



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUN 9 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11, Title IV, March 30, 2009) directed the Secretary to establish the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program. It also established the CFLR Fund to partially fund ecological restoration treatments for priority forest landscapes on National Forest System lands. The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-88, Div. A, Title III, Oct. 30, 2009) appropriated \$10 million for the CFLR Fund. This letter provides a status update requested in Senate Report 111-38.

The Forest Service has been engaging in internal and external discussions since enactment of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. We now have a CFLR Web site located at <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/index.shtml> with background information and definitions, questions and answers, a field guide, and links to related Web sites. The Web site is updated periodically to respond to public and employee needs.

Section 4003(e) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 requires an advisory panel be established to evaluate and make recommendations on each CFLR proposal. The advisory panel is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The process to establish the advisory panel commenced immediately after Congress appropriated funding for the CFLR Fund. The Advisory Committee's Charter has been drafted and is undergoing Departmental review. With the Charter review nearly complete, the Forest Service is moving forward to establish the Committee. A notice of intent to establish the Committee and call for nominations was published in the Federal Register on March 5, 2010. The notice provides for nominations to be submitted to the Forest Service by March 22, 2010. Selection of prospective committee members is anticipated soon. A background check of each prospective committee member requires several weeks. We anticipate the CFLR advisory panel will be in place by this month.

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
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In summary, we are actively engaged with our partners and our field personnel to ensure high quality landscape restoration proposals are being developed through collaborative processes and the required advisory committee is established. Our timeline ensures restoration proposals will be received from the Regional Foresters and ready for review by the CFLR advisory committee this summer.

A similar letter is being sent to Senator Lamar Alexander, Congressmen James P. Moran and Michael K. Simpson.

Sincerely,

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Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure



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The Honorable James P. Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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JUN 9 2010

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Simpson:

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11, Title IV, March 30, 2009) directed the Secretary to establish the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program. It also established the CFLR Fund to partially fund ecological restoration treatments for priority forest landscapes on National Forest System lands. The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-88, Div. A, Title III, Oct. 30, 2009) appropriated \$10 million for the CFLR Fund. This letter provides a status update requested in Senate Report 111-38.

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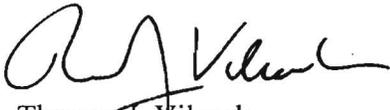
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The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
1232 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

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Thomas J. Vilsack
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Enclosure



Forest
Service

Washington
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 1930/2400
Route To: (2500), (2600), (3400), (5100)

Date: **FEB 24 2010**

Subject: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Proposals
To: Regional Foresters

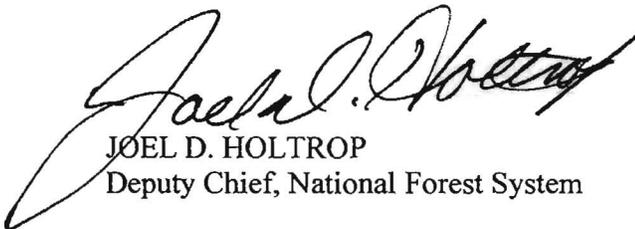
OPTIONAL REPLY DUE MAY 14, 2010

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11, Title IV, March 30, 2009) encourages collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forested landscapes. Congress appropriated \$10 million dollars in Fiscal Year 2010 for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) to pay up to 50 percent of the implementation and monitoring costs of ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System lands. An advisory panel will evaluate and recommend proposals to fund. The Federal Register notice to establish and seek nominations for the advisory panel is expected soon.

Regions are encouraged to submit proposals for CFLRP funding consideration. You are not limited on the number of proposals submitted; however, no more than two proposals can be selected in any one region each year. Proposals must be received by May 14, 2010 to ensure packages are complete and available as soon as the advisory panel is in place.

The CFLRP proposal format must be consistent to allow efficient and timely evaluation and recommendation by the advisory panel. The enclosed CFLRP proposal requirements and guidelines were developed to ensure a standard organization. The enclosure includes a checklist of questions to consider while preparing proposals. The questions are intended to guide the information provided in each section and are not intended to create a question and answer format.

Proposals selected for funding will require additional documentation including monitoring and business plans. Information is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/index.shtml>. Questions regarding CFLRP can be directed to Bill Timko at (202) 205-1688 or btimko@fs.fed.us.



JOEL D. HOLTROP
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

Enclosure



CFLRP Proposal Requirements

- A. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposals must use the following standardized format:
1. Page numbers must appear in the upper right hand corner of each page. Each page must include the proposal name, section, and page number of that section (e.g. Project XYZ, Proposed Treatment - Page 1, Proposed Treatment – Page 2, Ecological Context – Page 1, etc.).
 2. Attach the package with a single clip (no staples) at the upper left hand corner.
 3. Do not include color (black and white are okay) graphs, maps, etc. as all information will be copied onto 8.5” x 11” paper using a black and white copier (landscape map can be 11” x 17”). A pdf file can be submitted electronically if a black and white map is unable to display key information associated with the proposal.
- B. Bold text identifies required sections. Proposals must include all required sections without extraneous material. The first six required sections are intended to provide the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee information associated with required selection criteria. Elements of selection criteria may not be part of some proposals; however, the sections are still required even if the section simply states the proposal does not include the element. Questions listed below are only intended to help guide the proposal’s narrative for that section. Do not use a question and answer format in the proposal.
1. **Proposed Treatment (Required)** – Provide an executive summary of the restoration strategy and proposal (not to exceed four pages) considering the following questions:
 - How many acres are in the landscape?
 - How many acres in the landscape are forested National Forest System (NFS) lands?
 - What are the ownership patterns?
 - What is the restoration goal?
 - What are the treatment objectives?
 - What is the desired outcome?
 - Is there a strategic placement of treatments?
 - What NEPA decisions have been made and what decisions remain?
 - What restoration, if any, has already occurred?
 - What types (harvest, mastication, fire, in-stream structures, ripping roads, etc.) of treatments will occur?
 - What mechanisms (timber/service/stewardship contracts, agreements, force account) will be used?
 - How many acres will be treated and when?
 - How do the treatments on other lands support NFS treatments?
 - What monitoring will occur and when?
 - How will success be measured?

2. **Ecological Context (Required)** – Describe the ecological case for restoration (not to exceed three pages) considering the following questions:
 - What are the current vegetation and other characteristics?
 - What are the restored vegetation and other characteristics?
 - Is ecological adaptation addressed?
 - Will fish, wildlife, or Threatened & Endangered species improvements occur?
 - What will be done to maintain or improve water quality and watershed function?
 - What will be done to prevent, remediate, or control invasive, exotic species?
 - What will be done to address insect and disease concerns?
 - What will be done to maintain, decommission, and/or rehabilitate roads and trails?

3. **Collaboration (Required)** – Describe the collaborative process (not to exceed two pages) considering the following questions:
 - What interests were represented in the collaborative process?
 - How does the collaborative group function and represent stakeholders?
 - How long has the collaborative group been working?
 - What has the collaborative group accomplished that would help achieve the landscape restoration goal and objectives?
 - How will collaboration be used in multiparty monitoring?

4. **Wildfire (Required)** – Describe wildfire on the landscape and/or similar landscapes and the long-term wildfire management costs (not to exceed two pages) considering the following questions:
 - What wildfire behavior is anticipated with current conditions?
 - How will uncharacteristic wildfire be addressed?
 - How will natural fire regimes be reestablished and maintained?
 - What wildfire behavior is anticipated in restored conditions?
 - How will wildfires be managed in a restored landscape?
 - Were community wildfire protection plans incorporated?
 - What long-term wildfire management cost reductions would occur?

5. **Utilization (Required)** – Identify how biomass and small diameter trees from restoration treatments would be utilized and estimate any cost savings with the utilization (not to exceed two pages) considering the following questions:
 - What is the estimated volume of the material to be utilized?
 - What type and size of material would be removed?
 - What is the likely use of removed material?
 - What value would the removed material have and how would it offset treatment cost?

6. **Investments (Required)** – Identify federal and non-federal investments associated with the proposal (not to exceed two pages) considering the following questions:

- What federal investments are anticipated within the landscape?
- What non-federal investments are anticipated within the landscape?
- What non-federal investments are anticipated outside of the landscape that may affect the successful restoration of the landscape?
- Is restoration capacity increased, and if so how?
- Will future restoration unit costs decrease?
- Will jobs be created? If so, what kind, how many, and for how long?
- Will employment or training opportunities be provided for local private, nonprofit, and/or cooperative entities?
- Will local employment or training opportunities be provided for youth groups?
- Will local employment or training opportunities be provided for existing or proposed small businesses?

7. **Funding Estimate (Required)** - Provide funding expectations and CFLRP funding request using format below.

<i>(Copy table and provide the planned funding for each additional fiscal year).</i> Funds to be used on NFS lands for ecological restoration treatments and monitoring that would be available in FY 20xx to match funding from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund	
Fiscal Year 20xx Funding Type	Dollars/Value Planned
FY 20xx Funding for Implementation	
FY 20xx Funding for Monitoring	
1. USFS Appropriated Funds	
2. USFS Permanent & Trust Funds	
3. Partnership Funds	
4. Partnership In-Kind Services Value	
5. Estimated Forest Product Value	
6. Other (specify)	
FY 20xx Total (total of 1-6 above for matching CFLRP request)	
FY 20xx CFLRP request (must be equal to or less than above total)	
Funding off NFS lands associated with proposal in FY 2010 (does not count toward funding match from the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Fund)	
Fiscal Year 20xx Funding Type	Dollars Planned
USDI BLM Funds	
USDI (other) Funds	
Other Public Funding	
Private Funding	

8. **Funding Plan (Required)** - Regional Forester’s plan to use regional funding for planning, implementation, and monitoring of ecological restoration treatments on NFS lands consistent with the strategy. Funds used for implementation and monitoring can be used to match CFLRP requests. Assurance is needed that CFLRP funds allocated in FY 2010 and FY 2011 would be used on ecological restoration treatments the same fiscal year the CFLRP funds are transferred. Assurance multiparty monitoring will be funded to assess ecological, social, and economic effects for at least 15 years after project implementation commences.

9. **USDI Funding** - If actions under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior are proposed, the appropriate State Director of the BLM, Regional Director of BIA, or other USDI official shall include a plan to fund their proposed actions.
10. **Other Funding** - If other actions are proposed, the Regional Forester shall provide evidence the landowner intends to participate and provide appropriate funding.
11. **Maps** - Provide vicinity map and landscape map displaying the proposed treatments and values at risk (landscape map can be 11" x 17", but must be black and white). A pdf can be submitted electronically if a black and white map is unable to display key information associated with the proposal.
12. **Landscape Strategy (Required)** - Provide a copy of or link to the landscape strategy. No specific format is required for the landscape strategy. The landscape restoration strategy must be complete or substantially complete; identify and prioritize ecological restoration treatments for a 10-year period within a landscape that is at least 50,000 acres, comprised primarily of National Forest System land, in need of active ecosystem restoration, and accessible to use woody biomass and small-diameter trees; incorporate the best available science; maintain or contribute to old growth restoration; reduce hazardous fuels; and not include establishment of permanent roads.