



# U.S. Forest Service open space conservation

# COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM



Photo courtesy of Lauren Marshall, U.S. Forest Service.

## WHAT IS CFLRP?

Directed by the Forest Service's Forest Management staff, the CFLRP was created in 2009 to promote healthy forested ecosystems, job stability, reliable wood supply, and reduced emergency wildfire costs and risks.

The program is rooted in the belief that America's forests are fundamental to our Nation's prosperity.

Under CFLRP, national forests work directly with communities and local organizations on restoration projects that benefit people, water, wildlife, and local economies.

## HOW DOES CFLRP WORK?

The Secretary of Agriculture selects projects for implementation under CFLRP based on recommendations of an advisory panel that reviews proposals nominated by Forest Service regional foresters. The panel, appointed by the Secretary, includes experts in ecological restoration, fire ecology, fire management, rural economic development, strategies for ecological adaptation to climate change, fish and wildlife ecology, and woody biomass and small-diameter tree utilization.

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) supports the Forest Service Open Space Conservation Strategy by encouraging the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.

### CFLRP OPEN SPACE BENEFITS:

- In 2012 alone, created or maintained more than 4,100 community-based jobs, keeping people on the working forest.

In addition, between 2010 and 2012, the program:

- Produced more than 889,000 cubic feet of timber and 1,157,900 green tons of biomass for forest health and community economic growth.
- Removed fuels and reduced fire risk on more than 310,000 acres near communities.
- Improved more than 415,000 acres of wildlife habitat.
- Restored more than 360 miles of fish habitat.
- Enhanced clean water supplies through repair and removal of more than 5,000 miles of eroding roads.



Members of the Veterans Job Corps remove fuels on the Uncompahgre CFLRP project.  
Photo courtesy of the Uncompahgre National Forest.

## OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Forest Service has developed a comprehensive Open Space Conservation Strategy that aims to sustain the environmental, social, and economic benefits of forests and grasslands across the landscape by:

- **PROTECTING** the most ecologically and socially important lands;
- **CONSERVING** working lands as sustainable forests and grasslands;
- **EXPANDING** and connecting open spaces in cities, suburbs, and towns; and
- **REDUCING** the potential ecological impacts and risks of development.

## CFLRP IN ACTION: MISSOURI PINE OAK WOODLANDS CFLRP PROJECT

On March 26-27, 2012, the Mark Twain National Forest completed prescribed burns on 11,758 acres as part of the 345,000-acre Missouri Pine-Oak Woodlands Restoration CFLRP.

These unique and successful burns were a result of the partnerships developed with four local landowners using the Wyden Amendment.

The landowners entered into participating agreements with the Mark Twain National Forest to promote natural community restoration. Approximately 500 acres of their lands were burned in conjunction with the Pine Knot and Handy project areas. The use of private lands allows for the expansion of the burn unit perimeters to containment lines such as major roads, green pastures, and large creeks, increasing firefighter safety, reducing environmental and visual impacts, and creating a contiguous area for natural community restoration across boundaries and the landscape. While CFLR funds were used on National Forest System (NFS) lands, other Federal funds outside the program were used for private lands.



*A prescribed burn as a result of a public-private partnership in Missouri Missouri Pine Oak Woodland story and photo courtesy of the Mark Twain National Forest*



*Ponderosa Snow Warriors treat noxious weeds on snowmobile trails in Montana Southwestern Crown of the Continent story and photo courtesy of SWCC*

## CFLRP IN ACTION: PONDEROSA SNOW WARRIORS BATTLE INVASIVE WEEDS ON THE SOUTHWESTERN CROWN OF THE CONTINENT

In 1993, three volunteers with the Ponderosa Snow Warriors (PSW) began spraying weeds on segments of 500 miles of snowmobile trails located on the Helena National Forest. After nearly 20 years, the PSW club has had more than 40 volunteers who have donated nearly 5,000 hours to treat noxious weeds throughout the Blackfoot Valley. Since noxious weeds do not recognize land management boundaries, the PSW work across those boundaries to treat noxious weeds and help restore ecosystems on NFS, State, and private lands.

Until 2010, all the weed treatments the PSW club implemented were done through volunteer efforts and funded with grants. Three years ago the Helena National Forest signed a partnership agreement with the PSW to obligate funds from the Southwestern Crown of the Continent CFLRP project for weed treatments and monitoring. With these funds, and the other grant funds, the PSW were able to double their efforts in treating noxious weeds on NFS lands; as well as leverage their non-Federal funds for treating more acres of noxious weeds on State and private lands.

For more information on the Open Space Conservation Strategy, visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/>

For more information on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/index.shtml>