

1. Proposed Treatment

The Selway-Middle Fork landscape in north-central Idaho is the focus of this Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program project. This proposal is the product of collaboration between the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) and the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests. It was also shaped by many other landowners, interest groups, institutions and agencies.

The Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater project area is located within the 6-million-acre Clearwater Basin. The Basin is characterized by a high percentage of federal land—3.9 million acres (65%), with more than 3.8 million acres managed by the Forest Service. Another 770,000 acres are included in the Nez Perce Tribe's reservation.

Nestled within the Basin are 1.4 million acres within the Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater River drainages that comprise the project area. National Forest System (NFS) lands across the Nez Perce, Clearwater and Bitterroot National Forests make up the bulk (94%) of the acres in the restoration area. The Idaho Department of Lands owns 1% of the acres; the Nez Perce Tribe owns less than 1%; and 4% of the acres are privately owned. Land ownership allocation within the proposal area is primarily blocked federal ownership with some private in-holdings and urban interface areas along the lower portions of Clear Creek, the Middle Fork Clearwater and Selway River watersheds.

The CBC and our partners chose the unique Selway-Middle Fork ecosystem because this area is nationally renowned for its clear pristine water, anadromous and resident fisheries, big game species, vast wild landscapes and scenic vistas. Specifically, the Selway River system is a world class westslope cutthroat trout fishery and one of the last remaining bastions of wild "B" run steelhead in the Clearwater Basin. Included within the proposal area is the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness, one of the country's oldest and largest designated Wilderness areas and home to the country's oldest fire-use program. In yet another "first," the area is the site of the first river system designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It includes one of the largest Research Natural Areas in the country. The vegetation ranges from pockets of coastal disjunct species to dry Ponderosa pine forests. This area is also the traditional homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe and was traversed by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery.

The ecological restoration needs in this special area are great. While there are large expanses of wild land across this landscape, there are also intensely managed lands. Past management, fire suppression, invasion of exotic species and increasing human settlement in the WUI have altered the landscape and threaten the unique ecological values of this area.

The socio-economic needs in this area are also evident. Local economies have been hit hard by the national economic downturn, particularly because of their dependence upon the wood products industry. The unemployment rate in 2010 in Nez Perce, Latah, Idaho, Clearwater and Lewis counties was 8.4 percent in April compared with 8.8 percent in January. Idaho County's unemployment rate declined from 11.8 percent in March to 11.1 percent in April. And neighboring Clearwater County's unemployment rate was also in the double digits at 16.7 percent in April, down from 19.8 percent in March, when it was the highest in Idaho.

Recreation is an emerging business sector, driven in part by the fisheries values within the project area. Additionally, people, homes and property within the WUI face increasing threats from wildfire. The management strategy presented in this proposal is a forward-looking approach designed to balance and protect both the ecological and socio-economic values of the area.

The Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers Subbasin Assessment (SMFCRSA) outlines the integrated restoration priorities necessary to address these challenges. The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests and the Clearwater Basin Collaborative are committed to achieving the goals and objectives described in this strategy as well as increasing the restoration capacity into the future. These goals are consistent with Forest Plan direction and support national, regional, statewide and local management priorities.

The goals are as follows:

1. Ensure adequate protection of rural communities, private land and Wild and Scenic River values from uncharacteristic wildland fire.
2. Re-establish and perpetuate a landscape that has a diversity of vegetation communities that are resilient in the presence of wildfire, invasive species, insects, disease and climate change.
3. Restore/maintain forest structure, function and ecologic processes that promote aquatic health and diverse aquatic native species habitat including bull trout, steelhead and westslope cutthroat trout.
4. Restore/maintain forest structure, function and ecologic processes that promote habitat for a large variety of native terrestrial species including mule deer, elk and other big game.
5. Eliminate or contain noxious weeds to the greatest extent possible.
6. Promote landscape conditions that allow fire to function as the primary ecosystem restoration agent within the Middle and Upper Selway River watersheds.

The objectives are as follows:

1. Emulate natural disturbance patterns on the landscape through careful design and application of prescribed fire and mechanical treatments.
2. Reduce fuels in order to minimize the risk of high severity fire, especially in the wildland urban interface areas.
3. Reduce the potential scale and severity of wildfire to reduce firefighting costs.
4. Promote variable aged stands across the landscape to improve forest resilience to insects, disease and wildfire.
5. Maintain or promote forest structure that will enhance or protect old growth conditions.
6. Allow natural fire on the landscape where risks to life, property and other values can be reduced.
7. Improve wildlife habitat across summer, winter and transitional ranges; create openings to stimulate forage growth for ungulates; and retain old forest structure at the appropriate scale to provide cover and security habitat.
8. Reduce chronic sediment delivery to streams by improving road drainage and surface features and decommissioning problem or unnecessary roads.
9. Replace culverts to restore aquatic habitat connectivity and species passage.
10. Treat noxious weeds to allow native vegetation to return; eliminate/contain new invasive species; identify/contain satellite populations of established invasives; protect weed-free areas; treat/restore weed vectors; and establish seed sources to restore native species.
11. Create jobs and provide opportunities to promote emerging technology (e.g. biomass facilities, low impact harvest systems) and other economic opportunities to strengthen local economies.

These goals and objectives are achievable. The Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests, in partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe and other partners, have a successful track record of accomplishing restoration activities within the Subbasin. In the last ten years alone, the following significant achievements have been accomplished:

- 2,600 acres of mechanical treatment (commercial harvest) and prescribed burning in the Middle Fork Timber Sale to promote forest health, reduce fuels and improve wildlife habitat.
- Managed over 90,000 acres of natural fire for resource benefit inside and outside of Wilderness.

- 300 acres of fuel reduction and prescribed fire along the Forest boundary adjacent to Syringa, ID.
- Applied prescribed fire to approximately 10,000 acres to restore natural fire regimes and reduce spread potential of naturally occurring fire.
- Replaced Cache Creek culvert to restore fish passage to 3 miles of habitat and reduced the risk of failure, thereby protecting 10 miles of habitat in the Selway River.
- Decommissioned 75 miles of road.
- The Nez Perce Tribe installed an acclimatization hatchery on the Selway River to restore fall Chinook salmon.

If this project is selected, implementation can begin immediately. In fact, several restoration projects within the Subbasin are ready for implementation or are currently being implemented. These include:

- Interface Fuels 2: Approximately 1,100 acres of mechanical fuel reduction treatments (commercial harvest, pre-commercial thinning); 300 acres of prescribed fire; and 15 miles of road decommissioning. 100% of this project is within WUI areas surrounding Lowell and Syringa, ID.
- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Invasive Plants Management Project: Invasive plant treatments, biocontrol release and native plant restoration inside the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
- O'Hara and Fenn Face Prescribed Fires: Approximately 8,000 acres of landscape burning in the O'Hara Drainage and Lower Selway canyon. Approximately 90% of the burn areas are within WUI areas of Lowell, ID.
- Selway River Crossing Improvements: Culvert replacement on four tributaries of the Selway River to allow upstream aquatic species passage.

In addition to these projects, the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests have developed an ambitious ten-year program of work to accomplish the goals and objectives outlined in this proposal. The majority of the projects are out-year projects yet to be developed, while others were developed in response to the opportunity to increase capacity and on-the-ground outputs if this proposal is funded. These projects were strategically chosen because they will allow us to accomplish or lay the foundation for all the priority restoration work that has been identified in the Selway Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers Subbasin Assessment (SMCRSA). Preliminary analyses for these projects include:

- Lodge Point Commercial Thinning: Commercial thinning of approximately 1,000 acres of overstocked plantations and biomass removal within the WUI areas of Kooskia, Syringa and Lowell, ID.
- Clear Creek Integrated Restoration: Approximately 6,000 acres of mechanical treatment (commercial harvest, biomass utilization, commercial thinning), road decommissioning, soil restoration and aquatic restoration. 100% of the project area is within the WUI areas of Kooskia and Clearwater, ID.
- O'Hara – Goddard Integrated Restoration: Approximately 6,000 acres of mechanical treatment and biomass removal, road improvements, whitebark pine restoration, soil restoration and aquatic restoration within the O'Hara, Hamby, Goddard and Swiftwater drainages. 100% of the project area is within the WUI areas of Lowell, ID. Treatments would also address forest health needs identified in recent insect and disease assessments.
- Prescribed fire will be analyzed as a component of all proposed mechanical treatments. Analysis for prescribed fire in other areas will be conducted as needed to balance ecological need where mechanical methods are not feasible.

With the exception of prescribed fire and management of naturally occurring fire, project implementation and monitoring will be heavily reliant on contract labor and other methods that result in increased economic development and job creation. Contract administration and inspection will likely require additional agency positions in proportion to the amount of work being contracted. Stewardship

contracting will be emphasized as the primary means of accomplishing restoration activities and will be offered at a scale that will encourage local competition.

Private partnerships and treatments on other land ownerships within the project area are a critical component of this proposal. Approximately 20-30 private landowners between Syringa and Lowell, ID and within the Clear Creek drainage have conducted fuel reduction treatments on their land inside the WUI in coordination with the Idaho Department of Lands. This important cooperative effort inside the project area connects to the fuel management treatment on national forest system lands within the area.

Monitoring to measure the success of restoration activities will occur on a subset of the treatments across the proposed landscape. Multi-party monitoring efforts will be pursued to improve understanding and reduce conflicts between groups. The CBC will work closely with the Forest Service to develop a multi-party monitoring protocol along with key partners including the Rocky Mountain Research Station, University of Idaho and others. Opportunities exist to incorporate components of various land management projects into a National Fire Plan study currently being developed by the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Key monitoring questions could evaluate the effectiveness of various restoration prescriptions in mixed severity fire regimes, watershed restoration treatments and the biological and ecological responses associated with fish barrier removal. Opportunities also exist to establish long-term climate change monitoring in the 7,000 acre O'Hara Research Natural Area and to build upon existing research sites at the Horse Creek research site.

Ultimately, the desired outcome of this project is a measureable shift toward terrestrial and aquatic restoration that achieves the desired future conditions on a landscape scale while generating products to benefit local economies. Another goal is a positive shift in stakeholder perceptions of public land management within the Clearwater Basin. Development of this proposal has already led to significant improvement in the level of trust between public and private interests represented on the CBC. The new relationships that have been developed will help steer future projects and improve how federal land managers do business. Success of the restoration efforts outlined in this proposal will be measured through the following:

- A decrease in firefighting costs will be measured against the total dollars spent managing undesirable wildfire.
- Culvert replacement success will be measured by whether or not the substrate is retained throughout the length of the pipe or by miles of habitat with restored access.
- Miles of road decommissioned on landslide-prone ground (road density reduction) will help measure decreased sedimentation of streams and other erosive issues.
- Invasive species reduction will be measured through reduced use of herbicides on individual sites, acres of weed-free areas established and maintained and acres of re-established herbaceous native vegetation.
- A reduction in fuel loading will be measured by the number of acres of ladder fuel treated (% of analysis area treated including spatial relationship on the landscape).
- Economic impact to the Clearwater Basin will be measured through the number of jobs created, infrastructure created, new business etc.
- Increase in the efficiency of the NEPA process and reduction in the number of appeals and litigation on Forest Service projects will also help measure success.

2. Ecological and Social Context

The need for restoration in the Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater is clear. Landscapes within the proposal boundary contain priority areas for both terrestrial and aquatic restoration. The Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests' analysis and recommendations are well articulated in the Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers Subbasin Assessment (SMFCRSA). Specifically, Chapter 3, page 12 of this document states, "In spite of the largely wilderness and roadless character of the Subbasins, landscapes at all elevations show moderate to high departure from pre-settlement conditions because of effective fire exclusion since about 1935. Conservation themes are generally applicable only to a few areas or a few elements, where conservation means saving what remains, in terms of either condition or process. Restoration, even in wilderness areas, will be required to recover the array of communities, habitats and species that the assessment area supported before Euro-American settlement."

Below is a brief account of current conditions across the proposal area:

- Fire suppression, timber harvest, road construction, mining, grazing and invasion of non-native species have impacted terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem function.
- Fire suppression has increased fuel levels in the low elevation WUI areas increasing risks to public safety and property.
- Declines in certain forest and grassland community types and structures pose a threat to ecosystem stability and resiliency, as well as to habitat for big game and snag-dependent species.
- Road construction, timber harvest, grazing, mining and private development in some watersheds have disrupted aquatic processes. These impacts have affected some of the most productive, low-gradient habitats.
- Many streams managed by the Forest Service are "water quality limited" as defined in the U.S. Clean Water Act. The primary problems in these streams are sedimentation, turbidity, flow alteration and elevated temperatures.
- Management activities in some Subbasins have reduced connectivity and aquatic population strength.
- Unemployment in Idaho and Clearwater counties has increased as timber harvest activities have declined. Compensatory increases in recreation and restoration-related jobs have not occurred.

Management focus and treatment priorities inside and adjacent to the WUI are different than in the back country. The primary goal in and close to WUI areas is to manage forests and fire on human terms. This strategy focuses on reducing fire risk to people, homes and communities making them easier to defend should a wildfire occur. Further afield, the goal is to create an environment that will accommodate functional disturbance regimes such as fire and endemic levels of insects and disease. This proposal recognizes the role that fire and native insects play in promoting diversity, patch openings and coarse woody debris on some areas of the landscape.

Lower elevation forests within the proposal area have experienced unnaturally high stand densities, fuel accumulation, altered species composition and age class distributions. These changes are due in large part to fire suppression, timber harvest, and introduction of non-native species. There has been a substantial increase in Douglas-fir and grand fir (shade-tolerant, pathogen-susceptible species) at lower elevations while ponderosa pine and western larch (fire-tolerant species, more resistant to insects and disease) have decreased. While most apparent in low elevation dry forests, this change has occurred at all elevations. The decline in early succession communities has resulted in reduced big game winter range, loss of wildlife habitat in mature and old forest types and a loss of biodiversity. Low elevation forests are often close to private property so managing increased fuel loading and fire risk in these areas becomes more challenging.

Higher elevation forests have maintained much of their historic structure and function, but there are challenges in these stands as well. Western white pine and whitebark pine have been severely impacted by blister rust at mid and upper elevations.

Restoration activities will be implemented on lands where they are most needed (lower elevation forests) to help reduce fuel loading and improve resistance to insects and disease. Early seral species and conditions will be favored because they are typically more resistant to insect and disease. Creating a mosaic of forested conditions across the landscape will break the continuity of pathogen vectors in both space and time and keep them at endemic levels.

There are many places in the project area where landscape level fuel treatments that promote forest resiliency and diversity will help reduce the impacts of large scale, high severity wildfire on watersheds. Reintroducing fire to the landscape where appropriate will help improve watershed function by reducing the risk of soil erosion delivery to streams resulting from high severity fire and retaining shade trees to maintain or improve stream temperature.

Road densities and culverts have caused a loss of terrestrial and aquatic species habitat connectivity in lower elevations as well. There are 800 miles of road within the project area, many near ridge tops. There are 65 miles of road in landslide-prone areas and 50 miles of road inside streamside corridors. Approximately 300 stream crossings are associated with these roads; twenty-six cross fish-bearing streams and 15 are known or expected barriers to fish movement. A minimum of 95 road miles are not needed for land management activities, and more will likely be identified.

Roads unnecessary for management will be decommissioned and the remaining roads will be assessed for condition and potential for upgrades. Stream crossing culverts will likely need to be replaced with larger culverts in order to better handle flood flows and organic debris. Removing some roads will reduce compacted soils and reestablish vegetation and natural flow patterns. Improving or reshaping road surfaces or adding more drainage structures will reduce potential sediment input to streams by directing water onto the forest floor rather than into streams. Replacing undersized culverts with larger ones will reduce the potential for failures. Culvert replacements will increase access to 14 miles of stream for aquatic species. All known barriers to fish movement will be removed, with the exception of two that cross under Idaho State Highway 12. These are managed by the Idaho Transportation Department and restrict access to one mile of low quality fish habitat.

The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) Department of Fisheries Resources Management is actively restoring anadromous fish populations in the Clear Creek and Selway River watersheds through hatchery supplementation and habitat restoration. As the manager of the Kooskia National Fish Hatchery and Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery, the Tribe has recently initiated releases of coho salmon into Clear Creek, spring Chinook into Meadow Creek (Selway) and fall Chinook salmon into the lower Selway River. The effectiveness of these hatchery programs to achieve adult returns sufficient to support sustainable natural production and harvest opportunities are analyzed via intensive monitoring and evaluation programs. Clear Creek serves as a treatment stream in a statewide collaborative study of the effectiveness of spring/summer Chinook salmon supplementation. In addition, the Tribe conducts aerial and ground surveys for spawning salmon abundance throughout the Selway River basin and estimates natural juvenile production from Meadow Creek.

There are 1,200 miles of trails in the area, many of which will be maintained through partnership agreements in order to provide continued recreational use. Trails that are contributing sediment to streams will be assessed and improved where needed to minimize any potential watershed impacts.

Noxious weeds are prevalent in both Wilderness and non-wilderness areas making it difficult for native species to compete or retain their place on the landscape. Weed-free areas will be maintained by incorporating Early Detection Rapid Response management. Weed prevention and education will be emphasized to protect weed-free areas. Expanded inventory will help contain new invasives and satellite populations of existing weeds. Where existing populations of weeds occur in proposed management areas, pre and post weed treatment will minimize the risk of further spread. Travel corridors, trails, decommissioned roads or roads used for management purposes will also be treated to prevent further spread.

From a socio-economic perspective, management activities will benefit local economies. A recently-completed analysis by Headwaters Economics (see link in Landscape Strategy, Section 12) characterized the area's major challenges as, 1) economic decline and vulnerability; 2) public lands potential not realized; and 3) rural nature and isolation of the counties. To address these challenges, the report recommends efforts to, 1) reposition the wood products industry, minimizing supply fluctuations and developing new markets such as biomass; 2) capitalize on proposed public lands designations; and 3) address remoteness.

This proposal is only one part of a multi-faceted approach being developed by the Clearwater Basin Collaborative to address the Basin's economic decline. The restoration activities envisioned in this proposal will help make WUI areas more fire resistant and reduce firefighting costs. The proposed management actions will also improve ecological conditions for big-game and fish species prized by hunters, fisherman and outdoor recreationists – groups that can bring economic investment to the area. The bottom line goal is to provide much-needed employment opportunities and economic development for the people of rural Idaho while addressing critical land restoration needs.

3. Collaboration

After a decade of conflict between interest groups in the Clearwater Basin, opposing parties involved in a lawsuit met to talk about a better way of resolving conflict – a new way of doing business. Those discussions broadened to include more interests, eventually resulting in the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) being formally convened on May 30, 2008, by Senator Mike Crapo. His letter to participants states his desire for the group, “...to work together toward a better future for the residents and resources of north central Idaho.” Today, all of north Idaho’s congressional delegation supports the CBC’s efforts largely because it has effectively changed the tone of the dialogue regarding natural resource management in the Basin. The Collaborative is comprised of 24 individuals representing the following organizational interests:

<p>BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framing Our Community Local Business <p>CITIZENS AT LARGE</p> <p>CONSERVATION INTERESTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idaho Conservation League Idaho Rivers United Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation The Great Burn Study Group The Nature Conservancy The Wilderness Society Trout Unlimited 	<p>GOVERNMENT</p> <p>COUNTY GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearwater County Commissioners Idaho County Commissioners <p>STATE GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idaho Department of Commerce Idaho Department of Fish and Game <p>TRIBAL GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nez Perce Tribe 	<p>MOTORIZED RECREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewiston Off-Highway Vehicle Club Public Lands Access Year-round <p>SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idaho Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Idaho Outfitters and Guides <p>WOODS PRODUCTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearwater Paper Idaho Forest Group Independent Loggers Intermountain Forest Assn
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The CBC invested its initial start-up time building a sound organizational foundation. The CBC has a clearly defined mission and vision to focus the group’s work. The Collaborative’s purpose is “...to provide recommendations for actions concerning the use and management of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests within the Clearwater Basin in Idaho.” The group’s vision is, “...to enhance and protect the ecological and economic health of our forests, rivers and communities within the Clearwater Basin by working collaboratively across a diversity of interests.”

The CBC’s carefully developed and agreed upon operating protocols ensure diverse representation in the Collaborative. They define decision-making processes that ensure all members are heard and have an opportunity to participate in decision making. Members have agreed to act as a collaborative problem-solving body, seeking to produce consensus recommendations that address, insofar as is possible, the practical needs and interests of all CBC participants. Over time, as members have learned about one another’s issues the group has evolved from many individuals focused on their own interests to one body focused on meeting the collective interests of everyone at the table.

With this solid foundation, the members have turned their attention to the business at hand: getting work done that benefits the land and the people. Recognizing the challenges associated with completing detailed staff work in a large committee, the CBC is organized into small subcommittees that tackle four distinct but related topics: rural economies, landscape restoration, recreation and land allocation. Each subcommittee produces staff work for the larger working group.

While all of this upfront work has taken time and energy, it has had a big payoff: relationships, trust and results! One noteworthy outcome is a more positive and constructive tone in the public dialogue regarding natural resource management on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The Collaborative has reviewed several Forest Service projects, offering helpful suggestions and support, and then working behind the scenes to stave off appeals. This allowed important restoration activities to proceed without delay. Additionally, the Collaborative has offered letters of support for important Basin issues, including a feasibility study for a bioenergy facility and an initiative to keep an important recreation site--Dworshak State Park--open. Both efforts were successful. The group has agreed, in concept, to pursue several regional training programs and to develop a motorized north-south route for all-terrain vehicles.

This Collaborative Landscape Restoration Program proposal is the Collaborative’s most ambitious project to date. It represents the Collaborative’s commitment to engage at the beginning of project planning and to incorporate national, Regional and Forest restoration goals to develop a landscape strategy that restores the land, reduces wildfire risk and firefighting costs and contributes to the economic vitality of rural Idaho.

Personnel from the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, the agency’s Northern Region and the membership of the CBC have worked hand-in-hand to prepare this proposal with the ultimate goal of involving more landowners, individuals, organizations and agencies as projects are developed. The CBC believes that initial small successes will lead to larger future successes, leveraging more partners, contributions and funding. The ultimate outcome is a resilient landscape, reduced management costs and a boost for a struggling economy.

As big and diverse as the CBC is, the group sought and received additional support and expertise in discussions which led the preparation of this proposal. The Forest Service and the Collaborative appreciate the involvement of the following organizations:

Bureau of Land Management	Local Economic Development Associations	Sierra Club
Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Association	North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee	University of Idaho
Clearwater Soil and Water	PacWest Communications	ELECTED OFFICIALS
Headwaters Economics	Private Landowners	Office of Governor Butch Otter
Idaho Office of Species Conservation		Office of Senator Mike Crapo
		Office of Senator Jim Risch
		Office of Congressman Walt Minnick

The CBC has a keen appreciation of the power of collaboration in all aspects of a project—planning, implementation and monitoring. Should this project be selected for funding, the Forest Service, CBC and others will collaborate to develop a detailed multi-party monitoring plan that provides engagement opportunities for all stakeholders. Monitoring activities will be open to everyone, and efforts will be made to ensure involvement by a diverse group of potentially affected or interested parties.

In the interest of openness and inclusiveness, information regarding the CBC’s operations is posted on the Collaborative’s website clearwaterbasincollaborative.org. Meetings are open to the public and all attendees are encouraged to offer comments.

4. Wildfire

Fire regimes within the Subbasin were historically dominated by infrequent (75-150 year intervals) and very infrequent (150-300 year intervals) mixed and lethal regimes, with large patches of lethal fire under severe fire weather conditions. Frequent (25-75 year intervals) to very frequent (5-25 year intervals) lower severity fires were typical in canyons and lower elevation dry forest types.

Landscapes within the western (non-Wilderness) portions of the Subbasin can be characterized as large unroaded or Roadless areas, which are unsuitable for timber harvest; managed roaded timber lands; and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. The pattern of fuels found today across all of these landscapes is in sharp contrast to those found in the 1930s due to effective fire exclusion. Some areas have missed up to five fire return intervals. Areas of mature forest and higher fuel loads have increased and are more continuously distributed across the landscape than they were historically. Variability and resilient vegetation communities have declined at the landscape scale as well. Where timber harvest has occurred, the distribution and size of harvest units does not emulate natural fire disturbance.

In many areas, the risk of large, uncharacteristically severe fire is higher than would have been typical under pre-settlement conditions. Although large stand replacing fire is an important ecological process within some vegetation communities, the scale, severity and intensity of a fire burning in current conditions could cause uncharacteristic impacts to vegetation and aquatic resources. There could also be unacceptable and irretrievable losses to homes, property and other values at risk. This is of particular concern where altered fuel loading coincides with WUI areas. Many of these areas are in steep canyons with slopes that favor high rates of fire spread. Management of prescribed fire and naturally occurring fire or “resource benefit fire” (formerly: fire-use) must be implemented under tighter constraints in many areas of the western portion of the Subbasin due to the lack of fire spread barriers.

The priority areas for fuel treatment and natural fire regime restoration are the NFS lands surrounding the communities of Clearwater, Lowell and Kooskia, ID. These areas have extensive developments on private land and numerous dispersed residences adjacent to the forest boundary. These are listed as “Communities at Risk” on the Federal Register and have been further prioritized as areas at risk by the Idaho County Wildfire Protection Plan. (See Link in Landscape Strategy, Idaho County CWPP - pgs 99-102 and 114-119)

Planned and proposed treatments will reduce fire risk to communities and private developments in the WUI. Mechanical fuel reduction and application of prescribed fire will be used in strategic locations to reduce or modify fuel loading, continuity and arrangements. This will reduce the probability that a fire would threaten structures and will likely reduce fire size and negative ecological effects. The treatment designs incorporate best available science, fire modeling and on-the-ground validation by fire and resource managers to ensure they are appropriate for the landscape and fuel type.

Fuel treatments will have a demonstrable effect in reducing fire behavior. This is important for the priority WUI areas where protection of values at risk dictates an aggressive fire suppression strategy. Reduced fire behavior will lead to significant cost savings due to the increased efficiency of initial-attack firefighting resources and the ability to keep small fires from growing. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests typically experience lightning “busts” which can start dozens of fires and rapidly deplete initial attack resources. In typical years, resources are generally effective in containing fires, however in severe fire years the probability of large fire growth is compounded by increased fuel loading and lack of firefighting resources. A developing, high intensity fire in WUI areas would likely be heavily reliant on costly and potentially resource damaging control measures. Fire management resources would be prioritized to protect values at risk with secondary consideration given to protecting resource values. The

strategically placed fuel treatments outlined in this proposal will reduce fire behavior and spread potential. Treatments will also minimize the negative ecological and/or social effects of uncharacteristic fire and provide fire managers with tactical options as control points in suppression operations. Preliminary modeling of representative stand conditions and fire behavior in WFDSS (Wildland Fire Decision Support System) demonstrates a significant decrease in the stratified cost index per acre through a reduction in fire behavior.

Fuel reduction adjacent to WUI areas will also complement ongoing efforts to reestablish and maintain natural fire regimes across other areas of the landscape. Currently, there are over 8,500 acres of NEPA approved landscape level prescribed fire planned throughout the proposal area. These projects are designed and located to restore fire as a disturbance process and promote forest health by restoring desired stand structures and variability. Strategic application of prescribed fire and fuel treatments will transition fuel conditions so that naturally ignited fires can be left to burn with less risk of negative ecological or social effects. The Forest Plan and current fire policy allow naturally occurring fire to be managed for resource benefits on an additional 43,000 acres in the western portion of the Subbasin, which prior to the current fire policy, were historically fire suppression areas.

Generally, fire regimes in the eastern portion of the Subbasin (Wilderness) are being restored to historic levels due to the successful implementation of the Forest Service's oldest fire-use program. Approximately 1.2 million acres (88%) of the proposal area is approved for management of fire for resource benefits. Even in the most severe fire years, fire behavior in this area has been self-limiting and fire effects are well within the capacity of the land to respond. This is due in large part to the variability or mosaic forest structure on the landscape. These fires are not simply left to burn but rather are managed to allow for restoration of natural fire regimes. Each ignition is carefully evaluated for potential threat to values at risk and mitigation measures are implemented if necessary to protect infrastructure and/or cultural and historic sites while still providing for public use. Fire suppression is only considered where the potential risk or long term effects of a particular fire override the ecological benefits.

This is a mature and progressive fire-use program. Since its start in 1972, over 10,000 acres have burned annually within the proposal area. Management costs have been a fraction (typically several dollars per acre) of what suppression costs would be. Some of this cost savings is a function of scale; the sheer size of the Wilderness and relatively few values at risk do not necessitate costly management practices. However, when management is necessary to protect structures or other values, it is typically accomplished in an efficient and cost effective manner due to the lessons, knowledge and wisdom passed down over the life of this program. These lessons also provide a reference and framework for restoration of natural fire regimes in the western portions of the Subbasin.

5. Utilization

Fuel reduction treatments will be prioritized within the WUI areas where adjacency issues for wildfire are paramount. Additionally, commercial thinning in previously harvested areas and older fire-originated stands is planned to promote resiliency, fuels reduction and stand vigor. Regeneration harvest is also planned at an appropriate scale to mimic the effects of stand-replacing fire. The desired result is structural diversity that is more consistent with the natural range of variability across the landscape. This will also result in enhanced wildfire control and reduced fire suppression costs.

Wood products from vegetation treatment activities will provide revenue to pay for fuel reduction, road improvement and decommissioning where necessary as well as implementation of restoration and monitoring activities. The Clearwater Basin is fortunate to be home to sawmill infrastructure that is designed to use small to medium diameter logs, including the state-of-the-art small diameter sawmill operated by Idaho Forest Group in Grangeville, ID, Empire Lumber in Weippe, ID and the Clearwater Paper mill in Lewiston, ID. Additionally, two sawmills are sitting idle at this time and could potentially start running in the future (Three Rivers Timber in Kamiah, ID and Guy Bennett Lumber in Clarkston, WA). Sawtimber generated as a result of management activities in this proposal will provide the wood necessary to this critical Idaho industry and will provide a significant financial contribution toward funding both land management treatments and monitoring.

Additionally, biomass material not suitable for sawmill use could be made available to existing and future biomass energy facilities. Current biomass utilization facilities include the cogeneration plant at Clearwater Paper in Lewiston, ID. A new opportunity to provide combined heat and power at the prison in Orofino, ID is being assessed and a new cogeneration facility is also under consideration at the Idaho Forest Group sawmill site in Grangeville, ID. Certainly, supply made available from this project could result in new investment in biomass energy infrastructure or could provide material to existing facilities. The cost to remove biomass material is a critical consideration and is expected to range from no cost to the Forest Service to somewhere between \$10-17 per green ton. Material not removed will be treated using conventional means such as slash pile burning.

Prior to NEPA analysis, the expected volume of sawtimber and biomass material is difficult to accurately estimate for out-year projects, however 120-150 mmbf (250,000 to 300,000 ccf) of sawtimber and associated biomass is a reasonable estimate given the ecological and fuel reduction needs and the expected constraints. Within the priority areas, existing conditions were determined using the Region 1 VMAP vegetation mapping system. The mechanical treatment acreages and associated timber volumes were then estimated by comparing the proposed project areas with similar past projects. Consideration was given to lands that are accessible from existing road systems given the current stand age and structure; acres where fuel loading and forest health concerns exist; and lands that would be unsuitable for mechanical treatment due to landslide prone soils, riparian areas, etc. The areas proposed for treatment reflect realistic expectations for restoration work implementation.

Thinning and fuel reduction treatments to remove ladder fuels would generate the majority of small diameter sawtimber (expected to be grand fir, Douglas fir and cedar) while favoring residual stands of ponderosa pine, western larch and Douglas fir. Limbs, tops and other nonsaw components of this material would be available roadside for biomass use.

Regeneration harvest would be used as a tool in some areas to emulate natural disturbance. Where regeneration harvest would be used, it would be expected to produce higher sawtimber volumes per acre. Large diameter seral trees would be retained on the landscape as appropriate to protect old growth and old growth character. Many of the older stands targeted for regeneration harvest contain a high composition

of shade tolerant grand fir, or very heavy fuel loadings in drier types. These stands may be on a path to “climax and collapse” or “stand replacing fire of high severity” rather than achieving old growth characteristics of stands dominated by old, long lived seral species and more frequent lower intensity fire.

Revenue generated from sawtimber is expected to help offset the cost of treatment. Values available after harvest are directly dependent on the harvest systems that are used. Ground based mechanical systems should generate gross stumpage values of \$20-25 per ton (\$60-75 per ccf) before road maintenance; BD and KV (trust fund) collections might be 50% of the gross value. It should be recognized that these collections are spent on the ground so gross stumpage might be a better estimate of value. Skyline systems are more costly and are expected to generate \$8-14 per ton gross stumpage. Helicopter systems are the most costly and generate negative gross stumpage values estimated to be -\$30 per ton of sawtimber.

The harvest systems used in this proposal are expected to be 60% skyline, 30% ground based and 10% helicopter which would generate an average gross stumpage of \$10 per green ton of sawtimber or \$6-7.5 million in gross stumpage value.

Biomass material is expected to range from cost neutral to a requirement of up to \$17 per green ton cost supplementation for removal. The Clearwater Basin Collaborative and the Forest Service will work together to determine the proper strategy and fund disbursement for biomass removal.

6. Investments

Significant federal investments have been made within the proposal area that will enhance or maintain the restoration efforts:

- The Nez Perce Tribe and the Forest Service have worked together in the Subbasin since 1996. The Tribe has proposed watershed restoration in the Clear Creek and Selway River drainages under the Bonneville Power Administration's Federal Columbia River Power System Mitigation program. The Tribe contributes more funds for restoration on federal land in Region 1 than any other entity in the area and has spent over \$30 million to restore native fisheries and their habitats throughout the Nez Perce Treaty Territory. The Nez Perce Tribe also has approximately \$100,000 in secured annual funding to conduct aerial and ground spawning surveys for spring Chinook salmon, juvenile fish production estimates and water flow and temperature monitoring in Meadow Creek (Selway). The Nez Perce Tribal hatchery and monitoring program contributes almost \$1 million annually toward restoration of anadromous fisheries within the Selway Basin.
- Current road infrastructure will promote efficient transportation of wood products to area mills, several of which are a relatively short haul distance (<50 miles) from the priority treatment areas. These roads access approximately 20,000 acres of managed timber stands and plantations within the western portions of the Subbasin. Re-entry into these stands (commercial and pre-commercial thinning) is necessary to promote forest health and fuel reduction. If this project is funded, the restoration capacity would increase as many of the restoration activities in this proposal will not completely pay for themselves through appropriated dollars or through timber harvest income. The availability of supplemental funding in combination with potential partnerships will allow much of the work to be completed that would otherwise go unfunded.
- Clearwater County received \$140,000 in federal stimulus money to conduct the second phase of a feasibility study for a 15 mw biopower plant in Orofino. Continued management in the proposal area would provide a readily available source of biomass for this facility.
- Culvert replacement along the Selway River has been initiated in one of four locations to allow upstream passage of aquatic organisms.
- The Department of the Interior has awarded a \$1.25 million contract under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to finance two rehabilitation projects at the Kooskia National Fish Hatchery on Clear Creek. The ARRA funding will provide \$662,000 to correct sediment problems caused by a water intake and diversion structure designed prior to Clean Water Act and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System regulations. The ARRA contract will provide an additional \$590,000 to rehabilitate the egg incubation system and upgrade pumps. This will help supporting the long term success of fall Chinook restoration efforts in the Basin.

The anticipated non-federal investments that will enhance restoration efforts inside the proposal area are as follows:

- Wood processing facilities close to the proposal area are the Idaho Forest Group mill in Grangeville, ID - a \$60 million operation that processes small diameter trees; Clearwater Paper in Lewiston, ID – uses pulp logs and chips to make paper; and Empire Lumber in Weippe, ID
- Nez Perce Tribe fishery investments
- Idaho County Commissioners have agreed to dedicate \$15,000 to support the CFLRP project in 2010, 2011 and 2012
- WUI fuels reduction treatments will be done on private lands through the Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho County Soil and Water Conservation District cooperative agreements with private landowners
- \$10,000 provided through Idaho County Weed Management to manage invasive species in the Basin
- Upper Clearwater Cooperative Weed management Association work in the area
- Clearwater Basin Collaborative member in-kind support from April 2008 to April 2010 is \$253,857

- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Guides and Outfitters have hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in guiding equipment and infrastructure.

According to a 2003 economic study done by the Idaho Department of Fish and Wildlife, angling in Idaho County generated over \$40 million that year. The majority of the revenue came from visitors fishing the Clearwater River for salmon and steelhead. Although difficult to attach a firm dollar figure the investment by local retail sporting goods stores, tackle shops, local businesses and river guides is substantial. Most of the restoration activity outlined in this proposal will benefit anadromous fish and enhance recreational fishing in Idaho County.

The anticipated non-federal investments that will enhance restoration efforts outside the proposal area are as follows:

- Framing Our Community has several investment projects outside the project area (small business incubator that uses small diameter and standing dead wood to make wholesale and retail products that have a higher margin; existing investment for Phase 1 is \$363,297; and for Phase 2 is \$535,230, \$898,527 total; projected investment through 2010 is \$642,500 for incubator expansion; \$4 million for a combined heat system 2012).
- Workforce training center in Kamiah for in-woods machinery operations (partnership with LCSC to acquire money; initial investment \$600,000 (1/2 private; 1/2 federal); City of Kamiah donating 10 acres of property for facility.
- Workforce training center in Elk City to train people in bridge and dam construction in Wilderness; maintain and construct trails in Roadless and Wilderness areas; \$650,000 to build the facility; \$550,000 for the curriculum, staff and instruction (50% federal and 50% state and private).

Stewardship contracts are actively being used and call for restoration skills that use large and small (low impact) equipment. Minimal training could provide more employment for those with expanded skills. Capable instructors are available within the region and are available for employment. A Business Plan for an Equipment Operators School already exists, the necessary partnerships are in place to provide a certified program that has access to workforce training dollars, and a centrally located site had been identified.

There are several potential local employment/training opportunities that could be offered to existing or new proposed small businesses in proximity to the proposed area:

- North-South motorized route to help economic stability of rural economies
- Design accredited courses and instructor certification through Lewis-Clark State College
- Help students access Idaho Department of Labor workforce training program funds

There are opportunities to involve young people in implementing some of the restoration efforts outlined in this proposal. The Idaho Department of Labor and the Clearwater National Forest have partnered to provide opportunities for Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) volunteers to do restoration work on NFS lands in Idaho and Montana. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (AARA) funds have been allocated to provide funding for the Idaho YCC program.

Job creation resulting from this proposal is reflected in the table following this section. The job creation numbers were generated using the Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT). The impacts analysis showed that **approximately 392 jobs would be maintained or created** through implementation of this proposal.

7. Funding Estimate (see Output Summary, Appendix B)

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2010 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2010 Funding for Implementation	\$ 3,904,200
FY 2010 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 433,800
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,491,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 0
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 900,000
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 100,000
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 0
6. Other (specify)RAC/ARRA	\$ 847,000
FY 2010 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 3,338,000
FY 2010 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 1,000,000
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2010 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2011 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2011 Funding for Implementation	\$ 7,078,050
FY 2011 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 786,450
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 0
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 1,313,250
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 113,000
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 0
6. Other (specify) RAC	\$ 309,000
FY 2011 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 3,932,250
FY 2011 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 3,932,250
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2011 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2012 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2012 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2012 Funding for Implementation	\$ 8,023,048
FY 2012 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 891,450
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 22,279
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 2,190,759
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 127,690
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 58,500
6. Other (specify) RAC	\$ 318,270
FY 2012 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 4,914,497
FY 2012 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 4,000,000
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2012 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2012 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2013 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2013 Funding for Implementation	\$ 7,073,982
FY 2013 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 785,998
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 55,073
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 1,393,227
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 144,290
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 140,000
6. Other (specify)	\$ 0
FY 2013 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 3,929,990
FY 2013 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 3,929,990
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2013 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
FINAL Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater Project
 Funding Estimate Page 3

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2014 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2014 Funding for Implementation	\$ 7,475,114
FY 2014 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 830,568
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 0
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 1,294,335
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 163,047
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 651,300
6. Other (specify)	\$ 0
FY 2014 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 4,305,682
FY 2014 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 4,000,000
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2014 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2015 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2015 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2015 Funding for Implementation	\$ 7,529,138
FY 2015 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 836,571
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 0
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 1,333,165
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 184,244
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 651,300
6. Other (specify)	\$ 0
FY 2015 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 4,365,709
FY 2015 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 4,000,000
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2015 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2015 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2016 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2016 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2016 Funding for Implementation	\$ 8,183,390
FY 2016 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 909,266
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 0
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 1,373,160
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 208,195
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 1,314,300
6. Other (specify)	\$ 0
FY 2016 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 5,092,655
FY 2016 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 4,000,000
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2016 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2016 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2017 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2017 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2017 Funding for Implementation	\$ 8,244,824
FY 2017 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 916,092
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 0
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 1,414,355
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 235,261
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 1,314,300
6. Other (specify)	\$ 0
FY 2017 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 5,160,915
FY 2017 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 4,000,000
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2017 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2017 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2018 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2018 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2018 Funding for Implementation	\$ 8,310,537
FY 2018 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 923,393
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 0
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 1,456,786
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 265,844
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 1,314,300
6. Other (specify)	\$ 0
FY 2018 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 5,233,930
FY 2018 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 4,000,000
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2018 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2018 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 2019 to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 2019 Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 2019 Funding for Implementation	\$ 7,794,804
FY 2019 Funding for Monitoring	\$ 866,089
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	\$ 2,197,000
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	\$ 0
3. Partnership Funds	\$ 1,500,489
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	\$ 300,404
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	\$ 663,000
6. Other (specify)	\$ 0
FY 2019 Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	\$ 4,660,893
FY 2019 CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	\$ 4,000,000
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2019 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 2019 Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	N/A
USDI (other) Funds	N/A
Other Public Funding	N/A
Private Funding	N/A

8. Funding Plan

The Northern Region supports the purpose of the CFLRA in developing a new model of collaboration and a greater understanding of the public's desires for ecological restoration. By working closely with collaborative partners and providing a dedicated federal match, we can have a significant positive impact on landscape scale ecological restoration.

We have made every effort to review, validate and verify the funding estimates contained within this proposal. Some level of uncertainty will always exist in out-year projections for appropriated funds, permanent and trust funds, estimated forest product value and partnership funds. We are basing our funding plan and our support on the assumption, as provided for in the act, that work plans and business plans will be firmed up over time to balance actual agency and partner contributions with amounts received from the fund, and to scale work accordingly throughout the ten-year period. For example, should agency budgets, estimated product value, or partnership contributions not be fully realized in a given year, we assume the total request for CFLRP funds and the annual plan of work would be adjusted to balance these amounts. This is an important assumption in order to successfully carry out the proposals as well as to sustain programs throughout the Region.

The Northern Region has reviewed current budgets for the involved Forests for FY2010 as well as future projections from our Regional Three Year Budget projections. We have carefully reviewed the funding estimates for appropriated funds, permanent and trust funds and estimated forest product values in Section 7 of this proposal and find these values to be reasonable and aligned with the Forest/Regional capacity to support implementation and monitoring.

We have verified that planning is sufficiently completed to justify funding requests for FY 2010 and 2011 for management treatments during those same fiscal years and that funding is available to complete these treatments. The Northern Region, in conjunction with the partners in this collaborative, are committed to the assurance that multiparty monitoring will be funded to assess the ecological, social and economic effects of this proposal for at least 15 years after project implementation begins.

This proposal will require some additional support for planning. By direction, planning dollars cannot be used as part of the agency's contributions and are therefore not itemized in this proposal. The Region is committed to providing additional support to jumpstart planning within the proposal area and believes some significant efficiency in the planning process should be realized due to the collaborative nature of the work proposed.

9. USDI Funding

N/A

10. Other Funding

N/A

11. Maps

See Attached pdf Map Documents

12.Landscape Strategy

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. In an effort to accomplish this mission, the Forest Service at the national level has developed National Strategic Goals for Forest Service resource management. These goals are addressed in the January 6, 2006 national policy document, "Ecosystem Restoration: A Framework for Restoring and Maintaining the National Forests and Grasslands." The goals are to:

- Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire
- Reduce the impacts from invasive species
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities
- Help meet energy resource needs
- Improve watershed condition

The Northern Region Integrated Restoration and Protection Strategy incorporates these national goals and examines the landscapes in the Northern Region that have developed as a result of natural and cultural processes. Parts of the Region are experiencing dramatic population growth, especially in the rural WUI areas. Because of successful fire suppression, these areas may now be subject to large-scale landscape disturbances that may exceed historic natural processes. This scenario places both ecological and social values at risk. The Northern Region Strategy provides information to enable integrated management of forests and grasslands for the:

- Restoration and maintenance of high value watersheds in a properly functioning condition.
- Restoration and maintenance of wildlife habitats, including restoration of more resilient vegetation conditions where appropriate, to meet ecological and social goals.
- Protection of people, structures and community infrastructure (roads, bridges and power corridors) in and associated with the WUI areas.

This national and regional direction sets the stage for a local landscape strategy. The Nez Perce Forest completed a Subbasin Assessment on the Selway-Middlefork Clearwater River in 2001 that characterized the ecological and social conditions for the 1.4 million acre area in the proposal and provided a context for future management of these lands. It focused on the diversity, distribution and abundance of plant and animal species and communities, landscape processes, watershed conditions and processes, transportation systems and human uses and values. The document articulates the restoration goals and the treatment objectives that need to be considered on this landscape.

The Subbasin Assessment was not designed to address site-specific resource concerns or needs. Instead, it focuses on the landscape level and provides a strategic context for this proposal. Other documents that complement these strategies and strengthen this proposal include:

Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project (2001) - This document provides the foundation for adaptive management and lays out a vision for the Columbia River Basin with a focus on conserving rare ecosystems, restoring degraded ecosystems and providing benefits to people within the capabilities of the land.

Idaho Fish & Game Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy - This document provides a framework to enable conservation partners to jointly implement a long term management strategy for areas with the greatest conservation need. The strategy promotes proactive conservation to ensure cost effective solutions instead of reactive measures in the face of imminent losses.

Idaho Statewide Assessment and Strategy of Forest Resources (2010) - The purpose of this document is to ensure that federal and state resources are focused on landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes. It provides an analysis of conditions and trends for all forest lands in Idaho and identifies the highest priority rural and urban forest areas for projects and investments. It further identifies activities and approaches for protection, restoration and enhancement of forest resources in priority landscapes. This CFLRP proposal lies within one of these priority landscapes.

Idaho County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2005; amended 2007) – This document describes strategies for reducing wildfire risks that threaten people, structures, infrastructure and the unique ecosystems in Idaho County. This plan was developed using the best available science from all partners as well as integrated local and regional knowledge about wildfire risks and behavior.

Supplemental Information Links:

[Clearwater Basin Collaborative](#)

[Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project](#)

Northern Region Integrated Restoration and Protection Strategy

[Overview](#)

[Maps and GIS data](#)

[Idaho Statewide Forest Resource Strategy](#)

[Idaho Fish and Game Species Conservation Strategy](#)

[Selway and Middle Fork Subbasin Assessment](#)

[Idaho County Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#)

Headwaters Economics

[CBC index](#)

County Profiles of Idaho

[Clearwater County](#)

[Idaho County](#)

[Clearwater County Workforce Trends](#)

[Idaho County Workforce Trends](#)

Appendix A Job Creation Table

Job Type	Employment (# Part and Full-time Jobs)		
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Commercial Forest Products			
Sawmills	57.3	78.6	135.9
Mills Processing Roundwood/Pulp Wood	5.4	19.7	25.0
Facilities Processing Sawmill Residue	23.9	71.8	95.7
Total	86.6	170.1	256.7
Other Project Activities			
Facilities, Watershed, Roads and Trails	25.4	14.8	40.2
Ecosystem Restoration, Hazardous Fuels, and Forest Health	29.9	7.0	36.9
Thinning and Biomass	9.2	3.9	13.1
Contract Monitoring	4.5	3.7	8.2
FS Implementation and Monitoring	21.3	15.8	37
Total	90.3	45.3	135.6
Total All Impacts	176.9	215.3	392.2

Appendix B Summary of Project Outputs Over Ten Years

The following table represents a “snapshot” of the estimated outputs and activities outlined in this proposal. It is only intended to show the scope and scale of activities being planned and should not be considered a comprehensive list as many of the figures will be determined or refined during the 180-day work plan phase and subsequent NEPA analysis.

Terrestrial Restoration		
Vegetation Treatments - 52,700 total acres		
Commercial Thinning / Biomass Removal	14,600 acres	100% of these treatments are in WUI. Activities are expected to produce 120-150 mmbf of sawtimber and 340,000 dry tons of biomass.
Improvement / Salvage Harvest / Biomass Removal	1389 acres	
Regeneration Harvest / Biomass Removal	9000 acres	
Pre-commercial Thinning	8300 acres	
Prescribed Fire	16,000 acres	
Tree Planting	2000 acres	
Whitebark Pine Restoration	1400 acres	
Native Plant Restoration	To be determined. Includes sourcing and collection of seed material; outplanting.	
Invasive Plant Management - Wilderness	Full implementation of SBW invasive plant management strategy, including weed treatments on 4000 acres annually, release of bio-controls on 50,000 acres annually, installation of stock grooming stations and native species restoration.	
Invasive Plant Management – Front country	3000 acres of treatments. Expanded inventory, education and prevention programs.	
Other		
Soil Restoration	2900 acres	
Heritage Monitoring	45,000 acres	Necessary for implementation of any ground disturbing activity.
Aquatic Restoration		
Culvert Upgrades	20 crossings	
Fish Passage Culvert Replacement	3 crossings	
Road Decommissioning	100 miles	
Road Improvement and Maintenance	400 miles	
Road Reconditioning	100 miles	
Trails Improved for Water Quality	500 miles	

Fire Affected Trails Maintained to Standard	900 miles	
Instream Fisheries Improvements	TBD by Surveys	
Riparian Area Improvements	TBD by Surveys	Fencing, planting shade trees.
Native species restoration	Removal of non-native brook trout to protect native Westslope Cutthroat trout.	
Recreation / Fishing Opportunity Enhancement	2 sites	