

**CFLRP Project Name (CFLR#): Zuni Mountain CFLRP #012**  
**National Forest(s): Cibola National Forests and National Grasslands**

## 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).

Fiscal Year 2022 was an unusual and interesting year for several reasons. The winter provided late snow and inoperable conditions through April and then fire restrictions went into effect from mid-May through early July. We were able to prescribe burn 198 acres in FY22, but a moratorium on prescribed fire went into effect nationally from May through mid-September. The logging contractor purchased a harvester and tried it out in the CFLRP this year but determined that hand falling, and skidding were more productive and cost efficient for most areas. Despite a few speed bumps 784 acres of ponderosa forest were restored using selection thinning methods and are ready for prescribed burning.

We had a virtual water monitoring sub-group meeting to identify aquatic and watershed restoration actions for the next ten years of the CFLRP, understand partners' current and potential monitoring capacity and connect monitoring efforts, and articulate monitoring goals and describe monitoring priorities. This was followed up by a field day to perform spring monitoring and riparian surveys in Tampico Draw, which is habitat for the T&E Zuni bluehead sucker. Despite adversity, our collaborative stayed productive and strong, and we are proud to be continuing the valuable forest restoration work started back 2012.

## 2. Funding

### CFLRP and Forest Service Match Expenditures

Fund Source: CFLN and/or CFIX Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
CFLN1222	\$988,897.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$988,897.41</b>

Fund Source: Forest Service Salary and Expense Match Expended	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
NFSE22	\$395,185
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$395,185*</b>

\*Reflects employee days dedicated to implementation, assessment, and monitoring accomplished in the Zuni Mtn CFLRP; not accounted for in FY22 Workplan.

Fund Source: Forest Service Discretionary Matching Funds	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2022
CFDS1222 (Agreement# 17SA11030300018)	\$720,000
NFMP0322 (FSG Monitoring Agreement #18PA11030300023)*	\$30,000
S2F33J17 (Puerco MSO Inventory & PAC Monitoring, Contract# 127EAU22D0002)*	\$50,000
NFTM0322 (Puerco MSO PAC Monitoring, Contract# 127EAU22D0002)*	\$20,596
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 820,596*</b>

\*Not captured in FMMI

Partner Match Contributions<sup>1</sup>

Fund Source: Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY22	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
Forest Health Initiative	In-kind contribution	\$31,000	25 acres of landowner reimbursement projects completed	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private landowners
Forest Stewards Youth Corps – Mt. Taylor summer crew	In-kind contribution	\$35,000	Mt. Taylor Crew working in the landscape on forestry, range, archaeology, and fuels on Mt Taylor RD.	National Forest System Lands
NM State Forestry Division, Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA)	Funding	\$164,000	164 acres of forest thinning completed – Campground Unit through a non-funded Agreement w/NMFD.	National Forest System Lands
Mount Taylor Manufacturing	Funding	\$120,000	1/3 of 3-year 2021 (2 <sup>nd</sup> year) CFRP Utilization Grant for equipment at its Milan processing site	National Forest System Lands
NM State Forestry Division	Funding	\$353,665	Zuni Continental Divide project: 536 acres of hand thinning for non-WUI hazardous fuels reduction on SLO land	Other lands within CFLRP landscape: State Land Office Lands
NM State Forestry Division	Funding	\$400,000	Puerco Landscape Restoration EA, Bread Springs Heritage Survey IDIQ	National Forest System Lands
NM State Forestry	Funding	\$15,000	NMFD contract with private landowner w/ CFLRP footprint to masticate inaccessible acres.	Other lands within CFLRP landscape:

<sup>1</sup> Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #13](#)

Fund Source: Partner Match	In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?	Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY22	Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity	Where activity/item is located or impacted area
Chizh for Cheii	In-kind contribution and Funding	\$113,400 \$244,500	Collection of 815 loads of firewood and distribution to Navajo families, and related planning meetings. 90% of wood collected on FS land.	National Forest System Lands and other lands within CFLRP landscape:
TOTALS	Total In-Kind Contributions: \$179,400 Total Funding: \$1,476,565			

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

### 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– Timber Stand Improvement incorporated into the per acre cost of the NWTF Agreement (assume 10% goes to PCT): \$100,000

Revenue generated through Good Neighbor Agreements: \$0

“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 CFLRP 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<sup>2</sup> - Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record. Please note any discrepancies.

Core Restoration Treatments	Agency Performance Measure	NFS Acres	Non-NFS Acres	Total Acres
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) in the Wildland Urban Interface	FP-FUELS-WUI (reported in FACTS) <sup>3</sup>	198	0	198*
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) in the Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED	FP-FUELS-WUI-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) <sup>4</sup>	198	25	223*

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

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> New Agency measure reported in FACTS when completed

Core Restoration Treatments	Agency Performance Measure	NFS Acres	Non-NFS Acres	Total Acres
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) outside the Wildland Urban Interface	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI (reported in FACTS) <sup>3</sup>	445	0	445*
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) outside the Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) <sup>4</sup>	445	683	1,128*
Green tons of biomass for bio-energy (green tons)	BIO-NRG	24,264 <sup>5</sup>	166	24,430*
Prescribed Fire (acres)	Activity component of FP-FUELS-ALL (reported in FACTS)	198	0	198
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk	FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS (reported in FACTS)	140	0	140
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC (reported in FACTS) <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants - COMPLETED	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) <sup>4</sup>	0	0	0
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC (reported in FACTS) <sup>36</sup>	0	0	0
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species - COMPLETED	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) <sup>47</sup>	0	0	0
Road Decommissioning (Unauthorized Road) (miles)	RD-DECOM-NON-SYS (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Decommissioning (National Forest System Road) (miles)	RD-DECOM-SYS (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Improvement (High Clearance) (miles)	RD-HC-IMP-MI (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Improvement (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-IMP-MI (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Maintenance (High Clearance) (miles)	RD-HC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Maintenance (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Trail Improvement (miles)	TL-IMP-STD (Trails reporting)	0	0	0
Trail Maintenance (miles)	TL-MAINT-STD (Trails reporting)	0	0	0

<sup>5</sup> Includes 1,496 GT removed by Chiz for Chei for native communities.

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> New Agency measure reported in FACTS when completed

Core Restoration Treatments	Agency Performance Measure	NFS Acres	Non-NFS Acres	Total Acres
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)	HBT-ENH-TERR (reported in WIT)	794	0	794*
Water or Soil Resources Protected, Maintained, or Improved (acres)	S&W-RSRC-IMP (reported in WIT)	794	0	794*
Stand Improvement (acres)	FOR-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	128	0	128*
Reforestation and revegetation (acres)	FOR-VEG-EST (reported in FACTS)	70	0	70
Forests treated using timber sales (acres)	TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC (reported in FACTS)	573	0	573*
Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres)	RG-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	128	0	128*

\* Not captured or not fully captured in gPAS

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

There were 794 acres harvested in the CFLRP footprint in 2022. The harvested units were part of larger accomplishments from previous years and could not all be reported as “completed”. The Stewardship Agreement with the National Wild Turkey Federation was modified to reflect increased costs, so fewer new acres were added into the agreement and “accomplished” in FACTS. Most of the funding was put into increased unit costs and road work, including \$369,000 for aggregate rock placement (Mod 11), and supplementing the aggregate rock placement due to inflation costs with an additional \$83,953.63 and \$20,175.29 to allow for emergency road work needs (blading, blow outs due to rain, culvert clean out, etc. – Mod 12). On non-FS lands there were 561 (25+536) acres of harvest work completed to provide fuelwood and move toward desired conditions that would allow for reintroduction of low-intensity surface fire.

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

The Zuni Mountain CFLRP is within one of 10 Shared Stewardship Priority Landscapes identified in New Mexico, which have priority for treatment and funding. Within the Zuni Mountain CFLRP footprint, there were approximately 700 acres treated on New Mexico State Land Office lands:

- Zuni Continental Divide project (CFLRP adjacent) - completed 536.5 acres of hand thinning, which produced roughly 50 cords of firewood to permit out/give away to the public but ended up going to Mount Taylor Manufacturing mill who was subject to fire closure and could not operate for over a month. Captured in Partner Match Contributions.
- NM State Forestry Division funded Campground Cut/Skid/Deck Unit on NFS Land, 164 acres of cut skid deck in ponderosa forest type, this was a mixture of hand and machine thinning. This project was initiated as a fuelwood project but started giving decks to Mount Taylor Mill as they were in need due to high fire danger forest closure. Captured in Partner Match Contributions.

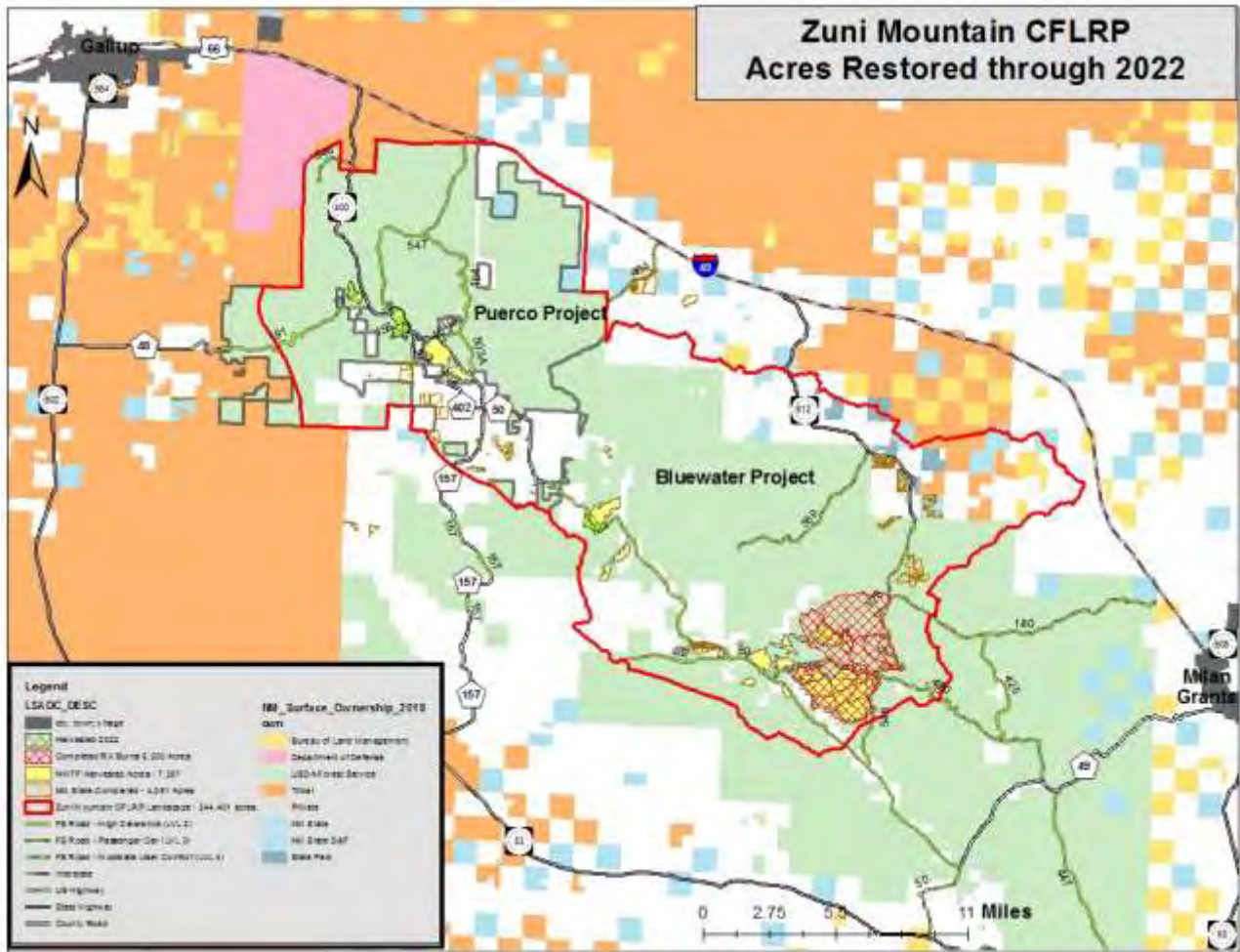


Figure 1. Treated acres in the Zuni Mountain CFLRP since 2012

**Trail Improvement, McKenzie Ridge, Puerco Project**



Figure 2. Trail Improvements, McKenzie Ridge, Puerco Project.

- There were approximately 9 miles of trail construction (improvement (on McKenzie Ridge)) completed by the contractor (Singletrack Trails) and an additional 2 miles of trail was maintained by a volunteer partner Adventure Gallup (Figure 2).
- Elkins Forest Restoration Project (private land) masticated due to inaccessibility - 18 acres of mastication for \$15,000 (In the CFLRP footprint).
- There were 25 acres (\$31,000) of Forest Health Initiative treatments performed on private land adjacent to the CFLR footprint to improve forest health and reduce hazardous fuels.
- Within the Zuni Mountain CFLRP footprint there were approximately 165 acres treated with Natural Resource Conservation Service funds on private and NFS lands:
  - NRCS Thoreau - 147 acres of PJ mastication, adjacent to CFLRP.
  - NRCS near McGaffey- 18 acres of thin, pile, burn units in the CFLRP Boundary.

#### 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?**

There were 768 acres logged by Forest Fitness providing wood to the Mt Taylor Manufacturing mill. All harvested areas, commercial and non-commercial, are prioritized in the Bluewater EIS and Puerco EA Decisions and consider proximity to WUI and resources at risk. Winter logging is prioritized by ease of access and accessibility to all weather roads. Given extensive private inholdings, all of the Zuni Mountains are considered a WUI area. All mechanically treated acres are scheduled for follow-up prescribed burning to maintain treatment effectiveness and complete overall restoration by reintroducing low-intensity fire back into the landscape.



**Figure 2.** McGaffey Unit 1 post-harvest September 2022 (group selection silvicultural system, Puerco Project).

Prescribed burning in the Copperton Burn Unit was completed in the fall of 2021 and spring 2022, totaling 198 acres. The pace and scale of treatments has fluctuated over the past 2-3 years due to turnover of the logging contractors and work stoppages related to the Mexican spotted owl injunction and forest closures due to high fire danger. The overall project has a goal of treating 2-3,000 acres per year but has been hampered by unforeseen work stoppages and turnover. The current logging contractor bought a forwarder and used it on the Campground Unit but determined that

hand-falling and skidding was more productive and cost effective, so that equipment will only be used selectively in the future.

A seasonal forestry crew (supported jointly by CFRP and CFLRP funds), overseen by the Forest Stewards Guild, marked 720 acres of timber in FS units in the Puerco Project in preparation for future restoration thinning. They also cut 1 mile of fireline, removed fuels along the boundary, and improved fire access roads on the Mt. Taylor side of the Mount Taylor RD in preparation for prescribed burning.

With major assistance from the Forest Steward's Guild and the youth crew, we collected baseline data for quaking aspen stands in the Bluewater portion of CFLRP footprint (Figure 2). Quaking aspen occurs in small stands located in isolated drainages across the landscape. Aspen has been declining for decades due to lack of disturbance and encroachment of conifers. Although not specifically covered under the Bluewater EIS, this data will be used to tier off the Northern New Mexico Riparian, Aquatic, and Wetland Restoration Project to examine installing protection fences in some areas.



**Figure 2.** Quaking aspen stand in decline from lack of disturbance, conifer encroachment and ungulate browsing, Bluewater Project.

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

- From FTEM (can be copied/summarized): Did the wildfire behavior change after the fire entered the treatment? No wildfires of any size or consequence occurred within the CFLRP boundary in FY22.
- From FTEM (can be copied/summarized): Did the treatment contribute to the control and/or management of the wildfire?



- From FTEM (can be copied/summarized): Was the treatment strategically located to affect the behavior of a future wildfire?
- 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?
- What resource values were you and your partners concerned with protecting or enhancing? Did the treatments help to address these value concerns?
- 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?
- What is your key takeaway from this event – what would you have done differently? What elements will you continue to apply in the future?

**FY22 Wildfire/Hazardous Fuels Expenditures (FS)**

Category	Expenditure
FY22 Wildfire Preparedness*	\$341,703
FY22 Wildfire Suppression**	\$201,350
FY22 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (CFLN, CFIX)	\$0
FY22 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (other BLIs)	RX \$16,325, Prep \$24,450

\* 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”)

As always, restoration thinning to restore species composition, density and structure are anticipated to reduce potential future fire suppression costs, as well as facilitate the reintroduction of low-intensity surface fires that maintain fuel loads at more historic levels. This was evidenced by the 2018 Bluewater-Diener Fires, where treated areas experienced reduced fire intensity and fire behavior upon burning into treated areas on Salitre Mesa, thus reducing suppression costs.



**Figure 3.** Prescribed burning in the Copperton Unit (Bluewater Project) after thinning to restore historic density and composition.

## 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.**

The combination of adverse soil conditions, a moratorium on prescribed burning, and a forest closure ceased all forest management activities including prescribed fire and non-commercial thinning, severely limiting the completion of work on the ground. There were 768 acres logged by Forest Fitness in western Bluewater which provided wood to the Mt Taylor Manufacturing mill.

Prescribed burning in the Copperton Burn Unit was completed in the fall of 2021 and spring 2022, totaling 198 acres. A moratorium on prescribed burning prevented the accomplishment of additional acres that were planned. The district intends to prescribe burn approximately 1,900 acres in FY23. Reintroducing low intensity prescribed fire back into these fire adapted ecosystems is a crucial step toward overall ecological restoration.

A total of 766 acres of vegetation treatments were completed to improve soil and water condition. A shared restoration opportunity at Shush Kin Fen at the headwaters of Bluewater Creek was scheduled for completion in FY22, however heavy rains caused postponement to FY23. This restoration initiative will improve watershed condition and habitat quality by limiting encroachment by cattle.

Terrestrial habitat enhancements were accomplished through forest thinning on 798 acres. All wildlife surveys (Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk) in the Bluewater and Puerco projects are current, and 5-year MSO resurveys began in the summer of 2022.

## 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.

Chizh for Cheii collected 815 loads of firewood and distributed it by truck to Navajo families on the Navajo reservation, predominately seniors and those with disabilities. 90% of the firewood was collected on USFS land through thinning projects. The Chizh for Cheii volunteer team also held 21 Zuni-related planning meetings in FY22.

The forest submitted a request to the WO with its updated work plan to expand the CFLRP footprint to include the Hogback Extension, a 5,000-acre area directly adjacent to the Bread Springs Chapter of the Navajo Nation. NM State Forestry Division provided \$400,000 to include the area into the Regional Heritage IDIQ contract. The Forest plans to pursue an agreement with the Bread Springs Chapter that could cover workforce development, training, and youth engagement for projects in the Hogback Extension.

In addition to TREAT, the Forest Stewards Guild also track jobs directly through surveys and interviews with contractors and other employers working on restoration in the landscape. Full time equivalent (FTE) does not always tell the whole story regarding jobs and economic impact. With a single FTE multiple people may have benefited from the wages and training that one FTE represents. The Forest Stewards Youth Corps (FSYC) is a good example of this. While the program only accounted for .7 FTE due to its seasonal nature, four young people were employed and gained skills and experience working in the Zuni Mountains CLFR landscape that will help them find employment in the future. Furthermore, this .7 FTE is supported by leveraged funding from the state of New Mexico and private foundations.

When you compare the total FTE accounted for in surveys and interviews in the table below, in multiple sectors there were more than four times as many people as there are indicated by the FTE. It is also encouraging that the ratio of FTE to individuals employed is the highest for the mill processing (1.00) and harvesting & trucking sectors (. This indicates that those jobs are closer to full time as opposed to seasonal, which provides more stable employment and better economic conditions for local workers. Furthermore, “individuals employed” does not consider staff turnover meaning that if the ratio were calculated using FTE to positions the ratio would likely be higher and further indicate more stable employment in those sectors.

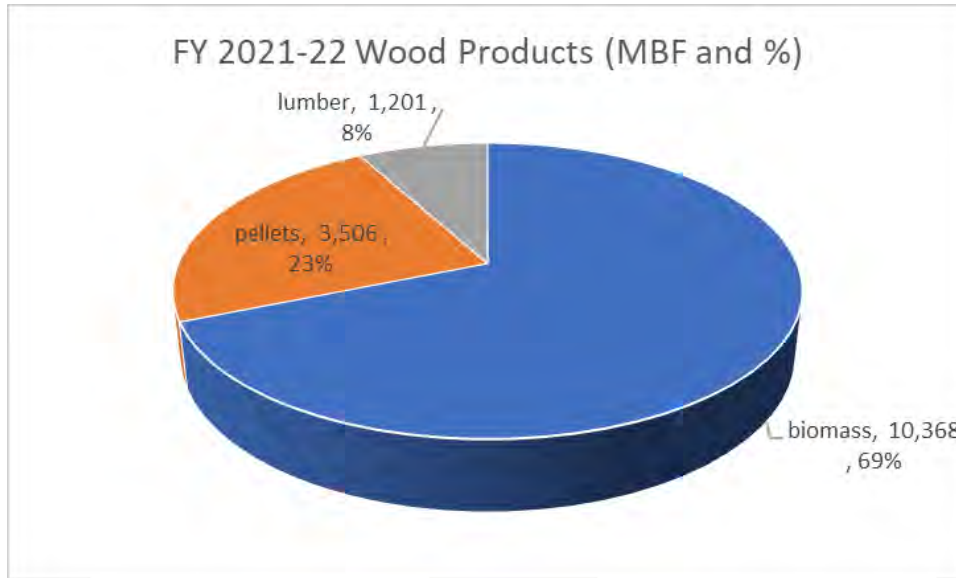
**FFY 2021-22 Jobs and Wages - Observed**

Employment Sector	Full-Time Equivalent	Wages	Number of People Employed	Ratio of FTEs to Jobs
Harvesting and Trucking	15.7	\$835,340.00	19	0.83
Youth	0.7	\$14,760.00	4	0.17
Mill Processing	36.8	\$1,188,392.00	36.8	1.00
Monitoring	0.53	\$37,573.00	2	0.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>\$2,076,065.00</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>0.87</b>

The Zuni Mountains CFLRP continued to provide important training and workforce development opportunities in FFY 2021-22. As stated above, the Forest Stewards Youth Corps (FSYC) on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District provides natural resource management training to youth between the ages of 15-19 as well as a valuable workforce to projects within the Zuni Mtns. landscape. In addition to the FSYC crew, in 2021-22, the Guild continued to administer a 4-person marking crew as part of their work on the Zuni Mountains CFRP. This crew works within the project landscape and leverages CFRP funding toward the goals of the CFLRP. From August to September 2022, the four-person timber marking crew, hired by the Guild and supervised by MTRD staff, spent nine weeks painting ponderosa pine trees to prepare for

future thinning treatments. This crew accounted for .7 FTE in FY22. Two of the four crew members were a part of the 2021 marking crew, for whom this seasonal opportunity has become a part of their annual workflow. Applying a basal area prescription of 55 to 60 (higher in riparian areas and MSO protected activity center (PAC) buffer zones), the crew marked a total of 720 acres. The crew also collected stand exam data across more than one hundred plots to assess the condition and regeneration of aspen forests.

The efficient and creative use of small diameter wood in the Zuni Mountains continued in FFY 2021-22. Each of these divisions is supported by and in turn supports utilization of woody biomass generated by restoration work in the CFLR. The pie chart below provides a breakdown of the types of products being created.



**Results from the Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Toolkit (TREAT).** For guidance, training, and resources, see materials on [Restoration Economics SharePoint](#).<sup>8</sup> 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: **85%**

All funds listed in Section 2 were put into agreements for work to be completed within the CFLRP footprint. An undetermined amount of overhead costs may have gone outside the local impact area, but all implementation and processing costs stay local.

**Contract Funding Distributions Table (“Full Project Details” Tab)**

Description	Project Percent
Equipment intensive work	29.3%
Labor-intensive work	43.1%
Material-intensive work	0
Technical services	22.4%
Professional services	0
Contracted Monitoring	5.2%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>8</sup> Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #7](#)

**Modelled Jobs Supported/Maintained (CFLRP and matching funding)**

Jobs Supported/Maintained in FY 2022	Direct Jobs (Full & Part-Time)	Total Jobs (Full & Part-Time)	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income
Timber harvesting component	33	45	1,589,727	2,101,580
Forest and watershed restoration component	23	34	966,541	1,475,657
Mill processing component	32	55	788,654	2,050,239
Implementation and monitoring	7	8	217,741	261,291
Other Project Activities	2	2	76,562	106,958
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>3,639,225</b>	<b>5,995,726</b>

**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?**

According to 2021 employment numbers for Cibola County, (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dec 2021) there were 6,848 people employed and the Zuni Mountain CFLRP employs about 1.4% of them directly. This is equivalent to 4,654 people in Bernalillo County, the largest county in New Mexico. Even though the numbers seem small these jobs have a huge impact in the local area.

([https://www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/news-release/countyemploymentandwages\\_newmexico.htm](https://www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/news-release/countyemploymentandwages_newmexico.htm) )

**Assumptions for Data Entry**

Project partners determined the socioeconomic Area of Interest (AOI) for the Zuni Mountains CFLRP. This AOI is important for TREAT modelling and for analysis based on definitions of “local.” Local contractors and organizations were defined as those with business addresses in the 4-county area that surrounds the Zuni Mountains project landscape – Bernalillo, Santa Fe, McKinley, and Cibola counties. This same 4-county area was used in the environmental justice analysis. This delineation was chosen based on local knowledge of these counties economic dependence on national forestland within the RC CFLRP boundary for employment opportunities or biomass for wood processing facilities located in adjacent counties. This list of counties reflects the areas where the workforce for the Zuni Mountains CFLRP lives and where they will ultimately spend their wages.

**Observations and Monitoring**

The Cibola National Forest, the Forest Stewards Guild, and project partners continued to collect socioeconomic data for TREAT as well as for the additional socioeconomic monitoring that occurs every project year. In gathering the numbers and percentages for use in TREAT, the Guild contacted all available relevant entities and asked for direct and specific information. To capture the social and economic effects of treatments on private land, we interviewed additional project partners. The data gathering and associated interviews were consistent with previous year’s methods. Data collected in interviews was shared with Forest Service Economists as “local economic data” as per TREAT instructions.

The observed data received from the Mt. Taylor sawmill is consistent with the estimates generated by the TREAT model. Based on TREAT estimates, the Mt. Taylor sawmill supports roughly a third of the direct employment related to the project and about 22% of the total modelled employment. This seems like a reasonable estimate based on local knowledge and conversations about the important role that the Mt. Taylor sawmill plays for wood processing in the project landscape.

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.<sup>9</sup> For resources, [see materials here](#) (external Box folder).

**Mt. Taylor Manufacturing** - Operates a state-of-the-art Double Cut Band Mill alongside double Morgan Scragg Mills. This provides the ability to cut standard size wood products very rapidly or to cut custom-sized wood products to customer order. Current rough green offerings include cants and beams and custom cutting: virtually any size and length are available up to 30’ long, as long as large logs are available. Also, under the same ownership is Out of the Woods Manufacturing, a wood processing and manufacturing plant based out of Albuquerque that processes wood into a variety of environmentally friendly products including Clean Burning Wood Pellets, Garden Mulch, premium fragmented animal bedding, IPEMA Certified Playground Chips, and Smoker Pellets. (<https://www.mttaylormanufacturing.com>)

**Forest Fitness** – Forest Fitness, LLC was started in January 2002 with two chainsaws and a chipper in response to the demand for landscape-scale restoration across the Southwest. Since then, they have conducted forest thinning, wildlife habitat enhancement, riparian restoration, and fuels reduction services on hundreds of projects, totaling thousands of acres of piñon/juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine, riparian, and mixed-conifer systems across the Western United States (<http://www.forestfitness.com> )

**Chizh for Cheii (CfC)** - Chizh For Cheii (CFC) is a grassroots organization founded in 2011 by Dine' Actor/Musician/Activist Loren Anthony. In effort to care for elders during the winter season on the Navajo Nation and surrounding area "Chizh for Cheii" was created. Many elders on Navajo Nation live in remote rural areas with limited resources to acquire their household needs, such as firewood. Fire plays a huge factor in offering warmth, cooking food, and purifying hauled water for many Dine' relatives during the cold seasons that do not have electricity. We view our elders as the backbone to our beautiful culture and heritage. "Chizh for Cheii" which means "wood for grandpa" in Navajo, has provided thousands of loads of free firewood for the past five years. In 2020 alone, CfC cut and delivered 1,700 loads of firewood which is over \$500,000 in mutual aid. (<https://www.facebook.com/ChizhForCheii> ).

Maintaining and creating restoration related jobs through thinning operations and wood processing at MTM that will continue to provide sustainable well-paying jobs to surrounding local communities. Local natural resource crews that have trained and gained experience through work implemented in the ZML, such as Alamo and Ramah Navajo, will continue to be prioritized for non-commercial thinning operations and commercial fuelwood permits.

## 7. Wood Products Utilization

### Timber & Biomass Volume Table<sup>10</sup>

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	3,515
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	15,621*
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	24,264*

<sup>9</sup> Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #8](#)

<sup>10</sup> Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #10](#)

\*Not captured, or not fully captured in gPAS

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

In addition to traditional wood processing at the Mt. Taylor Sawmill, Chizh for Cheii collected 815 loads of firewood and distributed it by truck to Navajo families on the Navajo reservation, predominately seniors and those with disabilities. 90% of the firewood was collected on USFS land through thinning projects. The Chizh for Cheii volunteer team also held Zuni Mountains-related planning meetings in FY22.

## 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).<sup>11</sup> 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.**

We have had no significant change in core membership. Organizations such as the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, New Mexico Native Plants Society, Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions, New Mexico Game and Fish, New Mexico State Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, Ramah Navajo Chapter, and others continue to be involved and engaged. We have added partners such as Bat Conservation International in addition to re engaging previously involved partners such as the Pueblo of Zuni and New Mexico Council of Governments.

In the Fall of 2022, project partners worked with representatives from the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) to adapt the standard WO-mandated collaborative governance assessment to the Zuni Mountains Collaborative. This involved adding additional locally specific questions that will provide useful information for collaborative management. Additional, locally specific questions include:

- What forms of communication and engagement are the best use of your time (select all that apply)?
  - Monthly virtual meetings
  - Monthly in-person meetings
  - Monthly virtual meetings with quarterly in-person meetings
  - Annual multi-day, in-person workshops
  - Field trips
  - Other (fill in the blank)
- Should we continue with the existing CFLRP project working group (or sub-committee) structure (select all that apply)?
  - Yes, the work groups are sufficient and effective
  - The work groups need additional participation, capacity, and resources to be effective
  - The work groups could be modified to better achieve our objectives
  - Additional work groups are needed (fill in the blank)
  - Other (fill in the blank)
- Currently, what specific resources and capacity can you or your organization contribute to this effort?
  - Direct financial support

<sup>11</sup> Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #11](#)

- Personnel time
- Other in-kind (fill in the blank)
- Other (fill in the blank)
- Briefly explain how the CFLRP project collaborative process has or has not met your expectations.

The collaborative governance survey was distributed in the winter of 2022 and results will be available for the FFY 2023 annual report.

## **9. Monitoring Process**

### **Briefly describe your current status in terms of developing, refining, implementing, and/or reevaluating your CFLRP monitoring plan and multiparty monitoring process.**

USFS, Forest Stewards Guild, USF&WS, NMG&F, Springs Stewardship Institute, River Source, Inc., NM Native Plants Society and others are core monitoring partners in the Zuni Mountains landscape, with the Guild and USFS being primarily responsible for coordinating monitoring efforts. We are currently reviewing ecological monitoring protocols for targets such as watershed condition and focal species as we draft a multiparty monitoring plan (MMP) to address the 13 core monitoring questions. The MMP will be finalized in Q1 of 2023.

Monitoring results are reported back to the Collaborative members on an annual basis. These are then used to evaluate progress towards desired processes and ecological conditions. Where it is determined that desired conditions are not being achieved, adaptive management is then used to course correct.

In FY23 we have plans for several shared learning opportunities, including water quality monitoring, native and invasive plant surveys, a field tour of the west side of the project area (Puerco), the aforementioned Shush Kin Fen restoration, and others. These activities are not the result of stakeholder feedback but simply a desire to expand collaborative efforts.

Lack of capacity is the core challenge faced with regards to multi party monitoring, with data integration and management being a secondary challenge. We aim to improve the multi-party monitoring process through improved coordination by partners. The Forest is in the process of hiring a Partnership Coordinator that will take on much of the CFLRP Coordination duties that are currently shared by the Forest Silviculturist and Timber Program Manager.

## **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?

We expect to have funded, or close to, virtually all the acres analyzed for commercial timber harvest in the Bluewater and Puerco Projects through the NWTf Stewardship Agreement by 2023-24. We anticipate transitioning into funding mostly non-vegetation restoration treatments and monitoring after that point (i.e. - watershed, range, and wildlife). There are also over 10,000 acres of pinyon-juniper thinning remaining in the Puerco Project that will be prioritized for public fuelwood gathering after mechanical treatments to restore historic densities and composition. In the meantime, we are pursuing opportunities for a more balanced restoration approach that includes utilizing new and existing agreements and contracts to accomplish that work.





**Figure 4.** Aerial shot of the eastern side of the Zuni Mountain CFLRP, Bluewater Project Area. Areas were mechanically thinned between 2011-14 and prescribe burned in 2015-16.

## Optional Prompts

### Media Recap

Please share any videos, articles, press releases, etc. – you can include links or copy/paste.

EcoSense for Living is a local public television program presented by KET.

[EcoSense for Living | The Future of Fire | Season 6 | PBS](#)

Bluewater Showcase Forest Visualization Story Map. New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, New Mexico Highlands University. (2022, December). <https://arcg.is/PqnXa>

### Signatures

- Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)): /s/ *Shawn A. Martin*, Forest Silviculturist/CFLRP Coordinator, Cibola National Forest
- Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)): /s/ *Steve Hattenbach*, Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands
- Draft reviewed by (collaborative representative): /s/ *Eytan Krasilovsky*, Deputy Director, Forest Stewards Guild