

CFLR Project Name/Number): Weiser Little Salmon Headwaters/CFLN013
National Forest(s): Payette National Forest

1. CFLRP Expenditures, Match, and Leveraged Funds:

a. FY20 CFLN and Matching Funds Documentation

Fund Source – (CFLN Funds Expended)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2020
CFLN19	\$0
CFLN20	\$3,897,730

This amount should match the amount of CFLN dollars obligated in the FMMI CFLRP expenditure report. Include prior year CFLN dollars expended in this Fiscal Year. CFLN funds can only be spent on NFS lands.

Fund Source – (FS Matching Funds)	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2020
CMRD	\$395,060
CMTL	\$23,146
CWF2	\$125,087
CWKV	\$32,837
GSRV ¹	\$214,117
NFHF	\$1,156,975
NFRG	\$1,963
NFTM	\$452,975
NFVW	\$12,714
NFWF	\$3,834
NFXF	\$0
RTRT	\$102,418
SPFH	\$60,860

This amount should match the amount of matching funds in the FMMI CFLRP expenditure report, *minus* any partner funds contributed through agreements (such as NFEX, SPEX, WFEX, CMEX, and CWF5) listed below. Per the updated [Program Funding Guidance](#), federal dollars spent on non-NFS lands (for example, through Wyden authority) may be included here if aligned with CFLRP proposal implementation within the CFLRP landscape. NOTE: In FY20, projects received their allocation only in CFLN – there are no “Washington Office funds” to report.

¹ This is not listed in the expenditure report, but it is goods for services awarded as part of the Ghost Stewardship Contract.

Fund Source – Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY20	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
Idaho Conservation Corps—Resource Stewards Agreement	In-kind contribution	\$100,000	Funding to support hiring interns with the AmeriCorps/North west Youth Corps/Idaho Conservation Corps	National Forest System Lands
Southwest Idaho RC&D	In-kind contribution	\$3,480	Funding to support facilitation services for Payette Forest Coalition	National Forest System Lands
Trout Unlimited, Donnelly Snowmobile Club, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Recreation Council	In-kind contribution	\$1,800	Funding to support facilitation services for Land Allocation Committee	National Forest System Lands
University of Idaho (USGS) NIDGS² Research Agreement	In-kind contribution Funding Agreement # 18-IA-11041200-005	Funding - \$80,000 In-Kind - \$25,000	Threatened and Endangered Species Research to support NIDGS Recovery Plan	National Forest System Lands
Rocky Mountain Research Station CFLRP WHWO³ Research	In-kind contribution Funding CFLN/NFHF/NFTM	Funding - \$65,349 In-Kind- \$50,000	CFLRP- based wildlife monitoring to assess effectiveness of CFLRP treatments	National Forest System Lands
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Prescribed Burn	Incoming Funding	Incoming - \$15,000 (to FY 2022)	Regional funding to support habitat improvement for big game wildlife species	National Forest System Lands

² NIDGS: Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

³ WHWO: White headed Woodpecker

Fund Source – Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY20	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
US Fish and Wildlife Service NIDGS Recovery Interagency Agreement	Incoming funding; Agreement # 16-IA-11041200-030	Incoming - Balance on remaining IAA - \$9,500	Funding and Interagency Agreement supports NIDGS habitat treatment costs not covered under other agreements	National Forest System Lands

Total partner in-kind contributions for implementation and monitoring of a CFLR project across **all lands** within the CFLRP landscape.

Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract (for contracts awarded in FY20)	Totals
Total <u>revised non-monetary credit limit</u> for contracts awarded in FY20	\$214,117
Revenue generated through Good Neighbor Agreements	Totals
Duck Duck Goose Direct	\$1,022

Revised non-monetary credit limits 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. Information for contracts awarded prior to FY20 were captured in previous annual reports. Revenue generated from GNA should only be reported for CFLRP match if the funds are intended to be spent within the CFLRP project area for work in line with the CFLRP project’s proposed restoration strategies and in alignment with the CFLRP authorizing legislation

b. (If needed) Describe additional leveraged funds in your landscape in FY2020. Leveraged funds refer to funds or in-kind services that help the project achieve proposed objectives but do not meet match qualifications. *NOTE: Work on non-National Forest System lands previously reported in this section should now be reported under Partner Match.* Additional leverage might include investments in restoration equipment, research (not monitoring), and planning funds.

Description of item	Where activity/item is located or impacted area	Estimated total amount	Forest Service or Partner Funds?	Source of funds
Road Maintenance and improvements	Skyrim SBA, Ghost IRTC, Thorny Goose and Rusty Goose	\$278,650	Partner	Purchasers included as appraisal item

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

Some road maintenance and improvements targets were accomplished (see table 2020 Accomplishments page 14) 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 \$1.8 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), Agreement #16-PA-11041200-037 to engage youth and young adults in natural resource management education and job opportunities. This successful partnership for four years 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 60 to 70 young adults to gain valuable experience in a conservation education internship. The Payette National Forest is currently working on a new agreement with the Idaho Conservation Corps/AmeriCorps to continue this successful program for many years to come.

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.

FY20 Overview

FY20 Activity Description (Agency performance measures)	Acres
Number of acres treated by prescribed fire	1,125
Number of acres treated by mechanical thinning	11,932
Number of acres of natural ignitions that are allowed to burn under strategies that result in desired conditions	0
Number of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems which are maintained in desired condition	0
Number of acres mitigated to reduce fire risk	12,421

Please provide a narrative overview of treatments completed in FY20, 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 FY20 were a part of the Mill Creek-Council Mountain, Middle Fork Weiser, Weasel, Brundage – Bear Basin, Little Red Goose, and Meadows Slope project areas, all of which are encompassed by the WLSH CFLRP. These projects were developed with input from the Payette Forest Coalition (PFC): www.payetteforestcoalition.org. The areas treated in FY20 focused in high fire hazard areas near and adjacent to the communities of Council, McCall, and New Meadows and infrastructure including the Highway 95 corridor, powerlines, campgrounds, municipal watersheds, livestock grazing allotments, 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 diligent communication with the Forest, our partners, and the community and over time these actions have become the norm for the community.

Expenditures

<u>Category</u>	<u>\$</u>
FY2020 Wildfire Preparedness ⁴	\$2,119,584
FY2020 Wildfire Suppression ⁵	\$4,258,773
The cost of managing fires for resource benefit if appropriate (i.e. full suppression versus managing)	Did not occur within the CFLRP area
FY2020 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (CFLN)	\$769,804
FY2020 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (other BLIs)	\$1,067,939

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 canopy base 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. The greatest advantage of our treatments is the transitions from fire in the crowns to fire remaining on the surface.

Have there been any assessments or reports conducted within your CFLRP landscape that provide information on cost reduction, cost avoidance, and/or other cost related data as it relates to fuels treatment and fires? If so, please summarize or provide links here:

The vast majority of the large and most costly wildfires over the last 35 years have been in untreated landscapes.

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

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 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.**

FTEM Wildfire Report for the Woodhead Fire

General information

Final fire size:

Size, date, and cause

96,614 acres

⁴ 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).

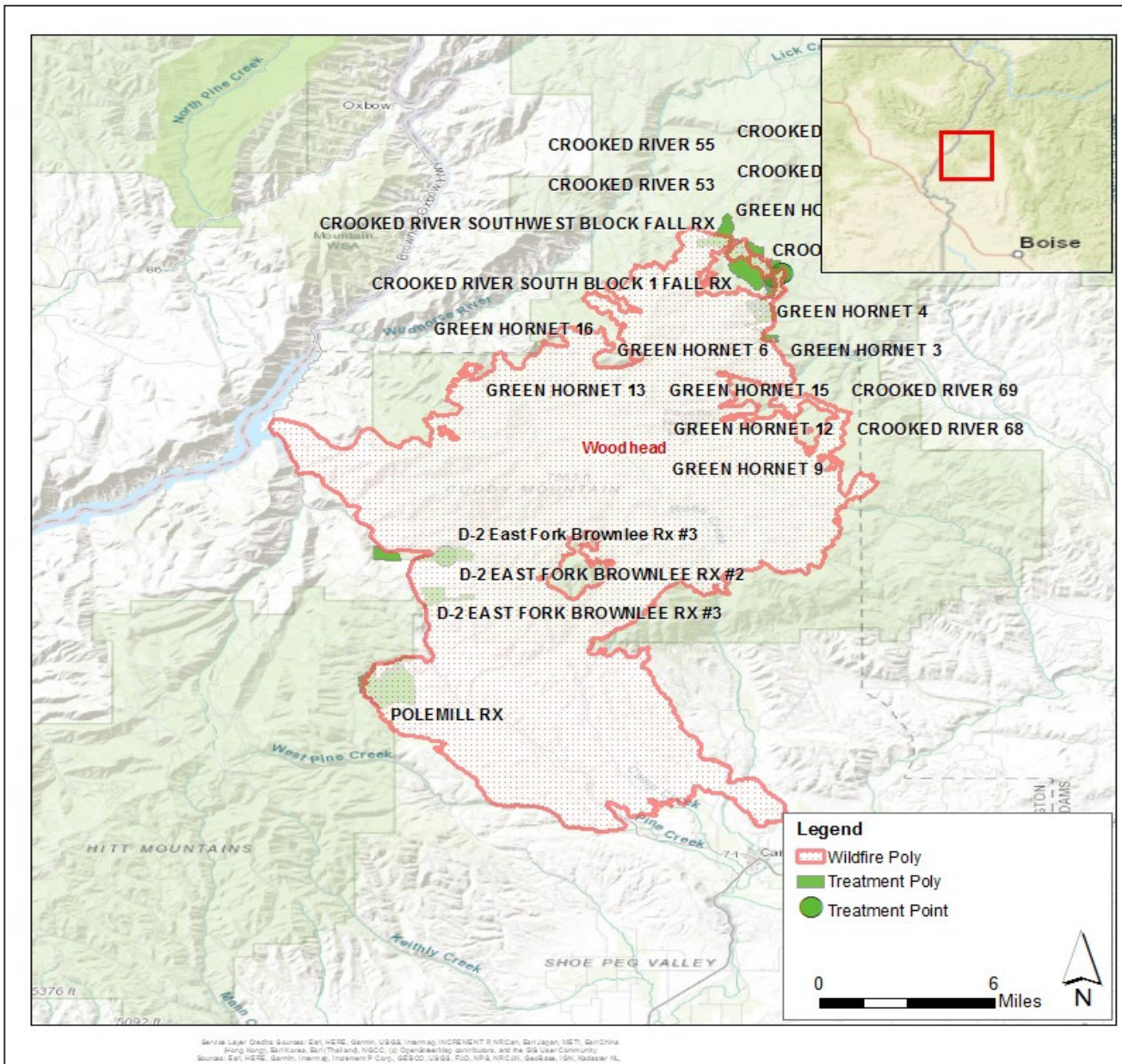
⁵ Include emergency fire suppression and BAER within the project landscape. Describe acres of fires contained and not contained by initial attack. Describe acres of resource benefits achieved by unplanned ignitions within the landscape. Where existing fuel treatments within the landscape are tested by wildfire, summary and reference the fuel treatment effectiveness report.

General information

Total treatment acres burned: 3,707.6 acres
 Date when fire entered first treatment: Sept 08, 2020
 Fire number: 2020-IDPAF-000570
 Discovery date and time: Sep 7, 2020
 Containment date time: Oct 29, 2020
 Control date and time: Nov 16, 2020
 Out date and time: Nov 16, 2020
 Fire cause: Human

Size, date, and cause

3,707.6 acres
 Sept 08, 2020
 2020-IDPAF-000570
 Sep 7, 2020
 Oct 29, 2020
 Nov 16, 2020
 Nov 16, 2020
 Human



- *Please describe if/how partners or community members engaged in the planning or implementation of the relevant fuels treatment.*

These projects are part of the Payette National Forest's CFLRP area and do meet the Payette Forest Coalition's goals for restoration, wildlife, wildfire, and watershed health as well as provide forest access and recreation opportunities and contributes to the economic vitality of adjacent communities. Activities would help restore historical patch and pattern on the landscape as well as creating fire-adapted communities. These areas are priority targets for fuels treatment by SITPA (Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association), Adams County, and the Payette National Forest. We have and will continue to plan, implement, and evaluate our treatments as a larger group working to improve conditions for the communities we serve.

- *Did treatments include coordinated efforts on other federal, tribal, state, private, etc. lands within or adjacent to the CFLR landscape?*

Yes. The Payette National Forest, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association (SITPA), Adams County, and the Payette Forest Coalition are working together to reduce fire risk, promote fire resilient systems and communities, improve recreational opportunities, and protect or improve wildlife habitat. Adams County uses federal grants to fund their fuels crew's efforts to reduce fire risk on private lands.

- *What resource values were you and your partners concerned with protecting or enhancing? Did the treatments help to address these value concerns?*

Timber values in and adjacent to the project areas were of high importance. Thinning the density of large and small diameter trees, in conjunction with prescribed fire to reduce ground and surface fuels as well as ladder fuels were objectives of the projects. These treatment actions have been shown to reduce impact to timber values, improve ecological integrity of the systems, and improve resilience of these areas to drought, insect and undesirably intense fire severity. In addition to timber values, these project areas were adjacent to private property and infrastructure. Having these treated areas near private property allowed fire managers to operate in situations where fire behavior was minimized to the point that ground resources could choose from different options (i.e. direct or indirect attack) based on their objectives. In other words, the fire managers could dictate to the fire in a proactive manner rather than entirely reactive or defensive based on fire behavior.

- *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.*

From a fire management standpoint, treatments had the intended effect on fire behavior or outcomes. Treatment areas were used as anchor and holding features. Burnout operations actively utilized the treatments, and containment in these areas was far easier and more efficient than in other areas. Firefighters were able to manage the fire in safer environments with fewer resources, and values such as timber and ecological integrity were protected and enhanced in these areas. When compared to areas without treatment, treated areas performed as expected or surpassed expectations.

- *What is your key takeaway from this event – what would you have done differently? What elements will you continue to apply in the future?*

In last three years, the West Zone of the Payette National Forest has experienced two large fires. In each instance, areas actively managed with vegetation manipulation, such as overstory or understory thinning AND prescribed fire were instrumental in containing the fire, protecting timber resources, and in some cases improving the ecological integrity of the Forest. In areas without active management, these results were more mixed than in areas with

treatments such as thinning and prescribed fire. If anything, key takeaways include: 1) prescribed fire and thinning works as a fire management planning objective, and 2) we are not doing nearly enough vegetation treatments on a large enough scale.

- *What didn't work as expected, and why? What was learned?*

The Forest needs more treatments on a larger scale (greater than 1,000 acres) spread across a large landscape. In terms of managing wildfire, especially under extreme weather and drought conditions, previous prescribed fires are the most impactful treatment for modifying extreme fire behavior and providing management options. Vegetation manipulation actions such as understory and overstory thinning are also effective in these treatments, and the interaction between these treatments when applied together are multiplied.

- *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.*

In general, the prescribed fire treatments average between \$10 - \$75 per acre and understory thinning treatments range between \$100 - \$300 per acre. Commercial treatments generally pay for themselves and if timber receipts are collected, those receipts pay for understory and/or fuels treatments.

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

The Woodhead fire burned into two future project areas. Approximately 25,000 acres among these two projects were burned. The predominant fire behavior was torching and passive crown fire. This is uncharacteristic for these fire regimes; historically these stands would have exhibiting surface and ground fires and resulted in lower overstory fire severity. The thinning and burning treatments would have promoted more desirable fire behavior and fire effects. Agency personnel have been working with local and state governments and the Payette Forest Coalition to develop pathways forward. This includes options for timber salvage and planting as well as identifying other project area prospects.

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.

Firefighters responded to 28 wildfire starts within the CFLRP area in 2020 (11 human-caused, 16 lightning-caused, and 1 with an unknown cause). Only four fires were greater than an acre in size (size ranged from 2-18 acres). No fire starts were managed for resource objectives as all fires were declared as unwanted per national direction during the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 15, 2020 in Intermountain Regional Office, the Regional Forester's Letter of Intent for Wildland Fires stated: "Because of our commitment to the safety of our emergency responders and the public considering COVID-19 complexities, FIRE IS UNWANTED on National Forest Systems lands in 2020. All else being equal, we would choose to extinguish an unplanned ignition where we can do so safely and protection of the values at risk justify the potential exposure of our employees." Two fires started outside of the CFLRP burned into the CFLRP area. One fire was mentioned in the FTEM section of this report (Woodhead - 96,000 ac) and the other (Bryan Mountain - 1,700 acres) burned onto the Payette National Forest from the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. No action was taken on the Payette side of this late season due to the fire located in a high elevation area.

- Fires less than an acre ranged from \$1500 - \$3,000 per fire suppression cost. The Woodhead Fire burned into the CFLRP area totaled a suppression cost of \$11.2 million. It is important to note that the fire covered 20 miles in one night and was caught in an area where there was thinning and prescribed fire treatments from the last 15 years.
- The Woodhead BAER request was approved by the Intermountain Regional Office in early November for a total of \$153,282. BAER work will include improving drainage on roads and trails most likely to be impacted by increased

runoff as a result of the fire and on treating new or expanding noxious weed infestations. Some road work was completed in the fall of 2020, but the bulk of the work will be done in the spring and summer of 2021.

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 FY20, timber volume harvested was based on the Cut and Sold Report (CUTS203F) and BioEnergy & BioBased Products report (BIOW201F) generated in the TIM database. The 40,660 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. FY20 Jobs Supported/Maintained (FY20 CFLR/CFLN/ WO funding):

FY 2020 Jobs Supported/Maintained (CFLN and matching funding):

FY 2020 Jobs Supported/Maintained	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct)	Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total)	Labor Income (Direct)	Labor Income (Total)
Timber harvesting component	49	65	\$2,572,399	\$3,194,507
Forest and watershed restoration component	17	27	\$220,116	\$479,023
Mill processing component	74	327	\$4,408,521	\$17,031,805
Implementation and monitoring	69	79	\$3,296,653	\$3,627,968
Other Project Activities	0	0	0	0
TOTALS:	210	498	\$10,497,690	\$24,333,303

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>100% 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 17,120 CCF of timber volume has been produced and delivered to 3 different mills over the course of FY20. Despite litigation, the Forest was able to award four timber contracts in FY20 to local purchasers who are utilizing local contractors to complete the work. The timber value sold in these contract totals \$2,870,000. The total value of contracts awarded from 2012 through 2020 is \$16,960,291. Of this revenue, \$13,603,000 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.	Skyrim SBA TS Contract Awarded 9/22/2020 Ghost Stewardship Contract Awarded 10/10/2019 Thorny Goose TS Contract Awarded 9/24/2020 Rusty Goose TS Contract Awarded 1/21/2020 GNA Duck Duck Goose Contract Awarded 12/15/2019

Indicator	Brief Description of Impacts, Successes, and Challenges	Links to reports or other published materials (if available)
<p><u>Preserving cultural heritage of sites/resources</u></p>	<p>CFLR projects on the Payette National Forest have further assisted the Heritage Program with preserving the cultural heritage of archaeological sites and cultural resources. Through the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Heritage Program has conducted inventory surveys and site monitoring on a CFLR landscape scale. Inventory surveys have resulted in the identification of new archaeological sites and cultural resources. In addition, Heritage Program staff have been monitoring previously recorded archaeological sites and cultural resources on a landscape level. This has led to the Program staff being able to draw comparisons, connections, and patterns among sites on a landscape level rather than the piece-meal approach that would occur through smaller project boundaries.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p><u>Relationship Building/Collaborative Work</u></p>	<p>The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) continues to be committed to the WLSH CFLRP to provide recommendations for large scale landscape restoration. The PFC has maintained its membership at 26 voting members this year. The PFC helped strengthen the design, analysis, and ultimately the decisions with the CFLRP projects. In FY20 there have been 12 meetings and no full group field trips due to COVID concerns. Since April, all meetings have been held virtually, although participation is down slightly, it appears there continues to be relatively strong attendance and participation. The PFC focused their work on reviewing and providing input and support for the: Little Red Goose Forest Resilience Project (providing a letter of support to the Forest for the project and several members taking a self-guided field trip after implementation began); providing support for the Record of Decision on the fourth large landscape project (Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project); providing input during the development of a Proposed Action for the fifth large landscape project (Granite Meadows); and providing a letter of support for the Sloans Point Landscape Resilience Project and Little Weiser Landscape Resilience Project. They continue to monitor and support implementation of the first, second, and third projects. The PFC was also quite engaged in ongoing litigation on the second large landscape project, Lost Creek Boulder Creek as they were intervenors in another round of litigation which was unfortunately ruled in the Plaintiffs favor and the November 2019 Decision was vacated in August of 2020.</p>	<p>NA</p>

Indicator	Brief Description of Impacts, Successes, and Challenges	Links to reports or other published materials (if available)
<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 (PFC) with projects within the CFLRP boundary. The Forest is currently working in conjunction with the PFC to build new ideas to strengthen volunteer participation and involving guest speakers at the coalition meetings to assist with citizen science ideas and opportunities. The Forest continues to build a foundation to develop stronger participation within the CFLRP boundary, including citizen science and monitoring projects and continues to encourage and assist partners to develop tools to be successful.	NA
<u>Project Partnership Composition</u>	The Payette National Forest continues to work on the strength and diversity of partnership composition within the CFLRP. In FY20 the Forest continued successful partnerships in conjunction with CFLRP. Partners include Idaho Conservation Corps, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFS volunteers, University of Idaho, 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.

5. Based on your project monitoring plan, **describe the multiparty monitoring process.** (Please limit answer to two pages).

Fire Regimes are monitored within areas treated by prescribed fire or mechanical thinning (commercial and/or noncommercial). Pile burning is not involved in the monitoring plan. 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 projects within the WLSH CFLRP area. Effectiveness monitoring is accomplished yearly and sometimes monthly by the Payette Forest Coalition, where the group was involved in all aspects of restoration type work within the CFLRP area.

Range and Weed technicians continued surveying and inventorying system and non-system roads. Technicians 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.

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 sub watersheds within the WLSH CFLRP area.

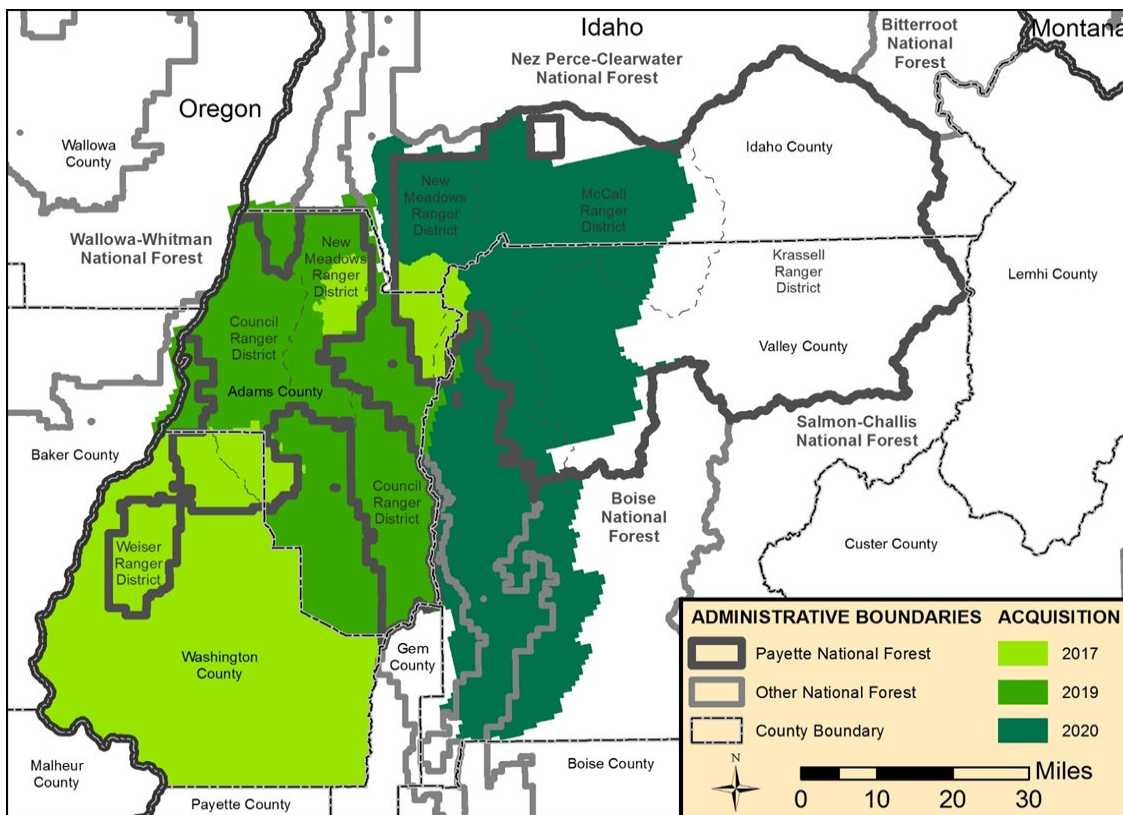
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Payette National Forest and PFC field trips were limited in FY20. To verify the effectiveness of restoration actions for areas of concern, the Forest continued the ninth year of monitoring focused on evaluating the success of restoration activities on re-establishing low-elevation ponderosa pine dominated- forest habitats and associated wildlife species. The monitoring focused on habitat for the white-headed woodpecker (R4 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. FS wildlife staff provide additional assistance to support RMRS research efforts such as: housing, and logistical and field assistance. This year represented the last year of field data collection and RMRS staff is currently processing research results. Forest Service wildlife crews continued long-term wildlife monitoring, including the use of baited camera stations for meso-carnivores and extensive deployment of ARUs (Acoustical Monitoring Units), to evaluate habitat use by both bats and birds, inside and outside of the greater WLSH CFLRP boundary. In FY2019, acoustical bat data was also collected in CFLRP project areas. That data is currently being analyzed and resulting data will be shared with regional and national data bases.

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 (UOI / 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. 35-36.) 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. This research project also provided funding for a U of I doctoral student, who conducted her research defense in December 2018. One M.S. student is also currently funded through the project. To date, five scientific articles have been published, with several more in peer-review. Additional products will include published articles in peer-reviewed journals relating to NIDGS

and population recovery-based forest restoration research and sylvatic plague research, and a master’s thesis. See Appendix A, p.37

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) has a monitoring sub-committee assigned with gathering information on implementation and post-project trends and results. The PFC Monitoring Committee’s goal is to review monitoring updates from Forest resource specialists. This monitoring committee periodically summarizes results and communicates those to the larger PFC group. In FY20, the planned field trips to monitor post-treatment outcomes and results were cancelled due to COVID concerns.

The Payette National Forest in conjunction with the Intermountain Regional Office worked to acquire 1,001,000 acres of LiDAR data in 2017 (all of Washington County and the Granite Meadows Project). Approximately 204,700 acres were on National Forest System Land and 113,800 acres is within the Granite Meadows (Project #5) CFLR area. This effort is coordinated with partners such as the USGS, FEMA, USFS – Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), Idaho Department of Lands, University of Idaho (U of I), 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 train vegetation metric models. The Forest worked with RMRS and U of I to process and model secondary LiDAR products. The Forest and Intermountain Regional office again partnered with USGS and FEMA in 2019 to acquire all of Adams County, 358,800 acres of non-Forest Service land and 417,700 acres of National Forest System Land. This data set will be used in conjunction with the data plots collected for the 2017 data and additional plots planned to be collected in 2021 to model vegetation metrics across this landscape. In partnership with the Intermountain Regional office the Forest again leveraged large scale acquisitions and partner funding to acquiring the balance of the shared stewardship boundary (782,700 acres) and 660,800 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. See map below:



6. FY 2020 Agency performance measure accomplishments:

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$) (Contract Costs) ⁶
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	260	\$75,234
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	3,333	\$609,373
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	2,407.60	\$168,114
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	66	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	0.8	Rolls up from other performance measures
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	6,910.98	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	192.60	\$174,000
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	283.50	\$355,000
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	2.20	\$45,400 * An additional 2.34 acres were accomplished but not captured in the database of record. The total miles accomplished are 4.54
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	3.226	\$49,500
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	17.05	\$110,000
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	3.66	\$5,500
Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage	Number	0	\$0

⁶ Please include the costs associated with a contract to complete acres reported, if this level of detail is available, including partner funds

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished	Total Treatment Cost (\$) (Contract Costs) ⁶
STRM-CROS-MTG-STD			
Miles of system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD	Miles	226.57	\$40,500
Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD	Miles	0.746	\$5,000
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	505	\$902,500
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	43,970	\$6,208,000
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	14,708	\$370,000
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	6,086	304,300
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	6,305	315,250
Acres mitigated FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS	Acres	12,391	619,550
Please also include the acres of prescribed fire accomplished	Acres	1,086	54,300

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

7. FY 2020 accomplishment narrative – Summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress *not already described elsewhere* in this report.

The State of Idaho and Intermountain Region signed a Shared Stewardship agreement in December of 2018. Working in partnership, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the Boise and Payette National Forest's worked to identify the Southern Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape (SISSPL), utilizing a Scenario Investment Planning process. The SISSPL was announced in July of 2019. The WLSH CFLRP area comprises a large portion of the SISSPL. A "No Boundaries Forestry" approach is being utilized to address areas designated as high risk for catastrophic fire and insect disease outbreaks regardless of ownership. The Boise and Payette Forest Coalition's, IDL, Payette National Forest, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Bureau of Land Management are working to develop strategies utilizing various funding sources & programs (e.g. EQUIP), to address the fire and insect and disease concerns on a landscape

scale with numerous land owners and management agencies. The WLSH CFLRP fits well into this Shared Stewardship approach as the Payette National Forest has various large landscape scale projects, some of which have addressed cross-boundary work so that the Wyden Authority or other programs that allow for federal resources to be utilized on non-federal lands could be more easily considered.

The Forest completed recreation site maintenance, trail maintenance and trail improvement projects across several sites and routes within the boundary of the CFLR area. There were approximately 2,951 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, Montana Conservation Corps, Idaho Trails Association; Central Idaho Trail Riders Alliance, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Central Idaho Mountain Bike Association, Council Environmental Restoration Crew (Council High School, Council, ID), Heartland Backcountry Horseman, Backcountry Horsemen Squaw Butte Chapter, and individual volunteers.

The Council Ranger District completed construction of a trail bridge on NFS Trail 201, Deseret Cabin, at its crossing of a tributary of the East Fork of the Weiser River (see photos, Appendix B p.38). This bridge benefits both recreationists and critical bull trout habitat downstream. This project was analyzed in the Mill Creek Council Mountain Landscape Restoration Project and is expected to be the last recreation improvement from that project we expect to implement – the only outstanding recreation improvement was one to have been spearheaded by Heartland Backcountry Horsemen who have not indicated they have any current intention of following through with the proposal after some personnel changes in the group. A series of vehicle barriers were constructed to block user-created, unauthorized OHV routes on the Council Ranger District in collaboration with volunteers from Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (32 volunteer hours). These are intended to limit soil and vegetation damage from unauthorized use, as well as to improve deer and elk habitat and security and improve non-motorized hunting experiences.

The Council Ranger District is completing the Little Weiser River Forest Resiliency Project, which includes substantial reconstruction of National Forest System (NFS) Trail 515, Little Weiser River. This would include several reroutes to eliminate two unnecessary fords of the Little Weiser River (critical bull trout habitat), and mitigate areas of active erosion, providing a clear benefit to both recreationists, fisheries, and other aquatic resources. A decision is anticipated in November 2020. The Forest will implement this trail project via timber harvest receipts retained and used Knutsen-Vandenberg Act combined with expected Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) funding. On the McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts, projects included completing trail maintenance on trails within the Rapid River drainage, some of which had seen heavy blowdown due to fires in previous years; maintaining and improving the trail to the Hard Butte Lookout; constructing a new bridge and puncheon approach at the start of the Center Ridge Trail; and installing new trail signage throughout the CFLR area, with a focus on the trails close to McCall in Bear Basin. See photos, Appendix C p.39

A variety of recreation improvements were approved via the Record of Decision for the Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project, which was signed on August 11, 2020. We believe most of these items are good candidates for funding under GAOA. Recreation components of the project consist of the following:

- Trail reconstruction, rerouting, re-establishment, and construction of two trail bridges (both because of existing impacts to bull trout habitat). Two trailheads would be relocated and a closed road to access one trailhead would be opened.
- Construction of a new 2.2-mile OHV trail.

- Construction and opening of road sections to create two looped OHV opportunities on open and seasonally open NFS roads.
- Addressing deficiencies related to accessibility, a failed potable water system, and livestock exclusion fencing at Huckleberry Campground.
- Restroom replacement at Bear Creek Trailhead, with associated minor site improvements.
- We will begin exploring the feasibility of converting Smith Mountain Lookout into a rental cabin, though this may require a motivated partner to succeed.
- Hardening and signing appropriate and inappropriate campsites where they may impact northern Idaho ground squirrels (NIDGS).

A wide variety of work was accomplished in FY20 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. Tree seedlings were planted in May by a contractor in the Mesa Fire Salvage area and administered by forest managers from the Council Ranger District. Approximately 57,200 tree seedlings were planted in 260 acres to reforest some areas salvaged in 2019.

Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC) crew of four youth and/or young adults in natural resource management assisted in the flagging, marking, tagging, and GPS the boundaries of 1,112 acres of non-commercial thinning units on the Forest. ICC crew's assistance was essential to meeting the target acres in FY20 and FY21.

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 FY20, the Council Ranger District, through a Challenge Cost Share Agreement, 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 two nights in the field, with after work tasks like dividing up cooking and water filtering duties, which taught them about crew unity and teamwork. See photos, Appendix D, p.40

In addition to the youth crew, the engineering and timber programs funded individual student positions to work with field crews learning the principles of timber marking (two positions) and road surveys and layout (one position). These students worked the same 8-week summer as the youth crew and learned skills specific to two important specialties in the CFLRP program.

The high school and Forest Service, with help from grant money, built and operated a greenhouse to grow and then plant native shrubs on watershed restoration projects. Approximately 2,000 native seedlings are grown each year, on average, by the school as part of a Challenge Cost Share agreement with the FS. This Council School CERC crew plants these upland and riparian vegetation in WLSH CFLRP project areas. The Boy Scouts and other youth groups have spread grass seed, planted conifers and shrubs, and assisted establishing monitoring plots.

The Forest Watershed Restoration Crew accomplished 66 acres of soil and water resource improvements within the CFLRP during Fiscal year 2020. Soil productivity and hydrologic regime was restored by fully obliterating road prisms for a total of 4.4 miles using the standard assumption of 5 acres per mile for a total of 22 acres: 0.5 miles of road in the

Mill Creek - Council Mountain project area, 2.4 miles of road in the Ghost Stewardship Contract Area (Middle Fork Weiser River FEIS/ROD), 0.5 miles in the Rocky Bear project area, and 1.0 miles in the Middle Fork Weiser River project area. In addition, 5.9 miles of National Forest System Maintenance Level One roads were stabilized and put into long term storage in the Mill Creek – Council Mountain project area. Tree and shrub planting occurred on 11.3 acres: 8.3 acres in Lost Creek-Boulder Creek area, 2 acres of planting in the Mill Creek-Council Mountain project area, and 1 acre of seeding on Council Mountain. See photos, Appendix E p.41-42

The Forest completed 6,911 acres of terrestrial habitat enhancement in CFLRP projects via understory thinning and prescribed burning. Due to COVID restrictions, the PNF was not able to employ a YCC / ICC crew to assist with wildlife monitoring work as the Forest has in previous years. However, both the UOI and RMRS research projects were able to hire a total of (8) student field technicians, including several MS students from Idaho and neighboring states.

The Forest also achieved 0.8 miles of stream habitat enhancement through road decommissioning adjacent to streams. Most of these accomplishments came from decommissioning system and non-system roads adjacent to stream channels.

The Forest Weed crews completed 2,172 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 acquired 248,000 acres of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) remote sensing data. This effort was coordinated with partners such as the USGS, USFS – Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), and Oregon State University (OSU). The Forest is working with RMRS and U of Idaho to 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. In FY20, the Forest acquired LiDAR on the remaining 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. Ultimately, these data sets will be used to develop vegetation metrics across this landscape, that includes species composition, tree size, tree density, canopy closure, and dead snags.

In FY20, 10 previously identified sites were revisited in the Granite Meadows CFLR project area, and their documentation was updated. Seven of these previously identified sites are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. To facilitate this work, the Heritage program collaborated with the Forest's Recreation Program, utilizing a recreation technician to help with site documentation and ground survey. Work on this project provided the technician with a skillset specific to land management as it pertains to Cultural Resources. Ultimately, the technician was able to use the experience she gained in this position and apply it to a newly created position on the Forest that blends Heritage resources and interpretive materials to facilitate a more rewarding experience for Forest visitors. Despite challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Heritage Program was able to monitor existing culturally significant archaeological sites and strengthen relationships between the Recreation and Heritage programs.

The PFC continues to monitor and support implementation of the first (Mill Creek Council Mountain [50,000 acres]) and third (Middle Fork Weiser River [50,000 acres]) large landscape scale projects, as well as the Mesa Fire Salvage project. In addition, the PFC provided recommendations and support for three additional projects: 1) The Little Red

Goose Landscape Resilience Project [8,770 acres] where NEPA was completed and implementation of work began; 2) the fourth large landscape sale (Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project [67,000 acres]) where NEPA was completed with preparation for implementation commencing; and 3) the Sloans Point Landscape Resilience Project [2,300 acres] where NEPA was completed. The second large landscape project [Lost Creek Boulder Creek (LCBC)], which was initiated in 2012, has been involved in litigation on and off since 2014. After the first decision (signed in 2014) was vacated in the Ninth Circuit, the Forest issued a new Record of Decision in November of 2019 and the PFC submitted a supportive objection for the project. Unfortunately, the District Court of Idaho vacated the 2019 Record of Decision in August of 2020 and the Forest and the PFC are in the process of determining the best path forward.

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 five times in FY20 as they stopped meeting due to COVID concerns. This committee meets 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.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Footprint of Acres Treated</u> (without counting an acre of treatment on the land in more than one treatment category)
FY 2020	22,849 acres
Estimated Cumulative Footprint of Acres (2010 or 2012 through 2020)	162,925 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?

The EDW estimate was used for FY20 footprint of acres treated. See previous years reports for how previous years footprint acres were calculated.

9. Describe any reasons that the FY 2020 annual report does not reflect your project proposal, previously reported planned accomplishments, or work plan.

The Intermountain Regional Office enacted a pause on prescribed fire ignitions between March and Oct 1st. This dramatically reduced the total acres treated by prescribed fire (i.e., we treated approximately 24,000 ac through prescribed fire in 2019 and only 1,100 in 2020). Additionally, COVID mitigations also impaired mechanical treatments conducted by thinning crews (contract and agency).

LCBC was under litigation and limited the number of prescribed fire acres planned. No activities were allowed within the project area. This litigation and the resulting Record of Decision being vacated by the court resulted in lower amounts of the following performance measures being accomplished and/or completed in FY20: FOR-VEG-EST; FOR-VEG-IMP; S&W-RSRC-IMP; HBT-ENH-STRM; RD-DECOM; STRM-CROS-MTG-STD; TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC; & FP-FUELS-NON-WUI.

While the Weiser Little Salmon Headwaters CFLRP did not commit to the Watershed acres Restored Annually (WTRSHD- RSTR-ANN) performance measure, the Forest achieved 19,169 acres in the project area that counts toward the measure for FY20, 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.

9b. (OPTIONAL) FOR INTERNAL USE: The following responses are directed towards feedback on *internal* bottlenecks or issues that may impact your project. Please use this space to raise awareness on key internal issues, or opportunities to improve processes moving forward. Responses will be included in an internal document. What are the limiting factors to success or more success of the CFLR? How can the National Forest and its collaborators operate in a more integrated and synergized way?

In FY21, the Agency's budget modernization is anticipated to impact the Forests workforce and capacity. Limits on how much the Forest can spend on salary and expenses are anticipated to impact permanent hiring, tour extensions for permanent seasonal employees, the number and timing of our temporary workforce, and overtime available to complete critical work. The reduced flexibility in how appropriated funds are utilized at the Forest level is anticipated to reduce the Forests internal capacity, as well as increase the cost for portions of our critical work. For example, when we have had to contract out work in the past our cost to contract versus utilizing overtime or extending seasonal/temporary employees days has resulted in cost 6-10 times higher than what we could complete the work for internally.

In FY20, restriction on prescribed burning due to concerns related to COVID-19 was one of the largest impacts on the Forests ability to complete prescribed burns in FY20, although these restrictions came from within the agency, they were outside of the Forests control. Completing NEPA requirements for vegetation management projects (e.g. prescribed burning, non-commercial thinning, and commercial harvest) was the Forest's largest bottleneck that is within the Forests span of control, followed by clearances for other resource concerns (e.g. heritage, botany, ...). With the current work force/organization, and complexity of our NEPA decisions, the Forest has the capacity to layout and obtain approvals on approximately 1,800 to 2,200 acres of commercial treatment per year. The Forest has been

successfully working to gain efficiencies by utilizing Teams Enterprise personnel, Idaho Department of Lands personnel through the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and Designation by Prescription (DxP). Utilizing Enterprise, the Regional Timber Strike Team and GNA personnel has added additional capacity but does take funding to complete and still requires NEPA-required clearances/surveys/monitoring by other resource specialists. For example, even when layout is completed on time, botany clearances of those acres often are delayed, because we have only two people on crews to conduct clearance surveys on active CFLR projects and multiple other projects like prescribed burns, range improvement projects, hydroelectric projects, post-wildfire salvage, insect and disease salvage, and other special uses projects across the Forest. To address some of these other resource clearance work, the Forest has been working with IDL through the GNA program to contract out clearance work which has also added additional capacity.

Vacant positions and inexperienced employees have also contributed to a bottleneck in FY20. Important timber sale prep crew and silviculture positions on the Forest have been vacated by experienced employees in key positions either retiring or taking jobs elsewhere. These vacancies combined with flat budgets and inflation as well as changes in the Forest Service process for filling permanent position vacancies lengthened the amount of time to fill positions which also contributed to this bottleneck. To compound this issue the Forest has had great difficulty in hiring experienced personnel to replace these positions. These personnel issues have directly led to a loss in productivity for FY20.

Retirements in FY21 will cause more challenges in completing quantity and quality of a variety of work on the forest including Forest Activity Tracking System (FACTS). A FACTS lead coordinator position on the Forest would be helpful to train, mentor, and coach FACTS users, and monitor all FACTS data to assure quality and accurate reporting. While the Forest has been successful at gaining efficiencies on the planning side, it has increased the complexity of Sale Administration. The Forest is seeing an increase in contract modifications due to contractual issues on the ground. This is putting a strain on multiple resource areas (Harvest Inspector, Sale Administrator, Forest Service Representative, Contracting Officer, Engineering Representative and Resource Specialists). The Forest is working through the modifications, but this comes at a cost of shifting work from the presale side to the Sale Administration side.

The 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 45-50 young adults to gain valuable experience in a conservation education internship. If new ICC agreement is not initiated and approved in FY21, the Forest will have a difficult time achieving non-commercial thinning targets in the future, and will not allow the opportunity, exposure, and development of our potential work force.

This year the Payette National Forest was unable to hire two Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crews due to COVID-19. Throughout the previous years, the YCC crews have been a beneficial part of work within the CFLRP assisting with conservation education work in natural resource-based areas including recreation, range, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries. These students from both groups also provide Forest crews with much needed staffing, while gaining first-hand experience in natural resources research and management. The Payette National Forest is working on solutions to be able to continue the YCC program for the upcoming FY21 year in conjunction with the pandemic.

10. Planned FY 2021 Accomplishments

Performance Measure Code	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment for 2021 (National Forest System)	Planned Accomplishment on non-NFS lands within the CFLRP landscape ⁷
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	0	0
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	2,000	0
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	5	0
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	7,000	0
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	12	0
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	4	0
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	6	0
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	50,000	0
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	4,000	0
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	20,000	0
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	5,000	0

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

11. **Planned accomplishment narrative and justification if planned FY 2021 accomplishments and/or funding differs from CFLRP project work plan** (no more than 1 page):

The Payette National Forest continues to improve and expand youth and conservation education programs. Local schools have expressed interest in partnering with the Forest Service, developing school field days and field trips associated with natural resources. The Forest is continuing to apply for grants and seek out partnerships to build a strong foundation to our local youth programs. Youth programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and

⁷ 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.

the Council Education Resource Crew (CERC) will continue to increase our ability to hire local youth. These youth programs are essential to the Payette and exhibit successful work that is being done within the CFLRP boundary.

The Forest will continue to work with the Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) to plan and implement integrated resource landscape restoration projects. The Forest continues to work closely with the PFC to make decisions within the current CFLRP large landscape projects 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.

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.

Our collaborative, the Payette Forest Coalition maintains and manages their own website: [Payette Forest Coalition](#) 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:

[Payette Forest Coalition Basic Conditions of Collaboration \(Responses\) excell](#)

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC), now in its tenth 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 in FY19 and the University of Idaho in FY20. The PFC's steering committee has acquired new enthusiastic members to make up a 5-member strong and diverse decision-making body. In FY20 there have been 12 meetings and no full group field trips due to COVID concerns. Since April, all meetings have been held virtually, although participation is down slightly, it appears there continues to be relatively strong attendance and participation. The collaborative group continues to work on dynamics of team building and cohesion at a high, consistent level.

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.

2020 CFLR Media – Payette National Forest

Reissuance of the Mesa Fire Effects following CFLR treatments – Feb 2020

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 95 had a tire blow out. The fire, immediately southeast of Council, quickly burned 14,825 acres of private and the Payette NF land in the first burning period. The following burning period on July 28 increased the acreage by 10,736 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 NF 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.



High severity burn in lower Cottonwood Creek.

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 upslope 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 up-drainage 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.

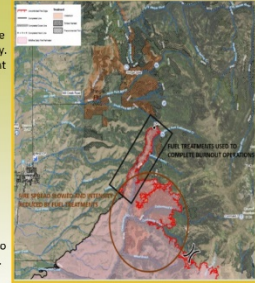
The burnout utilized a recently completed prescribed fire unit that had prior vegetation treatments. The placement of the treatment and the change in fuel composition were important in the success of this operation. The map on the opposite page shows the location of the fuels treatments with an overlay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

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.

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 ridgetop 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.



Commercially thinning and prescribed fire on the northwest side of Cookhouse Gulch. The prior fuels reduction work led to this ridgeline being secured and easily held as the fire moved through.



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



Low intensity wildfire burned in the commercially thinned, and Rx fire areas at the head of the fire.

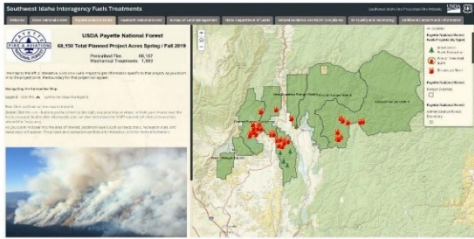


Low intensity wildfire effects were observed within prescribed fire burn units within the Cottonwood Creek drainage.


Visit the Southwest Idaho Interagency Fuels Reduction Map

It's a great map for viewing detailed information about prescribed burns throughout the area.

<http://bit.ly/RxFireSWIdaho>



Payette National Forest



Fall 2020 Rx Fire print advertisement

Prescribed Fire

Promoting Fire-Adapted Communities and Creating Resilient Landscapes



The Payette National Forest will be conducting multiple prescribed fires this fall. The following burn blocks are targeted for the application of prescribed fire. All burning is dependent on favorable weather conditions and forecasted smoke dispersion.

The Council Ranger District plans to apply fire to 1,400 acres in the Crooked River area, west of the Council-Cuprum Road (18 miles northwest of Council); 1,100 acres in the Weiser River project area (10 miles north of Council); 1,500 acres in the Cookhouse Gulch area (5 miles southeast of Council); and approximately 450 acres adjacent to the community of Cuprum. Additionally there will be approximately 100 acres of piles burned on the Council Ranger District.

The Weiser Ranger District plans to apply fire to 1,650 acres in the Mill Creek area south of Highway 71; 10 miles northwest of Cambridge.

The Krassel Ranger District plans to apply fire to approximately 2,000 acres in the Bald Hill project area, along the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River (approximately 6 miles west of Yellow Pine) and 2,500 acres within the Fourmile project area, along the South Fork Salmon River near Poverty Flats. In addition there may be scattered handpiles burned in the areas of Krassel Guard Station, Reed Ranch, Airstrip, and Big Creek Ranger Station.

The McCall Ranger District plans to target the following areas with prescribed fire this fall: 240 acres within the Bear Basin area (3 miles northwest of McCall); and 95 acres of hand piles among the Bear Basin area (3 miles northwest of McCall).

The New Meadows Ranger District plans to target the following areas with prescribed fire this fall: 5,000 acres within the West Fork of the Weiser River and Lost Creek area south of Lost Valley Reservoir (12 miles north of Council); 2,700 acres within Upper Partridge Creek drainage (12 miles southeast of Piggins, just north of Clayburn Trailhead); 300 acres along the west and northwest edge of Rock Flat; 90 acres within the East Fork of Lost Creek (2 miles north of Lost Valley Reservoir); 50 acres along the north shore of Lost Valley Reservoir; and 15 landing piles among Goose Creek drainage (4 miles east of New Meadows).

Trail heads and roads that lead into these 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. Smoke from these prescribed fires will be much less than what would be expected from a wildfire. If smoke concentrations approach air quality standards fire ignition may be delayed until air quality improves. Residual smoke may be visible for up to 7 weeks following ignition, but most of the smoke from the fires will dissipate 1-2 days after ignition.

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 wildland fire.

Individuals may call Dustin Doane (McCall and New Meadows RDs; 347-0336), Justin Pappan (Krassel RD; 634-0623), or Dave LaChapelle (Council and Weiser RDs; 549-4728) with any concerns they may have about the planned prescribed fires. The public may also call the Ranger District 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. Council RD: 253-0100; Krassel RD: 634-0600; McCall RD: 634-0400; New Meadows RD: 347-0300; Weiser RD: 549-4200.



www.fs.usda.gov/payette

Little Red Goose Forest Resilience Project – bug kill GNA project.

Addressing Insect Attack in the Goose Creek Area

Little Red Goose Forest Resilience Project

"We recognized a need to focus our efforts and do what we can to give the area a chance to bounce back from the high stressors related to insects and disease." Erin Phelps, New Meadows District Ranger.

THE NEED FOR ACTION!

Central Idaho is being hit hard by insect infestations, fungus-caused root diseases, and parasitic plants that are killing trees. A recent USDA Forest Health and Protection report identified Douglas fir Tussock Moth, [Western Spruce Budworm](#), [Balsam Woolly adelgid](#), [mistletoe](#) and [root diseases](#) as heavily impacting central Idaho.

On the Payette National Forest, the report highlights the need to "adequately address the [Douglas-fir Tussock Moth](#) outbreak" currently impacting the proposed Little Red Goose project area.



Aerial view of damage caused by the Douglas fir Tussock Moth.



Bug killed trees in the Goose Creek Drainage.

LITTLE RED GOOSE FOREST RESILIENCE PROJECT

A Tussock Moth caterpillar.



This project area is 8,800 acres in the Little Salmon River subbasin in Upper Goose Creek, Sixmile Creek, and Lower Goose Creek between McCall and New Meadows.

Proposed treatments would occur on up to 3,000 acres identified within the larger 8,800-acre area with activities including commercial thinning, non-commercial thinning, commercial firewood removal, slash treatments (lop and scatter or pile burning), and broadcast prescribed burning.

In order to quickly address this insect outbreak and the impacts to our forest, this project would focus vegetation treatments in the areas of high insect activity and tree mortality, as well as adjacent stands that are at risk. Treatments would be designed to increase the resiliency of the remaining trees and also to reduce hazard tree risk to forest visitors and infrastructure found in the Goose Creek area along roadways and the Last Chance Campground, as well as the Rock Flat area.

[Return to Forest Home Page](#)

[Go To Project Page](#)

A preliminary assessment of the project has determined it falls within a Categorical Exclusion as authorized by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, specially section 603 regarding insect and disease to reduce the extent of, or increase resiliency. This project will be designed to adhere to the specifications of that authority.

PUBLIC SCOPING FOR THIS PROJECT IS OPEN NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 21, 2019

Interested parties should submit issues pertinent to this proposal in writing by October 21, 2019. Comments will help inform the environmental analysis and decision making process. For more information on the project, including more details on the proposal and how to comment, visit the Little Red Goose project webpage at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56833>.

PUBLIC MEETING—OCTOBER 9, 2019

The Forest Service will host a public meeting on the Little Red Goose project October 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 at the Holiday Inn Express in McCall located at 210 North 3rd Street. The meeting will start with a short presentation with a question & answer period, then move to an open house format to provide opportunities for one to one interactions.



Insect damage on a Grand fir in the Goose Creek drainage.

TAKE A FLIGHT AROUND THE PROJECT AREA

Click the video links below and to the right to view aerial drone footage of the project area.



[Return to Forest Home Page](#)

[Go To Project Page](#)



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Payette National Forest
500 North Mission Street
McCall, Idaho 83638
(208) 634-0784
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/payette>



News Release

Media Contact: Brian Harris
(208) 634-0784 office
(208) 634-6945 cell
[mail to: brian.d.harris@usda.gov](mailto:brian.d.harris@usda.gov)

Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision

Council, ID., March 2, 2020 – The Council Ranger District has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision for the Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project.

The Huckleberry Landscape Restoration Project is the fourth project that is part of the Payette National Forest’s Weiser - Little Salmon Headwaters Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project. Other projects have been the Mill Creek - Council Mountain project, Lost Creek - Boulder Creek project, and the Middle Fork Weiser River project. This project encompasses approximately 67,000 acres on the Council Ranger District of the Payette National Forest, and is located northeast of Council, primarily in the Brownlee Reservoir Subbasin, and the Indian, Lick, and Bear Creek subwatersheds.

Proposed restoration activities include timber harvest, biomass harvest, road reconstruction, road realignment, temporary road construction, road storage, road decommissioning, culvert removal, culvert replacement, thinning of sub-merchantable trees, prescribed fire, and other actions. Specific vegetation treatments are proposed to enhance Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel habitat, a threatened species as listed by the Endangered Species Act, as well as species dependent on dry coniferous forests (e.g., white-headed woodpecker), while maintaining habitat for other Forest sensitive and ESA-listed species. Proposed recreation improvements include developed and dispersed recreation site improvements, motorized and non-motorized trail development and realignment, trailhead improvements, and the conversion of Smith Mountain Lookout to a public rental cabin.

This project is based in part on recommendations provided by the Payette Forest Coalition. The Payette Forest Coalition is a collaborative group formed under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 whose recommendations are structured to meet the intent of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. The Payette Forest Coalition members represent stakeholders from a broad range of interests including the, environmental community, timber industry, recreational groups and state and county government.

The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. For more information on the Payette Forest Coalition and their involvement in the Payette National Forest’s Weiser - Little Salmon Headwaters Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project visit their website at www.payetteforestcoalition.org.


USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Forest Service


draft ROD

CFLR Social Media – 2020

 U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris · November 2 at 11:29 AM

Fire Managers on the West Zone of the Payette have begun prescribed fire operations on some thinning slash units in the East fork of the Weiser River drainage. Managers are hopeful to get 50 acres a day until rain is predicted later in the week. These prescribed fire are a part of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project on the Payette National Forest.



 U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris · September 2

Some of the most important work on the Payette National Forest comes after a project is completed. One such project where this process of naturalization was completed is the Mill Creek and Council Mountain Project Area (see photos).

Although it may be hard to tell in these photos, these areas once underwent excavation work to complete a project on the Forest. Now the areas are covered in natural grasses, mulch and plants - the previous work is almost invisible to the naked eye.

This work to restore areas - like excavation work done on these old roads (see in photos) - is another important role of hydrologists on the Forest.

After excavation work or larger projects are done on the Forest, hydrologists and technicians work to repair the area and bring it back to its original, natural, state.

First, technicians contour the soil to match the surrounding landscape. After the soil is contoured, live vegetation and soil are transplanted to assist with stabilization and vegetation growth. Technicians then spread mulch, fertilizer, natural grass seed and plant trees and shrubs as needed to speed up the vegetation recovery (see here).

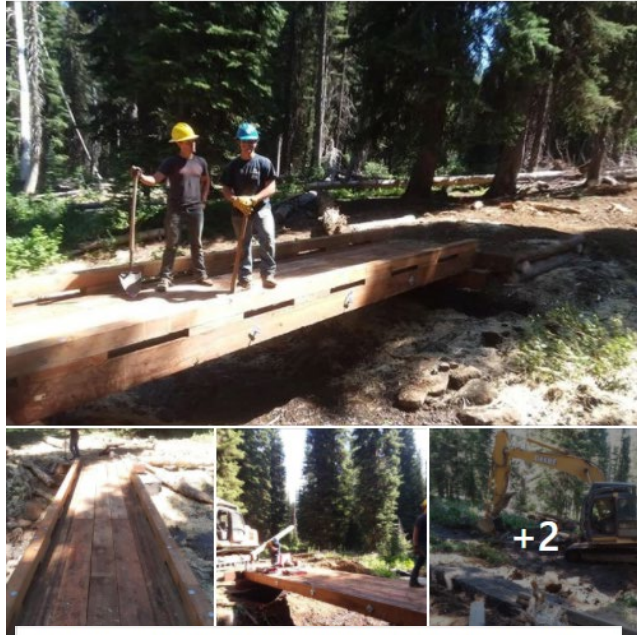
When each area is reseeded, the composition of seed mixes are customized for the area. This allows for a better naturalization process and for the area to blend into the surrounding landscape and prevents noxious weeds.

One such project where this process of naturalization was completed is the Mill Creek and Council Mountain Project Area (see photos). The watershed restoration work with this project was completed after several roads had to be decommissioned.

When a road is decommissioned it is likely because it is an unauthorized road that is no longer in use. Specifically, these roads had other access points, ended in the same location as other roads, or were parallel roads from timber sales, which modern logging techniques will not need in the future. Any roads that might be used again or are essential for public access are maintained.

 U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Jascha Zeitlin · September 23

On August 6th, Engineering, Fisheries Management, Recreation & Trails, and Restoration personnel completed a 25 ft. trail bridge on Trail 201, Deseret Cabin, across a tributary of the East Fork Weiser River. In addition to improving the trail for hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers, and motorcyclists, the bridge will prevent trail-related sediment from impacting critical bull trout habitat downstream.



These roads were extremely compacted and had to be broken up by an excavator. After excavation work was completed, they were reseeded and planted, beginning the process of naturalization (see last photo).

By naturalizing areas that have been disturbed, the Forest Service can improve natural watersheds by restoring the soil productivity, infiltration, reduce sedimentation and make the area better equipped to handle a flooding event. This work to make areas of disturbance 'disappear' is an important part of maintaining the health and beauty of the Payette National Forest.

Photos 1-6: The areas after being naturalized.
Photo 7: The area while it was excavated.





U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Brian Harris · August 31

...

Having an updated database of soils present on the Payette National Forest is more important than one might think, especially in relation to the import restoration work that is being done under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects.

Although it may not seem like it, knowing what specific soils exist on the Forest provides insights into erosion rates, landslide occurrences, the suitability of areas for road construction and plays a role in the management practices of range and forestry. Having an accurate database of what soils exist on the Forest, leads to more efficient land management, planning, analysis and problem-solving.

Due to this importance, soil scientists from the Payette National Forest and Region 4 have partnered with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Scientists to create an updated map of the distribution of soil types on the Forest.

This extensive project will update the Payette National Forest Land System Inventory (LSI) for the first time in years, with more than 300 areas across the Forest to be sampled over the span of three years.

The NRCS soil scientists have already completed samples on the southwestern portion of the Forest where they gathered 89 different soil profile descriptions. Gathering these profiles is just as extensive as the project itself.

To sample these locations, the NRCS crew is guided to a site determined by priority areas on the Forest. Once at the site, they dig a shovel soil pit using a shovel and pick that is 3 feet wide, 3 feet long and 3 feet deep, or to the depth of a confining layer such as bedrock.

The soil profile is then described using the Field Book for Describing Soils. Scientists then verify site properties, composition, soil types and percentages. Once the soil properties are recorded, the shovel pit is backfilled.

This sampling work requires extensive hours and time out in some of the most remote areas on the Forest.

This sampling work requires extensive hours and time out in some of the most remote areas on the Forest.

After completing this work in the southwestern portion of the Forest, the crew has moved to the northwestern area of the Forest, operating from the Bear Work Center on the Council Ranger District.

Once completed, this project, which has been done in collaboration with NRCS and the Geospatial Technology and Applications Center (GTAC), will provide accurate soil data and information that is essential to better manage the Payette National Forest.

Photos: The sites sampled by soil scientists.



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Erin Vonderheit · August 20

...

Non-merchantable material from harvested trees at Last Chance Campground is still available with free firewood permits through Saturday August 22nd.

Collection of wood will only be allowed between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Front desk personnel at New Meadows and McCall District Offices will be informed on the wood status and notice will also be posted at the gate to the campground when the event is over.

• Free use permits will be required and will be available (via phone an... See More

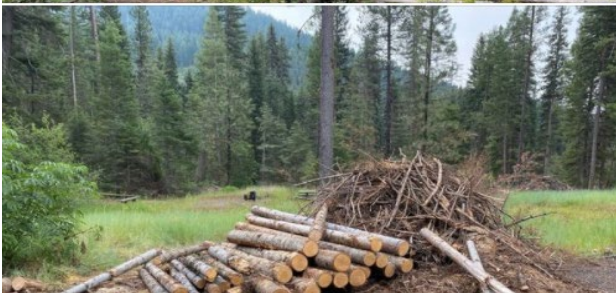


U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Erin Vonderheit · August 17

...

As part of the Little Red Goose Forest Resiliency project, Last Chance Campground was logged early in 2020 through the Good Neighbor Authority agreement with Idaho Department of Lands. The contractor set aside the non-merchantable material from harvested trees, and as part of the clean-up operations, the Payette National Forest is offering that material for free use firewood beginning on August 19, 2020 and extending through either August 22, or until the wood runs out. Coll... See More





U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Cody Allred · August 27 ·

...

Members of the Idaho Chapter of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers partnered with the Payette National Forest this month to work on a project aimed at reducing erosion on sensitive soils, increasing soil productivity and providing a better hunting experience for local hunters.

To do this, a dozen barriers were constructed near No Business Lookout and the Five Corners intersection and placed in unauthorized routes that have caused erosion problems due to frequent illegal use... See More



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Cody Allred · August 8 ·

...

Idaho Department of Lands, the Payette National Forest and visiting firefighting resources join in a shared stewardship effort to make Last Chance Campground a safe and enjoyable experience before re-opening to the public.

After the area was heavily impacted by the Douglas-fir Tussock moth last year, the Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) joined together over the winter under the Little Red Goose Forest Resiliency Project to quickly remove the larger dead an... See More



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Brian Harris · October 2, 2019 ·

...

Little Red Goose Forest Resiliency Project is related to the Douglas fir Tussock Moth infestation in Central Idaho.

Public Meeting, October 9 at the Holiday Inn Express in McCall, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Addressing Insect Attack in the Goose Creek

Little Red Goose Forest Resiliency Project

"We recognized a need to focus our efforts and do what we can to give the area a chance to bounce back from the high stressors related to insects and disease." Erin Phelps, New Meadows District Ranger.

THE NEED FOR ACTION!
Central Idaho is being hit hard by insect infestations, fungus-caused root diseases, and parasitic plants that are killing trees. A recent USDA Forest Health and Protection report identified Douglas fir Tussock Moth, Western Spruce Budworm, Balsam Woolly adelgid, mistletoe and root diseases as heavily impacting central Idaho.

On the Payette National Forest, the report highlights the need to "adequately address the Douglas fir Tussock Moth outbreak" currently impacting the proposed Little Red Goose project area.

LITTLE RED GOOSE FOREST RESILIENCY PROJECT
This project area is 8,800 acres in the Little Salmon River subbasin in Upper Goose Creek, Sixmile Creek, and Lower Goose Creek between McCall and New Meadows.

Proposed treatments would occur on up to 3,000 acres identified within the larger 8,800-acre area with activities including commercial thinning, non-commercial thinning, commercial firewood removal, slash treatments (top and scatter or pile burning), and broadcast prescribed burning.

In order to quickly address this insect outbreak and the impacts to our forest, this project would focus vegetation treatments in the areas of high insect activity and tree mortality, as well as adjacent stands that are at risk. Treatments would be designed to increase the resiliency of the remaining trees and also to reduce hazard tree risk to forest visitors and infrastructure found in the Goose Creek area along roadways and the Last Chance Campground, as well as the Rock Flat area.

A preliminary assessment of the project has determined it falls within a Categorical Exclusion as authorized by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, specially section 603 regarding insect and disease to reduce the extent of, or increase resiliency. This project will be designed to adhere to the specifications of that authority.

PUBLIC SCOPING FOR THIS PROJECT IS OPEN NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 21, 2019
Interested parties should submit issues pertinent to this proposal in writing by October 21, 2019. Comments will help inform the environmental analysis and decision making process. For more information on the project, including more details on the proposal and how to comment, visit the Little Red Goose project webpage at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/7project-06833>.

PUBLIC MEETING—OCTOBER 9, 2019
The Forest Service will host a public meeting on the Little Red Goose project October 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 at the Holiday Inn Express in McCall located at 210 North 3rd Street. The meeting will start with a short presentation with a question & answer period, then move to an open house format to provide opportunities for one to one interactions.



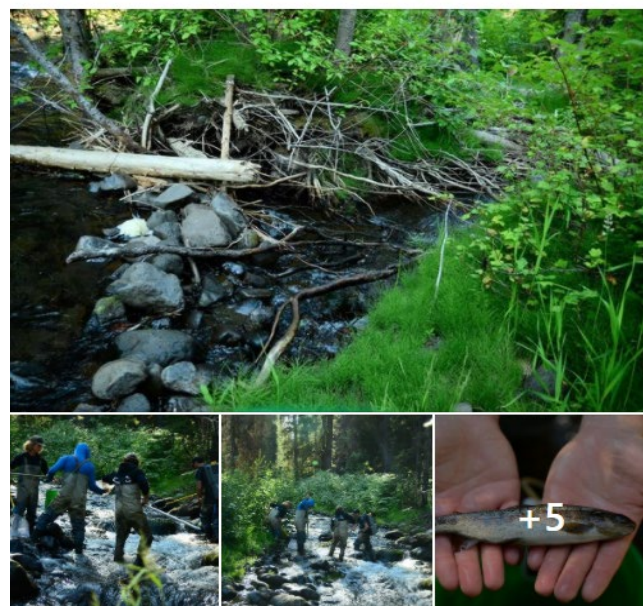
U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest
Published by Cody Allred · August 3 ·

...

Last week, Payette National Forest watershed and fisheries personnel on the Council Ranger District assisted with excavation work done at the East Fork Ditch on the East Fork Weiser River.

A side channel in the East Fork Weiser River, near the ditch, was diverting a portion of water, preventing it from flowing into the ditch. This limited the amount of water many nearby residents were able to receive from the ditch.

Work was done to dam the side channel (see photos) to k... See More





U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · July 24



Damage from the Douglas-fir tussock moth, the Balsam woolly adelgid, Douglas-fir beetle, fir engraver beetle, western balsam bark beetle and the western spruce budworm have all taken a toll on the health of trees on the Payette National Forest. So what are foresters doing about it? Combatting it head-on.

The damage from insects such as the Douglas-fir tussock moth does more than just defoliate trees (see photos), it can also increase the stress of impacted trees, bringing i... [See More](#)



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · July 23



Have you ever wondered why some culverts on the Payette National Forest look a little different? Well the answer is fish!

Specifically, culverts, like the ones on the East Fork Weiser River and Dewey Creek (see photos), are designed with fish in mind.

These culverts, also called Aquatic Organism Passages (AOP's), are designed to replicate a similar environment to a natural stream bed as they are open-bottomed. This special design provides fish and other aquatic organisms w... [See More](#)



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · July 7



After packing in their gear and equipment by pack mules and having treated posts flown in by the Payette National Forest Krassel Helitack Crew, the Council Education Resource Crew (CERC) - a joint program through the Payette National Forest and Council High School where students gain skills in natural resource management - and the Payette National Forest watershed restoration crew began work to stabilize gullies on Council Mountain yesterday.

The crews will work and camp ou... [See More](#)



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · July 3



To protect and encourage the growth of aspen stands on Council Mountain, the Council Education Resource Crew - a program through Council High School where students gain skills in natural resource management - worked with the Payette National Forest watershed restoration crew to repair a fence around a riparian area this week.

The newly repaired fence is part of a larger restoration project to rejuvenate aspens stands and reduce fuels through the use of prescribed fire and ha... [See More](#)





U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · June 19 ·

As you make your way onto the Payette National Forest this summer, we ask for your help locating an important tree species on the Forest – whitebark pine.

Forest Service employees are working to map and characterize whitebark pine on public lands throughout the Payette National Forest and could use your help.

Simply download the Survey123 app, search “whitebark pine” and download the corresponding survey.... [See More](#)



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · June 12 ·

This week, Forest Service Fuels and other Natural Resource Specialist’s met on the New Meadows Ranger District to review an on-going prescribed fire project area in order to plan for future prescribed fire treatments on the Payette National Forest.

They discussed the current risks the forest is facing, the benefits of using prescribed fire, the effectiveness of current treatments, and how to minimize impacts, such as smoke, when using prescribed fire, all in an effort to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation’s forests.



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · June 10 ·

To protect the health of the Payette National Forest, projects such as administering Douglas-fir bark beetle repellent have continued on the Forest.

In an effort to protect Douglas-fir trees from Douglas-fir bark beetles, crews stapled pheromone pouches to large Douglas-fir last week at Railroad Saddle on the New Meadows Ranger District.

These pouches are deployed prior to the peak emergence of insects and contain methylcyclohexanone (MCH) which warns the Douglas-fir beetle... [See More](#)



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · June 8 ·

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, critical work such as range management has continued on the Payette National Forest.

Rangeland Management Specialist Andy Bumgarner, said despite an initial pause in work, he and his crew were in the field as soon as the snow melted to complete work critical to the Payette National Forest.

The range crew has completed a bull trout re-consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which provides insight into how the Forest manages li... [See More](#)





U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Cody Allred · June 2 ·

...

1-year-old ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and western larch tree seedlings were planted by a contractor in the Mesa Fire Salvage area last week and administered by forest managers from the Council Ranger District.

Approximately 57,200 tree seedlings were planted in 254 acres to reforest some areas salvaged in 2019.

These photos were taken last week during the planting project at the Mesa Fire Salvage up Cottonwood Creek just southeast of Council, Idaho. ... See More



U.S. Forest Service - Payette National Forest

Published by Kelly Martin · October 15, 2019 ·

...

Weather permitting, fuels specialists on the Payette National Forest will be igniting two prescribed burns and burning piles this week.

The Council Ranger District plans to burn between 50-100 acres on Tuesday, October 15th and Wednesday, October 16th in the Cottonwood Corral area (Weasel Project Area), 15 miles NW of Council. Smoke will be visible from Council.

The New Meadows Ranger District will burn 40 acres on Tuesday, October 15th and 30 acres on Wednesday, October... See More



Signatures:

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

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)): */s/ Susan Howle* (Deputy Forest Supervisor)

Draft reviewed by (collaborative chair or representative): _____

APPENDIX A:

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Studies in the CFLRP Boundary



APPENDIX A:

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Studies in the CFLRP Boundary





APPENDIX A:

Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel Publications and References



1. Burak, G.S., A.R. Goldberg, J.M. Galloway, D. Evans Mack, and C.J. Conway. 2018. Collaborating to save a tiny threatened species: what does the northern Idaho ground squirrel need to survive? *The Wildlife Professional* 12(5):39-42.
2. Goldberg, A.R., C. J. Conway, D. E. Biggins, G. Burak, and D. Evans Mack. 2018. Yersinia pestis, fleas, sylvatic plague, and persistence of a federally threatened ground squirrel. *The Vector* 12: 2-7.
3. Goldberg, A. R., C. J. Conway, and D. E. Biggins. 2020. Flea sharing among sympatric rodent hosts: implications for potential plague effects on a threatened sciurid. *Ecosphere* 11(2):e03033.
4. Goldberg, A. R., C. J. Conway, D. Evans Mack, and G. Burak. November 2020. Winter versus summer habitat selection in a threatened ground squirrel. *Journal of Wildlife Management*.
5. Goldberg, A. R., C. J. Conway, D. Tank, K. R. Andrews, and L. Waits. In Review. Diet of a rare herbivore based on DNA metabarcoding of feces: selection, seasonality, and survival. *Basic and Applied Ecology*, in review.
6. Barbosa, S., K. Andrews, A. Goldberg, D. Singh-Gour, P. A. Hohenlohe, C. J. Conway, and L. Waits. In Review. The role of neutral and adaptive genomic variation in population diversification and speciation applied to two Idaho ground squirrel sister species of conservation concern. *Molecular Ecology*, in review.
7. Goldberg, A. R., and C. J. Conway. Impacts of climate change and microhabitat selection on hibernation behavior of a threatened ground squirrel. *Journal of Mammalogy*, in preparation.

APPENDIX B:

Deseret Cabin Bridge Trail Bridge Construction



APPENDIX C:

Center Ridge Trail Bridge Construction with the Montana Conservation Corps



APPENDIX D:

Conservation Education Resource Crew (CERC) Stabilizing a Gully on Council Mountain in CFLRP area



APPENDIX E:

Road Decommissioning Operations in the CFLRP Area

Mill Creek Council Mountain Road Closure Before



Mill Creek Council Mountain Road Closure After



APPENDIX E:

Road Decommissioning Operations in the CFLRP Area

No Business Lookout Road Before



No Business Lookout Road After

