



INTEGRATED RESOURCE RESTORATION PILOT UPDATE

FISCAL YEARS 2012 AND 2013

APRIL 16, 2013

USDA
FOREST SERVICE

WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION WEB CONFERENCE ROOM!

- Everyone is on mute in order to eliminate background noise. Try out the chat function.
- The session is **being recorded**, so we'll be able to provide a web link afterward in case you want to revisit it or share it with someone who wasn't able to be on the session today.
- Please take a few minutes to fill out the anonymous, **online evaluation** that will appear when the meeting ends.

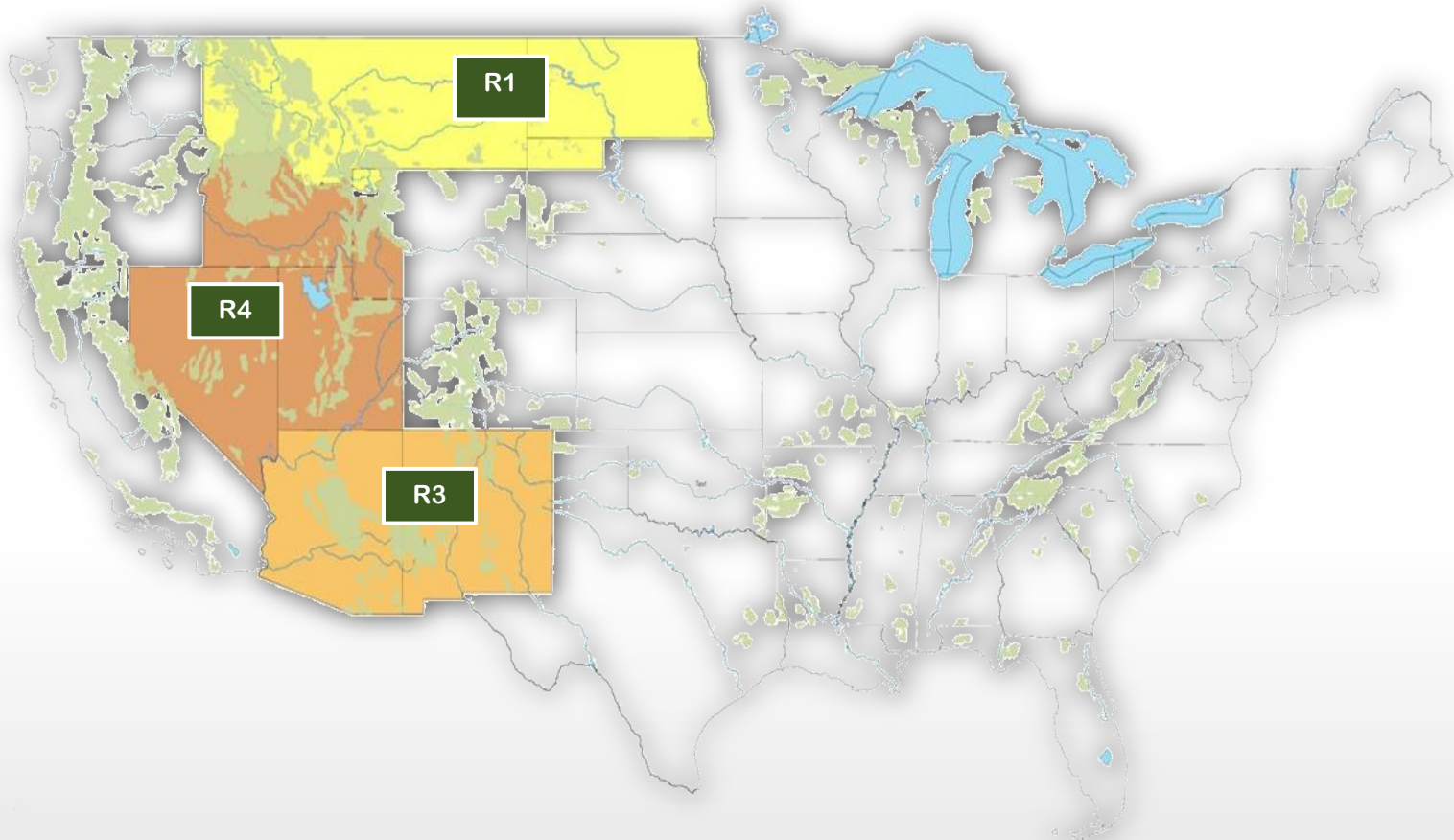


PLAN FOR TODAY

- Presentations will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions.
- Please note your affiliation and name when you ask a question.
- As questions appear, we'll get them in the queue for response.



INTEGRATED RESOURCE RESTORATION (IRR) PILOT UPDATE



TODAY'S AGENDA

WELCOME/NATIONAL UPDATE – **Jim Hubbard**, Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

- FY 12 Pilot Performance
- Pilot Evaluation

REGIONAL APPLICATION – **Regions 1, 3, and 4**

- FY 12 Implementation, Success, Challenges, and Collaboration
- FY 13 Implementation
- FY 14 Plans

REGION 1 APPLICATION – **Gene DeGayner**, Director of Renewable Resources

REGION 3 IRR APPLICATION – **Don DeLorenzo**, Acting Regional Forester

REGION 4 IRR APPLICATION – **Marlene Finley**, Deputy Regional Forester

WASHINGTON OFFICE INTEGRATION/SUMMARY – **Leslie Weldon**, Deputy Chief, National Forest System

QUESTION AND ANSWER – **All**



IRR PILOT AUTHORITY: NATIONAL UPDATE

FY 2012 Pilot Performance

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	Target	Accomplishment	Percent Accomplished
Number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class	Number	3	3	100%
Miles of road decommissioned	Miles	650	738	114%
*Volume of timber sold	ccf	1,037,000	854,191	82%
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	Miles	650	933	144%
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	Acres	748,800	789,789	105%

*Volume of timber sold accomplished = 441,084 mbf



IRR PILOT EVALUATION

- It is too early in the pilot to determine IRR effectiveness as regions implemented FY 12 projects and planning as they would have prior to having the authority.
- In FY 13, regions are implementing new projects and planning efforts with IRR in mind.
- Internal and external monitoring is necessary over the length of the pilot and beyond to evaluate effectiveness.
- The Washington Office and the regions will work to strengthen integration amongst programs, as well as collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

IRR PILOT EVALUATION

Colorado State University and the University of Oregon are conducting an “Evaluation of the IRR Pilot” which would assist in examining—

- Utilization, integration, efficiency, effectiveness, decision-making, and funding allocations associated with IRR;
- Internal perceptions and support of IRR; and
- Effectiveness of IRR performance measures.

The Evaluation will also—

- Help the Agency to focus on specific outcomes and move IRR towards full implementation; and
- Allow the Agency to adaptively manage throughout the course of the pilot.

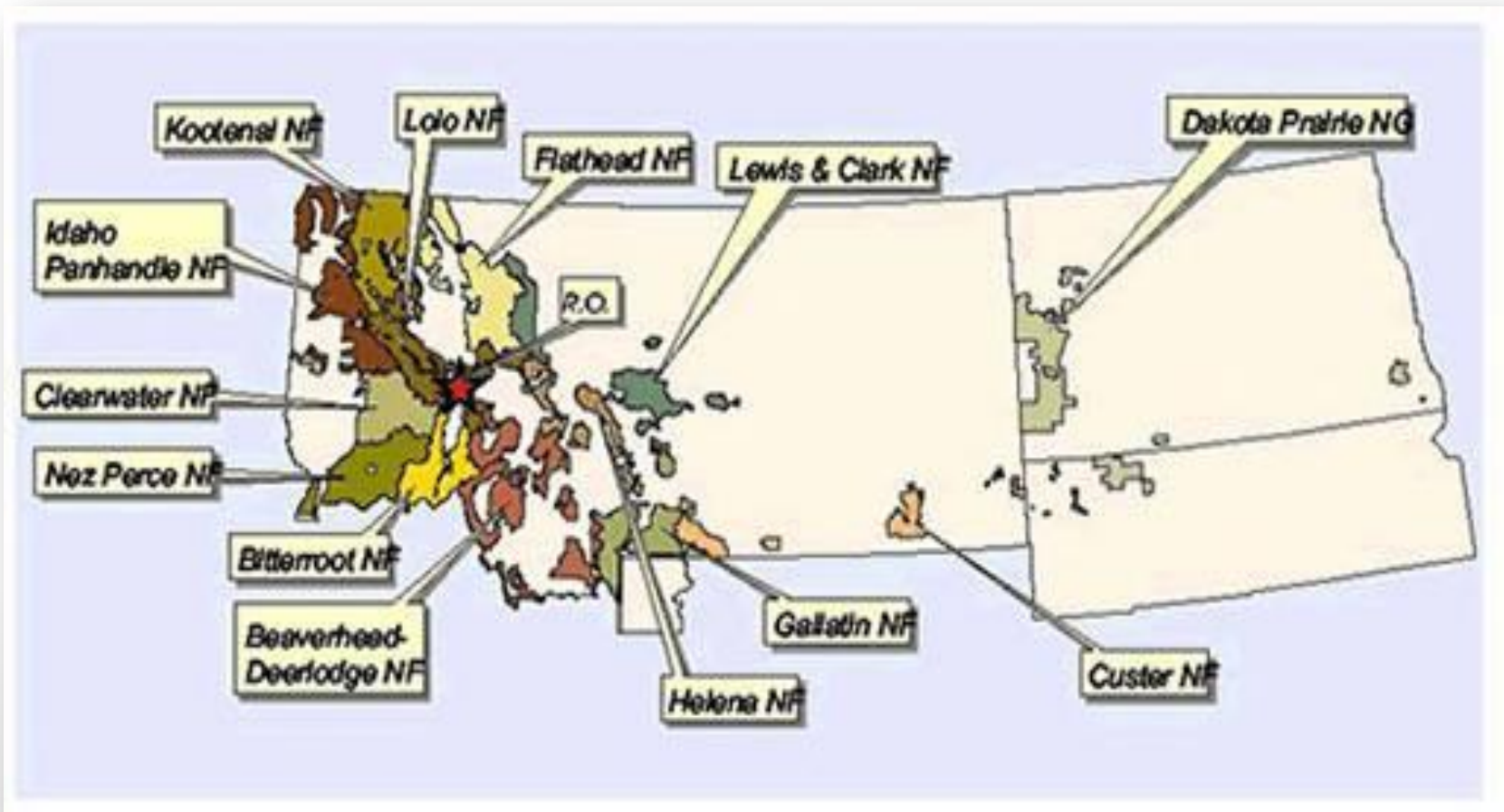


IRR REGIONAL APPLICATION



- FY 12 Implementation
- FY 12 Success
- FY 12 Challenges
- FY 12 Collaboration
- FY 13 Implementation
- FY 14 Plans

NORTHERN REGION (REGION 1) APPLICATION



REGION 1 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Implementation

- The budget was allocated as planned in FY 2011 under the budget allocation system used prior to IRR.
- The region met all of its performance goals, except timber volume sold.

REGION 1 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Success

- IRR authority facilitated meaningful discussion with collaboratives on the appropriate mix of activities for a project.
- IRR also facilitated meaningful internal discussions on developing compelling integrated projects.

REGION 1 APPLICATION

"Success includes the ability to pool our limited funds in such a way that we can accomplish restoration work that was previously not possible due to the limitations of the former traditional BLI funding direction."

FY 2012 Success

- 3 CFLR projects,
- 1 treasured landscape, and
- 24 watersheds with watershed action plans (WRAPS)...benefited from the flexibility of IRR.

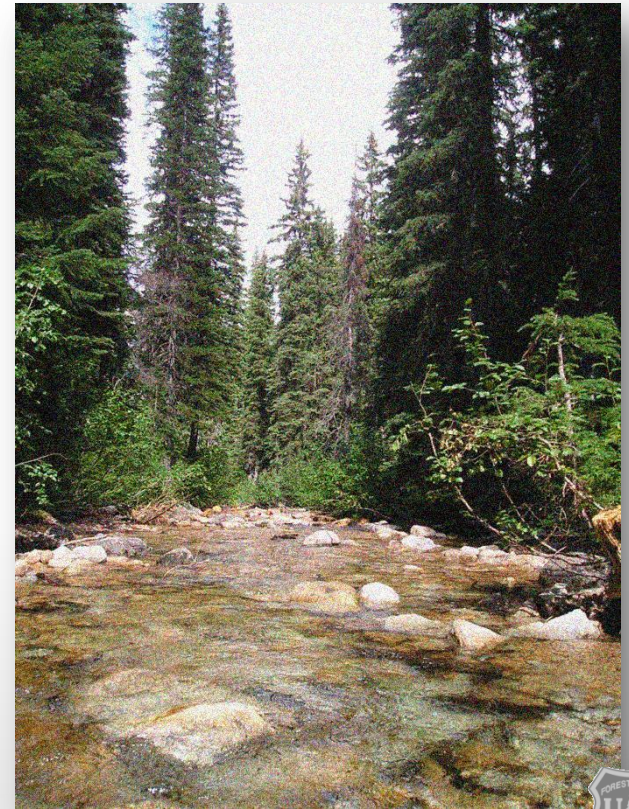
"The nature of the NFRR authority resonates with our partners very well. This landscape-scale, resource-focused approach to blending funding across BLIs makes far more sense in terms of target accomplishments."



REGION 1 APPLICATION

3 Case Studies—

- Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative Project
- Flathead NF Red Bench Storage Project
- SW Crown of the Continent Collaborative



REGION 1 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Challenges

- It was problematic moving funds among forests to accommodate burning windows to meet the Chief's target.
- Inter-forest coordination for programs, such as tree improvement, was difficult.



REGION 1 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Challenges

- Aligning regional and forest priorities was hard.
- Activities that are not tied to an IRR output or outcome measure were potentially underserved.
- Program leaders had to adjust to their changing roles.



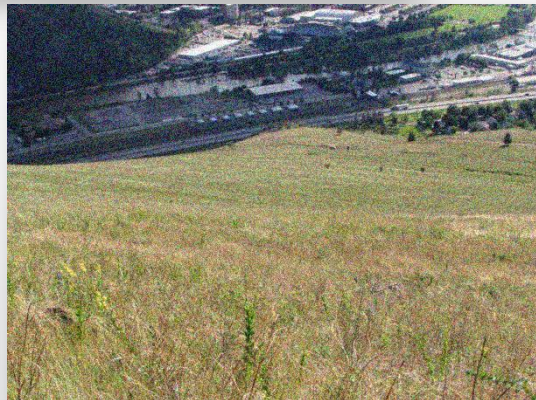
REGION 1 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Collaboration with Partners

- There was limited specific interest in IRR/NFRR.



- Partners and Collaborators were more interested in Accelerated Restoration and job creation, than IRR.



- The Agency is judged on outputs and outcomes.

REGION 1 APPLICATION

FY 2013 Implementation

- Forest allocation methodology is similar to that in FY12.
 1. Bottom-up program proposals,
 2. Inter-disciplinary review of proposals in the regional office, and
 3. Final allocations to forests.
- Each forest is developing a niche statement.
- Emphasis is being placed on improving accomplishment reporting.



SOUTHWESTERN REGION (REGION 3) APPLICATION



REGION 3 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Implementation

- R3 uses Major Program Areas for allocations—one of those areas is restoration.
- The FY 12 budget was allocated as a combination of base costs and specific projects.



REGION 3 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Implementation

- Approximately \$4 million was targeted toward priority projects.
- Forests determined accomplishment levels rather than the Regional Office assigning targets.



REGION 3 APPLICATION



FY 2012 Success

- IRR provided flexibility that allowed emphasis to be placed on fire rehabilitation.
- Flexibility also allowed for the removal of black locust from Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands.



REGION 3 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Challenges

- Forests were confused as to how to report accomplishments.
- There was difficulty shifting the focus from outputs to outcomes—further work is needed in FY 13.
- Forests' goals and priorities were set prior to receiving IRR authority.
- For some activities, it was difficult to demonstrate accomplishments.



REGION 3 APPLICATION



FY 2012 Collaboration with Partners

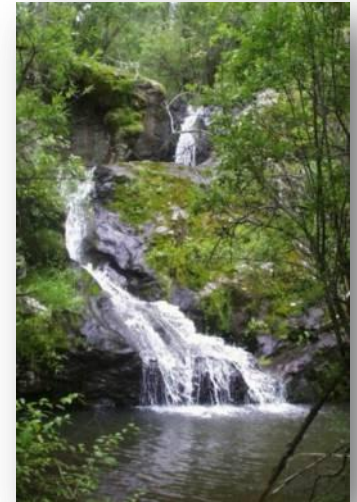
- In FY 12, there was limited coordination with the public.
- Most coordination occurred with Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects and other projects with existing collaborative groups.
- The National Wild Turkey Federation partnered with 3 forests.



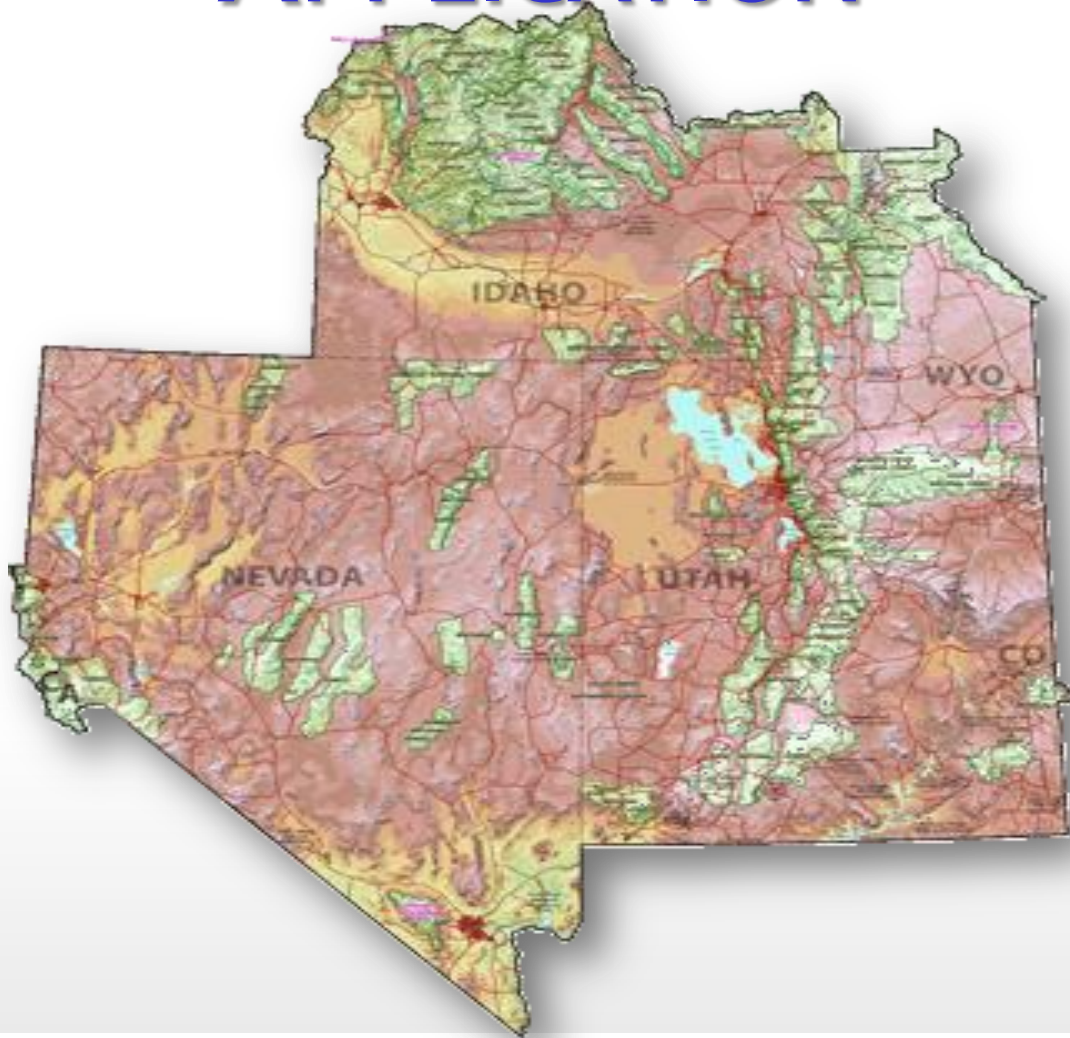
REGION 3 APPLICATION

FY 2013 Implementation

- The allocation methodology is similar to that of FY12.
- Approximately \$4 million was focused on specific regional priorities.
- Forests have established 5-year restoration plans.
- We are working to clarify accomplishment reporting.
- We continue to strengthen existing partnerships.



INTERMOUNTAIN REGION (REGION 4) APPLICATION



REGION 4 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Implementation

- Implementation was focused on achieving the primary outcome and outputs of IRR.
- The Watershed Condition Framework and watershed restoration action plans (WRAP) were the drivers of actions and project planning.
- The R4 business plan was amended to incorporate IRR objectives and measures of success.



REGION 4 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Implementation

- \$1.7 million in focused investments was allocated to implement WRAPs or CFLR projects that best met the following criteria:
 - Active management will improve watershed condition class;
 - Management will improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat;
 - Actions will make a measureable outcome at a landscape/watershed scale;
 - Projects will retain and/or create local forest products jobs;
 - Projects will improve forest health and resiliency at a watershed/landscape scale; and
 - Partnerships are used to reach restoration goals at a landscape/watershed scale.



REGION 4 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Success

- Integrated project planning was increased around the desired outcomes of IRR.
- There were more focused investments to better meet performance measures of IRR.
- There was increased interest in forming collaborative groups (e.g., Fishlake & Manti LaSal NF).
- First year implementation exceeded IRR performance measures except timber volume sold (88%).



REGION 4 APPLICATION

Dixie National Forest: BIRCH CREEK – ESCALANTE RIVER PRIORITY WATERSHED PROJECT

- The is one of four FY12 focused investment projects (\$780,000).
- Project objectives included—
 - Integrating the Motorized Travel Plan,
 - Restoring upland forest vegetation,
 - Restoring riparian areas, and
 - Providing rural community stability and fire protection.



REGION 4 APPLICATION

Dixie National Forest: BIRCH CREEK – ESCALANTE RIVER PRIORITY WATERSHED PROJECT

Advantages—

- More defined projects at a watershed scale
- Less budget work
- More cooperation from partners in analyzing and implementing projects
- Fewer large size projects with multiple target attainment

“To accomplish this much work with the 5 or 6 legacy BLIs with competing emphasis would not have been possible in previous years.”

Disadvantages—

- Fewer projects across other parts of the forest.
- Full implementation will take more than one year



REGION 4 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Challenges

- There was reduced emphasis of projects outside of priority watersheds as indicated by the Caribou-Targhee National Forest:

"Because of IRR, the Jackknife watershed projects ranked as a higher priorities for resource staff, partnership coordination, and funding. Other programs' projects not in the priority watershed understood their projects may take longer to implement with the focus put on priority watersheds. This created concerns across the forest as there are about 300 watersheds across 7 different Ranger Districts that are also important to manage and improve."

REGION 4 APPLICATION

FY 2012 Challenges

- It was difficult in to fund “stand alone” projects as stated by a forest fish biologist:

“Increasing the emphasis on IRR performance measures and the focus on a priority watershed made it difficult to fund projects considered important or the best for some individual programs.”

- Initially, it was difficult to manage the NFRR BLI.
- Program managers’ roles had to be redefined—managers had to learn to function in an IRR world.
- The region shifted resources to forests with focused investments projects.
- IRR may result in reduced partner participation.



REGION 4 APPLICATION

FY 2013 Implementation

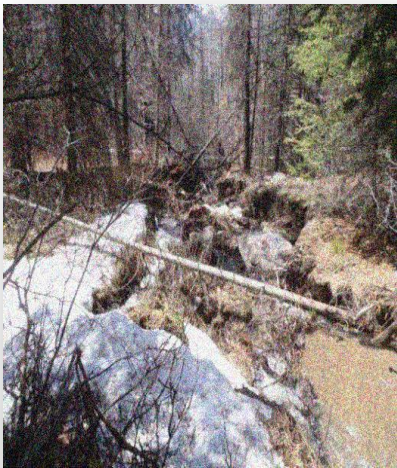
- Implementation is similar to that in FY 12; in FY 13 the Region chooses to focus \$2.3 million to large scale projects that best meet the objectives of IRR.
- The Region allocated an additional \$2.7 million of FY 12 fire transfer and carry over funds to similar projects.
- Projects other than WRAPs and CFLRs that meet the IRR objectives were considered for funding.
- The Region used the FY 2012 criteria to select focus investment projects for FY2013.



REGION 4 APPLICATION

FY 2014 Implementation

- The region plans to continue the use of focused investment projects.
- New budget allocation processes are being considered to ensure that while priority watershed work is emphasized, other important program work is not lost and is still accomplished.
- New approaches to IRR target allocation are being considered.



WASHINGTON OFFICE INTEGRATION

- IRR Steering Committee – National Program Directors from across the Agency
 - Engineering
 - Fire and Aviation Management
 - Forest Management
 - National Forest System and State & Private Forestry Budget
 - Rangelands Management
 - Water, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants
- IRR Working Group – National Program Managers from across the Agency
 - Works collaboratively with the steering committee to identify and resolve issues and concerns
- Monthly Videoconferencing with regions



SUMMARY

- In FY 12 IRR provided **all regions within the pilot** increased flexibility—funding multiple priorities, integrating planning efforts, and leveraging IRR funds to support CFLR projects.
- In **Region 1**, IRR facilitated meaningful discussions, both internally and externally, to get at the appropriate mix of on-the-ground-work to achieve their restoration goals.
- **Region 3** harnessed the flexibility of IRR and encouraged forests to allow priority restoration to drive accomplishments.
- IRR enabled **Region 4** to focus investments in landscape-level projects; restoration actions were funded in a single year that otherwise would have been piecemealed together over many years.



SUMMARY

- The Agency is continuing to seek full authority for IRR while implementing the pilot.
- We celebrate the success the pilot has achieved, while finding ways to tackle the challenges we face.
- IRR has outputs and outcomes to meet and we are committed to achieving those goals through our priority restoration work.
- We are striving to improve IRR performance measures to better capture our restoration footprint.
- Both the Regions and the Washington Office continue to work with partners and stakeholders to meet restoration goals.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on *IRR* and the *Legacy Roads and Trails Report* please visit the Forest Service Restoration Website at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/IRR>

Feel free to submit additional questions on the
"Ask a Question about IRR" form.

The answers to questions posed at this webinar will be posted
under "Frequently Asked Questions."



TODAY'S PRESENTERS

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- REGION 1 IRR APPLICATION – **Gene DeGayner**, Director of Renewable Resources
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- REGION 4 IRR APPLICATION – **Marlene Finley**, Deputy Regional Forester
- SUMMARY – **Leslie Weldon**, Deputy Chief, National Forest System

