

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

National Forest(s): Payette National Forest

1. Match and Leveraged Funds:

a. FY19 Matching Funds Documentation

Fund Source – (CFLN/CFLR Funds Expended)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2019
CFLN19	\$2,222,156

This amount should match the amount of CFLR/CFLN dollars obligated in the FMMI CFLRP 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 2019
NFHF	\$800,000 ¹
NFTM	\$668,519 ²

This value (aka “core funds” “in lieu of 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 2019
CMRD	\$605,059
CMTL	\$89,567
CWF2	\$111,834
CWKV	\$136,941 ³
NFRG	\$67
NFVW	\$69,537
NFHF	\$234,983
NFTM	\$481,048
NFWF	\$4,603
NFXF	\$9,814
RTRT	\$391,773 ⁴
SPFH	\$124,000
SSCC	\$433,019 ⁵
WFHF	\$164,888

¹This figure is according to our Program Direction numbers. The additional NFHF amount is under FS Matching Funds

² This figure is according to our Program Direction numbers. The additional NFHF amount is under FS Matching Funds

³ There is a discrepancy with the expenditure report: \$87,000 is salary and is not matching funds. The actual amount that is match is \$49,941.

⁴ There is a discrepancy with the expenditure report: \$135,000 is salary and is not matching funds. The actual amount that is match is \$256,773

⁵ There is a discrepancy with the expenditure report: \$9,100 is from the wrong initiative code tagged by the Nez Perce NF. \$123,384 is salary and is not matching funds. The actual amount that is match is \$300,535.

Fund Source – (Funds contributed through agreements)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2019
Idaho Fish and Game	\$15,000
University of Idaho (USGS) NIDGS Research Agreement	\$100,000
RMRS WHWO Research (In-Service Expenditure)	\$120,190

Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2019
SWID RC&D	\$7,900
University of Idaho (USGS) NIDGS Research Agreement	\$25,000
Fish and Wildlife Service NIDGS Research and Work	\$5,700
RMRS White-headed Woodpecker Research	\$50,403
Idaho Conservation League- LAC Facilitation	\$720
Trout Unlimited- LAC Facilitation	\$720
Central ID Trail Riders Assn- LAC Facilitation	\$720
Mile High Power- LAC Facilitation	\$360
Treasure Valley Trail Machine Assn. – LAC Facilitation	\$360
Central Idaho Mtn. Biking Association- LAC Facilitation	\$720
Sandra Mitchel- LAC Facilitation	\$360
Mark Woods-LAC Facilitation	\$360
Carl’s Cycles-LAC Facilitation	\$360
Idaho Wildlife Federation—LAC Facilitation	\$360
CM Backcountry Tours—LAC Facilitation	\$360

Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract (for contracts awarded in FY19)	Totals
Total <u>revised non-monetary credit limit</u> for contracts awarded in FY19	\$ 0.00 (no contracts awarded in FY19)

b. Please fill in the table describing leveraged funds in your landscape in FY2019. Leveraged funds refer to funds or in-kind services that help the project achieve proposed objectives but do not meet match qualifications.

Description of item	Where activity/item is located or impacted area	Estimated total amount	Forest Service or Partner Funds?	Source of funds
Idaho Conservation Corps—Resource Stewards Agreement	Across the WLSH CFLRP Area	\$110,000	Partner	AmeriCorps/Northwest Youth Corps/Idaho Conservation Corps
Road Maintenance and improvements	Bear Claw Timber Sale	\$66,500	Partner	Purchasers included as appraisal item
Contractor timber marking- Designation by Prescription	Bear Claw Timber Sale	\$7,000	Partner	Purchasers included as appraisal item

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

As in previous years the Forest has utilized Designation by Prescription (DxP) with purchaser mark to gain capacity in order to increase the pace of restoration and volume output associated with the WLSH-CFLRP. Traditionally the Forest has utilized its own workforce to mark the commercial timber designated to be cut/uncut. Utilizing DxP allows the Payette National Forest to leverage the contract purchaser to complete this work through a subcontractor. This cost is not captured anywhere else in this report since it is an appraisal item and is not bid on like a service item in the Stewardship Contracts. During FY19 a total of 176 DxP acres were completed on Bear Claw Timber sale. This equates to approximately \$7,000 dollars (\$38-40/acre) in work that the contractor completed in the WLSH CFLRP area. This is an increase in production above and beyond the Forest’s current capacity.

Completion of marking these acres is essential for work to continue working on Bear Claw Timber Sale Contract. The goal of this contract is to restore the landscape to historical conditions, which includes increasing the large tree and age class diversity of forest stands, increasing fire resiliency, and improving wildlife habitat. Road and riparian treatments will improve aquatic habitat and water quality by reducing sediment transport to streams and providing streambank stability. This commercial timber harvest not only directly helps the Payette National Forest accomplish restoration goals, but also indirectly provides benefits by generating funds to perform work as understory and plantation thinning, road improvements, road decommissioning and more.

In addition, some road maintenance and improvements targets were accomplished (see table 2019 Accomplishments page 9) 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 \$1.6 million in road work as an appraisal allowance plus approximately \$700,000 as stewardship service items/KV to date.

The Payette National Forest entered into a four-year agreement in 2016 with the Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) to engage youth and young adults in natural resource management education and job opportunities. This successful partnership has been able to add funds throughout previous years that bring total contributions to \$552,381. Forest

Service funds, in conjunction with the partner funds, has allowed approximately 40 to 45 young adults to gain valuable experience in a conservation education internship, and will continue to hire approximately 15 to 18 interns for FY20.

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.**

FY2019 Overview

FY19 Activity Description (Agency performance measures)	Acres
Number of acres treated by prescribed fire	14,123
Number of acres treated by mechanical thinning	6,135*
Number of acres of natural ignitions that are allowed to burn under strategies that result in desired conditions	N/A
Number of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems which are maintained in desired condition	6,758
Number of acres mitigated to reduce fire risk	20,276

*Includes acres from invasive weeds

Please provide a narrative overview of treatments completed in FY19, including data on whether your project has expanded the pace and/or scale of treatments over time, and if so, how you’ve accomplished that – what were the key enabling factors?

The hazardous fuels reduction activities that were completed in FY19 were a part of the Mill Creek-Council Mountain, Weiser River Fuels, Lost Creek-Boulder Creek, Rocky Bear, Meadows Slope, and Weasel project areas, all of which are encompassed by the WLSH CFLRP. These projects were developed with input from the PFC: www.payetteforestcoalition.org. The areas treated in FY19 focused in high fire hazard areas near and adjacent to the communities of Council and New Meadows and dispersed residences and infrastructure including the Highway 95 corridor, powerlines to McCall and Boise, campgrounds on NFS lands, municipal watersheds, livestock grazing allotments, species- specific wildlife research study areas (NIDGS), etc.

The past few years’ activities have transformed prioritization of hazardous fuel treatments on the Payette National Forest. The Forest has been focused on non-commercial thinning along roadways and strategic ridges that essentially prepare larger blocks for future prescribed burning activities. This has enabled the Forest to increase the pace and scale of treatments as well as reducing costs associated with the treatments.

the Forest has learned that this increase in the number of acres treated requires diligence on the part of fire management personnel as well as line officers in order to prevent unintended outcomes from a potential escaped prescribed fire. These threats often occur well after the initial ignitions have taken place, sometimes months since implementation began.

Expenditures

<u>Category</u>	<u>\$</u>
FY2019 Wildfire Preparedness ⁶	\$6,600,000
FY2019 Wildfire Suppression ⁷	\$15,500,000
The cost of managing fires for resource benefit if appropriate (i.e. full suppression versus managing)	N/A
FY2019 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (CFLN)	26,000
FY2019 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (other BLIs)	\$974,725

How may the treatments that were implemented contribute to reducing fire costs? If you have seen a reduction in fire suppression costs over time, please include that here.

Many of the projects completed may contribute to a reduction in suppression costs. Prescribed fire removes the fine fuels which allows the fire to move across the landscape. By reducing fine fuels firefighters can contain fire spread with less personnel. Prescribed fire and non-commercial thinning increase base canopy heights and limit the vertical continuity. By increasing canopy base heights torching and spotting is decreased, thereby reducing the control issues on the fire and reducing costs.

When a wildfire interacts with a previously treated area within the CFLR boundary:

*If additional assessments have been completed since the FY2018 CFLRP annual report on fires within the CFLRP area, please note that and provide responses to the questions below. **For projects finishing their tenth year**, if you have any additional insights from your cumulative work over the course of the project please share those here as well.*

Each unit is required to complete and submit a standard fuels treatment effectiveness monitoring (FTEM) entry in the FTEM database (see FSM 5140) when a wildfire occurs within or enters into a fuel treatment area. **For fuel treatment areas within the CFLR boundary, please copy/paste that entry here and respond to the following supplemental questions. Note that the intent of these questions is to understand progress as well as identify challenges and what didn't work as expected to promote learning and adaptation.**

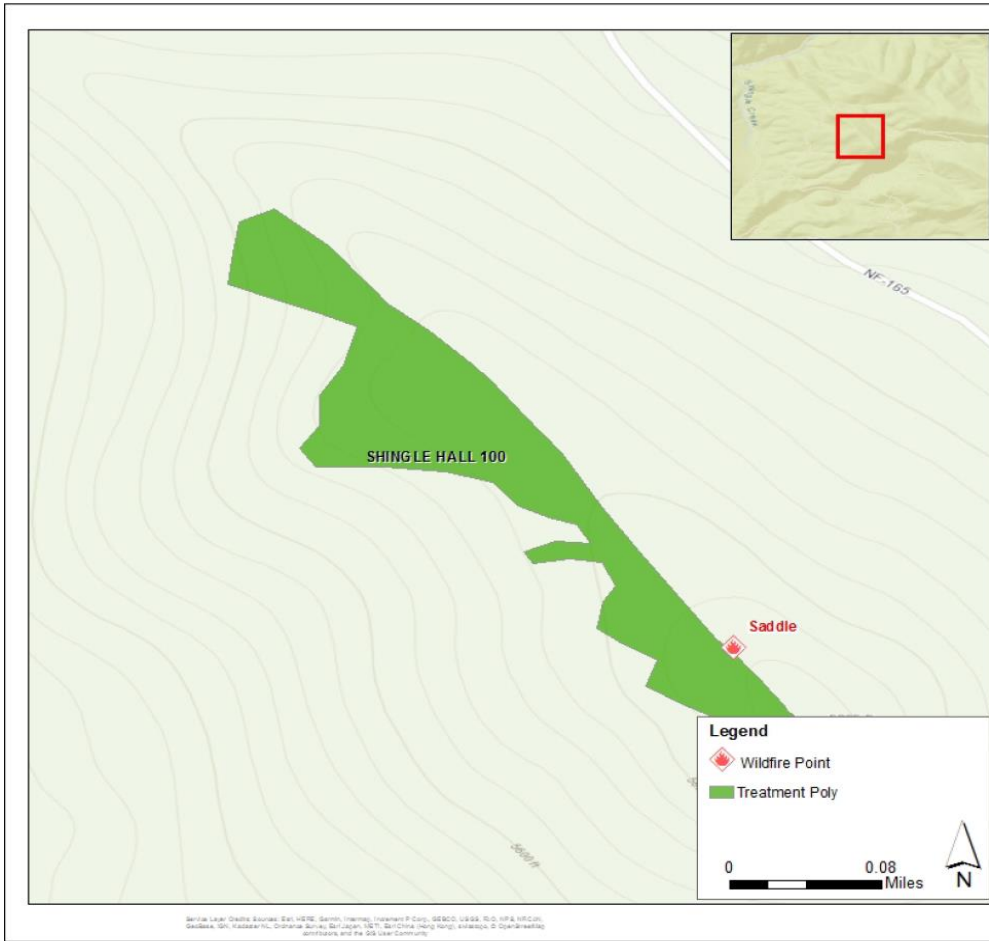
⁶ Include base salaries, training, and resource costs borne by the unit(s) that sponsors the CFLRP project. If costs are directly applicable to the project landscape, describe full costs. If costs are borne at the unit level(s), describe what proportions of the costs apply to the project landscape. This may be as simple as Total Costs X (Landscape Acres/Unit Acres).

⁷ Include emergency fire suppression and BAER within the project landscape. Describe acres of fires contained and not contained by initial attack. Describe acres of resource benefits achieved by unplanned ignitions within the landscape. Where existing fuel treatments within the landscape are tested by wildfire, summary and reference the fuel treatment effectiveness report.

Saddle Wildfire Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Report

Jun 1, 2019 2:08:31 PM - Jun 5, 2019 3:30:00 PM

Final fire size: 0.1 acres
Total Treatment acres burned: 0.1 acres
Date when fire entered first treatment: June 01, 2019
Fire Number: 2019-IDPAF-000112
Start date and time: Jun 1, 2019 2:08:31 PM
Containment date time: Jun 1, 2019 7:30:00 PM
Control date and time: Jun 3, 2019 9:37:00 PM
Out date and time: Jun 5, 2019 3:30:00 PM
Fire Cause: Natural
Has Perimeter: No
Unit Name: PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST
Agency: USFS
Agency Region: 04
GACC: IDPAF
Monitor Name: philgraevae
Date Monitoring Completed: July 18, 2019



Conditions When Wildfire Entered Treatment

Show entries

Treatment Name	Treatment Id	Agency	Treatment and Wildfire Interaction Details?	Treatment Acres Burned By Wildfire	Date Wildfire Entered Treatment	Did The Fire Behavior Change As A Result Of Treatment?	Did the Treatment contribute to control and/or management of fire?
Treatment Name	Treatment Id	Agency	Treatment and Wildfire Interaction Details?	Treatment Acres Burned By Wildfire	Date Wildfire Entered Treatment	Did The Fire Behavior Change As A Result Of Treatment?	Did the Treatment contribute to control and/or management of fire?

Treatment Name	Treatment Id	Agency	Treatment and Wildfire Interaction Details?	Treatment Acres Burned By Wildfire	Date Wildfire Entered Treatment	Did The Fire Behavior Change As A Result Of Treatment?	Did the Treatment contribute to control and/or management of fire?	Was the treatment strategically located in order to facilitate control of fire?
SHINGLE HALL 100	1304041051	USFS	Wildfire started in the treatment	0.1	June 01, 2019	Yes	no	yes

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Fire Effects Conditions When Wildfire Entered Treatment

Show entries

Treatment Name	Treatment Id	Agency	How Did The Treatment Contribute To The Control Of The Fire 1?	How Did The Treatment Contribute To The Control Of The Fire 2?	How Did The Treatment Contribute To The Control Of The Fire 3?	How Did The Treatment Contribute To The Control Of The Fire 4?	How Did The Treatment Contribute To The Control Of The Fire 5?	Flame Length Inside Treatment?	Flame Length Outside Treatment?	Inside Fuel Model 1	Inside Fuel Model 1 %	Inside Fuel Model 2	Inside Fuel Model 2 %
SHINGLE HALL 100	1304041051	USFS	Null	Null	Null	Slowed Fire Spread	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Weather Conditions When Wildfire Entered Treatment

Show entries

Treatment Name	Treatment Id	Agency	Observation Date	20' WS	20' WD	Temp	RH	Observation Source
SHINGLE HALL 100	1304041051	USFS	June 01, 2019	2	Null	Null	Null	Local

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Fuel Conditions When Wildfire Entered Treatment

Show entries

Treatment Name	Treatment Id	Agency	Date	ERC %	1hr DFM	10hr DFM	100hr DFM	1000hr DFM	Live FM	Sample Type	Measures or Estimated
SHINGLE HALL 100	1304041051	USFS	Nov 09, 2013	Less than 90%	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null	Null

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

- **Please describe if/how partners or community members engaged in the planning or implementation of the relevant fuels treatment.**
 - The PFC helped collaborate with the Payette when designing the project.
- **Did treatments include coordinated efforts on other federal, tribal, state, private, etc. lands within or adjacent to the CFLR landscape?**
 - All Federal efforts
- **What resource values were you and your partners concerned with protecting or enhancing? Did the treatments help to address these value concerns?**
 - Reducing the risk of catastrophic fire and protecting timber value
- **Did the treatments do what you expected them to do? Did they have the intended effect on fire behavior or outcomes? Please include a brief description.**
 - Yes, fire behavior was limited.
- **What is your key takeaway from this event – what would you have done differently? What elements will you continue to apply in the future?**
 - Continue to treat acres with fire.

- **What didn't work as expected, and why? What was learned?**
 - We had more tree mortality than expected when fire was used within the treatment area, but it remained effective because the fire slowed when it was within that area.
- **Please include the costs of the treatments listed in the fuels treatment effectiveness report: how much CFLR/CFLN was spent? How much in other BLI's were spent? If cost estimates are not available, please note and briefly explain.**
 - Initial attack efforts including patrol were less than \$5,000. BLI=PR

When a wildfire occurs within the CFLR landscape on an area planned for treatment but not yet treated:

- Please include:
 - Acres impacted and severity of impact: **N/A FOR FY19**
 - Brief description of the planned treatment for the area: **N/A FOR FY19**
 - Summary of next steps – will the project implement treatments elsewhere? Will they complete an assessment?: **N/A FOR FY19**
 - Description of collaborative involvement in determining next steps. **N/A FOR FY19**

Please include acres of fires contained and not contained by initial attack and acres of resource benefits achieved by unplanned ignitions within the landscape, and costs.

- Include expenses in wildfire preparedness and suppression, where relevant
 - See table above
 - In FY19 within the WLSH CFLRP landscape, one significant fire occurred that was not able to be suppressed during initial attack. The Nethker fire on the McCall District was a lightning caused fire that began on FS property and burned approximately 2,360 total acres; approx. 50% of which were within the CFLRP project area on NFS lands. The interaction of this fire and prior treatments is emphasized below; it was a very costly fire that required multiple Incident Management Teams to achieve the full perimeter control objectives. Costs associated with this fire exceeded \$13.3 million
- Include summary of BAER requests and authorized levels within the project landscape, where relevant
 - \$79,931 was approved for BAER funding for the Nethker fire.

		Unit	# of	
Line Items	Units	Cost	Units	BAER \$
Land Treatments				
L-01 EDRR Suppression	acres	30	328	\$9,837
L-01 EDRR BAER	acres	8	1204	\$10,174
Road and Trails				
RT-01 Culvert Upgrade	each	30,000	1	\$30,000
RT-01 Culvert Upgrade	each	4,800	2	\$9,600
RT-02 Road Drainage Storm Proofing	miles	1,800	3	\$5,220
RT-03 Road Storm Patrols	days	1,130	10	\$11,300
Coordination & Consultation	lump sum	3,200	1	\$3,200
Protection/Safety				
PS-01 Warning Signs	sign	200	3	\$600
Totals				\$79,931

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](#).

In FY19, timber volume harvested was based on the Cut and Sold Report (CUTS203F) and BioEnergy & BioBased Products report (BIOW201F) generated in the TIM database. The 18,821 CCF reported for the TREAT model includes saw logs, chips hauled to a biomass facility, and firewood within the WLSH CFLRP area. A report was generated for contracts within the CFLRP associated with timber and restoration and percentages were developed for funding and contract funding distributions. FY 2019 Jobs Supported/Maintained (FY19 CFLR/CFLN/ WO funding):

FY 2019 Jobs Supported/Maintained	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)	Labor Income (Direct)	Labor Income (Total)
Timber harvesting component	27	35	\$1,391,884	\$1,672,380
Forest and watershed restoration component	0	0	0	0
Mill processing component	43	79	\$2,484,771	\$3,747,337
Implementation and monitoring	35	46	\$1,685,284	\$2,026,603,
Other Project Activities	0	0	0	0
TOTALS:	106	160	\$5,561,939	\$7,446,320

FY 2019 Jobs Supported/Maintained (FY19 CFLR/CFLN/ WO and matching funding):

FY 2019 Jobs Supported/Maintained	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)	Labor Income (Direct)	Labor Income (Total)
Timber harvesting component	32	41	\$1,624,923	\$1,952,382
Forest and watershed restoration component	25	30	\$219,751	\$337,585
Mill processing component	43	80	\$2,494,679	\$3,762,279
Implementation and monitoring	83	107	\$3,940,401	\$4,738,448
Other Project Activities	1	1	\$7,263	\$10,746
TOTALS:	185	258	\$8,287,018	\$10,801,439

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)
<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 increased its membership to 26 voting members this year. The PFC helped strengthen the design, analysis, and ultimately the decisions with the CFLRP projects. In FY19 there have been 10 meetings and 3 field	

Indicator	Brief Description of Impacts, Successes, and Challenges	Links to reports or other published materials (if available)
	trips with strong participation at each. The PFC focused their work on reviewing and providing input and support for the: Mesa Fire Salvage (providing a letter of support to the Forest for the project); Little Red Goose Farm Bill Insect and Disease Categorical Exclusion; final EIS for the fourth large landscape project (Huckleberry) and providing input during the development of a Proposed Action for the fifth large landscape project (Granite Meadows). They continue to monitor and support implementation of the first, second, and third projects. Adams County and the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) served as Intervenor in litigation of the second large landscape project, Lost Creek Boulder Creek.	
<u>Project Partnership Composition</u>	The Payette National Forest continues to work on the strength and diversity of partnership composition within the CFLRP. In FY19 the Forest continued successful partnerships in conjunction with CFLRP. These partners include: Idaho Conservation Corps, Idaho Department of Lands, 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, Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) crews, Council Education Resource Crew (CERC), and other USFS personnel and volunteers.	NRM, INFRA Trails data and VSR Reports reflect partnership and volunteer data.
<u>% Locally retained contracts</u>	Local jobs at mills and subcontracting jobs have been created and/or sustained through CFLR contracts offered by the Forest. A total of 12,787 MBF of timber volume has been produced and delivered to 3 different mills over the course of FY19. Despite litigation, the Forest was able to award two timber contracts in FY19 to a local purchaser who is utilizing a local contractor to complete the work. The timber value sold in these contract totals \$1,000,275. The total value of contracts awarded from 2012 through 2019 is \$14,090,291. Of this revenue, \$13,028,000 is from stewardship contracts and has been or will be used to complete restoration work on the forest over the coming years that will include non-commercial thinning, road decommissioning, aquatic organism passage installation, road maintenance, and recreation improvements.	Mesa Fire Salvage TS Contract Awarded 2/01/2019 Bear Claw TS Contract Awarded 6/4/2019
<u>Volunteer/Outreach Participation</u>	The WLSH CFLRP continues to work on building and strengthening volunteer participation working in conjunction with the Payette Forest	

Indicator	Brief Description of Impacts, Successes, and Challenges	Links to reports or other published materials (if available)
	Coalition. The Forest continues to build a foundation to develop stronger participation within the CFLRP boundary, including citizen science and monitoring projects. The Forest is currently working in conjunction with the PFC to build new opportunities and ideas to strengthen volunteer participation.	

5. Based on your project monitoring plan, **describe the multiparty monitoring process. You may simply reference your ecological indicator reports here if they adequately represent your multiparty monitoring process.** If further information is needed, please answer the questions below.

Please reference the Weiser Little Salmon Headwaters Ecological Indicator Progress Report for more monitoring information.

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 areas 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.

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, Huckleberry, and Granite Meadows 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 and eDNA has been collected in bull trout patches, which are geographic areas that have the habitat requirements to support spawning/rearing of a local bull trout population. Long-term stream habitat monitoring also has been established in project area subwatersheds within the WLSH CFLRP area.

Range and Weed technicians continued surveying and inventorying system and non-system roads. They traveled by vehicle, UTV, ATV and sometimes on foot for noxious and invasive weeds within the Lost Creek/Boulder Creek. Crews also began work surveying the Granite Meadows 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, 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.

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 forest stand thinning. To verify the effectiveness of restoration actions for areas of concern, the Forest continued the eighth 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. The M.S. Thesis (Space Use and Foraging Patterns of the White-headed Woodpecker in Western Idaho, Kehoe; January 2017) completed in 2018 from this project provides a baseline of information for the continued research on white-headed woodpeckers in CFLRP areas. Forest Service wildlife crews continued long-term wildlife monitoring, including the use of baited camera stations and call stations, both inside and outside of the greater WLSH CFLRP boundary.

The Payette National Forest continued our 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, led by Dr. Courtney Conway from the U of I United States Geological Survey (USGS) 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. See photos, Appendix A (p. 28.) Most of the research sites selected for the study have been treated with commercial and pre-commercial thinning. Additional treatments completed and in progress included final tree thinning in sites adjacent to occupied NIDGS colonies and prescribed burning in those same units. This research project also provided funding for a U of I doctoral student, who conducted her research defense in December 2018. Future products will include published articles in peer-reviewed journals relating to NIDGS and population recovery-based forest restoration research and sylvatic plague research.

The Payette National Forest has been working with the Intermountain Regional Office to acquire 248,000 acres of LIDAR data. Approximately 100,000 acres of the acreage is within the Granite Meadows (Project #5) CFLR area. This effort is coordinated with partners such as the USGS, USFS – Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), and Oregon State University (OSU). The preliminary LIDAR was provided by the contractor to the Forest in April of 2018. The Forest collected field data during the FY18 field season and put in approximately 150 plots with the RMRS and OSU to model the data with the secondary (vegetative data.) The Forest is working with RMRS and U of I to have them process and model for secondary LIDAR products. The Forest and Intermountain Regional office again partnered with USGS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2019 to acquire all of Adams County, 372,500 acres of non-Forest Service land and 494,000 acres of National Forest System Land. This data set will be used in conjunction with the data plots collected for the 2017 data to extrapolate additional vegetation metrics across this landscape. In partnership with the Intermountain Regional office the Forest is again leveraging large scale acquisitions and partner funding to propose acquiring the balance of the shared stewardship boundary (782,700 acres) and about 128,000 acres of the South Fork Salmon River corridor. The Forest's LIDAR data is utilized to help design the projects and complete the environmental analyses that informs the decisions on the large landscape scale projects.

The Payette Forest Coalition has a monitoring sub-committee charged with gathering information on implementation and post-project trends and results. The PFC Monitoring Committee’s goal is to review updates from Forest resource specialists on the monitoring the Forest is conducting. This monitoring committee periodically summarizes results and communicates those to the larger PFC group. In FY19 the PFC completed three field trips to monitor post-treatment outcomes and results from long-term wildlife monitoring, focusing on upland and riparian thinning and fuels reduction treatments, road treatments and stream improvements. The results of this PFC monitoring are being used to adapt the next projects (Huckleberry, Granite Meadows).

6. FY 2019 Agency performance measure accomplishments:

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$) (Contract Costs)
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	0	0
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	4,629	\$208,503
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	1481	\$124,560 *An additional 165 acres were accomplished but not captured in the database of record. The total miles accomplished are 1645.7
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	78	This performance measure is integrated with RD-DECOM
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	5	Rolls up from other performance measures
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	13,034	Rolls up from other performance measures
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved RG-VEG-IMP	Acres	Did not commit to measure under CFLRP	N/A
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD- HC-MAIN	Miles	285	\$240,000
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD- PC-MAINT	Miles	233	\$200,000
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	10.6 9.1 RD-DECOM-NON-SYS 1.5 RD-DECOM-SYS	\$130,000
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	2.2	\$50,000
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	19.0	\$85,500

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$) (Contract Costs)
Road Storage <i>While this isn't tracked in the USFS Agency database, please provide road storage miles completed if this work is in support of your CFLRP restoration strategy for tracking at the program level.</i>	Miles	5.4	\$12,000
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage STRM-CROS-MTG-STD	Number	0	\$0
Miles of system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD	Miles	57	\$6,000 *An additional 10 miles were accomplished but not captured in the database of record. The total miles accomplished are 67
Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD	Miles	4	\$400,000
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard LND-BL-MRK-MAINT	Miles	All work was completed within the CFLR area in FY17	N/A
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	955	\$1,000,275
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	18,821	\$969,060
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons (CCF)	1,309	\$1,245
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	5,935	\$243,682
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	14,341	\$731,043
Acres mitigated FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS	Acres	20,276	\$974,725
Please also include the acres of prescribed fire accomplished	Acres	14,123	\$447,292
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands SP-INVSP-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

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

7. **FY 2019 accomplishment narrative** – Summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress *not already described elsewhere* in this report. **For projects finishing their tenth year**, if you have any additional insights from your cumulative work over the course of the project please share those here as well. (Please limit answer to three pages.)

A wide variety of work was accomplished in FY19 through stewardship contracts awarded in prior fiscal years. Work is

funded with the timber value on each contract. Accomplishments include road reconstruction as well as road obliteration; non-commercial thinning in natural as well as plantation stands; slash work to include lopping, scattering and pullback around residual timber (to facilitate RX burns) and grinding or chipping of slash piles generated from logging, which is then burned for energy at the local mill's cogeneration plant.

The Forest Weed crews completed 1645 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 weed control. This work involved looking at previous year's data, treating those areas if needed, and locating new populations, mapping any changes, reporting in databases and monitoring.

The Forest Watershed Restoration Crew accomplished 77 acres of soil and water resource improvements within the CFLRP during Fiscal year 2018. Soil productivity and hydrologic regime was restored by fully obliterating road prisms for a total of 7.0 miles using the standard assumption of 5 acres per mile for a total of 35 acres: 0.9 miles of road in the Mill Creek - Council Mountain project area, 1.9 miles in the Crooked River Project area, 0.5 miles in the Lost Creek - Boulder Creek project area, and 3.7 miles in the Middle Fork Weiser River project area. In addition, 2.9 miles of authorized roads were stabilized and put into long term storage in the Mill Creek – Council Mountain project area, 2.2 in the Crooked River project area, and 0.1 miles in the Middle Fork – Weiser River project area. See photos, Appendix B (p. 29-30.)

The Forest also completed recreation, trail maintenance and trail improvement projects across several routes within the boundary of the CFLR area. There were approximately 2495 hours contributed by volunteers completing recreation improvements and maintenance across the Council, New Meadows and McCall Ranger Districts. Trail work within the boundary included trail maintenance and improvements by force account labor and volunteer time from the Idaho Conservation Corps, Youth Conservation Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, Idaho Trails Association; Central Idaho Trail Riders Alliance, Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation, Central Idaho Mountain Bike Association, Student Conservation Association, Council Environmental Restoration Crew (Council High School, Council, ID), Heartland Backcountry Horseman, and individual volunteers.

In addition, the Forest conducted post-Mesa Fire BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) work on Trail 332, Sheep Creek, to address erosion caused by destruction of the trail tread due to fire and post-fire runoff. Work included complete re-establishment of the trail tread over approximately 0.3 miles and installation of 30 erosion control check steps, which were cut at a sloping angle in order to facilitate passage by motorcycles and bicycles (both of which are allowed on the trail). The Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) cleared trees and completed retread in BAER areas based from Campbell's Cow Camp. They installed necessary water bars for erosion control and brushed sections that were overgrown. The MCC also logged out Paradise Creek #186 up to Rankin Mill #191. They completed spot retread and brushing along Rapid River #177 from Copper Creek #190 to Fry Pan Creek. See photos Appendix C (p. 31.)

The Forest also achieved 5 miles of stream habitat enhancement through road decommissioning adjacent to streams. The majority of these accomplishments came from decommissioning system and non-system roads adjacent to stream channels.

The Forest completed 13,034 acres of terrestrial habitat enhancement via understory thinning and prescribed burning by Fuels crews. The Wildlife Program hosted one intern from the U of I McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS). She assisted district wildlife crews conducting surveys for threatened and sensitive wildlife species, as well as conducting bat species surveys across the Forest, using acoustic recording units. Her bat survey work was presented to the Forest in a brown bag lunch program and to the public by a podcast on the Forest website and a presentation at a local book store. Using the

acoustic recording units, her surveys identified several species of bats on the Forest and provided the first step in conducting more rigorous surveys for bats across the Forest. Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew members assisted wildlife crews conducting surveys for Northern Idaho ground squirrels (NIDGS), northern goshawks (NOGO), white-headed woodpeckers (WHWO), pileated woodpeckers (PIWO), and gray wolves in the Mill Creek - Council Mountain, Middle Fork Weiser River, and Huckleberry CFLR project areas. Council Education Resource Crew (CERC) members from Council High School assisted wildlife crews with these same field surveys in different locations within these same CFLR project areas.

In FY2019, the Heritage Crew surveyed 2,819 acres in the Middle Fork Weiser River CFLRP project area. This led to the identification of one new historic site, and two new Native American sites. One previously recorded site was monitored, and another was archaeologically tested to determine National Register of Historic Places eligibility. This season, three Idaho Conservation Corps interns and one Youth Conservation Corps crew member collaborated with the Heritage Department to conduct survey and monitor recorded and previously unrecorded sites. One of these interns worked within the Heritage Department for the entirety of the field season. This intern was a U of I graduate student based out of the McCall Outdoor Science School facility. Through this program we provided training in archaeological survey methods, site monitoring practices, and the Forest hiring process. This experience provided a valuable opportunity to foster relationships between the U of I's extension program and the Forest and provided the intern with a skillset specific to land management practices.

This year employment opportunities were provided to local youth through the Forest's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program in both Adams and Valley County in FY19. Two YCC crews were established—one crew based out of Council, Idaho and the other based out of McCall, Idaho. Both YCC crews were comprised of four local high school students and a crew lead. All eight students and the crew leads worked and acquired conservation education in natural resource-based areas including recreation, range, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries. These employees worked within the CFLRP area intermittently throughout the summer season. See photos, Appendix D (p.32.) Students from both groups provided the Forest crews with much needed staffing, while gaining firsthand experience in natural resources research and management. The crew leader for the YCC group won First Place in the Region 4 photo/video contest for 2019, with her video documentary of the West Zone YCC summer of work on the Forest (<http://fsweb.r4.fs.fed.us/unit/sc/contest/index.shtml>).

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 FY19, the Council Ranger District funded five students and one teacher from Council and Cambridge School Districts as a summer youth crew; these students assisted programs like watershed, range and recreation with riparian planting, fence, spring, campground and trail maintenance. This year also included an overnight campout to work on stabilizing a gully in the Council Mountain Roadless area in the CFLRP project area. Students got to see their gear packed in by pack stock, learn about principals of gully stabilization, and spend time with the local Youth Conservation Corps, which taught them about crew unity and teamwork.

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. This Council School crew grew and planted these upland and riparian vegetation for use in WLSH CFLRP projects. The Boy Scouts and other youth groups have spread grass seed, planted conifers and shrubs, and assisted establishing monitoring plots.

In FY19 the Forest had many significant projects and opportunities to be able to hire interns through a partnership with the Idaho Conservation Corps and provide them a great educational experience as well as a successful job opportunity. For FY19, the Payette National Forest hired 15 interns. Some worked as engineering technicians learning and working on road

maintenance and biological technicians doing weed control on the west side of the Forest. Forestry Technicians were hired as timber and silviculture technicians to work within our CFLRP boundary and large landscape projects. Other technicians were hired in heritage, fisheries and watershed management. The Payette National Forest continues to build this successful partnership program and increase the number of internships available each year. The Forest strives to provide opportunities to individuals for field experience and be able to utilize their skills, as well as help them build a foundation for a future career in natural resource management.

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC), now in its ninth 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 22 to 26 voting members in 2019. The Steering Team added three new members and now has a total of five members, including the Valley County Parks and Recreation Director. Adams County and the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) supported the Forest as Intervenors in the Plaintiff’s appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on the Lost Creek Boulder Creek project. 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 2018, with strong participation at each. The August field trip included the Regional Forester and Regional Directors and staff. This year the Payette Forest Coalition focused their work on planning of the Mesa Fire Salvage (a fire salvage Categorical Exclusion), Little Red Goose (Farm Bill insect and disease Categorical Exclusion), Lost Creek Boulder Creek (second large landscape project), Huckleberry (fourth large landscape project) and Granite Meadows (fifth large landscape project.)

The PFC continues to monitor and support implementation of the first third and Mesa Fire Salvage projects: Mill Creek Council Mountain (50,000 acres) and Middle Fork Weiser River (50,000 acres). The Lost Creek Boulder Creek (LCBC) project was litigated as the plaintiffs appealed Judge Lodge’s District Court decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling in October that vacated the 2014 LCBC Record of Decision for the project. The Forest issued a new Draft Record of Decision in June of 2019 and the PFC submitted a supportive objection for the project.

The Payette National Forest continued the partnership and agreement with Southwest Idaho RC&D to administer the contracts and payments for Payette Forest Coalition facilitator, note keeper, and web services.

The Land Allocation Committee, a sub-committee of the PFC, met monthly throughout FY19 to evaluate land use designations on the east side of the Forest. The group is working towards recommendations on potential adjustments to recommended wilderness and other backcountry designations on the Forest. Facilitation of the Committee was provided by University of Idaho facilitators and funding for the facilitation was shared by multiple partners.

8. The WO (EDW) will use spatial data provided in the databases of record to estimate a treatment footprint for your review and verification. This information will be [posted here](#) on the internal SharePoint site for verification *after the databases of record close October 31.*

- **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 2019	22,685

Fiscal Year	Footprint of Acres Treated (without counting an acre of treatment on the land in more than one treatment category)
Estimated Cumulative Footprint of Acres (2010 or 2012 through 2019)	140,076

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 2019. 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 2019 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 2019. 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 2019 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? *For projects finishing their tenth year*, if you have any additional insights from your cumulative work over the course of the project please share those here as well. (Please limit answer to two pages).

LCBC was under litigation and limited the number of prescribed fire acres planned. No activities were allowed within the project area.

While the Weiser Little Salmon Headwaters CFLRP did not commit to the Watershed acres Restored Annually (WTRSHD-RSTR-ANN) performance measure, the Forest achieved 26,112 acres in the project area that counts toward the measure for FY 2019, which is an integrated target based on nine other performance measures. The Forest believes it is worth reporting as it provides a measure of the overall intensity of the work that is being performed in the project area.

As reported in previous years, at the time of the original proposal the Forest was anticipating that an additional cogeneration facility was going to be built within the WLSH CFLRP area to produce large amounts of biomass material, and the facility plans were cancelled. The Forest continues to subsidize the removal of biomass with stewardship contracts to achieve this performance measure and meet the target goals

10. *Project selected in 2012 and 2013 ONLY* - Planned FY 2020 Accomplishments

This table is intentionally left blank due to FY19 expected accomplishments not changing from the FY17 report

Performance Measure Code	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment for 2020 (National Forest System)	Planned Accomplishment on non-NFS lands within the CFLRP landscape⁸
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres		
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre		
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles		
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres		
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles		
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles		
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles		
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF		
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons (CCF)		
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre		
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres		

Please include all relevant planned accomplishments, assuming that funding specified in the CFLRP project proposal for FY 2020 is available.

11. ***Project selected in 2012 and 2013 ONLY*** - Planned accomplishment narrative and justification if planned FY 2020 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 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: www.payetteforestcoalition.org. They also have a newly established Facebook page under Payette Forest Coalition. Their current member list is located on that website or the link below can be used to go directly to the list:

⁸ As we shift to more emphasis on sharing results across all lands within the CFLRP projects – if relevant for your project area – please provide estimates for planned work on non-NFS lands within the CFLRP areas for work that generally corresponds with the Agency performance measure to the left and supports the CFLRP landscape strategy. Give your best estimate at this point; if it’s unknown how much work will occur off NFS lands, simply state unknown.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/120ieqBj5zDIWu7yRw3Radx_gHjL4YhR0APcTI72fKEk/edit#gid=1054580931

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC), now in its ninth year working with the WLSH project, is actively committed in decision making and collaboration with the CFLRP program. They have strengthened the design and analysis of the projects with the large landscape area. The PFC continues to strengthen every year and increase in diversity. Their group has grown from 14 voting members at the beginning of the CFLRP project to now 26 voting members, with the Idaho Wildlife Federation and Idaho State Department of Agriculture both joining as new voting members in 2019. The Payette Forest Coalition's steering committee has acquired new enthusiastic members to make up a strong and diverse decision-making body. They added three new members and now has a total of five members, including the Valley County Parks and Recreation Director. The collaborative group continues to work on dynamics of team building and cohesion at a high, consistent level. Also, the Land Allocation Committee, a sub-committee of the PFC, met monthly throughout FY19 to evaluate land use designations on the east side of the Forest. The group is working towards recommendations on potential adjustments to recommended wilderness and other backcountry designations on the Forest.

13. **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.

Publications

Within the area of the burnout operation, the vegetation and fuel treatments resulted in a low-intensity burn. While some tree torching took place, no crown fire occurred in the treated areas. The overall result of the burnout operation was low to moderate severity in ponderosa pine stands, low severity burning was observed, as light surface fuels were consumed and limited canopy scorch occurred.

The placement of the treatments at the confluence of Cottonwood Creek, the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek, and Cookhouse Gulch moderated the fire behavior at a location where intensity would normally increase throughout the burn period, with a typical result being a stand replacing wildfire.

The ridge-top fuel treatments had a similar effect and provided an opportunity to contain the northwest flank of the fire with a controlled burnout operation. Ultimately, the fire behavior was sufficiently moderated within the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek to allow crews to use direct hand line in containing this area of the fire.



Prescribed burning conducted along Upper Cottonwood Creek Road in April of 2018.



Commercially thinning and prescribed fire on the northeast side of Cookhouse Gulch. The prior fuels reduction work led to this ridge-top being scored and easily held as the fire moved through.



Low intensity wildfire burning in the commercially thinned, and fire area at the head of the fire.



Low intensity wildfire effects were observed within prescribed fire burn units within the Cottonwood Creek drainage.

CFLRP Project Effects on Mesa Fire

The Mesa Fire started July 27, 2018 on private land as a human-caused fire when a motorist on Idaho State Highway 85 had a fire blow out. The fire, immediately southeast of Council, quickly burned 18,205 acres of private and the Payette National Forest in the first burning period. The following burning period on July 28 increased the acreage by 207,756 acres. The majority of the firefighting efforts in the first two burning periods focused on the private homes and structures immediately east of the community.



Mesa Fire on July 28 burning east of Council.

On July 29, with near record high temperatures in Council, and moderate to strong winds across the fire, Great Basin Type 2 Team 6 assumed command of the fire. With additional resources on hand, firefighting efforts began in earnest in the northeastern divisions of the fire on Payette National Forest lands in the Cottonwood Creek drainage.

Prior to the wildfire, the Forest, working under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program's (CFLRP) Mill Creek Council Mountain Landscape Restoration Project, conducted commercial thinning, pre-commercial thinning and applied prescribed fire to the area. The most recent use of prescribed fire was to burn the west facing slopes of the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek, and in Cookhouse Gulch in the spring of 2018. Additionally, commercial thinning in the drainage had been done the year before. These fuel treatments within the Cottonwood Creek drainage provided notable benefits during the management of the Mesa fire as wildfire entered several of the treated areas from July 28th through July 29th.

As the fire entered the Cottonwood drainage from private land at the height of the burning period, it was a high intensity, crowning wildfire.

This high intensity fire burned through the initial forest lands that had been treated with fuel reduction projects, but as it burned through the area, the fire began to lose its steam.

The importance of the strategic placement of these treatments cannot be overstated. Cottonwood Creek is a large, deep drainage that aligns with the prevailing southwest winds. Extreme fire behavior occurred July 27th, 28th and 29th. This included rapid upstage runs, crown fire, and long range spotting.

As the fire burned into the mid-slopes of the Cottonwood Creek drainage, the treatments further slowed the updrainage spread of the fire, and reduced fire intensity in the form of less torching and no crown fire. This allowed ground resources and aircraft to safely and effectively complete a burnout operation that prevented further spread to the north and northwest towards the town of Council and outlying infrastructure.

Mid slope treated area. Needles remained on trees after the wildfire passed through.

The burnout utilized a recently completed prescribed fire unit that had prior vegetation treatments. The placement of the treatment and the change in fuel composition were important in the success of this operation. The map on the opposite page shows the location of the fuels treatments with an overlay of the Mesa Fire perimeter.

Prescribed Fire Promoting Fire-Adapted Communities and Creating Resilient Landscapes

The Payette National Forest will be conducting multiple prescribed fires this fall. Depending on weather conditions, burns could take place anytime through early November.

These prescribed fires reduce surface fuels, increase height of the canopy, reduce small tree densities, and promote fire resilient trees, thereby improving our ability to protect communities from wildfire. Additionally, these fires improve wildlife habitat, promote long-term ecosystem integrity and sustainability by reducing the risk of high-severity wildfire fire.

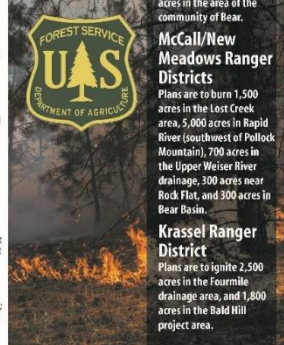
Trail heads and roads that lead into the burn areas will be posted with caution signs and a map of the prescribed burn locations.

Fire personnel will work closely with the Idaho/Montana Airshed Group, the National Weather Service, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to insure that smoke impacts are minimized. The decision to ignite on any given day will depend on favorable weather conditions and the need to reduce smoke effects as much as possible. Smoke from these prescribed fires will be

much less than what would be expected from a wildfire. If smoke concentrations approach air quality standards the ignition may be delayed until air quality improves. Residual smoke may be visible for up to 2 weeks following ignition, but most of the smoke from the fire is anticipated to dissipate 1-2 days after ignition.

Individuals may call Patrick Schen (McCall and New Meadows RDRs: 208-347-4336), Jacek Pajzani (Krasel RDR: 208-634-0023), or Dave Luchette (Council and Weiser RDRs: 208-549-4228) with any concerns they may have about the planned prescribed fires. The public may also call the Weiser, Council, New Meadows, McCall or Krasel Ranger Districts for more information.

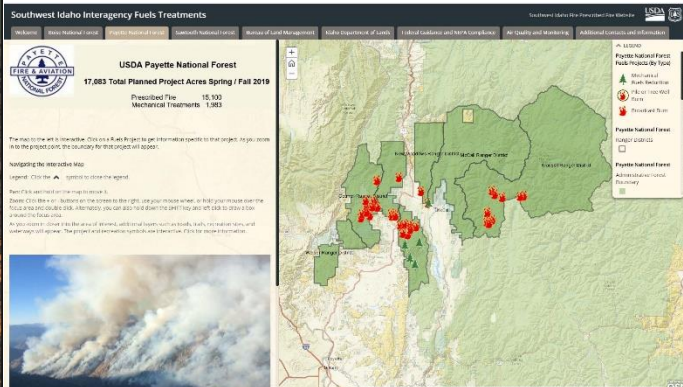
Prescribed fire is an important component of natural resource management and part of the comprehensive fire management program on the Payette National Forest. For information, contact Council RDR: 208-253-0100; Krasel RDR: 208-634-0914; McCall RDR: 208-634-0800; New Meadows RDR: 208-347-0300; Weiser RDR: 208-549-4206.



Council/Weiser Ranger Districts
Plans are to apply fire to 2,000 acres in East Fork of the Weiser River and 30 acres in the area of the community of Bear.

McCall/New Meadows Ranger Districts
Plans are to burn 1,500 acres in the Lost Creek area, 5,000 acres in Rapid River (southwest of Pollock Mountain), 700 acres in the Upper Weiser River drainage, 300 acres near Rock Flat, and 300 acres in Bear Basin.

Krasel Ranger District
Plans are to ignite 2,500 acres in the Fourmile drainage area, and 1,800 acres in the Bald Hill project area.



Fuels Story Map – [Click this link!](#)

Star News, McCall, Idaho Newspaper

The Fire Before the Fire

Controlled burns helped contain spread of Mesa Fire

BY MAX SILVERSON

For The Star-News

Controlled burns set three months before the Mesa Fire last summer are being credited with helping slow the spread of the blaze east of Council, Payette National Forest officials said.

Because of the controlled burns, the Mesa Fire proved to be relatively easy to contain, despite being active during some of the hottest and driest days of the summer, Payette officials said.

Firefighters were able to slow the advance of the fire, plan a more precise strategy and reduce risk to firefighters, Fire Management Specialist David LaChapelle said.

"This was some of the easiest burning to catch in an August wildfire because of treatments to the forest," LaChapelle said.

Controlled burns are lit during the spring and fall to burn small



Photo shows a controlled burn set last spring in the Cottonwood Canyon area east of Council just a few months before the Mesa Fire burned through the area.

portions of a forest. The lack of undergrowth, duff and small trees slows the progress of any unplanned wildfires.

The burns in the area where the Mesa Fire came through were part of the Mill Creek-Council Mountain restoration project.

The project, which finished major operations in 2016, included about 4,600 acres of controlled burns as well

as logging of large and small trees.

The Mesa Fire started on July 26 when an axle broke on a car traveling on U.S. 95 north of Council.

The driver pulled over to the side of the road, but not before sparks from the axle dragging on the pavement started the wildfire.

The high temperature that day was 102, perfect conditions for a devastating blaze.

Nearly 35,000 acres burned before the fire was declared contained on Aug 23.

The fire quickly moved from the side of the highway, across grasslands and up Cottonwood Canyon in the direction of Council Mountain.

The fire caused only intermittent destruction in a relatively predictable pattern, LaChapelle said.

That predictability allowed crews to work directly on the fire line, using bulldozers and existing roads to create barriers that would contain the fire within areas that had already been burned.

See FIRE, Page 3

Fire
(Continued from Page 1)

"It makes it so much easier to work on a fire in an area that has been treated," said Eli Grooms, assistant fire management officer for the Council Ranger District. "I have less concern for the safety of the people I'm going to engage in the fire," said Grooms, who led the initial attack on the Mesa Fire. Without controlled fire in the area, the Mesa Fire could have expanded out of control, Grooms said. "Had we not treated the basin near Cookhouse Gulch in the spring, the fire could have easily spread up to the top and over Council Mountain," he said. "If it gets over to the Middle Fork side, we're dealing with a whole different ballgame."

BY MAX SILVERSON - Payette Coalition Votes to Cut 250-acres of Timber from Mesa Fire Area for The Star-News

Members of the Payette Forest Coalition voted last Thursday to pursue a salvage timber harvest of up to 250 acres in the most severely burned areas of the Mesa Fire located on Forest Service land.

The collaborative group pondered what salvage measures would be the best course of action in the area burned by the fire east of Council last summer.

The vote was 13-0, with two abstentions, to cut a maximum of 250 acres of timber and create no more than a half-mile of temporary road.

Additional salvage logging is also planned within the Middle Fork Weiser River timber sale. But since the area is already slated for commercial timber harvest, no action was required to conduct salvage operations.

The Mesa Fire burned 34,000 acres primarily within the 50,000-acre Mill Creek-Council Mountain restoration project, which is managed by the Payette National Forest, but under recommendations made by the coalition.

Salvage operations will be focused near the Cottonwood Creek Drainage, the most heavily damaged area within the boundary of the fire containing the most valuable timber.

Salvage in the drainage also includes roadside hazard tree removal and a 200-foot buffer on either side of the road.

Of the 34,000 acres that burned, only 16,000 acres was on Forest Service land. Over 90 percent of that area experienced low to moderate intensity fire.

Only 1,007 acres of the fire burned on Forest Service land with high intensity, killing trees and making this salvage operation necessary, Payette Public Affairs Officer Brian Harris said.

Some private land burned in the fire as well, and salvage operations are underway there as well, Harris said.

Adams County Commissioner Mike Paradis abstained from voting. Adams County commissioners earlier had sent a letter to the Payette forest requesting that as much salvage timber be harvested as possible.

"We too agree that we want to maximize the amount of salvage, but if it's not available as a dead tree, and not accessible via roads, we can't go after it in a time frame fast enough to save the value of the timber - it rots over time," Harris said.

The method chosen by the coalition does not require a comment or objection period and could allow for timber to be harvested over the winter.

Harvesting timber during the winter in freezing temperatures and snow also lessens damage to the soil. Additionally, the longer the trees remain dead and standing, the less value they retain as timber products.

The group opted to not pursue an option which would allow for salvage operations with no limits on how many acres could be harvested or new access roads built, but would have taken longer to approve,

“I don’t think we’re walking away from much, doing the 250 (acres),” said Mark Fox, environmental coordinator for the Council Ranger District. **uesday meeting set on 83,000-acre Payette forest project**

BY MAX SILVERSON

for The Star-News – Tuesday Meeting Set on 83,000 Acre Payette Forest Project

The Payette National Forest is seeking public comments on the environmental analysis of the proposed 83,000-acre Granite Meadows landscape restoration project.

The project is located on two large tracts of land, north and west of McCall as well as north of New Meadows.

A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. at the Payette Supervisors Office at 500 North Mission Street in McCall.

Payette personnel will be in attendance to present the project proposal and answer questions.

The Granite Meadows project area includes about 70,000 acres of national forest land, about 7,000 acres of state land and about 6,000 acres of private land.

The purpose of the project is to improve wildfire resilience, watershed health, recreation conditions as well as forest conditions and ecosystem function, according to the Payette forest.

The project will work to improve vegetation health, wildlife habitat improvements and reducing the risk of wildfire.

The project will include commercial thinning, non-commercial thinning and controlled fire.

Plans include several improvements to recreational amenities.

Trails and roads may be established, removed or rerouted depending on their benefit and impact to natural resources.

Changes include evaluating roads identified for closure or possible conversion to trails.

A total of 30 to 35 miles of road are proposed for closure within the project area, and less than two miles of those roads are currently open to the public, the Payette said.

Additional signage, informational facilities and bathrooms will be considered for several sites within the project.

Proposed work also includes tree thinning within the Brundage Mountain Resort’s ski area to improve skier experience and safety.

The Granite Meadows project is the fifth project that is part of the Weiser-Little Salmon headwaters Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project.

The large-scale projects are managed by the Payette forest and guided by recommendations from the Payette Forest Coalition.

The collaborative group includes representatives from a broad range of interests including the timber industry, environmental community, recreational groups and state and county government.

Public comments on the Granite Meadows project can be submitted until Dec. 15.

Comments can be submitted by mail, email at comments-intermtn-payette@fs.fed.us or through the project webpage at <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/granitemeadows>.

Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection.

Social Media

U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] - June 3 -

Bear Basin Fuels Reduction Work

SPRING 2019 NOTICE TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Small tree thinning in Bear Basin area promotes Fire-Adapted Communities

THINNING IS EXPECTED TO OCCUR BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND JUNE 15 ALONG THE SLOPE OF WEST FACE PARKING LOT. TRAILS WHERE USE WILL BE TEMPORARILY IMPACTED INCLUDE:

- Upper and Lower Drain
- Grand Traverse
- Westy
- West Face
- Polar Express

Trailheads, affected trails, and the general area will be posted. Within the greater Bear Basin area, minor thinning-related activities will continue into the summer season to make final vegetation improvements. Hand piles resulting from these 2018 and 2019 activities will be burned early winter, weather permitting.

Small-tree thinning will reduce ladder fuels, reduce small tree densities, and promote fire resilient tree species, thereby improving our ability to protect communities from wildfire and increase the likelihood that our desired forest conditions will persist given a wildfire. All thinning and related work will be conducted by hand, no machinery other than chainsaws.

Individuals may call Dustin Doane (Fire Management Specialist, McCall and New Meadows RDs; 208-347-0336) with any concerns they may have about this project.

Thinning is an important component of natural resource management and part of the comprehensive fire management program on the Payette National Forest.



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] - October 22, 2018

Did you know the Council school uses biomass from the Payette National Forest to provide heat? Biomass is produced on the Forest from our Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects. This year, over 13,000 logging trucks have brought timber off the Forest - its slash from these projects that provide bioenergy.

National Bioenergy Day is October 24th, and National Forest Products week is October 21st through the 27th.







NATIONAL BIOENERGY DAY
WEDNESDAY // OCT 24, 2018

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK
WEEK // OCT 21 - 27, 2018

#BIOENERGYDAY #FORESTPRODUCTSWEEK

U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] - August 1

If you've driven between New Meadows and McCall recently, you've probably noticed the red needles on the slopes above Highway 55. Like our Idaho Department of Lands neighbors, the Payette National Forest is experiencing increased defoliation and tree stress from Douglas-fir Tussock Moth, Western Spruce Budworm and Balsam Woolly Adelgid. These insects are primarily targeting grand fir and Douglas fir. ... See More

+2

U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] - September 24

#Forestproud



Healthy forests provide clean water, wildlife

VIMEO.COM

FAST FACTS | Wildfire + Healthy Forests

Healthy forests provide clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation, diverse...

U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] - December 7, 2018

Learn about the Granite Meadows Landscape Restoration Project

The Payette National Forest in collaboration with the Payette Forest Restoration Coalition, is proposing our 5th Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project, and we need you to help shape the specifics of the project.

Watch this short video, then visit the project web page to submit comments. ... See More



VIMEO.COM


Granite Meadows Landscape Restoration Project

This is "Granite Meadows Landscape Restoration Project" by Forest Servi...

U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] - October 22, 2018

When it comes to a wildfire, fuel includes any combustible material in its path, whether it be saplings, grassy fields or, in a worst case scenario, homes. The more fuel a fire has, the more energy it creates. Monitoring fuels across the Forest is important in understanding where, when and how wildfire may burn.

Recently, fuels monitoring crews recorded pre-burn vegetation data near the Krassel Work Center. This data is used for ecological monitoring purposes after wildfires, and following the use of prescribed fires. In the photo, crews are collecting tree data, fuel bed depths, and overall vegetation composition.



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] · June 1 ·

Nesting female Northern Goshawk on the east side of Meadows Valley. Goshawks are perch hunters, meaning they perch for a very short amount of time, then if having not seen prey, they quickly move to a new perch and repeat the process. Ponderosa Pine forests that are open with multi-aged trees serve as key habitat for Goshawks.

The Payette National Forest's landscape scale restoration projects that thin Ponderosa Pine forests and use prescribed fire, enhance Goshawk habitat. Prior to conducting prescribed fire projects, we survey for birds such as Goshawks to ensure our restoration efforts are not disturbing them.



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] · August 27 ·

The Payette National Forest will conduct multiple prescribed fires this summer and fall. Depending on weather and fuel conditions, the burns could take place anytime beginning from August 26 through October 15.

This morning, fuels specialists are igniting a 90 acre prescribed fire in the Rocky Bear area just 4 miles southwest of McCall. This burn is a continuation of the fuels treatments we have been conducting for the past several years that is designed to help make McCall ... See More



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] · September 3 ·

The Payette National Forest is igniting the Price Valley Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel (NIDGS) prescribed fire today. This 160 acre prescribed fire is part of the recovery effort to help restore habitat for the squirrels, which are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

NIDGS have a very limited range and ideal habitat typically consists of open rocky meadows surrounded by Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Exclusion of wildfire is believed to be one of the causes for NIDGS' habitat reduction, with fire exclusion resulting in meadow encroachment by conifers and other vegetation, including invasive species.

The current burn area has been commercially logged, with prescribed fire treatments in 2009. Today's prescribed fire is to further open the area to increase suitable habitat and promote native grasses and forbs.

Forest Service and IDFG wildlife biologists are on site to ensure the squirrels are underground before the area is burned.

To learn more about the Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel, visit this link... <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/.../Northern%20Idaho%20Ground%20...>



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris [?] · July 8 ·

Public Meeting for the Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project - July 9

Learn about, and participate in the NEPA process for the proposed Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project. The public meeting is at the Council District office from 6:30 to 8:00pm on Tuesday, July 9, 2019. The Draft Environmental Impact Study is available for review now, and the public comment period is open through August 5, 2019.

The project is the fourth project on the Forest that is part of the ... See More



Signatures:

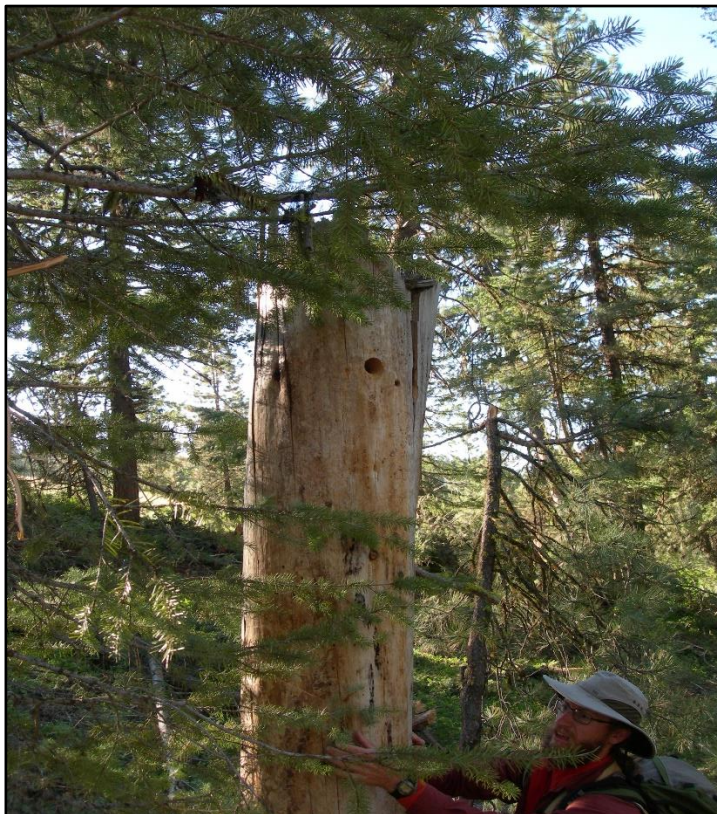
Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)): Ami E Anderson

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)): ^{or} Jennifer Blake

Draft reviewed by (collaborative chair or representative): _____

APPENDIX A:

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel and White-Headed Woodpecker Studies in the CFLRP Boundary



APPENDIX B:

Road Decommissioning Operations in the CFLRP Area

Crooked River #500023100 Before



Crooked River #500023100 After



APPENDIX B:

Road Decommissioning Operations in the CFLRP Area

Crooked River #500023100 Before



Crooked River #500023100 After



APPENDIX C:

Montana Conservation Corps Providing Trail Work in Rapid River within the CFLRP



APPENDIX D:

Youth Conservation Corps on the Payette National Forest

