



# People Restoring America's Forests:

2012 Report on the Collaborative  
Forest Landscape Restoration Program

**December 2012**

# Executive Summary

This report offers a review of the accomplishments of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program, which was created in 2009 to promote job stability, reliable wood supply, forest health, 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.

Covering one-third of the United States, forests store and filter half the country's water supply; provide jobs to more than a million wood products workers; absorb 20% of U.S. carbon emissions; generate more than \$13 billion of recreation and other economic activity on Forest Service lands alone; and provide habitat for thousands of wildlife and plant species across the country.

This year we found these benefits to both life and livelihood challenged by a host of problems familiar and new. The trend of the new millennium continued with record wildfires scorching 9 million acres. The U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior ran out of money to fight emergency wildfires. Thirty new counties discovered the destructive invasive Emerald Ash Borer in their jurisdictions. And climate change further enflamed the behavior of both insects and fires.

But three years after its creation through bipartisan legislation, CFLR is helping address these challenges by fostering collaborative restoration on 23 forest landscapes across the U.S. This pilot program was established "...to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes" (Public Law 111-11).

CFLR projects are on track to meet their ten-year goals. Ten of the original CFLR landscape sites have received three years of funding — enough time to generate measurable returns on investment. Ten new sites funded through CFLR and three additional funded as High Priority Restoration Projects (HPRP) were selected in February 2012 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and have one year of measurable outputs to share. To date these 23 projects have cumulatively:

- Created and maintained an estimated 3,375 part and full-time jobs during 2011 and 4,574 part and full-time jobs during FY 2012
- Sold 94.1 million cubic feet of timber and produced 1,158,000 green tons of biomass
- Provided an additional \$45.4 million of partner and Forest Service investment to leverage federal CFLR and matching dollars
- Generated nearly \$320 million of labor income
- Removed fuel for destructive mega-fires on 383,000 acres near communities
- Reduced mega-fire on an additional 229,000 acres
- Improved 537,000 acres of wildlife habitat
- Restored 394 miles of fish habitat
- Enhanced clean water supplies by remediating or decommissioning 6,000 miles of eroding roads

At the beginning of the 20th century our nation installed the Weeks Act, a visionary law that provided a roadmap to conserve the nation's forest and water resources. In our own millennium we look to build off that bold leadership by restoring forests, and the communities that depend on them, through the collaborative approach of CFLR. The following pages provide accountability for these efforts, and a measure of value for generations of Americans into the next century.

COVER PHOTOS: (top) Wildflowers on the Rocky Mountain Front in Montana. © Robert Granzow; (inset) Former U.S. Forest Service employee and longtime conservationist, the late Bud Moore, taken at his Swan Valley, Montana property in the Southwestern Crown of the Continent. Bud always looked at land and community as a whole and was a strong advocate for large landscape conservation and sound forest management—key principles of the CFLR Program. © Ted Wood

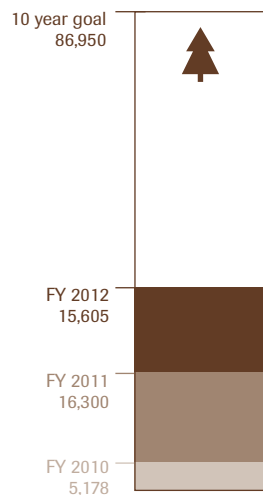


Middle and North Sister Mountains. © Stephen Fitzgerald

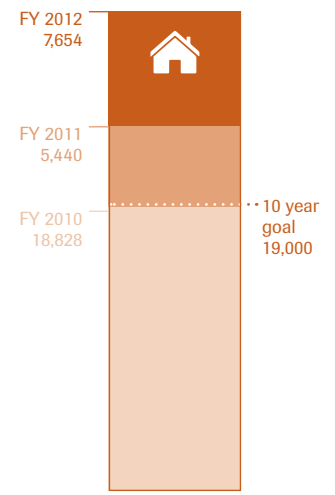
The Deschutes Collaborative Forest in central Oregon is 145,000 acres of forest that historically experienced frequent small fires. In recent decades, however, large mega-fires here demonstrate the need for forest restoration to protect the area's two municipal drinking sources, three nearby cities, and dozens of high-use recreation areas. Harvesting small trees to reduce future wildfire risk also creates jobs, provides wood chips for bio-energy, improves fish habitat and water quality, and reduces the risk of mega-fires.

## Partners

- American Forest Resource Council
- Cascade Timberlands
- Central Oregon Cities Organization
- Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation
- City of Sisters
- City of Bend and Bend Fire Department
- Deschutes County
- Deschutes Land Trust
- Deschutes Recreation Assets Committee
- Enterprise Cascadia
- HM3 Energy
- Interfor Pacific
- Intermountain Wood Energy, LLC
- JTS Animal Bedding
- Miller Conservation Consulting
- Moon Country Sno-mobilers
- National Forest Foundation
- Ochoco Lumber
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Equestrian Trails
- Oregon State Snowmobile Association
- Oregon State University
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- OregonWild
- Project Wildfire
- Quicksilver Contracting Co.
- Sustainable Northwest
- T2, Inc
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- TSS Consultants
- Upper Deschutes River Coalition
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service



**Wood Supply**  
CCF of timber sold



**Community Protection**  
Acres of hazardous fuels reduced



Alan Unger

As a boy scout growing up in Redmond, Oregon in the 1960s, Alan Unger learned to respect and appreciate the Deschutes National Forest. He carries that respect and appreciation with him today in his current role as Deschutes County Commissioner.

“I had the privilege to grow up in this forest and I have a responsibility as an elected official to work with our communities to ensure the forest is here for generations to come.”

Alan has watched the forest shape and define Central Oregon his whole life — bringing living wage jobs and laying the foundations of downtowns during the timber era, and now bringing hikers, anglers, mountain bikers, and skiers to live, work, and play here.

“The beautiful mountains and forests that we see when we look out our windows everyday are what define Central Oregon living,” says Unger.

As County Commissioner, Alan is eager to maintain and restore the forests that are central to our quality of life and he believes that collaboration is the pathway forward.

“We need to move away from the past. We need all sides to understand that the old ways of doing business haven’t served the forest or the range of values in our communities. We can either work together to find a new way or we can watch the things we care about burn up in uncharacteristic wildfires.”

The Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) is an ideal forum to seek that new pathway forward. Alan has worked for over two years as the DCFP Chair to bring key stakeholders together to share their values, learn the science, seek common ground and find creative agreements to steward our forests.

“This represents a new way of doing business in the forest. Through collaborative baby steps we have built the relationships, the trust, and the transparency necessary to generate solutions that work for the community, for our Forest Service partners, and for our forests.”

Through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program the forests within the DCFP landscape are growing healthier, more resistant, and more resilient to disturbances like wildfire, while providing myriad benefits to the communities of Central Oregon. Moreover, restoration is and will continue to produce forest products that sustain mills and forest operators and help us extend our stewardship across the landscape.



**Total acreage of landscape: 145,000**

### 2012 Results

- 91 jobs created or maintained
- 49 miles of roads maintained or improved
- 9 miles of fish habitat restored
- 1,422 acres of invasive weeds removed
- 2,524 acres of wildlife habitat restored



Stakeholder site meeting in the Glaze Meadow. © Amy Waltz

Post-treatment in the Sisters Area Fuels Reduction Project. © U.S. Forest Service

### Contact information

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# Oregon | Lakeview Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project



Total acreage of landscape: 662,289

## Partners

- Collins Companies
- Concerned Friends of the Fremont-Winema
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Lake County Chamber of Commerce
- Lake County Resources Initiative
- Lakeview High School
- Lakeview Ranger District
- Oregon Department of Economic and Community Development
- Oregon Wild
- Sustainable Northwest
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- U.S. Forest Service



Rebuilding a stream channel to restore connectivity for bull trout, made possible by CFLR. © Craig Bienz

## 2012 Results

- 88 jobs created or maintained
- 197 miles of road improved or maintained
- 141 miles of fish habitat restored
- 1,036 acres of invasive weeds removed

## Contact information

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10 year goal  
152,024

FY 2012  
19,496

## Fire Risk Reduction

Acres of hazardous fuels reduced

Lakeview is an important water source for agriculture and wildlife. Rare wildlife in the project area include bald eagle and redband trout, as well as more common elk, pronghorn, and black bear. The area has been prioritized by the state for mule deer and sage grouse habitat restoration. CFLR Project treatments are improving water conditions, reducing the risk of destructive mega-fires, and fighting beetle infestation through brush removal and controlled burns.

Paul Harlan graduated from Lakeview High School in Lakeview, Oregon. His two children graduated from Lakeview. His father also graduated from Lakeview.



Paul Harlan

“We have a rich heritage in Lakeview,” he says with understatement.

Paul still lives in Lakeview today and is Vice President of Resources for the Collins Companies.

“We will only be successful if we find a way to be responsible and sustainable. Our sawmill draws a third of its raw material from local Forest Service grounds. This on-the-ground management reduces fire danger and improves the overall health of the local forests.”

Harlan has been involved in efforts to restore the local forests since 1997. This longtime involvement has encouraged Harlan to be a strong supporter of the Lakeview Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project.

“When I stand on the edge of the forest in the early morning, and see the long rays of light across the land, I can’t imagine being anywhere else,” says Paul. “This place is more than amazing and has provided a place for me, my family, and my business for years.”

“It is my hope that the people of Lakeview will be able to continue to live in this very special place with their own families, perhaps for the next three generations” offers Paul. “I am thankful the Lakeview CFLR is helping make this hope come true.”

# Oregon | Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project



Total acreage of  
landscape: 690,723

## Partners

- Backlund Logging
- Bear Creek Timber Company
- Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
- Bureau of Land Management
- Crown Cattle Company
- Grant County Commissioners
- Grant County Forest Commission
- Grayback Forestry Inc.
- Harney County Commissioners
- High Desert Partnership
- Jerome Natural Resource Consultants Inc.
- King Inc.
- Malheur Lumbar Company
- O'Rorke Logging
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Natural Desert Association
- Oregon Wild
- Prairie Wood Products
- Rush Creek Ranch LLC
- Southworth Brothers Ranch
- Sustainable Northwest
- U.S. Forest Service
- Western Environmental Law Center



Protected old growth pine tree in the Southern Blues project area. © Susan Jane Brown

The dry forest environment of the Southern Blues provides a home to Rocky Mountain elk, white-headed woodpecker, and goshawk, and river habitat for bull trout, mid-Columbia steelhead, and Chinook salmon. The CFLR project is increasing availability of small diameter forest products, including biomass, for the nearby communities of John Day and Burns. Controlled burns are being used to improve forage habitat for big game over the 271,980 acre project area.

Grant County is a large, rural, natural resource-dependent county in eastern Oregon. Timber and ranching are its main industries, with over 60% of it federally-managed public land.

In January 2007, Mark Webb took office as the Grant County Judge. At the time, litigation had ceased virtually all commercial activity on federal lands, while restoration efforts were too limited in scope to make a positive difference. In short, both area communities and forests were dying.

Webb was part of a group that believed area communities, environmentalists, and the U.S. Forest Service needed to “retool” their approach if forest and community health were to be improved. To meet this need, Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP) was created in late 2006.

Since then it has worked with the U.S. Forest Service to plan and implement five projects. The first project, at about 6,000 acres, took almost three years of hard work to complete; BMFP's current 42,000 acre project will take half that time.

Along with the Harney County Restoration Collaborative in Harney County, BMFP makes up the Southern Blues CFLR. Webb believes there is a two-fold benefit from CFLR investment.

“First, it promises to fund important work on federal lands in Grant and Harney counties for a number of years, which is vitally important for the area's resource-dependent communities,” he says. “And two, it will help the local collaborative process evolve, which will similarly ‘mature’ the Forest Service's approach to its federal land management responsibilities for the next generation.”



Mark Webb

## 2012 Results

- 70 jobs created or maintained
- 280 miles of road improved or maintained
- 11,791 acres of hazardous fuels reduced
- 9,832 acres of wildlife habitat restored
- 37,006 CCF of timber sold

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