NORTHERN BLUES
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
2022 Annual Report

NORTHERN BLUES
RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

"Working together across public, private and tribal boundaries in the Northern Blue Mountains to restore, create, and sustain healthy, fire resilient landscapes"

CFLRP Project Name: Northern Blues (CFLR# 024)
National Forests: Umatilla & Wallowa-Whitman

1. Executive Summary

Briefly summarize the top ecological, social, and economic accomplishments your CFLRP project participants are most proud of from FY22 and any key monitoring results. This is a space for key take-home points (< 200 words).

In our initial proposal, the Northern Blues CFLRP outlined a scope of restoration strategies emphasizing (1) cross-boundary, collaborative efforts to mitigate fire hazards at Forest/private/Tribal interface and protect communities at risk (2) a network of strategically located fuel breaks (consistent with forest types) throughout National Forest lands within the project area and (3) specialized efforts to protect Endangered Species, cultural sites, municipal watersheds, and other values at risk (e.g. aquatic restoration, noxious weed management, etc). Photos are located throughout the report that showcase work supporting each strategy across the Northern Blues CFLRP landscape during FY 2022.

To accomplish these strategies - the Northern Blues CFLRP identified a goal of implementing 520,800 acres of active restoration treatments on National Forest and adjoining private, state and Tribal lands. These treatments include non-commercial thinning, prescribed fire, invasive species removal, and aquatic/watershed restoration. Two years into our project we have accomplished **137,577 acres of active restoration treatments** or **26% of our ten-year goal**.

We also anticipated 380,000 acres of beneficial/managed wildfire across our National Forest and adjoining private and tribal lands. Two years into our project we have achieved **57,192 acres of beneficial/managed wildfire** or **15% of our ten year goal**. In all throughout the ten years of our project we projected this would result in over 901,600 acres of restoration (active restoration + beneficial/managed wildfire). Thus far we have accomplished **194,769 total acres of restoration** or **22% of our overarching goal**.

Objective	2021	2022	TOTAL	10 Year Goal	% Toward 10 Year Goal
Acres meeting restoration objectives across Northern Blues public, private and tribal forestlands (active restoration + beneficial/managed wildfire)	99,383 acres	95,386 acres	194,769 acres	901,600 acres	22%

2. Funding

CFLRP and Forest Service Match Expenditures

Fund Source: CFLN and/or CFIX Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
CFLN22	$2,979,549
CFLN21	$10,000
CFLN19	$957
TOTAL	$2,990,506

This amount should match the amount of CFLN/CFIX dollars spent 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: Forest Service Salary and Expense Match Expended	
NSCF22	$1,123,309

Fund Source: Forest Service Salary and Expense Match Expended	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
WSCF22	$1,102,542
TOTAL	$2,225,851

This amount should match the amount of matching funds in the FMMI CFLRP expenditure report for Salary and Expenses. Staff time spent on CFLRP proposal implementation and monitoring may be counted as CFLRP match – see Program Funding Guidance.

Fund Source: Forest Service Discretionary Matching Funds	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
CFCC13	$58,589
CFHF22	$1,578,784
CFRT22	$270,780
CFDS22	$324,000
CFTX22	$188,561
CFKV21	$112,725
TOTAL	$2,533,439

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 CWFS) which should be reported in the partner contribution table below. Per the Program Funding Guidance, federal dollars spent on non-NFS lands may be included as match if aligned with CFLRP proposal implementation.

Partner Match Contributions1

Fund Source: Partner Match				
Washington Department of Natural Resources (FFR Direct Investment Funding)	Funding 0616NFXNB622	$109,335	Incoming funds agreement covered non- commercial thinning treatments at Upper Touchet, Umatilla NF	National Forest System Lands
Oregon Department of Forestry (PACE funding)	Funding: 0616NFXN0722	$90,000	Incoming funds agreement covered PACE funding for botany surveys for the Morgan Nesbit Project	National Forest System Lands
Bonneville Power Administration- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXFM016 (Middle Fly)	$3,000	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering the Jordan Creek culvert replacement project, improving fish passage to 1.5 miles of stream	National Forest System Lands
Bonneville Power Administration- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXF3X16 (Jordan Creek)	$153,000	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering the Jordan Creek culvert replacement project, improving fish passage to 1.5 miles of stream	National Forest System Lands

[1] **Addresses Core Monitoring Question #13**

Fund Source: Partner Match				
Bonneville Power Administration- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXFM016 (Middle Fly)	$24,000	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering labor for small wood placement in log jam configurations on 3 miles of Fly Creek	National Forest System Lands
Bonneville Power Administration- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXF3X16	$13,122	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering labor and equipment for wood placement in log jam configuration on 3 miles of Limber Jim Creek	National Forest System Lands
Bonneville Power Administration- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXF3X16	$64,800	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering labor and equipment for wood placement in log jam configuration on 5.75 miles of Lookout, Meadowbrook and Smith Creeks	National Forest System Lands
Bonneville Power Administration- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXF3X16	$321,000	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering 1.5 miles of instream restoration and road recontouring at Upper Fly Creek	National Forest System Lands
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXF0416	$136,150	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering planting of 20 acres at Longley Meadows with 21,000 seedlings	National Forest System Lands
CTUIR- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXN2916	$226,590	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering Limber Jim culvert replacement to improve fish passage on 12 miles of stream	National Forest System Lands
CTUIR- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXN2916	$148,400	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering 3 miles of main channel/side channel instream restoration at Longley Meadows (included wood placement, pool formation, riffle formation, new channel)	National Forest System Lands
CTUIR- Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project	Funding: Budget Line Item, if relevant: [1] 0616NFXN2916	$8,080	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering 1.5 miles of instream restoration and road recontouring at Upper Fly Creek	National Forest System Lands
Oregon Department of Agriculture (Invasive Plant Agreement)	In-kind contribution	$14,525	Agreement covered invasive plant treatments on the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests	National Forest System Lands

Fund Source: Partner Match				
Oregon Department of Forestry (Wallowa-WhitmanGNA Agreement- ODF positions at La Grande RD)	In-kind contribution	$122,534	Agreement covered salary for NRS-1 and FMTs to assist with GNA sale prep & surveys	National Forest System Lands
Oregon Department of Forestry (Umatilla GNA Agreement- Davis and Elbow Timber Sales)	In-kind contribution	$72,051	Agreement covered sale prep and sale administration for the Davis and Elbow Timber Sales	National Forest System Lands
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife-Wallowa-Whitman GNA agreement	In-kind contribution	$19,291	Agreement covering elk habitat improvement and road decommissioning in Bald Angel project area	National Forest System Lands
Klamath Bird Observatory (Landscape Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Using Birds as Indicators Agreement)	In-kind contribution	$36,445	Agreement covered the cooperation between the USFS and KBO to monitoring restoration effectiveness at improving habitat for avian focal species	National Forest System Lands
Powder Basin Watershed Council	In-kind contribution	$4,750	Agreement covered coordinating with the Baker Resources Coalition to work with high school students on establishing monitoring plots	National Forest System Lands
Mt. Adams Institute	In-kind contribution	$95,757	Agreement covered veteran interns that completed non-commercial thinning acres on the Umatilla National Forest	National Forest System Lands
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	In-kind contribution	$116,932	Agreement covers new fence construction to excludes cattle from several miles of stream and important habitat for aquatic species in a high priority watershed	National Forest System Lands
Sustainable Northwest-Burnt Cabin Stewardship Agreement	In-kind contribution	$22,520	Agreement covers 118 acres of juniper commercial harvesting and non-commercial thinning and piling	National Forest System Lands
The Nature Conservancy	In-kind contribution	$16,457	Agreement covered moist-mixed conifer data collection and sharing for the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman Forests	National Forest System Lands

Fund Source: Partner Match				
Trout Unlimited	In-kind contribution	$12,000	Agreement covering high density woody debris placement in the North Fork John Day river tributary streams	National Forest System Lands
USFWS Whitebark Cone Collection Agreement	In-kind contribution	$17,737	Agreement covering the caging, cone and scion collection from whitebark pine trees in the Wallowa-Whitman NF.	National Forest System Lands
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife- Good Neighbor Authority agreement	In-kind contribution	$483,737	Agreement covering 15 miles of fence construction along WDFW/Umatilla NF lands boundary and wood placement in streams	National Forest System Lands
Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area	In-kind contribution	$14,881	Agreement covering invasive/noxious weed treatments on Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman NF lands in Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties	National Forest System Lands
Oregon Department of Agriculture	In-kind contribution	$25,258	Agreement covering invasive/noxious weed treatments on Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman NF lands	National Forest System Lands
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife- White-headed Woodpecker Monitoring	In-kind contribution	$32,000	Provided 4 interns with housing and vehicles to conduct white-headed woodpecker monitoring	National Forest System Lands
Oregon Department of Forestry - Northeast Oregon District	In-kind contribution	$751,435	Contracted $s spent on adjoining private lands to support wildfire/fuel reduction; values at risk protection; landscape resiliency, and increased forest health on 1,251 acres	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners
Oregon Department of Forestry - Northeast Oregon District	In-kind contribution	$550,000	ODF forestry staff time to complete 1,251 acres of hazardous fuels reduction treatment on adjoining private lands	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners

Fund Source: Partner Match				
Natural Resources Conservation Service - John Day/Umatilla and Snake River Basins	In-kind contribution	$1,138,622	Contracted $s spent on adjoining private lands to support watershed health, forest health, and fire resiliency on 2,190 acres	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)	In-kind contribution	$1,334,414	Contracted $s spent on adjoining CTUIR Tribal lands to support watershed health, forest health, and fire resiliency on 1,017 acres	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: CTUIR Tribal Forest Lands
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)	In-kind contribution	$117,337	Contracted $s spent on adjoining CTUIR Tribal lands to manage invasive and noxious weeds on 2,161 acres	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: CTUIR Tribal Lands
Wallowa Resources - Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership	In-kind contribution	$74,500	Contracted $s spent on adjoining private lands to manage invasive and noxious weeds on 7,304 acres	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Landowners
Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area	In-kind contribution	$310,995	Contracted $s spent on adjoining private lands to manage invasive and noxious weeds on 6,236 acres	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Landowners
Wallowa Resources	In-kind contribution	$743,796	Contributions include support for CFLRP and All Lands monitoring crews and development of the CFLRP and All Lands monitoring plans, forest management plans, and staff coordination to support Operations Team, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership, Northern Blues Forest Collaborative, Communications, Stewardship Workforce	National Forest System Lands and other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners & CTUIR

Fund Source: Partner Match				
Grande Ronde Model Watershed	In-kind contribution	$1,672,655	Contracted $'s spent on adjoining private and state lands to support stream restoration projects	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Landowners & State Lands
Washington Department of Natural Resources	In-kind contribution	$552,801	Contracted $s spent on adjoining private lands and landowner match to support wildfire/fuel reduction; values at risk protection; landscape resiliency, and increased forest health on 317 acres	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Landowners
TOTALS	Total Partner In-Kind Contributions: **$8,353,430** Total Partner-Provided Funding: **$1,297,477**			

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

Amount entered into the TREAT database for "All Project Funds" on the Full Project Details tab

(Total funding Invested in Restoration Across CFLRP Landscape: NFS+ Partner funding): $17,368,703

Goods for Services Match

Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract (for contracts awarded in FY22).

Total revised non-monetary credit limit for contracts awarded in FY22: $162,997

Revenue generated through Good Neighbor Agreements: $122,564

"Revised non-monetary credit limit" should be the amount in the "Progress Report for Stewardship Credits, Integrated Resources Contracts or Agreements" as of September 30. Additional information on the Progress Reports available in CFLR Annual Report Instructions. "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 proposal and work plan.

3. Activities on the Ground

FY 2022 Agency Performance Measure Accomplishments[2] - Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record. Please note any discrepancies.

Core Restoration Treatments				
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) in the Wildland Urban Interface	FP-FUELS-WUI (reported in FACTS)[3]	16,015	NA	16,015
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) in the Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED	FP-FUELS-WUI-CMPLT (reported in FACTS)[4]	8,387	4,275	12,662
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) outside the Wildland Urban Interface	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI (reported in FACTS) [3]	20,612	NA	20,612
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) outside the Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) [4]	14,353	500	14,853
Prescribed Fire (acres)	Activity component of FP-FUELS-ALL (reported in FACTS)	12,027	8,152	20,179
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk	FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS (reported in FACTS)	6,590	4,775	11,365
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC (reported in FACTS)[3]	4,817	NA	4,817
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants - COMPLETED	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC-CMPLT (reported in FACTS)[4]	4,817	14,270	19,087
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC (reported in FACTS)[35]	0	NA	0

[2] This question helps track progress towards the CFLRP projects lifetime goals outlined in your CFLRP Proposal & Work Plan. Adapt table as needed.

[3] For service contracts, the date accomplished is the date of contract award. For Force Account, the date accomplished is the date the work is completed

[4] New Agency measure reported in FACTS when completed

[53] For service contracts, the date accomplished is the date of contract award. For Force Account, the date accomplished is the date the work is completed

[4] New Agency measure reported in FACTS when completed

Core Restoration Treatments				
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species - COMPLETED	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC- CMPLT (reported in FACTS)[46]	0	NA	0
Road Decommissioning (Unauthorized Road) (miles)	RD-DECOM-NON-SYS (Roads reporting)	0	NA	0
Road Decommissioning (National Forest System Road) (miles)	RD-DECOM-SYS (Roads reporting)	0	NA	0
Road Improvement (High Clearance) (miles)	RD-HC-IMP-MI (Roads reporting)	0	NA	0
Road Improvement (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-IMP-MI (Roads reporting)	0	NA	0
Road Maintenance (High Clearance) (miles)	RD-HC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	169	NA	169
Road Maintenance (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	348	NA	348
Trail Improvement (miles)	TL-IMP-STD (Trails reporting)	2.6	NA	2.6
Trail Maintenance (miles)	TL-MAINT-STD (Trails reporting)	0.63	NA	0.63
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)	HBT-ENH-TERR (reported in WIT)	10,620	NA	10,620
Stream Crossings Mitigated (i.e. AOPs) (number)	STRM-CROS-MITG-STD (reported in WIT)	0	NA	0
Stream Habitat Enhanced (miles)	HBT-ENH-STRM (reported in WIT)	0.41	15	15.41
Lake Habitat Enhanced (acres)	HBT-ENH-LAK (reported in WIT)	0	NA	0
Water or Soil Resources Protected, Maintained, or Improved (acres)	S&W-RSRC-IMP (reported in WIT)	371	33	404
Stand Improvement (acres) - thinning + rx fire	FOR-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	43,685	12,927	56,612
Reforestation and revegetation (acres)	FOR-VEG-EST (reported in FACTS)	82	4,200	4,282
Forests treated using timber sales (acres)	TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC (reported in FACTS)	1,803	NA	1,803
Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres)	RG-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	43,685	NA	43,685

Is there any background or context you would like to provide regarding the information reported in the table above?

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Northern Blues Restoration Partnership Dashboard:

The above table is a snapshot of our CFLR project accomplishments, captured from readily-available metrics that are similar across all National Forests with CFLRP projects; they provide consistent year-over-year reporting for congress and national-level leadership. That being said, these specific metrics, presented in this table format, are not the most effective or meaningful means for reporting accomplishments across our project's 10 million-acre landscape or to our partners, local communities and stakeholders. In an attempt to provide a reporting platform that better meets the needs of our project and partners, we have developed a draft accomplishment dashboard. This dashboard is a collaboration of the Northern Blues Restoration (NBR) Partnership, which was formed to help manage our CFLR project and other cross-boundary efforts in the Northern Blues (see more about the NBR Partnership in Question 6 - Socio Economic and 8 - Collaboration).

Wildfires effects on accomplishments:

This summer, the CFLRP project area experienced several large wildfires, totaling over 200,000 acres at a suppression cost of approximately $22.5 million. The management of these fires drew significantly on local Forest resources from late-August through October, and took staff away from CFLRP project management, tracking and reporting as well as from on-the-ground contract administration and preparations for future project areas. In addition, the fires burned through significant acreage on Wallowa-Whitman NF (see map below), including nearly 17,000 acres of the Morgan Nesbitt planning area, (ongoing NEPA with future CFLRP treatment areas). (See the summary of FY22 fires under Question # 4. Restoring Landscapes)

There were a few notable metrics where we did not meet the planned treatments or accomplishment reporting outlined in our proposal and updated work plan these include:

- Prescribed Fire Acres
- Reported accomplishment- FY22: 12,027 ac. (USFS)/20,179 ac. (CFLRP Project boundary area)
- CFLRP Work Plan- FY22 (year 2) : 17,820 ac. (USFS)/33,000 ac. (CFLRP Project boundary area)

Reasons for this difference:

- The USFS Chief's letter, dated May 20, 2022 directed the halting of all prescribed burns on National Forest System lands and identified a review team consisting of representatives from the wildland fire and research community. The team was tasked with reviewing prescribed fire protocols, decision support tools, and practices.
- Roughly 2,000 acres were not burned across the two National Forests during FY22 spring burning. These planned burns were impacted by this nationwide moratorium instituted on National Forest lands.
- Roughly 1,500 acres were not burned during the FY22 fall burning window. These planned burns were also impacted by the moratorium and review findings, which lasted until September 8, 2022, when the Chief and the National Team announced prescribed burning could resume, but units were first required to comply with 7 tactical requirements prior to implementing fall burning projects.
    - These changes came at a challenging time for units to make the necessary changes prior to project implementation in the fall. One of the requirements was to have all contingency resources on-site during burning operations, which created issues with having enough resource capacity for all units meeting prescription windows at roughly the same time and as fire season was still winding down.

Timber Sale Volume Sold/ Timber Sale Acres

- Timber Sale Volume Reported Accomplishment- FY22: 74,821 CCF (37,000 MBF)
- CFLRP Work Plan- FY22 (year 2): 112,000 CCF (UMA- 30,000 MBF, WAW- 28,000 MBF)

- Timber Sale Acres Reported Accomplishment- FY22: 1,803 acres
- CFLRP Work Plan- FY22 (year 2): 7,190 acres

Reasons for this difference:

- Three timber sales (roughly 13,000 CCF/ 836 acres) on the Umatilla National Forest were offered late in the 4th quarter and did not receive bids because of small business set-aside status and because of material deterioration (salvage sales).
- In addition, a few significant changes occurred in FY22 that have affected timber sale accomplishments across the two National Forests and will continue to impact accomplishments (as compared to the work plan submitted following the project award) in the future:
- A fee for private firewood permits was eliminated, so that firewood no longer represents a portion of our timber volume sold. Over the last decade, the annual volume of permits sold across the two Forests averaged 2,500-3,000 MBF.
- Region 6 embarked on a "3 plus 1" strategy to prevent substantive variation in future annual outputs. This will achieve long-term goals by providing more predictable, consistent accomplishments in acres treated and timber volume sold each year.
    - Each Forest in Region 6 is to achieve a program where timber sale planning and pre-sale timber prep are completed enough in advance to help maintain desired outputs when unforeseen events, such as wildfire and/or lawsuits occur, including at least three years' worth of annual volume under NEPA decisions - i.e. "shelf-stock" and one year's worth of sale prep completed by the beginning of each Fiscal Year.
    - Northern Blues Forests adjusted target volumes to meet the "3 plus 1" strategy.

Year		
2022	90,385	112,000
2023	73,077	113,000
2024	63,308	113,000
2025	105,769	119,000
2026	125,000	119,000

Reporting CFLRP accomplishments

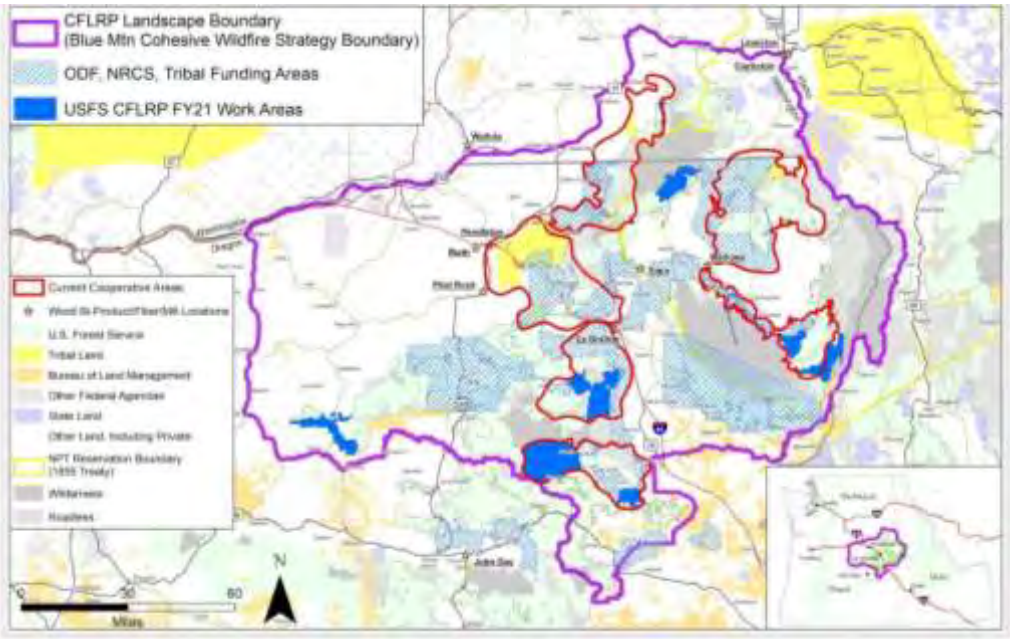
In year-two of our project, we are still working to share consistent and timely project information and reporting requirements across both National Forests and with our private and tribal partners. In particular, the two Forests have missed reporting on several metrics in the WIT and TIM reporting databases.

- We did not accurately capture our BIO-NRG because personnel reporting green tons didn't know to tag these portions of sales for CFLRP accomplishment until early in FY23.
- We had similar issues with claiming stewardship credits, timber sale acres, and timber volume sold because continued misunderstanding of what "counts" for CFLRP accomplishment and the long time span involved with sale completion/acceptance and not knowing we needed to track older sales that were harvested in the current fiscal year for CFLRP (for TMBR-VOL-HRVST).
- In WIT we did not get FY22 accomplishments entered for several large watershed restoration projects until after the database had already closed. They will be captured in our FY23 reporting.

Reflecting on treatments implemented in FY22, if/how has your CFLRP project aligned with other efforts to accomplish work at landscape scales?

- Describe the number, types and sizes of cross-boundary treatments coordinated and with what entities.
- If your CFLRP overlaps with a Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Project, Priority Landscape, Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Project, etc. briefly describe coordination successes and challenges.
- If you prefer, you may provide this information in table form. Optional: Provide a map displaying the extent to which CFLRP project coordinate with Joint Chiefs, Shared Stewardship, Good Neighbor Authority, or other cross-boundary efforts on adjacent land.

In 2022 the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership compiled an internal online Partnership mapping tool of completed and planned activities, resources on the landscape to consider, past wildfires, and partner priorities to help the members of the Partnership plan strategically across the landscape and to identify opportunities to work together on cross-boundary projects.



Below is an overview of examples of cross boundary treatments coordinated on adjacent Tribal, private and state lands in the Northern Blues CFLR boundary in FY 2022. These treatments include **27,230 acres** of non-commercial thinning and prescribed fire, invasive species removal, and aquatic/watershed restoration treatments on adjacent lands.

- **12,927 acres** of non-commercial thinning/defensible space/prescribed burn treatments completed on private, state and Tribal lands; accompanied by **34,702 acres (thinning + rx burning)** on National Forest Service lands.
- **33 acres** of aquatics restoration treatments completed on private, state and Tribal lands; accompanied by **371 acres** of treatments on National Forest Service lands.
- **14,270 acres** of noxious and invasive weed restoration treatments completed on private, state and Tribal land, accompanied by **4,817 acres** of treatments on National Forest Service lands.

Prescribed Burning, Non-Commercial Restoration Thinning, Hazardous Fuel Removal, Strategic Fuel Breaks and Defensible Space Implementation.

Project Area	Description
Wallowa County's Natural Resources Conservation Service Wallowa Front Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant project area	NRCS Grant supporting hazardous fuels reduction to increase forest health, improve stand resiliency, return fuel class conditions to historical norms, and create landscape level fuel breaks where possible by planning adjacent treatments regardless of ownership within the targeted HYPERLIN in Wallowa County. In 2022 - 1078 acres across 16 landowners were implemented on private lands (including one prescribed burn) accompanying the 936 acres treated on adjacent NFS lands. ODF-Wallowa, NRCS-Wallowa, Wallowa-SWCD, USFS-Wallowa Mountain Office and Wallowa Resources are collaborating on the implementation of this 5 year grant.
Good Neighbor Authority funding utilized on Umatilla National Forest's Elbow Project	Roughly $47,000 of CFLN funding was invested to support a Oregon Department of Forestry Good Neighbor Authority project and timber sale on 525 acres on the Umatilla National Forest in the Elbow Insect and Disease planning area. This project area is located along the Forest Service boundary and abuts several hundred acres of treated (commercial/non-commercial thinning, fuel reduction, prescribed fire) lands in the Wenaha Wildlife Area, managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Oregon Department of Forestry also invested an additional $120,000 to support 3 additional technician and forester positions who will contribute to GNA sale planning, layout and sale prep.
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Rainwater Wildlife Area prescribed burn	The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Rainwater Wildlife Area worked alongside OSU Extension and Bureau of Indian Affairs to implement a 34.4 acre broadcast burn in 2022. This was accompanied by 29.5 acres of understory hand thinning and pruning funded by WA Department of Natural Resources, and 180 acres of commercial thinning with revenues applied to slash mastication.
WA Department of Natural Resources shaded fuel break in Asotin County	WA Department of Natural Resources funding supporting hazardous fuels reduction dedicated to private landowners resulting in a 57-acre shaded fuel break across multiple private forest landowner properties in Asotin County along Cloverland Road.
Senate Bill 762 Lostine Canyon Firewise Community defensible space implementation in Wallowa County	Using Senate Bill 762 funds the Lostine Canyon Firewise Community (comprised of 70 landowners) implemented 25 acres of defensible space work around the homes of 20 landowners using several local contracting crews. To accompany this work - a fuel break at Bear Creek was created on NFS lands by the Wallowa Mountain Office utilizing local forestry contractors to help protect the community in addition to the hazardous fuels reduction implemented this year in the Lostine Corridor Public Safety Project (a priority CFLR FS project implemented this year directly adjacent to the community). Downed trees from the fuel break were salvaged and processed into wood products.

Aquatics/Stream/Watershed Restoration

Project Area	Description
Grande Ronde Model Watershed's Private and state lands stream restoration project on Catherine Creek Mile 38 in Union County	Stream restoration project on private lands including 0.25 miles of stream restored, 15 instream structures installed, stabilized banks on both sides of the stream for the project length, 1 new pool added, 4 existing pools enhanced, and fence rebuilt. This connects to a project being completed on ODFW's Catherine Creek State Park with 5.25 acres of wetland habitat reconnected and gravel bars and structures installed to promote channel narrowing on 0.2 miles of stream and pool habitat increased by addition of large wood structures.

Noxious/Invasive Weed Restoration

Project Area	Description
Large scale Russian Olive removal on Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Wanaket Wildlife Area in Umatilla County	CTUIR identified a new approach to removing Russian Olive on its Wanaket Wildlife Area. They hired a local contract crew to hand cut, apply spot herbicide treatment on the stumps, machine pile, burn, and apply maintenance herbicide to retreat the resprouts on 786 acres.
Yellow Starthistle removal near Cove, OR in Union County	Tri County Cooperative Weed Management Area completed 2000 acres of aerial herbicide treatment on private lands to target Yellow Starthistle near Cove, OR in Union County.

The Grande Ronde Headwaters Restoration Partnership Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration (CALR) Project- Awarded to the Wallowa-Whitman NF (WWNF) in 2022, the CALR initiative provides dedicated funding over five years, which aligns with CFLRP funding during years 2022-2026. In addition to funding alignment, the CALR project also accomplishes several goals and objectives that overlap with those of our CFLRP project.

The project was ranked as the #1 priority project in Region 6. In the letter signed by the Regional Forester and submitted with proposal packages to the NFS Deputy Chief, it states "Project #1 is notable because its intersection with an existing Collaborative Forest Restoration (CFLR) Project would facilitate integrated terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem restoration at a landscape scale."

Project Summary

The Grande Ronde Headwaters Restoration Partnership (GRHRP), built upon 30 years of shared stewardship restoration with 18 county, state, federal, tribal and NGO partners, will implement critical projects to restore fish passage, fish and aquatic habitat, water quality, and ecosystem resilience. There is existing focus and momentum on this landscape and an established, robust partnership with a successful implementation schedule. Projects align with recovery plans for ESA listed species; Snake River Basin (SRB) Spring Chinook, SRB summer steelhead, and Columbia River bull trout and their critical habitat.

The WWNF plans to complete a final suite of essential projects in priority subwatersheds; 5 would move to an improved Condition Class (WCF). Funds would restore 129 miles of stream, 496 acres of riparian, wet meadow, floodplain, and upland habitat, and restore fish passage to 45.1 miles of habitat.

Project Performance Planned Accomplishments by Fiscal Year

Project Performance Description							
Number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class or sustained in properly functioning condition (condition class 1)	WTRSHD-CLS-IMP-NUM	Number	0	1	2	0	2
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions	S&W-RSRC-IMP	Acres	58	202	63	18	155
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhance	HBT-ENH-STRM	Miles	15.5	37.5	37.6	11.5	21.5

Proposed research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E) tied to PNW Water Research Initiative, will focus on novel management and restoration practices effectiveness and evaluation of restoration project benefits to threats from drought, wildfire, ecosystem resilience, and infrastructure. The WWNF will apply 5% of CALR funds to RM&E with PNW research, RMRS, ODFW and Umatilla Tribes.

Since the CALR Project award was not announced and funding made available until August of 2022, the WWNF did not have enough time to obligate the full FY22 allocation of $579,411; however, $95,000 of it was awarded on two contracts, which are included in the *Partner Match* contributions table above.

4. Restoring Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Reducing Hazardous Fuels

Narrative Overview of Treatments Completed in FY22 to restore fire-adapted landscapes and reduce hazardous fuels, 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?

- Consider - how was this area prioritized for treatment? What kinds of information, input, and/or analyses were used to prioritize? Were the treatments in proximity to a highly valued resource like a community, a WUI area, communications site, campground, etc.?
- What you learned about the interaction between treatment prioritization, scale, and cost reduction, and/or what didn't work?
- Based on observations, tracking, and/or dialogue, what (if any) actions or changes are you considering to better advance towards your desired goals?

Project prioritization on NFS lands:

Following the CFLRP award announcement for Northern Blues in October of 2020, the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisors chartered a CFLRP Committee to manage projects and funding related to the program. The Committee includes representatives from both Forests and meets regularly to review and discuss project information and to make recommendations to Forest Supervisors for decision. As an initial order of business, the committee reviewed the CFLRP proposal and identified the following project selection criteria to be used when prioritizing projects and making CFLN funding recommendations.

FY22 CFLN implementation projects were selected because they met one or more of the CFLRP proposal resiliency goals:

- protecting highly valued resources and assets (homes/WUI, private inholdings, municipal watersheds, unique habitats, infrastructure and assets, utilities, etc.);
- creating or connecting landscape-level fuel breaks or adjacent to other landscape disturbances (past treatments, wildfires);
- have potential for cross boundary work with partners and allow for leveraging of resources (see CFLRP web map highlighting cross-boundary opportunities below);
- while also addressing project administrative goals of:
    - using shelf stock/NEPA-ready work; "finishing the job" (completing all remaining/feasible work in project area);
    - and considering workload distribution across the two forests (capacity).

The Northern Blues CFLRP project award and funding has allowed the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests to expand the pace and scale of restoration. Our initial goal was to begin by treating all of the "shelf-stock" we had on each forest. (This shelf stock is priority work- based on our CFLR project goals and objectives- and has been planned in strategic locations. These projects became shelfstock because neither Forest had enough funding to keep pace with implementation.) CFLN funding-- in addition to other increased appropriated funds-- has allowed the Forests to put together larger contracts, which has resulted in $/acre cost reduction, even as inflation impacted implementation costs during FY22.

Of the $3 million the project received in CFLN funds in FY22, the two Forests allocated $425,500 off-the-top to fund agreements that were mutually beneficial. These funds supported professional and technical contracts and agreements focused on project coordination and tracking, multi-party monitoring, invasives treatments, and planning and implementing prescribed fire projects. The remaining CFLN funds were balanced between labor-intensive treatments (hand thinning and piling) and equipment-intensive treatments (mechanical thinning/mastication and grapple piling), which collectively accomplished over 8,392 acres (from FY22 funding summary) of treatment. In addition, significant investments of appropriated matching funds, totaling over $2.6 million (see section *#2: Funding* above), contributed to the reported project accomplishments of 16,015 acres of high priority hazardous fuels treated within the wildland/urban interface, 20,612 acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface, and over 12,000 acres of prescribed fire on National Forest System lands.

During the first two years of the project, CFLN-funding has supported shelf-stock projects that were prioritized for: protecting highly-valued resources and assets and creating or connecting landscape-level fuel breaks or adjacent to other landscape disturbances. The two Forests have now treated nearly 37,000 acres of high priority hazardous fuels within the wildland/urban interface, 37,200 acres outside the wildland/urban interface and implemented over 25,000 acres of prescribed fire on National Forest lands. In consideration of these last two years of successful priority treatments, and with feedback from the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership partners, the CFLRP Committee aims to broaden the suite of CFLN-funded projects by implementing a new project proposal process for FY23 - FY24. The Committee has highlighted two specific goals for this process to improve our project management moving forward: 1) increase coordination and planning with partners; and 2) meet our CFLRP objectives through a diversity of projects with multiple benefits. In addition to the project selection criteria identified during the first CFLRP project year, projects will also be evaluated based on their alignment with cross-boundary opportunities with partners' priority treatment areas, benefit to special habitats, and whether or not the project will produce a commercial biomass product.

Northern Blues CFLRP WebMap and link:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fseprd901191

In an effort to better incorporate CFLRP objectives into planned projects (and to get ahead of "shelf-stock"), the Umatilla NF has developed a tool to prioritize projects across the landscape to inform 5-year restoration planning and to facilitate pre-NEPA coordination with partners:

Umatilla National Forest draft priority landscape restoration model: With so much of the landscape in need of treatment, the Umatilla National Forest has developed a priority landscape restoration model as a strategic tool to help the Forest determine where the greatest restoration needs are based on the CFLRP objectives of minimizing wildfire risks to surrounding communities and adjacent lands, and restoring resilience to our landscapes by reducing overstocked forested conditions. To analyze the landscape at a scale that correlates with project planning, staff subdivided the Forest into landscape units that are subwatersheds ranging from approximately 15,000 – 75,000 acres in size. Each of these landscape units are assigned a number to use as an identifier for the model. For more information see the: Umatilla National Forest Priority Landscape Restoration Model Story Map

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is also in the initial stages of developing a priority landscape restoration model, which will provide future prioritization consistency across National Forest lands in the Northern Blues.

Project prioritization on Private and Tribal lands:

Priorities on private lands were determined through each county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan which utilized the Westwide Risk Assessment and community driven processes, in addition to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's county work group model. Nez Perce Tribe has outlined their priorities for work within their Forest Management Plan, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation priorities are identified within their Forest Management Plan, which closely aligns with their First Foods Mission.

Additionally, over summer and fall 2022, OSU Extension piloted a Northeast Oregon private lands "Landscape Assessment" tool. (See link to overview of pilot here.) This is a new product that draws together a wide range of information useful for planning and prioritization purposes. It is intended to aid all-lands efforts in the region by identifying opportunities for private land treatments and areas of potential cross boundary treatment. It is a high level tool, and not a management plan in and of itself. OSU Extension is working alongside the My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership (ODF, NRCS, Wallowa Resources, USFS and others) to pilot this in other areas across the CLFR landscape on private lands over Summer and Fall 2023.

Northern Blues Restoration Partnership (NBR Partnership aka All Lands Partnership)

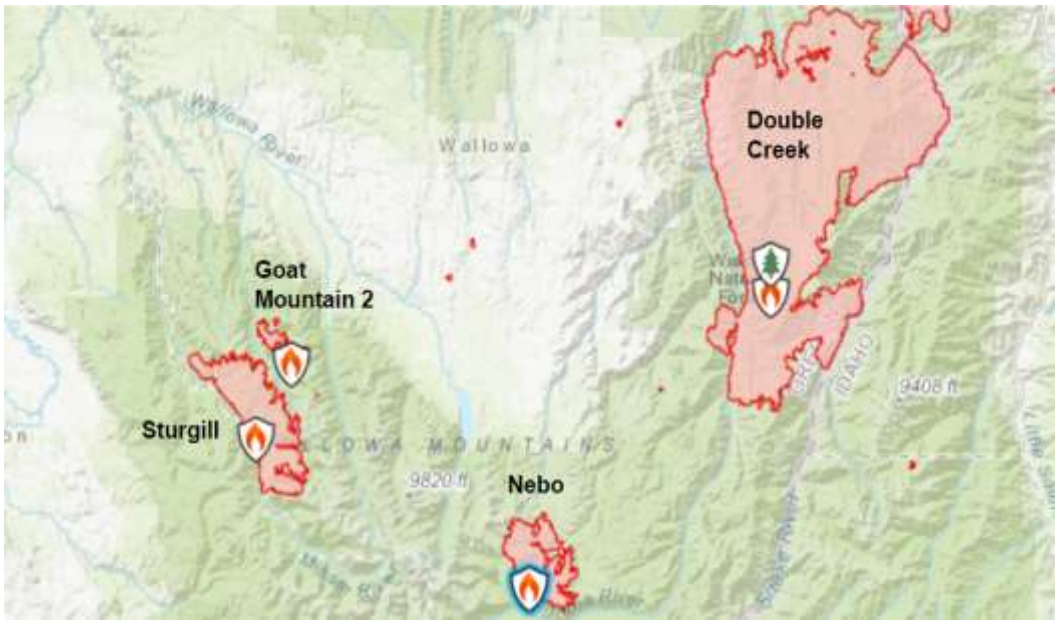
To continue to find alignment across all these lands (public, private, and tribal) - following the CFLRP award announcement - the region also pulled together the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership (*see Questions #8 and 6 for a full description of the Partnership*). The Partnership was created to continue to find alignment across ownerships and identify opportunities to implement meaningful cross-boundary forest health and fire risk reduction projects at a landscape scale.

Managed Wildfires in the CFLRP Landscape

Fire outlooks for Northeast Oregon during spring and early summer were very much favoring a moderated fire season. Indices were low and moderate for much of the early summer. Significant moisture during the months of May and June were observed across the Pacific Northwest. In late August and mid-September of 2022, Northeast Oregon received several rounds of abundant lighting igniting numerous wildfires across the CFLRP landscape. Four of these late-season fires occurred in designated Wilderness areas (*Sturgill, Nebo and Goat Mtn. 2* in the Eagle Cap wilderness area and *Slick Ear* in the Wenaha-Tucannon wilderness area).

Land managers have a variety of tools at their disposal to meet objectives for enhancing forest health and diversity and reducing wildfire threats to important values. Commercial and non-commercial thinning, fuels reduction, and prescribed burning treatments are most conducive to general forest areas, with road access and locations adjacent to high value private and public values and assets. In remote areas, such as roadless areas and designated Wilderness areas, and under suitable conditions, managed fire from natural ignitions is an effective tool to accomplish restoration objectives, while also reducing firefighter exposure to risk. However, managed fires can cause undesirable smoke impacts, public access closures, and threats to adjacent property of values if the fire gets out of control. Public perception of wildfire as an *entirely negative* natural event is common and can result in tension between land managers and the public. When and where conditions allow, and with proper communication and coordination with landowners and the public, managed fire is an important tool that can reduce risks to fire responders and the severity of future wildfires, while also contributing to the ecological health of forested landscapes.

Considering all of these factors and local conditions, the decision was made to manage these ignitions instead of taking full suppression action. Due to steep terrain, remoteness of fire and length of time for medical evacuation, it was determined that managing the fire in the wilderness was the best course of action to limit exposure to fire fighter personnel. The fires were also allowed to play a natural role on the landscape for multiple resource benefits including reducing fuel loads, enhancing forest health, and maintaining Wilderness character. These fires collectively burned a total of 36,943 acres, with 28,266 acres resulting in low-moderate fire behavior, which made accomplishments toward our CFLRP goals of treating up to 300,000 of managed planned ignitions over 10 years.



Sturgill Mountain Fire 2022

Video on the fires produced by the Wallowa Whitman's Wallowa Mountain Office, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office describing the role of beneficial fire on the landscape.

If a wildfire interacted with a previously treated area within the CFLRP boundary:

For fuel treatment areas within the CFLR boundary, please upload to Box and respond to the following questions. The intent is to understand progress as well as challenges for learning and adaptation.

- Please describe if/how partners or community members engaged in the planning or implementation of the relevant fuels treatment. Did treatments include coordinated efforts on other federal, tribal, state, private, etc. lands? See responses below.
- What resource values were you and your partners concerned with protecting or enhancing? Did the treatments help to address these value concerns? See responses below.
- How are planned treatments affected by the fire over the rest of the project? Was there any resource benefit from the fire that was accomplished within the CFLRP footprint or is complementary to planned activities? See responses below.
- What is your key takeaway from this event – what would you have done differently? What elements will you continue to apply in the future? See responses below.

All wildfire interactions occurred with treatments which were implemented prior to the inception of the CFLRP project. Also, due to the nature of the treatments (i.e. wildfire and biomass removal through salvage) there was minimal collaborative input in these treatments. Suppression actions on the Bitty Small fire were successful, at least in part, due to reduced fire behavior where it overlapped with a recent strategically placed fuel treatment. Several other wildfire interactions occurred with previous wildfire events. While these were not strategically placed, they were most successful in moderating fire behavior and providing suppression opportunities due to their large size. The largest fire, with the most wildfire interactions, was Double Creek. In part due to its overlap with previous wildfires, and partially due to moderated fuel moistures, Double Creek has a large proportion of low to moderate fire effects and will have beneficial impacts on the landscape. Parts of the Sturgill fire burned into other managed fire scars in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

A shaded fuel break, implemented during suppression operations (was not implemented using CFLN funds) to protect the community of Lostine, was established on a potential operational delineation (POD) line. This fuelbreak occurred across the public/private boundary. An Oregon Department of Forestry representative was instrumental in the planning and communication with private landowners in the vicinity of the fuelbreak on private lands. Shaded fuel breaks allow fire to play a more natural role on the landscape without threatening homes, infrastructure and other values-at-risk. The POD lines are being used to prioritize where future fuels reduction/fuel breaks should occur as part of our CFLRP project. By focusing our CFLN funding and future fuels treatments close to values at risk and along prioritized POD lines, we will be more set up to allow fires to do their work.

FY22 Wildfire/Hazardous Fuels Expenditures

Category	
FY22 Wildfire Preparedness* (across all lands)	$19,742,707
FY22 Wildfire Suppression** (across all lands)	$22,446,564
FY22 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (CFLN, CFIX)	$2,565,006 (CFLN total minus off the top)
FY22 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (other BLIs)	$2,642,774

* 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).

** Include emergency fire suppression and BAER within the project landscape.

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. (If not relevant for this year, note "N/A")

We can compare the wildfires that burned during the last two years within our CFLRP landscape and their cost:

2021 wildfires:
- Acres burned: 147,000
- Suppression cost: $88.5 million

2022 wildfires and managed wildfires:
- Acres burned: 227,000
- Suppression cost: $22.4 million

However, there are many variables that affect wildfire suppression cost, including: the fire's location- in terms of terrain and under what land management, values at risk, weather and fuel conditions, occurrence of previous fuels treatments, availability of firefighting resources, etc., it can be difficult to point to anything specific as a causal factor. We cannot make any direct associations between treatments implemented during the last two years of our CFLRP project and a reduction in fire cost during those years.

Photos showcasing fire adapted landscapes and reducing hazardous fuel work.

The Northern Blues CFLRP has an overarching goal to "restore and maintain forested ecosystems to greater levels of fire resiliency, to reduce the risk, size and frequency of high severity wildfire, and allow naturally occurring fire to play its beneficial roles when and where appropriate." We use several strategies in order to accomplish this goal including but not limited to: (1) **Landscape scale, cross boundary treatments** (2) **Strategic fuel breaks** (3) Restoration of special habitats/resources (4) **Supporting local Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Fire**

adapted communities (5) Robust monitoring & adaptive management and (6) Development of local restoration workforce capacity and community benefit. Below are a few photos representing the work **restoring fire-adapted landscapes and reducing hazardous fuels** taking place across the Northern Blues CFLR landscape during fiscal year 2022.

Photo 1: Before

Photo 1: After

Photo 2: Before

Photo 2: After

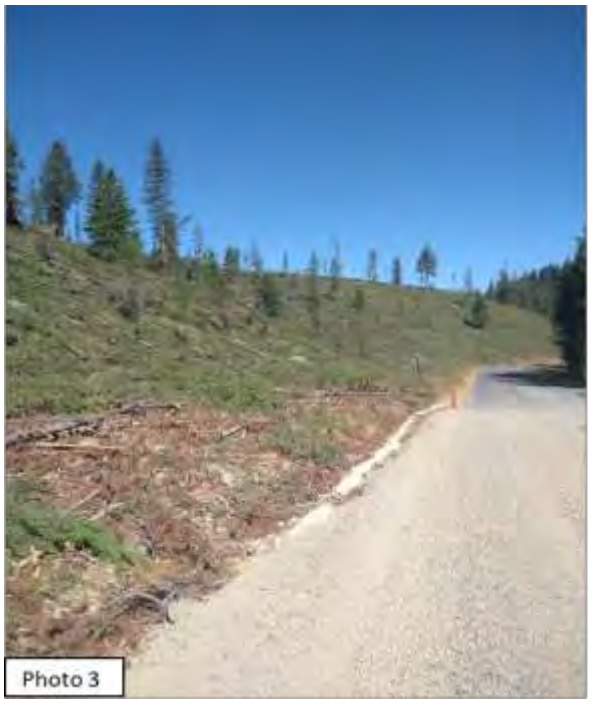


Photo 3

Photo 4

Photo 5

Photos 1 -5: Landscape scale, cross boundary treatments/Strategic fuel breaks: 27,450 acres of non-commercial restoration thinning and strategic fuel breaks were completed across NFS, private nonindustrial, and tribal forestlands in 2022. Photos 1 and 2 are before/after photos of the Granite Creek Mechanical thinning contract within the Ten Cent project area, which accomplished a total of 237 acres. Photo 4 is Fuel break along Granite Highway (County Rd.24). Photo 4 is a Ten Cent Thin/Pile contract which accomplished nearly 1,000 acres. Photo 5 is a Burning of Ten Cent hand piles.


Photo 6


Photo 7


Photo 8


Photo 9

Photos 6-9: *Landscape scale, cross boundary treatments/prescribed fire*: 20,179 acres of prescribed burns were completed within the CFLR landscape on public, private non industrial and Tribal lands in 2022. *Photos 6 and 7* are from the Tiger Creek prescribed burn performed in October 2022, which adjoins city property and work being completed on private lands funded through the WA DNR, NRCS-WA, ODF, and NRCS-OR. This was a highlight of the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership Fall field tour to the Mill Creek Watershed. The group discussed how the burn adjoins private and city lands, crosses two states, and is home to the Mill Creek Municipal Watershed. They also discussed how urgent land management challenges like extreme wildfires, severe drought, and invasive species do not recognize borders or boundary lines, and how the Forest Service is working to coordinate work across jurisdictions and leverage diverse capacities to improve forest health and resiliency across management jurisdictions. A story map was developed by the Umatilla National Forest's Walla Walla Ranger District to show the complexities of this landscape, and the project and its importance. *Photos 8 and 9* show the broadcast burn

performed in October 2022 on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Rainwater Wildlife Management Area. The burn was performed by CTUIR, BIA, and OSU Extension crews. Photo 3 of is a member of the Zuni Agency BIA Crew who assisted in the burn. Both burns were located within a priority "shared stewardship area" for the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership. *Photos courtesy of Amber Ingoglia, USFS; Alyssa Cudmore, Wallowa Resources; John Punches, OSU Extension; and Lindsay Chiono, CTUIR Rainwater Manager*

Photos 10 - 13: Beneficial Wildfire/Supporting local Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Fire adapted communities. 28,266 acres of beneficial/managed wildfire were completed across the CFLR landscape in 2022. A good example of this is the Sturgill Mountain Fire. *Photo 10* shows the Fire - which after local forestry contractors worked with the FS to construct a shaded fuel break between Lostine and Bear Creek to prevent fire growth to the north and the Lostine Firewise Community - was allowed to play a natural and beneficial role on the landscape for multiple resource benefits. As Wallowa County Commissioner Todd Nash stated: "*These remote Wilderness fires that pose no threat to private lands should be monitored closely. They also serve as a benefit by reducing heavy fuel loads caused by long interruptions in the natural fire regime. I fully support the Forest Service current response*." *Photo 11* is a clip from a video the Wallowa Mountain office released with the ODF and OSFM explaining the role of beneficial wildfire on the landscape. *Photos 12 and 13* are from the Lostine Canyon Community wildfire debrief following the Sturgill Fire. The communication between the Wallowa-Whitman-Wallowa Mountain Office and the Lostine Canyon Firewise Community was an excellent example of shared stewardship. The residents were placed on Evacuation level 2 as teams from Oregon State Fire Marshal and other Firefighters from incident command came to assess and secure the community for the fire. The positive response from the fire professionals reflected the preventative measures already achieved by the community: "*My sense is that everyone is grateful for the preparations we've done to be ready for just this kind of event*," said Mike Eng, Lostine Canyon Firewise Community liaison. We heard repeatedly from the OSFM Structural Fire Teams who responded that this was the most prepared community that they've ever encountered, including an excellent system of neighbor-to-neighbor communication to keep everyone informed and communication with the FS,

including explaining to the community the role of beneficial wildfire. Across Northeast Oregon 17 Firewise Communities have either been developed or are in the process of becoming Firewise Communities. A Firewise Community is a community of landowners dedicated to preparing their community and collective forestlands for a wildfire by participating in community wildfire reduction and forest restoration efforts. OSFM was so impressed by the Lostine Canyon Firewise Communitiy's efforts that they are fully funding a high quality video to tell its story. *Photos courtesy of Haley Thompson and USFS- Wallowa Whitman*

5. Additional Ecological Goals

Narrative Overview of Treatments Completed in FY22 to achieve ecological goals outlined in your CFLRP proposal and work plan. This may include, and isn't limited to, activities related to habitat enhancement, invasives, and watershed condition.

Consider including how was this area prioritized for treatment, what kinds of information, input, and/or analyses were used to prioritize what you learned.

Project					
Acres w/ Restoration across Northern Blues public, private and tribal forestlands (passive + active)	99,383 acres	95,386 acres	194,769 acres	901,600 acres	22%

Regarding prioritization and the data and analyses used to inform it, see response to (*Question #4: Restoring Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Reducing Hazardous Fuels).*

Please see overview of cross boundary treatments that also meet additional ecological goals in (*Question #3: Activities on the Ground).*

Photos showcasing restoration of special habitats and resources

The Northern Blues CFLRP has an overarching goal to "restore and maintain forested ecosystems to greater levels of fire resiliency, to reduce the risk, size and frequency of high severity wildfire, and allow naturally occurring fire to play its beneficial roles when and where appropriate." We use several strategies in order to accomplish this goal including but not limited to: (1) Landscape scale, cross boundary treatments (2) Strategic fuel breaks (3) **Restoration of special habitats/resources** (4) Supporting local Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Fire adapted communities (5) Robust monitoring & adaptive management and (6) Development of local restoration workforce capacity and community benefit.

Below are a few photos representing the work **restoring special habitats/resources** taking place across the Northern Blues CFLR landscape during fiscal year 2022


Wilson Haun post-project
September 22, 2022. Approximately 150 cfs


Wilson Haun pre-project
July 29, 2016. Approximately 140 cfs


Pre Photos - Catherine Creek River Mile 38


Post Photos - - Catherine Creek River Mile 38

Photos 14 - 20: ***Restoration of special habitats/resources:*** *Photos 14 and 15* are of before and after photos of the Wilson Haun project located in the Wallowa subbasin. The Project improved water quality and habitat for adult and juvenile spring Chinook, summer steelhead, bull trout, and Pacific lamprey within a high priority salmon and steelhead stream. Trout Unlimited (TU) in partnership with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Council (GRMW), private landowners, and local partners (Nez Perce, ODFW) converted the stream from a single-thread channel into a multi-threaded system connected to its floodplain at base flow. *Photos 16-19* are from the Catherine Creek River Mile 38 Stream Restoration Project on private lands funded by Union Soil Water Conservation District where .25 miles of stream was restored, 15 instream structures were installed, both banks were stabilized on both sides of the stream, one new pool was added, and 4 existed pools were enhanced. *Photo 20* is a photo of targeted weed spraying happening on private lands along the Snake River by local noxious weed contractors funded through the Walowa Canyonlands Partnership. The Upper Grande Ronde Initiative - a partnership focusing on restoration of 11 prioritized reaches of the Grand Ronde sub-basin and the Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership - cross-jurisdictional noxious weed management in the Grande Ronde Valley - are two excellent examples of special habitat restoration efforts happening across all lands within our landscape. *Photos Courtesy of Ian Wilson and Kayla Morinaga, Grande Ronde Model Watershed and Talia Filipek, Wallowa Resources*

6. Socioeconomic Goals

Narrative overview of activities completed in FY22 to achieve socioeconomic goals outlined in your CFLRP proposal and work plan.

Examples may include activities related to community wildfire protection, contribution to the local recreation/tourism economy, volunteer and outreach opportunities, job training, expanding market access, public input and involvement, cultural heritage, subsistence uses, etc.

Public Education/ Public Input in Processes/ Private Landowner Engagement

Forest Collaborative. Over this past year the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (our forest collaborative covering both the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests) made significant progress. They held 11 field tours and presentations for the Collaborative members and general public (each averaging between 20-30 participants), performed an evaluation of their collaborative capacity, and updated their Operating Principles and Zones of Agreement (ZOAs).

Summary of NBFC's field tours, ZOA and OPs, & Evaluation

Private Landowner and General Public Webinars & Workshops. In and effort to build the collective knowledge base of our small forestland owner community and the general public across the Northern Blues landscape OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension (in collaboration with My Blues Mountains Woodland Partnership and the Northeast Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association) has deployed 30 separate private landowner and general public workshops, trainings, and webinars for a total of 1202 participants in 2022. The webinar series has been created to focus on varying topics related to forest management, living in a fire adapted ecosystem, and other restoration related topics marketed to all forest landowners across the Northern Blues footprint (via social media, direct mailings, and newspaper ads). The new Northeast Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association hosted several tours in 2022 targeted to landowners in the Northern Blues including (1) November 2021 - Tour on the Defrees Property (2) May 2022 - Annual Meeting and Tour, Union County. Valerio's Tree Farm and (3) October series of Mill Tours in September to Boise Cascade Plywood, Woodgrain Sawmill and Woodgrain Composites to learn where many of the forest products coming from their forestlands are going and how they are supporting local workforce opportunities and locally produced products.

Summary of webinar series

Story Telling. The All Lands Communications Team created a draft Communications Framework. Using this framework they produced several new products for the Partnership to increase the partnership's transparency. These products include: (1) A new NBALRP Website and map; (2) a NBALRP onboarding video (password: AllL@nds) for new and current members of the Partnership to help them understand the history of the partnership/region and how the Partnership operates; (3) a regular newsletter; (4) partnership draft dashboard; (5) a new logo; and (6) brochure.

Several products were produced by members of the Partnership to tell the story of the collective work across the partnership on public, private and tribal lands in a meaningful and compelling way. A few of these included: (1) a story map detailing the Tiger Mill Project on the Umatilla National Forest - a forest management project designed to protect drinking water, spanning two states (2) a ''Voices of the Blues: Stories from the Forests of Northeastern Oregon" a multimedia series telling the stories of forest landowners and managers stewarding our private forestlands in the Northern Blue Mountains (3) a video the Wallowa-Whitman's Wallowa Mountain Office created after the Sturgill, Nebo and Goat Mountain Fires describing the role of beneficial wildfire on the landscape (4) a story map detailing the 2021 Wildfire Season for the Umatilla National Forest for the general public and (5) a story map explaining how the priority landscape restoration model works to inform vegetation management priorities on the Umatilla National Forest, which can then be used to inform the Forest's future program of work and (6) several new websites for the region including a new Northeast Oregon Firewise Community Website, a new Northeast Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association Website, and new Blues Intergovernmental Council Website (overarching entity for planning and guidance around land management issues related to the Blue Mountain Forests).

New funding opportunities. Several funding opportunities were obtained this year to support restoration work on private lands. Each grant is a result of the NBR Partnership which established the vision, planning and capacity to secure competitive funding. Our private land partners' successfully secured $440,451 via Senate Bill 762-comprehensive legislation providing more than $220 million to help Oregon improve wildfire preparedness through (1) creating fire-adapted communities, (2) developing safe and effective response, and (3) increasing the resiliency of Oregon's Landscapes. Which will result in wildfire risk reduction projects and defensible space treatments on 140 acres or 143 homesites among groups of landowners in current or future Firewise Communities located within the Wildland Urban Interface. (see *Life on the Dry Side*, page 8, for a story on the work). Another successful example was the new East Oregon-wide Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) that the region received earlier in late 2021 ($4M, with a call out for applications in Fall 2022 with ability to implement spring of 2023).

Cross Institutional Agreements/ Partner Relationships

Northern Blues All Lands Restoration Partnership (NBAL). NBAL is a coalition of diverse local and regional partners collectively committed to strategically planning and implementing forest and fire resiliency restoration projects across 10-million acres of public, private and tribal forestland in the southeast Washington- northeast Oregon Northern Blue Mountains Region to restore and maintain forested ecosystems to greater levels of fire resiliency, to reduce the risk, size and frequency of high severity wildfire, and allow naturally occurring fire to play its beneficial roles when and where appropriate. The Partnership completed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2021 outlining our collective goals and objectives. All partners signed the MOU in January 2022. See *Question #8 - Collaboration* for a full description of the Partnership.

The NBALRP held several meetings and tours of the Partnership in 2022. Here are Links to photos from the Spring and Fall 2022 NBALRP Field Tours hosted by the Baker City Watershed and the Mill Creek Watershed Project Teams. Annual meeting of the full Partnership on December 6; the meeting of all Project/Implementation Teams on December 9; and Leadership Team meeting on January 20.

Increase # of agreements, which include incoming funding, in-kind contributions and non-funded work.

- In FY22, there were 37 separate single or multi-year agreements that covered CFLRP accomplishment work, for a total matching funds amount covered under agreement of $9,618,907
- In FY21, there were 21 separate single or multi-year agreements that covered CFLRP accomplishment work, for a total matching funds amount covered under agreement of $8,337,667

Reports:

- Final Partnership MOU
- CFLRP Report, Question 2.b

Community Wildfire Protection

Firewise Communities. As a method to mobilize, educate and engage neighborhoods and groups of landowners located within the Project's cross boundary project areas - the My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership has been building capacity to support a new Firewise Community Program in Northeast Oregon since late 2019. A Firewise Community is a community of landowners dedicated to preparing their community and collective forestlands for a wildfire by participating in community wildfire reduction and forest restoration efforts. It is a neighborhood-level organizing tool to increase local landowner involvement in forestry and wildfire risk reduction projects. There are now 17 current and future Firewise Communities in Northeast Oregon.

Reports:

- Overview of Publicity for NE OR Firewise effort

Materials to Local Infrastructure/ Jobs to Local Economy and Job Training Opportunities/ Youth Involvement

Prescribed Fire Training. New course on prescribed fire that OSU Extension organized in Spring 2022. During the two-week intensive course students designed and implemented a prescribed burn on OSU's Oberteuffer Research Forest, near Elgin, to meet specific ecological and landowner objectives. The course included field sessions to understand CTUIR and TNC fire-related management objectives, discussions on the fire ecology of the Blue Mountains and how to manage fire effects, hands-on fuel load and moisture measurement processes, fire line construction using a variety of techniques, prescribed fire management, and post fire monitoring. All of these

were linked to development of an effective burn plan. Currently creating a similar class for private landowners. See story in Life on the Dry Side Newsletter, page 14.

Prescribed burn training video

Workforce Development Through Monitoring. Through the NBAL monitoring program described below, seven high school student interns in Baker and Wallowa County and four early career professionals developed forestry skills through participating in forest monitoring, two college research assistants developed skills related to socioeconomic monitoring, two graduate students worked on an avian monitoring project with FS wildlife biologists; six interns worked with the Klamath Bird Observatory. Two of the early career professionals were retained on two months of additional contracts working with FS staff and on private lands monitoring because of the forestry skills they developed.

Monitoring Crew Presentation

Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington Contractor Survey and Directory. Based on frequent feedback regarding the current and future capacity of regionally based natural resource contractors, partners compiled a survey that was distributed to 470 contractors in Northeast Oregon and Southeast Washington in Spring/Summer 2022, with a second round planned for Winter 2022. The goal of the survey is to identify challenges and opportunities our current contractors are facing in order to maximize the local economic benefit coming from the new funding sources available for forest and watershed restoration work on private, public and tribal forestlands across our Northern Blues region such as CFLR, RCPP, EQIP, Senate Bill 762, Western States, OWEB, CALRP, etc.Phase two of the survey is being conducted during Winter 2022, and a contractor advisory group will be convened in 2023. Partners also helped organize the first NE Oregon Operators Dinner for the Contractors in three years in Spring 2022. Worked with partners to create a database for current forestry contractors in Northeast Oregon. The draft database is located on the website.

Contractor survey

Mill Survey. Each year, the National Forest Foundation's Conservation Connect Fellowship matches graduate forestry students with nonprofit Forest Service partners. This summer, Evie Vermeer (UCSB Bren School Master of Environmental Science & Management candidate and Sustainable Forestry Fellow) worked with partners to assess regional mill capacity for processing forest restoration byproducts. Through dozens of surveys with mill managers, investment analysts, researchers, industry representatives and academics, Vermeer aggregated data on current volumes and capacities, timber procurement trends, and industry challenges for forest restoration projects that produce non-saw materials. A report with survey details, data analyses, visualizations, and discussion was completed in Winter 2022 and will be a tool for Northern Blues partners to use in their restoration planning.

Mill Survey Report

BIC Socio Economic Impact Report. Through a partnership with the REV (Rural Engagement and Vitality Center – a joint venture of Eastern Oregon University and Wallowa Resources) we are leveraging new socio economic assessment tools and capacity to monitor our collective impact on critical indicators of community and economic vitality and resilience to measure the impact these restoration treatments will be having on our local communities. REV released its Blue Intergovernmental Council Socioeconomic Report this Fall 2022. It provides a snapshot of the 14 Oregon and Washington counties within the areas of the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur National Forests a good baseline and will involve a follow-up study five years from now. Partners are working to incorporate restoration work done on private and tribal lands.

BIC report and article

NW Youth Corps. NW Youth Corps worked in the Pine Valley Firewise Community to implement Defensible Space Projects via Senate Bill 762.

See Page 9-20 for article on NW Youth Corps

Increased Forest Consultant Capacity. The NE OR Forest Management Mentorship and Training Program was launched by the My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership partners in response to new requirements that all Northeast Oregon private landowners have a forest management plan in place prior to accessing cost share dollars to perform forestry work on their property - in addition to a lack of Northeast Oregon forestry consultants with the capacity to meet this new demand for plans. The program included both a formalized training and mentorship where new forestry technicians/interns were paired with experienced Northeast Oregon forest consultants or mentors to co-write forest management plans for private forest landowners. We now have seven additional private forest consultant technicians and a full time ODF forester who are writing plans for landowners in the Northern Blues project area. 128 plans over 95,554 acres were completed in 2022 for a total of 289 plans over 157,508 acres. All plans are being completed in the Partnership's priority cross-boundary project areas.

Forest Management Plan Program Summary

Tribal involvement

Monitoring. The new NBAL monitoring program has been a bridge for building relationships between NBAL partners and local Tribes. Tribal staff from CTUIR along with a researcher at a local college reached out to the Monitoring Team in spring of 2021 to develop a monitoring project assessing the impacts of restoration treatments on biocultural resources (huckleberries, roots and celery). This spurred the development of a monitoring crew dedicated to roots and celery monitoring in Spring and Summer/Fall of 2022. The All Lands monitoring crew, in collaboration with staff from the CTUIR and Eastern Oregon University installed and measured 70 monitoring plots between April and early June 2022. Monitoring plots were established on tribal and Forest Services land (Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests), and will be used to evaluate how culturally important plants respond to management and restoration treatments. Members of the Monitoring Team are also in conversation with Nez Perce Tribe staff about extending the monitoring work developed with CTUIR to their usual and accustomed areas on the National Forest, in addition to incorporating huckleberry monitoring into next year's season.

Roots and Celery Monitoring

CTUIR hosts Northern Blues Forest Collaborative field tour. CTUIR's Climate Adaptation Planner and Supervisory Forester presented at NBFC's monthly meeting and hosted the NBFC's field tour at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation showcasing a timber sale, a tethered logging project, and a huckleberry weather station and monitoring climate data on first foods. They also provided an overview of Reserved Treaty Rights land funding sources.

NBFC Field Tour

Prescribed Fire. Another great example of a collaborative effort included the Rainwater Wildfire Area Broadcast Burn. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Rainwater Wildlife Area worked alongside OSU Extension and Bureau of Indian Affairs to implement a 34.4 acre broadcast burn in 2022. This was accompanied by 29.5 acres of understory hand thinning and pruning funded by WA DNR, and 180 acres of commercial thinning with revenues applied to slash mastication.

Rainwater Broadcast Burn Photos

Results from the Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Toolkit (TREAT). For guidance, training, and resources, see materials on Restoration Economics SharePoint.[7] After submitting your data entry form to the Forest Service Washington Office Economist Team, they will provide the analysis results needed to respond to the following prompts.

- Percent of funding that stayed within the local impact area is: **60%**.
- The percentage of funding through agreements that stayed local was: **83%**.

Contract Funding Distributions Table ("Full Project Details" Tab):

Description	Project Percent
Equipment intensive work	32
Labor-intensive work	28
Material-intensive work	12
Technical services	17
Professional services	6
Contracted Monitoring	5
TOTALS:	100%

Modeled Jobs Supported/Maintained (CFLRP and matching funding):

Jobs Supported/Maintained in FY 2022				
Timber harvesting component	109	155	$9,927,705	$12,110,054
Forest and watershed restoration component	76	139	$4,152,413	$6,471,414
Mill processing component	184	381	$13,425,563	$21,272,030
Implementation and monitoring	37	46	$3,358,746	$3,773,389
Other Project Activities	8	11	$341,312	$465,084
TOTALS:	414	733	$31,205,739	$44,091,971

Were there any assumptions you needed to make in your TREAT data entry you would like to note here? To what extent do the TREAT results align with your observations or other monitoring on the ground?

The local area, or economic impact area, input into the TREAT database included a total of 15 counties in FY22. These are the counties that are fully contained in or partially overlapping with the Northern Blues CFLRP boundary and/or where infrastructure important to project treatments are located.

The following were the reasons identified why these counties were included:

[7] Addresses Core Monitoring Question #7

- Counties are within the CFLRP project boundary: Oregon- Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler; Washington- Asotin, Columbia, Garfield; Idaho- Adams, Idaho

- Counties outside of the CFLRP boundary, but where timber processing facilities are located: Idaho- Nez Perce

This list includes two fewer counties (Walla Walla County in WA and Canyon County in ID were removed) than were included in the FY21 TREAT entry. Walla Walla County (pop. 62,700) and Canyon County (pop. 243,000) have infrastructure, industry and businesses that are not reliant on natural resource management and do not have any wood processing facilities located in either county that serve the CFLRP area and are substantial enough to be significant in a larger economy. (There is one post and pole facility in Canyon County where timber products from the project area are utilized, however, the facility is not a significant contributor to the county economy.)

Please provide a brief description of the local businesses that benefited from CFLRP related contracts and agreements, including characteristics such as tribally-owned firms, veteran-owned firms, women-owned firms, minority-owned firms, and business size.[8] For resources, see materials here (external Box folder).

The Grant Assistance administered by the Forest Service through the CFLRP for the Blue Mountain Region was received by nine agencies in three counties, Wallowa, Union, and Baker. The largest recipients were Wallowa Resources, Inc and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation. Both projects were targeted for the Northern Blues Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Multiparty Monitoring project. Other projects include the Grande Ronde Watershed Ecosystem Effectiveness Monitoring, Trails Association Partnership, Natural Resource Stewardship Crews, Camp Creek Beaver Resiliency Project, High School Monitoring Crew, Mill Creek Baseflow Assessment and Springs Inventory for Sustainable Drinking Water, and Backcountry Airstrips Maintenance and Support. It is not evident from this data that these projects were conducted by small private business, minority owned, woman owned or tribally affiliated. More information is needed to make this determination.

30 Contracts that were administered by the Forest Service were made up of 30% small businesses, as Sole Proprietorships or Partnerships. Corporate Not Tax Exempt made up 9 of the 30 organizations. All contracts were administered to firms in Baker, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa County. The majority of the contracts were administered to Henderson Logging in Wallowa County. The type of work that was administered was primarily the construction of highways, roads, streets and repair of the same, to natural resource conservation work. All businesses were U.S. owned business, small business set aside classification, with none of the contracts clearly fulfilling the minority-owned, woman owned or tribal affiliation owned classifications.

Photos showcasing local restoration workforce capacity and community benefit

The Northern Blues CFLRP has an overarching goal to “restore and maintain forested ecosystems to greater levels of fire resiliency, to reduce the risk, size and frequency of high severity wildfire, and allow naturally occurring fire to play its beneficial roles when and where appropriate.” We use several strategies in order to accomplish this goal including but not limited to: (1) Landscape scale, cross boundary treatments (2) Strategic fuel breaks (3) Restoration of special habitats/resources (4) Supporting local Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Fire adapted communities (5) Robust monitoring & adaptive management and (6) **Development of local restoration workforce capacity and community benefit.**

[8]Addresses Core Monitoring Question #8

Below are a few photos representing work happening that is supporting **local workforce capacity & community benefit** taking place across the Northern Blues CFLR landscape during fiscal year 2022.

Photos 21 - 25: ***Development of local restoration workforce capacity and community benefit*.** *Photo 2*1 is a photo of OSU Extension's brand new two week intensive prescribed fire course at its Oberteuffer Research Forest, near Elgin they created alongside TNC and CTUIR to increase capacity in the Northern Blues to perform prescribed fires in Spring 2022. Photo 22 is of the Bear Creek Shaded Fuel Break in Wallowa County constructed by several local forestry contractors to protect private lands adjoining Forest Service lands (including the Lostine Firewise Community) during the Sturgill & Goat Mountain 2 Fires. Downed trees from the fuel break were salvaged and processed into wood products. *Photo 2*3 is of the Pine Valley Firewise Community who worked with the NW Youth Corps to complete 30.5 acres of defensible space projects in Summer 2022. *Photo 24* is a newspaper article on the new BIC Socioeconomic Report released this year - to develop a baseline for the socioeconomic impact of the restoration work on the Northern Blues communities. *Photo 25* is from the Northern Blues Forest

Collaborative Tour hosted by CTUIR. *Photos courtesy of John Rizza, NE OR Fire Extension Specialist; Todd Peterson, Asst. Fire Management Officer, Wallowa Mtn. Ranger District; Debi Lorence, Pine Valley Firewise Community Leader, and Samantha Bernards, NBFC Facilitator.*

7. Wood Products Utilization

Timber & Biomass Volume Table9

Performance Measure		
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	71,190
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	74,821
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	(Included in TMBR-VOL-HVST)

Reviewing the data above, do you have additional data sources or descriptions to add in terms of wood product utilization (for example, work on non-National Forest System lands not included in the table)?

The table above includes wood product utilization volumes from across the Northern Blues, including NFS, private industrial, private non-industrial, and Tribal lands.

8. Collaboration

Please include an up-to-date list of the core members of your collaborative if it has changed from your proposal/work plan (if it has not changed, note below).10 For detailed guidance and resources, see materials here. Please document changes using the template from the CFLRP proposal and upload to Box. Briefly summarize and describe changes below.

Below is an overview of the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership membership as outlined within the Partnership's MOU. Further, two "collaboration evaluations" were performed this year identified below:

- Link to the 2022 CFLRP Collaboration Assessment completed on the Northern BLues Restoration Partnership to understand if the Partnership is supporting an effective and meaningful collaborative approach to forest restoration. See response to the Assessment in Monitoring Question #12: "How well is CFLRP encouraging an effective and meaningful collaborative approach?"
- The Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (the public lands resource team of the partnership) also performed an evaluation of the Collaborative Functionality this year, following up on a 2015 evaluation conducted by the University of Michigan (Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Evaluation executive summary and presentation).

LEADERSHIP TEAM: Our Leadership Team is composed of representatives of agencies/entities with responsibility for forestland management within the Northern Blues.

[9] Addresses Core Monitoring Question #10

[10] Addresses Core Monitoring Question #11

- Paul Anderes, Chair, Eastern Oregon Counties Association
- Jay Gibbs, Basin Team Leader, Natural Resources Conservation Service John Day/Umatilla and Snake River Basins
- Matt Howard, District Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry Northeast Oregon District
- Shaun McKinney, Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service
- Andrew Spaeth, Environmental Planner, Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Eric Watrud, Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service
- Invited: Eric Quaempts, Director of DNR Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Aaron Miles, Director of DNR Nez Perce Tribe

OPERATIONS TEAM: Our Operations Team serves a supportive administrative role for the Partnership. But the heart of our Partnership are our Project and Resource Teams.

- John Punches - OSU Extension Service, NE OR Extension Forester
- Samantha Bernards - Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Facilitator
- Vacant, All Lands Monitoring team External Coordinator
- Willy Crippen - Northern Blues Cohesive Strategy Partnership Coordinator
- Amber Ingoglia, CFLR Coordinator, Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman NFs
- Nils Christoffersen, Wallowa Resources
- Darcy Weseman - Umatilla NF, Public Affairs Officer
- Alyssa Cudmore - My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator
- Kaci Radcliffe, The Nature Conservancy
- Pam Hardy, Western Environmental Law Center

PROJECT TEAMS: Our Project Teams are assembled by Partnership members to respond to locally or regionally identified treatment priorities. Project Teams include representatives of the project area's landowners, agencies that manage land within the project area, and agencies, organizations/entities that add treatment capacity or other needed resources or skill sets.

Garfield County (WA)

- UNF District Ranger - Pomeroy RD: Susan Piper
- DNR - Andrew Naughton & Alison Martin
- NRCS - WA - Tracey Hanger
- CTUIR Rainwater: Lindsay Chiono, Gerry Middell

Umatilla County (OR)

- UNF District Ranger - Walla Walla RD: Aaron Gagnon
- NRCS District Conservationist - Pendleton: Nate James
- ODF Unit Forester/ Stewardship Forester- Pendleton: Matt Hoena and Hans Rudolf
- CTUIR Forester: Andrew Addessi

Wallowa County (OR)

- WWNF District Ranger - Wallowa RD: Brian Anderson
- NRCS District Conservationist - Wallowa: Abe Clarke
- ODF Unit Forester/ Stewardship Forester- Wallowa: Tracy Brostrom, Tim Cudmore, Joseph Geobel, Sarah Anderson
- NPT - Forester/staff: Andrew Saralecos

Union County (OR)

- WWNF District Ranger - La Grande RD: SJ Phillips

- NRCS District Conservationist - La Grande: Mike Burton
- ODF Unit Forester/ Stewardship Forester-La Grande: Logan McCrae, Travis Lowe, Abby McBeth
- Additional Attendees UNF District Ranger – Heppner RD - Doug McKay UNF District Ranger – North Fork John Day RD - Stephaney Kerley

Baker County (OR)

- WWNF District Ranger - Baker City: Kendall Cikanek
- NRCS District Conservationist -Baker: Hannah Smith
- ODF Unit Forester/ Stewardship Forester- Baker: Logan McCrae and Jana Peterson

RESOURCE TEAMS: Our Resource Teams provide specialized, region-wide support to Project Teams.

- All Lands Communication, Education and Storytelling Team
- Samantha Bernards - Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Facilitator
- Joseph Black - Wallowa Whitman, Public Affairs Officer
- Darcy Weseman - Umatilla NF, Public Affairs Officer
- Lauren Bennett - NRCS Oregon, Public Affairs Officer
- John Punches - OSU Extension Service, NE OR Extension Forester
- Willy Crippen - Cohesive Strategy Partnership, Coordinator
- Molly Johnson - ODF Education Specialist
- Pam Hardy - Western Environmental Law Center
- Alyssa Cudmore - My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator
- Kelly Makela - Wallowa Resources, Forest Communications Specialist
- Marlee Goska - Western Environmental Law Center
- Northern Blue Monitoring Team (All Lands Monitoring and Evaluation)
- Caitlin Rushlow, All Lands Monitoring team External Coordinator, Wallowa Resources
- Jim Brammer (CFLR Monitoring Coordinator, USFS - UNF/WWNF)
- Alison Martin (Fuel Coordinator for 9 counties, WA Department of Natural Resources)
- Andrew Addressi (Forester, CTUIR)
- Andy Perleberg (Forester, E. WA WSU Extension)
- Bryan Endress (EOU/OSU)
- Kaci Radcliffe, (The Nature Conservancy)
- Christy Johnson (Ecologist, USFS - Malheur/UNF/WWNF)
- Adam Coble, (Monitoring Specialist, Oregon Department of Forestry)
- John Punches (Forester, NE OR OSU Extension)
- Alyssa Cudmore - Wallowa Resources, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator
- Amy Charette (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs)
- Angela Sondenaa (Precious Lands Project Leader, NPT)
- Samantha Bernards - Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Facilitator
- Subteam experts (resources specialists from agencies and outside experts/academic)
- My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership (private landowner mobilization/ engagement)
- Alyssa Cudmore - Wallowa Resources, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator
- American Forest Foundation (Chantz Joyce)
- Wallowa Resources (Nils Christoffersen)
- OSU Extension Service (John Punches, Jacob Putney, John Rizza)
- Oregon Forest Resources Institute (Julie Woodward)
- Blue Mountains Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (Willy Crippen)
- Acting - Amber Ingoglia Wallowa-Whitman & Umatilla National Forests

- Jay Gibbs, Basin Team Leader, Natural Resources Conservation Service John Day/Umatilla and Snake River Basins
- Matt Howard, District Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry Northeast Oregon District
- Oregon Department of Forestry (Unit and Stewardship Foresters)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (District Conservationists)
- US Forest Service (Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman Forests)
- Blue Mountains Prescribed Fire Council
- USFS WWF Fuels Staff Officer
- Willy Crippen - ODF; Northern Blues Cohesive Strategy Partnership Coordinator
- Matt Howard - ODF - District Forester
- Jacob Putney - OSU Extension
- John Rizza - OSU Extension
- Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
- Samantha Bernards - Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Facilitator
- Nils Christoffersen, Wallowa Resources
- Mike Billman, Oregon Dept. of Forestry
- Kaci Radcliffe,The Nature Conservancy
- Katy Nesbitt, Wallowa County
- Paul Anderes, Union County
- Pam Hardy, Western Environmental Law Center
- Stewardship Workforce and Forest By Product Utilization Team
- Nils Christoffersen, Wallowa Resources
- Alyssa Cudmore - Wallowa Resources, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator
- Amber Ingoglia, CFLR Coordinator, Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman NFs
- Mike Billman, Oregon Dept. of Forestry
- Irene Jerome, American Forest Resources Council
- Gavin Smith (UMF timber contracting officer)
- Bradyn Child (WWF timber contracting officer)
- Vanessa Haggadorn, Association of Oregon Loggers

Four primary partnerships/collaborative entities in the region - the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (National Forest System Lands), the My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership (private lands), Northern Blues Cohesive Strategy Group, and several of our regional watershed councils, worked collaboratively to develop the Northern Blues CFLRP proposal. In the intervening time, our region has developed a more coordinated system or structure to support the goals of the Northern Blue CFLR - the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership (aka Northern Blues All Lands Partnership) - convened by the Northern Blues Cohesive Strategy Group.

The Northern Blues Restoration Partnership (NBR Partnership) works across a 10.4 million-acre landscape in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The region has a strong history of collaborative efforts and partners have implemented a number of forest and fire resiliency projects that spanned public, private, and Tribal land ownerships. In 2021, the NBR Partnership formed to serve as a primary collaborative partner for the region's newly selected CFLRP project. The partnership embodies the region's cross-boundary focus and intends to help make partner connections, coordinate resources, leverage funding, and add capacity to local-level implementation efforts. Its organizational structure encompasses several existing groups, including a federal forest collaborative (Northern Blues Forest Collaborative) and a private lands-focused partnership (My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership), as well as newly established groups focused on emerging priorities such as strategic communications, monitoring, and forest industry support. Governance documents and processes

encouraging a more defined and integrated relationship between these groups aim to help enshrine an all-lands approach to the CFLRP project moving forward.

Partnership Structure

- **Project Teams**: These place-based teams are intended to be the driving force of the NBR Partnership, which reflects the bottom-up approach that drove its creation. Project teams are focused on developing, coordinating and implementing public, private, and tribal forest and watershed restoration and stewardship projects. These teams are expected to emerge, evolve, and eventually phase out as projects are initiated, undertaken, and completed. Many of the project teams had histories of working together on an ad-hoc basis within each county, a fact that the NBR Partnership incorporated into its structure.
- **Resource Teams:** Six resource teams with specialized expertise in key areas provide targeted support to project teams on an as-needed basis. Some resource teams were newly created to fill cross-partnership needs such as communications, workforce development, and monitoring. Other resource team roles are filled by existing groups like the My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership, which supports landowner-focused outreach, and the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative, which serves as the venue for engagement in national forest management-related topics. Resource teams are intended to be in close communication with project teams, given that their work is directly shaped by project team needs.
- **Operations Team**: This group of about 10 individuals serves as the Partnership's "central nervous system." Team members – mostly coordinators from resource teams – liaise between project teams, resource teams, and the leadership team, helping with coordination and communication, connecting partners with resources, promoting shared learning, and generally maintaining momentum. This team also oversees full-partnership meeting organization, annual planning, and budget responsibilities.
- **Leadership Team**: This team is composed of top leadership from entities with management responsibilities and/or key resource providers, including the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), state natural resources agencies, and the Eastern Oregon Counties Association. Tribes in the region also were invited to participate in the leadership team. As high-level decision-makers and direction-setters, the members of this team are responsible for supporting the establishment and alignment of priorities at the landscape level, then committing resources within their agencies and organizations to ensure follow-through on the ground. They also play an important role in maintaining commitment to the all-lands approach over time and within various levels of each agency and organization through their supervision of staff who are part of the operations, resource, and project teams. The leadership team meets twice a year but also provides input on partnership operations more frequently via email communication with a liaison from the operations team.

Using this structure, the Partnership has made significant progress in 2022 - see highlights below.

Description					
Acres meeting restoration objectives across Northern Blues public, private and tribal forestlands (active restoration + beneficial/managed wildfire)	99,383 acres	95,386 acres	194,769 acres	901,600 acres	22%

- Links to photos from the Spring and Fall 2022 NBALRP Field Tours hosted by the Baker City Watershed and the Mill Creek Watershed Project Teams.

- Annual meeting of the full Partnership on December 6; the meeting of all Project/Implementation Teams on December 9; and Leadership Team meeting on January 20. We are preparing for this year's meetings in Winter 2022/2023 and will include updates in our next report.
- While most of these are still in draft form:
    - A new NBALRP Website
    - A NBALRP onboarding video (password: AllL@nds) for new and current members of the Partnership to help them understand the history of the partnership/region and how the Partnership operates.
    - A regular newsletter
    - A partnership draft dashboard

Photo 26. Fall NBRP All Lands Field Tour to the Mill Creek Watershed

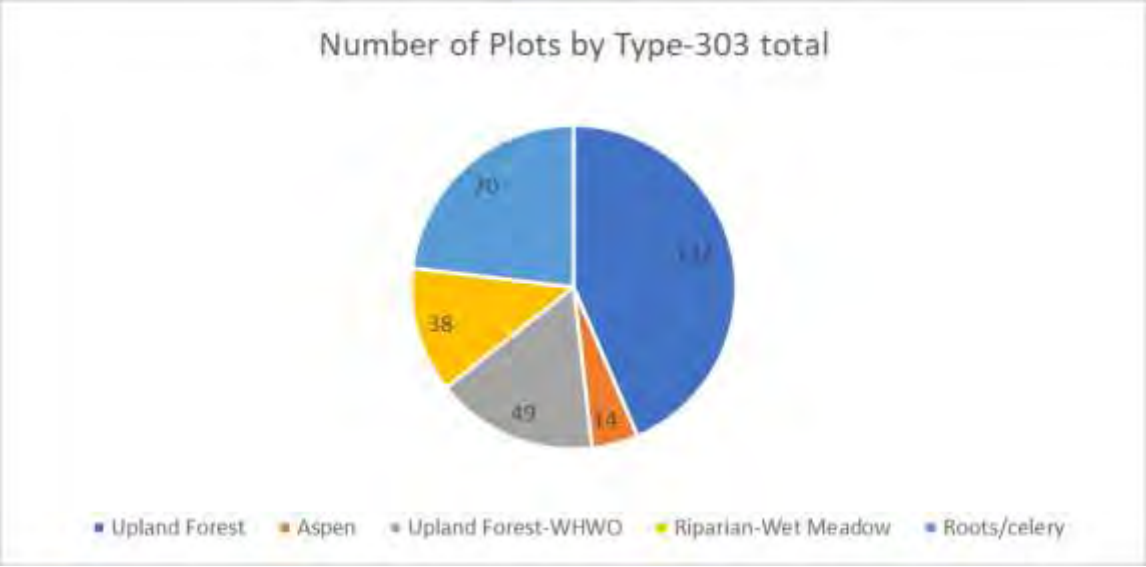
9. Monitoring Process

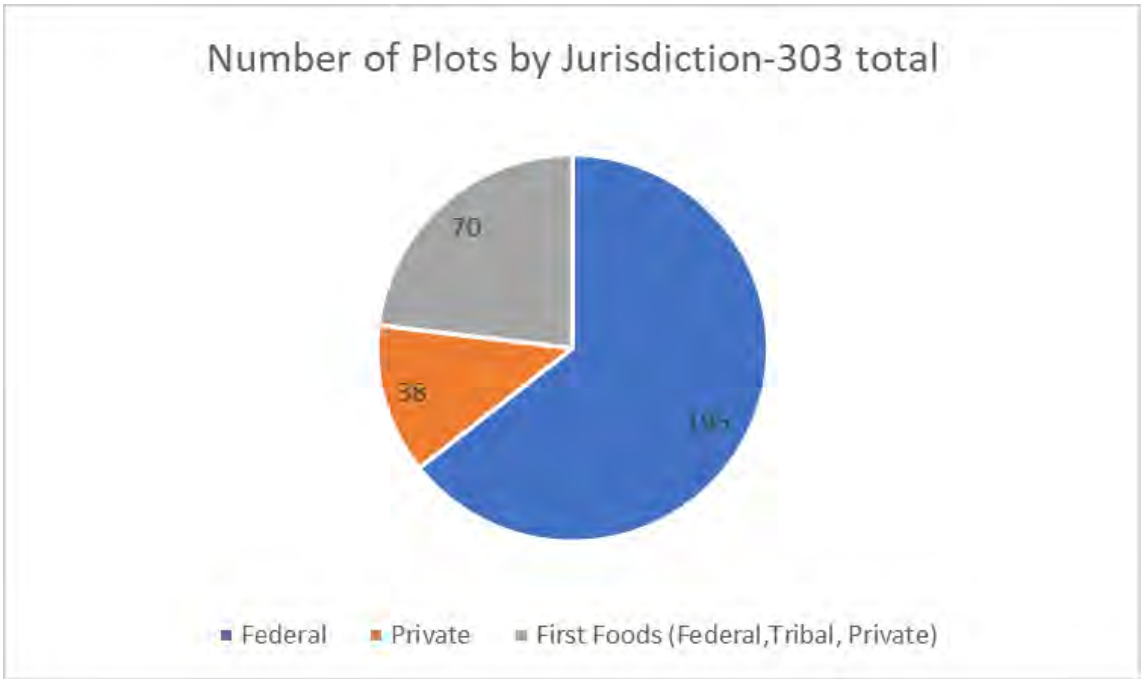
- What parties (who) are involved in monitoring, and how?
- Do you have a documented adaptive management plan and/or process?
- Describe any changes to your multi-party monitoring and adaptive management process that have occurred in the past year based on stakeholder feedback (e.g., change in how and when participants engage, interaction between FS and collaborative, shared learning opportunities, sequencing of events, etc.)
- Reflecting on the monitoring process, what has been working well? What challenges have you experienced, especially in terms of alignment with the Common Monitoring Strategy? How might the process be improved?

The Northern Blues Restoration Partnership (NBRP) has a Monitoring Team that is finalizing a multiparty monitoring plan based on the Common Monitoring Strategy, the goals of the Northern Blues CFLR proposal, and the needs of local stakeholders. The Monitoring Team includes an internal Forest Service (FS) coordinator, Jim

Brammer, and an external coordinator, who works for Wallowa Resources. The internal coordinator serves as a liaison between the Monitoring Team and the Forest Service and the external coordinator facilitates the team and serves as the liaison between the Monitoring Team and the NBRP. Other team members include the FS NE Oregon Region 6 Ecology Team, a broad range of FS natural resource staff, the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative facilitator, the Forestland Program Manager at Wallowa Resources, collaborators from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and university partners, including forestry and ecology researchers at Oregon State University. The Monitoring Team members are involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the multi-party monitoring plan. Subteams within the Monitoring Team lead specific aspects of the monitoring plan, which may include additional external collaborators, such as Klamath Bird Observator

2022 marked the second year of implementing and refining our monitoring plan. Sub-teams of the Monitoring Team identified priorities for the year, which included ecological monitoring in upland forest stands, aspen, riparian areas, white-headed woodpecker and other avian species' habitats, and open meadows. The Team was able to conduct monitoring on a total of 303 ecological plots in both forests and on private and tribal lands. 16 of the 303 plots were for post-treatment and data analysis of these plots will give us an idea of any changes we might need to make to the specific protocols and the monitoring plan. This work is in progress at the time of this report. The Team is proud that it completed 70 pre-treatment plots for First Foods monitoring in conjunction with CTUIR and OSU. This monitoring has increased our collaboration with CTUIR and the local interests in the tribe and partners to protect and learn about how forest management affects foods important to tribes. Socio-economic monitoring also commenced with significant progress towards assessing baseline conditions against which to measure CFLR projects. The team is also further delving into local socioeconomic questions, and at present have only addressed the Core Monitoring Questions. 2022 has proven the need for a full-time monitoring coordinator, to date housed at Wallowa Resources, as there is substantial work coordinating the sub-teams, managing the seasonal ecological monitoring crew, and serving as liaison between the All Lands Operations Team and the Monitoring Team. Unfortunately, the coordinator left at the end of August, (we plan to have someone on board in Q1 of 2023), which has only highlighted the amount of work the coordinator does for this part of the CFLRP.





Northern Blues Monitoring Team (overall)

- Progress in 2022:
  - Individual project implementation and seasonal data collection.
  - Coordination between the Monitoring Team and the Operations Team.
  - All Lands Monitoring Crew Presentation: here
- Reflections:
  - Short timeline for coordination with the Regional Office on implementing the Common Strategy for this year's report.
  - Data analysis and sharing results - Still developing the systems for doing this as it is the second full year of the Northern Blues project.
  - Continued development and maturation of workflows and processes within the Partnership and among the CFLRPs.
  - Additional support for Project Team coordination within the Partnership.
  - This year we will not provide baseline data on local questions. But will provide in next year's report.

Socio-economic Monitoring Sub Committee

- Monitoring questions: How has the social and economic context changed throughout the CFLRP? How have CFLRP activities supported local jobs and labor income? How do sales, contracts, and agreements associated with the CFLRP affect local communities? Did CFLRP maintain or increase the number and/or diversity of wood products that can be processed locally? Did CFLRP increase economic utilization of restoration byproducts? If and to what extent has CFLRP investments attracted partner investments across the landscapes
- Progress in 2022:
  - Completed county profiles of socio-economic impact of national forest lands
  - made a plan to answer questions in the monitoring plan and the common questions for counties in the CFLRP area and applying that data to non-FS

    - Built capacity within EOU and from other parties such as County Governments (e.g., BIC) to continue this process
    - Completed baseline for processing capacity of restoration by products across the project area (Evie's report)
- Reflections:
    - Most challenging has been understanding what we need to provide for the common questions; as we fill out the templates, is there information that is hard to access (e.g., do links work, etc.)

Wildlife Monitoring Subcommittee

- Monitoring questions: Monitoring questions you are covering: What are the site-specific effects of restoration treatments on focal species habitat across the CFLR Project Area?
- Progress in 2022:
    - USFS collaborated with Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) to develop study design for stand-scale and landscape scale effectiveness monitoring. KBO completed the first season of point counts to gather pre-treatment data on a suite of focal species within cool moist forest scheduled for commercial harvest.
    - Augmented upland forest protocol to include White Headed Woodpecker (WHWO) nest tree plots
    - USFS collaborated with Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on study design for stand-scale and landscape scale effectiveness monitoring. PNW/ODFW completed first year of WHWO monitoring using acoustic recording units. Analysis of acoustic data began in November to identify audio files with WHWO and other focal species of interest.
    - Recording of the presentation Klamath Bird Observatory gave to the Northern Blues Collaborative summarizing the monitoring protocol and some initial results.
- Reflections:
    - Partnering with our USFS PNW research station and ODFW has allowed us to triple our monitoring investment.
    - Using point counts and acoustic recording units will allow us to make inferences on the effects of our management on a suite of focal species, rather than just a single species.
    - Integrating our wildlife monitoring protocols with the vegetation monitoring protocol will save money and allow for a more integrated analysis of effects.
    - KBO conducts all aspects of monitoring including field work, data analysis, publications, and decision support tools so that no additional burden is placed on USFS staff time.
    - Lack of housing for seasonal workforce
    - Lack of common database/GIS layer with all current and future veg project boundaries to aid partners with study design

Invasive Species Monitoring Subcommittee

- Monitoring questions: What is the trend in invasive species within the CFLRP project area?
- Progress in 2022:
    - Looked at existing FS and partners' invasive species detection protocols and adapted to something the crew could use in upland veg and riparian monitoring protocols; added invasive species monitoring to protocols
    - Identified 12 invasive plant species that serve as indicator species
    - Developed training program for crew to id invasives and use protocols
- Reflections:
    - Crews successfully identified invasive species at plots and we have some data to report back to the collaborative and FS managers

- One challenge was that the crew struggled with identifying some of the invasive species on the list because they didn't know the look alike natives.
- In terms of alignment with the common core strategy, it's fairly straightforward. The template does want us to break down FACTs invasive treatment acres by species, and we are hearing from USFS invasives coordinators that that is not possible.
- Most of the invasives identified at plots were actually not on our list. Many of the species we chose were some of the more threatening but still rare invasive species in the area so we could detect them early. We may consider adding common species they were finding a lot of to be able to detect any unwanted changes with treatment.

First Foods Monitoring Subcommittee

- Monitoring questions: How do treatments in meadows and grasslands impact cultural plant resources?
- Progress in 2022:
  - Development of protocol, selection of sites across the landscape and treatment types
  - Completed 70 plots on FS and Tribal lands
  - Collaboration between FS, CTUIR, OSU, WR
- Reflections:
  - "The All Lands monitoring crew, in collaboration with staff from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Oregon State University installed and measured 70 monitoring plots between April and early June, 2022. Monitoring plots were established on tribal and Forest Services land (Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests), and will be used to evaluate how culturally important plants respond to management and restoration treatments."

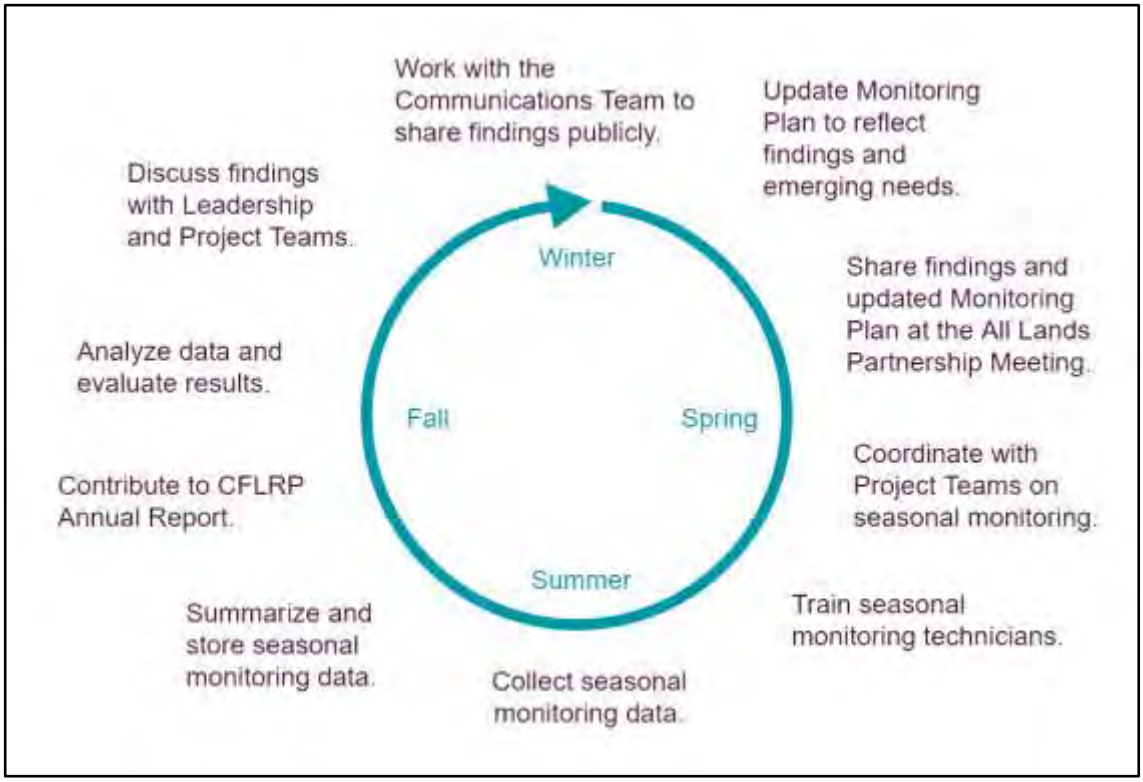
Fuels/Veg/HRV Monitoring Subcommittee

- Monitoring questions: How effective were fuels and thinning treatments at meeting our goals? What is the reduction in fuel hazard based on our treatments? Is the landscape more heterogeneous with treatment and subsequent fire? Are treatments in upland forests and special habitats meeting project objectives for forest health, wildfire risk reduction, fish and wildlife habitat, and/or forage production?
- Progress in 2022:
  - In this second year of monitoring we installed 165 new pre-treatment plots (upland forest and upland forest WHWO) and collected post-treatment data on 16 plots.
  - Data entry will occur this winter, setting us up for the first opportunity to compare pre- and post-treatment conditions.
  - The new invasive species protocol was incorporated into the upland veg/fuels protocol.
- Reflections:
  - Wallowa Resources has done an excellent job recruiting and managing the monitoring crew members, and allocating crew time to multiple project areas with differing monitoring protocols
  - Our training program for crew members appears to be working well and utilizes expertise from multiple partners
  - Having Caitlin as a dedicated monitoring coordinator provided consistency and a central point of contact
  - Caitlin's resignation as monitoring coordinator left us with a challenging gap in capacity
  - It takes a significant investment of time to identify plot locations on federal lands, given the wide range of projects and involved personnel
  - It's challenging to anticipate/schedule post-treatment data collection given uncertainty about when treatments will actually be completed in any particular unit.
  - Finalization of our local monitoring questions was delayed by ongoing evolution of the common questions, but we were grateful to be included in those conversations.

Aquatics/Soils Monitoring Subcommittee

- Monitoring questions: How do treatments impact: Water Temperature, Shade, Sediment, Large Woody Debris, Riparian Hardwoods? Are treatments in upland forests and special habitats meeting project objectives for forest health, wildfire risk reduction, fish and wildlife habitat, and/or forage production?
- Progress in 2022:
    - Data is being collected on the trends of water temperature and are informative for understanding how climate change, drought, wildfires and land use management change over time.
    - Eastern Oregon University completed a study of legacy dredge mining prior to planned restoration in 2023. They used the district as a learning lab for EOU's environmental science class.
    - Youth were engaged to collect baseline data to support two different projects, including stream monitoring and forest health in riparian areas.
- Reflections:
    - We are doing treatments that are not resulting in soil and water targets, because we are burning piles instead of considering other pathways of amending soils. Would prefer better direction from line officers or the collaborative on engagement, if there is value in this.
    - For Riparian Management, it would be good to develop a forest wide prescription and monitor how changes occur so we can base future management after these results, because peer reviewed science is lacking to support NEPA. We should be systematic in monitoring contentious parts of riparian management that the collaborative wants to see and develop subcommittees accordingly.
    - Ecological functions of upland forests are inherently tied to spatial patterns, such as snow accumulation. Climate change is expected to change snowpack and optimizing this in dry, moist and cold potential vegetation types is essential to forest management in the Northern Blues for the next 50 years.
    - It would be good to share how all these indicators are changing in the monitoring plan. Suggest a presentation to the forests and partners on the great work we are able to accomplish or need to do to set up the landscape for increased resiliency.
    - Identified trigger points will be conveying information back to the implementers and decision makers and will be relying on their best approaches to adaptive management.

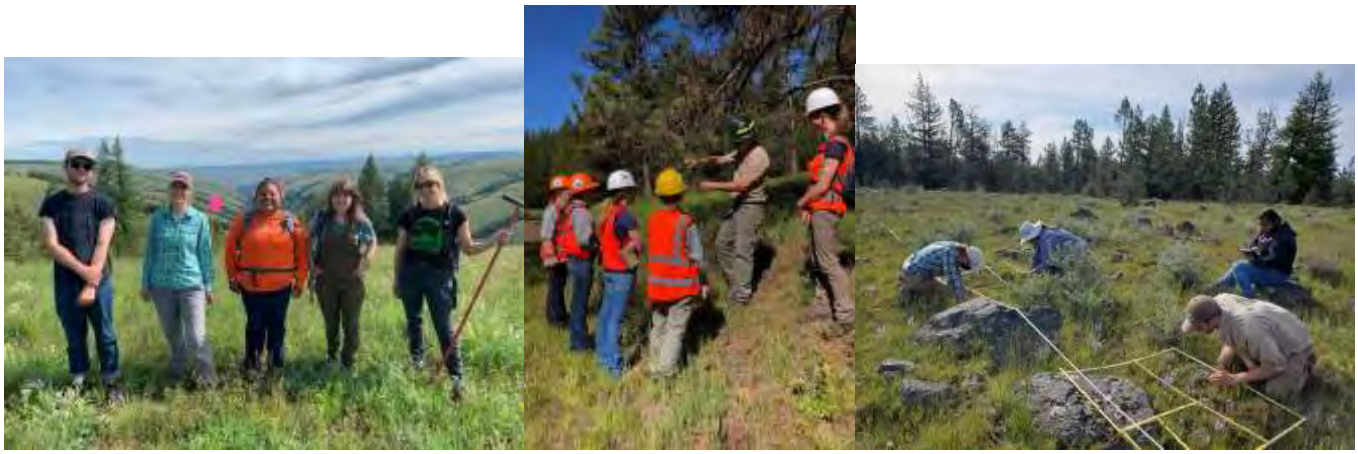
See draft Monitoring Plan and adaptive management conceptual framework therein, also replicated below:



The Monitoring Team is still developing our adaptive management framework and have not made significant changes to the process described in the previous question in the past year beyond closing in on a final multi-party monitoring plan and adding additional monitoring projects. Some pieces of the adaptive management framework are still conceptual in nature. For example, "Work with the Communications team to share findings publicly:" we are actively working on a variety of public outreach and engagement materials including a NBRP website and Dashboard, and planning a public outreach forum for spring 2023. The identified trigger points will be conveying information back to the implementers and decision makers and will be relying on their best approaches to adaptive management. The Monitoring Team will present this approach to the All Lands Leadership Team on January 28th, 2023.

Photos Showcasing Robust Monitoring & Adaptive Management

The Northern Blues CFLRP has an overarching goal to "restore and maintain forested ecosystems to greater levels of fire resiliency, to reduce the risk, size and frequency of high severity wildfire, and allow naturally occurring fire to play its beneficial roles when and where appropriate." We use several strategies in order to accomplish this goal including but not limited to: (1) Landscape scale, cross boundary treatments (2) Strategic fuel breaks and prescribed fire (3) Restoration of special habitats/resources (4) Supporting local Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Fire adapted communities (5) **Robust monitoring & adaptive managemen**t and (6) Development of local restoration workforce capacity and community benefit. Below are a few photos representing the work representing "robust monitoring & adaptive management" taking place across the Northern Blues CFLR landscape during fiscal year 2022.



Photos 27, 28, & 29: *Robust monitoring & adaptive management/Development of forest workforce capacity*: First foods monitoring, Baker Resources, Wallowa Resources, Northern Blues All Lands Monitoring Crew assessing impacts of fuels reduction treatments on First Foods with partners from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Department of Natural Resources and Oregon State University. Photos courtesy of Cheryl Shippentower, Plant Ecologist for the Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Rachel Lindsey, Monitoring Technician

10. Conclusion

Describe any reasons that the FY 2022 annual report does not reflect your proposal or work plan. Are there expected changes to your FY 2023 plans you would like to highlight?

See response to "Question #3 Activities on the Ground: Is there any background or context you would like to provide regarding the information reported in the table above?" which outlines the reasons why this annual report does not reflect our proposal/work plan, as well as expected changes to our FY23 planned accomplishments.

In particular, the expected timber volume sold and timber sale acres on NFS lands in FY23 will reflect the reduced acres outlined for the R6 "3 plus 1 Strategy" explained previously.

Optional Prompts

FY 2022 Additional Accomplishment Narrative and/or Lessons Learned Highlights

Media Recap and Visuals

Materials, media and products produced from across the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership and mentioned throughout the report can be found at the following link: Media and Materials. However, a few notable products we produced this year include (many are still drafts and will be finalized in FY23:

- A new NBALRP Website
- A NBALRP onboarding video (password: AllL@nds) for new and current members of the Partnership to help them understand the history of the partnership/region and how the Partnership operates.
- A regular newsletter
- A partnership draft dashboard

- Several products were produced by members of the Partnership to tell the story of the collective work across the partnership on public, private and tribal lands in a meaningful and compelling way. A few of these included:
    - (1) a story map detailing the Tiger Mill Project on the Umatilla National Forest - a forest management project designed to protect drinking water, spanning two states
    - (2) a ''Voices of the Blues: Stories from the Forests of Northeastern Oregon' a multimedia series telling the stories of forest landowners and managers stewarding our private forestlands in the Northern Blue Mountains
    - (3) a video the Wallowa-Whitman's Wallowa Mountain Office created after the Sturgill, Nebo and Goat Mountain Fires describing the role of beneficial wildfire on the landscape
    - (4) a story map to keep the public updated on post-fire recovery and long-term restoration, developed by the the Umatilla National Forest
    - (5) a story map explaining how the priority landscape restoration model works to inform vegetation management priorities on the Umatilla National Forest, which can then be used to inform the Forest's future program of work and
    - (7) a video telling the story of the OSU extension prescribed burn training
    - (6) several new websites for the region including a new Northeast Oregon Firewise Community Website, a new Northeast Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association Website, and new Blues Intergovernmental Council Website (overarching entity for planning and guidance around land management issues related to the Blue Mountain Forests).
- Other helpful websites include
    - Links to photos from the Spring and Fall 2022 NBALRP Field Tours hosted by the Baker City Watershed and the Mill Creek Watershed Project Teams.
    - Annual meeting of the full Partnership on December 6; the meeting of all Project/Implementation Teams on December 9; and Leadership Team meeting on January 20. We are preparing for this year's meetings in Winter 2022/2023 and will include updates in our next report.
    - Forest Service Northern Blues CFLRP Webpage: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fseprd901191
    - Northern Blues CFLRP Interactive Map: https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2c67721a0080459f9806b498883735f6
    - Locations of Prescribed Fire: https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ea40c8491fea4805b328ac74cd41429e
    - Invasive Plant Treatments on National Forest Lands https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/umatilla/home/?cid=STELPRDB5293532

Over the next year (FY 2023) upcoming communications and media include the development of a StoryMap and continual update of the Website for the Partnershand the development of several other videos.

Northern Blues CFLRP Annual Report
Signatures

Recommended by: DocuSigned by: 12/9/2022
Amber Ingoglia
N. Blues CFLRP Coordinator

Approved by: DocuSigned by: Eric Watrud 12/12/2022
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Approved by: DocuSigned by: Shaun McKinney 12/12/2022
Shaun P. McKinney
Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Draft reviewed by: DocuSigned by: Nils Christofferson 12/9/2022
Nils Christofferson
Northern Blues Restoration Partnership Representative

Attachment: CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy Core Questions

The 2021 cohort will complete the Common Monitoring Strategy questions in FY22. CFLRP projects awarded in 2022 (2012 extensions and new projects) will be required to respond to these questions starting in FY23.

The CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy is designed to reflect lessons learned from the first ten years of the program, expand monitoring capacity, and improve landscape-scale monitoring. It is intended to strike a balance between standardization and local flexibility and to be responsive to feedback that more guidance and capacity are needed. Questions are standardized nationally and indicators are standardized regionally. Many CFLRP projects have been implementing restoration treatments and monitoring progress prior to the Common Monitoring Strategy. This effort may not capture the progress of every project over its lifetime but provides an opportunity for all projects to take a step together in a unified monitoring approach.

- Question 1: "What is the reduction in fuel hazard based on our treatments?"
- Question 2: "What is the effect of the treatments on moving the forest landscape toward a more sustainable condition?"
- Question 3: "What are the specific effects of restoration treatments on the habitat of at-risk species and/or the habitat of species of collaborative concern across the CFLRP project area"
- Question 4: "What is the status and trend of watershed conditions in the CFLR area, with a focus on the physical and biological conditions that support key soil, hydrologic and aquatic processes?"
- Question 5: "What is the trend in invasive species within the CFLRP project area?"
- Question 6: "How has the social and economic context changed, if at all?"
- Question 7: "How have CFLRP activities supported local jobs and labor income?"
- Question 8: "How do sales, contracts, and agreements associated with the CFLRP affect local communities?"
- Question 9: "Did CFLRP maintain or increase the number and/or diversity of wood products that can be processed locally?"
- Question 10: "Did CFLRP increase economic utilization of restoration byproducts?"
- Question 11: "Who is involved in the collaborative and if/how does that change over time?"
- Question 12: "How well is CFLRP encouraging an effective and meaningful collaborative approach?"
- Question 13: "If and to what extent have CFLRP investments attracted partner investments across the landscapes?"

The tables in the section below are copy/pasted from the suggested monitoring tracking templates to help organize data across CFLRP projects. Adapt the reporting tables as needed to align with regional monitoring indicators.

Monitoring Question #1: "What is the reduction in fuel hazard based on our treatments?" (Reported Annually)

For detailed guidance, training, and resources, see corresponding reporting template here. Use it to respond to the following prompts:

The IFTDSS model was run December 1 & 2, 2022 using a landscape file built with unedited Landfire 2020 (LF 2020) data and 97th percentile weather conditions. Given the large size of the Northern Blues CLFRP area, the landscape was split into three units for modeling. The project area was first divided based on pyromes and then the southern Blue Mountains pyrome was divided into eastern and western units using Fire Danger Rating Area boundaries. Flame length data is summarized for the entire project area and crown fire activity classes are summarized for each fireshed within the project area.

IFTDSS Modeling unit map

Table 1. Fire intensity (predicted flame lengths) from IFTDSS - Flame Length Condition Classes – Project Scale

IFTDSS Auto-97th percentile flame length output	Non-burnable	>0 - 1 ft. flame lengths	>1 - 4 ft. flame lengths	>4 - 8 ft. flame lengths	>8 - 11 ft. flame lengths	>11 - 25 ft. flame lengths	>25 ft. flame lengths
Initial landscape model area (ac) (Baseline under CMS)	1,417,881 (13.6%)	437,732 (4.2%)	4,420,487 (42.4%)	2,848,046 (27.3%)	426,993 (4.1%)	628,006 (6.0%)	247,617 (2.4%)
Area treated in FY22	data not available	data not available	data not available	data not available	data not available	data not available	data not available

Briefly describe monitoring results in table above – include an interpretation of the data provided and whether the indicator is trending toward or away from desired conditions for your landscape. If the data above does not accurately reflect fire and fuel hazard on your landscape please note and provide context. While generally smaller flame lengths are desirable, this isn't the case in all ecosystems – please note if this applies.

Table 2. Crown Fire Probability Condition Classes from IFTDSS – FireShed Scale

Fireshed						
Alderdale, Washington	5406.0 (37.4%)	8975.8 (62.1%)	68.5 (0.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	68.5 (0.5%)	14450.3

Fireshed						
Arlington, Oregon	3208.7 (12.4%)	22669.1 (87.5%)	42.7 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	42.7 (0.2%)	25920.5
Armin, Oregon	21865.8 (7.8%)	129875.8 (46.6%)	126747.2 (45.5%)	225.1 (0.1%)	126972.2 (45.6%)	278713.9
Athena, Oregon	145344.7 (49.0%)	151317.3 (51.0%)	248.2 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	248.2 (0.1%)	296910.2
Attalia, Washington	11504.0 (24.1%)	36263.7 (75.8%)	52.5 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	52.5 (0.1%)	47820.2
Baker City, Oregon	13575.9 (6.7%)	143043.3 (70.9%)	45123.0 (22.4%)	4.4 (0.0%)	45127.4 (22.4%)	201746.6
Bald Butte, Washington	2722.1 (1.0%)	87279.2 (33.0%)	173589.7 (65.6%)	1000.8 (0.4%)	174590.5 (66.0%)	264591.8
Baldy Mountain, Oregon	1443.8 (2.0%)	43816.2 (59.6%)	28222.8 (38.4%)	2.7 (0.0%)	28225.4 (38.4%)	73485.4
Bartlett, Oregon	14209.2 (6.6%)	149213.5 (68.8%)	53233.3 (24.6%)	69.4 (0.0%)	53302.7 (24.6%)	216725.4
Bear, Idaho	10123.4 (12.9%)	30385.3 (38.8%)	37328.5 (47.7%)	425.2 (0.5%)	37753.7 (48.2%)	78262.5
Bendire Mountain, Oregon	413.7 (1.9%)	11573.4 (53.2%)	9781.8 (44.9%)	0.0 (0.0%)	9781.8 (44.9%)	21768.9
Boardman, Oregon	121930.1 (40.8%)	176126.8 (58.9%)	1079.9 (0.4%)	3.6 (0.0%)	1083.5 (0.4%)	299140.4
Bridgeport, Oregon	1244.5 (3.3%)	33460.6 (88.2%)	3222.1 (8.5%)	3.6 (0.0%)	3225.6 (8.5%)	37930.7
Brownlee, Oregon	1069.3 (2.5%)	29729.7 (69.7%)	11835.8 (27.8%)	16.0 (0.0%)	11851.9 (27.8%)	42650.8
Cabell City, Oregon	3261.2 (1.0%)	99561.6 (29.5%)	234411.1 (69.5%)	0.9 (0.0%)	234412.0 (69.5%)	337234.8
Camp Elkanah, Oregon	2423.2 (1.1%)	145366.0 (63.7%)	80343.2 (35.2%)	78.3 (0.0%)	80421.5 (35.2%)	228210.7

Fireshed						
Caverhill, Oregon	1112.0 (0.9%)	79376.2 (65.8%)	40132.4 (33.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	40132.4 (33.3%)	120620.6
Chico, Oregon	3264.8 (1.2%)	231838.4 (83.2%)	43590.2 (15.6%)	6.2 (0.0%)	43596.5 (15.6%)	278699.6
Clarke, Oregon	14713.6 (65.3%)	7530.3 (33.4%)	282.9 (1.3%)	0.9 (0.0%)	283.8 (1.3%)	22527.7
Clem, Oregon	34956.0 (24.4%)	108482.3 (75.6%)	117.4 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	117.4 (0.1%)	143555.7
Cloverland, Washington	29209.3 (11.3%)	161303.7 (62.4%)	67644.4 (26.2%)	177.9 (0.1%)	67822.4 (26.3%)	258335.4
Condon, Oregon	12087.6 (9.0%)	117399.5 (87.5%)	4088.5 (3.0%)	531.1 (0.4%)	4619.6 (3.4%)	134106.6
Copper, Oregon	5732.4 (3.2%)	126678.7 (71.3%)	45319.6 (25.5%)	61.4 (0.0%)	45381.0 (25.5%)	177792.1
Cornucopia, Oregon	47292.7 (23.3%)	55983.8 (27.6%)	99064.4 (48.8%)	563.1 (0.3%)	99627.5 (49.1%)	202904.0
Cove, Oregon	48168.9 (22.5%)	77044.6 (36.0%)	88682.1 (41.4%)	187.7 (0.1%)	88869.8 (41.5%)	214083.3
Dayton 2, Washington	37177.3 (45.9%)	43164.1 (53.3%)	619.1 (0.8%)	0.0 (0.0%)	619.1 (0.8%)	80960.5
Duncan, Oregon	13499.4 (5.2%)	155392.5 (59.8%)	90897.1 (35.0%)	35.6 (0.0%)	90932.7 (35.0%)	259824.6
Elgin, Oregon	31266.0 (11.5%)	152784.2 (56.0%)	88817.3 (32.5%)	17.8 (0.0%)	88835.1 (32.6%)	272885.3
Enterprise, Oregon	40896.6 (14.2%)	150621.7 (52.3%)	96154.5 (33.4%)	563.1 (0.2%)	96717.7 (33.6%)	288235.9
Erwin, Oregon	23076.6 (9.1%)	195461.8 (76.7%)	36156.0 (14.2%)	1.8 (0.0%)	36157.8 (14.2%)	254696.1
Eustis, Oregon	2609.1 (1.0%)	157720.5 (59.6%)	104207.0 (39.4%)	46.3 (0.0%)	104253.3 (39.4%)	264582.9

Fireshed						
Galloway, Oregon	83216.5 (34.5%)	158075.4 (65.4%)	231.3 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	231.3 (0.1%)	241523.3
Gurdane, Oregon	14831.1 (5.4%)	254280.7 (92.2%)	6646.0 (2.4%)	19.6 (0.0%)	6665.6 (2.4%)	275777.4
Haines, Oregon	22710.9 (10.8%)	76026.9 (36.3%)	110660.9 (52.8%)	129.0 (0.1%)	110789.9 (52.9%)	209527.8
Halfway, Oregon	8770.4 (3.2%)	185548.3 (67.9%)	78955.4 (28.9%)	64.9 (0.0%)	79020.4 (28.9%)	273339.0
Heppner, Oregon	8127.2 (3.8%)	152692.6 (71.9%)	51507.5 (24.3%)	34.7 (0.0%)	51542.2 (24.3%)	212362.0
Hermiston, Oregon	78097.9 (57.0%)	57397.4 (41.9%)	1502.5 (1.1%)	0.9 (0.0%)	1503.4 (1.1%)	136998.7
Hidaway Springs, Oregon	2063.8 (0.9%)	137679.2 (61.2%)	85246.5 (37.9%)	74.7 (0.0%)	85321.3 (37.9%)	225064.3
Imnaha River Woods Development, Oregon	9988.2 (3.7%)	169693.3 (62.5%)	91468.2 (33.7%)	354.9 (0.1%)	91823.2 (33.8%)	271504.7
Ione, Oregon	44438.0 (18.1%)	200728.1 (81.6%)	529.3 (0.2%)	161.0 (0.1%)	690.3 (0.3%)	245856.4
Kimberly, Oregon	1894.8 (3.3%)	47586.2 (82.8%)	8016.0 (13.9%)	0.0 (0.0%)	8016.0 (13.9%)	57497.0
La Grande, Oregon	45185.3 (18.7%)	135621.6 (56.0%)	61305.3 (25.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	61305.3 (25.3%)	242112.2
Lewiston, Idaho	28060.0 (24.8%)	83124.9 (73.6%)	1808.5 (1.6%)	8.9 (0.0%)	1817.4 (1.6%)	113002.3
Lonerock, Oregon	1809.4 (0.6%)	224172.0 (77.8%)	62084.6 (21.5%)	141.4 (0.0%)	62226.0 (21.6%)	288207.4
Milton-Freewater, Oregon	40760.5 (15.9%)	109790.0 (42.7%)	105955.9 (41.2%)	638.7 (0.2%)	106594.6 (41.5%)	257145.1
Monument, Oregon	1813.0 (2.6%)	60933.5 (85.8%)	8298.9 (11.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	8298.9 (11.7%)	71045.3

Fireshed						
Mountain Home Park, Washington	22735.0 (12.4%)	85478.7 (46.8%)	74457.7 (40.7%)	109.4 (0.1%)	74567.1 (40.8%)	182780.8
Paradise, Oregon	9314.8 (4.8%)	140463.6 (72.2%)	44743.1 (23.0%)	9.8 (0.0%)	44752.9 (23.0%)	194531.3
Pendleton, Oregon	41007.8 (18.7%)	163662.9 (74.7%)	14355.1 (6.5%)	213.5 (0.1%)	14568.6 (6.6%)	219239.3
Pinehurst, Idaho	2264.0 (4.6%)	25111.0 (50.7%)	22035.8 (44.5%)	146.8 (0.3%)	22182.5 (44.8%)	49557.5
Pleasant Valley, Oregon	226.0 (2.3%)	9711.5 (97.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	9937.5
Pomeroy, Washington	23121.0 (33.7%)	44514.5 (64.9%)	910.0 (1.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	910.0 (1.3%)	68545.6
Prairie City, Oregon	367.4 (4.4%)	2756.8 (33.4%)	5139.1 (62.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	5139.1 (62.2%)	8263.3
Spray, Oregon	1090.6 (0.7%)	111143.1 (75.2%)	35537.8 (24.0%)	19.6 (0.0%)	35557.3 (24.1%)	147791.0
Stanfield, Oregon	75545.7 (37.4%)	125846.9 (62.4%)	362.1 (0.2%)	0.9 (0.0%)	362.9 (0.2%)	201755.5
Sumpter, Oregon	2888.5 (1.6%)	85529.4 (46.2%)	96517.5 (52.2%)	1.8 (0.0%)	96519.3 (52.2%)	184937.2
Ukiah, Oregon	2473.0 (1.2%)	143511.3 (71.9%)	53720.8 (26.9%)	3.6 (0.0%)	53724.3 (26.9%)	199708.6
Unity, Oregon	6654.0 (4.1%)	138639.9 (85.2%)	17424.2 (10.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	17424.2 (10.7%)	162718.2
Waitsburg, Washington	76729.7 (56.8%)	38646.9 (28.6%)	19568.9 (14.5%)	80.1 (0.1%)	19649.0 (14.6%)	135025.6
Walla Walla, Washington	55778.4 (69.7%)	23650.3 (29.6%)	554.2 (0.7%)	0.9 (0.0%)	555.1 (0.7%)	79983.8
White Bird, Idaho	441.2 (2.4%)	13618.6 (73.3%)	4508.4 (24.3%)	5.3 (0.0%)	4513.7 (24.3%)	18573.5

Fireshed	No Fire (ac)	Surface Fire (ac)	Passive Crown Fire (ac)	Active Crown Fire (ac)	Total Crown Fire (ac)	Total (ac)
TOTAL	1417211.7 (13.6%)	6325075.4 (60.7%)	2675155.0 (25.7%)	6243.1 (0.1%)	2681398.0 (25.7%)	10423685.1

- Briefly describe monitoring results in table above – include an interpretation of the data provided, and whether the indicator is trending toward or away from desired conditions for your landscape. If the data above does not accurately reflect fire and fuel hazard on your landscape please note and provide context.
- Does your CFLRP project have additional hazardous-fuels related monitoring results to summarize and interpret? If so, please provide that here.
- Based on the information in this section, (and any other relevant monitoring information and discussion), what (if any) actions or changes are you considering?

The Northern Blues CFLRP landscape is large at over 10 million acres, so running this model needed to be broken up into smaller chunks. Available data suggested that we accomplish that by breaking the landscape into firesheds (as described above), but that may not be the most appropriate way to do that in the future. Some of the firesheds listed above do not contain burnable acres and some are only minor slivers within our landscape. This process will need to be looked into further as we approach the next annual report.

As mentioned above, this IFTDSS model was run in early December, so there was not enough time to gather the spatial data for FY22 treatments to compare with these baseline results. Also, although we could provide the NFS FY22 treatments in a shapefile for this modeling run in the near future, we do not currently have the capability to provide spatial data for all treatments across the CFLRP landscape. The NBR Partnership will be working toward this goal for future years.

Monitoring Question #2: "What is the effect of the treatments on moving the forest landscape toward a more sustainable condition?" (Reporting frequency determined by Regional indicator)

This question will be answered at a later date.

Monitoring Questions #3: "What are the specific effects of restoration treatments on the habitat of at-risk species and/or the habitat of species of collaborative concern across the CFLRP project area?" (Reporting frequency determined by Regional indicator)

This question will be answered at a later date.

Monitoring Question #4: "What is the status and trend of watershed conditions in the CFLRP area?" (Reported every 5 years)

For detailed guidance, training, and resources, see corresponding reporting template here. Use it to respond to the following prompts:

Table 1. Summary of Watershed Condition Scores for the affected priority sub watersheds within our CFLRP boundary

Forest					
Wallowa Whitman NF	Bull Run Creek (170702020202)	10/2020	1.8	NA	1.8
Wallowa Whitman NF	Meadowbrook Creek-Grande Ronde River (170601040103)	10/2020	1.8	NA	1.8
Wallowa Whitman NF	Warm Springs Creek-Grande Ronde River (170601040109)	10/2020	1.7	NA	1.7
Wallowa Whitman NF	Lower Five Points Creek (170601040403)	10/2020	1.7	NA	1.7
Wallowa Whitman NF	Lick Creek (170601020302)	10/2020	1.5	NA	1.7
Wallowa Whitman NF	Tyee Creek-Big Sheep Creek (170601020303)	10/2020	1.4	NA	1.7
Wallowa Whitman NF	Salt Creek-Big Sheep Creek (170601020301)	10/2020	1.4	NA	1.7
Umatilla NF	Clear Creek (170702020204)	10/2020	1.7	NA	1.7
Umatilla NF	Upper Big Wall Creek (170702020805)	10/2020	1.7	NA	1.7
Umatilla NF	Little Lookingglass Creek (170601041002)	10/2020	1.8	NA	1.7
Umatilla NF	Little Tucannon River-Tucannon River (170601070603)	10/2020	1.7	NA	1.7

*Initial Year of Common Monitoring Strategy (CMS) Reporting

Watershed Condition Score averaged across all affected priority sub watersheds within our CFLRP boundary

Aquatic Physical (Weighted 30%)

Indicator Number	Indicator Name	Avg. Indicator Value	Year
1	Water Quality	1.8	2022
2	Water Quantity	1.8	2022
3	Aquatic Habitat	2.0	2022

Aquatic Biological (Weighted 30%)

Indicator Number	Indicator Name	Avg. Indicator Value	Year
4	Aquatic Biota	1.4	2022
5	Riparian/Wetland Vegetation	1.8	2022

Terrestrial Physical (Weighted 30%)

Indicator Number	Indicator Name	Avg. Indicator Value	Year
6	Roads & Trails	1.7	2022
7	Soils	1.3	2022

Terrestrial Biological (Weighted 10%)

Indicator Number			
8	Fire Regime or Wildfire	1.9	2022
9	Forest Cover	1.2	2022
10	Rangeland Vegetation	1.1	2022
11	Terrestrial Invasive Species	1.4	2022
12	Forest Health	1.3	2022

Avg. Watershed Condition Score 1.7

Briefly interpret the monitoring results in the table above, including whether the indicator is trending toward or away from desired conditions for your landscape. If the data above does not accurately reflect watershed conditions on your landscape, please note that and provide context.

Based on the sensitivity of these indicators, we would not expect to see changes in one year except for the case of significant natural disturbance or substantial site-specific restoration across an entire basin. This CFLR proposal is about strategically placing restoration actions at locations where natural events and natural recovery will occur over broad landscapes. So, we expect over periods of 5-10 years to see results of these restoration actions reflected through changes to the table above.

Does your CFLRP project have additional watershed condition-related monitoring results to summarize and interpret? If so, please provide that here.

At this time, no there are no additional results.

Monitoring Question #5: "What is the trend in invasive species within the CFLRP project area?" (Reported Annually)

For detailed guidance, training, and resources, see corresponding reporting template here. Use it to respond to the following prompts:

Table 1. Treatment data for priority invasive species within FY22 (plants, animals, terrestrial, aquatic)

Land Owner	Treatment Action	Acres Treated[1]	Acres Monitored	Avg. "Percent Efficacy"	Acres Restored[2]	Response of Desirable Species[3]
Private/Tribal Lands (all species)	Herbicide	14,126	4,871	NA	3,080	NA
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	Herbicide	2,629.3	1,807.5	87%	2,287.5	NA
Umatilla National Forest	Herbicide	3,494.9	2,857.4	86%	3,126.3	NA
Umatilla National Forest	Mechanical	140.3	20.6	85%	0[4]	NA
Totals/Avgs		20,390.5	9,556.5	86.5%	8493.8	NA

[1] "Treated" is defined as prevented, controlled or eradicated.

[2] Agency performance accomplishment code INVPLT-INVSPE-REST-FED-AC, which is calculated in FACTS.

[3] "Desirable Species" includes everything that is not an undesirable species or bare ground. If the response of desired species was not monitored, write N/A.

[4] Acres are listed as zero because the proportion monitored was less than 40%

Table 2. Summary of plot-based field monitoring for invasive species

Treatment Group Name					
Treated Areas	Commercial thin, shelterwood, prescribed burn (not differentiated due to low number of plots)	May -Sept 2022	16	4.14%	NA
Non-treated Areas	No thinning, no prescribed burning, and no wildfire	May -Sept 2022	218	4.88%	NA

[1] Important: You must indicate in a footnote the date and source of the baseline data that you are using as a comparison to calculate percent change. In the year(s) you are still collecting baseline data, write N/A for the percent change columns.

Overall levels of invasive species measured in forested plots were low (as expected given plot sampling strategy which was not designed to detect invasives) with Bromus tectorum and Potentilla recta comprising the most area (Figure 1). While very few post-treatment plots were measured in 2022 (n = 16), we did see a notable amount of Cynoglossum officinale at post-treatment plots. Given that this was the first year of collecting invasive species information at plots, we have no pre-treatment plots in the same locations to compare post-treatment plots to. Next year when we have two years of data, we should be able to make more conclusions on the status of invasive species within the Northern Blues landscape.

Many of the species we included on our list for crews (Table 3) to look for at plots are very insidious but somewhat rare within the Blue Mountains at this time. We included the species to be able detect any spread of them early. However, the majority of the species found at plots were common invasives that the crew already knew how to identify. We included these in our analysis and will discuss with the committee as to whether we should include them in next year's surveys as these more common invasives will help us understand if forest treatments are influencing invasive spread.

Table 3. List of species crews were looking for at plots. The top list represents the list decided upon by USFS managers and the lower list are additional species the crew recognized and recorded.

Species decided upon by USFS managers.

Code	Scientific Name	Common Name
CADR	Cardaria draba	whitetop (hoary cress)
CAAC	Carduus acanthoides	Plumeless thistle
CEBI2	Centaurea bieberstinii	spotted knapweed
CESO3	Centaurea solstitialis	yellow starthistle
CHJU	Chondrilla juncea	rush skeletonweed
EUES	Euphorbia esula	leafy spurge
HICA10	Hieracium caespitosum	meadow hawkweed
LIVU2	Linaria vulgaris	yellow toadflax
ONAC	Onopordum acanthium	scotch thistle
PORE5	Potentilla recta	cinquefoil, sulfur
VEDU	Ventenata dubia	ventenata

Species not on list recorded by crew.

Code	Scientific Name	Common Name
CIVU	Cirsium vulgare	bull thistle
VETH	Verbascum thapsus	common mullein
BRTE	Broums tectorum	cheatgrass
CYOF	Cynoglossum officinale	houndstongue
CIAR	Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
LEVU	Leucanthemum vulgare	oxeye daisy
ONAC	Onopordium acanthium	scotch thistle
TACA	Taeniatherum caput-medusae	medusa head
HYPE	Hypericum perforatum	St. John's wort

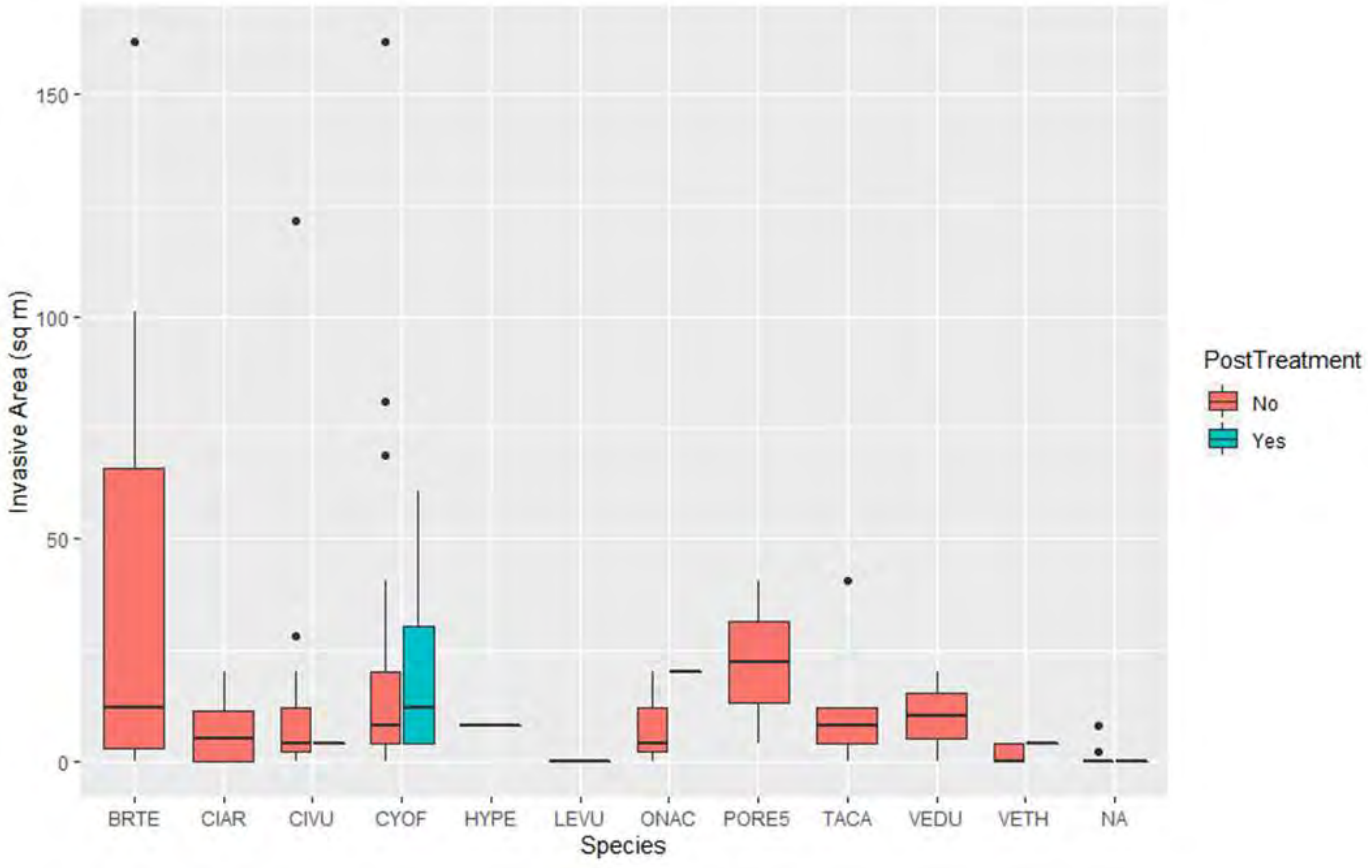

Figure 1. Total invasive species area measured at plots in treated and untreated areas. See Table 3 for guide to species codes.

The following questions apply across the topics addressed across Questions 1-5:

Are there accomplishments towards long-term goals which may not be reflected in short-term monitoring? Are there short-term treatments that work towards long-term goals which may be reflected adversely in short-term monitoring? Briefly summarize short- & long-term tradeoffs of your landscape treatments and goals.

We expect nearly all of the restoration treatments implemented in FY 2022 had some impacts to forest resources. They tend to occur within soils (compaction and/or displacement), water (sediment introduction) and wildlife (individual animal displacement) resources, but also tend to be limited in scope and intensity, due to proven restoration treatment designs and project mitigations. Projects are always designed to be implemented in a way so that effects remain below legal and regulatory thresholds. As such, they tend not to occur at a scale or intensity that threatens ecological integrity.

Some interpretation of long-term benefit can be assumed from this. Our CFLRP is designed to accomplish and maintain desired conditions across entire landscapes through strategically placed restoration treatments which will re-establish and/or maintain ecological resilience. From this, we expect our restoration to result in more natural watershed level responses (i.e. limited areas with undesired effects and substantially shortened recovery periods) after fire and other disturbance events. In a very simple sense, the limited scope of our treatments, portends that long-term benefits will substantially outweigh them across larger, ecologically significant areas, when wildfire events occur in the future. We expect this will be demonstrated in the future as the likely-hood increases that wildfire will occur within watersheds that have been treated.

Monitoring Question #6: "How has the social and economic context changed, if at all?" (Reported every 5 years)

Describe the current social and economic context for your CFLRP landscape. For detailed guidance, training, and resources, see corresponding reporting template here. Use it to respond to the following prompts:

Table 1. Current social and economic context, primary indicators - Northern Blues CFLRP landscape

Indicators		
Population, most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)	272,167	This information is on tab 2 not tab 1. While the year the information was tallied is not clear, multiple other entries in the table have the most recent as year 2020.
Percent of total, race & ethnicity, most recent year available (tab 11, Forest Service report)	White alone – 88% Black or African American – 0.7% American Indian – 2.5% Hispanic ethnicity – 15.7% Non-Hispanic Ethnicity – 84.3%	None
Unemployment rate, most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)	4.7% in 2021	This information is on tab 2 not tab 1.
Per capita income, most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)	$48,829 in 2020 reported in 2021 dollars	This information is on tab 2 not tab 1.

Indicators	Response for Initial Year of CMS*	Notes
Wildfire Exposure, % of Total, Homes, most recent year available (see Wildfire Risk report)	Homes Directly Exposed – 36% Homes Indirectly Exposed – 52% Homes Not Exposed – 12%	This information is on tab 2 of Wildfire Risk report. Reference indicates 2020 data.

Table 2. Current social and economic context, additional indicators - Northern Blues CFLRP landscape

Additional Indicators		
Timber % of private employment, most recent year available (tab 2, Forest Service report) for some counties. If not available, simply list "N/A")	3.9%, 2020	This is an estimate.
Travel and Tourism % of private employment, most recent year available (tab 2, Forest Service report) for some counties. If not available, simply list "N/A")	12.3%, 2020	This is an estimate, and it is not disaggregated by race.
Government % of Jobs, most recent year available (tab 1. Forest Service report)	16.9%, 2020	This is in tab 2.
Residential land area, most recent year available, (tab 2, Forest Service report)	Not available	None
Wildland-Urban Interface % developed, 2010 (tab 2, Forest Service report)	4.1%	This is not disaggregated based on direct/indirect/not exposed.
Earnings per job, most recent year available (tab 3, socioeconomic trends report)	$57,478, 2020 reported in 2021 dollars	Located in tab 6
Fed. Payments % of gov. revenue, most recent year available (tab 2, Forest Service report)	0.9%, 2017	None
Top employment sectors (see Employment by Industry, most recent year available (tab 5, Forest Service report). *Note: Please list the top 2-3 sectors that make up most of the employment size.*	Government, healthcare, retail trade, 2020	None
Total Federal Land Payments, Forest Service Payments, most recent year available (tab 12, Forest Service report)	$15,532,591, 2019 reported in 2021 dollars	None
Percent of total individuals and families in poverty, most recent year available (tab 9, Forest Service report)	9.7%, 2020 (average from 2016-2020)	Reported as "Families in Poverty"
Percent of total, Food stamps/SNAP, most recent year available (tab 10, Forest Service report)	17%, 2020 (average from 2016-2020)	None
Percent of Total Native American, most recent year available (tab 6, Demographics)	2.5%, 2020 (average from 2016-2020)	None

Additional Indicators	Response for Initial Year of CMS*	Notes
Potentially Vulnerable Households, % total most recent year available, (tab 11, Populations at Risk)	People > 65 years & living alone--4.3% Single female households--10.5% Single female households with children < 18 years--7.0% Households with no car--5.3%	2020 (average from 2016-2020)

Table 3. Current social and economic context, primary indicators - Northern Blues CFLRP landscape based on Washington, Oregon, and Idaho state averages to control somewhat for State-level effects

Indicators	Response for Initial Year of CMS*	Notes
Population, most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)	13,762,032	This information is on tab 2 not tab 1. While the year the information was tallied is not clear, multiple other entries in the table have the most recent as year 2020.
Percent of total, race & ethnicity, most recent year available (tab 11, Forest Service report)	White alone – 78.3% Black or African American – 2.8% American Indian – 21.2% Hispanic ethnicity – 13.0% Non-Hispanic Ethnicity – 87%	None
Unemployment rate, most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)	5% in 2021	This information is on tab 2 not tab 1.
Per capita income, most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)	$64,238 in 2020 reported in 2021 dollars	This information is on tab 2 not tab 1.
Wildfire Exposure, % of Total, Homes, most recent year available (see Wildfire Risk report)	Homes Directly Exposed – 28% Homes Indirectly Exposed – 36% Homes Not Exposed – 36%	This information is on tab 2 of Wildfire Risk report. Reference indicates 2020 data.

*Initial Year of Common Monitoring Strategy (CMS) Reporting

Table 4. Current social and economic context, additional indicators - Northern Blues CFLRP landscapeAdditional Indicators based on Washington, Oregon, and Idaho state averages to control somewhat for State-level effects

Additional Indicators		
Timber % of private employment, most recent year available (tab 2, Forest Service	1.3%, 2020	This is an estimate.

Additional Indicators		
report) for some counties. If not available, simply list "N/A")		
Travel and Tourism % of private employment, most recent year available (tab 2, Forest Service report) for some counties. If not available, simply list "N/A")	11.6%, 2020	This is an estimate, and it is not disaggregated by race.
Government % of Jobs, most recent year available (tab 1. Forest Service report)	13.4%, 2020	This is in tab 2.
Residential land area, most recent year available, (tab 2, Forest Service report)	Not available	None
Wildland-Urban Interface % developed, 2010 (tab 2, Forest Service report)	17.9%	This is not disaggregated based on direct/indirect/not exposed.
Earnings per job, most recent year available (tab 3, socioeconomic trends report)	$77,174, 2020 reported in 2021 dollars	Located in tab 6
Fed. Payments % of gov. revenue, most recent year available (tab 2, Forest Service report)	0.1%, 2017	None
Top employment sectors (see Employment by Industry, most recent year available (tab 5, Forest Service report). *Note: Please list the top 2-3 sectors that make up most of the employment size.*	Government, health care / social assistance retail trade, 2020	None
Total Federal Land Payments, Forest Service Payments, most recent year available (tab 12, Forest Service report)	$93,203,095, 2019 reported in 2021 dollars	None
Percent of total individuals and families in poverty, most recent year available (tab 9, Forest Service report)	7.1%, 2020 (average from 2016-2020)	Reported as "Families in Poverty"
Percent of total, Food stamps/SNAP, most recent year available (tab 10, Forest Service report)	12.1% , 2020 (average from 2016-2020)	None
Percent of Total Native American, most recent year available (tab 6, Demographics)	1.2%, 2020 (average from 2016-2020)	None

Additional Indicators	Response for Initial Year of CMS*	(Optional) Notes
Potentially Vulnerable Households, % total most recent year available, (tab 11, Populations at Risk)	People > 65 years & living alone—3.8% Single female households—9.7% Single female households with children < 18 years—6.1% Households with no car—6.6%	2020 (average from 2016-2020)

*****Initial Year of Common Monitoring Strategy (CMS) Reporting

Table 5. Examining size and growth of per capita income relative to earnings per job may be important to understanding how the economies in the counties of interest are evolving

Indicator		
Ratio of earnings per job / per capita income, 2020*	$12,662/$13,758 = 0.92	$77,174/$64,238 = 1.20
Ratio of change in earnings per job / change in per capita income, 2000-2020*	28.3% / 39.2% = 0.21	25.7%/ = 34.2% = 0.75

* Located in tab 6 of the Forest Service report

Provide a brief, narrative context for the data provided above, including any other key socioeconomic conditions to highlight for your landscape. If the data above does not accurately reflect socioeconomic conditions in/around your landscape please note and provide context.

It is not so much that the data choice may not reflect conditions or capture changes, rather, that county economies are relatively distinct. Grouping the 15 counties together runs the risk of generating data that is misleading or hard to interpret. For example, a given indicator in one county goes up, while another goes down--they could cancel each other showing no change. Alternatively, a given indicator could go up a bit for the region, but that would be because of a few large increases overwhelming many smaller decreases- most counties went down but the indicator would have moved in a different direction.

Blues Intergovernmental Council Northern Blues Socio Economic Impact Report. Through a partnership with the REV (Rural Engagement and Vitality Center – a joint venture of Eastern Oregon University and Wallowa Resources) we are leveraging new socio economic assessment tools and capacity to monitor our collective impact on critical indicators of community and economic vitality and resilience to measure the impact these restoration treatments will be having on our local communities. REV released its Blue Intergovernmental Council Socioeconomic Report this Fall 2022. It provides a snapshot of the 14 Oregon and Washington counties within the areas of the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malhuer national forests. It provides a good baseline and will involve a follow-up study five years from now. Partners are working to incorporate restoration work done on private and Tribal lands as well into the report's analysis.

Would you expect CFLRP activities to directly or indirectly impact any of these social and/or economic conditions? If so, how?

In the absence of a control group of counties, it is difficult to establish causality. Data for the indicators at the state level is included, which provides some context of what is happening in the background that could affect the results for this group, but this is still not the ideal approach.

Based on the information reported, (and any other relevant monitoring information and discussion), what (if any) actions or changes are you considering?

We are not currently considering any changes.

Monitoring Question #7 "How have CFLRP activities supported local jobs and labor income?" - covered earlier in annual report template.

See Question 6 - Socioeconomic Goals.

Monitoring Question #8 "How do sales, contracts, and agreements associated with the CFLRP affect local communities?"

Covered earlier in annual report template- see Question 6 - Socioeconomic Goals.

Monitoring Question #9 "Did CFLRP maintain or increase the number and/or diversity of wood products that can be processed locally?" (Reported every 5 years)

Data will be provided to 2021 cohort projects in FY23 to address this question – responses in FY22 are optional. If your CFLRP project has data available about the current timber harvest by county and/or product, the number of active processing facilities in the area, or other data about forest products infrastructure please provide here.

Regional Northern Blues 2022 Mill Survey. Each year, the National Forest Foundation's Conservation Connect Fellowship matches graduate forestry students with nonprofit Forest Service partners. This summer, Evie Vermeer (UCSB Bren School Master of Environmental Science & Management candidate and Sustainable Forestry Fellow) worked with partners to assess regional mill capacity for processing forest restoration byproducts. Through dozens of surveys with mill managers, investment analysts, researchers, industry representatives and academics, Vermeer aggregated data on current volumes and capacities, timber procurement trends, and industry challenges for forest restoration projects that produce non-saw materials. A report with survey details, data analyses, visualizations, and discussion was completed in Winter 2022 and will be a tool for Northern Blues partners to use in their restoration planning. ***This report serves as a baseline*** *and progress will be assessed moving forward from this baseline. Below is a summary of the baseline report's findings.*

The Northern Blues CFLRP includes the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. Fifteen wood processing facilities typically consume timber volume from this region. All fifteen were the subject of an in-person interview and analysis over the summer of 2022. Our response to Question 8 provided current timber harvest by county across the Northern Blues CFLRP project area.

Due to the size of the Northern Blues region and economically feasible haul distances, results have been grouped by subregions for specific analyses. These subregions represent aggregate 'wood baskets' of regional facilities, indicating feasible procurement areas based on estimated maximum economic haul distances for each mill. The facilities in the Southern Region are primary destinations for log volumes generated by the Southern Blues CFLRP.

Survey respondents in each subregion, along with specific location and facility type, are:

Northern Region:

Facility Name	Location	Facility Type
Blue Mountain Lumber	Pendleton, OR	Sawmill, Pellets
Boardman Chip Co.	Boardman, OR	Chipping
Boise Cascade Elgin Plywood	Elgin, OR	Plywood and Veneer
Clearwater Fiber	Clarkston, WA	Chipping
Guy Bennet Lumber	Clarkston, WA	Sawmill
Heartwood Biomass	Wallowa, OR	Chipping, Firewood, Poles
Idaho Forest Group	Lewiston, ID	Sawmill
Wallula PCA	Wallula, WA	Paperboard
Woodgrain Island City	Island City, OR	Particleboard
Woodgrain La Grande	La Grande, OR	Sawmill
Woodgrain Pilot Rock	Pilot Rock, OR	Sawmill

Southern Region:

Facility Name	Location	Facility Type
Iron Triangle	Seneca, OR	Poles
Malheur Lumber	John Day, OR	Sawmill
Prairie Wood Products	Prairie City, OR	Sawmill
Restoration Fuels	John Day, OR	Biomass

There are significant differences in the size of these facilities, in terms of total employment, log volumes processed, and finished products produced. Larger facilities, such as the IFG mill in Lewiston, influence the aggregate data shared below.

Employment:
Processing facilities in the study area currently employ approximately 2,000 workers, with potential to increase this figure if conditions for labor markets, timber supply, and wood product demand improve. Nearly every facility/respondent indicated that rural labor supply and wage inflation are persistent issues for their operations.

Saw-Log and Non-Saw Log Consumption:
Industry data from a timber manager with several area facilities shows a regional timber procurement trend over the past decade of roughly 75% commercial sawlogs and 25% non-saw log volumes (pulpwood, firewood, chipping logs, etc.). Survey responses, mostly provided as best estimates, approximate similar proportions of timber products. Several mills have opened (or re-opened) to specifically process non-saw log volumes. One major processor recently purchased equipment to install a line that can process saw-logs with as little as a 4” top diameter (this line has not been installed but is waiting for a secured long-term volume outlook to ensure it is a viable investment).

Log Diameter Preferences:
Preferred log diameter figures are not averaged in aggregate due to dissimilar facility purposes and equipment. Sawmills generally have a “small side” and a “large side” for their production lines. Surveyed sawmills indicate approximate sweet spots in the 7-9” and 12-14” range for their small and large lines, respectively. Sawmills typically report processing capacity down to 6” minimum diameter logs – a requirement from current Forest Service utilization standards. Responses confirm recent sawmill trends of average timber diameters decreasing. For biomass, fiber, post/pole, and chipping facilities, approximately 4-7” diameter wood is preferred, but diameters down to 3” are acceptable.

Species Preferences:
Species preferences were estimated for a general operating year, with responses ranging from no preference to nearly 100% douglas-fir or white-fir. Most facilities indicate flexibility in their species processing and indicate that increased elasticity of species demand is a competitive advantage. A volume-weighted average of species mix for the region is found below:

- Grand/White-Fir – 42%
- Douglas-Fir – 34%
- Pine – 23%
- Other – 1%

Log Baskets and Ownership Trends:
Log baskets are defined as the operating area(s) from which mills receive hauled timber. The average haul distance of timber delivered to facilities is approximately 175 miles (one-way). Reported haul distances vary greatly by facility type and size. For example, smaller facility responses ranged between 100-150 miles, while some corporately owned facilities and chip mills reported haul distances of 300-500 miles. During particularly difficult market conditions, one facility imported wood for lumber – although this practice has ceased and is unlikely to resume. 100% of respondents believe that their minimum necessary operational volume could be sustainably sourced from forests within their current haul radius.

Each respondent estimated ownership of delivered timber for their respective facility. Weighted results indicate approximately 40% of volume is owned by private landholders (mostly industrial forests) and 60% of volume is owned by public agencies (almost entirely Forest Service). A similar 2012 report in Eastern Oregon reported a 30% to 70% private to public ratio. This potential shift corresponds to data from a local operator and several respondents' comments about decreased timber harvests on public agency lands. Over the last 15-20 years industrial forest lands have generated more saw log volume then their historical average. This trend is leveling off and expected to decline moving forward.

Total Volume and Capacity by Region and Study Area
Survey respondents provided volume and capacity data in several measurement units, including million board-feet Scribner (MMBF), green tons (GT), bone-dry tons (BDT) and bone-dry units (BDU). These data have been converted to measurements of million cubic feet (MMCF). Conversion factors and data transcription consulting was provided by the Forest Industry Research Program at the University of Montana. Maximum capacity is defined as an estimate of total annual volume in the scenario that all operational constraints (available timber volume, labor supply, etc.) are removed.

Total volume and capacities are aggregated by 'Primary Consumers' (facilities that purchase timber sales) and 'Residual Facilities' (that purchase chips and/or other residual products from primary facilities). In evaluating total volumes of timber consumption from the Northern Blues study area, these residual facilities are omitted because their inputs are sourced from already-surveyed primary facilities (meaning volumes would be double-counted) and/or are sourced from sources outside the study area (Idaho, western Oregon, etc.).

Table 1 shows the results of volume and capacity calculations.

	Current Volume	Total Capacity	Additional Capacity	
Primary Consumers	(MMCF)	(MMCF)	(MMCF)	(%)
Northern Region	83.0	116.4	33.4	40%
Southern Region	17.3	24.8	7.4	43%
Primary Consumer Total	**100.3**	**141.2**	**40.8**	**41%**
Residual Facilities	*65.9*	*69.1*		

The total volume in the Northern Blues region is significantly greater than the Southern Blues Region (83 to 17.3 MMCF, respectively). This is partially attributable to the Northern Blues having larger population centers (Pendleton, La Grande, and Lewiston) and accompanying infrastructure, as well as better access to a larger portion of the Blue Mountain wood basket. The Southern Blues region is largely confined to the John Day (OR) area. It should be noted that one Southern Blues facility recently resumed operations, and another biomass project that is co-located with a stud mill and log chipper may add 1-2 MMCF of demand. Total capacity, if constraints were removed, is about 40% greater across both regions and the Blue Mountain industry in total.

Iron Triangle Post & Pole in Seneca, OR operates to specifically utilize 3-8” logs that are the product of a ten-year Forest Service stewardship contract. Two other facilities – Heartwood Biomass in Wallowa, OR and Restoration Fuels in John Day, OR – have been expressly created to process residuals and/or non-saw logs that are otherwise not economically viable and/or desired by conventional mills in their area. Products of these operations include biomass pellets, green veneer, firewood, and boiler fuel for energy production. Heartwood Biomass and Restoration Fuels are respectively positioned to either utilize residuals from a co-located mill or to receive only local wood from restoration projects. The production and monetization of these wood products that would otherwise be bound for waste streams fosters a diversified timber market.

Constraints

Survey responses consistently indicate that the greatest constraints to regional capacity are related to mill employment, as well as labor inputs to harvesting and trucking contractors. National trends of aging contractor workforces also persist in the Northern Blues. Most facilities indicate that additional shifts could run if local labor supply allowed for additional employees. These answers dovetail with responses that increased timber volumes from the Blue Mountains could be processed regionally and would be a boon for the wood processing industry. Despite these comments, many managers expressed concerns that Forest Service administrative constraints (inconsistent policies, sale appraisal processes and auction approvals, NEPA-related delays, etc.) will prevent a truly consistent increase in available volumes that will allow for long-term planning and expansions in production via hiring and other capital investments.

In considering the principal production constraints (labor and workforce) for the Northern Blues timber and wood processing industry, these findings point to larger issues that the CFLRP has no direct means to address. However, contributing to a greater, more consistent, and economically attractive timber volume in the region may increase mill processing volumes closer to their maximum capacities while bolstering the markets that are currently constraining production. Expanded mill production can translate to greater contractor and trucker demand – increasing competition in those industries, raising wages, and attracting more workforce participation. Several respondents indicated that additional contractors exist, but they are commonly utilizing their equipment for other, more lucrative work such as wildfire response. A current Blue Mountain CFLRP project is assessing contractor capacity to better understand this issue.

Monitoring Question #10 - "Did CFLRP increase economic utilization of restoration byproducts?"

Covered earlier in annual report template *see Question 7 Wood Products Utilization*

Monitoring Question #11 - "Who is involved in the collaborative and if/how does that change over time?"

Covered earlier in annual report template see Question 8- Collaboration

Monitoring Question #12: "How well is CFLRP encouraging an effective and meaningful collaborative approach?" (In FY22, Northern Blues only – reported every 2-3 years)

For detailed guidance, training, and resources, see corresponding reporting template here. Please upload your completed assessment summary provided by the Southwestern Ecological Restoration Institutes here and use it to respond to the prompts below:

- Reflecting on the summary provided, do you have any additional context for the results to share?
- Do you have any feedback about the assessment process?
- What have you done, or plan to do, in response to the challenges, needs, and recommendations identified in the collaboration assessment? Please provide up to 3 specific actions.
- What types of support or guidance do you need to address any of the challenges, needs, and recommendations identified in the collaboration assessment?

Reflections on survey:

- We appreciated the shifts SWERI made to adapt the assessment, which is normally utilized for formal "forest collaboratives'' to our "All Lands Partnership." However, the delivery of the assessment to our Partnership presented challenges in this regard. The delivery of the presentation is oftentimes referred to the "Forest Collaborative" rather than the "Northern Blues Restoration Partnership" - our "all lands" partnership. This is a continual challenge for our Partnership and region. In the future, we need to ensure the messaging around the NBR Partnership and the Collaborative are clear and transparent both with external partners and internally.
- The survey was performed entirely online. The questions identified in the survey were helpful. We realize this is a capacity issue, but no qualitative interviews were done to accompany the online survey. In the future, it may be helpful to have select interviews completed with a diversity of stakeholders in addition to the online survey. This could provide context to the specific local partnerships to help understand some of the dynamics that do not emerge in an online survey.

Actions taken by the Partnership in response to the survey:

- **Stakeholder Participation** (feedback around making the Partnership more inclusive of tribal members and conservation groups; engagement with county representatives and Forest service district rangers; incorporating water interests into the Partnership; having a more balanced membership composition)
  - The Partnership is working to expand its relationships with partners (e.g. watershed councils) supporting watershed, aquatics and stream restoration in the landscape, as it relates to the goals and objectives of the Partnership and the Northern Blues CFLR. The region also applied to received a CALRP which adds more funding to help support this work and the capacity to implement and monitor aquatic restoration work on Forest Service lands (*see Question 3: The Grande Ronde Headwaters Restoration Partnership Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration (CALR) Projec*t).
  - The Partnership and its partners are continuing to focus on small-scale collaborations and projects with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Nez Perce Tribe in an effort to build trust and relationships. Some of these projects have included First Foods monitoring (*see*

Question 9: Monitoring), a collaborative regional Prescribed Burn Training and prescribed burn (*see Question 4: Restoring Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Reducing Hazardous Fuels*), and a Northern Blues Forest Collaborative tour led by a CTUIR forester highlighting forest restoration work performed on CTUIR lands (*see Question 6: Socioeconomic Goals*). This continues to be a major priority for the Partnership.

- In an effort to build strong relationships with each of the district rangers, the Partnership and the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative performed presentations and held discussions with both the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman Forest Leadership Team Meetings in Fall 2022. We also developed a strategy to perform individual annual meetings with each district ranger on an annual basis.
- The Association of Eastern Oregon Counties sits on the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership's Leadership Team (*see Question 8: Collaboration*).
- The Northern Blues Forest Collaborative performed a collaborative evaluation over summer 2023 to to assess their level of trust, membership, commitment to collaboration, impact on forest resilience and their shared collective vision (Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Evaluation executive summary and presentation, also *see Question 6: Socioeconomic Goals)*

- **Collaborative Capacity** (feedback that FS staff has been drastically reduced over the last 30 years, which has led to reduced capacity for communication, engagement and planning with partners and the public; regular turnover and transition over the years has contributed to frustration of partners over long-term project and program engagement; the partnership should pursue engagement of underrepresented groups)
  - New Infrastructure (Bipartisan Infrastructure law- BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding available beginning in 2022-2023 has allowed both Forests to hire in additional employees to fill vacancies that have been empty for extended periods of time as well as to identify new positions to fill capacity gaps to meet current needs.
  - Utilizing authorities and agreements focused on shared stewardship, in particular, the Good Neighbor Authority, has been used to leverage state capacity and resources to plan and manage timber sales, and in the future, to contract NEPA planning services that are additive to the current program.
  - NCRS Foresters hired in Northeast Oregon to increase capacity (including increasing capacity to perform prescribed burning on private lands). New Northeast Oregon Firewise Community coordinator hired utilizing Oregon Senate Bill 762 and diverse foundation funding.
- **Multi-party monitoring** and adaptive management (feedback on working toward developing a management plan and adaptive management process and co-development of the process to encourage stakeholder and partner participation)
  - Partnership has held several opportunities to increase transparency and availability for the general public and local partners to understand the work, participate in shared learning, increase communications and places to interface with the work. This has included field tours, development of story maps and a new draft Partnership Dashboard showcasing projects and work, and a summer intern dedicated to creating a plan and strategy for increasing the Partnership's public engagement (see Question 6: Socioeconomic Goals).
  - The Northern Blues Monitoring team developed its draft monitoring plan and is working to develop a more effective adaptive management strategy to ensure information from the monitoring is delivered throughout the Partnership's resource and project teams and begins informing the restoration happening across the landscape on public, private and tribal lands (see Question 9: Monitoring Process).
- **Increase engagement** in prioritization of projects (feedback around increased engagement of Partnership members in the prioritization process and transparency of CFLRP decisions)
  - Umatilla Priority Landscape Restoration model (PLR), PLR story map, Wallowa Whitman is pursuing this as well which will help to identify NFS planning areas/future CFLRP project areas and share with

the NBR Partnership. (See Question 4: Restoring Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Reducing Hazardous Fuels for additional information.)

- Northeast Oregon Private Lands Landscape Assessment tool piloted in Summer/Fall 2023 (see Question 4: Restoring Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Reducing Hazardous Fuels for additional information)
- Umatilla/Wallowa-Whitman CFLRP Committee has developed a new CFLRP funding proposal process that incorporates CFLRP objectives and a cross-boundary focus. Beginning in FY24, the timing of this process will allow for engagement of cross-boundary land managers and the broader NBR Partnership prior to funding decisions. (See Question 4: Restoring Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Reducing Hazardous Fuels for additional information.)

Monitoring Question #13: "If and to what extent has CFLRP investments attracted partner investments across the landscapes?"

Covered earlier in annual report template- *see Question 2 - Funding*