

USDA Forest Service Update
March 2014
Subject: Integrated Resource Restoration



Issue: Achieving restoration activities focused on watershed restoration, fuels reduction, and road decommissioning.

Key Points:

- The Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 President’s Budget will continue to request the Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) budget line item (BLI).
- IRR consolidates funding previously in the wildlife and fisheries habitat management, forest products, vegetation and watershed management, non-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) hazardous fuels, legacy roads and trails (including road decommissioning activity) BLIs and some roads funding.
- By realigning funding, IRR focuses agency resources on integrated ecosystem restoration projects.
- Activities emphasized under IRR include those necessary to maintain, enhance, or restore watersheds at the landscape level, and statutory activities needed for sound resource management.
- In FY 2012, Regions 1, 3, and 4 were selected to be part of the Agency’s pilot program to demonstrate the benefits derived by merging multiple BLIs into a single BLI – NFRR.

Accomplishments:

- Accomplishments of IRR projects will be reflected in outcome based performance measures identified in the table below.

FY IRR 2013 Pilot Regions’ Accomplishments.¹

| <u>Performance Measure</u> | <u>FY 2013 Target</u> | <u>FY 2013 Accomplishment</u> | <u>Percent Accomplished</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>Number of watershed moved to an improved condition class</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>200%</u> |
| <u>Miles of road decommissioned</u> | <u>732</u> | <u>620</u> | <u>85%</u> |
| <u>Volume of timber sold</u> | | | |
| <u>CCF</u> | <u>1,006,500</u> | <u>964,607</u> | <u>96%</u> |
| <u>Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced</u> | <u>732</u> | <u>988</u> | <u>135%</u> |
| <u>Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience</u> | <u>658,944</u> | <u>879,296</u> | <u>133%</u> |

¹ Accomplishments are averaged across each of the three regions in the IRR pilot.

Background:

- IRR was originally proposed as a simplified budget line item in the President's FY 2011 budget request to align with the Secretary of Agriculture's vision for the integrated watershed protection and restoration necessary to manage the National Forest System.
- The proposal continued in the President's FY 2012 budget request with modification that included a more comprehensive suite of programs to better achieve integrated outcomes. The proposal more clearly recognized the importance of restoration activities to provide jobs and support communities.

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