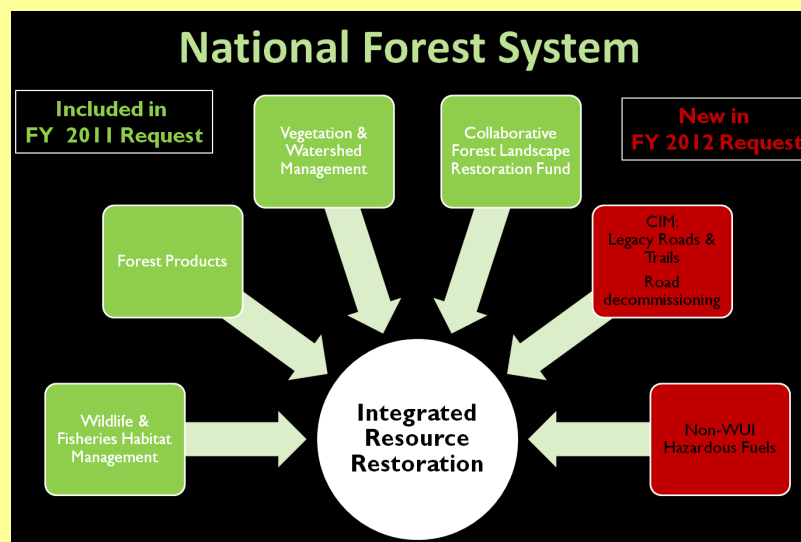


TOP 5 REASONS TO SUPPORT INTEGRATED RESOURCE RESTORATION

1. **Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) aligns the U.S. Forest Service budget structure with a focus on landscape scale restoration.**
2. **IRR will facilitate increased accomplishments.** The emphasis on collaboration with stakeholders will result in well-designed restoration projects that address multiple objectives, translating into **more work** and resulting in **increased agreement to move projects forward.**
3. **IRR will facilitate the prioritization and implementation of restoration projects with increased efficiency and effectiveness on the ground.** This will allow land managers, in collaboration with communities of interest, to meet a wider range of ecological, economic and social objectives.
4. **IRR will help better address increasing challenges** brought on by climate change, catastrophic fires, invasive pests, severe storm events and increased development pressure **by increasing funding flexibility.**
5. **IRR will prevent a lack of funds for one type of activity that could result in deferral of needed work into future years.**

IRR PROPOSAL



Why IRR

The needs of Americans and our lands have changed in the 21st century and so, too, has the way in which the Forest Service must achieve its mission. A changing climate and other stressors are threatening America's forest-dependent communities and watersheds. Forested landscapes are becoming more vulnerable to fire, invasive species and epidemics of insects and disease, while critical watersheds are increasingly impacted by changing hydrological regimes. Addressing these challenges requires an integrated approach.

The Forest Service originally proposed Integrated Resource Restoration as a simplified budget line item in the President's FY 2011 budget in order to facilitate this approach. This proposal is continued in the President's FY 2012 budget with some modifications based on what we learned from last year's proposal. The FY 2012 package includes a more comprehensive suite of programs that better highlight the spectrum of restoration work by the Forest Service. The budget also more clearly recognizes the importance of leveraging forest products and biomass utilization to provide jobs and bolster the economic infrastructure for needed restoration work over the long term. IRR also establishes a more robust framework for accountability in terms of restoration outcomes in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and, as improved, will facilitate a more holistic approach to landscape management that integrates social, economic and ecological values.

Type of work accomplished with IRR

1. **Priority Watersheds and Job Stabilization (\$80 million)** – This part of the program focuses on implementing projects within priority watersheds identified through the agency’s new Watershed Condition Framework. Similar in concept to other measurement indexes, the Watershed Condition Framework establishes a nationally consistent system for identifying and prioritizing watershed restoration needs associated with maintaining and improving hydrologic function to improve overall watershed conditions. This funding would implement all available activities and tools identified through watershed action plans to be developed by field units. The goal is to make progress on either maintaining or improving the condition class of priority watersheds, depending on the priority watersheds identified and the needs set forth in their respective watershed action plans.
2. **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (\$40 million)** – This subsection encourages collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration for a set of priority forest landscapes greater than 50,000 acres. This includes a focus on restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, reducing wildfire risks, and increasing forest product and biomass utilization. Ten long-term projects were selected in FY 2010, and are projected to continue for the life of the project subject to appropriation. The \$40 million request level will allow for additional project selections, as prior funding commitments allow.
3. **Legacy Roads and Trails (\$75 million)** – This subsection funds the repair, restoration, rehabilitation, and removal/obliteration of both system and unauthorized roads and trails where conditions are causing water quality issues in streams and water bodies, adversely affecting threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or impacting community water systems. Emphasis will also be placed on repairing or building road/stream crossings to improve aquatic organism passage.
4. **Restoration and Management of Ecosystems (\$659 million)** – This largest portion of IRR focuses on agency capacity to achieve restoration goals of restoring and maintaining the resilience of watersheds and landscapes while promoting a diversified forest products industry. This program component would continue to facilitate the broad range of activities needed to support a variety of restoration objectives, including many basic stewardship functions and legal requirements that have always been part of the agency’s mission, such as the Endangered Species Act, reforestation, air quality monitoring, etc. Examples of work that could be funded under this subsection include Longleaf pine ecosystem management in the Southern Region and bark beetle resilience projects in several western regions.

We are committed to measure outcomes and results

FY10 Final Accomplishments and FY12 Targets/Expected Outputs			
Accomplishments	FY 10 Final Accomplishments (w/out ARRA & WFW3)	FY 12 Draft Targets	Difference
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	NA	2,560,000	
Timber Volume Sold (MMBF)	2,547	2,616	69
Miles of Road Decommissioning	2,089	4,370	2,281
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	3,252	2,670	-582
Acres of Terrestrial wildlife habitat restored or improved	1,908,459	1,989,398	80,940
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced	27,656	24,000	-3,656
Acres of forest vegetation improved	246,016	252,724	6,708
Acres of forest vegetation established	211,605	243,728	32,123
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	1,798,280	2,050,080	251,800
Soil and water resource acres improved	146,652	180,000	33,348
Highest priority acres treated for noxious weeds and invasive plants on National Forest System lands	267,129	267,000	-129
Acres of non-WUI fuels treated	492,653	492,653	0