

# WELCOME TO

# INTEGRATED RESOURCE RESTORATION:

*A focus on landscape scale restoration*



# 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.



# WELCOME TO

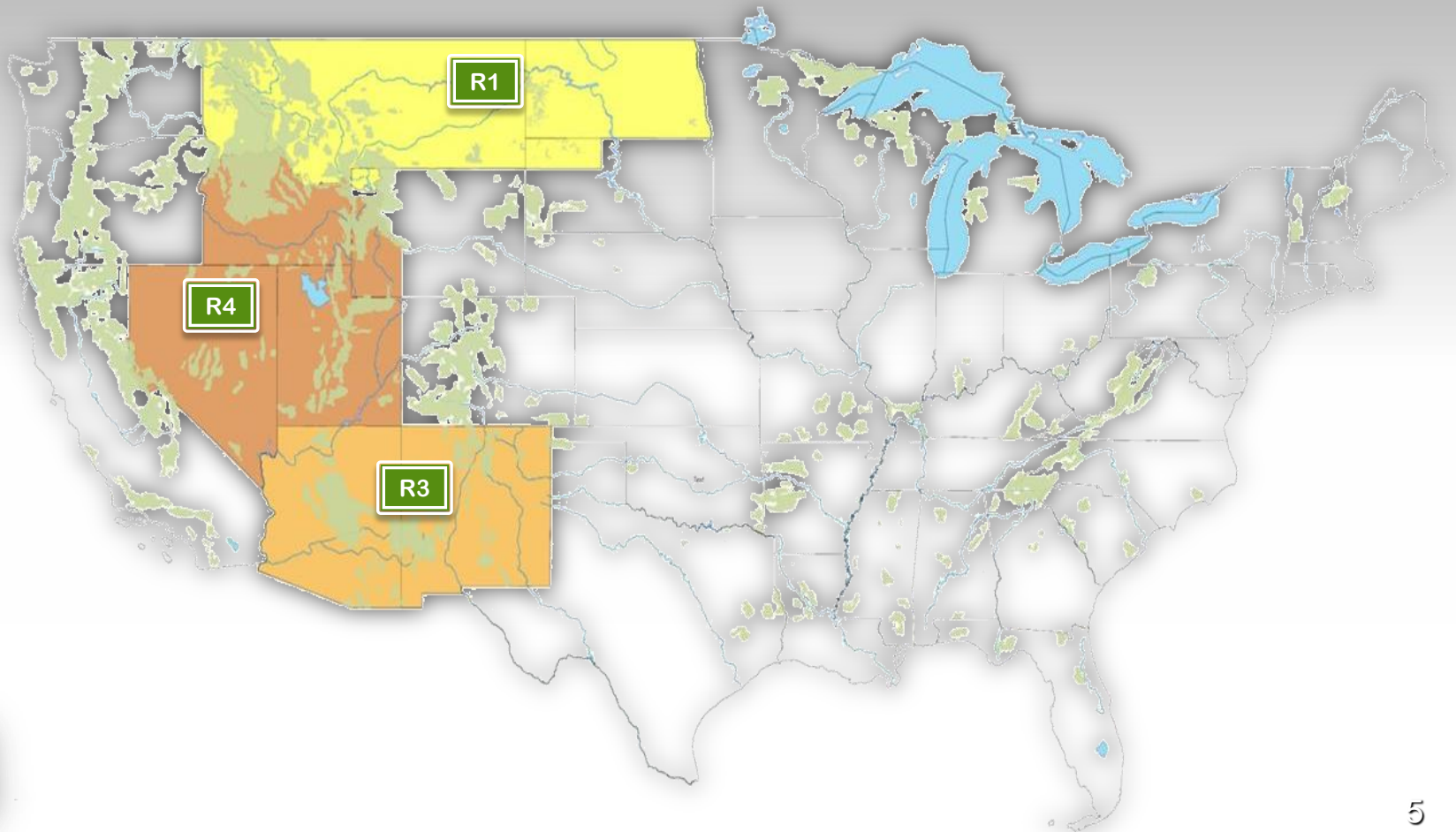
# INTEGRATED RESOURCE RESTORATION:

*A focus on landscape scale restoration*



# INTEGRATED RESOURCE RESTORATION (IRR) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORITY

The IRR proposal was implemented as a Pilot Program in FY12; The Pilot is in Regions 1, 3, and 4.



# THE IRR WEBINAR: AN OVERVIEW

## ➤ *What is IRR?*

- ❖ It is a management tool that provides line officers flexibility to address integrated landscape work
- ❖ It is an approach that facilitates and supports integrated work that sustains, maintains, and makes landscapes more resilient
- ❖ It helps the Forest Service achieve measureable on-the-ground improvements at a watershed scale in an era of flat and declining budgets
- ❖ It's an authority that allows the agency flexibility to address emerging ecological issues
- ❖ It encourages collaboration to address broad landscape issues



# THE IRR WEBINAR: AN OVERVIEW

- *How IRR Supports Integrated Management Strategies*
- *How We Measure IRR Accomplishments*
- *The IRR Pilot: Presentations by Regions 1, 3, and 4*
- *The Future of IRR*
- *Summary*



# IRR FACILITATES A FLEXIBLE INTEGRATED RESTORATION APPROACH

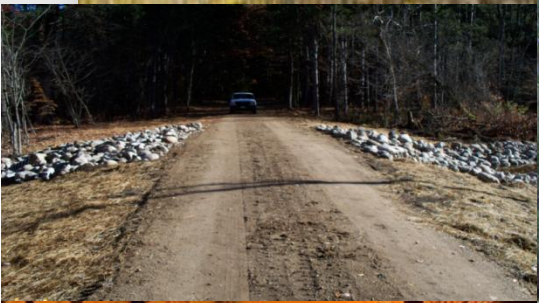
Rangelands



Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants



Engineering



Fire



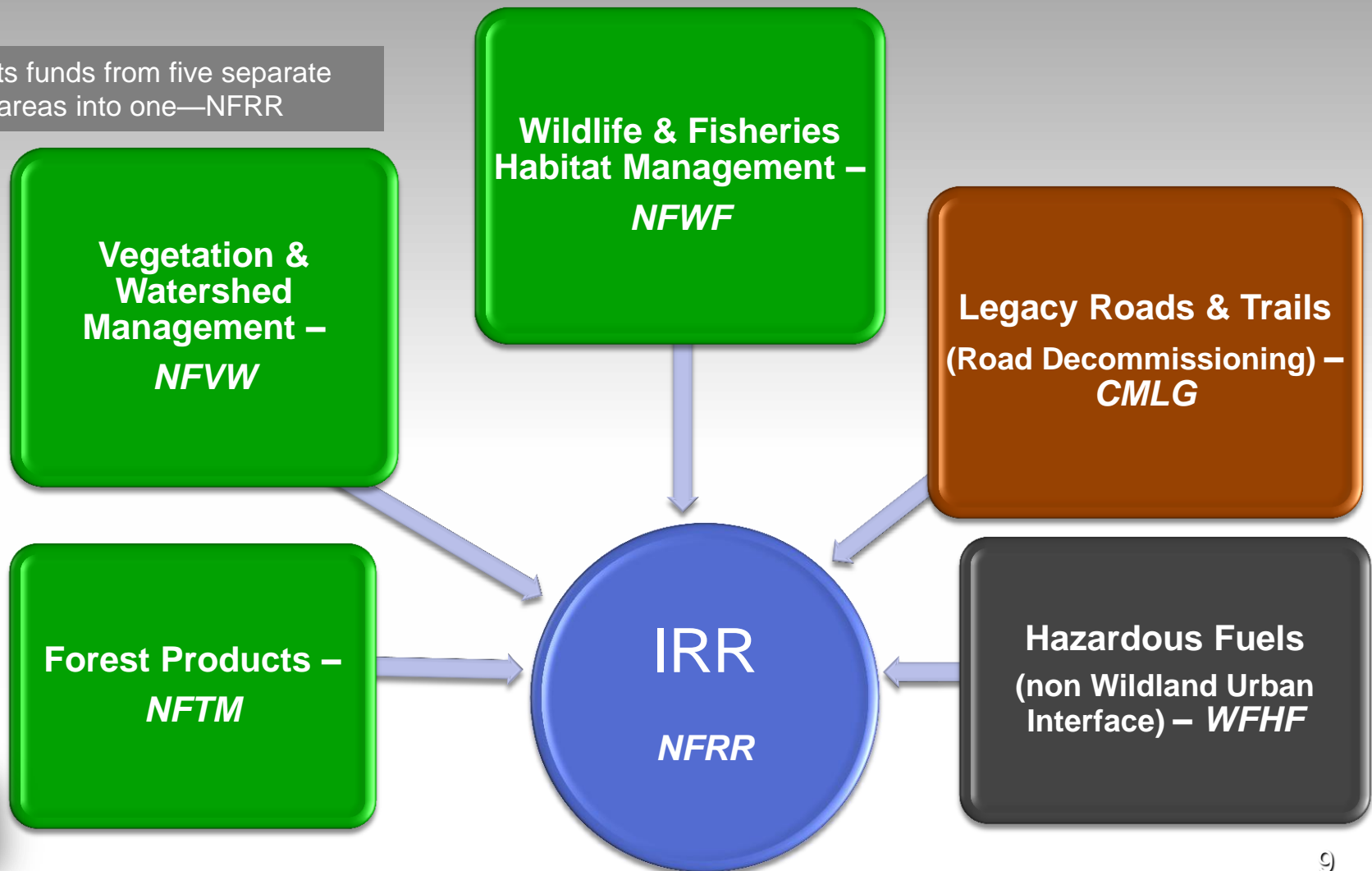
Forest Management





# IRR FUNDS A FLEXIBLE INTEGRATED RESTORATION APPROACH

IRR shifts funds from five separate funding areas into one—NFRR



# THE IRR VISION FACILITATES AND SUPPORTS INTEGRATED RESTORATION

Restoration Across the National Forest System



# THE IRR VISION FACILITATES AND SUPPORTS INTEGRATED RESTORATION

Restoration Across the National Forest System

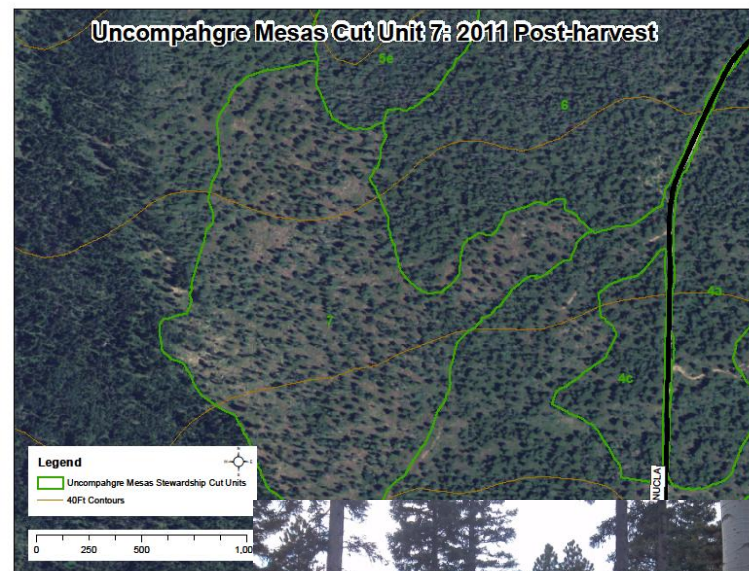
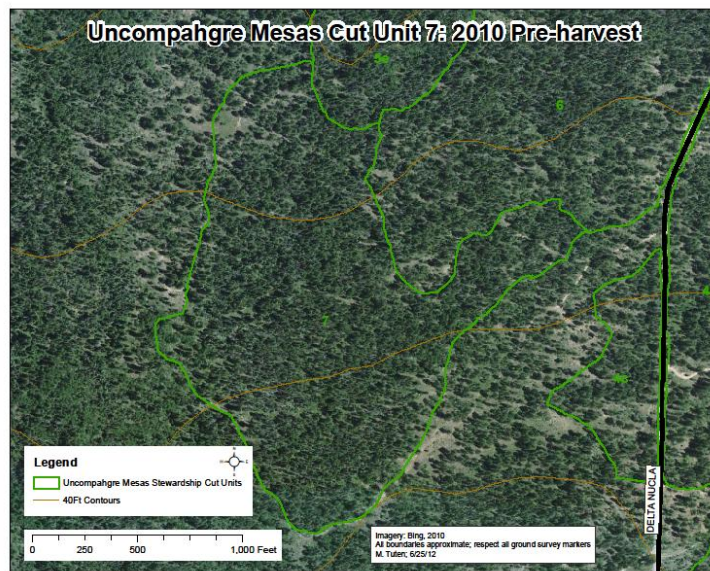


# THE IRR VISION FACILITATES AND SUPPORTS INTEGRATED RESTORATION

Restoration Across the National Forest System



# THE IRR VISION FACILITATES AND SUPPORTS INTEGRATED RESTORATION BY SUSTAINING LANDSCAPES



*Unc Mesas Stewardship Contract,  
Before and After Thinning*

# THE IRR VISION FACILITATES AND SUPPORTS MAINTAINING HEALTHY, RESILIENT LANDSCAPES



# THE IRR VISION FACILITATES AND SUPPORTS INTEGRATED RESTORATION BY MAKING LANDSCAPES MORE RESILIENT



# IRR ACHIEVES MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHES CRITICAL WORK\*

- Air Monitoring
- Project Rangeland Inventory and grazing permit NEPA
- Native Plant Development
- Water Rights
- Firewood permits
- Special forest products (e.g. moss & mushrooms)
- Project level inventory and monitoring
- Interpretation and education outreach
- Endangered or Sensitive Species conservation actions
- Wild horse & burro management
- Restoration of washed out road segments



IRR produces on-the-ground improvements and accomplishes work through key programs.

\*These are not inclusive of all Forest Service restoration programs.





# IRR PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY TO ADDRESS ECOLOGICAL CONCERNS

IRR provides flexibility to address issues such as bark beetle infestations, fire, flooding, and wind damage.

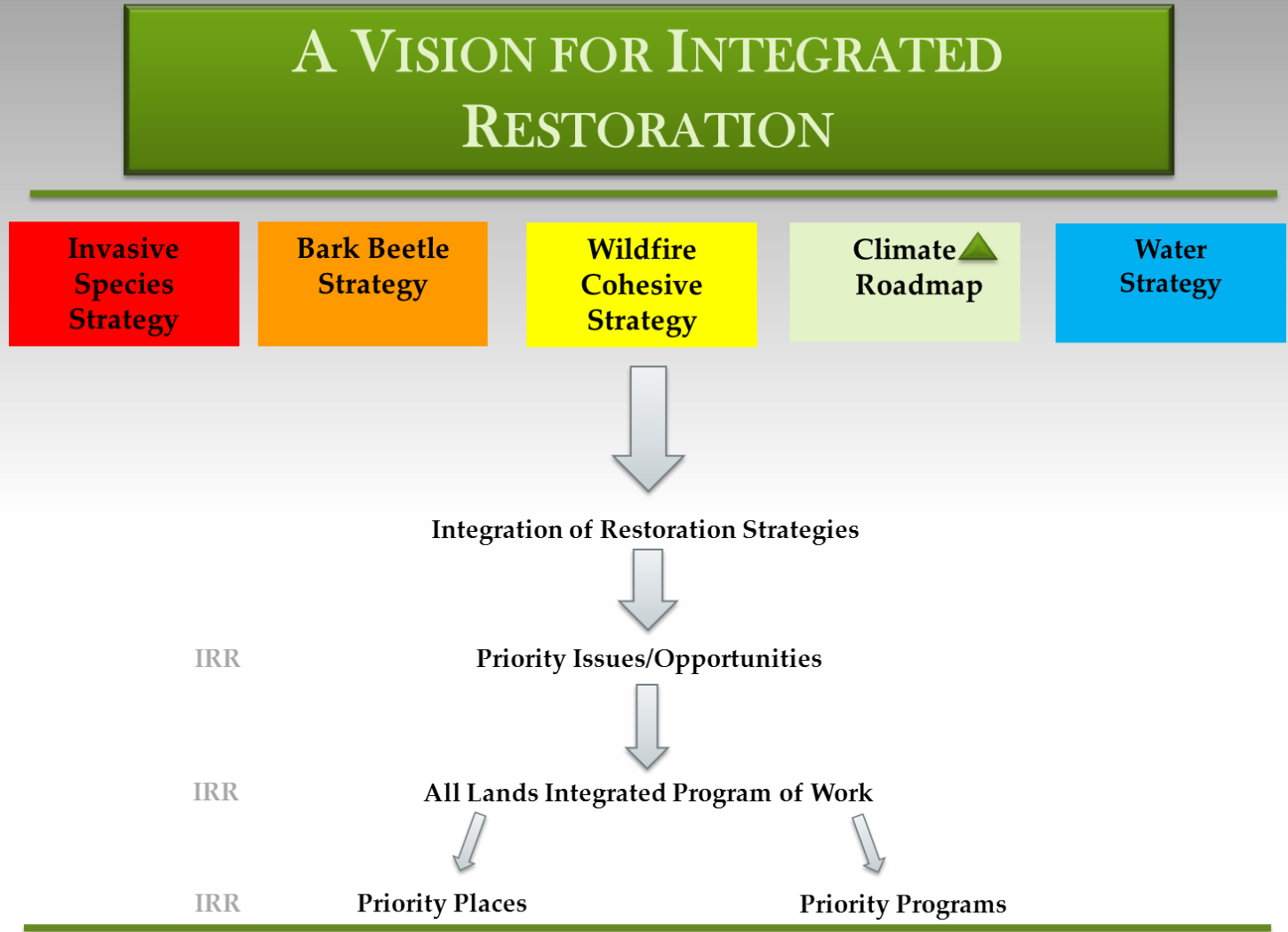


# IRR ENCOURAGES COLLABORATION TO ADDRESS LANDSCAPE ISSUES



*Collaborative Monitoring, Nebraska National Grasslands*

# IRR SUPPORTS INTEGRATION OF AGENCY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES\*



\*These are not inclusive of all Forest Service restoration strategies.



# THE IRR PILOT



# MEASURING IRR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class
- Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience
- Volume of timber sold
- Miles of roads decommissioned
- Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced



# THE NORTHERN REGION – REGION 1

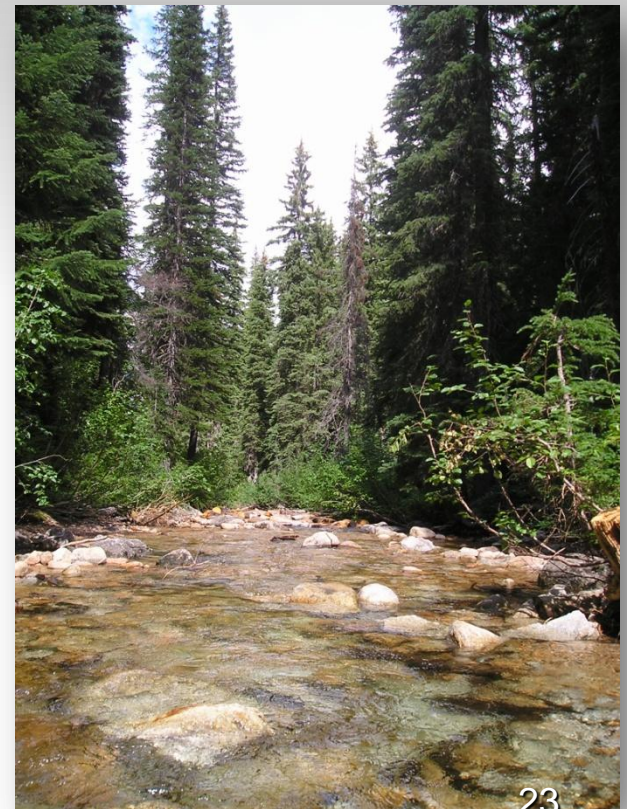


Biological control of toadflax

# REGION 1 IRR IMPLEMENTATION

Acres of Watershed Restoration (sustain or restore) will be rolled up using the following existing measures (240,000 acres):

- Timber Sale Acres
- Forest Vegetation Improvement
- Reforestation
- Range Vegetation Improvement
- Soil And Water Resource Improvements
- Noxious And Invasive Species Treatments
- Wildlife Habitat Improvements
- Lake Habitat Improvements
- Non-WUI Hazardous Fuel





# REGION 1 IRR IMPLEMENTATION

- IRR is most useful in the context of “Accelerated Restoration” and program integration
  - IRR is not a large change to many units that are already well integrated.
- 
- Forest Supervisors set priorities for units within the context of regional/national expectations
    - Sharpens the focus on determining the unit’s priority work
    - Sends clear message to partners and collaboratives
      - ❖ Strengthens the role of collaboratives
      - ❖ Improves transparency







# REGION 1 IRR IMPLEMENTATION

## Building External And Internal Trust—

- Restoration Desired Future Conditions absent in old forest plans
- Capacity to report outcomes
- Role collaboratives play to provide input on the suite of activities or outcomes
- Confusion around “What is restoration?”
- Confounded with declining budget issues.





# REGION 1 IRR INTEGRATION

## Change in roles for program leads and staff

- Well integrated projects
- Larger Scale projects

## Changing how the Regional Office allocates funds among units

- Larger Scale Projects/program favored
  - Integration provides a more diverse set of outcomes
  - NEPA efficiencies
- Increased review of outcomes/outputs
- Units with strong collaboratives are favored





# REGION 1 IRR CONCERNS

With increasing target expectations, we must guard against an unintended consequence of treating cheap acres rather than the right acres to meet target expectations

- Focus on restoration outcomes as-well-as outputs (e.g. timber sold)
- Focus dialogue on the outcome/desired future condition rather than the tool used to get there

➤ Roles of the program managers and directors:

- Ensure strategic national or regional priorities are met
- Program leads may lose some ability to influence functional program direction through targets and budget processes



# THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION – REGION 3



*Seeding Project, Cibola NF*



*Saguaro Restoration Project, Tonto NF*



# REGION 3 IRR IMPLEMENTATION



- The Southwestern Region (R3) received \$36,814 M in NFRR to implement the IRR Pilot in FY12.
- R3 uses Major Program Areas for allocations, not just individual BLIs. For the Southwestern Region, restoration includes—
  - Wildlife, fish, and rare plants
  - Forest management
  - Watershed, soils, and air
  - Rangeland management
  - Fuels management
  - Forest health
  - Reforestation
  - Legacy roads



*ATF Damage; before and after, Tonto NF*



# REGION 3 IRR IMPLEMENTATION



- In FY12, approximately 90% of the restoration allocation was allocated to cover the base costs of forests.
- The remaining 10% of the restoration funding was allocated to specific projects such as fire restoration, CFLR projects, and implementation of watershed action plans.
- A similar process will be used in FY13.



*Constructed riparian area, Tonto NF*



# REGION 3 IRR IMPLEMENTATION



- FY12 will continue a movement to an integrated program of work.
- There will not be a dramatic change in the work Forests accomplish.
- Forests will direct funding to achieve the most important work.
- While we are emphasizing landscape scale restoration, large scale is not appropriate in all areas.
- We understand that not all IRR objectives can be met in each project.



Forest Restoration,  
Cibola NF

# REGION 3 PLANNING



- Projects implemented in FY12 with NFRR funds were planned in prior years, as are many that are planned to be implemented in FY13.
- Many projects that will be implemented in FY14 and beyond will be planned with NFRR funds.
- While many of the projects will contribute to IRR activities, there are some, such as Range NEPA, that we support with NFRR but do not produce a NFRR output.



*Meadow Restoration,  
Cibola NF*





# REGION 3 EXPECTATIONS



- The Regional Office provided broad expectations of NFRR outputs based on past accomplishments and budget levels but, in order to allow the Forest Supervisors flexibility in determining the most important work to be done, did not allocate specific targets to the forests.



*Salamander Removal,  
Coconino NF*

- We continue to refine mutual expectations of what an individual forest will accomplish based on the work the Forest Supervisor has chosen to do.



# THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION – REGION 4



*Goat Creek culvert before restoration, Payette NF*



# REGION 4 IRR IMPLEMENTATION



We believe IRR supports the Forest Service's intention to accelerate restoration in at least three important ways:

- FLEXIBLE FUNDING: Flexibility associated with a single large budget line item provides for greater certainty and continuity of funding.
- RELEVANT SCALE: IRR facilitates restoration at ecologically, socially, and economically relevant scales. Broad scale work often takes larger investments over longer periods of time.
- SOCIAL CAPACITY: Social capacity for conservation work is strengthened as work is done at meaningful scales. Our results will highlight our relevance and contributions. Emphasis on effective collaboration will lead to increased support and fewer challenges.



# REGION 4 IRR IMPLEMENTATION



- The Intermountain Region (R4) received \$41,615,000 to implement IRR in FY12.
- The Region allocated 93% of this funding to forests to accomplish restoration activities and other activities funded from NFRR.
- The Region chose to allocate \$1,700,000 to large scale projects that best met the broad intentions of IRR. We will do so again in 2013 and 2014. These projects were selected from Watershed Restoration Action Plans and existing Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposals that would have been impossible for a single unit to fund. The funded projects are:
  - *Escalante Headwaters – Dixie NF*
  - *Weiser-Little Salmon (CFLRP) – Payette NF*
  - *Stolle Creek-South Fork Salmon River Watershed Action Plan – Boise NF*



*Goat Creek culvert before restoration;  
high water, Payette NF*



# REGION 4 IRR INTEGRATION



Region 4 has been integrating programs to meet objectives in response to budget declines for several years. IRR has given managers the tools to increase integration. Some of the steps the Region has taken to increase integration are as follows:

- Issued a Regional direction letter that clearly articulates the expectations and outcomes of IRR and emphasizes the Watershed Condition Framework and the anticipated Terrestrial Condition Framework as focus areas for IRR.
- Amending the R4 business plan to incorporate IRR objectives and measures of success.
- It is our intention to be “wildly successful” in demonstrating the benefits of the IRR concept.



# REGION 4 IRR INTEGRATION



*Goat Creek culvert after restoration;  
new aquatic organism passage (AOP),  
Payette NF*

- Reduced direction to specific program areas and emphasized IRR objectives. That is, IRR gives line officers the flexibility to fund accomplish priority actions, not necessarily those of individual programs.
- Considering organizational changes related to restoration priorities.
- Working with partners to identify, prioritize, and fund integrated restoration actions.



# REGION 4 IRR PLANNING



- Projects implemented in FY12 with NFRR funds were planned in prior years.
- FY 13 and 14 year projects for the most part will be planned and implemented with NFRR funds.
- For FY13 and 14, Forests are emphasizing priority projects that implement the Watershed Condition Framework.
- We fund other important activities with IRR that are not directly associated with landscape restoration priorities but protect ecosystem integrity, meet community needs, and build public support for conservation.



# IRR BEYOND FY 2012

- The FY 2013 President's Budget requests that Congress provide *nationwide* authority for IRR.
- Nationwide IRR authority is *essential* to:
  - ❖ Allow regions to realize IRR efficiencies
    - Focus on priority projects at the Landscape Scale
    - Maintain robust project implementation
    - Avoid inefficiencies of two systems
    - Allow some certainty to move forward





# HOW WILL WE KNOW IF IRR IS A SUCCESS?



- Accomplishment reports/case studies
- Tracking IRR performance measures
- Examples of combining focus and funding with CFLRP
- Recommendations/partner feedback



# HOW CAN OUR PARTNERS HELP US BE SUCCESSFUL?

- Understand how IRR can support your interests
- Share what you have learned about IRR with others
- Help make IRR implementation a success



# SUMMARY

The Forest Service is implementing an integrated restoration approach across the Agency.

IRR facilitates and supports an integrated approach to landscape scale restoration.

IRR is a management tool that provides line officers flexibility, it facilitates and supports integrated work, provides on-the-ground improvements, helps address emerging ecological issues, and promotes collaboration and a holistic approach to restoration on NFS lands.

Through “Lessons Learned” from the Pilot, IRR will be refined and implemented broadly in FY13.



# FOR MORE INFORMATION

*For more information on IRR 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”.*



# WEBINAR PRESENTERS

- WELCOME – Mary Wagner, Associate Chief, Forest Service
- PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES AND SUMMARY – Leslie Weldon, Deputy Chief, National Forest System
- OVERVIEW /IRR FLEXIBILITY – Charlie Richmond, Natl. Director, Rangelands Management
- THE IRR VISION – Emilee Blount, Natl. Director, Engineering
- IMPROVEMENTS/CRITICAL WORK, ECOLOGICAL ISSUES, AND COLLABORATION – Patti Hiram, Chief of Staff/Program Specialist, Fire & Aviation Management
- INTEGRATING STRATEGIES, MEASURING PERFORMANCE, AND THE IRR PILOT – Cal Joyner, Natl. Director, Forest Management
- REGION 1 IRR APPLICATION – Faye Krueger, Regional Forester
- REGION 3 IRR APPLICATION – Corbin Newman, Regional Forester
- REGION 4 IRR APPLICATION – Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester
- IRR BEYOND 2012 AND IRR SUCCESS – Anne Zimmermann, Natl. Director, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, & Rare Plants

