

**CFLR Project (Name/Number): Shortleaf Bluestem Community/CFLR018****National Forest(s): Ouachita National Forest**

**Responses to the prompts on this annual report should be typed directly into this template, including narratives and tables.**

**1. Match and Leverage funds:****a. FY14 Matching Funds Documentation**

<b>Fund Source – (CFLR Funds Expended<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2014(\$)</b>
CFLN (includes \$206,977 of CFLN carryover)	\$1,382,163

<b>Fund Source – (Carryover funds expended (Carryover to in addition to CFLR/CFLN)<sup>2</sup> (please include a new row for each BLI))</b>	<b>Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2014(\$)</b>
NFTM	\$154,792
WFHF	\$575,422
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$730,214</b>

<b>Fund Source – (FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI)<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2014(\$)</b>
CWK2	\$195,483
CWKV	\$394,778
CMRD	\$42,748
NFTM	\$380,505
NFVW	\$70,413
NFWF	\$94,006
SRS2 (S2R801)	\$337,367*
SRS2 (S2R802)	\$152,880
SRS2 (S2R812)	\$44,237
WFHF	\$276,252
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,988,669**</b>

<b>Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions<sup>4</sup>)</b>	<b>Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2014(\$)</b>
Arkansas State University (Turkey monitoring)	19,196
National Wild Turkey Federation (Turkey monitoring)	2,500
University of Arkansas, Monticello (Economic monitoring)	7,500
USFS Northern Research (Bird monitoring)	5,000

<sup>1</sup> This amount should match the amount of CFLR/CFLN dollars obligated in the PAS report titled CFLR Job Code Listing and Expenditure Report – Detailed Analysis by Fiscal Year.

<sup>2</sup> This value should reflect the amount of carryover funds allocated to a project as indicated in the program direction, but does not necessarily need to be in the same BLIs as indicated in the program direction. These funds should total the matching funds obligated in the PAS report.

<sup>3</sup> This amount should match the amount of matching funds obligated in the PAS report.

<sup>4</sup> Total partner in-kind contributions for implementation and monitoring of a CFLR project. Please list the partner organizations that provided in-kind contributions. See “Annual Report instructions” for instructions on how to document in-kind contributions.

\*S2R801 code on Ouachita NF is not unique. \$289,836 is for Scott County matching CFLR funding and \$47,531 is for McCurtain Co, OK non-CFLR funding.

\*\*Correct total should be \$1,941,137 based on adjustment above for S2R801 accounting.

Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions <sup>4</sup> )	Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2014(\$)
Central Hardwoods Joint Venture (Bird monitoring)	2,000
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (Turkey monitoring)	17,000
Native Expeditions (Environmental education)	10,000
Monarch Watch, University of Kansas (Environmental education)	2,000
Buffalo River National Park Service (Prescribed burning)	45,000
The Nature Conservancy (Vegetative monitoring)	46,780
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (RCW translocation)	1,500
Southern Research Station (Soft mast monitoring)	1,500
Natural Resource Conservation Service	2,500
Wind River/Big Horn Basin-Bureau of Land Management	61,000
Arkansas Forestry Commission	13,853
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$237,329</b>

Approved by (Forest Supervisor): /s/Steve Cole (for) Norman Wagoner

**b. Please provide a narrative or table describing leveraged funds in your landscape in FY2014** (one page maximum)

With the translocation of RCWs in FY 2013 in partnership efforts between Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) and the Ouachita National Forest, ODWC continued to assist ONF with banding and monitoring efforts in FY 2014. In FY 2014, ODWC assisted ONF and provided banding of adults and nestlings, and monitoring of RCW cluster site. Working in partnership on joined lands will aid both state and Federal lands in increasing genetic diversity as well as boost population numbers. ODWC leverage match is \$2,500 for banding, monitoring, outfitting of new recruitment clusters and maintaining their existing clusters.

In addition, habitat improvement work was conducted on the MCWA by ODWC consisting of 300 acres of midstory reduction, providing 8 new inserts in existing recruitment and active cluster sites, and cooperatively prescribed burning on 3,000 acres. ODWC leveraged funds were \$75,000 for burning, \$36,000 for midstory and \$1,200 for inserts, banding and monitoring. Total leverage from ODWC is \$114,700.

Beginning in 2002, partnership efforts with Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) and the Forest has been occurring for reciprocal translocation of RCWs. Movement of birds is to augment populations between southern Arkansas at Pine City and for the Forest CFLRP area. In 2014, ONF translocated 2 birds from the CFLRP area to Warren Prairie Natural Area (WPNA). ANHC assisted with monitoring efforts on ONF. This along with coordination efforts is considered matching in kind labor worth \$2,000. Translocating these birds from ONF to Pine City includes knowledge of bird’s particular gender and or age and is dependent upon monitoring efforts within CFLRP lands. This partnership of ANHC and the Forest to provide particular birds needed by either partner aids in increasing breeding clusters and overall success for state and federal lands thus improving overall genetic diversity. Leveraged funds for pre-and post-translocation monitoring on WPNA by ANHC are \$1500 for FY14.

Additionally, on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Ouachita National Forest was hit by an ice storm. The major impact area was within the CFLRP area, in Arkansas and Oklahoma. During the following months, the forest, as well as county and state road crews spent numerous hours and equipment clearing the roads within the impact area of downed and broken trees. Another ice storm hit the area later that winter and caused additional damage. It is estimated that Arkansas and Oklahoma state crews, as well as county road crews spent between \$60,000 - \$80,000 clearing roads and damage within the CFLRP area.

Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC), along with Forest Service personnel, accomplished about 400 acres of prescribed burning in FY 2014 on private lands. These burns occurred within 10 miles of the CFLRP Forest landlines. AFC's cost for these cooperative burns was approximately \$10,000.

NEPA projects within the CFLRP project area within MA 21 (Old Growth Restoration), MA 22 (Renewal of the Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Grass Ecosystem and Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) Habitat) and ABBA (American Burying Beetle Areas), were completed at a cost of approximately \$116,765.

**Leveraged Funding in FY 2014**

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
NEPA Planning	NFTM NFWF WFHF NFVW	Upper Sugar Creek (ABBA) Nella, Ross Creek (MA22), Upper Irons Fork (MA22), Three Creeks (MA 22), WSI DM (MA 21), RX Burn (MA 21),	\$116,765
McCurtain County Wilderness Area (MCWA) Management	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation	RCW banding, inserts, monitoring Midstory Reduction Prescribed Burning	3,700 36,000 75,000
Stevens Prescribed Burning	Arkansas Forestry Commission	Private lands burned within 10 miles of Forest boundary lines	10,150
Wyden Prescribed Burning	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation	50 acres of private lands burned within 10 miles of Forest boundary lines	1,250
Management Area 22 RCW Translocation	Arkansas Department of Natural Heritage	Monitoring for RCWs to go from CFLRP to Pine City	1,500
State and County road crews	Arkansas and Oklahoma states, Scott, Polk and Mc Curtain Counties	Clearing roads and damage after ice storms	\$60,000 - \$80,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$304,365</b>

**2. Discuss how the CLFR project contributes to accomplishment of the wildland fire goals in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan, dated December 2006.** In a narrative format, describe the progress to date on restoring a more fire-adapted ecosystem, as identified in the project's desired conditions. This may also include a description of the current fire year (fire activity that occurred in the project area) as a backdrop to your response (please limit answer to one page).

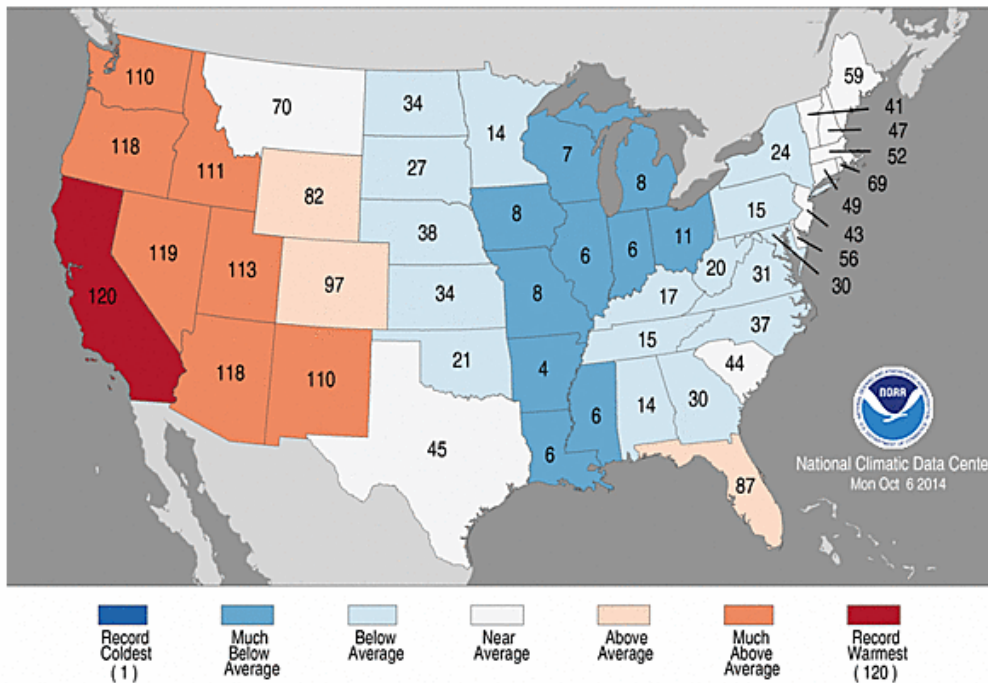
The main activities of the CFLRP work are prescribed burning with commercial and non-commercial thinning to move towards a restored landscape. CFLRP funding has accelerated these activities through our achievements of the performance measures of the 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan. The project area encompasses 350,000 acres, about 20% of the Ouachita NF. For 2014, 43,532 acres were prescribed burned, 9,611 acres were mechanically treated (commercial and non-commercial), and 79,828 ccf of timber was sold within the project area to restore native landscape conditions.

In cooperation with state agencies in Arkansas and Oklahoma, 3,000 acres on state lands and about 450 acres on private lands that surround the CFLR area were treated with prescribed fire. Annual fire occurrence in the last 10 years ranged from 21 to 187 wildfires. For 2014, 21 wildfires occurred on the Ouachita National Forest: 18 of these were due to

human causes and 3 were due to lightning. All wildfires occurring from natural ignition sources on the Ouachita are evaluated for management strategies including multiple objectives. The exceptionally moist and cooler conditions this summer in addition to occasional county burn bans enabled a variety of suppression strategies. Observed vegetation effects in burned areas were mild. None of the wildfire acres required post-wildfire restoration treatments. In FY14, over the entire Ouachita National Forest, a total of 99,127 acres were prescribed burned.

Generally lower temperatures and increased moisture this year restricted prescribed burning opportunities in the late summer. Beginning in January 2014, much of the entire CFLRP area was under county-wide burn bans and remained under the bans for periods of 3-4 weeks. Burning bans were lifted as precipitation amounts normalized to seasonal values in February-March, but by then the region and much of the Midwestern United States endured weather that was a little cooler and wetter than long term averages during the remainder of fiscal 2014. Prescribed burning windows were hard to come by and were short duration when they occurred. In addition, the area experienced no growing season wildfire occurrences to any significance. As would be expected, numbers, sizes, and reported intensities of wildfires on the National Forests of Arkansas and Oklahoma were below normal for the year.

**Statewide Average Temperature Ranks**  
 January–September 2014  
 Period: 1895–2014



2014 will be remembered for a lack of heat in the middle of the country. Through September, it was a Top 10 cool year in ten (10) states from the western Great Lakes southward along the Mississippi River.

**Average Temperatures in 2014 (Through October)**

Site	Avg Temp	+/-
Fayetteville (NW AR)	58.2°	-1.7°
Harrison (NC AR)	59.2°	-1.5°
Jonesboro (NE AR)	60.9°	-2.1°
Fort Smith (WC AR)	63.8°	-0.9°

<b>Little Rock (C AR)</b>	63.9°	-1.6°
<b>West Memphis (EC AR)</b>	62.3°	-1.6°
<b>Texarkana (SW AR)</b>	65.2°	-1.4°
<b>El Dorado (SC AR)</b>	64.1°	-2.1°
<b>Pine Bluff (SE AR)</b>	63.4°	-2.3°

Note: It was the 4th coolest (117th warmest) January through September on record dating back to 1895. The statewide average temperature of 61.3 degrees was 2.2 degrees below normal. This was determined by the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, NC.

***Precipitation in 2014 (Through October)***

<b>Site</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>% of Normal</b>
<b>Harrison (NC AR)</b>	36.87	36.71	+0.16	100%
<b>Jonesboro (NE AR)</b>	39.47	38.43	+1.04	103%
<b>Fort Smith (WC AR)</b>	38.25	37.73	+0.52	101%
<b>Little Rock (C AR)</b>	42.78	39.50	+3.28	108%
<b>West Memphis (EC AR)</b>	44.43	41.86	+2.57	106%

Note: It was the 63rd driest (58th wettest) January through September on record dating back to 1895. The statewide average precipitation of 36.76 inches was 0.72 inch below normal. This was determined by the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, NC.

Spring finished as the second coolest March through May since 1993 (average temperatures were subpar by 2.0 degrees). There were only seven (7) tornadoes for the year. Not much changed in the summer, with a lack of heat and periodic rain. Days with 95 degree temperatures were few.

***95 Degree Days in June/July/August***

<b>Site</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Avg 2000-2013</b>
<b>Fayetteville (NW AR)</b>	2	15
<b>Harrison (NC AR)</b>	2	14
<b>Jonesboro (NE AR)</b>	7	24
<b>Fort Smith (WC AR)</b>	15	37
<b>Little Rock (C AR)</b>	8	30
<b>West Memphis (EC AR)</b>	2	18
<b>Texarkana (SW AR)</b>	13	40
<b>El Dorado (SC AR)</b>	6	35
<b>Pine Bluff (SE AR)</b>	4	26

**3. What assumptions were used in generating the numbers and/or percentages you plugged into the TREAT tool?**

Assumptions used for generating the TREAT model numbers that contracts and timber sale dollars assumed to remain within the impact area, did indeed stay within the area. Contract costs and workplans were used to estimate percentages and numbers plugged into the TREAT tool. Harvest volumes and products were based on historic and current utilization from timber contracts and sales.

## FY 2014 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY14 CFLR/CFLN/ Carryover funding only):

Type of projects	Direct part and full-time jobs	Total part and full-time jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income <sup>5</sup>
Commercial Forest Product Activities	136.9	290.7	\$7,925,207	\$15,351,501
Other Project Activities	7.3	8.6	\$189,869	\$239,297
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>144.2</b>	<b>299.3</b>	<b>\$8,115,076</b>	<b>\$15,590,798</b>

## FY 2014 Jobs Created/Maintained (FY14 CFLR/CFLN/ Carryover and matching funding):

Type of projects	Direct part and full-time jobs	Total part and full-time jobs	Direct Labor Income	Total Labor Income <sup>6</sup>
Commercial Forest Product Activities	157.1	334.1	\$9,123,667	\$17,671,734
Other Project Activities	7.1	8.6	\$201,304	\$264,001
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>164.2</b>	<b>342.7</b>	<b>\$9,324,971</b>	<b>\$17,935,735</b>

## 4. Describe other community benefits achieved and the methods used to gather information about these benefits

(Please limit answer to two pages).

## Agreements/Contracts and Monitoring for CFLRP increased hiring of locals workers.

- **Turkey monitoring with National Wild Turkey Federation, Arkansas State University and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission:** The Ouachita Mountains Shortleaf-Bluestem Alliance collaborative and the public voiced concerns of prescribed burning on the Eastern wild turkey. In 2014, this collaborative contributed \$84,170 and 7 part-time jobs were created and a PhD student funded.
- **Vegetative monitoring with The Nature Conservancy:** TNC installed and completed plant community monitoring on 100 permanent micro-plots within the CFLRP area in Arkansas and Oklahoma. In addition, baseline LANDFIRE Monitoring of CFLRP MA 22 was completed. FRCC for Shortleaf communities 1 = Within range of variation = 26,066 acres; 24%, 2 = Moderate departure = 32,810 acres; 31% 3 = High departure = 48,197 acres; 45%. Among the areas identified as shortleaf pine – bluestem, the 2010 data shows little early seral or mid-seral condition 2-3 % versus the desired 50%. Older, dense stands were overrepresented by 100%. Most of Oklahoma’s was in a dense condition (84%) while the Arkansas portion had 71% in the dense condition and 20% in the open condition. FY14 Funding: \$30,000.
- **Bird monitoring with USFS Northern Research Station and Central Hardwoods Joint Venture:** In 2014, bird monitoring was conducted by the USFS Northern Research Station in collaboration with the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture at 100 point locations. This work involved hiring a graduate research student to supervise the project and 3 technicians to assist with the surveys. These surveys also boost local economies with lodging and meals, etc. These bird points are at the vegetative plots established by TNC. This coordination of survey points will allow comparison of flora and fauna changes over time at the same point on the landscape. Surveys occurred in FY13 and FY14 and will occur again in FY15. A final report will be due in FY16. FY14 Funding: \$16,000.
- **Economic monitoring with University of Arkansas:** Economic stimulation from agreements, contracts, partnerships and multi-party monitoring and the related benefits will be evaluated for impact by the partnership efforts of SebaScott Development Council (non-profit) and the University of Arkansas at Monticello. A student

<sup>5</sup> Values obtained from Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT) spreadsheet, “Impacts-Jobs and Income” tab. Spreadsheet and directions available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/submittingproposals.shtml#tools>.

<sup>6</sup> Values obtained from Treatment for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT) spreadsheet, “Impacts-Jobs and Income” tab. Spreadsheet and directions available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/submittingproposals.shtml#tools>.

was brought into the program for this project in FY14 and another student will begin in early FY15. Reporting of the economic influx will begin to be reported annually in 2015. FY 13 funding: \$72,363.

- **Prescribed burning with Buffalo River National Park Service (NPS).** Without funding, the local Buffalo River NPS would have laid off 7 employees due to budget cuts. Instead under the agreement, the NPS retained these employees to outfit a 7 member wildland fire crew for FY14. NPS is attractive because of their close proximity to the project area, giving them the ability to travel back home when bad burning weather conditions are forecasted. Under the Reimbursement or Advance of Funds Agreement, funds will be transferred directly to NPS, resulting in no travel cap being charged to the Ouachita NF. FY 2014 Funding: \$200,000.
- **Prescribed burning with the Oklahoma Native American Tribes.** There are approximately 70 people qualified for prescribed burning among the tribes in Oklahoma. Funding will support tribal members to prescribe burn on the Forest: Funding available in FY15 is \$85,000 for the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma and \$33,000 for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Total for Native American Tribes in FY15: \$118,000.
- **Prescribed burning with Bureau of Land Management:** Funds were obligated in FY14 to support a 6 person crew for up to 4 rotations of 14 days each plus travel. FY 2014 funding: \$200,000.
- **Prescribed burning with The Nature Conservancy:** Local hires will occur by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to provide hand crews to accelerate burning. Annual Funds obligated to TNC are \$100,000.
- **Additional helicopter for prescribed burning:** this helicopter (ship) and the associated crew will be used to burn additional acres. Obligated funds of supplying an additional ship, crew and plastic spheres: \$65,000.
- **Environmental education with Native Expeditions:** These funds hired 3 part time employees. In addition, an After the Bell grant was received for \$10,000 to pay high school students to produce video and media products for CFLRP. An additional grant of \$20,000 for More Kids in the Woods grant was received in 2014 to accelerate environmental education. High school students from local schools are being hired in FY15 to conduct environmental educational programs to younger grades, local community clubs and organizations, etc. Total funding in FY14 for environmental education was \$62,000.education.
- **Monarch Watch, University of Kansas:** Contracted with Monarch Watch for native pollinator seeds collected on or near Forest lands to be grown into plugs for students to plant within the CFLRP area in FY14. 370 students for 9 area schools planted nearly 1,000 milkweed plants. Contracted with Monarch Watch to grow plugs from native pollinator seeds collected on or near Forest lands. These plugs were planted by students within the CFLRP area in FY14. In FY14, a Monarch Watch employee stayed in the local area for 4 days to educate 370 students from 9 area schools and to plant 1,000 milkweed plants at schools and on the Ouachita National Forest. FY14 Cost \$3,000.

Most of the above prescribed burning agreements had funds obligated in FY 2014. These agreements will allow the Forest to continue burning in early FY15 even if funding for FY15 is delayed.

The local communities benefitted through an agreement that funded environmental educational training from a non-profit business, Native Expeditions. Over a 1,000 students were taught within the CFLRP area about the importance of our local ecosystems, the flora and fauna, and the tools needed to restore these native landscapes. These students assisted USFS in restoration efforts with a graduate student from University of Kansas to plant pollinator plants for school yard habitats and to re-establish pollinator sites on the Forest. The seeds for these pollinator plants were collected on Forest and grown by Monarch Watch, University of Kansas.

Native Expeditions is working with six EAST (Environmental And Spatial Technologies) Lab high schools in creating videos of the tools needed for restoration to showcase at the EAST conferences as well as share with other schools. These videos will encompass and give on-the-ground examples using subjects such as the endangered RCW recovery, prescribed burning, landscape history, pollinators and timber management, etc. The goal is to teach science standards and core curriculum, such as adaptation, biodiversity, human impacts, etc. with these on-the-ground examples of management. In addition, local educators along with the highly trained GIS staff at Native Expeditions are training EAST Lab high school students how to compile 20 years of fire history, commercial and non-commercial thinning. This huge

project of creating GIS layers to display restoration efforts over a landscape scale will be used for competition at EAST Lab high school conferences and give the Forest a great management tool.

This same non-profit business hired 8 local high school students in FY14 to produce GIS layers of past burning and timber activity. High school students will be teaching environmental education at community events, additional schools, nursing homes and other venues.

**In 2014, approximately 47% of the timber sold off the Ouachita National Forest came off the CFLRP area.** This timber from the CFLRP area is valued at over \$2,482,097 on the stump and equates to 79,827.87 ccf. Sawmills processing that timber hired more than 150 employees, have 80 loggers cutting the timber and another 20 people transporting the timber to the mills for a total of 250 families benefitting directly from the timber industry. In FY 2014, all timber sold within the CFLRP areas was bought by purchasers within the impact area. Timber purchases in FY 2014 are shown below:

Location of Purchaser	Volume of Timber Sold (ccf)	Sale Value (\$)	Within CFLRP Impact Area?
Conway County, Arkansas	4,551.62	\$25,605.30	Yes
Polk County, Arkansas	7,655.19	\$64,792.09	Yes
Pope County, Arkansas	4,586.00	\$219,962.60	Yes
Scott County, Arkansas	62,733.40	\$2,169,552.58	Yes
Yell County, AR	301.66	\$2,183.90	Yes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79,827.87</b>	<b>\$2,482,097.47</b>	

CFLR funding as well as matching funds provided funding for chainsaw treatments to move areas toward a restored condition. Contractors within the impact area of the project were awarded task orders as follows:

Funding Source	Location of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Within CFLRP Impact Area?
CFLN	Garland County, AR	\$167,659.37	Yes
CFWF		\$54,005.37	Yes
CFLN	Scott County, AR	\$41,124	Yes
CFKV		\$18,354	Yes
CFVW		\$51,940	Yes
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$333,082.74</b>	

In FY14, working in partnership with local County governments, through MOUs, roads, access and road crossings were improved. Scott County, Arkansas road crews resurfaced 2 miles of road, providing better access on Forest lands. Logan County, Arkansas road crews completed 1 mile of road maintenance by resurfacing the road, providing better access. The Polk County, Arkansas road crews replaced two large culverts and resurfaced 3.5 miles of road. All of this work conducted by the counties resulted in watershed restoration and maintenance and improved water quality by reducing further erosion, and improved access.

**5. Describe the multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process** (please limit answer to two pages).

Desired condition of the shortleaf pine-bluestem woodland are open overstory canopies, mid-stories with little woody vegetation and native understory vegetation of grasses and forbs. These conditions can be achieved with timber harvesting, WSI/TSI, and effective prescribed burns. Long term perpetuation of the overstory shortleaf pine-bluestem community is accomplished by seedtree and shelterwood regeneration harvesting. Advanced stages of restoration (as



represented by Fire Regime Condition Class 1 (FRCC1)) are characterized by an open mid-story and a grass understory with a fuel loading of 2-4 tons/acre.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) and Forest Service are monitoring vegetative responses. The “Objectives-Based Vegetation Monitoring Program to Determine Project Success” plan was completed by TNC. The vegetative monitoring will help quantify and qualify if project activities are moving the landscape towards the desired range of ecological conditions. All 100 plots have been established and vegetative monitoring completed on all 100 plots. A report will be delivered to all partners in FY15.

The Ouachita National Forest collaborated with the Mark Twain NF (Missouri – Pine-Oak Woodlands Restoration CFLRP) and Ozark NF (Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Restoration CFLRP ) to share techniques for vegetative and bird monitoring. Both Arkansas forests are conducting the same vegetation monitoring protocol with TNC and ANHC, with the Mark Twain NF doing similar vegetation monitoring with the addition of floristic data. Data will be collected at all points every year for 3 years (2013-2015), with 3 years of no data collection (2016-2018), followed by 3 more years of data collection (2019-2021). Central Hardwoods Joint Venture will be analyzing the bird data and submitting interim reports after each year, with more consolidated reporting after the first 3 years of data collection. This collaboration will allow comparison of landscape responses on multiple forests within different ecoregions within the shortleaf-pine range.

The Ouachita National Forest collaborative, Ouachita Mountains Shortleaf-Bluestem Alliance, expressed concerns on the prescribed burning program on Eastern Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). The collaborative developed a partnership to understand the potential impacts of our burning program on this ground nesting bird. In 2011, partners including Arkansas State University, National Wild Turkey Federation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and USFS began researching the effects of prescribed burning on the bird’s demography and habitat use in the shortleaf pine-bluestem community. In FY12 and 2013, turkeys were captured and outfitted with GPS and VHF transmitters and released at trap sites. Annual progress reports are submitted to the Forest Service every year, and the final report (PhD dissertation) will be submitted in FY15. Preliminary findings are showing that hens are nesting immediately adjacent to or within a recent prescribed burn area with young poults being led by the hens to forage into recently burned areas.

**6. FY 2014 accomplishments**

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Unit of measure</b>	<b>Total Units Accomplished<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Total Treatment Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match)<sup>8</sup></b>
Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST	Acres	441	44,531	CWKV
		224	49,919	RTRT
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	233	154,743	CFLN
		167	23,958	CWKV
		661	94,076	NFVW
		32	4,160	RTRT
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	21	4,725	NFVW

<sup>7</sup> Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record.

<sup>8</sup> Please use a new line for each BLI or type of fund used. For example, you may have three lines with the same performance measure, but the type of funding might be two different BLIs and CFLR/CFLN.

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished <sup>7</sup>	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) <sup>8</sup>
Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions. S&W-RSRC-IMP	Acres	0*	6,500	NFVW *Although entered into Workplan (DOR) and tagged as CFLRP, accomplishment not picked up for CFLR018. 3 acres were accomplished
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	23,631.1 25,579.7 29.7 469.2 7,113.6 28.1 841.7 17,727.9	336,147 381,257 3,645 98,428 274,602 10,587 93,750 425,984	CFLN CFKV NFTM NFVW NFWF RTRT SSSS WFHF
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved RG-VEG-IMP	Acres	610	19520	CWKV
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	68	42,748	CMRD
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	0.51	6,500	NFVW
Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD	Miles	0*	4,500	*Approximately 7 miles of trail improvement accomplished, but not captured in INFRA database.
Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard LND-BL-MRK-MAINT	Miles	8	9,199	CFLN
Acres covered by stewardship contracts/agreements STWD-CNTRCT-AGR-AC	Acres	817	(included in treatment costs above in TMBR-VOL-SLD)	
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	2,140 470 327 1,258	26,210 4,700 2,510 0	CFLN NFTM SPFH SSSS
Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST	CCF	50203.1	(included in treatment costs above in TMBR-VOL-SLD)	
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	69,313.7 10,514.16	1,420,931 215,540	CFLN*Includes supplemental NFTM funds SSSS/CWK2* Direction was to use CWK2 for salvage, with all accomplishments were recorded in SSSS funding  79827.87 ccf were completed; not the 93,616.80 ccf pulled from PAS Report, due to TIM inaccuracies within reported payment units and rounding.
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and	Green tons	4,973.86 551.6	Treatment cost for this measure included with	A total of 5526.46 tons were removed from within the CFLRP area. As reported above, two sale areas with several payment units

Performance Measure	Unit of measure	Total Units Accomplished <sup>7</sup>	Total Treatment Cost (\$)	Type of Funds (CFLR, Specific FS BLI, Partner Match) <sup>8</sup>
made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG			TMBR-VOL-SLD (above)	straddled the CFLRP boundary, and an estimated 1216.94 tons lying within the sale areas (as reported in TIM and PAS) but outside of the CFLRP area were pulled into PAS, accounting for the total of 6742.4 tons.
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acres	3,102	67,506	CFLN*Includes supplemental WFHF funds
		1,949.4	189,974	CWKV
		607	84,781	NFVW
		110	15,579	RTRT
		14	0	SPFH
		859	0	SSSS
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	3,852	44,755	CFLN*Includes supplemental WFHF funds
		981	30,262	CWKV
		803	0	NFTM
		664	28,816	NFVW
		39	7,468	RTRT
		234	0	SPFH
		523	0	SSSS
		31,117	730,193	WFHF
		496	19,520	XXXX

**7. FY 2014 accomplishment narrative** – Summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress. (Please limit answer to three pages.)

During FY2014, the Ouachita National Forest made progress toward overall project objectives, as shown above.

Accomplishments in FY14 directly related to the three main restoration treatments aligned with proposed project progress with the exception of prescribed burning:

- ❖ Timber was sold on 8,800.81 acres, with timber harvesting completed on 4,195 acres within the CFLRP area. The acres of timber that have been sold (accomplished) is 147% of our project proposal of 6,000 acres per year. The payment units reported as completed remains significantly below the proposed annual pace. This is indicative of a timber market still in the process of bottoming out, where payment units purchased over the last two years have yet to be logged.
- ❖ Treatments designed to reduce the density of non-commercial trees within the forest CFLRP communities totaled 5,416 acres: 4,219 Wildlife Stand Improvement (WSI); 297 acres of Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and 900 acres of Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT). This total of 5,416 exceeded our proposal of 5,000 acres.
- ❖ Prescribed burning totaled 43,532 acres, with an additional 7,675 acres of mechanical fuels treatments within the CFLRP area, totaling 51,207 acres. This is well short of the proposed 100,000 acres.

In 2014, Forest accomplished 7 miles of trail tread maintenance/restoration (drainage, rolling dips, etc.) within the American Burying Beetle Area (ABBA) of the CFLRP area on mixed OHV trails/firelines.

Restoration treatments produced 79,828 ccf volume of timber sold, most of which is high value southern yellow pine sawtimber, all sold to local mills within the impact area of the project.

With our partners, we continue to monitor the effects of our management on the project area associated with the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW). We continue to see a rise in RCW population numbers from 13 active clusters in 1990 to 70 active in 2014.

In FY14, partnership continued to provide needed monitoring activities, accounting for over \$174,224 in partner in-kind contributions. Over the last 3 years in-kind contributions have been nearly \$425,000. These contributions are expected to continue for the life of the CFLRP project and beyond.

**Progress on Three Key Treatments for Shortleaf Pine – Bluestem Grass Restoration**

Treatment	Acres Accomplished			Cumulative Total	Proposed Accomplishment total at Year 3	% of Proposed Total
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014			
Prescribed Burning (Acres)	44,805	54,461	43,532	142,798	255,000	56%
Non-commercial thinning (WSI, TSI)	3,660	7,021	5,416	16,097	13,000	124%
Volume of timber sales sold	69,206	71,700	79,828	220,734	115,000	192%
Timber harvest area (acres):						
Accomplished -	4,966	4,673	7,033	16,672	16,000	104%
Completed -	160	2,465	4,195	6,820	16,000	42%

**8. Describe the total acres treated in the course of the CFLR project** (cumulative footprint acres; not a cumulative total of performance accomplishments). What was the total number of acres treated?<sup>9</sup>

Fiscal Year	Total number of acres treated (treatment footprint)
FY14	53,143 acres
FY12, FY13 and FY14	48,625 + 63,947 + 53,143 = 165,715 acres

**9. In no more than two pages (large landscapes or very active fire seasons may need more space), describe other relevant fire management activities within the project area** (hazardous fuel treatments are already documented in Question #6):

Opportunities for management of natural ignition wildfires for multiple objectives are limited on the Forest with only about 20% of fires having natural ignition as a source of cause. In 2014, three fires (2,131, 695 and 555 acres) were managed for multiple benefits. There were no cost changes due to different management of wildfires. Opportunities for other than full suppression of wildfires were limited in the summer of 2014 due to intermittent, short windows when an ignition could sustain itself and accomplish resource objectives. This was due to short widely intermittent burning windows that failed to coincide with lightning occurrences in Arkansas and Oklahoma. All other fires were controlled at initial attack and remained relatively small resulting in no BAER treatments.

With treatments in FY14 along with post treatments over the past 25 plus years, almost 190,000 acres in the CFLRP area of 350,000 acres is in advanced stage of restored condition. About 60,000 acres are in FRCC condition class one and only require periodic short-interval prescribed burning to maintain condition. Main treatments within the Forest CFLRP area are timber management to remove the mid-story and reduce the overall basal area and prescribed fire to further reduce fuels. Implementation of burning is on a three-four year rotation. Three rotational burns are needed to noticeably move

<sup>9</sup> This metric is separate from the annual performance measurement reporting as recorded in the databases of record. Please see the instructions document for further clarification.

vegetation toward a restored condition. Continually burning on rotation will maintain the desired condition. Burning continues to be the restoration bottleneck due to number of acres needing to be burned. The Forest needs numerous burning days with the necessary aircraft and crews to increase to our proposed 100,000 acres. The number of burn days available was limited by short infrequent burning windows during conditions that were predominantly too moist to burn and obtain desirable objectives.

**10. Describe any reasons that the FY 2014 annual report does not reflect your project proposal, previously reported planned accomplishments, or work plan.** Did you face any unexpected challenges this year that caused you to change what was outlined in your proposal? (please limit answer to two pages)

The matching totals for FY 2014 were affected negatively by the early December ice storm. Total matching including in-kind support directly from partners met the 1:1 goal, however there was considerable loss of matching dollars captured by non-CFLN CF job codes (ex: CFTM, CFRD) due to the extreme weather event. The ice storm caused widespread damage to timber, including trees in red-cockaded woodpecker clusters, along with access problems throughout most of the CFLRP area on the Forest. As a financial management tool, disaster job codes were set up to track the amount spent on this effort. As a result, timber, wildlife, roads and fuels work taking place within CFLRP boundaries to clear roads and control lines, monitor red-cockaded woodpecker clusters, and conduct initial salvage assessments were captured in these disaster-tracking job codes and not in the CFLRP-matching job codes. Due to the severity of the situation, charges to these job codes continued into May. Although the work represented by the charges below was not all within the CFLRP area, the Forest can conservatively confirm that 50-75% of the charges were related to work within the boundaries of the CFLRP, which equates to a range of \$207,000 - \$311,000 of lost match for the CFLRP. It should also be noted that an additional \$151,700 was adjusted out of the CMRD4D14 job code later in the year, carrying with it more CFLRP matching charges.

<b>Disaster Job Code</b>	<b>Description of Work for Ice Storm Response</b>	<b>Amount Charged</b>
CMRD4D14	Clearing main system roads	65,281
NFTM4D14	Clearing roads to timber sales, salvage	309,195
NFWF4D14	Road clearing to monitor RCW	25,613
WFHF4D14	Clearing roads, control lines	14,543
<b>Total...</b>		<b>414,632</b>

Overall matching amounts throughout the life of the project are shown below:

<b>FY</b>	<b>Matching Contribution</b>	<b>Direct CFLR Funding</b>
2012	\$720,474	\$316,319
2013	\$2,600,223	\$2,099,632
2014	\$2,143,051	\$2,112,377
<b>Totals...</b>	<b>\$5,463,748</b>	<b>\$4,528,328</b>

## 11. Planned FY 2016 Accomplishments

Performance Measure Code <sup>10</sup>	Unit of measure	Planned Accomplishment	Amount (\$)
Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP	Acres	320	\$620,000
Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	Acre	30	\$4,000
Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR	Acres	99,900	\$1,400,000
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN	Miles	88	\$40,000
Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT	Miles	178	\$35,000
Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM	Miles	2	\$2,000
Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP	Miles	3	\$180,000
Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP	Miles	18	\$900,000
Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC	Acres	5,800	\$1,160,000
Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD	CCF	44,250	\$1,305,000
Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG	Green tons	5,000	
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	Acre	35,000	\$980,000
Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI	Acres	65,000	\$1,820,000

## 12. Planned FY 2016 accomplishment narrative (no more than 1 page):

<sup>10</sup> Please include all relevant planned accomplishments, assuming that funding specified in the CFLRP project proposal for FY 2016 is available. Use actual planned funding if quantity is less than specified in CFLRP project work plan, and justify deviation from project work plan in question 13 of this template.

The SBC Project FY16 program of work is projected to achieve our grant proposed planned activities. In order to achieve these goals, several ongoing NEPA projects will need to be accomplished in FY15. Planned projects for FY16 (and FY15) include 100,000 acres of prescribed burning, 6,000 acres commercially thinned, sale of over 40,000 CCF and 5,000 acres of WSI/TSI, funded both with CFLN and matching funds.

In addition, herbicide treatment of invasive species, road decommissioning, trail maintenance, stream crossings improvements, re-establishment of milkweed and other native plant species, environmental education efforts, continuation of turkey research are planned for FY16. Also in FY16, RCW habitat improvement work will consist of providing artificial inserts for nesting and roosting, improving nesting and foraging habitat by commercially thinning stands and accomplishing mid-story removal through contracts and stewardship work, removing flying squirrels from cavities for this endangered species. Habitat restoration will continue on the ABB sites to increase population numbers of this endangered species.

**13. Describe and provide narrative justification if planned FY 2015/16 accomplishments and/or funding differs from CFLRP project work plan (no more than 1 page):**

The Ouachita National Forest has no plans to deviate for planned accomplishments and/or funding levels as outlined in our CFLRP proposal and work plans. However, if funding is reduced either in grant or appropriated funds, the accomplishments projected for FY15/16 will need to be adjusted. The most intense accomplishment is prescribed burning. This accomplishment is primarily weather dependent. If prescribed burning activities are not conducive due to weather conditions, then accomplishments may be increased in other areas to achieve restoration goals.

The majority of our improved roads and maintenance of high clearance roads has been accomplished through timber sale purchases during FY14. With roads funding being reduced over the last few years, these accomplishments continue to be funded through this source. However, with the cost of road maintenance and improvement greatly increasing over the past few years, the cost of maintaining and improving our roads associated with timber sales may be at a cost approaching or exceeding the cost of the sale. This has resulted in fewer dollars available for Knutson-Vandenburg Trust Fund (KV) work planned within the project. With this reduction in KV funds, we would need to look at other sources (appropriated funds) to accomplish our planned work. If appropriated funding is not available, the Forest may have to deviate from planned activities. Also, the high cost of road work within a timber sale could exceed the cost of the sale, resulting in the timber sale not being sold, which in turn would greatly affect our planned accomplishments.