Northern Blues (CFLR #024)
Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

NORTHERN BLUES

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)

2023 Annual Report

Prepared by:

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 landscape

Spring 2023 NBRP All Lands Field Tour

Spring 2023 OSU/NRCS Prescribed Burn Training

2023 Northern Blues Monitoring Crew

1. Executive Summary

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).*

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. Three years into our project we have accomplished **195,062 acres of active restoration treatments** or **37% 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. Three years into our project we have achieved **57,202 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 **252,264 total acres of restoration** or **28% of our overarching goal**.

Acres	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**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	57,495 acres	252,264 acres	901,600 acres	**28%**

2. Funding

CFLRP and Forest Service Match Expenditures

Fund Source: CFLN and/or CFIX Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2023
CFLN23 CFLN22 CFIX23 **TOTAL**	$2,871,716 $9,409 $638,106 **$3,519,231**

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	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2023
NFSE23 WFSE23 **TOTAL**	$621,952 $1,714,452 **$2,336,406**

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 2023
CFKV	$123,478
CFDS	$1,421,414
CFHX	$153,890
CFHF	$3,967,473
TOTAL	**$5,666,255**

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 Contributions[1] Total partner in-kind contributions for implementation and monitoring of a CFLR project across all lands within the CFLRP landscape.

Fund Source: Partner Match	**In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?**	**Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY23**	**Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity**	**Where activity/item is located or impacted area**
Mule Deer Foundation	☐ In-kind contribution ☒ Funding 0614NFXNA823	$11,696	The purpose of this agreement is to document the contribution of funds from MDF to USFS to pay a portion of YCC students salary from a rangeland restoration project.	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Washington Department of Natural Resources (FFR Direct Investment Funding)	☐ In-kind contribution ☒ Funding N/A– WA DNR direct payment contract	$94,240	WA DNR wrote, solicited and managed a contract to conduct Mill Creek in-stream fish surveys to inform the Tiger-Mill NEPA analysis	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Bonneville Power Administration Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	☐ In-kind contribution ☒ Funding N/A- BPA funds directly to CTUIR for contract	1,184,317	The CTUIR secured funding from BPA and implemented a restoration project, Middle Upper Grande Ronde Phase II/III on 6 miles of the mainstem Grande Ronde River	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:

[1] Addresses Core Monitoring Question #13

Fund Source: Partner Match	**In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?**	**Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY23**	**Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity**	**Where activity/item is located or impacted area**
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation– Starkey Thinning Elk Habitat Improvement	☐ In-kind contribution ☒ Funding 0616CWFS0423	$25,000	The purpose of this agreement is to document the contribution of funds from RMEF to USFS to support a thinning project for forest health and elk habitat improvement	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
US Fish and WIldlife Service	☐ In-kind contribution ☒ Funding 0616NFXFE323	$5,456	The purpose of this agreement is to document cooperation between the USFWS and the Umatilla NF to study and protect the ESA protected whitebark pine	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
City of Walla Walla	☐ In-kind contribution ☒ Funding 0614CWFS1224	$6,107	The purpose of this agreement is to document cooperation between the City and the Umatilla NF to provide funds to support the salary of the Mill Creek Municipal watershed patrol	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Bureau of Reclamation (Bird Track Springs Longley Meadows)	☐ In-kind contribution ☒ Funding 0616NFXF0422	$73,596	Incoming funds agreement for contract covering the rehabilitation/reconstruction of Interpretive trail through restoration project	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Trout Unlimited	☐ In-kind contribution ☒ Funding N/A- BPA and OWEB funding directly to TU for contract	$400,000	Full floodplain and fish and aquatic habitat restoration project contracted through Trout Unlimited. Phase 2 will occur in 2024. Total accomplishment: 4 miles and 65 acres restored.	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:

Fund Source: Partner Match	**In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?**	**Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY23**	**Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity**	**Where activity/item is located or impacted area**
Training and Employment Consortium	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$16,529	Crews performed fence construction, fence removal, campground and trail cleanup and tree marking services	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$29,510	Providing riparian monitoring in Wallowa County to support the Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project and grant administration, contract contributions, materials and supplies for fence construction along Big Sheep Creek to Tyee Creek to improve stream habitat for ESA listed fish	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Oregon Youth Authority	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$17,812	Provides supervision, transportation and crews to supports prescribed burning, thinning and piling, and general forest work on National Forest lands	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Oregon Department of Agriculture (Invasive Plant Agreement)	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$80,846	Agreement covered invasive plant treatments on the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Oregon Department of Forestry (Wallowa-Whitman-GNA Agreement and position support)	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$61,266	Agreement covered salary for NRS-1 and FMTs to assist with GNA sale prep & surveys	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Oregon Department of Forestry (Umatilla GNA Agreement and position support)	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$19,736	Agreement covered salary for NRS-1 and FMTs to assist with GNA sale prep & surveys	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife-Wallowa-Whitman GNA agreement	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$11,430	Agreement covering elk habitat improvement and road decommissioning in Bald Angel project area	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:

Fund Source: Partner Match	**In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?**	**Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY23**	**Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity**	**Where activity/item is located or impacted area**
Klamath Bird Observatory (Landscape Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Using Birds as Indicators Agreement)	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$20,436	Agreement covered the cooperation between the USFS and KBO to monitoring restoration effectiveness at improving habitat for avian focal species	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Trout Unlimited	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$60,000	Agreement covering high density woody debris placement in the North Fork John Day river tributary streams	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
The Nature Conservancy	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$50,834	Agreement covered moist-mixed conifer data collection and sharing for the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman Forests	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
USFWS Whitebark Cone Collection Agreement	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$17,737	Agreement covering the caging, cone and scion collection from whitebark pine trees in the Wallowa-Whitman NF.	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife- Good Neighbor Authority agreement	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$241,868	Agreement covering 15 miles of fence construction along WDFW/Umatilla NF lands boundary and wood placement in streams	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$25,279	Agreement covering invasive/noxious weed treatments on Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman NF lands in Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Oregon Department of Agriculture	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$31,790	Agreement covering invasive/noxious weed treatments on Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman NF lands	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:

Fund Source: Partner Match	**In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?**	**Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY23**	**Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity**	**Where activity/item is located or impacted area**
Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$8,491	Agreement covering invasive/noxious weed treatments on Umatilla NF	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Mt. Adams Institute Public Lands Stewards Recreation Crew	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$45,647	All aspects of trail maintenance within the North Fork John Day wilderness, and interacting with and educating public users of the wilderness. on Umatilla NF	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Northwest Youth Corps	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$3,560	The purpose of this project is to reduce the backlog of trail maintenance to increase public access to portions of the North Fork John Day Ranger District while providing hands-on trails experience to a crew of young adults.	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Nez Perce Tribe Lick Creek Fire Riparian Fence	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$4,368	The purpose of this agreement is to document cooperation between the Tribe and the Umatilla NF to rebuild the riparian fence that was damaged in the Lick Creek Fire of 2021.	☒ National Forest System Lands ☐ Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Oregon Department of Forestry - Northeast Oregon District	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$160,840	Contracted $s spent on adjoining private lands to support wildfire/fuel reduction; values at risk protection; landscape resiliency, and increased forest health on 313 acres	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners
Oregon Department of Forestry - Northeast Oregon District	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$550,000	ODF forestry staff time to complete 313 acres of hazardous fuels reduction treatment on adjoining private lands	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners
Fund Source: Partner Match	**In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?**	**Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY23**	**Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity**	**Where activity/item is located or impacted area**

Natural Resources Conservation Service - John Day/Umatilla and Snake River Basins	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$2,992,664	Contracted $s spent on adjoining private lands to support watershed health, forest health, and fire resiliency on 3283 acres	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$664,746	Contracted $s spent on adjoining CTUIR Tribal lands to support watershed health, forest health, and fire resiliency on 1370 acres	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: CTUIR Tribal Forest Lands
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$130,356	Contracted $s spent on adjoining CTUIR Tribal lands to manage invasive and noxious weeds on 505 acres	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: CTUIR Tribal Lands
Wallowa Resources - Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$391,945	Contracted $s and staff time spent on adjoining private lands to manage invasive and noxious weeds on 554 acres	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Landowners
Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$223,949	Contracted $s spent on adjoining private lands to manage invasive and noxious weeds on 4,819 acres	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Landowners
Fund Source: Partner Match	**In-Kind Contribution or Funding Provided?**	**Total Estimated Funds/Value for FY23**	**Description of CFLRP implementation or monitoring activity**	**Where activity/item is located or impacted area**

Wallowa Resources	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$403,166	Contributions include support for CFLRP and All Lands monitoring crews and development of the CFLRP and All Lands monitoring plans, forest management plans, FIrewise Community Support, defensible space implementation in Firewise Communities, and staff coordination to support Operations Team, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership, Northern Blues Forest Collaborative, Communications, Stewardship Workforce	☒ National Forest System Lands ☒Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners & CTUIR
Grande Ronde Model Watershed	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$2,095,011	Contracted $'s spent on adjoining private and state lands to support stream restoration projects (includes funding from Trout Unlimited, Nez Perce Tribe, ODW, SWCD, GRMW, and others)	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Landowners & State Lands
Washington Department of Natural Resources	☒ In-kind contribution ☐ Funding	$1,604,570	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 808 acres	☐ National Forest System Lands ☒ Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Nonindustrial Private Landowners

Total Partner In-Kind Contributions: **$11,823,468**

Total Partner-Provided Funding: **$1,800,412**

Goods for Services Match

Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract (for contracts awarded in FY23)	Totals
Total revised non-monetary credit limit for contracts awarded in FY23	$0
Revenue generated through Good Neighbor Agreements	**Totals**
	$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 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.
The Umatilla NF did award one GNA award, but there has not been any harvest yet on the project and no revenue will be generated until they begin hauling.

3. Activities on the Ground

FY 2023 Agency Performance Measure Accomplishments[2] - 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)[3]	18,949	NA	18,949
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) in the Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED	FP-FUELS-WUI-CMPLT (reported in FACTS)[4]	15,683.6	4,699	20,382.6
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) outside the Wildland Urban Interface	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI (reported in FACTS)[3]	19,719.6	NA	19,719.6
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) outside the Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI-CMPLT (reported in FACTS)[4]	11,881	475	12,356
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk	FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS (reported in FACTS)	5,985	5,174	11,159
Prescribed Fire (acres)	Activity component of FP-FUELS-ALL (reported in FACTS)	7,914	7,793	15,707
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC (reported in FACTS)[3]	3,878.2	NA	3,878.2
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants - COMPLETED	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC-CMPLT (reported in FACTS)[4]	3,878.2	5,878	9,756.2
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC (reported in FACTS)[35]	0	NA	0
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species - COMPLETED	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC- CMPLT (reported in FACTS)[46]	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

[6]

Core Restoration Treatments	Agency Performance Measure	NFS Acres	Non-NFS Acres	Total Acres
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)	51.7	NA	51.7
Road Maintenance (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	144.9	NA	144.9
Trail Improvement (miles)	TL-IMP-STD (Trails reporting)	.05	NA	.05
Trail Maintenance (miles)	TL-MAINT-STD (Trails reporting)	224.6	NA	224.6
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)	HBT-ENH-TERR (reported in WIT)	9,046.3	NA	9,046.3
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)	24.4	10.21	34.6
Lake Habitat Enhanced (acres)	HBT-ENH-LAK (reported in WIT)	0	0.1	0.1
Water or Soil Resources Protected, Maintained, or Improved (acres)	S&W-RSRC-IMP (reported in WIT)	7,362	0	7,362
Stand Improvement (acres)	FOR-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	14,245.2	12,967	27,212.2
Reforestation and revegetation (acres)	FOR-VEG-EST (reported in FACTS)	83	2,587	2,670
Forests treated using timber sales (acres)	TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC (reported in FACTS)	5,491.6	NA	5,491.6
Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres)	RG-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	40,096	NA	40,096

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

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:

Accomplishment reporting discrepancies:

- Roads: There were an additional 321 miles of maintenance that occurred on the North Zone of the Umatilla National Forest that did not get reported or tagged for CFLRP. We only had one staff member in engineering at the SO for the Umatilla and they could not get roads reported in time with other demands from contracting.
- WIT: much of the WIT numbers did not meet targets set for 2023. It is likely that there were enough activities to meet the 2023 targets, but that reporting mistakes did not capture all the activities that were accomplished.

With reduced staffing and staff capacity, not all the activities were entered and a continued misunderstanding of what "counts" for CFLRP resulted in the implementation project not getting tagged. We are developing an after action review of reporting this year, to ensure that individuals responsible for reporting and program managers are all on the same page about reporting.

Reflecting on treatments implemented in FY23, if/how has your CFLRP project aligned with other efforts to accomplish work at landscape scales?

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 2023. These treatments include **18,845 acres** of non-commercial thinning and prescribed fire, invasive species removal, and aquatic/watershed restoration treatments and **10.21 miles** of stream habitat enhancement on adjacent lands.

- ***12,967 acres*** *of non-commercial thinning/defensible space/prescribed burn treatments completed on private, state and Tribal lands; accompanied by* ***38,669 (thinning + rx burning)*** *on National Forest Service lands.*
- ***0.1 acres*** *of aquatics restoration treatments and* ***10.21 miles*** *of stream habitat enhancement completed on private, state and Tribal lands; accompanied by* ***95 acres*** *of treatments and* ***24.4 mile****s of stream habitat enhancement on National Forest Service lands.*
- ∉ ***5,878 acres*** *of noxious and invasive weed restoration treatments completed on private, state and Tribal land, accompanied by* ***3,878 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
Mount Emily Recreation Area - Oregon Department of Forestry	In 2020, Union County received a grant to establish a fuel break through the 3,700-acre, county-owned, Mt Emily Recreation Area (MERA). This was a National Fire Plan Community Assistance grant administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Approximately $200,000 was received to establish a six-mile fuel break thru MERA and a secondary fuel break on private lands along a main access road (3120) adjacent to MERA. Both fuel breaks run north-south and provide a strategic location, along the ridgetop, for control lines if a wildfire were to start. These are thinning, mastication, piling and burning projects. The fuel break established on MERA was approximately 400-feet wide with spacing of 25 feet or more. This project was completed in 2022. The USDA Forest Service has since received funding to continue the fuel break along the 3120 road to the north. Thinning and piling for this portion was completed in fall of 2023. These piles are scheduled to be burned in 2024. This project includes lands owned by Union County, several private landowners, and the USDA Forest Service. The project has provided a fuel break in a strategic location in event of a wildfire and was completed in some densely forested areas with high potential for wildfire spread. Without the influx of funding, these areas may not have received treatment. In August, 2023, an ATV fire spread to the wildlands within the MERA fuel break. Fire crews were able to control this fire at less than 1/4 acre. Prior to the fuel break establishment, this fire could have easily become much larger with potential to threaten the homes, private timberlands, and public lands adjacent to the recreation area. Cross-boundary work continues to be accomplished in the area – Union County continues with

	fuels reduction projects within MERA, and has recently received a grant to purchase equipment to maintain the fuel break. Additionally, ODF recently received a restoration grant to continue work in the Mt Emily area. Progress will continue on Forest Service lands, and additional Community Wildfire Defense Grants have been submitted to receive funding for additional mitigation efforts.
Elbow GNA Project:	The Umatilla NF did award one GNA award, but there has not been any harvest yet on the project and no revenue will be generated until they begin hauling. Elbow is adjacent to ODFW lands (Wenaha Wildlife Area) that they manage for timber. From last year's report: 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.
Biscuit Ridge Fuels Reduction Project - WA DNR Service Forestry	This project conducted fuels reduction work on approximately 59.1 acres of privately owned forest land along Biscuit Ridge Road near Walla Walla, Washington to reduce potential fire severity and risk of catastrophic fire within and surrounding the treatment areas. This was accomplished by establishing an approximately 250-foot-wide 2.3-mile-long fuel break adjacent to Biscuit Ridge Road. The desired outcome of this project is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire across private lands and enhance forest health, in collaboration with state and federal partners, with the Wildland Urban Interface of the Eastern Blue Mountains.
Rainwater Wildlife Area Fuels Reduction - CTUIR	CTUIR completed several thinning (240 acres) and prescribed burn (64 acres) projects in the Rainwater Wildlife Area throughout FY23. See photos from the burn here.
Coppei Creek and Mill Creek WUI - Walla Walla County Conservation District	The Walla Walla County Conservation District received funds to begin thinning on dense riparian buffers in Coppei Creek and applied for a Community Wildfire Defense Grant in partnership with area fire districts and Walla Walla County Emergency Management for the Mill Creek WUI.
Maloney Mountain - WA DNR	Maloney Mountain, in the northern Blue Mountains of Washington State, lies within the Tucannon Priority Landscape. The priority landscape was identified as a high priority location for forest restoration and fuels reduction as part of Washington's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington. The area around Maloney Mountain is within the Columbia County Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and straddles a mixed ownership landscape that includes Washington State Parks, Umatilla National Forest, and private lands. Since 2021 Washington DNR Service Forestry, which works with private non-industrial landowners, has completed approximately 216 acres of fuel reduction projects in the Maloney Mountain area with another 17 acres planned and in progress, and multiple proposed projects coming in the future. These projects consist of small diameter thinning from below by hand or machine, pruning, brush control, and slash disposal through burning, chipping, or mastication. The treatments are targeting diseased and unhealthy trees and leaving healthy early-mid seral trees behind when possible. Several of these projects have been directly adjacent to the Umatilla National Forest and have cross-boundary benefits. In 2023, through a collaborative effort with the Northern Blues All-Lands Partnership, Maloney Mountain was identified as a high priority location for treatment on adjacent federal lands through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP). CFLRP funds are anticipated to accelerate the implementation of 500 acres on the Umatilla National Forest near Maloney Mountain.
Central Grande Ronde River (CGRR) All Lands Fuels	Oregon Department of Forestry-LaGrande, Wallowa Resources, Blue Mountain Cohesive Strategy, OSU-Extension-Fire Program, and the Umatilla National Forest-Walla Walla Ranger

Project -	District - jointly received a $900,000 Landscape Resiliency Program award for the Central Grande Ronde River (CGRR) Fuels Project. The award will implement strategic fuel reduction treatments by connecting vital corridors. This includes implementing work on significant fuel breaks in priority areas on private lands adjacent to public land, and protection of key resources as identified by the Northern Blues All Lands Partnership. To accomplish this, the project will make significant private lands planning investments by utilizing the OSU Extension developed Rapid Assessment Tool to enhance the understanding of current conditions and improve the efficiency of future implementation projects in key focus areas. Treatment methods utilized include thinning, mastication, piling/burning, chipping, and broadcast burning totaling over 925 acres of Fuels Mitigation work when the project is completed. ODF's Fire Crew will assist with prescribed burns on adjoining FS projects supporting the Walla Walla Ranger District, and aligns with matching projects on the federal side on (Thomas Creek, Glass, High Buck and Tollgate).
OSU Extension Prescribed Burn for private landowners	In an effort to extend capacity and interest in performing more prescribed burns across ownership boundaries in the Northern Blues, OSU Extension held the first Prescribed Fire workshop for landowners in Northeast Oregon in fall of 2023 called "Prescribed Fire Awareness for Private Landowners" at the Oberteuffer Research Forest. As part of the collaborative effort, 10 acres were burned.
TFPA Elder Fuel Wood with the Nez Perce Tribe	Through the Tribal Forest Protection Act, the Wallowa Whitman National Forest is working with the Nez Perce Tribe to provide over 1200 cords of firewood logs harvested through a restoration contract on the Double Creek Fire site, delivered to elders and those in need of heating wood on the Lapwai Reservation.
Minam River Wildlife Area & Lostine Legacy Land project	Two landowners provide a critical link and opportunity for landscape-scale restoration and cross boundary wildfire resilience along the Minam Corridor in Wallowa County: ● Minam River Wildlife Area. In partnership with Manulife Investment Management Timber and Agriculture, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife completed a conservation project that integrates 15,573 acres of important wildlife and riparian habitat into the Minam River Wildlife Area. The project is adjacent to 361,000-acre Eagle Cap Wilderness and the Minam State Recreation Area which enhances hunting and recreational access to an additional 6,000 acres of FS and BLM Lands. The area will be managed by ODFW in partnership with ODF - and will be managed as a working landscape with a focus on active forest restoration and fuels reduction. ● Lostine Forest Area. A property owner alongside Ecotrust and EFM Investments recently purchased a 9700 acre property ("the Lostine Forest"). The property is located several miles from the new Minam River Wildlife Area, shares a 12-mile border with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, is two miles from the Lostine Canyon Firewise Community, and is in an extreme area of wildfire risk (Wallowa CWPP, 2017). The new landowner is committed to supporting fuel reduction and forest health. They recently worked with Wallowa Resources to create a forest management plan for the property to improve forest health and habitat, and has completed a large scale fuel reduction project. They are working toward attaining FSC certification and applied to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to assist in establishing a working lands conservation easement on the property. ● Maps of the Lostine Forest Property and Minam River Area
Hurricane Creek Firewise Community Project	In 2023, the newly formed Hurricane Creek Firewise Community worked alongside ODF-Wallowa and WWNF-Wallowa Mountains Office to identify priorities for treatment to create a fuel break to complement the fuels reduction work the Firewise Community has been implementing using funds from Senate Bill 762, ODF, Wallowa Resources, and NRCS over the last year. One of the projects was selected by the WWNF as a priority for CFLR funding for the upcoming FY24. They are also considering the use of a CE to perform additional fuel reduction along the roadway.

54 North Project	The Umatilla National Forest was approached by CTUIR about a huckleberry restoration project on adjacent FS, state and CTUIR lands. CTUIR, FS and ODF are in the early planning stages of NEPA for the 54 North Project. The FS has just entered into a Good Neighbor Agreement with ODF to complete 3rd party NEPA on the project.
Spring Creek Firewise Community Western States Award & Pine Valley OSFM Award	Oregon Department of Forestry- Baker received a Western States award to fund defensible space implementation and hazard tree removal within the Spring Creek FIrewise Community - located within the priority cross boundary project areas for the partnership and aligned with the Baker CIty Watershed Project. Pine Valley Firewise Community was also successful in attaining an award through the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office to support the Northwest Youth Crew to perform defensible space work within their community.

Aquatics/Stream/Watershed Restoration

Project Area	**Description**
Grande Ronde Model Watershed - LoJo Broady Project	Ian Wilson from Grand Ronde Model Watershed attended one of the feedback sessions for FY24 CFLRP project selection and raised the possibility of utilizing small diameter material and byproducts from fuels reduction products on the forests for stream restoration projects (beaver dam analogs, etc.). If timelines align, there is potential that GMRW will use material from the Lojo Broady Project. We plan to coordinate for future projects on this as well.
Grande Ronde Headwaters Restoration Partnership Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration (CALR) Project (Year 2)	Approximately $600,000 of work, funded by CALR, was implemented in 2023. 2023 CALR funded accomplishments on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest included: ● **Headwaters of Meadow Creek restoration:** Four tributaries in the Meadow Creek watershed were restored; Peets Creek, Syrup Creek, Campbell Creek, and Battle Creek were restored with low tech mini excavators placing locally harvested small diameter trees into these systems. Ten miles and ten acres of restoration occurred in these important headwater areas. ● **Upper Fly Creek:** The final phase of Fly Creek in the Upper Grande Ronde was completed. This project involved road decommissioning and stream and floodplain restoration in the upper .5 miles of Fly Creek. ● **Riparian Planting:** Over 100,000 native plants were planted in three elk exclosures on Limber Jim Creek, Chicken Creek, the Upper Grande Ronde River, and on the restored floodplain reach of Upper Fly Creek. Elk exclosures were completed in the fall of FY 2022 an are reported here because they were not reported in FY 2022. These fences were built to protect recovery of floodplain and newly planted riparian vegetation and will be removed once vegetation is established and resilient from ungulate browse. These fences protect 2 miles and 40 acres of important fish and aquatic organism habitat. ● **Sheep Creek Stewardship Restoration with Trout Unlimited:** Phase 1 of Sheep Creek full floodplain restoration was implemented this year. This restoration work included sourcing “cut” areas in the floodplain that were artificially high from past management and excavating gravels from these areas and placing them in the incised areas of the channel. This project also included riparian planting and a volunteer day where community members helped plant. Phase 2 will be complete in 2024.

Inflation Reduction Act Source Water Protection Funds	The Wallowa-Whitman was fortunate to receive 2.4 million dollars in IRA Source Water Protection funds, distributed from the R6 Regional Office. Projects that were identified by the forest in priority subwatersheds and in headwater areas of municipal water sources were eligible for these funds. The Wallowa Whitman used these funds for planning and implementation of the following projects: Little Fly Creek Floodplain Restoration and road relocation, La Grande Riparian protection livestock fence and off channel water developments, Aquatic Organism Passage design contract (10 sites), riparian plant purchase, fish research monitoring equipment, multi-year Heritage Contract (survey and consultation), gravel haul and stage for Middle Upper Grande Ronde restoration project – gravel augmentation, Tony Vey Meadows Ranch Grande Ronde River restoration project, and Bull Run Reclamation and Habitat Restoration (funds went to mine tailings removal and biochar for graded floodplain). All of these funds were placed in an agreement or awarded in a contract in 2023 (for implementation in 2024 or 2025).
Meadow Creek Integrated Restoration and Research Plan: A collaborative approach to co-stewarding Aquatic and Upland First Foods and co-producing new knowledge with Tribal Nations	More than 15 federal, tribal, state, local and private parties are collaborating to develop the *Meadow Creek Integrated Restoration and Research Plan*, intended to: 1) increase the capacity of the Meadow Creek watershed to provide Aquatic and Upland First Foods and other resources via valley floor and upland restoration; and 2) improve understanding of physical and biological processes sustain that capacity. The assessment phase of the plan, which is structured around the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's *River Vision* and *Upland Vision* strategies, has been completed in draft form and the restoration and research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E) components will be completed in the first half of FY24. Project-level planning and implementation for specific restoration and RM&E activities associated with the plan is expected to begin in FY24. Partners include the Bonneville Power Administration; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Columbia Basin Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; Grande Ronde Model Watershed; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Oregon State University; Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Collaborative; US Forest Service-Pacific Northwest Region, Region 6, Rocky Mountain Research Station; and Washington Office; University of Idaho; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ.; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Geological Survey; Wallowa Resources and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.
Lick Creek Fire Riparian Fence Project: a participating agreement between Nez Perce Tribe and the Umatilla National Forest	The Lick Creek fire of 2021 burned in the Lick Creek and Charley Creek sub-watersheds within the George Creek -Asotin Creek watershed. As the fire burned in the Lick Creek and Charley Creek Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA), it damaged the riparian fence that protected the streams from cattle that grazed in the Peola C & H Allotment. Charley Creek is occupied by Region 6 Regional Forester's Sensitive Species, BSA-Threatened steelhead and Bull trout which are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management has coordinated with the Umatilla National Forest regarding the rebuild of riparian fence within the Lick Creek and Charley Creek sub-watersheds that were burned in the 2021 located within Southeast Washington of the Nez Perce Treaty Territory and the Forest has provided funding to the Tribe to rebuild approximately 3. 9 miles of riparian fence.
Bull Run Creek Mine Creek Mine Tailings Restoration	The Wallowa Whitman National Forest, Whitman Ranger District, collaborated with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the North Fork John Day Watershed Council to complete the first phase of a major undertaking on Bull Run Creek reach at RM 3 within the North Fork John Day River Subbasin in 2023. This stretch of river underwent major disturbance from placer gold mining in the late 1800s. The dredging and hydraulic mining resulted in a straightened channel, areas where the channel was over-widened, other areas where the channel was incised, and an overall simplified channel with little connection to the floodplain. Land use practices left the state of Bull Run Creek impaired; Bull Run Creek is 303(d) listed for high summer temperature and sediment (Oregon Department of Water Quality 2010). This restoration action was a necessary step towards recovery for 1) ESA listed Mid-Columbia steelhead, Bull Trout and (not ESA listed) spring chinook salmon, 2) TMDL water temperatures for the John Day Basin and 3) identified as an essential action in the USFS's Watershed Restoration Action Plan. This is the first of several restoration projects planned for the next 5 years.

	The 2023 phase of the project included removal of mine tailings piles that were lined across the floodplain, grading and rehabilitating the new "inset floodplain," and constructing a complex channel network at an elevation that will maximize floodplain interaction. Design objectives that were developed and implemented will increase water availability, storage, and connection with the floodplain. Restoring these processes will dramatically improve fish and aquatic habitat by creating complex, well connected, channel networks. In addition, biochar (locally sourced from John Day) was used to rebuild soils and nutrients on the "new" floodplain and hundreds of willow cuttings were planted. A high volume of large wood was added to the constructed stream channels and floodplain to benefit stream process and complexity and provide cover and shade for fish and aquatic organisms. The project was implemented by Del Hur Industries, a contractor based in Hermiston, OR. The contract was awarded at approximately 1.6 million dollars for this phase. Dollars to support the project came from CTUIR with approximately $525,000, the USFS contributed approximately $375,000 (Inflation Reduction Act) and the North Fork Watershed Council with approximately $700,000 (America the Beautiful Grant). This project is adjacent to the Ten Cent fuels reduction project which is accomplishing goals of ridgetop to rivers restoration and fuels reduction goals.
Camp Creek Restoration	The Whitman Ranger District implemented Phase 1 of aquatic restoration activities in Camp Creek over approximately 2 miles in the North Fork Burnt River drainage near Whitney Valley. This drainage has recently been added as one of ODFW's beaver emphasis areas. The project improved riparian and floodplain conditions in an area heavily impacted by historical beaver trapping and historical overgrazing causing channel incision and conifer encroachment. The project consisted of constructing 51 beaver dam analogues (BDAs), a few post-assisted log structures (PALs) and felled lodgepole pine into the stream/floodplain areas. This restoration action is a climate change adaptation for increases in winter air temperatures and a changing snowpack regime (from winter snow to winter rain). Restoring hydrologic function in depositional valleys will be critical for maintaining low flow streamflows and cold water patches to meet state water quality standards and support habitat for redband trout as the climate continues to warm. Implementation occurred through a partnership with the Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) and the Whitman Ranger District. The project was implemented by three youth crews (local TEC crews, Baker Resource Council crews and Northwest Youth Corps crews). The USFS used an agreement and $17,200 to leverage $127,880 from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF). Thanks goes to the PBWC for help at bringing in outside funds and for leading the youth crews.

Noxious/Invasive Species Restoration

Project Area	Description
Russian Olive removal on Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Wanaket Wildlife Area	CTUIR has continued with Russian Olive removal in the Wanaket Wildlife Area completing 505 acres of treatments; including 28 acres of actual tree canopy removal.

4. Restoring Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Reducing Hazardous Fuels

Narrative Overview of Treatments Completed in FY23 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?

Project prioritization on NFS lands FY23:

The CFLRP committee determined the following criteria for FY23 CFLN implementation projects:

- 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 and the FY23 project selections have allowed much of the shelf-stock to be funded.

Of the $3 million the project received in CFLN funds in FY23, the two Forests allocated $575,000 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, and planning and implementing prescribed fire projects. The remaining CFLN funds went to implementation across both forests, which collectively accomplished over 7,773 acres (from FY23 Funding Summary) of treatment.

New Process for NFS lands in FY24:

In consideration of these least several years of successful priority treatments, and with feedback from the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership partners, the CFLRP Committee aimed to broaden the suite of CFLN-funded projects by implementing a new project proposal process for FY24. The Committee highlighted two specific goals moving forward: 1) increase coordination and planning with partners; and 2) meet our CFLRP objectives through a diversity of projects with multiple benefits.

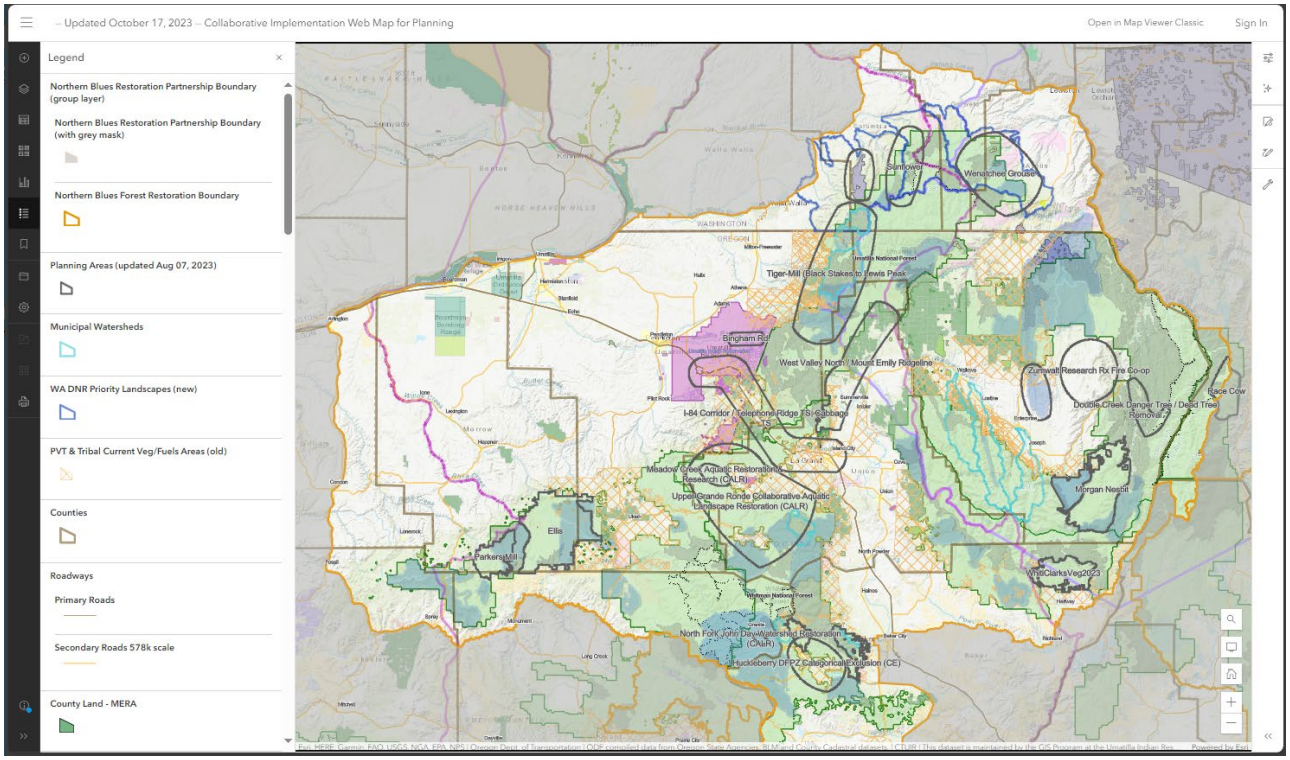
This new project selection process for FY24 was implemented in the summer of FY23. After receiving project proposals from each forest, the proposals' information and their associated shapefiles were used to create a map. Enabled with the ability for users to add shapefiles and comments, this map was shared out to the partnership with a request for partner feedback about 1) CFLRP projects that were a priority to partners and 2) partner projects that were planned on adjacent lands. In addition to the request, the operations team held three virtual feedback sessions for partners to attend and provide their input. The map was also sent out to the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative to solicit feedback from collaborative members. The CFLRP committee then used this feedback in the proposal

selection process considering alignment with cross-boundary opportunities and projects with multiple resource benefits in addition to the bulleted criteria above. The selected projects, decision process and updated map was shared out to the Partnership via email in November and at the 11/29 NBFC collaborative meeting.

Initial feedback from this process has been very positive. Partners have appreciated the transparency in the process, the opportunity to provide feedback and the additional up-to-date information about FS CFLRP projects.

Implementation Planning - Northern Blues Collaborative Implementation Map:

In 2023 the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership expanded upon the mapping tool and created an interactive Collaborative Implementation Planning Map in ArcGIS Online. This map contains administrative boundaries, priority treatment areas for partners, planned activities and NEPA areas on FS land to help the members of the Partnership plan strategically across the landscape and to identify opportunities to work together on cross-boundary projects. The partnership plans to update this map as activities are completed across the landscape and continue to add planned projects for future cross-boundary planning.



Pre-/NEPA Planning - Umatilla National Forest Priority Landscape Restoration Model:

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. This tool helps 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.

Increasing Capacity for Collaborative, Cross-Boundary Wildfire Risk Reduction:

- Nature Conservancy-USFS Keystone Agreement - NE Oregon Rx Fire Module: As a part of the $40M National Keystone Agreement between the USFS and The Nature Conservancy, TNC is setting up an Oregon Fire Implementation to Restore Ecosystems (OR-FIRE) Partnership. This partnership will support a five-year catalyst project to support three, ten-person prescribed fire modules (aka crews) in three forest landscapes: Southern Oregon, the East Cascades, and the **Northern Blue Mountains**. The work will be focused on FS lands in the WUI (60%), though there will also be other funding for cross-boundary implementation on other public, private, and Tribal lands (40%). Working alongside public, tribal, and private land managers these modules will plan, prep, implement, and monitor prescribed fire across land ownerships with interested landowners.

  TNC held a virtual open house in October 2023 for local partners to join the OR-FIRE Partnership. "Partners" are those interested in having representation on the fire crew or rotation, co-hosting projects, or supporting program outreach. This event kicked off TNC outreach for the program and will be focused on setting up some cross-organizational coordination and agreements in each region. TNC is now hiring the module lead and assistants with the goal of starting local planning and crew orientation in Spring 2024.

- Eastern Oregon Workforce Board Stewardship Crew: EOWB received a planning grant from the State to stand up several youth stewardship crews (18-24). The funding came about as a direct response to the 2020 Labor Day fires and the idea for a crew emerged from EOWB diversifying their programs to include direct youth programming. While still in preliminary stages of planning and awaiting a programmatic grant, the idea is to run two separate 4-person crews in Baker and Wallowa Counties doing fuels reduction work. The long-term vision is to have multiple crews throughout the Blue Mountains doing everything from advanced trail

reconstruction, Rx burning, to structural engineering apprenticeships to contribute to local workforce development and alleviate local hiring shortages. The program lead has done significant outreach at the outset to ensure that these crews and their scope of work is complementary to the work being completed across the All Lands Partnership.

- OSU builds prescribed fire implementation capacity: OSU Extension has created significant workforce and technical capacity over this past year to implement prescribed burns across all lands in Northeast Oregon. They created a Prescribed Fire Basics module in 2023 providing introductory level information to increase the understanding of the importance and the mechanics of prescribed burns in Northeast Oregon. They also hosted a "OSU-NRCS Prescribed Fire Training/ Prescribed Fire Awareness Training'' in Elgin, Oregon. It was a collaborative effort with NRCS and ODF- Northeast Oregon district. The course was developed in coordination with NRCS to meet training requirements to qualify NRCS personnel for prescribed fire practice (338) job authority.

- Wallowa Resources Stewardship and Conservation Crew: To expand the capacity of the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests to accomplish work the two Forests are partnering with Wallowa Resources to establish a Stewardship and Conservation Crew. This crew will be responsible for completing mission critical field work to support restoration and conservation priorities to support the two Forest's programs of work. The first year of the crew will primarily be dedicated to pre-sale timber layout and marking but in later years could include: Fuels reduction treatment contract layout, Recreation site maintenance and trail work, Invasive plant monitoring and treatment, Administrative and public facilities maintenance and construction, Heritage resource surveys, Natural resource surveys, and Other stewardship field tasks as assigned.

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

Neither the Umatilla or Wallowa-Whitman saw large fires this past FY. There are no interactions to report.

FY23 Wildfire/Hazardous Fuels Expenditures

Category	$
FY23 Wildfire Preparedness*	$2,732,824
FY23 Wildfire Suppression**	$16,083,482
FY23 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (CFLN, CFIX)	$3,279,411
FY23 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (other BLIs)	$5,582,589

* 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")

While treatments are not the sole contributing factor to reducing costs (taking location, current conditions, values at risk, firefighting capacity into account), we do believe that the treatments that were implemented will account for a large part of the contribution. The landscapes that we are working in are for the most part highly departed from their historical fire regimes. Because of this, mechanical treatments, such as thinning from below, are needed prior to

reintroducing fire to the landscape, either through planned prescribed fire or unplanned wildfire ignitions. These are the most expensive parts of preparing the landscape to receive fire. Once these treatments are complete we will have provided a safer area for firefighters to work from, allowing us to "do more with less" from a fire management perspective.

See ATTACHMENT 2 for **PHOTOS SHOWCASING FIRE ADAPTED LANDSCAPES AND REDUCING HAZARDOUS FUELS WORK**

5. Additional Ecological Goals

Narrative Overview of Treatments Completed in FY23 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.

	2021	2022	2023	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	57,495 acres	252,264 acres	901,600 acres	**28%**

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

Whitebark Pine White Pine Restoration Planting and White Pine Blister Rust Resistance Trial (RV42) on Wallowa-Whitman NF: In January 2023, whitebark pine (Pinus albicaulis) was listed as 'threatened' in the U.S. under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), it had previously been listed in Canada as 'endangered' under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), and the IUCN Redlist also has it listed as 'endangered'. In the U.S., a national restoration plan for whitebark pine is being developed, and key to its success will be the availability of seed from parent trees that provide genetic resistance to white pine blister rust (WPBR), caused by the non-native fungal pathogen Cronartium ribicola).

In the USDA Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6), the screening of seedling families (to rate the parents) for genetic resistance to WPBR has been underway at Dorena Genetic Resource Center (DGRC) since 2002. The results from the seedling screening are encouraging, good levels and frequency of resistance in some populations (Sniezko and Liu 2023; Sniezko et al, 2023). However, validation of the seedling results for WPBR resistance under field conditions is needed to relate it to the seedling trials, as well as to examine the durability and stability of the resistance, as we as in genetic variation in adaptative traits under a changing climate. Although some field trials in Oregon and Washington were established more than 10 years ago, they are on sites of low to moderate rust hazard, and it may take 20 years or more to field validation the resistance. One or more field sites of high WPBR hazard would be useful, and Mike McWilliams suggested a whitebark pine site on the Wallowa-Whitman NF WW NF) (Fig 1).

Working together, the Wallow-Whitman NF and DGRC personnel planned a combination restoration planting/WPBR resistance trial that was planted in late September 2023.

In late September 2023, nearly 1900 seedlings of the threatened species whitebark pine (Pinus albicaulis) were planted in the Anthony Lakes area of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The seedlings originated from 51 parent trees in eastern Oregon, whose progeny had been previously tested for genetic resistance to white pine blister rust

(WPBR). The families encompass a wide range of WPBR resistance, and the planting is one of the most genetically diverse whitebark restoration plantings to date. The trial will be monitored over ensuing decades to examine the level of white pine blister rust resistance among the families as well as their survival and fitness under a changing climate. See the full report HERE.

See ATTACHMENT 2 for **PHOTOS SHOWCASING RESTORATION OF SPECIAL HABITATS/RESOURCES**

6. Socioeconomic Goals

Narrative overview of activities completed in FY23 to achieve socioeconomic goals outlined in your CFLRP proposal and work plan.

Activity	Description	Links to Reports
Public Education/Public Input in Processes/Private Landowner Engagement	**Northern Blues Forest Collaborative:** Over the past year, the NBFC has held a combination of 14 monthly meetings, field tours, and scientific presentations for NBFC collaborative members and the public to attend. During this time, the NBFC also initiated a process of developing a 3 to 5-year strategic plan, refocusing on the unique value that the Collaborative adds to the Northern Blues All Lands Restoration Partnership and CFLRP efforts. - January: Work to identify the major areas of focus for the upcoming strategic planning process, as well as review of the recently completed & published Collaborative Assessment Survey (which was conducted and prepared by Sophie Daudon) - February: Approval of newly-revised Operating Principles, discussion of the Mt. Emily Ridgeline Project and development of Climate Change/Adaptive Management Zones of Agreement - March: Presentation of Little Fly Creek Aquatic Restoration Project Proposed Actions, EPA Rulemaking Letter, Further work on Climate Change/Adaptive Management Zones of Agreement - April: Presentation by Heppner and North Fork John Day Ranger Districts on Ellis Restoration Project, Presentation on "Turbo Plan" being developed by wildfires.org to help effectively increase the pace of NEPA - May: USFS report on Old Growth, project overview and field tour to Little Dean/Bull Run restoration project area, discussion on possible future Zones of Agreement development around Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) - June: Review of multi-year research on Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman NFs focusing on the reconstruction of historic disturbance regimes in Moist Mixed Conifer forest types across the Northern Blue Mountains region, associated field tour to the High Buck project area - July: Presentation - USFS new obligation under Wildfire Crisis Strategy, input/feedback session regarding next steps in Strategic Planning process for NBFC - August: Continued work on Zones of Agreement, joint letter drafted with Blue Mountain Forest Partners and submitted to USFS regarding support for further research and study on the impacts of steep-slope tethered logging practices (associated pub talk on tethered logging to be hosted in October) - September: Lower Joseph Creek project update/review and field tour to site, discussion of Wallowa-Whitman NF fuel breaks projects and how they align with Wildfire Crisis Strategy	Link to NBFC meeting/tour summaries and tour photos

	- October: Region 6 USFS Ecology Program presentations on Moist Mixed Conifer research project and associated field tour to Upper Touchet Restoration Project area on the Umatilla NF - November-December: Final 2023 review and highlights of major accomplishments, followed by brainstorming session for development of 2024 work plan and completion of 2024-27 strategic plan **PNW Ecology Program Meeting:** In Dayton, WA with a speaker series focused on topics relevant to management in the Blues like riparian forest management, prioritization of restoration treatments, fuels management, post-fire management, scaling up prescribed fire, fire in moist mixed conifer forests, first foods monitoring, fen restoration and mature and old growth mapping. Talks included speakers and partners from OSU, WSU, WA DNR, Blue Mountain Forest Partners and the ecology program. **Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Open Houses (August - October 2023):** Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur National Forests hosted 10 open houses across the region this summer. The Open Houses were unstructured information sessions designed to offer an opportunity for the public to learn about the Blue Mountain Forest Land revision process and assessment phase through conversations and information materials. They provided an opportunity for one-on-one discussion between participants and Forest Service staff, and venues for the public to submit comments. **2023 Private Landowner and General Public Tours, Events, Webinars, Pub Talks & Workshops dedicated to supporting fire resilient landscape across the Northern Blues.** In an effort to build the collective knowledge base of our private landowner community and the general public across the Northern Blues landscape about what it means to live in a fire adapted ecosystem and support the goals of the CFLRP - OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, Washington State University Extension, My Blues Mountains Woodland Partnership, Northeast Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association, Umatilla/Morrow Small Woodland Owners association, Watershed Councils, regional Firewise Communities, Wallowa Resources, Eastside Ecology Forum and others have deployed over **47 separate private landowner and general public workshops, trainings, pub talks, and webinars** for **2976 total participants (2181 live participants + 695 recorded views of webinar series) in 2023.** Topics have ranged from forest health, wildfire risk reduction, noxious weeds, prescribed fire, stewardship workforce development, role of beavers in a fire adapted ecosystem, home ignition zones, tethered logging and others. A few of these events included: - **All Lands Partnership Pub Talks:** 4 pub talks were co-hosted and organized this year by multiple partners. The purpose of the pub talks is to focus on innovative, challenging or otherwise interesting topics around the restoration/work that is taking place across the landscape as a part of the All-Lands Partnership. The target audience is the general public. All pub talks usually include a researcher, a local practitioner, and a landowner. The four talks had a total of ~200 attendees and were held in Wallowa, Union, and Baker Counties. The pub talk titles included: ● Living with Fire on the Landscape ● Our Future Natural Resource Stewards ● Ridgetops to Rivers Restoration ● Tackling Tethered Logging Together	Link to agenda for meeting and 2023 accomplishments report from the Blue Mtn Ecology Team Link to Revision website and an article on the process Link to 2023 private landowner / general public events supporting topics on fire resilience Link to pub talk flyers

	- **OSU's Fall Webinar Series (Dry Forest Restoration):** 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). OSU extension hosted the free virtual series (9 sessions) exploring the complexities and realities of restoring forests and other ecosystems and promoting resiliency. There were 1362 live participants and 695 Recorded Views. Topics included: ● Principles of Fire-Adapted Forests ● Assessing Forest and Range Risk ● Restoring Resilience to Oregon's Dry Side Forests ● Common Misconceptions about Fire in Dry Side Forests ● Wildlife Friendly Wildfire Risk Reduction ● Prescribed Fire Considerations for Private Lands ● Post-Fire Restoration on Private Lands; Fire on Agriculture and Rangelands ● Resources for Private Forestland Risk Reduction and Post-Fire Restoration	Link to Webinar Series
	- **Forest Stewardship University:** In 2023 WSU Extension launched a similar resource for private forest landowners in the Northern Blues footprint called Forest Stewardship University. It is a set of on-demand, self-paced, and peer-reviewed online learning modules on a variety of forest stewardship topics.	Link to WSU Forest Stewardship University
	- **OSU's Tree School East:** Tree School East was a one day mini-college hosted by Oregon State University Extension Service featuring 27 engaging classes for forest landowners from across Northeast Oregon on everything from forest management, forest health, fire, and forest planning, to wildlife habitat, rangeland management, and geology.	Link to Tree School East Catalog
	- **OSU's Rx Fire Training for Landowners:** OSU Extension held the first Prescribed Fire workshop for landowners in Northeast Oregon in fall of 2023 called "Prescribed Fire Awareness for Private Landowners" at the Oberteuffer Research Forest. Topics included: techniques for pile, broadcast, and understory burning; permits and notifications; burn planning process; how burns are organized and run; minimizing risk of unintended outcomes.	Link to photos from RX burn workshop for landowners
	- **Northeast Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association and the Umatilla/Morrow Small Woodland Owners Association:** The Northeast Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association (formed in 2020) and Umatilla/Morrow Small Woodland Owner Association hosted several tours and works in 2023 targeted to landowners in the Northern Blues including: (1) a workshop on what to do with timber on your property and a short course on log cabin building; (2) a gathering dedicated to landowners located within the wildland urban interface to speak about an update on the Oregon Hazard Map process and what to do in the home ignition zone; and lastly (3) a neighbor to neighbor tour co-hosted with the Pine Valley Firewise Community, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Baker County Weed District including a tour of several landowner's properties and and presentations on forest management and forest health.	
	- **Powder Basin Watershed Council's Beaver Dam Workshop:** The Council has been working on making way for beaver along Camp Creek in the North Fork Burnt River Watershed by building mock	Beaver workshop link

	beaver dams that will restore ecological function and hopefully encourage beaver to colonize the project area. Landowners who participated built a mock beaver dam while PBWC shared the ecological value of beavers and how they are going about making way for them. **Wallowa-Whitman National Forest public outreach and environmental education in watershed science and monitoring:** - 10 environmental education activities and events including 5th grade field days focused on fish habitat restoration, hatchery steelhead dissection and egg-to-fry observations in Wallowa County and Union County classrooms - Public Lands Day - Bird Track Springs: Public service/clean-up/trail building and educational day put on by WWNF and Grand Ronde Model Watershed. - Interpretive Trail - Bird Track Springs - Community Science award 2023: The Qapqápnim Wéele / Grande Ronde Community Science Project is a science research program that engages youth in watershed monitoring	
Cross Institutional Agreements/Partner Relationships	**Northern Blues All Lands Restoration Partnership: Northern Blues "All Lands" Restoration Partnership (NBRP):** NBRP 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 NBRP held several meetings and tours of the Partnership in 2023. Here are Links to photos from the Spring 2023 NBRP Field Tour hosted by the partners in the Wallowa County project team; the annual meeting of the Full Partnership in February 2023; and two Leadership Team Meetings in January 2022 and again in April 2023. At the Leadership Team meetings, members from across the Partnership identified stewardship workforce development as the Partnership's top priority moving forward. This will be the topic of the Partnership's upcoming Annual Meeting in February 2024. The leadership team and select staff also underwent a mapping exercise to highlight cross boundary opportunities on the landscape to help identify priorities for funding in 2024 and inform the CFLRP project selection process. The Northern Blues Monitoring Team also released their updated All Lands Monitoring Plan and a draft framework for the adaptive management plan. The Northern Blues Prescribed Fire Council hosted a workshop to discuss the strengths and challenges for local prescribed fire implementation in the Northern Blues. Attendees connected about upcoming projects and resources available in the region and identified future coordination and funding priorities. Topics included training, planning, operations, outreach, regulation, and policy.	Final Partnership MOU Links to Pictures of Tour, Tour Brochure, Annual Meeting Powerpoint, and the Multiparty Monitoring Plan Link to Monitoring Plan and draft Adaptive Management Framework Link to Rx workshop photos and notes

	FY24 CFLRP Project Selection Process: A new project selection process was implemented by soliciting feedback from the N. Blues All Lands Partnership to find greater cross-boundary alignment between the FS CFLRP projects and adjacent all lands work. Feedback was also solicited from the NBFC on project proposals that were submitted. The NBRP held three virtual feedback sessions for partners to attend and created a map of planned CFLRP projects that allowed partners to see project information and add their own projects to the map. The selected projects were shared with the partnership in November and by the CFLRP coordinator to the November Collaborative meeting. **Socioeconomic Monitoring Partnerships:** The all lands monitoring team is working on an agreement to partner with EOU's Rural Economic Vitalization (REV) Center and UO's Ecosystem Workforce Program to answer 2 local socioeconomic questions from the multiparty monitoring report. **Tiger Mill Project:** As a part of the national level agreement with Blue Forest Conservation (BFC), the Umatilla National Forest has begun conversations with BFC to understand the feasibility of setting up a conservation finance project to implement fuels reduction work in the high-risk Tiger Mill Watershed. **FS Agreements:** ● In FY23, there were 36 separate single or multi-year agreements that covered CFLRP accomplishment work, for a total matching funds amount covered under agreement of $11,528,869 ● 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	Link to FY24 CFLRP Map
Community Wildfire Protection	**Updated CWPPs in NE OR and SE WA counties.** Walla Walla, Baker, Union, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties through a combination of Community Wildfire Defense Grant and Oregon State FIre Marshal funding will be updating their Community Wildfire Protection Plans over the next several years. With support from the Cohesive Strategy Partnership, OSFM, OSU Extension-FIre Program, and the NBR Partnership - the region is hoping to take a more coordinated approach to the development of the CWPPs to ensure they are highlighting cross boundary opportunities. **Firewise Community Coordination:** 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. supported the first Northeast Oregon Wide Firewise Community event, and helped support 21 Firewise Communities across Baker, Union, Wallowa, Grant and Umatilla counties. Firewise Communities are neighbor-to-neighbor working groups located in the wildland-urban interface area, working together as local cooperatives to identify where their greatest risks are, mitigate those risks, and develop joint strategies to respond if a wildfire comes in.	Overview of Publicity for NE OR Firewise effort

	Firewise Film. Through an Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office grant - OSFM, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry- Wallowa, OSU Extension-Fire Program, and Wallowa Resources joined together to create a 30 min video highlighting the story of the Lostine Canyon Firewise Community and the importance of cross boundary work, beneficial wildfire on the landscape and prescribed fire. **3 CWDGs submitted.** The Wallowa Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee, Union Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee, and the Baker County Fire Defense Board worked alongside partners with the Blue Mountain Cohesive Wildfire Strategy, Wallowa Resources, Oregon State FIre Marshal's Office and OSU Extension-Fire Program to collectively apply for 3 Community Wildfire Defense Grants across Union, Baker and Wallowa counties. The grants totalling $3.7 M support the strategic fuel break and defensible space and hazard tree implementation within and surrounding current and future Firewise Communities located in priority cross boundary areas prioritized by the Partnership.	A link to the trailer password: Firewise.
Materials to Local Infrastructure/Jobs to Local Economy and Job Training Opportunities/Youth Involvement	**TNC Rx Fire Module:** As a part of the $40M National Keystone Agreement between the USFS and The Nature Conservancy, TNC is setting up an Oregon Fire Implementation to Restore Ecosystems (OR-FIRE) Partnership. This partnership will support a five-year catalyst project to support three, ten-person prescribed fire modules (aka crews) in three forest landscapes: Southern Oregon, the East Cascades, and the Northern Blue Mountains. The work will be focused on FS lands in the WUI (60%), though there will also be other funding for cross-boundary implementation on other public, private, and Tribal lands (40%). Working alongside public, tribal, and private land managers these modules will plan, prep, implement, and monitor prescribed fire across land ownerships with interested landowners. The agreement will create 3 full time, year-round statewide positions, 2 full time, year-round positions for each of the 3 priority landscapes (total of 6 full time positions) and 8 full time, seasonal module positions in each of the landscapes (total of 24 positions). **OSU builds Rx fire implementation capacity in the Northern Blues.** OSU Extension has created significant workforce and technical capacity over this past year to implement prescribed burns across all lands in Northeast Oregon. They created a Prescribed Fire Basics module in 2023 providing introductory level information to increase the understanding of the importance and the mechanics of prescribed burns in Northeast Oregon. They also hosted a "OSU-NRCS Prescribed Fire Training/ Prescribed Fire Awareness Training'' in Elgin, OR. 20 attended. This was a collaborative effort with NRCS and ODF- Northeast Oregon district. The course was developed in coordination with NRCS to meet training requirements to qualify NRCS personnel for prescribed fire practice (338) job authority. **All Lands Monitoring Crews** ● First Foods Monitoring (April - July/August): The First Foods monitoring employed 4 crew members (age 19-33) from the Wallowa Resources Monitoring Crew and additionally brought in Brian Endress (professor and lead researcher at OSU); Maren Peterson (professor at OSU); 2 OSU technicians; Cheryl Shippentower (lead researcher for CTUIR); Andrea Whiteplume (project lead/climate change specialist from NPT) and Gayla Gould (technician from NW Indian College).	Link to TNC Rx Fire Module materials Link to OSU Extension's prescribed fire basics module and link to Spring 2023 OSU/NRCS rx burn training photos Photos of Monitoring Crews and 2023 training

	● Forest Monitoring (late June - September): 4 crew members (age 19-33) from the Wallowa Resources Monitoring Crew (1 was a former HAWK intern); 8 Wallowa Resources HAWK Interns (aged 15-18); 5 interns, 4 HS and 1 College student assisted for 2 weeks ground truthing Whitebark Pine populations through Baker Resources. **Eastern Oregon Workforce Board (EOWB) Stewardship Crew:** EOWB received a planning grant from the State to stand up several youth stewardship crews (18-24). The funding came about as a direct response to the 2020 Labor Day fires and the idea for a crew emerged from EOWB diversifying their programs to include direct youth programming. The planning grant gives EOWB the ability to apply for additional and additional programmatic grant to stand up the crews. The lead applied for the programmatic grant in October and is now waiting for the committee to review the grant in January 2024. While awaiting a programmatic grant, the plan is to run two separate 4-person crews in Baker and Wallowa Counties doing fuels reduction work. The long-term vision is to have multiple crews throughout the Blue Mountains doing everything from advanced trail reconstruction, Rx burning, to structural engineering apprenticeships to contribute to local workforce development and alleviate local hiring shortages. The program lead has done significant outreach at the outset to ensure that these crews and their scope of work is complementary to the work being completed across the All Lands Partnership. **Tethered Logging Research with OSU:** Both forests entered into an agreement with OSU to research the impacts of tethered logging in the N. Blues. **CTUIR hosted Tethered Logging Tour:** In Spring 2023 The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla INdian Restoration Forestry Program hosted and coordinated a field trip for 25 specialists across the Umatilla National Forests and representatives from across the Partnership including representatives rom NOAA Fish and USFWS. **Forestry and Natural Resources Contractor and Consultant Directory:** The My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership launched directory helping to showcase the local resources available in the region to perform restoration. **NW Youth Corps:** NW Youth Corps again worked in the Pine Valley Firewise Community to implement Defensible Space Projects via new funding the FIrewise Community received through Oregon State FIre Marshal's Office. **Potential new position at Wallowa Resources to support coordination of Stewardship Workforce Development efforts**: WR is currently working with N Blues partners to explore the possibility of creating a new position who can act as a central point of connection supporting "stewardship workforce development" opportunities. The position would work with relevant partners to develop targeted and small cohort training programs to recruit candidates and ensure job opportunities. **Tribal Forest Protections Act:** funds, in the amount of $360,000, were awarded to the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and were awarded in a multi-year contract for heritage/cultural surveys and consultation for future aquatic restoration projects. **Powder Basin Watershed Council:** a youth crew was hired, partially supported with NFS funds in 2023. The crew assisted on the Camp Creek	Link to photos from CTUIR tethered logging tour Directory

	Beaver Dam Analog hand crew project and gained experience in small stream restoration and tool safety including chainsaws to cut local wood sources into posts and small branches for these structures.	
Tribal Involvement	**First Foods Monitoring:** First Foods monitoring occurred between April and August with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on reservation lands, National Forest lands, private and TNC lands. 41 plots and 30 site assessments were completed. This was the first year that First Foods monitoring was done in partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe, which expanded Tribal representation within the CFLRP, increased the geographic range of sampling (by including Wallowa County, SE Washington and the Nez Perce reservation) and created opportunities for inter-tribal collaboration between CTUIR and NPT. Andrea and Gayla (NPT monitoring) located and identified sites of importance to the NPT for monitoring. **Elder Fuel Wood Program:** Through the Tribal Forest Protection Act, the Wallowa Whitman National Forest is working with the Nez Perce Tribe to provide fuelwood from the Double Creek Fire to elders. **54 North Project:** The Umatilla National Forest was approached by CTUIR about a huckleberry restoration project on adjacent FS, state and CTUIR lands. CTUIR, FS and ODF are in the early planning stages of NEPA for the 54 North Project. The FS has just entered into a Good Neighbor Agreement with ODF to complete 3rd party NEPA on the project. **Funding for New Ceded Lands Forester:** a request for additional collaborative capacity funding from BIL was submitted to the WO-CFLRP team to support a new ceded lands forester for the Nez Perce Tribe in Wallowa County. **TNC Rx Fire Module:** see above **Inter-Tribal Ecological Restoration Summit:** Several partners from across NBRP attended the Inter-Tribal Ecosystem Restoration Partnership Summit November 14 - 16 in Bend, Oregon. At the summit 17 tribes and over 300 tribal, nonprofit, and agency leaders from across Oregon gathered to discuss increasing tribal inclusion in collaborative forest and watershed restoration and empowering partnerships to co-steward, co-invest and collaborate on large, landscape-scale initiatives, and how cultural fire is uniquely suited and critical to restoring ecosystems and preventing destructive fires. Lessons from the summit will be integrated into the work of the NBRP.	Article in SAF publication, Western Forester, highlighting active management and restoration with CTUIR to promote First Foods Article published by the Bend Bulletin on the Summit. Recap from Lomakatsi on the ITERP Summit

See ATTACHMENT 2 for **PHOTOS SHOWCASING LOCAL RESTORATION WORKFORCE CAPACITY & COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

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: 29%

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

Description	Project Percent

[7] Addresses Core Monitoring Question #7

Equipment intensive work	41%
Labor-intensive work	17%
Material-intensive work	8%
Technical services	12%
Professional services	9%
Contracted Monitoring	13%
TOTALS:	100%

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

Jobs Supported/Maintained in FY 2023	Direct Jobs (Full & Part-Time)	Total Jobs (Full & Part-Time)	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income
Timber harvesting component	213	295	21,016,350	25,534,458
Forest and watershed restoration component	62	113	4,530,550	7,096,686
Mill processing component	335	667	25,536,521	39,791,650
Implementation and monitoring	43	51	1,603,924	2,076,321
Other Project Activities	18	25	952,520	1,303,472
TOTALS:	**671**	**1,152**	**53,639,865**	**75,802,588**

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 two Forests do not have current tracking information to know what portion of the volume of each sale goes to the various types of products manufactured. The percentages entered in the CFLR-CFLN project details tab in the TREAT database were based on assumptions that the mill those the individual sales went to generally produce a specific product type, i.e. lumber vs. plywood or particle board. Some mills have higher percentages of residuals going to other by-products than other mills, but those percentages are not known by the forests. Now understanding this lack of knowledge, we will do our best to seek this information for reporting in future years.

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).
Numbers were pulled from USASpending.gov and local is considered any business within the 2023 county list for TREAT.

Contractors: of the 27 contracts, 6 of those were local (with a total of 5 distinct businesses). Of those local businesses, all are small businesses, 3 are women-owned, 3 are women-owned small businesses, 1 is an economically disadvantaged women-owned small business, 1 is a minority owned business, 1 is a hispanic american owned business, 1 is a c8a program participant and 4 are self-certified small disadvantaged businesses. Several of these businesses fell into more than one of these categories. **52%** of funds went to local contractors for a total of **$13,680,023.**

[8] Addresses Core Monitoring Question #8

Agreements: There were 8 total agreements executed with 5 distinct recipients, 2 of those recipients were local. Of those recipients, 1 was county government, 2 were state entities and 2 were nonprofit organizations. Of the **$386,447** obligated into agreements, **$376,447** of those funds went to local recipients - approximately **97%** of obligated funds.

7. Wood Products Utilization

Timber & Biomass Volume Table[9]

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished (FS)	Total Units Accomplished (non-FS lands)	Total Units Accomplished (All Lands)
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	61,102.23	40,115	101,217.23
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	98,88.76	NA	98,88.76
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	60,315	88,265	148,580

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)?

See the additional column for wood product utilization from non-NFS 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.

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

[9] Addresses Core Monitoring Question #10

[10] Addresses Core Monitoring Question #11

relationship between these groups aim to help enshrine an all-lands approach to the CFLRP project moving forward.

Further, the Northern Blues All Lands Partnership was featured as a case study in an RVCC report (released Dec. '22) about governance strategies for large landscape partnering in the West. Members of the All Lands Operations team also presented at the annual RVCC meeting in South Lake Tahoe, CA on October 16-18 highlighting cross-boundary restoration work in the Northern Blues. Agenda attached here.

Below is an overview of the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership membership as outlined within the Partnership's MOU.

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.*
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: *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.*
John Punches - OSU Extension Service, NE OR Extension Forester
Jeff Costello, Interim - Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Facilitator
Clayton Matheny - All Lands Monitoring Team External Coordinator
Willy Crippen - Northern Blues Cohesive Strategy Partnership Coordinator
Amber Ingoglia - Umatilla NF, Partnership Manager
Nils Christoffersen - Wallowa Resources
Lani Chang - CFLR Coordinator, Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman NF
Alyssa Cudmore - My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator

Kaci Radcliffe - The Nature Conservancy
Pam Hardy - Wallowa Resources
Alison Martin - Washington Department of Natural Resources

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.*

Garfield County (WA)	**Umatilla County (OR)**	**Wallowa County (OR)**	**Union County (OR)**	**Baker County (OR)**
UNF District Ranger - Pomeroy RD: Susan Piper	UNF District Ranger - Walla Walla RD: Johnny Collin	WWNF District Ranger - Wallowa RD: Brian Anderson	WWNF District Ranger - La Grande RD: Stephaney Kerley	WWNF District Ranger - Baker City: Kendall Cikanek
DNR - Andrew Naughton & Alison Martin	NRCS District Conservationist - Pendleton: Nate James	NRCS District Conservationist - Wallowa: Abe Clarke	NRCS District Conservationist - La Grande: Mike Burton	NRCS District Conservationist -Baker: Hannah Smith
NRCS - WA - Tracey Hanger	ODF Unit Forester/ Stewardship Forester-Pendleton: Matt Hoena and Hans Rudolf	ODF Unit Forester/ Stewardship Forester-Wallowa: Tracy Brostrom, Tim Cudmore, Joseph Geobel, Sarah Anderson	ODF Unit Forester/ Stewardship Forester-La Grande: Logan McCrae, Travis Lowe, Abby McBeth	ODF Unit Forester/ Stewardship Forester-Baker: Logan McCrae and Jana Peterson
CTUIR Rainwater: Lindsay Chiono, Gerry Middell	CTUIR Forester: Andrew Addessi	NPT - Forester/staff: Andrew Saralecos	Additional Attendees UNF District Ranger – Heppner RD - Doug McKay./ UNF District Ranger – North Fork John Day RD - TBD	

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.*

All Lands Communication, Education and Storytelling Team	**Northern Blue Monitoring Team (All Lands Monitoring and Evaluation)**	**My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership (private landowner mobilization/ engagement)**	**Blue Mountains Prescribed Fire Council**	**Northern Blues Forest Collaborative**	**Stewardship Workforce and Forest By Product Utilization Team**
	Clayton Matheny - All Lands Monitoring team External Coordinator, Wallowa Resources	Alyssa Cudmore - Wallowa Resources, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator	USFS WWF Fuels Staff Officer	Jeff Costello - Interim - Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Facilitator	Nils Christoffersen, Wallowa Resources

Joseph Black - Wallowa Whitman, Public Affairs Officer	Amarina Wunschel - CFLR Monitoring Coordinator, USFS - UNF/WWNF	Chantz Joyce - American Forest Foundation	Willy Crippen - ODF; Northern Blues Cohesive Strategy Partnership Coordinator	Nils Christoffersen, Wallowa Resources	Alyssa Cudmore - Wallowa Resources, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator
Chris Dennis - Umatilla NF, Public Affairs Officer	Alison Martin - Fuel Coordinator for 9 counties, WA Department of Natural Resources	Nils Christoffersen - Wallowa Resources	Matt Howard - ODF - District Forester	Mike Billman, Oregon Dept. of Forestry	Amber Ingoglia - CFLR Coordinator, Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman NFs
Lauren Bennett - NRCS Oregon, Public Affairs Officer	Andrew Addressi - Supervisory Forester, CTUIR	John Punches, Jacob Putney, John Rizza - OSU Extension Service	Jacob Putney - OSU Extension	Kaci Radcliffe - Forest Restoration Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy	Mike Billman - Oregon Dept. of Forestry
John Punches - OSU Extension Service, NE OR Extension Forester	Andy Perleberg- Forester, E. WA WSU Extension	Julie Woodward - Oregon Forest Resources Institute	VACANT - OSU Extension- Wildfire Program	Katy Nesbitt, Wallowa County	Irene Jerome - American Forest Resources Council
Willy Crippen - Cohesive Strategy Partnership, Coordinator	Bryan Endress - EOU/OSU	Willy Crippen - Blue Mountains Cohesive Wildfire Strategy	Kaci Radcliffe - Forest Restoration Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy	Paul Anderes, Union County	Lindsay Lockard - UMNF timber program manager
Molly Johnson - ODF Education Specialist	Kaci Radcliffe - Forest Restoration Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy	Acting - Amber Ingoglia Wallowa-Whitman & Umatilla National Forests		Pam Hardy, Wallowa Resources	Bradyn Child - WWNF timber contracting officer
Pam Hardy - Wallowa Resources	Skye Greenler Fire and Forest Ecologist, USDA Forest Service Region 6	Jay Gibbs - Basin Team Leader, Natural Resources Conservation Service John Day/Umatilla and Snake River Basins			Vanessa Haggadorn - Association of Oregon Loggers
Alyssa Cudmore - My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator	Adam Coble - Monitoring Specialist, Oregon Department of Forestry	Matt Howard - District Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry Northeast Oregon District			Grace Donovan - Rural Engagement and Vitality Center at Eastern Oregon University
Kelly Makela - Wallowa Resources, Forest Communications Specialist	John Punches - Forester, NE OR OSU Extension	Oregon Department of Forestry - Unit and Stewardship Foresters			Kristian Thorton, Eastern Oregon Workforce Board

	Alyssa Cudmore - Wallowa Resources, My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership Coordinator	Natural Resources Conservation Service- District Conservationists			
	Amy Charette - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs)	Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests			
	Angela Sondenaa - Precious Lands Project Leader, NPT				
	Cameron Naficy, USFS R6 FHP/Regional Ecology Program				
	Subteam experts (resources specialists from agencies and outside experts/academic)				

See ATTACHMENT 2 for PHOTOS OF THE NORTHERN BLUES "ALL LANDS" RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

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.

- What parties (who) are involved in monitoring, and how?
- Do you have a documented adaptive management plan and/or process? Please upload to external Box folder.
- 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 Monitoring Team, a "resource team" under the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership (NBRP), includes an internal Forest Service (FS) coordinator, Amarina Wuenschel, and an external coordinator, Clayton Matheny, 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 Nez Perce Tribe, 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 Observatory.

The Monitoring Team that continues to refine a "living" multiparty monitoring plan based on the Common Monitoring Strategy, the goals of the Northern Blues CFLR proposal, and the needs of local stakeholders. In 2023, the team took steps towards adding a more in depth "Adaptive Management Framework" section that will highlight the process for how our monitoring results inform future management actions. Next steps include refining this framework, defining processes and quantifying adaptive management triggers for each of the indicators. Three years into implementation and monitoring, the partnership and monitoring team has identified a need for a structured and intentional conversation to discuss how to use and interpret the impacts of our projects through monitoring data, how we will know when our work is "done" on the landscape, and how to translate emerging science into adaptively managing on the landscape. The NBRP Ops team is currently in the process of applying for a Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS) Grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Bringing research, monitoring, and land management personnel together, we hope to bridge existing gaps and develop a useful process for integrating monitoring efforts into management decisions, and vice versa.

2023 marked the third 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 (specifically adding more plots on the Umatilla NF and in the northern part of our project area), post-wildfire conditions, white-headed woodpecker and other avian species' habitats, and open meadows. The Team was able to conduct monitoring on a total of 117 ecological plots in both forests and on private and tribal lands. No riparian/wet meadow or aspen plots were sampled this year. This highlights the need to identify projects occurring in these special habitats in the following years. 10 of these plots were sampled in areas that experienced wildfires (no treatment) during 2022 (Double Creek and Nebo Fire). 62 of the 117 plots were post-treatment and data analysis of these plots will give us a better idea how our protocols and monitoring plan are measuring the effectiveness of the restoration treatments we are sampling. Data analysis for all years is in progress at the time of this report. We have built a spreadsheet calculating various forest measurements that can be used to generate project-specific reports ensuring that project objectives are being met (and if not, where the gaps are).

The Team is proud that it completed 41 plots for First Foods monitoring in conjunction with CTUIR, NPT, and OSU. This partnership was expanded this year to include the Nez Perce Tribe in our monitoring efforts of First Foods. This monitoring has increased our collaboration with CTUIR, NPT, 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. With assistance from the Ecosystem Workforce Program (University of Oregon), we have identified two local questions to add to the Monitoring Plan and be implemented in 2024. We also plan on working with EWP to consult/coach us through the socioeconomic monitoring process in hopes of refining our current approach and gathering more accurate and representative data.

Northern Blues Monitoring Team

- Progress in 2023:
  - Individual project implementation and seasonal data collection.
  - Coordination between the Monitoring Team, Operations Team, Leadership Team, and NBFC.
  - Externally inputting stand-level monitoring data into FS Veg database
  - New agreement completed with WA DNR to extend the upland forest monitoring protocol into WA in 2024.
- Reflections:
  - Data analysis and sharing results – Made big strides in analyzing basic metrics for current dataset and continue to work on developing the systems for more comprehensive results and creating 'project-specific' reports.
  - Discovering where data of various scales (landscape vs. stand-level data) are most applicable in gauging change across the project area.
  - Continued development and maturation of workflows and processes within the Partnership and among the CFLRPs.
- Challenges:
  - Identifying comparable metrics between project-specific NEPA objectives and our stand-level monitoring data (ie. absence of quantitative triggers).
  - Tracking the timing and completion of forest restoration treatments. There can often be multiple stages and types of treatment that involve multiple contacts for a single project. (ie. a commercial thinning project is 'complete', but may or may not receive silvicultural follow-up or prescribed fire sometime over the next few years…..Do we perform post-treatment monitoring now, or wait until ALL work is finished?). Would see benefits to having a more centralized organized process and/or database where this information could be accessed and would be updated in appropriate time scales.
  - Identified challenge of translating the common monitoring strategy to on the ground implementation. Together, the CMS and local questions still don't tell a strong, cohesive story that is benefiting partners and FS folks who are implementing projects on the ground. On the ground monitoring gives good information on stand and project level success, but is difficult to scale with such a large landscape. The CMS provides a landscape view, but much of the modeling is not sensitive enough to pick up on how treatments are impacting the landscape as a whole. We are still determining how to bridge these differing scales in the monitoring data.

Socioeconomic Monitoring Sub-Committee

- Monitoring Questions:
  - How has the social and economic context changed throughout the CFLRP? (CMS #6)
  - How have CFLRP activities supported local jobs and labor income? (CMS #7)
  - How do sales, contracts, and agreements associated with the CFLRP affect local communities? (CMS #8)
  - Did CFLRP maintain or increase the number and/or diversity of wood products that can be processed locally? (CMS #9)
  - Did CFLRP increase economic utilization of restoration byproducts? (CMS #10)
  - If and to what extent has CFLRP investments attracted partner investments across the landscape? (CMS #13)
- Progress in 2023:
  - Working with the Ecosystem Workforce Program to identify local SE questions and refine monitoring processes.
  - Built capacity within EOU, REV, and from other parties such as County Governments (e.g., BIC) to execute and continue these processes.
- Reflections:
  - Challenges identifying a process and finding capacity for gathering in-depth metrics for the utilization of

restoration byproducts (follow up on Evie's mill survey). Where does all of this biomass go and how is it being utilized? How do the byproducts from a sale on FS land differ from one on private, state, Tribal land?

Wildlife Monitoring Sub-Committee

- Monitoring Questions: What are the site-specific effects of restoration treatments on focal species habitat across the CFLR Project Area? (CMS #3)
- Progress in 2023:
    - Klamath Bird Observatory completed their final year of pre -treatment monitoring for avian focal species
    - White-headed woodpecker project:
        - 171 autonomous recording units were deployed and data is being processed this winter
        - 25 nests were located and monitored
        - 23 woodpeckers were radio-tagged
- Reflections:
    - Field trucks are still a limiting resource for accomplishing monitoring and with approvals/denials for trucks happening late in the fiscal year it is hard to know if we need to make other arrangements for rigs as well as how many technicians to hire.

Invasive Species Monitoring Sub-Committee

- Monitoring Questions: what is the trend in invasive species within the CFLRP project area? (CMS #5)
- Progress in 2023:
    - Incorporated a new standard invasive species protocol developed by the region for all CFLRP programs. Although it did not change much from our previous protocol, it does add important metrics such as bare soil and litter/duff cover.
    - Added 7 invasive plant species (19 total) that serve as indicator species.
    - Utilized training program and developed field guide for crew to ID invasive species 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.
    - Recognized timing of sampling and phenological timing of various invasive species may skew overall results.

First Foods Monitoring Sub-Committee

- Monitoring Questions: How do treatments in meadows and grasslands impact cultural plant resources? (local MQ)
- Progress in 2023:
    - Completed 41 plots across Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties (these included plots on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Umatilla National Forest, private lands, CTUIR lands, Nez Perce Reservation and Nature Conservancy lands).
    - Completed 28 site assessments on CTUIR reservation lands, Umatilla National Forest and other (State, BLM).
    - Expanded the partnership to include monitoring with the Nez Perce Tribe.
    - Shared and presented the First Foods Monitoring Program with many entities (e.g. public, CTUIR, USFS, TNC, etc.).
- Reflections:
    - As the project expands (in partners and across locations), it is important to build capacity and budget more time for training crews and for clear communication and coordination.
    - A challenge that still remains is becoming aware of planned treatments with enough time to scope

areas, and put in plots.
- The monitoring program has good coverage for many species, but there is a need for additional plots next year for other species (sawikt, bitterroot, forest- roots).
- The methodology and processes worked well this year. The crews did face challenges setting up the quadrants and developing a tool to facilitate that process will be useful.

Fuels/Veg/HRV Monitoring Sub-Committee

- Monitoring Questions:
  - How effective were fuels and thinning treatments at meeting our goals? (local MQ)
  - What is the reduction in fuel hazard based on our treatments? (CMS #1)
  - Is the landscape more heterogeneous with treatment and subsequent fire? (local MQ)
  - 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? (local MQ)
- Progress in 2023:
  - We installed 55 new pre-treatment plots (upland forest and upland forest WHWO) and collected post-treatment data on 62 plots.
  - Data entry/preliminary analysis is occurring this fall and winter, setting us up for the opportunity to compare pre- and post-treatment conditions for additional projects.
  - The new invasive species protocol was incorporated into the upland veg/fuels protocol.
  - Met with the Wallowa-Whitman botanist to discuss the possibility of incorporating White Bark Pine into the uplands forest protocol next year and are attending White Bark Pine Work Group Meetings. Baker Resources Intern Crew performed several monitoring plots for White Bark Pine for the Wallowa-Whitman. Both forests submitted funding proposal to support increased monitoring for White Bark Pine.
- Reflections:
  - Our training program for crew members appears to be working well and utilizes expertise from multiple partners.
  - It takes a significant investment of time to identify plot locations on federal lands and track treatment timing/completion, given the wide range of projects and involved personnel.
  - As a result, it is challenging to anticipate/schedule post-treatment data collection given uncertainty about when treatments will actually be completed in any particular unit.
  - Potential for adding a rapid soil assessment protocol into our Upland Veg protocol for a more comprehensive understanding of the effects from various forest restoration treatments.

Aquatics/Soils Monitoring Sub-Committee

- Monitoring Questions:
  - How do treatments impact: Water Temperature, Shade, Sediment, Large Woody Debris, Riparian Hardwoods? (CMS #4)
  - 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? (local MQ)
- Progress in 2023:
  - Stream temperature monitoring across the forest, both in vegetation treatment areas and restored steam and floodplain areas took place. Temperature monitoring also occurred in impaired stream reaches that will have restoration treatments in the future, in order to get trends for baseline information. In addition, a team of researchers from PNW, RMRS, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission, ODFW and land managers have been working on the Meadow Creek Integrated Research and Restoration Plan for valley floor and upland treatment monitoring. The plan will have a complete draft in Spring 2024.

    - Best Management Practice monitoring is conducted across the forest on an annual basis to determine if planning and implementation are meeting National and Local standards for water quality.
    - Active restoration projects have been monitored for physical and biological response on the ground and with high resolution drone imagery. Partners have conducted habitat surveys, assistance with temperature monitoring, and biological surveys (snorkeling for mussels and fish, as well as monitoring frogs and breeding areas).
- Reflections:
    - Monitoring depends on partners. Across the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, FS has garnered support in monitoring for large stream and floodplain restoration projects. This is often coordinated through local watershed councils (and/or funders)
    - It is more difficult to find money and support for monitoring vegetation treatments (passive restoration) and effects to stream temperature from change in shade, for example, can be less obvious and take more time, for instance, initial change in shade and/or stream temperature after riparian thinning, short term and long term effects. If the objective is to improve/increase riparian hardwoods, the initial short term effect might be less shade due to thinning densely stocked lodgepole stands.

See ATTACHMENT 2 for PHOTOS SHOWCASING ROBUST MONITORING & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

10. Conclusion

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

Optional Prompts

FY 2023 Additional Accomplishment Narrative and/or Lessons Learned Highlights

Media Recap
NBALRP Materials:

- 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
- 2023 Spring Field Tour Brochure

Other media:

- Forestry and Natural Resources Contractor and Consultant Directory
- Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision Storymap
- Firewise Communities
    - Article in the Chieftain highlighting new Lostine Canyon Firewise Community
    - Lostine Canyon Firewise Video

- Tiger Mill Project
    - 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
    - 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.
- SAF - Western Forester
    - Article highlighting active management and restoration with CTUIR to promote First Foods, namely huckleberry
    - Article (pg. 14) by WWNF Wildlife Biologist, Jamie Ratlitff, and partners, Klamath Bird Observatory and Pacific Birds Joint Venture, on the efficacy of landscape-scale forest management as a tool to restore Western Forest bird habitat
- Article highlighting ODFW acquisition of Minam River Wildlife Area in partnership with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- A study and subsequent paper was published by biologists on the Wallowa Whitman on the efficacy of using autonomous recording units to monitor White-headed Woodpecker populations in the Blue Mountains

Visuals

See ATTACHMENT 2: Photos

Signatures:

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)):

DocuSigned by:
Lani Chang
F3E36A5953EA416...
Date: 12/5/2023

Lani Chang, Northern Blues CFLRP/Partnership Coordinator

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)):

DocuSigned by:
Eric Watrud
2959886EFFB94BC...
Date: 12/8/2023

Eric Watrud, Umatilla National Forest Supervisor

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)):

DocuSigned by:
Shaun Mckinney
1E8CF40283754C2...
Date: 12/8/2023

Shaun Mckinney, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor

Draft reviewed by (collaborative representative):

DocuSigned by:
Nils Christoffersen
02C4BCBF10E7425...
Date: 12/5/2023

Nils Christoffersen, Wallowa Resources Executive Director
Liaison to the Northern Blues Partnership Leadership Team
Member of the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative Steering Committee

ATTACHMENT 1: CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy Core Questions

The 2022 cohort will complete the Common Monitoring Strategy questions in FY23. The 2022 cohort includes: Lakeview, Missouri Pine Oak Woodlands, North Yuba, North Central Washington, Northeast Washington, Rio Chama, Rogue Basin, Shortleaf Bluestem, Southern Blues, Southwest Colorado, Western Klamath, Zuni

2021 funded projects (Deschutes, Dinkey, Northern Blues) will only need to address the annual questions (Q1, Q5, Q7, Q10, Q11, Q13). For CFLRP projects awarded (or extended) in FY23, the Attachment is NOT required. However, please note it will be required in FY24.

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:

Table 1. Fire intensity (predicted flame lengths) from IFTDSS

IFTDSS Auto-97th percentile flame length output	*Non-burnable*	*0 – 1ft. 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 (Baseline under CMS)	1,465,880 (14.1%)	499,891 (4.8%)	4,474,299 (42.9%)	2,760,590 (26.5%)	411,885 (4.0%)	589,410 (5.7%)	224,808 (2.2%)
Landscape model 2 (Second year of CMS) N/A in first reporting year	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- **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.

This is the first year results were summarized by watershed and so we will only be reporting baseline values. While the project level for flame length is quite coarse, the model seems to have accurately captured general flame length across the landscape for the baseline year. There are areas intermixed where flame length won't be the best measure as a decrease in modeled flame length is sometimes not a positive outcome. Moving from a closed canopy mixed conifer forest type to a more open ponderosa pine forest, where many of the restoration treatments are focused, often results in an increase in flame length due to increased solar radiation, increased air movement closer to the surface and "fluffier" fine fuels. It's difficult to tease out those intermixed areas across the entire project area or even across each HUC. Crown fire potential might be a better measure across the entire project area. Additionally, because the Northern Blues CFLRP landscape is so large at 10.4 m acres, it will be difficult for the model to pick up on the impact of our treatments (at the scale we are doing them) to show any noticeable difference in flame length from year to year.

Table 2. Crown fire activity from IFTDSS

Watershed ID (HUC5)	Watershed Name	No Fire (ac)	Surface Fire (ac)	Passive Crown Fire (ac)	Active Crown Fire (ac)	Total Crown Fire (ac)	Total (ac)
1707010309	Upper Butter Creek	5847.2 (2.8%)	186638.0 (90.3%)	14087.4 (6.8%)	15.1 (0.0%)	14102.5 (6.8%)	206587.7248
1705011611	Upper North Fork Malheur River	0.0 (0.0%)	3.6 (80.0%)	0.9 (20.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.9 (20.0%)	4.447892934
1705011612	Little Malheur River	80.1 (0.9%)	6206.6 (70.6%)	2499.7 (28.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	2499.7 (28.4%)	8786.367702
1705020107	Indian Creek-Snake River	2594.0 (6.7%)	26851.0 (69.0%)	9432.2 (24.2%)	42.7 (0.1%)	9474.9 (24.3%)	38919.95275
1705011901	South Willow Creek	379.9 (2.9%)	6730.6 (50.5%)	6213.7 (46.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	6213.7 (46.6%)	13324.10807
1705011902	Upper Willow Creek	6.2 (0.2%)	2782.6 (85.8%)	455.5 (14.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	455.5 (14.0%)	3244.293106
1705020106	Pine Creek	6542.9 (4.2%)	89710.4 (57.5%)	59652.5 (38.3%)	35.6 (0.0%)	59688.1 (38.3%)	155941.3471
1705020201	North Fork Burnt River	2149.2 (1.7%)	81391.1 (65.7%)	40414.4 (32.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	40414.4 (32.6%)	123954.7699
1705020202	South Fork Burnt River	2599.3 (3.5%)	53100.7 (70.8%)	19260.3 (25.7%)	2.7 (0.0%)	19262.9 (25.7%)	74963.00836
1705020203	Camp Creek	1650.2 (3.2%)	38445.8 (74.7%)	11370.6 (22.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	11370.6 (22.1%)	51466.56914
1705020204	Big Creek-Burnt River	3419.5 (3.7%)	78187.7 (84.4%)	11075.3 (11.9%)	0.0 (0.0%)	11075.3 (11.9%)	92682.52423
1705020205	Clarks Creek-Burnt River	1462.5 (4.1%)	30282.1 (84.0%)	4286.0 (11.9%)	0.9 (0.0%)	4286.9 (11.9%)	36031.49108
1706010204	Lower Big Sheep Creek	3970.2 (3.1%)	103921.5 (80.1%)	21802.7 (16.8%)	9.8 (0.0%)	21812.5 (16.8%)	129704.1163
1706010205	Lower Imnaha River	10272.0 (7.0%)	122365.1 (83.2%)	14340.9 (9.8%)	24.0 (0.0%)	14364.9 (9.8%)	147001.9719
1706010401	Upper Grande Ronde River	1148.4 (0.9%)	53217.3 (39.8%)	79381.5 (59.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	79381.5 (59.4%)	133747.251

1706010402	Meadow Creek	590.7 (0.5%)	75593.7 (65.1%)	39854.9 (34.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	39854.9 (34.3%)	116039.2996
1706010403	Beaver Creek-Grande Ronde River	1271.2 (1.0%)	79734.7 (60.6%)	50651.7 (38.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	50651.7 (38.5%)	131657.6309
1706010404	Five Points Creek-Grande Ronde River	18974.7 (21.7%)	40829.0 (46.7%)	27622.3 (31.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	27622.3 (31.6%)	87426.00436
1706010405	Upper Catherine Creek	5547.4 (4.7%)	66000.5 (56.3%)	45748.4 (39.0%)	23.1 (0.0%)	45771.5 (39.0%)	117319.4032
1706010406	Ladd Creek	11600.1 (19.8%)	36906.8 (62.9%)	10158.1 (17.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	10158.1 (17.3%)	58665.03907
1706010407	Lower Catherine Creek	43057.4 (51.5%)	29814.2 (35.7%)	10663.4 (12.8%)	15.1 (0.0%)	10678.5 (12.8%)	83550.11046
1706010408	Willow Creek	14320.4 (26.7%)	24573.7 (45.9%)	14650.5 (27.4%)	5.3 (0.0%)	14655.8 (27.4%)	53549.96219
1706010409	Indian Creek-Grande Ronde River	13475.3 (14.0%)	47362.9 (49.2%)	35346.5 (36.7%)	14.2 (0.0%)	35360.7 (36.8%)	96199.02838
1706010410	Lookingglass Creek	459.9 (0.8%)	20926.4 (34.6%)	39159.2 (64.7%)	13.3 (0.0%)	39172.6 (64.7%)	60558.95188
1706010411	Cabin Creek-Grande Ronde River	7130.0 (6.6%)	65067.3 (60.0%)	36191.6 (33.4%)	6.2 (0.0%)	36197.8 (33.4%)	108395.1508
1706010501	Upper Wallowa River	47077.4 (29.8%)	76627.4 (48.5%)	33820.9 (21.4%)	325.6 (0.2%)	34146.5 (21.6%)	157851.2723
1706010502	Lostine River	13426.4 (23.1%)	14501.0 (25.0%)	29954.8 (51.6%)	223.3 (0.4%)	30178.1 (51.9%)	58105.49414
1706010503	Middle Wallowa River	10068.3 (11.8%)	64345.9 (75.7%)	10566.4 (12.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	10566.4 (12.4%)	84980.55282
1706010504	Bear Creek	2036.2 (4.4%)	13006.5 (28.1%)	30994.7 (67.0%)	256.2 (0.6%)	31250.9 (67.5%)	46293.66966
1706010505	Minam River	10881.3 (7.1%)	53525.9 (35.0%)	88119.9 (57.6%)	401.2 (0.3%)	88521.1 (57.9%)	152928.3444

1706010506	Lower Wallowa River	2237.3 (2.0%)	72316.5 (65.5%)	35925.6 (32.5%)	2.7 (0.0%)	35928.3 (32.5%)	110482.1022
1706010601	Grossman Creek-Grande Ronde River	1172.5 (1.0%)	62813.1 (54.7%)	50831.4 (44.3%)	29.4 (0.0%)	50860.8 (44.3%)	114846.3747
1706010602	Mud Creek-Grande Ronde River	2844.0 (1.8%)	95629.7 (62.0%)	55668.9 (36.1%)	6.2 (0.0%)	55675.2 (36.1%)	154148.8463
1706010604	Chesnimnus Creek	137.0 (0.1%)	94673.4 (77.1%)	27960.3 (22.8%)	0.0 (0.0%)	27960.3 (22.8%)	122770.7408
1706010605	Upper Joseph Creek	1729.3 (1.4%)	99155.1 (79.2%)	24365.6 (19.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	24365.6 (19.5%)	125249.9963
1706010606	Lower Joseph Creek	2804.0 (2.7%)	70264.3 (67.1%)	31680.6 (30.2%)	14.2 (0.0%)	31694.8 (30.3%)	104763.0014
1706010103	Wolf Creek-Snake River	2254.2 (6.0%)	31350.5 (82.8%)	4255.7 (11.2%)	6.2 (0.0%)	4262.0 (11.3%)	37866.69171
1706010301	Cherry Creek-Snake River	2644.7 (4.9%)	41759.5 (77.2%)	9717.8 (18.0%)	2.7 (0.0%)	9720.4 (18.0%)	54124.62996
1706010603	Wenaha River	1668.8 (0.9%)	82206.0 (43.5%)	104551.3 (55.3%)	690.3 (0.4%)	105241.6 (55.6%)	189116.4014
1706010607	Lower Grande Ronde River	11874.1 (7.4%)	112545.9 (70.0%)	36375.8 (22.6%)	3.6 (0.0%)	36379.3 (22.6%)	160799.3358
1706010302	George Creek-Asotin Creek	32110.2 (15.4%)	142737.3 (68.6%)	33220.4 (16.0%)	60.5 (0.0%)	33280.9 (16.0%)	208128.4749
1706010701	Alpowa Creek	7425.3 (11.4%)	55010.7 (84.8%)	2434.8 (3.8%)	17.8 (0.0%)	2452.6 (3.8%)	64888.53086
1706010705	Pataha Creek	28438.9 (29.5%)	61037.5 (63.4%)	6767.0 (7.0%)	0.9 (0.0%)	6767.9 (7.0%)	96244.39689
1706010706	Upper Tucannon River	17205.3 (12.8%)	75650.7 (56.5%)	41046.9 (30.6%)	22.2 (0.0%)	41069.2 (30.7%)	133925.1667
1705020206	Burnt River Canyon-Burnt River	351.4 (2.1%)	14218.1 (85.6%)	2030.0 (12.2%)	2.7 (0.0%)	2032.7 (12.2%)	16602.20517
1705020207	Alder Creek-Pritchard Creek	0.0 (0.0%)	717.9 (86.4%)	113.0 (13.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	113.0 (13.6%)	830.8664001

1705020301	Upper Powder River	4035.1 (3.8%)	50825.2 (48.2%)	50577.0 (48.0%)	13.3 (0.0%)	50590.3 (48.0%)	105450.6457
1705020302	Sutton Creek-Powder River	1146.7 (1.5%)	59572.4 (79.6%)	14114.1 (18.9%)	0.0 (0.0%)	14114.1 (18.9%)	74833.12988
1705020303	Baldock Slough-Powder River	11649.9 (21.4%)	40219.6 (74.0%)	2509.5 (4.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	2509.5 (4.6%)	54379.04944
1705020304	Rock Creek-Powder River	29037.6 (24.0%)	63243.7 (52.4%)	28401.6 (23.5%)	82.7 (0.1%)	28484.3 (23.6%)	120765.6306
1705020305	North Powder River	7444.0 (9.9%)	30029.5 (40.0%)	37599.8 (50.1%)	36.5 (0.0%)	37636.3 (50.1%)	75109.78882
1705020306	Wolf Creek-Powder River	10229.3 (9.4%)	84696.8 (77.9%)	13753.8 (12.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	13753.8 (12.7%)	108679.816
1705020307	Big Creek	1759.6 (3.2%)	37666.5 (68.7%)	15392.4 (28.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	15392.4 (28.1%)	54818.50126
1705020308	Ruckles Creek-Powder River	7328.3 (6.5%)	94011.6 (83.0%)	11890.1 (10.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	11890.1 (10.5%)	113230.0104
1705020309	Love Creek-Powder River	778.4 (2.5%)	30713.6 (97.4%)	39.1 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	39.1 (0.1%)	31531.11301
1705020310	Eagle Creek	11788.7 (9.6%)	61150.5 (49.6%)	50087.7 (40.6%)	227.7 (0.2%)	50315.5 (40.8%)	123254.6715
1705020311	Lower Powder River	1038.1 (12.6%)	7014.3 (84.8%)	215.3 (2.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	215.3 (2.6%)	8267.743386
1707010107	Juniper Canyon	40069.3 (41.3%)	56813.8 (58.5%)	165.5 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	165.5 (0.2%)	97048.57593
1707010108	Sixmile Canyon	39051.6 (40.3%)	57352.9 (59.2%)	547.1 (0.6%)	4.4 (0.0%)	551.5 (0.6%)	96956.05976
1707010201	Upper Walla Walla River	8162.8 (8.0%)	41016.7 (40.3%)	52050.1 (51.2%)	517.7 (0.5%)	52567.9 (51.7%)	101747.33
1707010207	Middle Walla Walla River	54082.8 (61.6%)	24172.5 (27.5%)	9377.0 (10.7%)	113.9 (0.1%)	9490.9 (10.8%)	87746.25265
1707010209	Pine Creek	48322.8 (45.0%)	51742.3 (48.2%)	7290.1 (6.8%)	10.7 (0.0%)	7300.8 (6.8%)	107365.9084

1707010301	Headwaters Umatilla River	417.2 (0.5%)	34726.5 (40.0%)	51563.5 (59.4%)	44.5 (0.1%)	51608.0 (59.5%)	86751.70379
1707010302	Meacham Creek	775.7 (0.7%)	61749.2 (54.1%)	51530.6 (45.2%)	21.3 (0.0%)	51552.0 (45.2%)	114076.8892
1707010303	Wildhorse Creek	78363.0 (62.5%)	46287.4 (36.9%)	784.6 (0.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	784.6 (0.6%)	125435.0286
1707010304	McKay Creek	8427.9 (6.6%)	88100.3 (69.2%)	30475.2 (23.9%)	313.1 (0.2%)	30788.3 (24.2%)	127316.4874
1707010305	Mission Creek-Umatilla River	30759.8 (23.4%)	95615.5 (72.8%)	4930.0 (3.8%)	19.6 (0.0%)	4949.6 (3.8%)	131324.9285
1707010306	Birch Creek	15094.4 (8.3%)	134287.2 (73.8%)	32554.1 (17.9%)	44.5 (0.0%)	32598.6 (17.9%)	181980.2019
1707010307	Alkali Canyon-Umatilla River	22640.7 (17.1%)	109274.1 (82.7%)	292.7 (0.2%)	0.9 (0.0%)	293.6 (0.2%)	132208.28
1707010308	Stage Gulch	37483.3 (52.7%)	33608.3 (47.2%)	60.5 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	60.5 (0.1%)	71152.05369
1707010310	Lower Butter Creek	17390.4 (21.5%)	62654.8 (77.3%)	1012.3 (1.2%)	11.6 (0.0%)	1023.9 (1.3%)	81069.07578
1707010311	Sand Hollow	44690.6 (41.7%)	62142.4 (58.0%)	221.5 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	221.5 (0.2%)	107054.5559
1707010312	Cold Springs Canyon	65364.5 (50.9%)	62780.2 (48.9%)	174.4 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	174.4 (0.1%)	128319.0424
1707010313	Hunt Ditch-Umatilla River	59517.3 (48.5%)	62664.6 (51.1%)	516.8 (0.4%)	0.9 (0.0%)	517.7 (0.4%)	122699.5745
1707010401	Upper Willow Creek	3454.2 (3.7%)	77812.3 (82.7%)	12777.9 (13.6%)	7.1 (0.0%)	12785.0 (13.6%)	94051.58567
1707010402	Middle Willow Creek	19788.7 (24.1%)	62097.0 (75.8%)	62.3 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	62.3 (0.1%)	81947.97942
1707010403	Rhea Creek	12329.6 (8.4%)	115360.6 (79.0%)	18247.0 (12.5%)	32.9 (0.0%)	18280.0 (12.5%)	145970.0607
1707010404	Eightmile Canyon	52844.5 (32.6%)	109398.6 (67.4%)	15.1 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	15.1 (0.0%)	162258.2447

1707010405	Lower Willow Creek	20216.6 (28.6%)	50365.3 (71.3%)	96.1 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	96.1 (0.1%)	70677.9083
1706010101	Granite Creek-Snake River	12366.0 (10.6%)	50903.5 (43.6%)	52861.4 (45.3%)	644.1 (0.6%)	53505.5 (45.8%)	116774.9811
1706010102	Getta Creek-Snake River	6960.1 (7.1%)	72860.0 (74.1%)	18490.8 (18.8%)	19.6 (0.0%)	18510.4 (18.8%)	98330.45868
1706010303	Captain John Creek-Snake River	16376.3 (23.6%)	49948.9 (72.0%)	3022.8 (4.4%)	8.0 (0.0%)	3030.8 (4.4%)	69355.99452
1706010702	Steptoe Canyon-Snake River	4640.9 (38.7%)	7301.7 (60.8%)	57.8 (0.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	57.8 (0.5%)	12000.41514
1706010201	Upper Imnaha River	9279.2 (10.3%)	33118.1 (36.6%)	47937.6 (53.0%)	72.9 (0.1%)	48010.6 (53.1%)	90407.87178
1706010202	Middle Imnaha River	3144.7 (3.6%)	53160.3 (60.5%)	31531.1 (35.9%)	76.5 (0.1%)	31607.6 (36.0%)	87912.60385
1706010203	Upper Big Sheep Creek	3244.3 (3.6%)	50485.4 (56.5%)	35647.2 (39.9%)	40.9 (0.0%)	35688.1 (39.9%)	89417.77081
1706020910	Deer Creek-Salmon River	32.9 (35.6%)	59.6 (64.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	92.51617303
1706021004	Rapid River	2559.3 (18.6%)	4938.1 (35.8%)	6281.3 (45.5%)	12.5 (0.1%)	6293.8 (45.6%)	13791.13683
1707020105	Reynolds Creek-John Day River	0.0 (0.0%)	0.9 (100.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.889578587
1707020201	Headwaters North Fork John Day River	1888.6 (2.6%)	20426.5 (28.5%)	49349.4 (68.9%)	0.9 (0.0%)	49350.3 (68.9%)	71665.34054
1707020202	Granite Creek	1429.6 (1.5%)	24278.4 (25.7%)	68615.9 (72.7%)	1.8 (0.0%)	68617.6 (72.7%)	94325.57588
1707020203	Big Creek-North Fork John Day River	1190.3 (1.1%)	29496.6 (27.9%)	74995.9 (71.0%)	0.9 (0.0%)	74996.8 (71.0%)	105683.7153
1707020204	Desolation Creek	334.5 (0.5%)	24415.4 (35.1%)	44760.9 (64.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	44760.9 (64.4%)	69510.7812
1707020205	Upper Camas Creek	976.8 (0.9%)	53470.8 (51.0%)	50313.7 (48.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	50313.7 (48.0%)	104761.2223

1707020206	Lower Camas Creek	2916.9 (1.9%)	116657.6 (74.3%)	37362.3 (23.8%)	0.0 (0.0%)	37362.3 (23.8%)	156936.7856
1707020207	Potamus Creek-North Fork John Day River	2045.1 (1.1%)	115332.1 (64.2%)	62367.5 (34.7%)	2.7 (0.0%)	62370.1 (34.7%)	179747.3597
1707020208	Wall Creek	400.3 (0.3%)	100104.3 (78.0%)	27869.6 (21.7%)	0.9 (0.0%)	27870.5 (21.7%)	128375.0859
1707020209	Cottonwood Creek	0.9 (50.0%)	0.9 (50.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	1.779157174
1707020210	Lower North Fork John Day River	2204.4 (7.2%)	25925.0 (84.7%)	2482.8 (8.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	2482.8 (8.1%)	30612.17833
1707020301	Bridge Creek-Middle Fork John Day River	0.0 (0.0%)	9.8 (73.3%)	3.6 (26.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	3.6 (26.7%)	13.3436788
1707020302	Camp Creek-Middle Fork John Day River	190.4 (10.2%)	860.2 (46.2%)	811.3 (43.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	811.3 (43.6%)	1861.887982
1707020303	Big Creek-Middle Fork John Day River	477.7 (1.1%)	30716.3 (70.6%)	12292.2 (28.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	12292.2 (28.3%)	43486.15964
1707020305	Eight Mile Creek-Middle Fork John Day River	505.3 (1.2%)	34455.2 (82.1%)	7006.3 (16.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	7006.3 (16.7%)	41966.75941
1707020401	Kahler Creek-John Day River	1933.1 (1.5%)	100143.4 (80.1%)	22880.0 (18.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	22880.0 (18.3%)	124956.4354
1707020402	Service Creek-John Day River	104.1 (0.7%)	11292.3 (74.8%)	3703.3 (24.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	3703.3 (24.5%)	15099.70693
1707020405	Butte Creek	438.6 (2.3%)	15150.4 (80.0%)	3345.7 (17.7%)	0.9 (0.0%)	3346.6 (17.7%)	18935.5698
1707020408	Thirtymile Creek	8046.2 (7.3%)	92670.1 (84.2%)	9272.1 (8.4%)	105.9 (0.1%)	9377.9 (8.5%)	110094.2459
1707020410	Scott Canyon-John Day River	7.1 (3.9%)	177.0 (96.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	184.1427675
1707020411	Upper Rock Creek	1880.6 (1.1%)	146184.4 (82.5%)	28349.1 (16.0%)	726.8 (0.4%)	29075.9 (16.4%)	177140.8944

1707020412	Lower Rock Creek	13036.8 (12.8%)	88283.6 (87.0%)	198.4 (0.2%)	0.9 (0.0%)	199.3 (0.2%)	101519.5979
1707010102	Lower Lake Wallula	28827.7 (35.7%)	51325.1 (63.6%)	524.9 (0.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	524.9 (0.7%)	80677.6612
1707010106	Upper Lake Umatilla	32355.8 (57.0%)	23843.4 (42.0%)	588.9 (1.0%)	0.9 (0.0%)	589.8 (1.0%)	56788.91783
1707010109	Middle Lake Umatilla	33898.3 (53.0%)	29543.8 (46.2%)	564.9 (0.9%)	0.9 (0.0%)	565.8 (0.9%)	64007.84806
1707010114	Lower Lake Umatilla	17538.0 (40.1%)	26015.7 (59.5%)	137.9 (0.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	137.9 (0.3%)	43691.65229
1706020904	Race Creek-Salmon River	0.9 (5.6%)	8.0 (50.0%)	7.1 (44.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	7.1 (44.4%)	16.01241456
1706020905	Skookumchuck Creek-Salmon River	0.0 (0.0%)	3.6 (100.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	3.558314347
1707010202	Mill Creek-Walla Walla River	11855.4 (17.5%)	22374.7 (33.1%)	33121.7 (49.0%)	276.7 (0.4%)	33398.3 (49.4%)	67628.43291
1707010211	Lower Walla Walla River	31653.0 (49.3%)	32456.3 (50.5%)	142.3 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	142.3 (0.2%)	64251.59259
1707010203	Upper Touchet River	28731.6 (19.9%)	56651.0 (39.3%)	58734.4 (40.7%)	133.4 (0.1%)	58867.9 (40.8%)	144250.5053
1707010204	Middle Touchet River	34209.6 (57.7%)	16544.4 (27.9%)	8458.1 (14.3%)	51.6 (0.1%)	8509.7 (14.4%)	59263.72546
1707010205	Whetstone Hollow	9225.8 (93.3%)	657.4 (6.6%)	9.8 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	9.8 (0.1%)	9893.003464
1707010208	Dry Creek	15509.8 (57.0%)	5943.3 (21.8%)	5744.0 (21.1%)	14.2 (0.1%)	5758.2 (21.2%)	27211.31939
1707010210	Lower Touchet River	196.6 (84.4%)	35.6 (15.3%)	0.9 (0.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.9 (0.4%)	233.0695898

- **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.

See section above for flame length.

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

The All Lands Monitoring team collected stand-level data on fine (1, 10, 100-hr fuels) and large wood debris (1000-hr fuels) fuel loading that was a component of their upland forest monitoring protocol. The monitoring team will enter that data into FSVeg and use the Fire and Fuels Extension of the Forest Vegetation Simulator to determine stand scale fire intensity. While this is a priority, the data has not been entered into FSVeg yet due to non-FS employees needing to learn how to make data entries into the database and the inability to batch upload into the database which is making entries very time intensive. The team hopes to make progress on this early in the new year and there will likely be results to include in the FY24 report.

- **Based on the information in this section, (and any other relevant monitoring information and discussion), what (if any) actions or changes are you considering?**

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)

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

We are reporting the baseline for CMS 2 this year, so we will not be reporting on percent change. The analysis for 2022 was not completed until March 2023, so the results below are for 2022. Results for 2023 will be reported the following year (FY24).

Table 3. Vegetation Departure

Succession Class Area (acres) & % total project area*	**Early Development**	**Mid Closed**	**Mid Open**	**Late Open**	**Late Closed**
Disturbance and successional restoration needed	0 (0%)	555,546 (41.4%)	226,913 (12.7%)	0 (0%)	7 (0%)
Disturbance only restoration needs	0 (0%)	120,708 (9%)	266,243 (14.9%)	0 (0%)	88,384 (15%)
Succession only restoration needs	5,729 (2.7%)	7,643 (0.6%)	215,607 (12.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Running Totals [initial baseline under CMS, Year 5 and/or Year 10]	210,690	1,342,061	1,789,064	145,158	589,632

- **Briefly summarize how your landscape has departed from historic ecological conditions including disturbance**.
- **Briefly describe monitoring results – include an interpretation of the data provided above, and whether the indicator is trending toward or away from desired conditions for your landscape** (including resiliency to future disturbances and climate projections). If the data above does not accurately reflect condition on your landscape, please note and provide context.

This model was run using 2017 GNN data that was updated to include wildfires and treatments recorded in FACTS through the end of FY22. This model only assesses forested vegetation, and results are only reported for HUC5s that have greater than 10,000 acres of forested land. The analysis was run in March 2023.

Because this is the first year reporting on MQ2, we are only able to provide baseline data and cannot make any determinations as to whether or not the landscape is trending towards more desired and resilient conditions. The late open s-class does not appear to accurately represent conditions on the ground considering there is a fair amount of restoration work to be done and planned to move towards the late open s-class. This made it challenging to answer CMS 3 where our species of concern relies heavily on the late open s-class and restoring forests to that stage despite there not being a need to in the results above.

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)

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

Table 4. Wildlife Habitat Indicators

Wildlife Habitat Descrip.	Regional or Project-Specific Indicator?	Indicator and Unit of Measure (Acres)	Target Range	Value in Initial Year of CMS*	Value in Next Reporting Year of CMS* N/A in 2023	Desired or Undesired Change? N/A in 2023	Percent Change N/A in 2023	Acres of Habitat Treated to Improve this Indicator in this Fiscal Year
White-Headed Woodpecker - Habitat: Late Seral - Open (S-class D)	Regional	Acres in entire CFLRP Area and % of Target Range	885,611	145,158	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Common Monitoring Strategy (CMS)

For the table or table(s) above:

- **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 conditions on your landscape, please note that and provide context.

Since this is the baseline year, there are no trends to report. We did encounter some challenges with trying to answer CMS 3 from the report provided for CMS 2. Challenges include the late open seral stage values not being representative of restoration needs on the ground. The values read zero for disturbance or succession need even though that is not true and there is need for both to restore white headed woodpecker habitat and get to HRV. Additionally, since this is the baseline year, we are unable to answer or know the # of acres of habitat treated to improve this indicator in this fiscal year. Lastly, we wanted target range for the entire s-class which we were unsure how to calculate based on the

HRV ranges provided in the NBlues_CFLRP_BpS_SClass_Summary_2022.xlsx where the s-classes were further broken out by biophysical setting name.

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

A study and subsequent paper was published by biologists on the Wallowa Whitman on the efficacy of using autonomous recording units to monitor White-headed Woodpecker populations in the Blue Mountains. Traditionally, transect surveys have been conducted to understand status and trends in populations as a result of management actions, though this survey method is challenging due to the number of spatial and temporal replicate surveys needed. The study demonstrates the effectiveness of using these passive recorders to gather accurate presence/absence data. This study now establishes an effective protocol for monitoring White-headed Woodpeckers and the impacts of restoration treatments on these populations.

Additionally, a recent article was published in Western Forester written by Jamie Ratliff, wildlife biologist on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and partners from the Klamath Bird Observatory and Pacific Birds Joint Venture, on the efficacy of landscape-scale forest management as a tool to restore Western forest bird habitat and how avian monitoring can be used as one metric of success.

Monitoring Question #4: "What is the status and trend of watershed conditions in the CFLRP area?" (Reported every 5 years) - NOT REPORTING IN 2023

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

Table 5. Summary of Watershed Condition Scores for the priority HUC12 watersheds within CFLRP boundary (Reported Annually):

Forest	HUC12 Watershed Name and 12-digit HUC	Affected by Treatment, Disturbance Events, or Both?	Date Before Treatment and/or Disturbance Event	Watershed Condition Score in Initial Year of CMS	Date After Treatment and/or Disturbance Event	Watershed Condition Score in FY23

Table 6. Watershed Condition Score averaged across all affected identified subwatersheds within CFLRP boundary (reported every 5 years):

Indicator Number	Indicator Name	Avg.	Date

		Indicator Value	
Aquatic Physical (Weighted 30%)			
1	Water Quality		
2	Water Quantity		
3	Aquatic Habitat		
Aquatic Biological (Weighted 30%)			
4	Aquatic Biota		
5	Riparian/Wetland Vegetation		
Terrestrial Physical (Weighted 30%)			
6	Roads & Trails		
7	Soils		
Terrestrial Biological (Weighted 10%)			
8	Fire Regime or Wildfire		
9	Forest Cover		
10	Rangeland Vegetation		
11	Terrestrial Invasive Species		
12	Forest Health		

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

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 7. Treatment data for priority invasive species:

Land Designation	Treatment Action	Acres Treated[1]	Acres Monitored	Avg. "Percent Efficacy"	Acres Restored[2]	Response of Desirable Species[3]
Private/Tribal	Herbicide	4,601.3	1,100	N/A	N/A	N/A
Umatilla National Forest	Herbicide	2,798.4	1,685.5	85%	2,378.6	N/A
Umatilla National Forest	Mechanical	-	91.4	85%	-	N/A

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	Herbicide	3,581.3	1,441.4	89%	-	N/A
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	Mechanical	0.5	-	-	-	N/A
Totals/Avgs		10,981.5	4,318.3	86.3%	2,378.6	

[1] "Treated" is defined as prevented, controlled or eradicated. "Acres Completed from FACTS"

[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 not monitored, write N/A.

Plot Specific Data

Data source(s): Common Stand Exam field plot data
Were the plots fixed or in different locations year to year? Not Fixed
Were the plots randomly placed? Yes
If so, how? ArcMap random location generator
What statistical assumptions or models did you use? Statistical methods to account for pseudo-replication, mixed effects models, bootstrapping, etc.
Were photos taken at each plot? Yes
Link to full results: Link

Table 8. Summary of plot-based field monitoring for invasive species (if applicable)

Treatment Group Name	Date(s) Surveyed	Treatment Detail Name	Number of Plots Sampled	Avg. Percent Canopy Cover of Invasive Species per Plot	"Percent Change"[1]	Avg. Percent Canopy Cover of Desirable Species per Plot	"Percent Change"[1] N/A in 2023
Treated Areas (Thinning and Rx Burning)	06/23-09/23	ALL	72	2.34%	43.49% (decrease)	55.12%	N/A
Treated Areas (Thinning and Rx Burning)	06/23-09/23	Pre-Treatment	32	0.44%	N/A	69.05%	N/A
Treated Areas (Thinning and Rx Burning)	06/23-09/23	1 Yr Post-Treatment	31	4.98%	N/A	49.21%	N/A

		Post-Wildfire	9	0%	N/A	25.94%	N/A
Non-treated Areas (No thinning, burning or wildfire)	06/23-09/23	ALL	16	2.94%	39.75 % (decrease)	62.44%	N/A

**=Avg. Percent Cover of Desirable Species per Plot calculated by subtracting Avg. Percent Cover of Invasive Species, Bare Soil, and Litter/Duff from 100%*

[1] Baseline Data from FY22 Annual Report

Figure 3. Number of plots surveyed by project and planning area

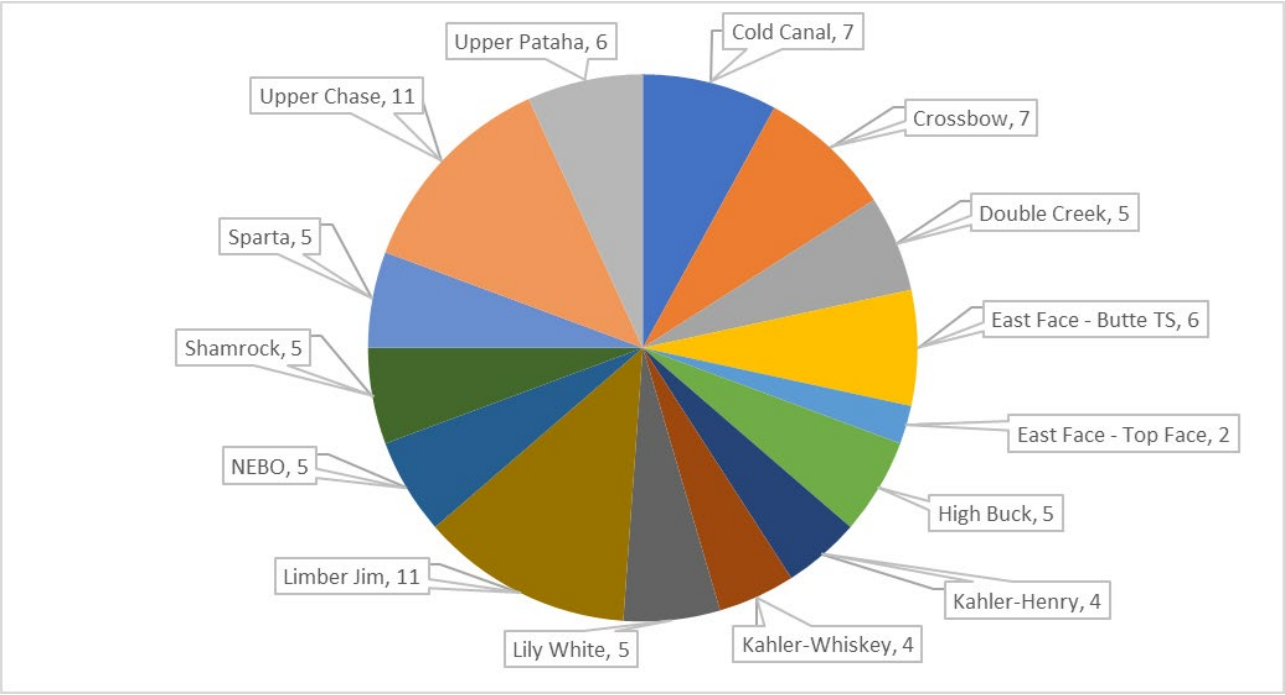


Figure 4. Total area covered by invasive species: broken down by specific species, treatment vs. control, and pre-treatment vs. 1yr post-treatment (See Table 9 for reference to species codes)

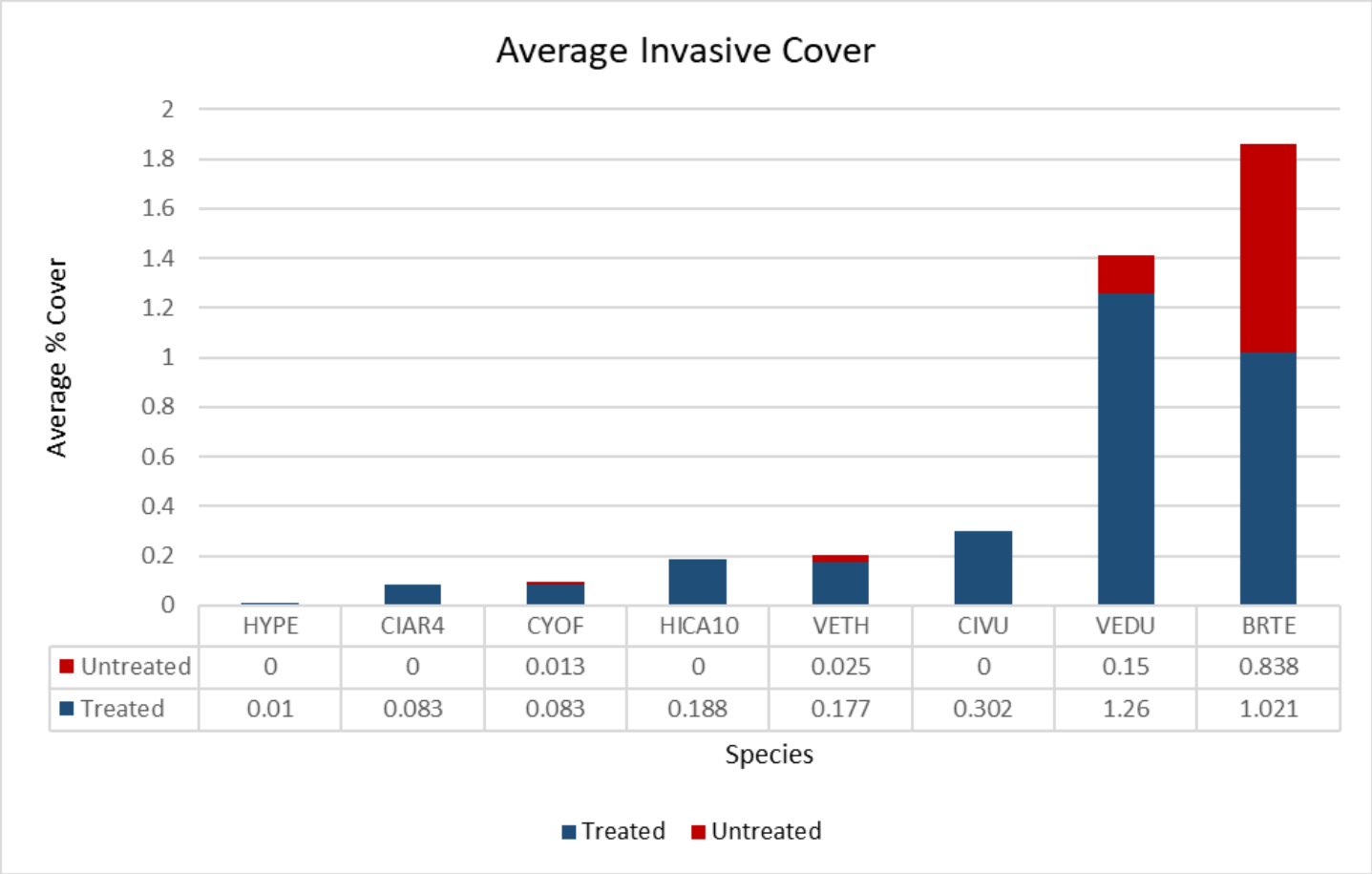


Table 9. Species list of invasive plant species that were surveyed for in 2023

USDA CODE	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	ON FOCAL SPECIES LIST 2023?
BRTE	*Bromus tectorum*	Cheatgrass	Y
CADR	*Cardaria draba*	Whitetop (Hoary Cress)	Y
CAAC	*Carduus acanthoides*	Plumeless thistke	Y
CST8	*Centaurea Stoebe*	Spotted Knapweed	Y
CESO3	*Centaurea solstitialis*	Yellow Starthistle	Y
SHJU	*Chondrilla juncea*	Rush skeletonweed	Y
CIAR4	*Cirsium arvense*	Canada Thistle	Y
CIVU	*Cirsium vulgare*	Bull Thistle	Y
CYOF	*Cynoglossum officinale*	Houndstongue	Y
EUES	*Euphorbia esula*	Leafy Spurge	Y

HICA10	*Hieracium caespitosum*	Meadow Hawkweed	Y
HYPE	*Hypercium perforatum*	St.Johns Wort	Y
LEVU	*Leucanthemum vulgare*	Oxeye daisy	Y
LIVU2	*Linaria vulgaris*	Yellow Toadflax	Y
ONAC	*Onopordum acanthium*	Scotch Thistle	Y
PRE5	*Potentilla recta*	Sulfur Cinquefoil	Y
TACA8	*Taeniatherum caput-medusa*	Medusahead	Y
VEDU	*Ventenata dubia*	Ventenata	Y
VETH	*Verbascum thapsus*	Common Mullein	Y

In total, 88 circular plots were monitored from 06/28/23 to 09/14/23. Total percent cover for invasive plants, bare soil, and litter and duff were recorded at each .1 acre plot. Invasive plants were identified to species and ocular cover estimates were recorded for each plant. Past treatment types, plot center photos and location notes were also gathered to revisit plots on a 2-year cycle. There were 48 treated plots and 40 untreated plots. Invasives were found on 28 plots: 22 of which were treated (46% of treated plots), and 6 were untreated (15% of untreated plots). Plots were determined as treated if thinning, burning, or other combinations of treatments occurred within the last 15 years.

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 *Ventenata dubia* comprising the most area (Figure 4). Invasive plant (all species) cover was markedly higher in post-treatment plots than pre-treatment, post-wildfire, and control plots (See Table 8). Given that this was the second year of collecting invasive species information at plots, we have few pre-treatment plots (n=5) in the same locations to compare post-treatment plots to. All 5 plots were located in the Cold Canal project on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. We saw the average cover of invasive species increase by 0.3% (pre-treatment = 0%) and the average cover of bare soil increase by 9.8% (pre-treatment = 0%). Invasive species recorded here were *Hieracium caespitosum* and *Cirsium vulgare*. As additional post-treatment plots are measured, we should be able to make more conclusions on the status of invasive species within the Northern Blues landscape.

Some of the species we included on our list for crews (Table 9) to look 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 was trained to identify. Our species list was revised this year to include these common invasive species as well as the less common species mentioned above. By also tracking the more common invasive plant species, we hope to find trends in plot characteristics (treatment type, forest type, etc.) that relate to invasion events across each species

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 2023 had some impacts to forest resources. They tend to occur within soils (compaction and/or displacement), water (sediment introduction), invasives 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. Monitoring results may indicate an initial impact to these resources (ie. increases in compaction, sediment, invasives, displacement), but we expect that repeated years of monitoring post treatment will show those long-term benefits. 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 likelihood increases that wildfire will occur within watersheds that have been treated.

Monitoring Questions #6: "How has the social and economic context changed, if at all?" (Reported every 5 years) - NOT REPORTING IN 2023

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:

Indicators	Response for Initial Year of Common Monitoring Strategy	Notes (Optional)
"Population" most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)		
"Percent of total, race & ethnicity" most recent year available (tab 11, Forest Service report)	White alone – Black or African American - American Indian - Hispanic ethnicity - Non-Hispanic Ethnicity -	
"Unemployment rate" most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)		
"Per capita income" most recent year available (tab 1, Forest Service report)		
"Wildfire Exposure, % of Total, Homes" most recent year available (see Wildfire Risk report)	Homes Directly Exposed - Homes Indirectly Exposed - Homes Not Exposed -	
Add in additional indicators used as needed		

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

- **Does your CFLRP project have additional socioeconomic monitoring results to summarize and interpret?** If so, please provide that here.
- **Based on the information reported, (and any other relevant monitoring information and discussion), what (if any) actions or changes are you considering?**

(Monitoring Questions #7 & #8 covered earlier in annual report template)

Monitoring Questions #9 "Did CFLRP maintain or increase the number and/or diversity of wood products that can be processed locally?" (Reported every 5 years) - NOT REPORTING IN 2023

- Data will be provided to 2022 cohort projects to address this question in the FY23 report. 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.

(Monitoring Questions #10 & #11 covered earlier in annual report template)

Monitoring Questions #12: "How well is CFLRP encouraging an effective and meaningful collaborative approach?" (Reported every 2-3 years) - NOT REPORTING IN 2023

Data will be provided to 2022 cohort projects to address this question in the FY23 report. 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?

(Monitoring Question #13 covered earlier in annual report template)

ATTACHMENT 2: Photos

PHOTOS SHOWCASING FIRE ADAPTED LANDSCAPES AND REDUCING HAZARDOUS FUELS 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 2023.

Aerial image of the Mount Emily Recreation Area (MERA) fuel break. In 2020, Union County received a grant to establish this fuel break through the 3,700-acre, county-owned, Mt Emily Recreation Area (MERA). This was a National Fire Plan Community Assistance grant administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Approximately $200,000 was received to establish a six-mile fuel break thru MERA and a secondary fuel break on private lands along a main Forest Service access road (3120) adjacent to MERA. Both fuel breaks run north-south and provide a strategic location, along the ridgetop, for control lines if a wildfire were to start. These are thinning, mastication, piling and burning projects. The fuel break established on MERA was approximately 400-feet wide with spacing of 25 feet or more. This project was completed in 2022. The USDA Forest Service has since received funding to continue the fuel break along the 3120 road to the north. Thinning and piling for this portion was completed in fall of 2023.

These piles are scheduled to be burned in 2024. *Credit: Willy Crippen, Oregon Department of Forestry*

Before (left) and after (right) pile burning in the Willoughby Project area. Credit: *Kevin Bomberger.*

Before (left) and after (right) for the Biscuit Ridge project which conducted fuels reduction work on approximately 59.1 acres of privately owned forest land along Biscuit Ridge Road near Walla Walla, Washington to reduce potential fire severity and risk of catastrophic fire within and surrounding the treatment areas. This was accomplished by establishing an approximately 250-foot-wide 2.3-mile-long fuel break adjacent to Biscuit Ridge Road which can be seen on the right side of photo 5. The desired outcome of this project is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire across private lands and enhance forest health, in collaboration with state

and federal partners, with the Wildland Urban Interface of the Eastern Blue Mountains. *Credit: Andrew Naughton, WA DNR Service Forestry*

Before (left) and after (right) photos of a defensible space project completed within a Firewise Community in Union County using Senate Bill 762 Funding attained through Wallowa Resources and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Using all local forestry contractors - 101 hazard trees were removed and 224 acres of fuel reduction was performed to improve defensible space within 200 feet of homes and driveway access in Morgan Lake Firewise Community, Mount Emily Firewise Community, Hurricane Creek Firewise Community, Lostine Canyon Firewise Community, Pine Valley Firewise Community (Baker), Ritter Firewise Community and Pine Valley Firewise Community (Grant). *Credit: Abby Mcbeth, ODF-La Grande Stewardship Forester*

Left: Forth Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL) mechanical thinning treatments. *Credit: Andrew Addessi*. **Right:** Pile burning on the Bull Prairie project. *Credit: Kristen Marshall.*

Prescribed burn on the Forth RTRL Project. This burn was carried out by CTUIR through the BIA RTRL Program which enables Tribes to participate in collaborative projects with non-Tribal landowners to enhance the health and resiliency of priority tribal natural resources at high risk to wildland fire. *Credit: Andrew Addessi.*

CTUIR prescribed burn in the Rainwater Wildlife Area. *Credit: John Punches.*

Larch Unit prescribed burn done by CTUIR. *Credit: Lindsay Chiono.*

PHOTOS SHOWCASING RESTORATION OF SPECIAL HABITATS/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 2023.

Left: Completed Elbow Fire Aspen Fencing Project. Project included the construction of a fence exclosure to protect a half-acre aspen stand. The project site is within the Elbow Fire burn area that resulted in a loss of many of the mature aspen trees. *Credit: Terry Reynolds and Katherine Dale-Raborn.* **Right:** Volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation assist in constructing the fence for the Elbow Fire Fencing Project. *Credit: Terry Retynolds and Katherine Dale-Raborn.*

Left: Allen Childs from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Casey Justice from Columbia Basin Inter-Tribal Fish Commission discuss restoration needs and opportunities on the Tribes' McCoy Meadows (Yáakaʔx̣išpa) property in the Meadow Creek watershed. *Credit: Brian Staab.* **Right:** Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor Shaun McKinney and Dr. Michael Wisdom from the Pacific Northwest Research Station discuss restoration needs and opportunities on federal lands in Meadow Creek with applied and research scientists from multiple entities across the Pacific Northwest. *Credit: Brian Staab*.

Invasive plants, Cheatgrass and Meadow Hawkweed, in the foreground on Umatilla National Forest. $60,000 went towards agreements with ODA, Tri-County and Wallowa Resources to manage invasive species. *Credit: Samantha Thornton.*

Left: A handcrew building a beaver dam analog. Mimicking beaver dams reintroduces more complexity back into stream ecosystems, increasing habitat for wetland species and water storage. *Credit: Sarah Brandy.* **Right:** Planting crew at RV42 whitebark pine trial Anthony Lakes WW NF site in September 2023. *Credit: Lucas Glick.*

Above (before) and **below** (after) aerial photos of the Bull Run Mine Tailing Restoration project. The Wallowa Whitman National Forest, Whitman Ranger District, collaborated with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to complete the first phase of a major undertaking on Bull Run Creek reach at RM 3 within the North Fork John Day River Subbasin in 2023.Project objectives are to improve and restore process and function of this reach of Bull Run Creek and restore natural habitat characteristics for native fish, including Summer Steelhead, Spring Chinook, and redband trout. In background (top right), Ten Cent Fuels Reduction project is restoring ridge to stream fuels accumulations. More before and after photos can be found here. *Credit: Bob Hassmiller and Sarah Brandy.*

PHOTOS SHOWCASING LOCAL RESTORATION WORKFORCE CAPACITY & 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.**

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 2023.

Left: HAWK interns from Wallowa Resources assist in upland forest monitoring protocol. The HAWK program is an eight-week paid internship where high school students learn about natural resource careers and collect field data. The internship combines hands-on experience and interaction with professionals in the field and aims to expose students to careers in natural resource management. *Credit: Lily Rhoades.* **Right:** A high school outdoor education event was hosted by the Whitman Ranger District that taught Baker City students how to build a beaver dam and why it matters for watershed restoration and climate resilience. *Credit: Bob Hassmiller.*

Left: Northeast Oregon Small Woodlands Association (NEOSWA) Annual Meeting & Tour (May 2023), Hosted in Collaboration with NEOSWA, OSU Extension Service, Oregon Department of Forestry. The NEOSWA is aimed at educating, recruiting, and supporting small woodland owners as they address best practices and challenges of small woodland management. *Credit: Jacob Putney*. **Right:** Prescribed fire awareness training for private landowners, hosted by OSU extension service. *Credit: Jacob Putney.*

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 2023.

Left: Wallowa Resources' crew member takes canopy cover measure for the upland forest monitoring protocol. The monitoring team completed 107 upland forest plots this past season. **Top right:** Crew members conduct the First Foods monitoring protocol. This protocol is aimed at monitoring culturally significant plant species to both CTUIR and NPT in the Northern Blues region. The crew completed 41 First Foods this year. **Bottom right:** a crew member samples along the transect line during the 2023 season. *Credits: Clayton Matheny, Anastasie Echeverria, Rosie Movich-Fields, and Andrew Schilling.*

Wallowa Resources crew members participate in monitoring training with John Punches who sits on the All-Lands monitoring resource team and helped with the development of some of the protocols. *Credit: Kaci Radcliffe.*

PHOTOS OF THE NORTHERN BLUES "ALL LANDS" RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

Top: A photo from the Northern Blues "All Lands'' Restoration Partnership Spring Field Tour to the Wallowa Front Project Area. **Bottom:** The All Lands Partnership's January 2023 Leadership Team Meeting. *Credits: Kaci Radcliffe, Kelly Makela and Alyssa Cudmore.*