

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

MAKING AMERICA'S FORESTS HEALTHY THROUGH EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION



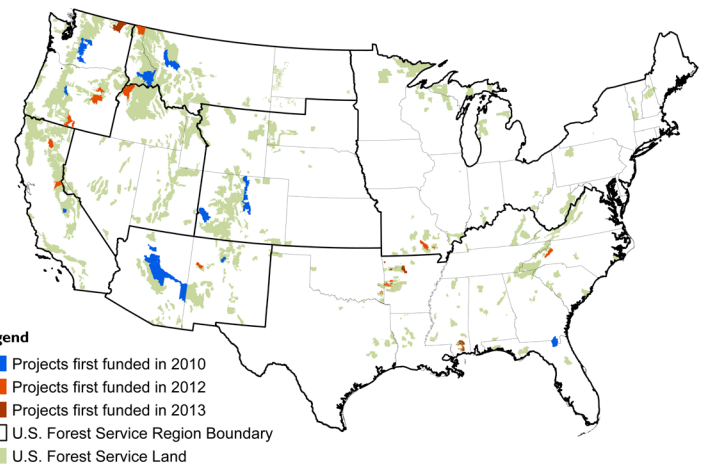
Clockwise from top left: © Michael D-L Jordan; © Chris Crisman; © Alissa Anderson; © Ryan Donnell; © Rick Braveheart

Forests provide half our nation's water¹, support millions of jobs², store carbon³, produce timber, offer vast recreational opportunities, provide habitat to thousands of species⁴, and generate billions of dollars in annual economic activity⁵. The renewable properties of wood are driving major innovations in urban development as we reimagine everything from skyscrapers to transportation.

Yet the health of our forests is in decline, with an area the size of Oregon in need of restoration on National Forest System lands alone (more than 80 million acres⁶). Invasive pests and diseases, chronic drought, and increasingly expensive megafires jeopardize life and livelihood in rural and urban communities.

Overcoming these challenges requires an approach to federal forest management focused on large-scale, community-driven collaboration to increase the pace and scale of restoration, promote healthy forests, and protect the lives and well-being of communities and landowners. **The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) is the Forest Service's signature program that accomplishes these goals.**

CFLRP is a proven model to meet current resource needs like no other program. Established in 2009, the competitive program funds large-scale restoration projects, with the goal of reducing the risk of megafire, supporting jobs in rural communities,



producing timber, and enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities across the nation. CFLRP requires the Forest Service to work with a local collaborative group to plan, implement, and monitor large-scale restoration projects (50,000+ acres) over a 10-year period. To date 23 CFLRP projects have been designated in 14 states, each pursuing a customized collaborative action plan to accomplish program goals, resulting in efficiencies that avoid process delays. **To date, this national program has restored a forested area larger than Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, combined.**

1 USDA Forest Service, *Water, Climate Change, and Forests Report*, page 6, 2010

2 Forest2Market, Inc., *The Economic Impact of Privately-Owned Forests in the United States*, page 12, 2016: "Total employment impact for forestry-related businesses is over 2.7 million jobs."

3 USDA Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification, page 7, February 2016

4 USDA Forest Service. *National Report on Sustainable Forests—2010*, page I-13, 2010

5 USDA Forest Service FY 2015 Budget Justification, page 9, March 2014

6 USDA Forest Service, *Accelerating Restoration to Creating and Maintaining Resilient Landscapes and Communities Across the Nation*, page 4, April 2016

Why the Program Works

CFLRP is the only Forest Service program that prioritizes comprehensive restoration for diverse economic, social, and environmental outcomes. The program has several unique elements that make it effective in addressing resource concerns at the landscape scale:

- 1. Dedicated long term funding** focuses on high-priority forests and provides stability for collaboration, infrastructure investment, and job creation.
- 2. Requirement to collaborate** strengthens relationships, enhances project design, and decreases the potential for conflict and litigation.
- 3. Matching funds requirement** incentivizes collaborators to invest their time and resources to improve project outcomes.

Congress Must Extend the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

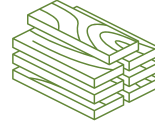
Given the program's well-documented success improving forest health and safety, a permanent extension of CFLRP is essential. Continued and increased funding levels would allow for additional projects to be selected across the country while capitalizing on the growing energy and successes of collaborative management and shared stewardship. By extending CFLRP to new forests and communities, we can affect meaningful economic and environmental change that addresses the critical needs of our federal forests and sustains the values and resources we all depend upon. We urge Congress to act today to permanently extend the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. Last year CFLRP was funded at \$40 million; to expand the demonstrated success and buying power of this program we recommend an increase to at least \$60 million per year.



SINCE 2010, CFLRP HAS:



Reduced the risk of megafire on more than **2.9 million acres**.



Sold more than **2.5 billion board feet of timber**.



Created **\$1.4 billion in local labor income** and an average of 5,400 jobs created or maintained each year.⁷



Improved **760 miles of trails** for sports enthusiasts and recreation.



Maintained or improved **19,700 miles of roads**.



Involved more than **200 local partners** and leveraged more than **\$300 million in funding**.

An academic survey of 229 Forest Service staff involved with a CFLRP project showed⁸:

- 80% of respondents said the potential threat of fire on their forests has been reduced.
- 75% of respondents had seen decreased conflict and 61% had seen decreased litigation.
- 90% of survey respondents support the continuation of CFLRP.

⁷ Labor income and jobs created estimated for 2011 through 2017

⁸ Colorado State University, Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon, *Strategies for Success Under Forest Service Restoration Initiatives*, Fall 2017