

# US Forest Service: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

## Overview

The following excerpts and map are taken from the US Forest Service website on the CFLR Program:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/index.shtml>

Congress established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) with [Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009](#) (PDF, 40 KB).

The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack articulated his vision for America's Forests in a [speech](#) given in Seattle in August 2009. The Secretary underscored the overriding importance of forest restoration by calling for "complete commitment to restoration". In this same speech, the Secretary highlighted the need for pursuing an "all lands approach to forest restoration" and called for close coordination with other landowners to encourage collaborative solutions through landscape-scale operations. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program provides a means to achieve these aims and to also:

- encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
- leverage local resources with national and private resources;
- facilitate the reduction of wildfire management costs, including through re-establishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire;
- demonstrate the degree to which various ecological restoration techniques achieve ecological and watershed health objectives; and,
- encourage utilization of forest restoration by-products to offset treatment costs, to benefit local rural economies, to and improve forest health.

## Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund

Title IV establishes the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund providing funding authority for:

- requests by the Secretary of up to \$40,000,000 annually for fiscal years 2009 through 2019;
- up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System (NFS) land for each proposal selected;
- up to \$4 million annually for any one project;
- up to two projects per year in any one FS region; and,
- up to 10 projects per year nationally.

## Uses and Limitations

- The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund may only be used on National Forest System lands.
- The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund may not be used to cover planning costs.
- The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund may be used to pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System (NFS) lands.
- No more than \$4,000,000 may be spent from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund in any 1 fiscal year on any 1 project.
- The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund may include cancellation and termination costs that may be required under the FAR for contracts used to carry out ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System land.
- The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for any 1 proposal may be expended for no more than 10 fiscal years.

## Selecting Projects

To select projects for implementation under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund, the Secretary considers the recommendations of an Advisory Panel. An advisory panel reviews Project proposals nominated by the Regional Forester in response to the Secretary's call letter. This panel is appointed by the Secretary and 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 panel evaluates each proposal and makes recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary consults with the Secretary of Interior prior to making selections.

## The CFLR Program in Oregon \*

In eastern Oregon, the USFS will invest about \$7.1 million through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) during 2012. About \$2.5 million will go to the *Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Project* and another \$3.5 million will be directed to the *Lakeview Stewardship Project*. The *Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project* was awarded \$500,000 in 2010, \$750,000 in 2011 and in 2012, the project was awarded \$1.1 million giving Oregon three funded projects on eastside National Forests.

The *Southern Blues Restoration Coalition* includes the Blue Mountain Forest Partners and Harney County Restoration Collaboratives, the *Lakeview Project* is coordinated by Lake County Resources Initiative, and the *Deschutes Project* is coordinated by Central Oregon Partnerships for Wildfire Risk Reduction.

\* From the National Forest Health Restoration Economic Assessment, p. 25. The report is online at: [http://orsolutions.org/beta/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/OR\\_Forest\\_Restoration\\_Econ\\_Assessment\\_Nov\\_20121.pdf](http://orsolutions.org/beta/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/OR_Forest_Restoration_Econ_Assessment_Nov_20121.pdf)