

CFLRP Project Name (CFLR#): Pisgah Restoration Initiative CFLR 031

National Forest(s): National Forests in North Carolina

1. Executive Summary

The Pisgah Restoration Initiative was awarded in February of 2023. This first year of the PRI was centered around ensuring partnerships were supported and ready for ten years of implementation. By funding key agreements for multiple years out of the gate, the collaborative is better positioned for future years of implementation with this early support.

Key accomplishments to note include acres of Forest vegetation improved and forest vegetation established, miles of trail maintained, and Prescribed fire acres. Over 1,500 acres were either planted, released, or improved, exceeding our goal for the first year. Trail miles maintained came in at 806 miles. That’s 45% more than the goal of 550 miles and is a testament to volunteerism on public lands in Western North Carolina. Prescribed fire accomplishments on USFS lands were 5,500 acres and 1,000 acres on state and private lands within the project area which again exceeded our year one expectations, but more important than the number accomplished is the participation and collaboration of state, federal, and NGO partners to plan and accomplish these acres in high priority and high valued areas across the landscape.

2. Funding

CFLRP and Forest Service Match Expenditures

Fund Source: CFLN and/or CFIX Funds Expended	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2023
CFLN23	\$1,075,538
CFLN22	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,075,538

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
CFSE23	\$0
TOTAL	\$0

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
CMRD	\$75,252
NFVW	\$19,840
NITX	\$252,000
TOTAL	\$347,092

This amount should match the amount of matching funds in the FMMI CFLRP expenditure report, minus any partner funds contributed through agreements (such as NFEX, SPEX, WFEX, CMEX, and CWFS) which should be reported in the partner contribution table below. Per the [Program Funding Guidance](#), federal dollars spent on non-NFS lands may be included as match if aligned with CFLRP proposal implementation.

Partner Match Contributions¹

Fund Source: Partner Match	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
NC Wildlife Resources Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$298,689	Habitat maintenance and improvement , timber harvest and TSI, fish and wildlife surveys, fire line prep, prescribed burning, nest structures maintained	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape: State Owned Game Lands
NCWRC Fisheries Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$9,750	Fisheries population and genetic monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape: Private and State-Owned Game Lands
Wild South	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$284,769 \$32,569	Volunteer coordination, partnerships, wilderness trail maintenance and construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
NC State Parks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$19,355	553acres of prescribed burning	<input type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Back Country Horseman of the Blue Ridge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$11,321	developed and dispersed resource maintenance and improvement, and trail maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> 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
Back Country Horseman of Pisgah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$67,257	developed and dispersed resource maintenance and improvement, and trail maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
A Clean Wilson Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$17,013	Developed and dispersed resource maintenance improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Northwest NC Mountain Bike Alliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$19,283	Trail maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Mountains to Sea Task Force	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$47,541	Trail restoration, erosion control, monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
AmeriCorps: VISTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$34,439	NNIS work, Watershed health, and Fire restoration projects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
SCA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$27,830	restoring native plant communities and diversity; improving and maintaining forest health; supporting fish habitat; eradicating and managing invasive species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
ACE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$93,511	NNIS inventory and control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> 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
G5 Trail Collective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$89,115	trail maintenance, construction, and trail contracting/inspections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
Carolina Climbers Coalition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$68,434	monitoring, data management and analysis, rehabilitation and restoration, trail maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
SAWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-kind contribution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding	\$8,835 \$10,000	Monitoring and resource protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Forest System Lands <input type="checkbox"/> Other lands within CFLRP landscape:
TOTALS	Total In-Kind Contributions: \$1,097,142 Total Funding: \$42,569			

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

Goods for Services Match

Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract (for contracts awarded in FY23)	Totals
Total <u>revised non-monetary credit limit</u> 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.

3. Activities on the Ground

FY 2023 Agency Performance Measure Accomplishments² - 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	5,563	1,758	7,321
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) in the Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED	FP-FUELS-WUI-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) ⁴	5,523	1,758	7,281
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) outside the Wildland Urban Interface	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI (reported in FACTS) ³	95	0	95
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres) outside the Wildland Urban Interface - COMPLETED	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) ⁴	28	0	28
Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk	FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS (reported in FACTS)	2,517	1,583	4,100
Prescribed Fire (acres)	Activity component of FP-FUELS-ALL (reported in FACTS)	5468	1,758	7,226
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC (reported in FACTS) ³	88	20	108
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Noxious weeds and invasive plants - COMPLETED	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) ⁴	0	20	20
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC (reported in FACTS) ³	0	20	20
Invasive Species Treatments (acres) - Terrestrial and aquatic species - COMPLETED	INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC-CMPLT (reported in FACTS) ⁴	0	20	20
Road Decommissioning (Unauthorized Road) (miles)	RD-DECOM-NON-SYS (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Decommissioning (National Forest System Road) (miles)	RD-DECOM-SYS (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Improvement (High Clearance) (miles)	RD-HC-IMP-MI (Roads reporting)	0	0	0

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

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

Core Restoration Treatments	Agency Performance Measure	NFS Acres	Non-NFS Acres	Total Acres
Road Improvement (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-IMP-MI (Roads reporting)	0	0	0
Road Maintenance (High Clearance) (miles)	RD-HC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	4	0	4
Road Maintenance (Passenger Car System) (miles)	RD-PC-MAINT-MI (Roads reporting)	69	0	69
Trail Improvement (miles)	TL-IMP-STD (Trails reporting)	12	0	12
Trail Maintenance (miles)	TL-MAINT-STD (Trails reporting)	806	0	806
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)	HBT-ENH-TERR (reported in WIT)	3,437*	686	4,123
Stream Crossings Mitigated (i.e. AOPs) (number)	STRM-CROS-MITG-STD (reported in WIT)	2*	0	2
Stream Habitat Enhanced (miles)	HBT-ENH-STRM (reported in WIT)	8.04*	0	8.04
Lake Habitat Enhanced (acres)	HBT-ENH-LAK (reported in WIT)	0		
Water or Soil Resources Protected, Maintained, or Improved (acres)	S&W-RSRC-IMP (reported in WIT)	14.192*	0	14.192
Stand Improvement (acres)	FOR-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	1497	40	1,537
Reforestation and revegetation (acres)	FOR-VEG-EST (reported in FACTS)	91	0	91
Forests treated using timber sales (acres)	TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC (reported in FACTS)	94	0	94
Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (acres)	RG-VEG-IMP (reported in FACTS)	0	0	0

- **Is there any background or context you would like to provide regarding the information reported in the table above?**
 - Items marked with an * are not present in the gPAS report and they were not coded as CLFR accomplishment; table reflects WIT reporting for Pisgah NF.

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

In the first year of implementation, we’ve exceeded many of our targets, including prescribed burning, trail maintenance and Stand Improvement. These common themes of reducing risk and restoring fire-adapted forests are carried across the project area (and surrounding areas) by many of our partners efforts. EcoForesters began implementing a Landscape Scale Restoration project, increasing the pace of restoration for rural landowners. This began with intensive outreach of private forest landowners across a 10-county area. This year we impacted 1,184 acres within the project area with initial consults or developing forest management plans. Partners like the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) offices helped to reach out and enable landowners to participate in managing their nonindustrial private forest lands. Mountain Valley RC&D recently formed a prescribed fire association and held several outreach events this year. Carolina Land and Lakes RC&D has also held outreach events and recently was awarded a grant under the Community Wildfire Defense program to help target communities plan for wildfire and support management to reduce risk of wildfire.

State and NGO partners including NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Forest Service, NC State Parks, and the Nature Conservancy implemented prescribed burning directly adjacent to USFS lands or within the project area on 1,578 acres of fire adapted forest.

We continue to implement restoration together as well as plan together. On the heels of a new Land Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, the USDA Forest Service has begun planning several landscape scale projects addressing fire adapted forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction with the Grandfather, Appalachian, and Pisgah restoration project, and restoring watersheds and connecting aquatic habitats with sub-regional watershed planning efforts, and while spruce-fir restoration may be a little out of the scope of PRI, many of our partners are interested and engaged in those landscape level planning efforts as well.



Figure 1: The Appalachian RD's open house for the GAP Restoration EA.

We continue to make good use of Good Neighbor Agreements by continuing work with the Wildlife Resources Commission, planned as a part of PRI implementation. We're also excited to be a part of the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) and Good Neighbor Agreement with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and while current funded projects are not within the project area; we look forward to growth in EBCI's capacity and have welcomed them as a partner in PRI.

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,

The significant leap with the first year of the Pisgah Restoration Initiative was expanding the landscape to include the entire Pisgah National Forest and surrounding communities. This allowed for closer coordination of resources on the National Forest Lands as well as coordinating resources across the landscape. Many of the same partners from the Grandfather CFLR continue to participate and new partners either specific to their communities or with stronger existing relationships in and around the Pisgah and Appalachian Ranger districts have come into the fold.

In this first year, implementation was prioritized where existing agency and partner investments in planning, community engagement, and established priorities occurred. Partners continue to implement and plan together. Planning efforts and community engagement efforts are focused on communities at risk and empowering and enabling communities that have already begun mitigating risk or made investments in fire adapted community work.



Figure 3: Highway 267, a major access point to the NF and the Bearpen prescribed fire



Figure 2: Ranger Dave Casey admiring the work of Pisgah NF and partners

This Pisgah District made strides in restoring fire adapted forest with the implementation of the Bearpen prescribed fire and the Pink Beds prescribed fire. As the name implies, the Pink Beds prescribed burn includes a unique forest type of acidic swamps and bogs and is the habitat for rare plants like the federally listed, swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*). Prescribed fire, like this year's, directly benefits these plants and the habitat

by reducing woody plant encroachment, allowing a grass and forb understory to flourish. Likewise, the Bearpen prescribed burn aided in managing mesic species encroaching fire adapted forest, improved browse for our game species, and manipulated the fuel structure in these areas within proximity of the city of Brevard. While protection of infrastructure like communication sites, the Pisgah Inn and the Cradle of Forestry is incredibly important, the location of these burns being so close to the Cradle of Forestry and the heavily visited forest surrounding Brevard also provides wonderful opportunities to engage the public on wildfire risk reduction, the importance of fire as a process in our landscape and affords the opportunity to observe firsthand the value of a managed forest.

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

The Pisgah National Forest had a relatively normal fire response year until late summer and early Fall. The Pisgah National Forest responded to 16 individual fires and 902 acres on National Forest Lands burned. Opportunities to burn on the Pisgah were slightly above normal with 7 burn windows. There has been a trend of repeat fires in fire-prone areas which allows fire managers to utilize existing fire breaks and the reduction in fuels to make decisions that are best for the resource while reducing risk to firefighters.

While there were no direct instances of an unplanned ignition in an area treated through CLFR or past project work, the Hurricane Ridge Fire on the Appalachian District was directly adjacent to areas treated under the 12 Mile Project, and the Dobson Knob 2 fire was within the footprint of the 2017 Dobson Knob fire.

On 796 acres of the Hurricane Ridge fire, direct and recent knowledge of the resources at risk aided the forest in quickly developing objectives to both reduce impacts to the I-40 corridor, surrounding communities, and the awarded timber sale (but uncut) within the area, while meeting resource objectives and reducing the existing heavy fuel loads.

Dobson Knob 2 fire, similar to 2017’s Dobson Knob, was a natural ignition. With recent prescribed fire activities and wildfires surrounding three sides of the fire, crews were able to rely on existing lines to quickly establish a strategy to meet the resource benefit objectives of this small 11-acre fire. The interesting feature of Dobson Knob 2 was the demonstration of low intensity fire behavior in a restored fire adapted system. As mentioned, Dobson Knob has a rich fire history, and it contains open forests with a grassy understory. These fine fuels readily burned with low intensity, and as the fire approached the edges of the past entries of fire,

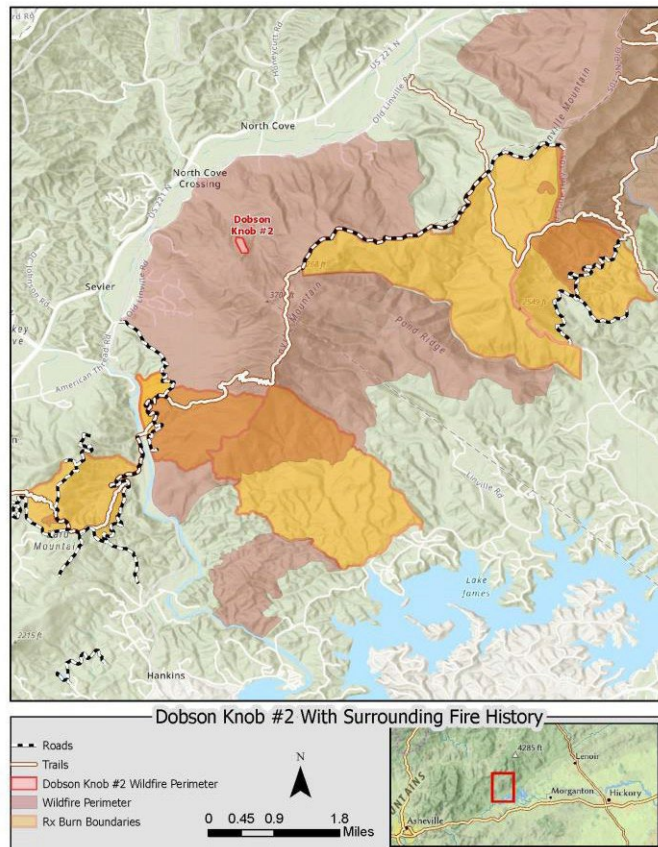


Figure 4: Dobson Knob #2 Wildfire and area's recent fire history

shading from the closed canopy significantly reduced or outright stopped the fire progression.

FY23 Wildfire/Hazardous Fuels Expenditures

Category	\$
FY23 Wildfire Preparedness*	\$13,500
FY23 Wildfire Suppression**	~\$370,000
FY23 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (CFLN, CFIX)	
FY23 Hazardous Fuels Treatment Costs (other BLIs)	\$32,000 (NFHF)

* 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”)

The Pisgah National Forest has demonstrated that through management, like prescribed fire, we are able to measurably reduce the cost of wildfire suppression. The greater value that we’ve seen is that by planning and working together on project work to deliver conservation and proactively reduce risk, we are better prepared and well positioned to respond to emergencies.

5. Additional Ecological Goals

Narrative Overview of Treatments Completed in FY23 to achieve ecological goals outlined in your CFLRP proposal and work plan.

We continue to implement the 12 Mile EA, now under the PRI CFLR project. This project was planned in collaboration with many of the participants of the PRI, in particular the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was interested in how this project could help provide habitat needs for the planned growth of the Elk population in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. One of the most rewarding aspects of this project has been seeing just how quickly elk have moved into the area after treatment.

Stand improvement and stand establishment treatments this year occurred across the Pisgah National Forest. These treatments we directly tied to past projects, following up with the important work to plant or release desirable tree species to move conditions one step



Figure 5: Elk quickly occupying recently harvested areas

closer to a fire adapted condition. The importance of these treatments in our temperate forests cannot be understated. Many of our forests readily seed in with undesirable species that can quickly dominate a stand, out competing oaks and southern yellow pines. These often more mesic species quickly create a closed canopy forest and exacerbate the challenge of restoring regular, low intensity fire into our forest communities. Some of the project areas include the 12 Mile EA on the Appalachian District, the Courthouse Creek EA on the Pisgah District, and the Armstrong Creek EA on the Grandfather District.

NNIS treatments included past wildfire areas, pretreatment in advance of vegetation management in the 12 Mile area, and rare or underrepresented communities at risk of competition from NNIS.

While much of the watershed accomplishment on the Pisgah National Forest this year was focused on storm recovery and not eligible for matching contributions to CFLR, the Cold Springs Creek area on the Appalachian saw marked improvements. A culvert on Little Falls Branch was converted to an Aquatic Organism Passage to connect habitats and reduce referred maintenance. Fifteen in-stream structures, 400 potted plants, and 300 live stakes were contracted to further the stream restoration efforts. The CFLR support for this work hastened the accomplishment so it was not reliant on timber receipts and in turn reduced the road construction and reconstruction cost associated with the current

and FY 24 timber sales planned in the area. This approach also allowed the flexibility to implement the most sustainable solution as opposed to the minimum needed for timber hauling.



Figure 6: Little Falls Branch Before

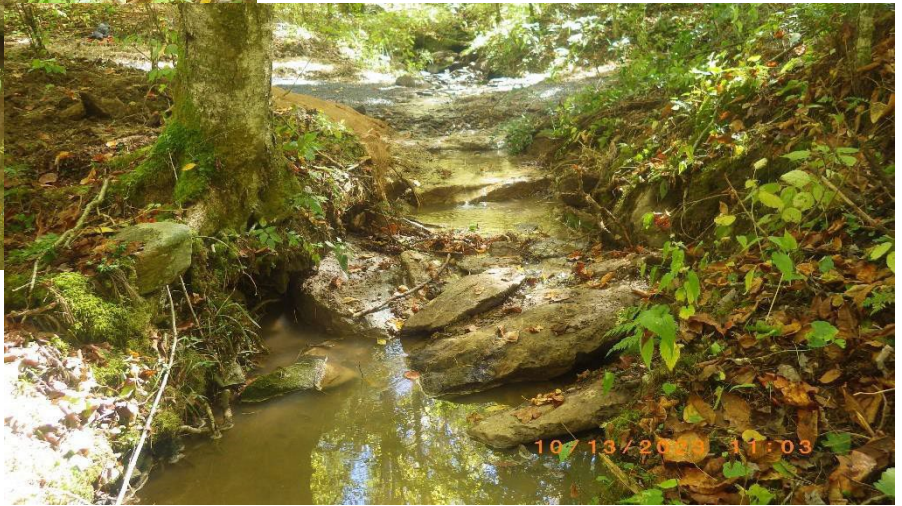


Figure 7: Little Falls Branch After

6. Socioeconomic Goals

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



Figure 8: Small landing from the 12 Mile project area

In 2023 Western North Carolina and the surrounding area’s timber markets were severely impacted by the closure of the Canton Paper Mill. The mill consumed 2.2 million tons of wood chips annually. A nearly immediate trickle-down impact of this was the five chip mills serving the Pisgah and Nantahala shutting down operations. These closures equate to the loss of a market in our region. In response the Forest Service has taken two actions. First, we have set up service contracts to dispose of pulpwood at chip facilities. The intent here is to incentivize the use of these low value timber products and encourage chip mills to continue operations and court new markets. The second action is partnering with the Southern Research Station

(SRS) and North Carolina State University to help better

understand the contracting options the USFS has and the impacts of this market loss on the silvics of our mixed hardwood forests. In the short term this will result in more and better timber product data to determine the optimum implementation tool and in long term quantify the impacts on delivering the desired conditions described in the area’s silvicultural prescriptions.

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: 93%

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

Description	Project Percent
Equipment intensive work	30%
Labor-intensive work	3%
Material-intensive work	5%
Technical services	55%
Professional services	0%
Contracted Monitoring	7%
TOTALS:	100%

Modelled Jobs Supported/Maintained (CFLRP and matching funding): 45

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	1	2	86,375	116,972
Forest and watershed restoration component	10	16	580,711	886,446
Mill processing component	6	12	343,180	601,435
Implementation and monitoring	12	14	414,370	512,607
Other Project Activities	1	1	48,878	71,248
TOTALS:	30	45	1,473,514	2,188,708

- **The assumptions to note in this year’s TREAT are:**
 - **Partial year funding does not reflect the full year of matching allocated funds we anticipate contributing to the project in future years.**
 - **We also expect a wider diversity of matching allocated funds. This was missed as we adjust to tracking requirements and recover from some key vacancies.**

⁹ Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #10](#)

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).

As reflected above the vast majority, 93%, of the contracts and agreements supported through the PRI have been local businesses or organizations. The exceptions to this are focused on university partnerships providing specialized monitoring or propagation skills as well as having a vested interest in these resources. Much of the funds this year were focused on supporting key agreements with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and The Nature Conservancy with multiple years of funding.

7. Wood Products Utilization

Timber & Biomass Volume Table⁹

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	1848*
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	4334.24** (0 reported)
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	371.44*** (0 reported)

- *Data was pulled from FPFS 4.1.S report.
- **Data was pulled from a year-end PTSAR report by the NFsNC Timber CO. 4334.24 CCF reported for FY
- ***Data was pulled by a Timber Resources Specialist from TIM – CDW Data Entry, Biobased Products.

⁸ Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #8](#)

⁹ Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #10](#)

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

While individuals within organizations have changed, our core collaborative is comprised of the same key partner organizations as we were at the time of proposal. This includes:

- Southern Research Station
- Blue Ridge Parkway National Park
- Great Smoky Mountain National Park
- North Carolina Forest Service
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- North Carolina State Parks
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wild South
- Back Country Horseman of the Blue Ridge
- Back Country Horseman of Pisgah
- A Clean Wilson Creek
- Trout Unlimited
- Northwest NC Mountain Bike Alliance
- Mountains to Sea Task Force
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Back Country Hunters and Anglers
- S. Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
- The Pisgah Conservancy
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- AmeriCorps: VISTA
- Carolina Land & Lakes RC&D
- Mountain Valley RC&D
- Blue Ridge RC&D
- Student Conservation Association (SCA)
- American Conservation Experience (ACE)
- EcoForesters
- G5 Trail Collective
- Carolina Climbers Coalition
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)
- Fish & Wildlife Conservation Council
- Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS)
- Forest Stewards
- The Wilderness Society
- Western North Carolina University
- Mountain True
- Foothills Conservancy of NC
- The Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Assoc.

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.

The PRI collaborative will continue to monitor the National and Regional common core monitoring questions required. Likewise, we will continue to monitor fire and fuels across the PRI project area consistent with the previous Grandfather CFLR and Fire Learning Network monitoring protocols. The Forest and Collaborative as a whole have not developed further project level monitoring as the forest is coordinating Forest Plan monitoring guidelines associated to our recently finalized Forest Plan. NGO, university, and Southern Research Station partners have shared interest in participating in developing the monitoring plan to improve future restoration and measure success. We anticipate a plan to be completed in FY24 and envision a nimble plan that allows for change as conditions and communities change.

¹⁰ Addresses [Core Monitoring Question #11](#)

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?

Notably missing in our FY23 report is a full picture of allocated matching funds and matching salary funds. TREAT forms estimate 10 Full Time Equivalents of direct CFLR support for the partial year of implementation. NFTM, NFHF, and forestry trust funds all tracked accomplishment correctly, however supporting funds were not accounted for. Accomplishments in WIT have also not been accounted for correctly.

Signatures

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)): **NICHOLAS LARSON**
Digitally signed by NICHOLAS LARSON
Date: 2024.02.15 13:28:53 -05'00'

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)): **JAMES MELONAS**
Digitally signed by JAMES MELONAS
Date: 2023.12.14 15:03:41 -05'00'

Draft reviewed by (collaborative representative): Nick Biemiller, Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society

