documentation**

<b>Fund Source – (CFLN/CFLR Funds Expended)</b>	<b>Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016(\$)</b>
CFLN16	\$422,801
CFLN13	\$ 34,848
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$457,649</b>

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

<b>Fund Source – (Funds expended from Washington Office funds (in addition to CFLR/CFLN) (please include a new row for each BLI))</b>	<b>Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016(\$)</b>
NFLM13	\$200,601
NFLM14	\$214,989
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$415,590</b>

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.

<b>Fund Source – (FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI))</b>	<b>Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016(\$)</b>
CMTL	\$23,403
NFTM	\$1,103,700
NFWF	\$153,499
WFHF	\$526,097
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,806,699</b>

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.

<b>Fund Source – (Funds contributed through agreements)</b>	<b>Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2016(\$)</b>
Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CWFS)	\$50,000
Colorado Parks & Wildlife (NFXN)	\$34,875
Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV Grant – Grand Valley, Ouray (CMXN)	\$149,290
Mule Deer Foundation (Dry Mesa Project)	\$9,900
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Pine Hill, La Fair Projects)	\$50,000
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Pine Hill, La Fair Projects)	\$14,675
Colorado Parks and Wildlife HPP (Rocky Pitch Project)	\$14,675
Colorado Parks and Wildlife HPP (Dry Mesa Project)	\$10,000
Colorado Parks and Wildlife HPP (Dry Mesa Project)	\$20,000
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Dry Mesa Project)	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$338,740</b>

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(\$)
Uncompahgre Partnership (weed treatment)	\$1,840
Uncompahgre Partnership (native seed)	\$5,515
Uncompahgre Partnership (monitoring)	\$11,500
Mule Deer Foundation (7N stewardship)	\$50,000
Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (monitoring)	\$8,128
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,983</b>

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

Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract (for contracts awarded in FY16)	Totals
Total <u>revised non-monetary credit limit</u> for contracts awarded in FY16	7N \$573,507 Lockhart 2 \$333,413 Total \$906,919

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 limits for contracts awarded prior to 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
Native Seed Coordinator	Position provided through the Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative	\$48,000	Forest Service and partner funds	US Forest Service – NFVW. Funds also provided by the Bureau of Land Mgmt, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and Colorado State grants

Description of item	Where activity/item is located or impacted area	Estimated total amount	Forest Service or Partner Funds?	Source of funds
Schedule A Road Maintenance Agreement	218 miles of high clearance and 199 miles of passenger car road maintenance was completed in 2016.	\$752,400	Partner funds	State of Colorado.

**(Optional) Additional narrative about leverage on the landscape if needed:**

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Native Seed Warehouse that opened in 2012 in cooperation with several federal agencies non-profit organization continued their operations in 2016. Several species of native seed were collected and propagated by private growers and are being stored in the warehouse. The Forest and many other state and federal agencies are working with the Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative (WCLC -formally the Uncompahgre Partnership) as a broker to purchase seed at bulk rates. In summer 2013, WCLC hired a Native Plant Coordinator to coordinate with growers, purchase and apply seed for various projects implemented on the Forest. This position is multi-financed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. Total expenditures for the Native Plant Program coordinator in FY16 were \$48,000.

Road maintenance was completed through Schedule A County Agreements.

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.**

This year the GMUG National Forest had an average fire season within the Uncompahgre Plateau CFLN area. Moisture conditions were conducive to utilizing management strategies on two fires, the Pitch Fire and the Kelso Fire, both of which started by lightning in late June. The Pitch Fire ignited within a CFLN prescribed fire planning area where burn units were being designed and laid-out. This enabled the fire staff to utilize their intimate knowledge of the area to help manage the Pitch Fire very effectively to achieve 404 acres of resource benefit. These benefits include reduced risk to private property/residences one to two miles downwind, restoration of pine fire regimes and understory composition, and increased ability to implement prescribed fire with the Pitch Fire as an anchor for adjacent units. The Kelso Fire was ignited in a very remote area of the Uncompahgre Plateau containing ponderosa pine, aspen and Gambel oak. Two Wildland Fire Modules were utilized over a three week period to manage the Kelso Fire, which eventually reached almost 1,500 acres in size, effectively reintroducing fire into much of the ponderosa pine within the perimeter and improving oak-

brush age class diversity. Improved age-class diversity and creation of patches of old and young oak improved habitat heterogeneity benefiting a variety of wildlife species.

The fire and fuels program implemented approximately 3,332 acres of additional prescribed fire within the CFLN area this season. The majority of this was within ponderosa pine stands that had not seen fire for the past 60-80 years, while 290 acres of it was pine maintenance burning on a return interval of 10-15 years. Several of these projects were located within the WUI and were designed both to reduce risk to electrical transmission lines/subdivisions as well as restore ponderosa pine fire regimes and stand structure.

Implementation of several mechanical fuels reduction projects also continued in 2016, including the 865 acre Naturita Pine Restoration/Fuels Project, a 126 acre add-on unit on the Lockhart Stewardship Contract, several wildlife driven oak understory mastication projects in ponderosa pine, and thinning of dense young ponderosa pine stands to a more natural spacing.

Overall, more than 4,000 acres of fire/fuels specific projects were implemented within the CFLN area in 2016. These acres, coupled with previously treated acres since the inception of the CFLN project, have substantially modified fuels complexes and potential fire behavior in key locations within the CFLN landscape area. Though we did not have any 2016 wildfires whose fire behavior was modified by previous fuels treatments we have model estimates that approximately 50% of the Uncompahgre Plateau is in a condition where natural (managed) fire can play a key role in continuing to maintain that landscape. Future planned fuels work, as well as future wildfire management opportunities, will continue to increase this percentage; the opportunities increase exponentially as increasing amounts of the landscape are treated.

The Uncompahgre Plateau CFLN is making substantial progress within the fire and fuels arena toward the Goals of the 10 Year Strategy Implementation Plan. Fire suppression is becoming less risky to firefighters and more effective as we treat fuels and utilize managed fire across the landscape (though this was not tested in 2016). Hazardous Fuels are being reduced on an average of 4,000 plus acres each year on the Plateau through fuels projects and managed fires (this does not include the impact of stewardship timber projects). Restoration of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems is occurring at a substantial pace with emphasis on dry mixed conifer adjacent to values; this will allow future fuels and fire management opportunities to expand significantly in the future.

**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 1005](#).

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

<b>FY 2016 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY16 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover funding):</b>	<b>Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)</b>	<b>Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)</b>	<b>Labor Income (Direct)</b>	<b>Labor Income (Total)</b>
Timber harvesting component	<b>33</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1,400,229</b>	<b>2,152,167</b>
Forest and watershed restoration component	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>81,493</b>	<b>114,509</b>
Mill processing component	<b>18</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>520,984</b>	<b>1,873,904</b>
Implementation and monitoring	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>237,121</b>	<b>290,338</b>
Other Project Activities	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,604</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>2,239,827</b>	<b>4,471,521</b>

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>.

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

<b>FY 2016 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY16 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover funding):</b>	<b>Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)</b>	<b>Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)</b>	<b>Labor Income (Direct)</b>	<b>Labor Income (Total)</b>
Timber harvesting component	<b>33</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1,400,229</b>	<b>2,152,167</b>
Forest and watershed restoration component	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>190,422</b>	<b>262,476</b>
Mill processing component	<b>18</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>520,984</b>	<b>1,873,904</b>
Implementation and monitoring	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,156,580</b>	<b>1,416,149</b>
Other Project Activities	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,604</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>3,268,214</b>	<b>5,745,299</b>

**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?*

During FY 16, numerous projects were accomplished that created jobs for our local communities, contractors, and youth. Communities surrounding the project area are rural and rely on the use of public lands to create job opportunities through recreation, hunting, grazing, and resource extraction. As project implementation continues, have seen an increase in wood products harvested, which in turn has resulted in increased opportunities for timber industry and/or other forest-products related businesses. Project implementation is leading to healthier ecosystems that will support business activities of surrounding rural communities, as well as restore our fire adapted ecosystems so that the risk of catastrophic wildfires are reduced. Beyond these broad accomplishments for FY 16, specific benefits to communities in Western Colorado include:

- Wood products offered from the Uncompahgre Plateau include stewardship contracts and agreements, traditional timber sales and small salvage sales. All timber sale projects have been successfully sold or awarded. Total volume sold in 2016 was 24,657 CCF. Total volume sold in 2015 was 13,704 ccf (2,090 CCF additional volume associated with Horsefly Trail stewardship was not properly flagged as CFLRP initiative in TIM until after the 2015 reporting deadline). Log trucks continue to deliver loads of spruce/fir and Douglas fir to Montrose Forest Products (MFP) and loads of pine to other regional mills on a daily basis.
- Twenty-eight new firefighters on the Forest this fire season (24 Job Corp students and 4 FS seasonals/permanents). Between this pulse of new firefighters and last year’s newly trained firefighters (47 in 2015), we saw much more engagement of Job Corp students and non-primary fire agency personnel in the GMUG Fire Program in 2016. This engagement included assignments as crew members on 1)engines on both local and national assignments, 2)Type 2 IA Crews sent out nationally, 3)local militia modules assisting with local full suppression fires and managed fires, and 3)local prescribed burns.
- Since 2010, 55 high school students and nine teachers have participated in monitoring efforts.

- One fall monitoring meeting, one mid-winter stakeholder meeting and two field trips were completed in 2016. Approximately 80 scientists, representatives of local, state, federal governments participated.
- Stakeholder involvement remains high on the project
- The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests are currently using the collaborative process developed under CFLR as a model for a multi-year spruce and aspen management project. The Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Aspen Decline Management Response (SBEADMR) EIS was signed in 2016.
- The greatest limiting factor to achieving increased community benefit is the reduction in funding through the remainder of the grant funding period (2019). In the original grant proposal developed in 2010, restoration work was believed to curtail beginning in 2016. In reality the work has accelerated do to wide community support and additional acres cleared through the NEPA process. Funding in 2017-2019 will decline further but the need is expected to stay at or above 2016 levels with is approximately one million dollars per year.

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 on the Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP is a team effort involving the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, The Uncompahgre Partnership, and the USFS. A monitoring “Jam Session” with stakeholders was held in October 2015 to identify monitoring priorities for the year and how funding would be disseminated. Ten percent of the FY2016 CFLN funding was set aside for monitoring and prioritized out to specific monitoring efforts.

*Colorado Forest Restoration Institute:*

- Provided leadership and oversight to the Montrose High School Forestry Intern Program.
  - Developed monitoring protocols, trained crew, and identified project specific monitoring priorities.
  - Collected data on trees, surface fuels, and/or understory cover throughout the area where cutting had been completed. They also collected pre-treatment surface fuels and understory cover data to supplement already collected pre-treatment forest structure data. Additionally, they collected tree regeneration data in post-harvest but pre-burn units. Key observations include:
    - Treatments have reduced basal area, reduced trees per acre, and increased quadratic mean diameter.

- The reduction in basal area and removal of the more shade-tolerant conifers has led to more open stand conditions, which will provide more light for understory plants and shade-intolerant tree regeneration.
- Torching, and particularly Crowning, Indices increased suggesting active crown fire is much less likely in these stands now than before treatment.
- There was concern that treatments would result in too much soil disturbance however, mineral soil exposure is about 5% in treated and untreated units. Forbs, graminoids (grasses and sedges), and shrubs cover less area in treated than in untreated stands, but plant cover will likely increase with time since treatment.
- Tree regeneration is occurring and is dominated by aspen and oak, both species that can reproduce through re-sprouting. Ponderosa pine and spruce species were regenerating at very low (<5 stems/ac) densities.
- Our analysis of pre- and post-treatment canopy cover showed desirable trends. The coverage of coniferous canopy has been reduced, and the number of distinct canopy patches has increased. The complexity of forest canopy cover has increased in some ways: the number of patches, distance between patches, and range of distances between patches have increased. However, the range of patch sizes decreased and the edge density did not change significantly.
- Continued spruce regeneration study.
  - Our goal was to investigate edge effects and coarse woody debris management on regeneration success in group selection openings. We implemented an Engelmann spruce germination study on the Uncompahgre Plateau in group selection openings. Permanent plots were installed in spring of 2015, and re-measured in 2016. Results are as follows:
    - Residual coarse woody debris increases Engelmann spruce germination throughout openings, even against the edge
    - The southern edge provides a benefit to spruce germination up to 1.5 tree lengths away
    - The shade from coarse woody debris keeps maximum temperatures below known heat girdling levels
    - Increases in coarse woody debris increase germination success through 36 metric tons ha<sup>-1</sup> (16 tons ac<sup>-1</sup>)
- Economic Monitoring
  - Annual surveys were continued in 2016 with current contractors to assess economic impacts.
- North Uncompahgre
  - Pre-treatment data collected in ponderosa pine/Gambel oak mechanical treatment area. Post-treatment monitoring to occur in 2017 and 2019.

#### *Uncompahgre Partnership*

- Through an agreement with the USFS, Uncompahgre Partnership provided the Montrose High school Forestry Intern Program crew. The crew consisted of a teacher and four students who worked closely with CFRI to complete monitoring across the Ouray Ranger District. The Uncompahgre Partnership also

helped to facilitate our monitoring jam session, annual winter stakeholder meeting, annual stakeholder field tour and camp-out, and our Washington Office field visit.

Results and feedback from multi-party monitoring positively influence the success of our project by helping us to adaptively manage the landscape. For example, we are able to fine tune silviculture prescriptions to achieve more desirable outcomes based on input from the monitoring program.

**6. FY 2016 accomplishments.**

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Unit of measure</b>	<b>Total Units Accomplished</b>	<b>Total Treatment Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)</b>
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	2426	\$1,220,880	CFHF \$117,180 CFTM \$1,103,700
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	253	\$100,000	CFLN
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	7087	\$1,863,203	CFLN \$92,846 CFTM \$1,103,700 CFHF \$487,107 CWFS \$120,000 NFXN \$59,550
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved RG-VEG-IMP	Acres	10363	\$1,325,641	CFLN \$220,436 NFLM \$333,435 CFTM \$751,760 NFVW \$20,010
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN	Miles	218	\$752,400	Partner funds
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	199	Included in figure above.	Partner funds
Miles of system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD	Miles	125	\$24,000	CFLN
Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD	Miles	3.7	Included in figure above.	CFLN



Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	1662	\$1,103,700	CFTM
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	10157	Included in figure above.	CFTM
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	24657	\$1,103,700	CFTM
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	3797	\$572,721	CFHF \$487,107 CFLN \$85,614
<b>Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI</b>	Acres	<b>2097</b>	<b>Included in figure above.</b>	

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.)

FY 2016 was a big year for the Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP because we were able to accelerate our forest restoration program by awarding two large stewardship contracts and sold 24,657 CCF of timber volume. This was a huge accomplishment for our program. We were also able to manage two wildfires (totaling 1,890 acres) that resulted in positive ecological impacts on the landscape. We continued to implement wildlife habitat improvement projects and had a successful prescribed fire year, burning more acres than the past several years combined. We implemented forest health protection projects to mitigate Douglas-fir beetle activity. Our forest restoration treatments from 2010-2016 are accumulating to make a significant impact on the vegetation across the Uncompahgre Plateau landscape. Our activities are resulting in forest conditions more resilient to increased disturbances in the wake of a changing climate, including: wildfire, insects, drought

and disease. Completed forest restoration work is also providing more fire management options, which will hopefully lead to more management of fire across the landscape for the ecological benefits to the resources, and safer conditions for firefighters and the public.

Our relationship with the Mule Deer Foundation continued to grow in 2016 with additional timber preparation work completed and on-going timber harvest occurring through our stewardship agreement. We worked very closely with the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute and the Uncompahgre Partnership – Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative in public outreach, coordination, scientific studies, and monitoring. Our local communities, partners and stakeholders continue to be involved and offer positive feedback on our on-going efforts with no controversy. We hosted a Washington Office review and were able to show-off some of our forest restoration work. It was a very positive visit, and was rewarding to see our local stakeholders, scientists, local USFS personnel, Regional office USFS personnel from R-2, Washington Office USFS personnel, and local timber industry all constructively interacting in the field.

The table below provides a summary of accomplishments through 2016 as a comparison of the stated goal in the 2010 project proposal. Note that the numbers will not match gPAS report figures because many treatments are counted for more than one treatment type. This table is important to our local stakeholder group and tracks our success compared to our 10 year project goals.

Table - Acres of treatment proposed in the Uncompahgre Project area from our 2010 proposal versus actual accomplishments by fiscal year.

Treatment Tracking by Type

	Mixed Conifer	Ponderosa Pine	Sage	Pinyon Juniper	Oak	Aspen	Spruce/Fir	Riparian	Roads Decommissioned	Mechanical Treatments	RX/Managed Fire	Trail	Native Species	Invasive Weeds	Timber Volume Sold (CCF)	Powerlines Treatments	Stream
Proposed treatment amounts	11,000	15,000	1,800	2,500	7,000	11,000	4,000	320	130	27,300	55,000	100	8100	6,800	99,000	650	30
Unit of Measure	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre	Acre	Mile	Acre	Acre	Mile	Acre	Acre	CCF	Acre	Miles
FY 10 Accomplishments	1,089	300	0	0	0	0	171	0	32.5	1,381	1,893	10	401	457	6,100	117	0
FY 11 Accomplishments	1,681	3,158	0	445	490	800	285	320	4	2,874	4,052	268	475	1,655	12,777	472	1
FY12 Accomplishment	487	511	322	494	0	86	141	50	30	1,494	0	48	201	222	5,115	482	2
FY13 Accomplishments	48	1,003	1,043	1,248	2,121	1,352	350	0	36	3,806	318	49	215	392	10,514	0	15
FY14 Accomplishments	668	554	749	554	1,371	66	1,063	0	13	3,012	1,071	84	0	745	5,028	133	0
FY15 Accomplishments	1,073	3,086	0	1,400	3,158	736	645	0	0	3,678	945	92	300	800	13,704*	0	0

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	Mixed Conifer	Ponderosa Pine	Sage	Pinyon Juniper	Oak	Aspen	Spruce/Fir	Riparian	Roads Decommissioned	Mechanical Treatments	RX/Managed Fire	Trail	Native Species	Invasive Weeds	Timber Volume Sold (CCF)	Power lines Treatments	Stream
FY 16 Accomplishments	2,152	6,637	280	821	5,478	4,668	260	0	0	2,761	5,232	128	0	253	24,657	563	0
Treatment Total and Percent (%)	5,046 (46)	15,249 (102)	2,394 (133)	4,962 (198)	12,618 (180)	7,708 (70)	2,655 (66)	370 (116)	115.5 (89)	19,006 (70)	9,720 (18)	679 (679)	1,592 (20)	4,524 (67)	77,895 (79)	1,634 (251)	18 (60)

Includes 2,090 CCF from Horsefly Trail, included in Mule Deer Foundation stewardship agreement in FY 2015 that was not included in last year's report

**Update on Project goals and outcomes to date:**

- a) Restored and maintained forest conditions, with reduced tree density and fuels hazards, will enable broader use of prescribed fire and wildfire, providing more natural ecological functions and reduced fire-fighting cost with approximately 27,300 acres of mechanical treatment and 55,000 acres of broadcast burning planned.
- Since 2010, the project has accomplished 19,006 of mechanical treatment and 9,720 acres of prescribed fire. This is 70% and 18% of the stated goal 70% of the way through the 10-year project.
  - Monitoring continues to indicate attainment of desired forest conditions and reducing tree density and fuel hazards.
  - All of the prescribed fire and mechanical treatments were designed to accomplish multiple objectives for wildlife, reducing hazardous fuels, timber production and restoring ecological function. Wildlife species benefitting from the treatments include: Gunnison sage-grouse, mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, numerous Forest Service sensitive and Management Indicator Species.
  - Partners continue to be a huge factor in attainment of mechanical and prescribed fire objectives with contributions made from Rocky Mountain Elk, The Mule Deer Foundation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife. These contributions total \$338,740.
  - The Stewardship Agreement initiated in 2014 with the Mule Deer Foundation was expanded to include field preparation of the 7N stewardship project. Additionally timber harvest was completed in the Old Guard project area.
- b) Fuels treatments in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), including 650 acres of power line treatments, in coordination with Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).
- Since 2010, approximately 9,325 acres of treatment has occurred in WUI. Of this amount, 1,634 acres were associated with power lines. We have doubled our stated goal from 2010 for powerline treatments.
  - In 2016, approximately 2,097 acres were treated in WUI. 563 acres from prescribed fire in 2015 were associated with power-lines.
- c) Water quality, water yield, and stream habitat enhancement within key Colorado River watersheds.
- Since 2010, approximately 679 miles of trails have been maintained or improved. Our stated goal in 2010 was 100 miles, therefore we have far exceeded our stated goal.
  - No road decommission occurred in 2015. The stated goal in 2010 was 130 miles. To date we have accomplished 115.5 miles which is 89% of our stated goal. Additional road decommission is scheduled for 2017.
  - Road maintenance continues to be completed through County Road Agreements and Force Account. Over 400 miles were maintained in 2015.
  - Maintenance to reduce erosion and sedimentation to nearby streams was completed on 129 miles of trail.
- d) Weed treatments on over 6,800 acres and reseeded with native seed on 8,100 acres.

- Since 2010, approximately 4,524 acres of noxious weed treatments have been completed. This is 67% of the stated goal, 70% the way through the project timeline. Approximately 253 acres of invasive weeds were treated in 2016.
- e) Collaborative multi party monitoring by collecting pre-treatment and post-treatment information to assess effectiveness of restoration over a 15-year period (establish historic conditions and range of variability; determine current baseline vegetation conditions).
- A summary of monitoring highlights from 2015 is provided in Section 5 of this report.
- f) Outcomes that benefit threatened, sensitive and endangered species, including Gunnison sage-grouse, desert bighorn sheep, and Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Since 2010, 31,283 acres of terrestrial habitat and 18 miles of stream habitat have been restored or enhanced. Improvements/restoration to terrestrial habitats has been accomplished through road closures to create wildlife security areas, and mechanical and prescribed fire treatments to increase forest vegetation resiliency.
  - In 2016, approximately 6,553 acres of terrestrial habitat were treated in mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper, sage, aspen and spruce-fir cover types.
- g) Development and integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Stream temperature monitoring continues on multiple streams on the Plateau. Data from monitoring will be used in 2015/16 to create a predictive model of stream temperatures changes resulting from climate change.
- h) Approximately 292,000 CCF of biomass will be created (approximately half of which is saw log volume), and projects will support the enlargement of biomass markets and sustain local timber mills.
- A biomass market has yet to develop in Western Colorado. The Forest continues to work with any entity (private or public) to create such a market.
  - Only wood products that are used directly in a biomass market are counted in reporting. Therefore no accomplishment was reported in 2016.
- i) Project implementation through stewardship contracting and other means will require hiring of field crews; over 750 part-time/seasonal jobs will be created.
- Since 2010, the project has produced approximately 899 direct, indirect and Force Account jobs.
  - In 2016, 151 full-time and part time jobs were created.
  - Two Stewardship Contracts (Lockhart II and 7N) were awarded in 2016. Both projects treated mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, spruce/fir and aspen stands.
  - Approximately 30 students and summer temporaries with Youth Services, Job Corps and local high schools worked on various projects on the Uncompahgre Plateau.
- j) Local youth will be involved in projects, providing work, job skill training, and educational opportunities.
- Youth Conservation and Job Corps crews worked on multiple projects on the Plateau. YCC crews worked to rehabilitate and seed pile burn scars resulting from fuels treatment in the Unc Mestas contract area. Job Corps crews helped accomplish prescribed burning.
  - Several monitoring projects were undertaken by the High School Internship/apprenticeship program. Projects included an examination of presents/absence of neo-tropical birds and mammals in treated versus non-treated areas and the effects of harvest treatments on tree

regeneration, forest structure & composition, and fuel conditions. Students also participated in numerous projects involving the public.

- Since 2010, 54 high school students and nine teachers have participated in summer high school internship programs at Montrose, Delta and Norwood High Schools.
- k) Strengthened partner relationships and collaboration among all involved parties with meetings, field trips, outreach and technology transfer.
- Continued discussions and involvement of multiple collaborators and cooperators in planning efforts, studies, and monitoring activities. Held our annual monitoring jam session and mid-winter meeting that involved over 50 stakeholders. We also conducted a two day field trip and camp-out with stakeholders and hosted a Washington Office field review. Approximately 40-50 individuals participated in each of the summer field trips.
  - Through the Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative, an external website has also been maintained. The purpose of this site is keep stakeholders informed about the project throughout the 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)?

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Total number of acres treated (treatment footprint)</b>
Total as of 10/31/16	50,981
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 – 9,528 FY11 – 3,792 FY12 – 1,967 FY13 – 4,124 FY14 – 4,783 FY15 – 7,275 FY16 – 19,512

**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?**

**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).

\*Note that our total volume sold in FY 2015 should have included 2,090 CCF from Horsefly Trail, included in our Mule Deer Foundation stewardship agreement. This was not captured in last year’s snapshot of gPAS because the project was not properly flagged as CFLRP initiative in TIM at the time of the snapshot. The error was corrected in October 2015.

Our 2010-2016 timber volume sold total for the project should be 77,895 CCF.

**10. Planned FY 2018 Accomplishments<sup>1</sup>**

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.

<b>Performance Measure Code</b>	<b>Unit of measure</b>	<b>Planned Accomplishment</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres		
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acres	800	\$85,000
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	18	\$75,000
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	1500	\$100,000
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles		
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	200	Partner funds
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	200	Partner funds
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	2500	\$300,000
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons		

<sup>1</sup> 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 (\$)
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acres	1100	\$85,000
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres		

\*These performance measures do not include all of the work proposed under the Uncompahgre Plateau CFLR proposal. The total request for FY18 is consistent with our proposal and includes a broader range of restoration activities.

**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):

**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.

- Uncompahgre Partnership
- Western Colorado Congress
- Tri-State G&T
- CFRI
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Local Permittees
- Recreation Partners
- Western Area Power Administration
- Public Lands Partnership
- Industry Partners
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Local County Governments
- Montrose, Delta, and Norwood High Schools
- Mule Deer Foundation
- Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- National Wild Turkey Federation

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

Our partner, the Uncompahgre Partnership – Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative, applied for a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to help fund our three high school intern programs. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in 2016, but we have already worked together to apply again for 2017. We have also started to build a new working relationship with the National Wild Turkey Federation and plan to work towards forming a new stewardship agreement with them in 2017. This new partnership will help bring more matching funds into our CFLR project and increase our capacity to implement habitat improvement projects.

Grant funding that was leveraged with CFLN funds to increase the scope and scale of wildlife habitat improvement projects includes:

- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - \$50,000. This went towards the mastication projects (La fair and Pine Hill)
- Uncompahgre Habitat Partnership Program committee; Colorado Parks & Wildlife - \$35,000. This went towards Mastication projects.
- Uncompahgre Habitat Partnership Program committee; Colorado Parks & Wildlife - \$14,675. This was for the RX Mow line and for the burning of Rocky Pitch.
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation - \$20,000. This went towards Dry Mesa mechanical habitat improvement project.
- Uncompahgre Habitat Partnership Program committee; Colorado Parks & Wildlife - \$10,000. This went towards Dry Mesa mechanical habitat improvement project.
- Mule Deer Foundation stewardship agreement contribution - \$9,900. This went towards Dry Mesa mechanical habitat improvement project.
- 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.

[Grand Mesa Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests](#)

[Restoring Forests on the Plateau](#)

[Grand Mesa & Gunnison NF Little Monitor RX burn](#)

[Grand Mesa & Gunnison NF unit 5 RX burn](#)

[Grand Mesa & Gunnison NF Fall RX burns](#)

[Grand Mesa & Gunnison NF pitch & Kelso wildfire update](#)

[Grand Mesa & Gunnison NF Bark Beetle treatment](#)

[Grand Mesa & Gunnison NF Spring RX burns on Public Lands](#)

Grand Mesa & Gunnison NF Wild Turkey Award

**Signatures:**

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)): /s/ Todd S. Gardiner

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s))<sup>2</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

(OPTIONAL) Reviewed by (collaborative chair or representative): \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>2</sup> If your project includes more than one National Forest, please include an additional line for each Forest Supervisor signature.