

Western Klamath Restoration Partnership CFLRP Proposal—January 2020

Proposal Overview

1. Project Map

The treatments illustrated on the map and in this proposal will prepare the landscape for more frequent, smaller, lower-intensity fires, increasing ecosystem resilience as the climate changes and providing substantial benefits to human communities. Not every acre on the map will receive every treatment listed; acres are detailed in the Attachments. All Six Rivers National Forest land is or will be under programmatic NEPA for aquatic restoration and fuel reduction treatments.

The 2018 **USFS Wildfire Hazard Potential dataset** characterizes 78% of the planning area as **“High” or “Very High” hazard**, with 56% (668,726 acres) classified as “Very High”; this proportion has been reduced by recent fires. The estimated historic Mean Fire Return Interval from the **Landfire dataset** indicates that 82% of the landscape should experience fire every 5-15 years, but fire suppression over the past century has led to much denser vegetation (Skinner 1995). The **Vegetation Departure Index product** characterizes more than 90% of the classified vegetation in the project area as at least somewhat departed from pre-1900 conditions. However, this metric underrepresents the change in the landscape since the onset of fire suppression, as traditional burning practices were impacted as early as 1849.

2. Landscape Boundaries

These landscape boundaries were identified by the **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WGRP)** to encompass the area **traditionally inhabited and managed by the Karuk Tribe**, and expanded to topographic watershed boundaries. From an ecological perspective, this landscape matches the extent of tan oak forests, a primary traditional Karuk food source and indicator of coastal climate influences. Socially, the landscape is sandwiched between some of the most liberal and conservative communities in California, so that the shared values and strategies identified with WGRP resonate with diverse participants and provide invaluable **models for communities throughout the West**. This landscape is economically isolated in its remoteness, which precludes some market opportunities but also fosters self-reliance and creative problem solving. Bounded by wilderness areas in all directions, the WGRP landscape provides a unique opportunity for restoring traditional fire regimes at a scale large enough to restore community and cultural vitality, as well as ecosystem processes and the diverse assemblage of species that depend on these processes for survival and recovery. The proposed treatments protect communities and critical transportation routes, improve habitat for key threatened/endangered and culturally significant species, and prepare for the return of ceremonial burning on Offield Mountain and cultural burning throughout Karuk aboriginal territory.

3. Broader Perspective

Traditional knowledge and western science have been integrated through WGRP’s inclusive planning process into a **shared, place-based vision for restoring fire process and ecosystem function at the landscape scale**. At the local and regional scale, WGRP projects incorporate Community Wildfire Protection Plans, the Karuk Tribe’s Eco-cultural Restoration Management Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan, and the Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests’ Land and

Resource Management Plans. Proposed CFLRP projects were collaboratively prioritized based on a spatial overlay assessment of more than 24 layers that represent our shared values and strategies. The treatments reflect strategic and programmatic alignment with state and national partners, embodying California's Forest Carbon Action Plan, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the North American Fire Initiative's strategic resources. This landscape is already a national example of shared stewardship. National and international media coverage of WKRP projects will continue to help spread these collaborative management principles with other landscapes throughout the region and nation. The Western Region Cohesive Strategy Planning Committee has also highlighted WKRP as an **example of the National Cohesive Strategy being implemented** on the ground. Sustained strategic funding is the final missing ingredient for long-term success.

4. Economic, Social, and Ecological Context

Current economic and social conditions and resources, services, and values at risk

For thousands of years, the Karuk have used fire to create desired cultural and ecological conditions, favoring diverse species and habitats. Applying traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), the Karuk historically maintained short fire return intervals and promoted self-limiting, low- to moderate-intensity surface fires at the landscape scale. In addition to protecting and enhancing ecosystems and communities, **returning fire to the landscape is essential to revitalizing Karuk culture**. Conversely, continued fire suppression/exclusion and single species management will further degrade cultural and economic vitality.

Economic conditions on the landscape are closely tied to the need for restoration. The project area includes seven small communities (< 3,000 people total) and isolated residences with **limited formal employment opportunities**. Since European contact in the 19th century, this region has been in a **boom and bust economic cycle** associated with resource extraction. The legacy of genocide associated with the Gold Rush era, followed by the clearcut logging era that included massive protests over aerial herbicide spraying and ended with the Spotted Owl/Timber wars, and finally the "Green Rush" of marijuana cultivation that only now is beginning to be regulated, have all left lasting impacts on the land and the people. Despite all these impacts, and also because of them, there is a vibrant non-monetary subsistence economy across the WKRP landscape. **Most tribal and non-tribal families rely in part on wild harvested foods** such as salmon, deer, huckleberries, and acorns, **as well as basic living materials** such as firewood. **Economic hardship** is evident in the most recent (2015) reports for our largest community, Happy Camp, from the United States Census Department and Bureau of Labor Statistics. The annual median income for Happy Camp, less than \$30,000, was not even half the state average and 20% lower than that of Siskiyou County generally. The unemployment rate of 12.4% was 103% higher than the State of California and 133% higher than the United States overall.

Structural socioeconomic issues are compounded by **acute threats from extreme wildfire**. Homes and properties in this region are often accessed by **one-way, steep and winding roads** overgrown with fuels, presenting barriers to ingress and egress in the case of fires and storms. All local CWPP's in the project area prioritize defensible space, roadside thinning, the establishment of strategic fuelbreaks in the WUI followed by large scale use of prescribed fire. Essentially all residences in the area are classified by the USFS and CALFIRE as **Wildland-**

Urban Interface, and the majority of the project area is classified as **High or Very High wildfire risk** in the Hazard Potential map, with Very High predominant. Following the 2014 wildfires, power and internet were interrupted for weeks to months. Roads reaching the communities were closed, homes and structures were threatened and lost, and services such as clean water and telephone access were disrupted.

There have also been significant and long-lasting impacts to **recreation infrastructure** and opportunities in the region. Short term disruptions include Forest closure orders, heavy smoke, and fire suppression activities including vehicle traffic and near constant aircraft use. Damage from extreme wildfires, and sometimes from suppression activities themselves, cause reverberating impacts to **trails**, campgrounds, water systems, corrals, and even the recreation setting. A trail that exists in a once forested area that burns under high severity will require emergency stabilization prior to winter storms and will be subject to compounding damage from increased erosion, falling snags, and reduced maintenance due to the increased workload, more hazardous worksite, and new logistical challenges. Some of these trails are kept open annually at extreme cost, while others lower down on the priority list may not be adequately maintained for years or decades, if ever. This all adds up to fewer recreation opportunities for locals and visitors which can have a profound negative effect on health and wellness, tourism, small businesses, and the overall quality of life.

Current ecological conditions and values at risk

A primary value at risk within the project area is its diverse mixed conifer and mixed hardwood-conifer woodlands. The **main National Vegetation Classification macrogroups are Mediterranean California types** (Landfire Existing Vegetation 2.0.0): Mixed Evergreen Forest (29%), and Mesic and Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland (21% and 16%, respectively). California Montane Woodland and Chaparral macrogroups and Mediterranean California Red Fir Forest also occur, with 25 macrogroups in total represented on the landscape. Understory species include huckleberry, hazel, bunchgrasses, Oregon grape, Ceanothus, and a staggering array of grasses and forbs that have found refuge here over geologic time. Elevation within the area varies between 300' at Orleans to over 9000' on Thompson Peak. The rugged topography—heavily dissected slopes often exceeding 90%—creates complex wind patterns and strong elevation, slope, and aspect effects on vegetation and fire behavior. As a result, **fire strongly influences the regional ecology**. The region has a Mediterranean climate, with a pronounced dry season punctuated by lightning storms and sufficient annual precipitation (over 50 inches annually in Orleans) to support rapid vegetative growth.

While these forests developed over millennia through **human-influenced fire regimes**, their current structure and composition reflects the legacy of fire suppression and clearcut logging of the last century. Time between fires under recent suppression is the longest it has been since the last Ice Age (Skinner et al. 2006). On average, forest land in the Klamath Mountains region has not experienced fire for at least three times the length of the pre-European settlement fire return interval (Safford and Van de Water 2014). On over 40% of the WKRP planning area, fuels have accumulated for more than a century without any fire (WKRP Plan 2014). **Conifers and shade tolerant hardwoods are now denser and more dominant** than in the pre-suppression era, encroaching into meadows, shading out understory vegetation, and overtopping deciduous oaks. The **prohibition and exclusion of cultural fire management** has contributed to atypically

dense stands with large numbers of small trees relative to historic distributions, increasing the **risk of large, severe fires**. In 2014, for example, a series of wildfires burned over 200,000 acres of the WKRP planning area, with approximately 30% of the area burning at high severity, double the previous average of wildfires between 1987 and 2006, as indicated in the 2014 USFS BAER report. These high-severity fire scars are being rapidly colonized by **invasive species**, including Armenia blackberry, yellow starthistle, dyer's woad, tree of heaven, knapweed, non-native grasses, and Scotch broom.

In addition to upland forests, **aquatic habitats** are significantly threatened by altered fire regimes and other stressors. The USDA Watershed Condition Framework mapping lists watersheds in the project area as Properly Functioning and At-Risk. The Klamath River is listed as **water quality limited** under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act with respect to nutrients, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. While water quality is primarily affected by upstream dams and agricultural uses, severe fires have greatly elevated soil erosion rates and large sediment inputs (Ice, Neary, and Adams 2004); over 30 miles of critical coho habitat were negatively impacted in the 2014 fires. Conversely, the absence of lingering summer smoke from natural and cultural fires may contribute to higher Klamath mainstem **water temperatures**, preventing upriver salmon migration (David, Asarian, and Lake 2018). Rivers and tributaries in the project area host sensitive populations of Chinook salmon (spring and fall runs), ESA-listed coho salmon, steelhead, and several species of lamprey and mussels (USFS 2018). Low-gradient streams have been the most heavily impacted by human development, and species that depend on these low gradient habitats and associated floodplains, including coho salmon, have suffered greatly (less than 5% of population remaining) (NOAA 2014).

5. Desired Conditions and Strategy

The proposed project is a significant step toward restoring fire regimes across the landscape, maintaining and restoring threatened/endangered and culturally important species populations, restoring fluvial processes, reducing the impacts of climate change and invasive species, and managing road and trail networks to provide multiple use functions. To **restore fire process**, WKRP partners will implement **strategically placed manual and mechanical thinning treatments** to reduce fuels and create or enhance fire control features, focusing on **community protection, roads, ridges, and natural fuel breaks** (rivers, recent fire scars, natural openings, etc.). Landscape-level spatial fire planning completed through matching funds is being coordinated with adjacent forest collaboratives (Southern Oregon/Trinity) and guided by input from a diverse team of national partners. Concurrent development of State-and-Transition modelling with researchers Paul Hessburg (US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station), Susan Prichard (University of Washington), and others through matching funds will deliver high resolution data on pre-suppression vegetation patterns and help visualize our nuanced shared vision of our desired ecological conditions at the landscape scale.

Strategic fuels treatments will provide the **sociopolitical license** needed to **expand the use of prescribed fire** from the localized burning associated with private properties and individual Forest Service projects to encompass significant portions of the landscape (i.e. increase pace and scale). Collaborative burning efforts through existing cooperative burn agreements, prescribed fire training exchanges, and All Hands All Lands burn teams will build the workforce and skill to

accomplish prescribed burning at the scale needed to facilitate systemic change. The combination of thinning and burning will also move the landscape toward the long-term goal of being able to use local resources to **manage wildland fire for resource objectives** at any time of year. Increased local capacity and partnerships will facilitate a transition from ignition-limited to fuel-limited fire management strategies where the benefits of fire are maximized and the negative consequences significantly reduced.

WKRP **collaboratively developed detailed prescriptions** for manual, mechanical, prescribed burning, and invasive species treatments in the Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project Environmental Analysis. These prescriptions are based on traditional knowledge and informed by the best available western science. Treatments focus on creating a mosaic of seral stages based on site-specific Potential Natural Vegetation data and existing vegetation. Prescriptions will **preserve large, mature trees and promote culturally significant species**, such as sugar pines and black oak, to develop full canopies and maintain a more open stand structure consistent with historical stand densities and reduced ladder fuels. These species are important food sources for humans and other animals, and have been declining on the landscape under the recent fire suppression regime. By breaking up fuel continuity, reducing fire intensity and competition stresses on existing and maturing “old-growth” trees, the proposed treatments **benefit the federally listed Northern Spotted Owl**, as well as culturally important animals such as elk (itself an important food source), and species used in regalia such as pileated woodpecker and the potentially listed marten and fisher. Treatments also adhere to Forest Service policies and NEPA decisions limiting new road construction and minimizing impacts from existing roads.

This **treatment strategy is informed by the Karuk Climate Adaptation Plan** (Tripp and Norgaard 2019), which outlines how applying traditional knowledge across ecological zones can mitigate the expected ecosystem stresses from climate change. Environmental changes highlighted by an analysis of climate effects on Six Rivers National Forest (Butz et al. 2015), and the NW Climate Toolbox and Climate Impacts Group’s Tribal Climate Tool, include increasing air and water temperatures, more variable precipitation and streamflow, reduced snowpack/earlier snowmelt, changes in fog intrusion, and increased dry north and east wind events. The planned thinning projects will help the ecosystem to adapt to these changing conditions by alleviating the stresses imposed by extreme wildfires and competition for water in excessively dense stands. The strategy **also aligns with the Six Rivers and Klamath Forest Plans** and the Northwest Forest Plan, as well as a pending Categorical Exclusion for fuels treatments including prescribed burning and thinning of trees <12” diameter on the Six Rivers National Forest (decision anticipated in 2020).

The revitalization of indigenous stewardship principles and practices is a primary goal of this project, and will provide a globally significant demonstration of how humans can work together to restore the ecosystems we depend on. The Karuk have been working to restore fire process and function throughout their aboriginal territory since the inception of fire suppression policies. Treatments accomplished through this CFLRP proposal will help restore the ceremonial use of fire on Offield Mountain, north of the community of Orleans. Restoring this ceremony will highlight the interconnectedness of humans and the ecosystem, and our special role and responsibility to care for all living things. Monitoring and learning from restorative treatments will demonstrate the connections between fire, fish, water, wildlife, plants and people, and will

help the Tribe and partners to adapt stewardship practices through time. By building relationships between the people and the land, the **spiritual and cultural components** of this project will support a **growing local workforce committed to stewardship** well beyond the life of this CFLRP grant.

Proposed projects will accomplish **landscape scale invasive species removal** on both National Forests, focusing on leading edge treatments for non-Class A weeds, and full-scale removal of Class A weed populations throughout the WKRP area. Projects will fulfill eradication targets for priority sites within each ranger district, and extend treatment of priority sites in recent fire footprints beyond one-year BAER funding. All proposed WKRP treatments will follow best management practices for equipment cleaning and seasonality to limit the spread of invasive plants, as well as **pathogens**: epidemic Port Orford-cedar root rot (*Phytophthora lateralis*) and the potentially devastating Sudden Oak Death (*P. ramorum*), which has been identified near the landscape and could have a substantial impact on vegetation community composition and acorn production. Preliminary observations regarding the spread of sudden oak death suggest that it is less likely to infect recently burned areas (Lee 2009, Beh et al. 2012). Revitalizing indigenous fire use practices and principles as a landscape scale fire management strategy has great potential to alleviate this threat. Fall burning in oak stands may also alleviate pest stressors by killing weevil larvae present in early-falling acorns.

While ecological restoration on this landscape is currently focused on fire, **large-scale aquatic restoration projects are also being planned, implemented and monitored throughout the WKRP area**. High level collaboration between all local, state, tribal and federal partners over the past 20 years have set the stage for dam removal and system-wide restoration of stream process and function. CFLRP funding will be leveraged many times over with existing funding sources to expedite the pace and scale of instream restoration as spring and fall Chinook trend toward extinction, and coho hang on by a genetic thread. Here on the southern range of salmon, climate change is increasing stream temperatures above the tolerance range for most salmonids in the mainstem Klamath and key tributaries including the Salmon River during the summer months (Butz et al. 2015).

Collaborative planning efforts have prioritized more than 15 years of mainstem and tributary instream and floodplain restoration projects, across all ownerships. Through this CFLRP project, **salmonid habitat will be improved on at least 23.5 miles of anadromous streams**. At least 10 off-channel ponds will be constructed to create winter rearing habitat essential for coho salmon recovery. Seasonal fish passage barriers on all anadromous streams will be monitored and treated as needed to maintain fish passage. Logs and large wood pieces will also be added to streams to increase fish habitat. Small woody debris (brush bundles) will be added to stream reaches lacking cover complexity, focusing on coho streams and refugial areas where juvenile salmonids concentrate to escape lethal water temperatures. These aquatic restoration projects were collaboratively designed in accordance with the Clean Water Act, TMDL Action Plans for the Klamath and Salmon Rivers (NCRWQCB 2005, 2010), SRNF Aquatic Restoration Action Plan and associated EA (2019), Candidate Action Table for Mid-Klamath Fisheries Restoration (MKWC 2019), Mid-Klamath Fisheries Resource Recovery Plan (Soto et al. 2008, MKWC 2012), and state and federal recovery plans for coho salmon (NOAA 2014, CDFW 2004).

6. Wildfire Risk Reduction

Strategic treatments in and around communities and culturally significant areas will allow for a shift from fire suppression as the primary fire management tool **to managing wildfires for resource objectives**. This shift will greatly **reduce the cost of fire management**; in the past 15 years, over \$500 million dollars have been spent suppressing wildfires in the Klamath Mountains (Harling 2017). Proposed treatments will increase forest resiliency, and help maintain the Western Klamath Mountains as a climate refuge, evidenced by its globally significant conifer diversity and endemism. Treatments will also be informed by changing climate conditions. For example, treatments will focus on the northeast and southwest sides of human communities as more persistent high pressure systems over the Great Basin in late fall drive intense northeast wind events, and seasonality of burning may be changed to respond to shifts in timing of ecological and climatic events.

Risk includes more than the perceived negative consequences of fire. The Science-Based Risk Report of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy identified **continued fire exclusion as the primary risk** to Native American cultural identity (WRSC 2012). Strategic treatments followed by frequent burning will help to **compartmentalize fire into smaller areas when natural ignitions occur**. When natural ignitions do not treat an area and fuels begin to build beyond acceptable levels, prescribed fire will be reintroduced into these areas.

Collaboratively developed fuels treatment projects informed by traditional knowledge and western science will be implemented to strategically restore ecosystem process and function. **Linear manual and mechanical thinning projects along strategic control features** will allow for the safe reintroduction of prescribed fire at the Wildland-Urban Interface, and create the decision space for fire managers to manage natural ignitions for resource benefits without endangering nearby communities. WKRP completed a values-based spatial overlay assessment to prioritize treatments across the planning area and to characterize risk, including data on time since last fire, number of overlapping fires, mid-mature dense fir stands, slope, aspect and elevation. WKRP is also using **strategic fire planning to inform risk-benefit decisions** associated with managed wildfires. As we have demonstrated from prescribed burning to date and analysis of overlapping wildfires that more closely mimic historic conditions in a fuel limited, frequent fire system, we can exponentially **increase landscape diversity and resilience** by reducing fire size and severity and increasing frequency and distribution. Modelling in similar landscapes show that frequent, low to moderate severity fires resembling historic fire regimes create diverse habitats at a much finer resolution, and promote carbon sequestration and the formation of full crown late seral forests through stem thinning and reducing the potential for stand replacing fire at larger scales (Prichard et al. 2018).

Through annual TREX events, WKRP has **demonstrated the ability to effectively get fire on the ground** in the most challenging conditions. In 2019, and previously in 2015, the collaborative was able to leverage on-site data and trust with CALFIRE leadership to obtain variances and implement prescribed fire treatments during statewide burn suspensions based on severe weather conditions elsewhere. Previous Klamath TREX events have provided over 360 quality training assignments to local, tribal, state and federal fire practitioners. WKRP is further increasing capacity to implement burns at larger scales by developing other models of collaborative burning to respond more rapidly to available burn windows. **National agreements**

between the Nature Conservancy and the US Forest Service, with Supplemental Project Agreements at the Forest level, allow for cross-boundary projects across the planning area.

7. Benefits to Local Communities

As outlined in the 2014 WKRP Plan for Restoring Fire Adapted Landscapes, the goal of the Partnership is to “establish and maintain resilient ecosystems, communities, and economies guided by cultural and contemporary knowledge through a truly collaborative process that effectuates the revitalization of continual human relationships with our dynamic landscape.” This project will help develop **self-sustaining systems for collaborative land stewardship** that are not tied to a boom-and-bust resource extraction cycle. It will help sustain the local wood products industry by employing local contractors and selling wood byproducts to local mills. Further, the project will generate at **least 30 additional local full-time equivalent positions** to accelerate fuels, fire, and restoration treatments, including burn boss and supervisory roles. A fully integrated wildland fire management workforce can be employed year-round progressing the full spectrum of restoration activities while maintaining prescribed burning as their top priority. CFLR projects will also maintain high levels of **local contracting**, and high levels of non-Forest Service contributions. However, these metrics cannot be expected to increase over time, as the Somes Project to date has been managed entirely with non-FS funds and 100% local contractors.

CFLRP projects will increase **employment for youth, minority groups, and low-income households**. The projects will **train and employ resource managers**, from burn bosses and middle management to entry-level firefighters and other natural resource technicians, increasing capacity in the Karuk Tribe and local community organizations and building a foundation for future landscape-level treatments and fire management. These demographic groups, and the local community as a whole, are the **primary beneficiaries of this CFLRP project**. CFLRP funds will also contribute to tribal and local workforce training programs for local participants 18-24 years of age.

At the landscape scale, moderating fire regimes will also protect the **resources valued by the US Forest Service, the State of California, utility companies, downstream municipal water districts, Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties, and other WKRP organizations**. It will significantly reduce future economic losses from wildfire by creating fuelbreaks and defensible space around all communities within the 1.2 million-acre WKRP planning area, and reduce fire impacts on infrastructure and water sources. In addition, the WKRP CFLRP projects are designed to strengthen communities, increasing their fire adaptation and connection to the land. Revitalizing Karuk cultural practices is core to the project. **Economic and cultural benefits overlap** where restored fire regimes **promote food sovereignty** through restorative treatments and increased access to traditional foods, including salmon, elk, huckleberries, and acorns. The projects will support **intergenerational relationships** and knowledge exchange through summer youth internships, university student internships and family-based pruning, burning, coppicing and harvesting practices.

The project will also strengthen connections between diverse groups within the community under the WKRP collaborative framework. Long-term funds from CFLRP will leverage work on

adjacent private lands. These projects are increasing acceptance of prescribed fire in communities that do not already exhibit strong support, through outreach initiatives such as programs in local schools, community participation in burning, and creative media outreach, such as inviting artists to observe and document prescribed burns.

Relevant metrics

- Maintain or increase number and/or type of trainings related to restoration completed by project work
- Maintain or increase the number and/or size of contracts offered each year to do restoration work
- Maintain or increase number of youth, minority group representatives, or people from low-income communities hired to work on the project and the type of work they are conducting
- Maintain or increase the number of jobs/shifts/amount paid to workers
- Maintain or increase use of the forest for subsistence
- Maintain or increase acres protected from fire through creation of defensible space, fuel breaks, and other fuels reduction projects
- Maintain or increase extent to which different perspectives are represented
- Maintain or increase extent to which stakeholders previously in conflict are now working together

8. Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts

The proposed project includes multiple uses of forest restoration byproducts, including but not limited to **commercial timber sales, firewood for local communities, post and pole production, and instream use of woody material for aquatic habitat improvement**. These uses all rely on **existing infrastructure**. The Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests regularly execute timber sales to support restoration objectives, using local contractors and mills, and will continue to implement commercial contracts as part of the CFLRP project. Currently, the Leary Creek project has been sold as a typical Forest Service timber sale, while the Somes Project is being executed through a Stewardship Agreement in collaboration with Lomakatsi Restoration Project, a non-profit, grassroots organization that develops and implements forest and watershed restoration projects in Oregon and Northern California. As discussed in Section 7, increasing fuel treatments across the landscape will provide sustained work for local forestry, fuels, and logging crews, supervised by the Karuk Tribe, Forest Service, and other partners as requested (Lomakatsi, MKWC, SRRC, etc). Firewood is also used for heating in many homes within the project area, and community members will be able to collect small-diameter wood and branches from project sites or landings, benefiting low-income households and those disconnected from the electric grid.

One relatively new and innovative use of forest restoration byproducts as part of the proposed CFLRP project is the use of **woody material for instream fisheries habitat improvement**. As an example, on the recently completed 22 acre Kelly Bar Habitat Enhancement Project, over 300 18” to 36” diameter full dimension logs, over 300 8” to 18” poles, and over 200 cubic yards of slash were utilized for fisheries restoration. The slash was brought directly from nearby fuels treatments on critical ingress/egress routes on USFS lands. Full mill price was paid for the logs

and poles, while the slash were forest byproducts that would otherwise have been burned onsite. This highlights the direct connections between forest and fisheries restoration and the innovative ways that the collaborative group is using forest restoration byproducts locally and efficiently to leverage and implement additional restoration efforts.

In addition, **new infrastructure for processing small-diameter biomass and slash may become available** in the next 10 years to process fuels removed from the forest. Assessments are underway for the potential construction of a **Tribal Biomass Demonstration Project** plant in Happy Camp, which would increase local energy security and reduce transport costs for biomass from the CFLRP projects. At a larger scale, Humboldt County is also considering construction of an **advanced biomass processing facility** early in the 10 year CFLRP timeframe, which would generate a substantial market for small-diameter restoration byproducts. This market would allow material that would have been pile-burned, or left untreated, to displace fossil fuels as a source of heat and energy. Rough estimates of the capacity of this potential plant are around 10 mmbf per year, which could be at least partially sourced from the project area. **Biomass markets are not necessary to implement this CFLRP plan**, but would allow the collaborative to expand the scope of its operations and obtain additional matching funds during and beyond the 10 year horizon.

Sale or transfer of wood restoration byproducts will be conducted through the existing Master Stewardship Agreement between the Karuk Tribe and the Six Rivers National Forest, and potentially through a similar agreement with Klamath National Forest. Other WKRP partners will be engaged through Supplemental Project Agreements that tier to this MSA between the Forest Service and the Karuk Tribe. WKRP partners will enter into contracts with primarily local operators as available to deliver restoration byproducts to existing timber mills and potential biomass plants.

9. Collaboration

In 2012, collaboration around forest management in the Western Klamath Mountains was **in crisis**, with multiple parties involved in litigation over the implementation of the Orleans Community Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project (OCFR) and other Forest Service projects. **However, this shifted as federal agencies, tribes, and environmental, industry, and local community groups engaged in the Open Standards Process for Conservation.** The stakes couldn't have been higher when we first started. It was easy to categorize, or stereotype, everyone at the table: "the tribal member," "the logger," "the environmentalist." But as we took time to get to know one another, we began to realize how nuanced, and often overlapping our values actually were. Some members of the Karuk Tribe worked as loggers. Environmentalists weren't all "preservationists" by default, and supported Traditional Ecological Knowledge and mechanical thinning in roadside plantations. Loggers expressed a deep connection to fishing and restoring rivers. Seeing people for their entire selves, rather than assuming that they fit into one simple category revealed where our values overlapped, and quite literally, where we could work together.

By design, the **Open Standards process is inclusive**; anyone was allowed to attend workshops as long as they honored basic ground rules of mutual respect and constructive dialogue. The

Nature Conservancy's North American Fire Initiative facilitated the collaborative planning sessions, with the engagement and support of Six Rivers and Klamath National Forest leadership. **Groups representing diverse perspectives on land management** were invited to participate; over 20 organizations were involved in the initial discussions and 17 have remained active participants. This process led to the formation of the **Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WGRP)** in 2013.

WGRP has since **successfully planned and implemented multiple restoration projects, working across tribal, federal and private lands**. The annual Klamath TREX provided an early opportunity to work together using prescribed fire to establish key fuelbreaks around our WGRP communities. Relationships built as we learned to burn together again facilitated forward progress on larger, landscape scale projects like the Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project. This was the first truly collaborative planning process for a mechanical thinning project on the Six Rivers NF, with diverse WGRP representation on the interdisciplinary ID team and on-the-ground crews. Partners are continuing to collaborate throughout implementation, monitoring and adaptive management. The Partnership has also successfully used this process to plan the Leary Project, a plantation thinning project that establishes a key roadside and ridgetop fuelbreak to the east of the Hoopa Valley Reservation. The commercial portion of this project has been successfully sold. **Other successes include** establishing interagency agreements for cooperative burning and collaborative planning; a Master Stewardship Agreement between SRNF and the Karuk Tribe; and a Supplemental Project Agreement among SRNF, the Karuk Tribe, MKWC, and Lomakatsi for implementation of the Somes Project. Many WGRP instream restoration projects have also been completed throughout the planning area.

WGRP's structure includes has four nominated **Co-leads**: Bill Tripp (Karuk Tribe), Karuna Greenberg (Salmon River Restoration Council), Will Harling (Mid Klamath Watershed Council), and Clint Isbell (Klamath National Forest). In addition to the Co-leads, the day-to-day operations of the partnership are governed by the **WGRP Core Team**, made up of representatives of additional partner groups: Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests, Klamath Forest Alliance/ Environmental Protection and Information Center, Happy Camp Fire Safe Council, Northern CA Resource Center, and the community at large. **Any interested person from the planning area can participate in WGRP activities. WGRP's activities are advertised and discussed at public meetings.** The day-to-day operations of the partnership are managed by a full-time WGRP partnership coordinator. Additional work is accomplished through "working groups" based on functional areas, and geographically based "subgroups". **Disputes amongst the Core Team are resolved through discussion among co-leads, working to create consensus.** Facilitation of the Core Team meetings is rotated amongst the core team members. Regular meetings of the WGRP Core Team (~ monthly) and more frequent working group meetings have and will maintain our Partnership beyond this 10 year CFLRP project.

Barriers to participation in WGRP activities from potential collaborators include past failed collaboratives, competing job responsibilities, and lack of funding or proper funding mechanisms. Since the beginning of WGRP, industry partners cited the demise of the OCFR project, in which they were heavily invested, as a reason to not engage again. WGRP co-leads agreed to represent the need for consistent and sustainable levels of commercial harvest as restoration byproducts through the WGRP planning process, and industry representatives agreed

to participate in specific workshops where their expertise was needed, and OCFR is now one of the projects on the Six Rivers Program of Work and included in this proposal. **Funding a WKRP coordinator** with private foundation support has reduced the workload on co-leads and Core Team members with competing job duties, and funding mechanisms have broadened in scope beyond individual projects to allow for specialists to support multiple projects. CFLRP funds will help maintain and build institutional capacity within WKRP.

10. Multi-party Monitoring

WKRP partners **collaboratively developed a multiparty monitoring (MPM) strategy** for the Somes pilot project, including the questions to be answered, the protocol, and presentation of results. This framework includes monitoring the effects and risks of treatments to invasive plants, legacy trees, biological diversity, wildlife and habitat, and subsistence resources. The MPM strategy will be refined and applied to other CFLRP projects. Aligning with key CFLRP goals, MPM will include measures to calculate community stability, quality of life and capacity for collaboration and workforce development.

The WKRP Multi-Party Monitoring workgroup (MPM Team) has developed target objectives guided by the group's mission to restore and maintain resilient landscapes, communities and economies, as well as the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy. The MPM framework includes collaboratively developed research questions addressing treatment timing, effects of treatments by treatment type, as well as data and metrics for measurement and identifies key roles for the group/agency or individual responsible for data collection. The **MPM Team includes** members of the Karuk Tribe Natural Resources Department, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, Klamath Forest Alliance, Salmon River Restoration Council, U.S. Forest Service, local K-12 grade students, Humboldt State University and other university students and researchers, USFS Region 5 Remote Sensing Laboratory, USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station, as well as community "citizen science" volunteers. Line officer involvement in monitoring will be minimal.

Monitoring results will be applied to modify planned work if results suggest the need to adapt, however, the goal of monitoring the Somes Bar project is to learn from treatments early on so that **future projects could incorporate changes during planning**. Planned work could be modified to include: creating larger skips (unharvested areas within treatments), altering prescribed burn timing if objectives are not met under changing climate and weather conditions, increasing work crew training to accomplish specific treatments, and/or identifying specific tools for effectiveness.

All WKRP partners have agreed on shared values and have prioritized shared learning. The goal of the MPM effort is to: document the effectiveness of treatments in achieving the desired conditions; organize and evaluate data to inform future activities; and to increase knowledge and understanding in an effort to build trust among partners. **Ensuring trust** involves collaboratively developing clear, concise monitoring questions to limit bias; tracking which partner is responsible for gathering data; and deciding upon how data will be stored, packaged, and shared. WKRP is committed to following these protocols and learning from monitoring data to better

inform future stewardship, and has included funding in the proposal to support monitoring-focused positions among the partners.

In 2015, the Karuk Department of Natural Resources reorganized to include development of the Pikyav (“to fix it”) Field Institute which is comprised of an integrated program structure involving Higher Education and Research, K-12 Curriculum Development and Delivery, Workforce Development and Internships, Food Security and Food Sovereignty, and the Sipnuuk (“water holding basket”) Digital Libraries, Archives and Museum. Integration of intergenerational learning into everything we do is going to be a key part of our long-term success. Information captured by the Archaeological/ Cultural Resources crew helps to identify Traditional Ecological Knowledge to be incorporated into project planning, implementation, research and monitoring. This includes the identification of culturally relevant Focal Species that each project is designed to support through habitat improvement and monitoring.

11. Readiness to Implement Strategy

NEPA: The entirety of the Six Rivers National Forest (350,000 acres within the CFLRP project footprint) is under programmatic, condition-based NEPA to perform aquatic restoration, with pending programmatic, condition-based NEPA (decision expected in 2020) to perform fuels treatments including prescribed burning and manual and mechanical thinning (up to 8,000 acres per year). Project-specific NEPA, including timber harvest, is complete for 5,570 acres and in process for an additional 14,000 acres. In addition, over 40,000 acres are covered by existing NEPA on the Klamath National Forest, including the proposed prescribed burning and manual fuels reduction treatments.

Implementation: WKRP’s mechanisms for project implementation include: 1) USDA/DOI interagency agreement which transfers funds from the USFS to the Karuk Tribe via the BIA. The Karuk Tribe then contracts funds to other partners as needed; 2) Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreements for prescribed burning; 3) Master Stewardship Agreement between the USFS SRNF and Karuk Tribe (along with corresponding Supplemental Project Agreements between all partners) for projects that exchange goods for services; 4) Participating and Cost-Share agreements (both Master and stand-alone) between KNF/SRNF and SRRC/MKWC; 5) Collection Agreements through which the Partnership (e.g. MKWC) can distribute funds to the USFS. All proposed treatments are consistent with KNF/SRNF Forest Plans. New Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) mechanisms, authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, are also in the planning phases. These mechanisms will help to extend tribal-federal partnership beyond the span of this CFLRP project. One caveat of TFPA processes is that it cannot conflict with existing stewardship agreements. If needed, the partnership will adapt its agreement approach, through mutual agreement, while still meeting CFLRP outcomes.

12. Unit Capacity and Project Funding

Recent state and foundation funding have greatly increased WKRP leadership capacity by specifically funding leadership positions. **WKRP partners have a long history of successful grant administration and project management.** CFLRP funds will allow the Partnership to increase the scale of implementation of its NEPA-ready projects, and provide critical matching

funds from non-USFS sources. The Karuk Tribe and MKWC receive annual Uniform Guidance single audits and have consistently received clean, or “unmodified” audits. The Karuk Tribe, MKWC and SRRC have a long history of project implementation success similar to the proposed scope of work. MKWC and SRRC regularly utilize participating and cost-share agreements in partnership with the USFS, with on time financial and programmatic reports. While additional grant applications will be necessary to secure all the anticipated matching funds, **the long-term nature of CFLRP funds will help** free up staff time within WGRP to **focus on fuels program implementation** rather than constantly applying for new project grants.

Availability of trained personnel for implementation is a primary capacity challenge. **CFLRP funds will help all WGRP partners develop capacity**, and specifically provide resources for the Karuk Tribe to **recruit and train a year-round 30-person crew** with leadership and support positions consistent with Interagency Fire Program Management Standards. Fuel treatments including prescribed burning and wildfire management will be this crew’s primary mission, rather than a supplement to fire suppression duties. The Six Rivers National Forest also plans to form a similar crew dedicated to fire management and not available for fire suppression on other forests. As these crews develop, **the cost of fuels treatment**, including the recurring hiring costs for personnel to implement prescribed burns, **will decrease**. Local and outside **contractors will supplement WGRP partner crews** for surge capacity to implement large manual and mechanical treatments, further contributing to a permanent fuels reduction workforce in the region and **providing managerial roles and local career advancement opportunities in contract management**. Tribal and WGRP partner crews will also work to collect baseline monitoring data for CFLRP projects.

Fuels treatments and establishment of control features, such as trails and roadside fuelbreaks, conducted in **this project will prepare the landscape for the return of more frequent prescribed burning**. This burning can be performed by the dedicated crews and by Karuk cultural practitioners, and can **maintain desired landscape conditions at a lower cost per acre than repeated thinning treatments**. Over the next 10 years, the partnership aims to prepare a substantial portion of the landscape to receive frequent fire (return intervals of 1-12 years), in anticipation of maintaining the landscape with fire for generations to come. If only 5 years of funding are obtained, a smaller proportion of the landscape will be prepared, but **WGRP is committed to maintaining those acres over the long term** and reallocating staff time from implementation to grant applications if needed to finish the planned projects.

In addition, partners are exploring options to perform stewardship services with non-federal funds and use restoration byproduct goods to fund an endowment to sustain the partnership’s work beyond the life of the CFLRP project. **Expected non-Forest Service investments**, outlined in Attachment F, include grants to partners from the California Climate Initiative, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, California Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as in-kind contributions from the Karuk Tribe, SRRC, and MKWC. While in-kind contributions are not included in Attachment F, they will be used to leverage non-Forest Service grants. The Karuk Tribe is also pursuing additional avenues for increased compact funding through the Department of Interior. This combined with current endowment building efforts and potential innovative financing efforts are targeting a 20% to 50% sustainability factor on a targeted annual

budget of \$10 million. If a \$50 million endowment fund can be built over the next 10 years, \$2.25 million is projected to be generated and available for priority actions and activities related to sustaining long-term stewardship success.

WKRP relies on substantive project monitoring, **beyond basic compliance requirements**, to improve restoration outcomes and efficiencies over time on a landscape scale. The monitoring budget is less than 6% of the overall budget and CFLRP monitoring funds will be used on NFS lands only. **CFLRP monitoring funds will be matched with in-kind contributions from research partners and partner matching funds.** Monitoring will focus on answering social, cultural, ecological and economic questions prioritized by WKRP and funding agencies. The partnership has already gained efficiencies using this adaptive approach, as seen in treatment prescription changes between the Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management Project and the subsequent Leary project and those included in this proposal. Substantive monitoring allows the partnership to **continue to evolve and increase partners' and communities' comfort with pursuing more aggressive treatments** to meet our shared values and landscape restoration goals. This enhanced level of transparency and monitoring to demonstrate project outcomes, and implications for the environment and communities, is essential for maintaining community and partner support over the decade of the CFLRP and generations to follow.

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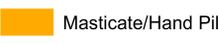
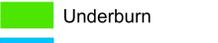
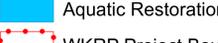
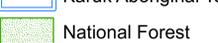
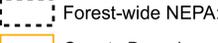
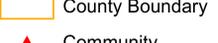
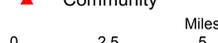
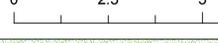
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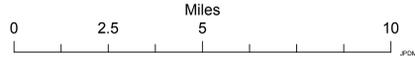
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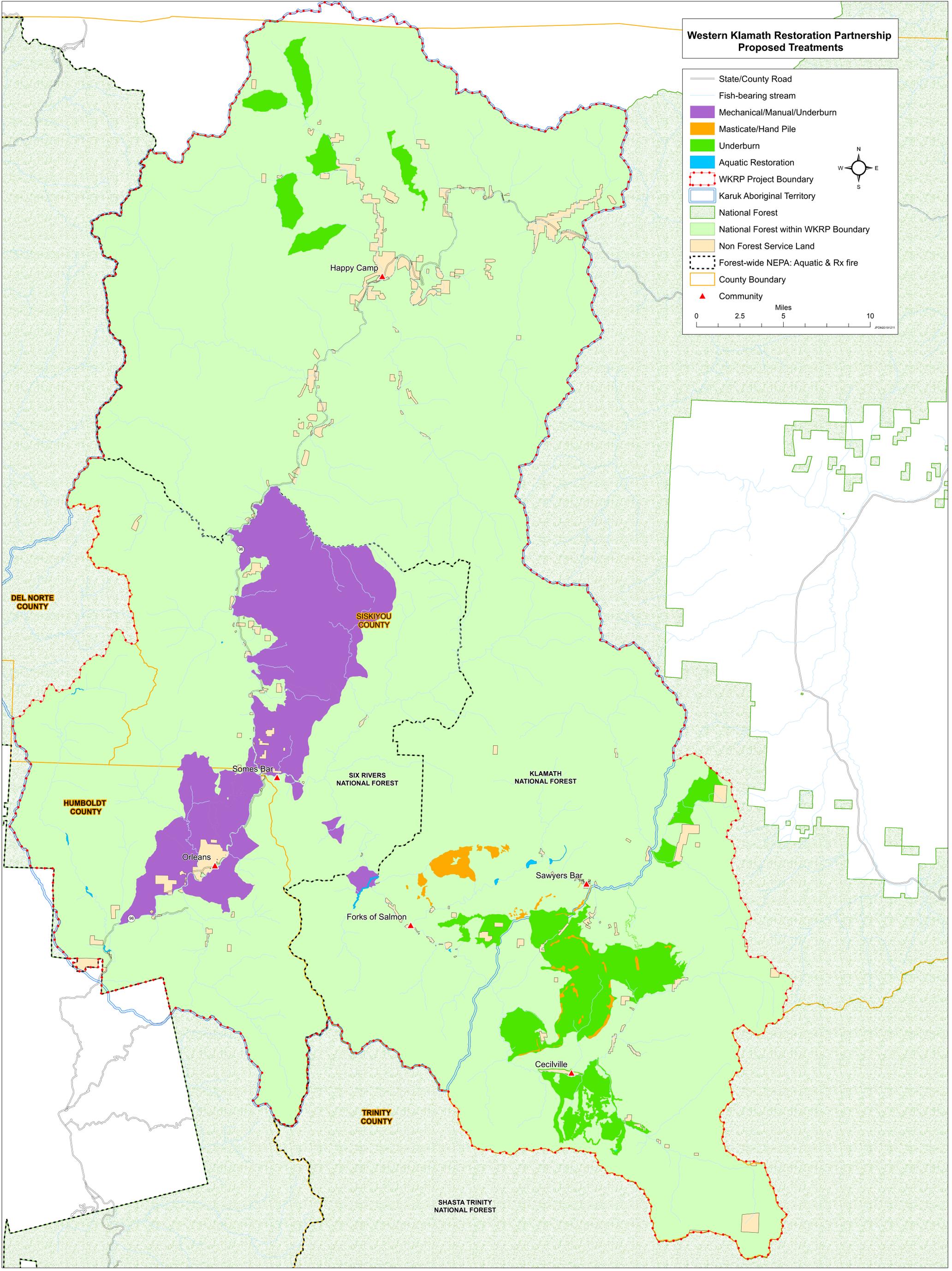
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**Western Klamath Restoration Partnership
Proposed Treatments**

-  State/County Road
-  Fish-bearing stream
-  Mechanical/Manual/Underburn
-  Masticate/Hand Pile
-  Underburn
-  Aquatic Restoration
-  WKRP Project Boundary
-  Karuk Aboriginal Territory
-  National Forest
-  National Forest within WKRP Boundary
-  Non Forest Service Land
-  Forest-wide NEPA: Aquatic & Rx fire
-  County Boundary
-  Community







CFLRP proposals are **not** expected to include ALL of the core treatment types below in their strategy - highlight those treatments that are core to your stated treatment objectives. Note that there are options to use "other" in this table.

Estimated treatments should include all planned treatments in the proposed CFLR landscape, regardless of landownership type. Provide an estimate of the % you expect to occur on NFS lands in column J, and list the other landownership types where you expect treatments to occur, if applicable, in column

Core Restoration Treatment Types	Please briefly fill in additional background information for the prompts below	Year 1*	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Years 5-10	TOTAL	Key treatment objectives	Estimated % accomplished on NFS lands (across all ten years)	Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private, etc.) where treatments will occur
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (acres)	See below (rows 5-9). These are also wildfire risk mitigation.									
<i>Mechanical Thinning (acres)</i>	Ground and cable thinning on Six Rivers NF	533	1000	771	798	3980	7082	Increase heterogeneity, reduce conifer density, restore oak woodlands and meadows.	100%	
<i>Prescribed Fire (acres)</i>	understory and pile burning	4609	5683	6350	7390	45664	69697	Restore fire process, protect communities, protect and enhance cultural use species and T&E species.	100%	
<i>Other (acres)</i>	Mastication	187	260	260			707	Reduce fuels, increase heterogeneity.	100%	
<i>Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres treated</i>	Manual treatments outside of the WUI designations.	100	0	202	192	886	1380	Create strategic fuelbreaks, increase heterogeneity, prepare for prescribed burning and wildfire.	100%	
<i>Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - WUI acres</i>	Manual treatment acres in WUI designation, as defined in Happy Camp, Salmon River and Orleans/Somes Bar Community Wildfire Protection Plans.	400	298	1008	959	5316	7981	Create strategic fuelbreaks. Protect communities, increase heterogeneity, and prepare for prescribed burning.	94%	500 acres on private lands (Wyden funds)
Invasive Species Management (acres)	Priority acres as designated by the cooperative invasive weed management team, tiering to Forest Plans.	133	267	267	267	1734	2667	Meet eradication targets for priority sites; contain existing invasive weed populations; extend treatment of priority sites that overlap with recent fire footprints.	100%	9361
Trail Reconstruction (miles)	Performing annual and deferred maintenance on trails for user safety and watershed health benefits; bringing miles of trail up to Forest Service standard	185	185	185	185	1110	1850	Remove trail obstructions for user safety and to prevent user created reroutes; reduce sediment delivery to creeks and rivers by installing and maintaining drainage structures; bring trail miles to standard to reduce maintenance needs and resource impacts.	100%	

Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)	Wet meadow restoration								173	Improve and increase wildlife habitat and forage for multiple species including, elk, deer, bear, and amphibians. Increase regional climate resiliency through: increased snowpack; increased water storage and continued delivery of cold water to anadromous fish bearing streams during hot months when it is most needed; reduced peaks of spring	100%	
In-Stream Fisheries Improvement (miles)	Fish passage, large wood placement	2	2	2	6	18	29			Create fish habitat by adding wood to streams. Targets: 2 key logs 330 ft. of channel length; 34-84 large wood pieces per mile***	93%	2 miles on private land (matching funds)
Riparian Area Improvements (acres)	Floodplain restoration, riparian planting, aquatic invasive species management.	2	19	61	30	7	119			Create beneficial habitat for fish by connecting floodplain terraces with average inundation depths of 1 foot at the 2 year recurrence interval, with heterogeneity to provide a range of depths and velocities.	100%	
Timber Harvest (acres)**	Estimated 60% ground based, 40% cable	533	1000	771	798	3980	7082			Reduce conifer density and increase forest heterogeneity. Meadow and oak woodland restoration.	100%	

*Assume funding requested for Year 1 will be allocated in February 2020 at the earliest

**Note that timber volume produced from the treatment is estimated in a separate attachment - Attachment C.

*** Target Metrics from Oregon Dept. of State Lands. Guide to placement of wood, boulders, and gravel for habitat restoration (2010). Salem, OR

CFRLP Proposal Attachment C: Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts

*Note that acres treated includes all acres treated within the CFLRP boundary. However, the projected annual harvested volume is only for NFS lands.

Fiscal Year	Estimate of acres treated annually that will generate restoration byproducts	Total projected annual harvested volume (ccf) from NFS lands	Expected percentage commercially utilized* from NFS lands
2020	533	5940	100
2021	1000	7200	100
2022	771	5400	100
2023	798	8460	100
2024	670	5400	100
2025	700	5670	100
2026	670	5400	100
2027	670	5400	100
2028	600	4860	100
2029	670	5400	100
TOTALS:	7082	59130	
	<i>Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on NFS lands:</i>	100	
	<i>Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on other landownerships within the CFLRP boundary:</i>	0	

*Commercially utilized refers to the volume you expect to sell across all product classes (sawtimber, biomass, firewood, etc.)

Forest Service staff representative(s) working with collaborative: (Please provide list of key staff):

SRNF: Nolan Colegrove, District Ranger; Devin McMahon, Partnership Coordinator; Mark DePerro, Fire and Fuels Specialist

KNF: Clint Isbell, Fire Ecologist; Ruth D'Amico, District Ranger; Jeremy Sullens, District Ranger
 PSW: Frank Lake, Distinguished Scientist

Collaborative Member/Partner Name	Organizational Affiliation (if applicable)	Was this person involved in proposal development?	Primary Issue Category	Second Issue Category	Third Issue Category	If "other," briefly describe
<i>Example</i>	<i>ABC Club</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Environmental</i>	<i>Forest Products</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Drinking Water</i>
Karuna Greenberg	Salmon River Restoration Council	Yes	Watershed	Environmental	Fire Ecology	
Kimberly Baker	Klamath Forest Alliance	Yes	Environmental	Wildlife	Wilderness	
Luna Latimer	Mid Klamath Watershed Council	Yes	Watershed	Forest Products	Community Development	
Will Harling	Mid Klamath Watershed Council	Yes	Fire Ecology	Community Development	Fire Management	
Earl Crosby	Karuk Tribe	Yes	Tribal	Fire Ecology	Forest Products	
Bill Tripp	Karuk Tribe	Yes	Tribal	Community Development	Fire Ecology	
Jodie Pixley	WGRP	Yes	Fire Management	Environmental	Community Development	
Shawn Borque	Karuk Tribe	Yes	College/University	Research	Wildlife	
Christopher Weinstein	Karuk Tribe	Yes	Watershed	Fire Management	Other	GIS Support
Sheri Hagwood	Yreka Fish and Wildlife Service	no	Watershed	Fisheries	Wildlife	
Don Flickinger	NOAA Fisheries - Yreka	no	Fisheries	Fire Ecology	Forest Management	
Bob Pagliuco	NOAA Fisheries - Arcata	no	Fisheries	Research	Federal	
Monte Whipple	CALFIRE - SKU	no	Fire	Fuels Mgmt	State	
Chris Ramey	CALFIRE - HUU	no	Fire	Fuels Mgmt	State	
Eric Carleson	Associated California Loggers	no	Forest Mgmt	Forest Products	Watershed	
Jamie Allen	Northern CA Resource Center	no	Watershed	Wildlife	Fisheries	
Cathy Meinert	Logger, Tribal Member	no	Watershed	Community Development	Youth	
Tim Wilhite	EPA	no	Watershed	Fisheries	Forest Products	
Marko Bey	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	no	Forest Mgmt	Forest Products	Community Development	
Josh Budziak	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	no	Forest Mgmt	Forest Products	Community Development	

Carol Sharp	Happy Camp Fire Safe Council	no	Forest Mgmt	Fuels Mgmt	Community Development	
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WESTERN KLAMATH RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP



December 10, 2019

The WKRP partners listed in this letter were directly involved in the development of the proposal and are committed to partnering in the implementation of the projects. Through the collaborative process of developing the CFLRP proposal, the partners developed a list of projects – both implementation and monitoring -- to be completed with CFLRP funding and match sources. The partners also articulated which roles and responsibilities for each project in order to ensure its completion. While the partners acknowledge that the details of the projects may change over the course of the CFLR project, the partners will make changes to the projects by mutual consent at quarterly CFLRP meetings as well as in an annual workplan.

This proposal reflects many hours of time from each partner group as well as the partners' continued commitment to increasing the pace, scale and quality of restoration in the Western Klamath Mountains. The projects proposed in this project have a rich history of partner collaboration through their planning processes and prioritization.

The partnership has agreed to a project plan that reflects the roles and responsibilities as well as funding and match breakdown. Any changes to the project plan will be made through mutual agreement of the partners listed on this letter. The partnership agrees that the CFLRP funding will go to the respective National Forests. The funds for the Karuk Tribe will go to the Six Rivers National Forest and be passed to the Karuk Tribe through an interagency agreement, or another mutually agreed upon mechanism. The Karuk Tribe will subaward funds to Klamath Forest Alliance. The Mid Klamath Watershed Council and Salmon River Restoration Council will enter into Participating and/or Cost-Share Agreements with the respective National Forests. The amount of funding and match per year will be specified in an annual workplan. The SRNF and KNF prescribed burning funding will be shared with the Karuk Tribe with an Interagency Fire Management Agreement, or other mechanism, in an amount to be determined on an annual basis.

Any questions regarding this letter may be addressed to Devin McMahon, Partnership Coordinator/Tribal Liaison, Six Rivers National Forest, devin.mcmahon@usda.gov or p: 707-441-3527 (office), 707-672-3451 (cell).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell A. Attebery".

Russell "Buster" Attebery- Karuk Tribal Chairman

Will C.S. Harding

Will Harling- Mid Klamath Watershed Council



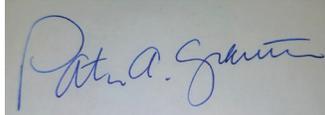
Karuna Greenberg- Salmon River Restoration Council



Kimberly Baker- Klamath Forest Alliance



Ted McArthur- Forest Supervisor, Six Rivers National Forest



Patricia Grantham- Forest Supervisor, Klamath National Forest

Complete the table below and respond to the question at the bottom of the tab.

For 2010 Project extensions, fill in the annual funding request for the number of years requested for the extension (up to 10)

Fiscal Year 1*	Funding Planned/Requested
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	1,807,866.67
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands**	\$0
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape***	\$0
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	2,285,537.64
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	\$4,093,404
CFLRP Funding Request	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	\$4,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	\$0
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	\$0

***Assume funding requested for Year 1 will be allocated in February 2020 at the earliest**

Fiscal Year 2	Funding Planned/Requested
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	2,466,333.33
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	\$0
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	\$0
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	2043331.333
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	\$4,454,109
CFLRP Funding Request	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	\$4,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	\$55,556
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	\$55,556

Fiscal Year 3	Funding Planned/Requested
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	\$ 2,129,366.67
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	\$0
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	\$0
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	\$ 2,053,331.33
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	\$4,182,698
CFLRP Funding Request	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	\$4,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	

USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	\$118,056
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	\$118,056

Fiscal Year 4	Funding Planned/Requested	
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	\$	2,407,900.00
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands		\$0
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape		\$0
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	\$	1,719,998.00
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands		\$4,127,898
CFLRP Funding Request		
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands		\$4,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands		
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands		
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands		\$118,056
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands		\$118,056

Fiscal Years 5-10	Funding Planned/Requested	
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands		\$14,310,733
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands		\$0
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape		\$0
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	\$	9,919,988.00
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands		\$24,230,721
CFLRP Funding Request		
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands		\$24,000,000
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands		\$2,000,000
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands		\$0
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands		\$708,333
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands		\$2,708,333

Please provide an **estimate of any funding needed for NEPA and environmental compliance** in support of the CFLRP Project. You may copy/paste the response to the Tier 1 template and/or elaborate with additional details as needed. *NOTE: CFLN can only be used for implementation and monitoring (not planning).*

We estimate that approximately \$10,050,000 will be needed for NEPA on seven commercial timber projects, partner staff time for one additional manual project, and ten years of site-specific aquatic projects (\$100k/year on Salmon River and \$50k/year on Klamath River). In addition to project-based and programmatic NEPA already in place or pending, WKRP will continue in its previously successful pursuit of NEPA funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and state funds channeled through Stewardship and Interagency Agreements. The Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests will also continue to obtain planning funds through the Regional Office budget process, and to build the WKRP projects into the forests' Program of Work. Resource needs will include continued technical assistance with the preparation of the CFLRP and the use of new stewardship mechanisms and/or Interagency Agreements, including building the capacity of the Karuk Tribe and other partners to conduct surveys and prepare NEPA documents. Increased work with partners will also require RO funds to maintain adequate Forest Service staff to provide oversight and expertise, and funds for ESA, botany, heritage, and riparian surveys and design and layout for timber and fuels units. Collection agreements may also be used to transfer funds from partners to the USFS for NEPA support.

** For ease of reporting, partner in-kind contributions are not included here, and may be reserved to meet match requirements of non-CFLR funding sources.

*** Timber receipts are also excluded from the CFLR budget and will be reinvested in the landscape through other mechanisms, such as an endowment to support capacity development within the Karuk Tribe and future restoration activities.



Forest Service

Pacific Southwest Region
Six Rivers and Klamath National
Forests

1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501
1711 South Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097

File Code: 1930; 2400; 2600; 3400; 5100

Date: December 19, 2019

Route To:

Subject: WKRP CFLRP Letter of Commitment – Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests

To: CFLRP Evaluation Committee, WO

The work of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP) exemplifies the Klamath and Six Rivers national forests' commitment to shared stewardship and collaboration to increase the pace and scale of restoration treatments. Over the next ten years, the projects included in this Tier 2 proposal will form a crucial component of each forest's program of work, in alignment with our forest plans, and current and pending NEPA decisions regarding aquatic restoration, fuels reduction, and returning more frequent, lower-intensity fire to the region. We welcome this opportunity to expand our treatment implementation across the landscape to meet the shared objectives of the Forest Service and our partners. It is our hope that the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) will allow WKRP to serve as a national example of successful use of western science and traditional ecological knowledge to create resilient forests.

The signatures below reflect our awareness of the eligibility, implementation, and monitoring requirements for the CFLRP, and the Klamath and Six Rivers national forests' support for and commitment to the CFLRP project as outlined in the Tier 2 proposal. They also reflect our commitment to the collaborative process pioneered by WKRP. Line officers and program staff from both forests will continue to participate in WKRP Core Team and working group meetings; and contribute to the planning, implementation, and monitoring of collaborative projects. We will continue to coordinate priorities and review progress, and commit to carrying out the proposed work if it is successful.

Thank you for considering our proposal.

TED O. MCARTHUR
Six Rivers Forest Supervisor

PATRICIA A. GRANTHAM
Klamath Forest Supervisor

cc: Lindsay Buchanan, Devin McMahon, Clint Isbell

