

CFLR Project (Name/Number): *Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters/CFLN013*

National Forest(s): *Payette National Forest*

1. Match and Leveraged Funds:

a. FY17 Matching Funds Documentation

Fund Source – (CFLN/CFLR Funds Expended)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017
CFLN17	\$2,103,618

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

Fund Source – (Funds expended from Washington Office funds (in addition to CFLR/CFLN) (please include a new row for each BLI))	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017
NFRR	\$944,231
WFHF	\$1,522,023

This value (aka carryover funds or WO unobligated funds) should reflect the amount expended of the allocated funds as indicated in the 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 2017
CMRD	\$311,472
CMTL	\$67,302
CWF2	\$51,209
NFRG	\$12,719
NFXF	\$1,948
NFXN	\$52
RTRT	\$279,484
SPFH*	\$74,144
SSCC	\$340,778

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.

*SPFH is not recorded on the spreadsheet, but was reported in FACTS, and was used to accomplish the work in the CFLR area and in report.

Fund Source – (Funds contributed through agreements)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017
Adams County RAC YCC funding	\$8,000
Valley County RAC YCC funding	\$8,000
UOI NIDGS Research Agreement	\$110,773

Fund Source – (Funds contributed through agreements)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017
IDFG NIDGS Monitoring*	\$75,000
RMRS WHWO Research	\$102,200

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, and Watershed work can be found in WIT database.

*IDFG NIDGS Monitoring was a collaborative agreement between agencies.

Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017
UOI NIDGS Research Agreement (USGS)	\$25,000
RMRS WHWO Research	\$20,104

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 FY17)	Totals
Total <u>revised non-monetary credit limit</u> for contracts awarded in FY17 ¹	\$1,085,765.20
Rough Finn Stewardship	\$524,323.00
Restoration Stewardship	\$561,442.20

Revised non-monetary credit limits for contracts awarded prior to FY17 were captured in previous reports. 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 FY2017 (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

¹ 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.

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
Idaho Conservation Corps—Resource Stewards Agreement	Across the WLSH CFLRP Area	\$72,303	Partner	AmeriCorps/Northwest Youth Corps/Idaho Conservation Corps
Idaho Conservation Corps—Monitoring and Layout	Across the WLSH CFLRP Area	\$115,280	Partner	AmeriCorps/Northwest Youth Corps/Idaho Conservation Corps
Idaho Parks and Recreation- LCBC Grant	Clayburn Saddle Vault Toilet	\$ 18,000	Partner	Idaho Parks and Recreation
Contractor timber marking- Designation by Prescription	Rough Finn & Restoration Stewardship Contracts	\$62,000	Partner	Purchasers-included as appraisal item
Contractor timber marking- DxP personnel costs	Rough Finn & Restoration Stewardship Contracts	\$2,000	Partner	Included as appraisal item
Road Maintenance and improvements	Rough Finn & Restoration Stewardship Contracts and Bertha's run timber Sale	\$31,000	Partner	Purchasers-included as appraisal item

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

Due to the desire to increase the pace of restoration and timber volume output associated with the WLSH-CFLRP, the Forest has been using Designation by Prescription (DxP) to gain efficiencies in timber sale unit preparation to come closer to our WLSH CFLRP goals. DxP is a contract provision that allows contractors to

mark trees with paint prior to treatment. This is work that Forest Service personnel have historically completed. The DxP allows the opportunity to use contractor experience to help meet National Forest management goals. This cost is not captured anywhere else in this report because the cost is included in the Stewardship contract as an appraised item (not as a service item that the contractors bid on.) In the two most recent stewardship contracts (Rough Finn and Restoration IRTCs), approximately 1,625 acres were included as DxP. This equates to approximately \$62,000 dollars (\$38-40/acre) in work that the contractors are completing for the Forest that have helped the Forest gain efficiencies in layout of commercial timber harvest treatments in the WLSH CFLRP area.

In FY 2017 the Payette National Forest awarded two stewardship contracts: the Rough Finn Stewardship Contract to Idaho Forest Group of Grangeville, Idaho and the Restoration Stewardship Contract to Evergreen Forest of Tamarack, Idaho. Both projects are located on the New Meadows Ranger District near Lost Valley Reservoir. These are the fifth and sixth of a dozen stewardship contracts planned with the Lost Creek Boulder Creek Landscape Restoration Project aimed at restoring the area to historic conditions. Both projects include thinning and prescribed fire to increase the large tree and age class diversity of forest stands, increase fire resiliency, and improve wildlife habitat. Road and riparian treatments will improve aquatic habitat and water quality by reducing sediment transport to streams and providing streambank stability. The Rough Finn Stewardship contract will result in restoration stand treatments on 1,300 acres and improvements on 30 miles of roads. The contract is expected to produce about 21,000 CCF (10.5 million board feet) of logs for wood products. The Restoration Stewardship contract will result in restoration stand treatments on 950 acres and improvements on 30 miles of roads. It is expected to produce about 16,000 CCF (8.0 million board feet) of logs for wood products. Each of these two contracts will contribute to the economic vitality of local communities.

In FY 2016, the Payette National Forest entered into a four-year agreement for \$352,381 with the Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) to utilize the Resource Assistant Program with this organization. In FY 2017, \$75,000 was added to the agreement, bringing total contributions to \$427,381. This agreement provides an opportunity to engage youth in natural resource management. The Forest Service funds, in conjunction with the partner funds, will allow approximately 38 youth to gain valuable experience in the natural resource field. In FY 2017, the Payette National Forest used this agreement with the ICC and hired nine Conservation Education Interns who worked in many different staff groups and performed duties within the CFLR area.

In FY 2017, the ICC completed monitoring plots and pre-commercial thinning and layout within the WLSH-CFLR area. The ICC provided the Payette National Forest with seasonal crews from early June through September. The partner contributions to this agreement were \$35,700. These crews completed work including layout of 1310 acres of pre-commercial thinning on the Lost Creek-Boulder Creek project for the WLSH-CFLRP. Boundaries of thinning units were monumented with flagging and unit tags then measured with GPS.

ICC crews also completed fuels treatment monitoring plots on the Weasel CE Project (also part of WLSH-CFLRP.) They recorded monitoring data on 1/10 acre plots to be used to assess short and long term effects of fuels treatments such as prescribed fire and pre-commercial thinning. The data gathered on 1/10 acre circular plots included: measuring and recording tree heights, diameter breast height, canopy base height, tree

species, brush species, estimated fuel loadings, spacing between tree boles in over story and understory, wildlife trees, and trees per acre. They completed 110 plots scattered across 30,000 acres. All planned work was completed in less time than was estimated for completion.

The ICC crew produced a high quality product that will benefit the Payette National Forest greatly in the future. The Payette National Forest continues to work on building a successful partnership program with the Idaho Conservation Corps to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to not only gain field experience, but also help them build a foundation for a future career in natural resource management.

The Forest obtained funding through the Valley and Adams County Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) to fund Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crews based in McCall and Council, Idaho. Each crew was composed of four 15-18 year old crew members and an adult crew leader, drawn from communities in each respective county. In addition to providing labor for the Forest, these crews introduced high school-aged youth to career opportunities in the USFS and provided education in natural resource management. Working within the WLSH CFLRP area, the crews also provided labor for trail maintenance, recreation site rehabilitation, wildlife monitoring, hydrologic monitoring, and fence removal. Specific accomplishments include participating in the maintenance of 16.6 mi. of NFS trails, reconstruction of two information kiosks, and removal of widespread overgrown brush from Huckleberry and Lafferty Campgrounds within the CFLR boundary. This labor would not have been available without the RAC funding for the program and enabled the Forest to complete these small-scale projects that benefited conditions within the WLSH CFLRP area.

In addition, some road maintenance and improvements targets were accomplished (see table 2017 Accomplishments page 12) through specified road work as an appraisal allowance and/or by stewardship credits within the integrated timber/service stewardship contracts. Costs associated with these accomplishments were not included in the separate BLI or partner match column. The Payette National Forest accomplished a significant amount of road work through timber sales or stewardship contracts. We have had approximately \$1.5 million in road work as an appraisal allowance plus approximately \$660,000 as stewardship service items to date.

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*.

The Payette National Forest utilizes a holistic approach to fire management across the Forest and within the WLSH CFLRP Landscape. Fire is treated as part of the fabric that shapes the landscape, used to meet objectives when it can and then extinguished when objectives cannot be met. In simple terms, "fight fire where we must, use fire where we can." The Forest is also actively implementing the principles of the 2006 Ten-Year Cohesive Strategy, the 2000 National Fire Plan and the latest effort, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. All three efforts overlap in their desire to restore and maintain fire adapted landscapes, protect communities and people through the concept of fire adapted communities and provide a sound response to undesirable wildfires. Fire activity was minimal within the WLSH CFLRP project area in

2017. There were a total of 17 fires that were suppressed during initial attack. Total acreage of fires was 24.5 acres. None of the fires occurred in or interacted with previously treated areas.

Within the WLSH CFLRP landscape in FY2017, the Payette National Forest accomplished 19,931 acres of hazardous fuels treatment through the use of prescribed fire and both commercial and non-commercial mechanical treatments. The combination of WFHF, NFRR, SSCC, GSRV, RTRT, SPFH and CFLN monies were used for these treatments totaling \$1,468,455. Although the precipitation for the year was above normal, a persistent ridge of high pressure over the intermountain west caused the summer months to be exceptionally hot and dry. The months of June, July and August received just 30 percent of their 50 year average for rainfall. This caused prescribed fire activity to be delayed until adequate precipitation brought the units into prescription on September 26, near the end of the fiscal year. Smoke management and the public's perception of prescribed burning continues to be the biggest challenge limiting our ability to increase the amount of prescribed burning on the Forest and within the WLSH CFLRP area. See photos, Appendix A (p.25).

Fuels accomplishments are expected to continue to rise within the WLSH CFLRP area as the amount of NEPA approved fuels projects increases. Currently there are close to 100,000 acres of fuels work available within the WLSH CFLRP area to be implemented over the next 20 years. The current NEPA also includes the periodic return of fire behind the initial treatments. This periodic return or maintenance is an important factor in maintaining the desired conditions of the project.

An essential part of the Forest's fire management program is the integration of the Forest's program with that of our partners, cooperators and community. This year the Forest continued to participate in efforts to revise the Idaho Statewide Master Agreement and subsequent offset fire protection program, which directly effects fire protection and response within the WLSH CFLRP area. This plan serves as the base document for the trading and streamlining of fire protection responsibilities across the state and was signed in 2016. On a more local basis, the Forest conducted cooperator meetings and fire simulations where adjoining protection agencies, including other federal agencies, state, county, local and private land owners discussed fire management issues and put their skills to the test in multiple simulated fire exercises. These exercises have increased our ability to work together during fire incidents. In addition to these meetings, a fire management pre-season briefing was conducted with the four county commissioner groups the Forest works with. These sessions included the annual update on staffing numbers and fire season predictions, but also included an open and honest discussion of the fire management realities that occur on our landscapes and are associated with fire management within the State of Idaho. This discussion is anchored to the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: restoring and maintaining landscapes, creating fire adapted communities and response to fire. There continues to be challenges working across jurisdictional boundaries due to differing views of fire's role on the landscape and different mission goals for varying cooperators. The Payette National Forest will continue to work closely with state and local cooperators for fuels implementation and wildland fire response.

In FY16, the Payette National Forest's collaborative group, the Payette Forest Coalition (PFC), established a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Committee to focus on community protection around the town of Cuprum,

Idaho. The PFC is actively participating in the design and framework of the fourth large landscape project, Huckleberry, which contains Cuprum, a priority community within the County Wildfire Protection Plan.

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](https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/guidance.shtml), <https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/guidance.shtml>

In FY17, our timber volume harvested was based on the Cut and Sold Report (CUTS203F) and BioEnergy and BioBased Products report (BIOW201F) generated in the TIM database. The 45,089 CCF reported for the TREAT model includes saw logs, chips hauled to a biomass facility, and firewood within the WLSH CFLRP area.

FY 2017 Jobs Supported/Maintained (FY17 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover funding):

FY 2017 Jobs Supported/Maintained	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)	Labor Income (Direct)	Labor Income (Total)
Timber harvesting component	53	72	\$2,414,821	\$2,947,520
Forest and watershed restoration component	3	3	\$18,673	\$27,960
Mill processing component	35	91	\$1,078,180	\$2,239,079
Implementation and monitoring	29	36	\$1,284,005	\$1,479,077
Other Project Activities	0	0	0	0
TOTALS:	119	201	\$4,795,679	\$6,693,637

FY 2017 Jobs Supported/Maintained (FY16 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover and matching funding):

FY 2017 Jobs Supported/Maintained	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)	Labor Income (Direct)	Labor Income (Total)
Timber harvesting component	144	195	\$6,526,908	\$7,966,715
Forest and watershed restoration component	11	13	\$68,153	\$126,002
Mill processing component	97	256	\$3,043,681	\$6,320,876
Implementation and monitoring	71	89	\$3,210,095	\$3,697,788
Other Project Activities	0	0	0	0
TOTALS:	324	552	\$12,848,837	\$18,111,382

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).

Indicator	Brief Description of Impacts, Successes, and Challenges	Links to reports or other published materials (if available)
<p><u>% Locally retained contracts</u></p>	<p>Approximate 35 jobs have been created and sustained through contracts, as well as labor income in the range of \$6 to \$10 million per year. Contracts are expected to produce about 6.6 million board feet of logs for wood products which will contribute to the economic vitality of local communities.</p> <p>The Forest awarded two stewardship contracts in FY 2017 to local businesses to complete vegetative work. The timber value sold in 2017 was approximately \$2,528,000. The total value to date of sales sold from 2012 through 2017 is \$13,028,000. Revenue from these stewardship contracts has been or will be utilized to complete other restoration work over the next several years that will include non-commercial thinning, road decommissioning, aquatic organism passage installation, road maintenance, and recreation improvements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 3: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/payette/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD517672 • October 3: Another Stewardship Contract Awarded for Lost Creek - Boulder Creek Project https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/payette/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD563387
<p><u>Project partnership composition</u></p>	<p>The Payette NF continues to work on the strength and diversity of partnership composition within the CFLRP. The Payette National Forest established an agreement the Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) crew to provide an opportunity to engage youth in natural resource management. Partners with the Payette in conjunction with CFLRP include: University of Idaho, Idaho Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Trail Rangers, USFS volunteers, including the Heartland Chapter of Idaho Back Country Horsemen, YCC crews, Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) crews, Council Education Resource Crew (CERC), and other USFS personnel and volunteers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration Leads to Forest Restoration – 13:17 running time. https://youtu.be/cowXrwSpQwY • Timber and Economic Success in Partnership with Forest Collaboration Video short featuring a Payette Forest Coalition Member speaking about timber and local benefits of CFLRP, running time 1 minute, 47 seconds. https://youtu.be/01eLZskBU6E

Indicator	Brief Description of Impacts, Successes, and Challenges	Links to reports or other published materials (if available)
	These groups help sustain successful work within the CFLRP.	
<u>Volunteer/Outreach participation</u>	The WLSH CFLRP continues to work on building and strengthening volunteer participation working in conjunction with the Payette Forest Coalition. The Forest continues to build a foundation to develop stronger participation within the CFLRP boundary, including citizen science and monitoring projects.	Please refer to Question #14: Media recap.
<u>Relationship Building/Collaborative Work</u>	The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) continues to be committed to the WLSH CFLRP to provide recommendations for large scale landscape restoration. The group has helped strengthen the design, analysis, and ultimately the decisions with the CFLRP projects. There have been nine meetings and three field trips this year, with strong participation at each. The PFC focused their work on completing a draft EIS for the 3 rd project and scoping of a Proposed Action for the 4 th project, and continues to monitor and support implementation of the first and second projects as well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration Leads to Forest Restoration – 13:17 running time. https://youtu.be/cowXrwSpQwY • Timber and Economic Success in Partnership with Forest Collaboration Video short featuring a Payette Forest Coalition Member speaking about timber and local benefits of CFLRP, running time 1 minute, 47 seconds. https://youtu.be/01eLZskBU6E

(Optional) Additional narrative about leverage on the landscape:

The WLSH CFLRP program brought several community benefits from implementation of stewardship contracts. The projects have generated increased jobs in Adams County as well as some stability to the timber volume offered each fiscal year. Between 2012 and 2017, the Payette awarded, within the WLSH CFLRP, an average of three stewardship contracts each year, for a total of eleven stewardship contracts. Two stewardship contracts from the Lost Creek Boulder Creek EIS were awarded in FY 2017: Rough Finn and Restoration. Two timber sale contracts, Berthas Run and NIDGS, were also awarded in FY 2017 in the CFLRP.

area. Three contracts will be advertised in 2018. Seven of the stewardship contracts were purchased by Evergreen Forest, the family-owned company that manages the last remaining local sawmill. Thanks to the project area contracts, the mill was able to sustain 35 full time jobs over the past several of years. This has resulted in total labor income of \$6 to \$10 million per year. The mill has now added an additional shift, and created even more local positions, helping to promote economic growth in surrounding communities. These projects are contributing to improvement of forest and watershed health and fish and wildlife habitat through thinning, road improvement, riparian enhancement, management of invasive species, and fuels treatment-community fire protection.

Revenue from timber harvest in stewardship contracts has helped offset the restoration treatment costs for road and trail improvements, timber stand improvement, aquatic organism passage (AOP) projects and prescribed fire. Two projects completed under stewardship contracts were reconstructing 67 miles of roads to improve resource conditions and providing 10,750 tons of logging slash for chipping to reduce smoke and to also supply a local cogeneration plant that produces electricity.

In addition, 6,352 acres of non-commercial thinning and 51 acres of reforestation were awarded in FY 2017 within the WLSH-CFLR area. This work was funded through a combination of trading goods-for-services (in the above mentioned stewardship contracts), as well as through the use of appropriated, state and private forestry funds, and trust funds.

Soil and water resource improvements accomplished through road decommissioning, erosion control, and revegetation treatments have provided opportunities to engage volunteers and youth groups in actual “on-the-ground” resource restoration. During FY17, the Council Ranger District funded two summer interns through an agreement with the Council School District. The interns worked with Council Ranger District engineering and timber programs. These interns were members of the local community and provided much needed capacity to complete planned work. In post-season interviews, students expressed interest in applying for summer work with the Forest Service in the future. The timber intern plans to pursue a college degree in wildlife biology. Other students from the Council School are growing and planting upland and riparian vegetation for use in WLSH CFLRP projects as well as assisting programs like range and recreation with fence, spring, campground, and trail maintenance. The high school has built and operated a nursery to grow and then plant native shrubs on watershed restoration projects. Approximately 2,000 native seedlings were grown by the school in exchange for funding that the Forest Service provides through an agreement to help support the school native plant greenhouse. The Payette National Forest also provides a constant supply of biomass to the Council High School for their heating /cooling facility. The Boy Scouts and other youth groups have spread grass seed, planted conifers and shrubs, and assisted establishing monitoring plots. See photos, Appendix B (p. 26)

Benefits to the local community involved the Forest funding and implementing the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program. Two YCC crews were developed and employed eight local high school students where they acquired conservation education in natural resource based areas. These employees worked within the CFLRP area in recreation, range, watershed and fisheries. See photos, Appendix C (pp. 27-30)

The WLSH CFLRP target of 130 miles of NFS trails maintained to standard was exceeded with assistance from several Idaho agencies and USFS crews with a total of 155.70 miles accomplished (118.95 miles on the McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts (RD) and 36.75 miles on the Council RD. Given heavy snow loads and previous fire activity, focus on drainage and clearing was extensive. While fewer miles were accomplished this year within the boundary, the extra effort made in maintaining erosion control devices was necessary for overall protection of watersheds and maintaining trail stability.

Force account and volunteers were also responsible for the care and maintenance of many dispersed and developed sites across the recreation zone. Three fee campsites are within the WLSH CFLRP boundary. While force account crews ensure that heavy maintenance and minor compliance enforcement is completed, and fee collections are done, a large number of hours are contributed by volunteers who make sure that campgrounds are clean and welcoming to Forest visitors. This year, hosts contributed approximately 2000 hours for a total value of \$28,280. (Value calculated from the Forest Service's Volunteers and Service Reporting Database).

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).

Fire Regimes are monitored within areas treated by prescribed fire or mechanical thinning (commercial and/or noncommercial). Pile burning is not involved in the analysis. Fixed plots are utilized in measuring surface fuel loading, canopy base height, fire return interval, species composition, stand structure, and canopy closure. Only a small portion of each type of treatment within the various vegetation and fuel conditions are monitored due to limitations in funding and resources. Acres treated per year are recorded within the FACTS database. Project-scale monitoring captures the effectiveness of thinning and/or burning among area treated since 2012. Landscape-scale monitoring captures the progress made in achieving landscape objectives across the various treatments in all 17 projects within the WLSH CFLRP area.

The Payette National Forest has improved fire regime conditions among 5,778 acres with the WLSH CFLRP area in FY 2017. The Forest completed the following hazardous fuels treatments within the WLSH CFLRP project area in Fiscal Year 2017; 5,778 acres include: 4823 acres of under-burning, 196 acres of burning hand piles and 759 acres of non-commercial thinning. (This does not include commercial treatments.)

Range technicians continued surveying and inventorying system and non-system roads that traveled by vehicle, UTV, ATV and sometimes on foot for noxious and invasive weeds within the Huckleberry Project. Crews also began work surveying the Project #5 project area. Data collected will be used for baseline information. Weeds typically infest ground disturbed areas associated with road work activities, harvest units, prescribed burns, etc. Monitoring of these activity areas will need to be completed as activity units are identified throughout the project to collect baseline information to detect a change in weed infestations. The Payette National Forest noxious weed monitoring crew follows the Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR)

process where if noxious weeds are detected, and they are treated at the most effective time of the plant's life cycle. Usually at the same time these noxious weeds are detected, they are inventoried in the FACTS database, and monitored later in the season. Crews will use this monitoring data to treat the weeds the next year and at the same time continue to monitor the progress of the treatments.

To monitor fish habitat changes in response to implemented project activities and to describe baseline/existing conditions, the Forest has adopted the Forest Service PACFISH/INFISH Monitoring Protocol and A Watershed-Scale Monitoring Protocol for bull trout (RMRS-GTR-224). Since 2012, data has been collected in every sub watershed within the Mill Creek-Council Mountain, Lost Creek Boulder Creek, Middle Fork Weiser River, and Huckleberry project areas. Data will be collected following these protocols every fifth year and analyzed to monitor changes throughout the WLSH CFLRP landscape over time. Since 2012, habitat data has been collected in 44 bull trout Patches, eDNA has been collected in 46 bull trout Patches, and long-term habitat stream habitat monitoring has been established in 16 subwatersheds within the WLSH CFLRP area. In FY 2016, the Idaho Conservation League collected an additional 23 eDNA samples, which identified bull trout presence in the Middle Fork Weiser River where bull trout had not been detected before. Given the implications to the project, ten additional eDNA samples and five electrofishing surveys in the subject stream were conducted in FY 2017, all of which came back negative for bull trout.

A combination of implementation and effectiveness monitoring is being used to ensure restoration activities are implemented as described, provide feedback to project planning throughout the WLSH CFLRP landscape in an adaptive management framework, and to verify the effectiveness of restoration actions for resource areas of concern. In response to the first two objectives, the Forest and the PFC participated in a series of field trips to review implementation of various activities such as road decommissioning and timber harvest. To verify the effectiveness of restoration actions for areas of concern, the Forest continued the sixth year of monitoring focused on evaluating the success of restoration activities on re-establishing low-elevation ponderosa pine dominated- forest habitats and associated wildlife species. The monitoring focused on habitat for the white-headed woodpecker (a sensitive species).

Research is designed to assess how well the WLSH CFLRP is meeting forest restoration and wildlife habitat conservation goals. Current research by Dr. Victoria Saab and Jon Dudley of the Rocky Mountain Research Station contributes to on-going, regional efforts to monitor occupancy and effectiveness of silvicultural treatments for white-headed woodpeckers across their range in western Idaho, Oregon and Washington. One of the most recent products of this research is a completed M.S. Thesis (*Space Use and Foraging Patterns of the White-headed Woodpecker in Western Idaho, Kehoe; January 2017*). Forest Service wildlife crews are also conducting long-term wildlife monitoring, including baited camera stations and call stations, inside and outside of the greater WLSH CFLRP boundary.

The Payette National Forest has been partnering with the University of Idaho (U of I), Idaho Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study and evaluate the northern Idaho ground squirrel (NIDGS). Researchers lead by Dr. Courtney Conway from the University of Idaho Cooperative Research Station, are evaluating different forest restoration treatments aimed at restoring NIDGS habitat, including spatial and temporal assessment of diet / native plant species, and increasing population size. Three of the primary

research sites are currently in the process of being treated with commercial and pre-commercial thinning. This research project also provides funding for a U of I doctoral student. Future products will include peer-reviewed published journal articles relating to the forest restoration and plague research. See photos, Appendix D (p. 31)

The Payette Forest Coalition has a Monitoring Committee charged with gathering information on implementation and post-project trends and results. The Monitoring Committee reviews updates from Forest resource specialists on the monitoring the Forest is conducting. The Monitoring Committee periodically summarizes results and communicates those to the larger PFC group. The PFC completed three field trips to monitor post-treatment outcomes, focusing on upland and riparian thinning and fuels reduction treatments, road treatments and stream improvements. The results of this PFC monitoring is being used to adapt the next projects (Huckleberry, Project 5). See photos, Appendix E (p. 32)

The Payette worked with the Intermountain Regional Office to acquire Lidar data on approximately 248,000 acres on the Forest. Approximately 100,000 acres of this are within the WLSH-CFLRP and are primarily in the fifth WLSH-CFLR project area. This is part of a larger effort coordinated with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), USFS – Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), and Oregon State University (OSU). The preliminary data (e.g. bare earth) is anticipated to be provided by the contractor to the Forest in April of 2018. The Forest will collect field data in the summer of 2018 and work with the RMRS and OSU to model the data with the secondary (e.g. vegetative data) anticipated in the spring of 2019. This Lidar data will be utilized to help design the projects and complete the environmental analyses utilized to help inform the decisions. A decision on the fifth project is anticipated in 2021. For the Payette acquisition, the Forest contributed \$118,000, and the RO and WO \$71,000. The USGS funded the remaining areas of Washington County. The Forest also contributed \$22,000 into an agreement with RMRS/OSU.

6. FY 2017 accomplishments

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$) (Contract Costs)
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	51	\$9,445
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	6,352	\$952,000
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	2,450	\$27,621
Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC	Acres	Did not commit to measure under CFLRP	N/A
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions. S&W-RSRC-IMP	Acres	146	This performance measure is integrated with RD-DECOM

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$) (Contract Costs)
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-LAK	Acres	Did not commit to measure under CFLRP	N/A
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	28.26	Rolls up from other performance measures
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	11,390	134,396* *This total represents the wildlife program contribution, additional funding may be added for other Performance Measures.
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved RG-VEG-IMP	Acres	6,870 Did not commit to measure under CFLRP	N/A
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN	Miles	278.24	\$235,000
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	230.39	\$179,000
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	28.34	\$280,000
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	2.16	\$43,200
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	2.77	\$21,000
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage STRM-CROS-MTG-STD	Number	2	\$390,000

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$) (Contract Costs)
Miles of system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD	Miles	185.15*	\$157,377 *The actual number should be 155.7. Extra miles were accounted for in the database of record that were not within the CFLRP as an error.
Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD	Miles	0	N/A
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard LND-BL-MRK-MAINT	Miles	0*	*An additional 17.75 miles were accomplished but not captured in the database of record. The total miles accomplished are 17.75.
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	944	\$524,137
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	Did not commit to measure under CFLRP	N/A
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	45,084	\$1,183,050
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	10,760	\$153,177.20* *Retained receipts used on stewardship contracts to get 6,343 tons removed under two contracts.
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	17,209	\$982,924
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	2,722	\$135,516

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$) (Contract Costs)
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands SP-INVSPF-FED-AC	Acres	Did not commit to measure under CFLRP	N/A
Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests on Federal lands SP-NATIVE-FED-AC	Acres	Did not commit to measure under CFLRP	N/A
Acres mitigated FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS <i>(note: this performance measure will not show up in the WO gPAS reports – please use your own records)</i>	Acres	1,373	\$78,508
Please also include the acres of prescribed fire accomplished <i>(note: this performance measure will not show up in the WO gPAS reports – please use your own records)</i>	Acres	5,778	\$330,386

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

7. FY 2017 accomplishment narrative

Summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress not already described elsewhere in this report. (Please limit answer to three pages.)

In FY 2017 the Forest awarded two stewardship to complete vegetative work within the CFLRP. The timber value sold in 2017 was approximately \$2,528,000. The total value to date of sales sold from 2012 through 2017 is \$13,028,000. Much of this revenue is associated with stewardship contracts and has been or will be utilized to complete other restoration work over the next several years. This work has and will include: non-commercial thinning, road decommissioning, aquatic organism passage installation, road maintenance, and recreation improvements.

The Forest Noxious Weed crews completed 2,450 acres of noxious weed treatments within the CFLR boundary. These crews use the Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) process to not only treat but monitor the progress of treatments. This process involves looking at previous year's data, treating those areas if needed, looking for new populations, mapping any changes, reporting in databases and monitoring. The crews use the latest technology available to them to track these populations as well.

The Forest accomplished 11,379 acres of habitat restoration and /or enhancement. Restoration projects included a variety of treatments, such as thinning and prescribed burning designed to enhance habitat for federally listed species and endemic species such as white-headed woodpecker. Road system management work (i.e. closures, decommissioning) accomplished in FY 2017 also provided many benefits to wildlife species, particularly big game and sensitive species.

The Forest also accomplished 28.26 miles of stream habitat enhancement through replacement of aquatic barriers and road decommissioning adjacent to streams. Two stream crossings were replaced, both benefiting redband trout by reconnecting habitats. The majority of accomplishment came from decommissioning system and non-system roads adjacent to stream channels.

Collaborative NIDGS research on the Payette National Forest involved researchers using techniques such as installation of light loggers on collared animals to evaluate possible effects of forest treatments to hibernation and emergence parameters. The goal of the plague treatment research is to assess whether sylvatic plague may be responsible for population declines in NIDGS, as well as monitor effects on associated species. This research also has human implications; these preliminary results were presented at the National Wildlife Society Meeting in 2017. Collaborative research conducted with RMRS incorporates newer research and, in 2017, four adult white-headed woodpeckers were fitted with GPS transmitters. Data will be evaluated to determine habitat/range use and occupancy, and response to forest treatments.

Road decommissioning to restore watershed condition and species habitat is a successful accomplishment for the Payette National Forest. The Forest completed 25 miles of road decommissioning in 2017. Using the Forest road and watershed restoration crew, the Forest fully obliterated approximately 14.3 miles of non-system roads by fully re-contouring to the natural topography within the Lost Creek Boulder Creek project area. This process was done by removing culverts and fill from stream crossings, stabilizing streambanks, providing fish passage, placing live vegetative plugs, slash, and mulch to achieve over 50 percent ground cover, as well as seeding and planting of over 6,000 native shrubs grown at local nurseries. A total of 10.7 miles of road will be decommissioned through stewardship contracts that were awarded but will be implemented at a later date. See photos, Appendix F (pp. 33-37)

In FY 2017 the Forest funded two Youth Conservation Corp (YCC crews). Both crews employed four local students and two YCC leads. One YCC crew was located in Council, Idaho and the other was located in McCall, Idaho. High school students were hired in the local community, where they were educated in the areas of watershed, fisheries, wildlife, heritage, range and recreation staff areas doing work within the WLSH CFLRP boundary.

The ICC crew helped in several ways within the WLSH CFLRP boundary. In FY 2017, ICC completed monitoring plots and pre-commercial thinning and layout within the WLSH-CFLR area. These crews completed work including layout of 1310 acres of pre-commercial thinning on the Lost Creek-Boulder Creek project for the WLSH-CFLRP. The boundaries thinning units were flagged then measured with GPS. ICC crews also completed fuels treatment monitoring plots on the Weasel CE Project also part of WLSH-CFLRP. They recorded monitoring data on 1/10th acre plots to be used to assess short and long term effects of fuels treatments such as prescribed fire and pre-commercial thinning. They completed 110 plots scattered across 30,000 acres. All planned work was accomplished in less time than was estimated for completion.

The Payette Forest Coalition, now in its seventh year working with the WLSH project, remains committed and active in learning about the WLSH CFLRP program and providing project design recommendations for large

scale landscape restoration. The Payette Forest Coalition grew from 21 to 22 voting members in 2017. The Steering Team added three new members and now has a total of five members, including the Valley County Parks and Recreation Director. The group was energized with the favorable court ruling on the Lost Creek Boulder Creek project litigation in 2016.

Payette Forest Coalition recommendations have strengthened the design, analysis, and ultimately the decisions with the projects. There have been nine meetings and three field trips in 2017, with strong participation at each. This year the Payette Forest Coalition focused their work on completing a draft EIS for the third project- Middle Fork Weiser River (50,000 acres) and scoping of a Proposed Action for the fourth project- Huckleberry (67,000 acres). The PFC continues to monitor and support implementation of the first and second projects: Mill Creek Council Mountain (50,000 acres) and Lost Creek Boulder Creek (80,000 acres). The PFC intervened on behalf of the Forest Service in the litigation on the Lost Creek Boulder Creek project, and the court mentioned the strong collaborative support. The project will continue full implementation and improve watershed condition class, improve forest resiliency, contribute to habitat improvement for ESA species, and benefit local economies. In mid-October 2016, the plaintiffs in the Lost Creek Boulder Creek project litigation appealed Judge Lodge's decision to the 9th Circuit Court. The plaintiffs did not require a temporary injunction. The Payette Forest established a new agreement with Southwest Idaho RC&D to administer the contracts and payments for Payette Forest Coalition facilitator, note keeper, and web services. This replaced the agreement with WC Highlands RC&D, which disbanded at the end of FY 2016.

Through two Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation grant awards, the Clayburn Saddle outhouse was replaced with a new, concrete vault and restroom. Sanitation issues were eliminated with the installation of the new vault and concrete facility. Additional trail sign work for many trailheads in the Hazard Lake/Clayburn area was also completed in

FY 2017 by both Force Account and the Boy Scouts. Eagle Scout projects were also accomplished at Hazard Lake Campground in October of 2016. See photos, Appendix G (p. 38)

Through the WLSH CFLRP, recreation opportunities have been directly enhanced through construction of NFS Trail No. 200, Shingle Flat. This trail is nearly complete, pending rehabilitation of skid trails in the trail corridor, associated with the Shingle-Hall timber sale; tread is complete, bridges have been constructed, and all signage has been installed except in the area requiring rehabilitation. In addition, as a stewardship item associated with the Shingle-Hall Timber Sale, construction of the bulk of trail by local contractors (JI Morgan, Inc., of New Meadows, Idaho) contributed to employment in the area. The trailhead is located within a five minute drive of Council, Idaho and provides 4.1 miles of trail for hiking, equestrian use, and mountain biking, part of which forms a convenient loop back to the trailhead. The trail contains two attractive trail bridges over stream crossings. While the trail has not yet "officially" opened, recreationists have discovered it and feedback to recreation personnel has been extremely positive, especially with regards to having a high quality trail close to Council.

8. The WO will use spatial data provided in the databases of record close to estimate a treatment footprint for your review and verification.

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

Fiscal Year	Footprint of Acres Treated (without counting an acre of treatment on the land in more than one treatment category)
FY 2017	18,465 acres
Estimated Cumulative Footprint of Acres (2012 through 2017)	119,334 acres

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

A query utilizing FACTS spatial data combined with FACTS tabular data was completed for FY 2017. This process involved selecting any Sub-Unit Identifications (SUIDs) associated with the CFLR013 implementation project that were reported as accomplished and/or completed in FACTS in FY 2017 and joining that tabular data with the spatial data. The acres of these polygons were then calculated and that is what has been reported as footprint acres for FY 2017. The Forest also refers to the prior year reports developed. Data was also analyzed and compared with the results from the Washington Office.

9. Describe any reasons that the FY 2017 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).

As disclosed in reports from previous years, at the time of the original WLSH-CFLRP proposal the Forest was anticipating that an additional cogeneration facility was going to be built within the WLSH CFLRP area. That facility was never built.

The Forest continues to subsidize the removal of biomass with stewardship contracts to achieve this performance measure and meet the target goals.

The Forest achieved 38,542 acres in the project area that counts toward the Watershed acres Restored Annually (WTRSHD-RSTR-ANN) performance measure for FY 2017, which is an integrated target based on nine other performance measures. While the Weiser Little Salmon Headwaters CFLRP did not commit to this output in the proposal, it is worth reporting as it provides a measure of the overall intensity of the work that is being performed in the project area.

10. Planned FY 2019 Accomplishments

Performance Measure Code	Unit of measure	Work Plan 2019	Planned Accomplishment For 2019	Amount (\$)
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	0 Forest will continue to accomplish the goal of 1,000 acres even though this has met CFLR proposal for accomplishments	1,000 Forest will continue to accomplish acres even though this has met CFLR proposal for accomplishments	0
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	1,200	1,200	\$115,000
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	10	10	Rolls up from other performance measures
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	7,625	7,625	\$90,000 plus roll up from several performance measures
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	25	25	300,000
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	10	10	200,000
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	10	10	75,000
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	50,000	50,000	\$1,900,000
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	8,000	8,000	\$150,000
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	9,000	9,000	\$750,000

Performance Measure Code	Unit of measure	Work Plan 2019	Planned Accomplishment For 2019	Amount (\$)
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	3,000	3,000	\$250,000

Please include all relevant planned accomplishments, assuming that funding specified in the CFLRP project proposal for FY 2019 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 2018/19 accomplishments and/or funding differs from CFLRP project work plan (no more than 1 page):

The McCall-New Meadows Recreation Program plans to submit recreation and trail maintenance requests to IDPR in January of 2018 for the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure that is within the CFLRP boundaries. If awarded, announcement for grants will be in late May of 2018.

The Forest will continue to work with the Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) to plan and implement integrated resource landscape restoration projects, including completion of the Final EIS and decision for Middle Fork Weiser River (Project #3) scheduled for December 2017 and completion of a Draft EIS for Huckleberry (Project #4) scheduled for FY 2018. The Forest continues to work closely with the PFC to make decisions on Project #5 and continue to identify Projects #6, 7, and 8 for the future years to come. The Forest and PFC will continue to monitor and evaluate the results of implementation of the projects, and use this information to adapt in future projects.

The Payette National Forest is continuously working to formalize and expand our youth and school programs. Local schools have expressed interest in partnering with the Forest Service, as well as participating at a higher level with the WLSH CFLRP program. In FY 2017, the Forest applied for grants and outreached opportunities for partner funds to increase our youth involvement. The Forest is continuing in FY 2018 and future years to apply for grants and seek out partnerships to build a strong foundation to our local youth programs. School field days have been developed through the local schools. Conservation education internships have been established in partnership with the Idaho Conservation Corps and Youth Conservation Corps and have increased our ability to hire local youth. The youth programs are essential to the Payette and also to the successful work that is done within the CFLRP boundary.

12. Please include an up to date list of the members of your collaborative if it has changed from previous years. 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.

Our collaborative, the [Payette Forest Coalition maintains and manages their own website here](http://www.payetteforestcoalition.org/), <http://www.payetteforestcoalition.org/>. Their [current member list](#) is located on that website or at this

website

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/120ieqBj5zDIWu7yRw3Radx_gHjL4YhROAPcTI72fKEk/edit?pli=1#gid=1054580931

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC), now in its seventh year working with the WLSH project, continues to be committed and active in learning about the WLSH CFLRP program and large scale landscape restoration. The quality of their recommendations is high and the group has helped strengthen the design, analysis, and ultimately the decisions with the projects. The PFC has continued to strengthen this year and increase in diversity, growing from 14 at the start of the project to currently 22 voting members in FY 2017, which is at an all-time high. The Payette Forest Coalition's steering committee has established new enthusiastic members to make up a strong and diverse decision making body. The collaborative group continues to work on developing and completing an action plan to help their group continue to perform at a high, consistent level.

13. Did you project try any new approaches to increasing partner match funding in FY2017 (both In-Kind contributions and through agreements)? (No more than one page):

Partnerships, particularly with youth and young adults, are a focus for the McCall-New Meadows Recreation Program. While the program did not host an adult youth corps program in the CFLRP this year, these programs will be a factor in trails and recreation projects in FY 2018.

In FY 2017 the Council High School partnered with the Forest to fund interns for the summer season. The Council High School has built and operated a nursery to grow and then plant native shrubs on watershed restoration projects. Seedlings are grown by the school in exchange for funding that the Forest Service provides through an agreement to help support the school native plant greenhouse. The Forest Service also provides a constant supply of biomass to the Council High School for their heating /cooling facility.

In FY 2016 Region 4 hired a new regional partnership coordinator. In FY 2017, the Payette National Forest, the CFLRP Coordinator and the Regional Partnership Coordinator worked together to discuss ways to build support and establish stronger relationships for partnerships with the WLSH CFLRP program. They continue to build a strong foundation to establish a connection with the PFC and local community, as well as working on partnership opportunities with the local and surrounding communities, and enhancing citizen science and multi-party monitoring programs.

NIDGS research on the Payette National Forest includes partnerships with the University of Idaho, USGS, Idaho Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The research focuses on studying the effectiveness of forest restoration and plague treatments on the demography of the federally listed threatened northern Idaho ground squirrel (NIDGS). This comprehensive research also includes newer research techniques such as installation of light loggers on collared animals to evaluate possible effects of forest treatments to hibernation and emergence parameters. The goal of the plague treatment research is to assess whether sylvatic plague may be responsible for population declines in NIDGS, as well as monitor effects on associated species.

In recreation, WLSH CFLRP trail maintenance objectives were met by USFS trail crews with the assistance of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Trail Rangers, USFS volunteers, including the Heartland Chapter of Idaho Back Country Horsemen, YCC crews, Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) crews, Council Education Resource Crew (CERC), and other USFS personnel and volunteers.

The Forest continued to implement three agreements: two with the Idaho Conservation Corps, and one with the State of Idaho in addition to continuing with Designation by Prescription (DxP) (contractor marking). All of these agreements and the DxP will increase the amount of partner match and increase the ability to implement restoration treatments if the Forest can get a shelf stock of NEPA decisions to implement.

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.

Payette National Forest CFLRP Media 2017

Video:

The Payette National Forest produced two CFLRP video presentations this year.

- **Collaboration Leads to Forest Restoration.** This video presentation provides a full rundown of the CFLRP on the Payette and features the Payette Forest Coalition's contributions. There are three video pieces that are of the same nature, but edited into short and long versions to use at various presentations and media outlets.

[Collaboration Leads to Forest Restoration V4](#) – 5:06 running time.

<https://youtu.be/R8DUQZgx69E>

[Collaboration Leads to Forest Restoration V3](#) - 8:26 running time.

<https://youtu.be/2C5mWkcU7vM>

[Collaboration Leads to Forest Restoration](#) – 13:17 running time.

<https://youtu.be/cowXrwSpQwY>

- **Timber and Economic Success in Partnership with Forest Collaboration** Video short featuring a Payette Forest Coalition Member speaking about timber and local benefits of CFLRP, running time 1 minute, 47 seconds.

<https://youtu.be/01eLZskBU6E>

Social Media:

Facebook: [Payette National Forest](#) , <https://www.facebook.com/payettenationalforest/>: 24 posts
<https://www.facebook.com/payettenationalforest/>

Twitter: [Payette Forest](#), <https://twitter.com/Payette Forest> : 9 tweets

Congressional Staff Briefing: June 30, 2017.

News Releases:

- October 3: [Cold Bear Stewardship Contract Awarded – Lost Creek Boulder Creek Project](#)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/payette/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD517672>

- January 13: [Public Comments Sought for Proposed Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Habitat Restoration Project](#)

- September 18: [Prescribed Fires on the Payette National Forest](#)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/payette/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD529789>

- August 28: [Logging to Occur Along the Bear Basin – Old Brundage Mountain Road and the Brundage Mountain Cutoff Road](#)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/payette/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD557082>

- October 3: [Another Stewardship Contract Awarded for Lost Creek - Boulder Creek Project](#)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/payette/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD563387>

Advertisement:

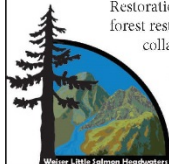
Forest Restoration Field Tour



Friday, November 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Middle Fork Weiser River Landscape Restoration Project
Meet at the Council Ranger District Office.

The 50,000 acre project Draft Environmental Impact Statement will soon be released. The project includes restoration of vegetation, wildlife and fisheries habitat, soil and watershed resources, and recreation improvements. The trip will highlight the alternatives developed for the project. The Collaborative Forest Landscape

Restoration Program is helping to accelerate the pace of forest restoration on the Payette National Forest through collaboration with the Payette Forest Coalition.



For more information, contact Mary Bresce at mkbresce@fs.fcd.us or (208)253-0127. Hosted by the Payette National Forest in collaboration with the Payette Forest Coalition.

Prescribed Fire
Promoting Fire-Adapted Communities and Creating Resilient Landscapes



The Payette National Forest will be conducting prescribed fire... The following items are suggested for...
 The Council Range District will be conducting...
 The Rough Finn Stewardship Contract will cover...
 The Payette National Forest will be conducting...
 The Council Range District will be conducting...
 The Rough Finn Stewardship Contract will cover...
 The Payette National Forest will be conducting...
 The Council Range District will be conducting...
 The Rough Finn Stewardship Contract will cover...



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE MITIGATION
 What You Can Do To Protect Your Home and Your Community

- Reduce the buildup of surface fuels**
 (needles, branches, cones, etc.)
 Why: this limits the spread of fire and potential movement upwards into the canopy
 How: do annually rake up (and remove) burn or fuel to local transfer station)
 - Breakup the continuity of canopy**
 Why: this limits the spread of fire horizontally through the tree crowns
 How: thin small trees (less than 10 in. diameter) to a spacing of 25-35 ft. between trunks; medium* trees (10-20 in diameter) to 25-70 ft.; larger* trees (greater than 20 in. diameter) to 65-80 ft. between trunks
 View from Above: Large and Small Trees
 Before After
 - Increase height to the crown**
 Why: this limits the transition of surface fire moving vertically into the crown
 How: cut all dead and live limbs that are within the lower portion of the tree; limit 50% of live crown for small trees and 60% for large trees
 • 20-ft. tall trees: remove limbs up to 10 ft.
 • 100-ft. tall trees: remove limbs up to 40 ft.
 • Any removal of ladder fuels helps
 - Promote fire resilient tree species**
 Why: this ensures that the community remains forested after a fire
 How: when thinning, favor to leave western larch, ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir; but remove these trees if needed to meet spacing in bullet #2
 - Ensure values to protect (homes, equipment, etc.) are free of combustibles**
 (https://www.firewise.org)
 - Provide a safe working environment**
 • Improve access for firefighting equipment (wide roadways, turn arounds, etc.)
 • Minimize fuel accumulations and fuel continuity as described in bullets 1-4
 • Generally requires professional skills and equipment
- Protecting your home protects your neighbor's home
 If your home is well prepared for wildland fire then it requires fewer resources and time to protect. This gives firefighters more time and resources to protect the next home.
- Ranger Districts: Council (208) 253-0100 / Krassee 634-0600 /
 Met. all: 634-0100 / New Meadows: 347-0300 / Weiser: (208) 549-4200
 • Southern Idaho Timber Protection Association (SITPA): 634-2288

Editorials:

September 21: Preventing fire one job at a time, John Robinson

As the 2017 wildfire season dies down, it appears most areas in the region were spared the devastation of fires seen in past years. That trend will continue if the Payette Forest Coalition has anything to say about it.

The Payette National Forest recently awarded a contract to a Grangeville logging company to go to work in an area near Lost Valley Reservoir, but the contract is not merely for logging trees. Instead, the project is called a stewardship contact, with all that name implies.

The Rough Finn Stewardship Contract will cover 1,300 acres and cut 10 million board feet of logs. There was a day where that would be the extent of such contracts and logging companies would pull out after taking out the highest-value timber. No longer. Since 2009, the Payette Forest Coalition has worked with a broad range of interests to leave the forest in a condition that is better than before the logging companies move in.

Not the least of that work is thinning the smaller trees that were previously overlooked in order to make the forest more resistant to rampaging wildfires. This alone would make the work an environmental success story, but stewardships projects also include improvements on roads to reduce pollution from sediment, improved recreation facilities, and enhanced wildlife habitat.

The project was carefully thought out over two years by the coalition, whose membership include government, industry, recreation groups, conservationists and average citizens whose only special

interests are a desire to protect public lands. As expected, the project was challenged in court by opponents who have a short-sighted view of the coalition's efforts. But because the project showed a true collaboration, a judge dismissed the lawsuit last year and the Rough Finn Stewardship Contract was allowed to move forward.

The Payette Forest Coalition does not go out of its way to spotlight its activities, but every citizen who believes in healthy, fire-resistant forests should send them a note of thanks for their efforts.

November 3: Forest Service Conducts Extensive Environmental Review, Keith Lannom

I don't always respond to Mr. Wallace's letters to the editor, but when I do it's because his letters have misinformation. Mr. Wallace's Nov 10, 2016, letter contains several false allegations, but I want to focus on the statement that the Forest Service does not follow the rules. The Payette National Forest does follow all laws and regulations pertaining to harvesting timber, prescribed burning, decommissioning roads, maintaining trails, managing campgrounds, authorizing mining, and so on.

All of the recent prescribed burns and road decommissioning projects, as well as the on-going timber sales and campground improvements were analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and shared with the public through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Each EIS starts with a public scoping period where we describe proposed actions. We take the public's input, develop a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts, and publish a draft decision. We host public meetings to share information about the project. The public is then again asked to comment on the decision. We review and respond to the comments, and if necessary we adjust the final decision. The scoping and draft decision notices are published in the local papers and the complete EIS documentation is available on the Payette's website.

Additionally, prior to initiating the NEPA process, Forest Service has met extensively with Payette Forest Coalition to discuss how best to restore the landscape. The Coalition is an independent entity and provides consensus recommendations for the Forest to consider and yes, those recommendations include road decommissioning and prescribed burning. We know not everyone supports all our actions, but our interest, and the Coalition's interest is restoring the forest landscape to reduce fuels to lessen impacts of uncharacteristic wildfires, to have clean and cool water, to produce forest products that support local communities (have you noticed that Evergreen Mill is hiring?), and to support sustainable recreation opportunities.

Signatures:

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)): /s/ Amie E. Auderton

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)): /s/ Keith B. Lannom

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

APPENDICES A-G

APPENDIX A:

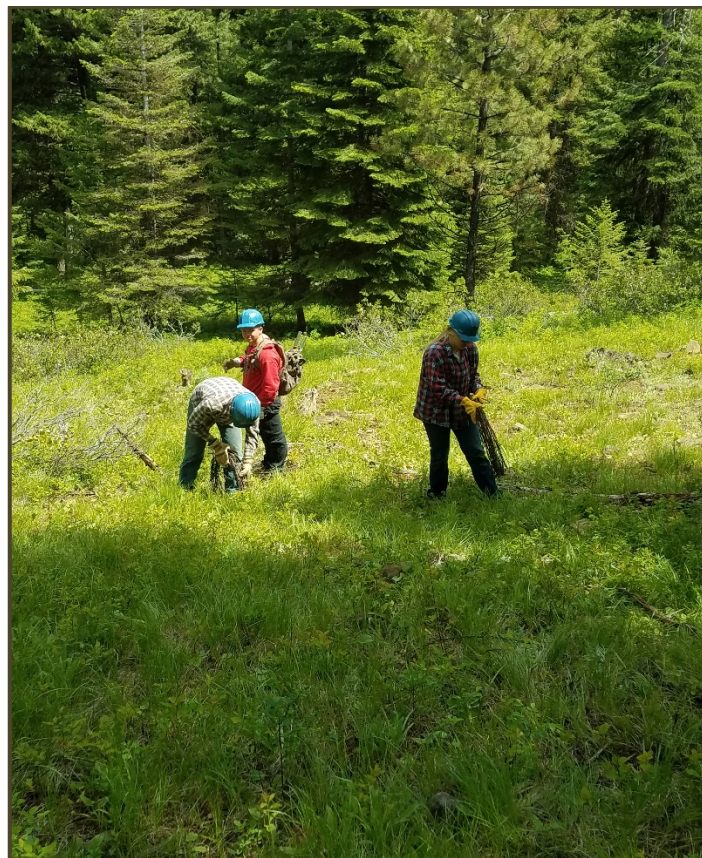
Prescribed burning operations on the West Zone within the WLSH CFLRP Boundary





APPENDIX B:

Council Youth Program/Conservation Education Work



APPENDIX C:

Council Youth Conservation Corps



APPENDIX C:

Council Youth Conservation Corps



APPENDIX C:

McCall Youth Conservation Corps Sediment Dam Removal



APPENDIX C:

McCall Youth Conservation Corps Buckhorn Trail Planting



APPENDIX D:

NIDGS Research Project with the University of Idaho



APPENDIX E:

Payette Forest Coalition Fall Field Trip



APPENDIX F:

Road Decommissioning and Planting Operations within the CFLRP

Rd 50093



Rd 501397500



APPENDIX F:

Road Decommissioning and Planting Operations within the CFLRP

Rd 51733





APPENDIX F:

Road Decommissioning and Planting Operations within the CFLRP

CERC Crew Planting in Mill Creek Council Mountain Project





APPENDIX F:

Road Decommissioning and Planting Operations within the CFLRP

CERC Crew Planting in Mill Creek Council Mountain Project



APPENDIX F:

Road Decommissioning and Planting Operations within the CFLRP

CERC Crew Planting on Goose Creek Road



APPENDIX G:

Installation of CXT at Clayburn Saddle



