Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0)

Executive Summary

CFLRP Project Name: Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0)

National Forest(s): Malheur National Forest

Length of Requested Extension (in years): 10 years

A brief (~100 words) description of the project area – why is this an important landscape for collaborative restoration? The Southern Blues CFLR project area on the Malheur National Forest in eastern Oregon, in the heart of the Blue Mountains ecosystem, is an important landscape for restoration because it is suffering from highly departed fire regimes, species composition, and stand densities that threaten to destroy key wildlife habitat, old growth forests, important aquatic resources, and adjacent private property as a result of increased uncharacteristic wildfire and the effects of a changing climate. Continuing to invest in this landscape will ensure that the SBRC completes necessary restoration and maintenance treatments that also provide economic benefits to local communities.

A brief (~100 words) description of the overarching goal for the CFLRP project at the end of the extension: The overarching goal for Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 is implementation of restoration treatments at a scale that will help native wildlife thrive, create forests that are resilient to climate change, and support the health, safety, and prosperity of local communities. We will implement large landscape restoration projects efficiently, effectively, and with broad support from diverse constituents. We will make use of the best available science and strive to constantly learn and adapt management to new information and ecosystem change.

Briefly describe what core treatment activities the proposed restoration strategy would emphasize: Core upland forest and aquatic restoration treatments will reduce fire risk through small diameter thinning and prescribed fire, which will also benefit wildlife and habitat. Road improvements and aquatic passage projects will also contribute to improved aquatic habitat through decreased sediment inputs and improved fish access.

Provide the overall acreage of your landscape, as well as total acres by ownership:

Landowner (USFS, BLM, Tribal, Private, State, etc.)	Acres within the total CFLRP landscape	Estimated number of acres to be treated during proposed extension
Malheur National Forest	877,840	210,000
Bureau of Land Management	18,162	Unknown currently
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Conservation Areas	3,007	2,785
Burns Paiute Tribe	1,760	30
State Agency	517	Unknown currently
Private/Other	133,736	Unknown currently

TOTALS:	1,035,022	212,815

Total number of NEPA ready acres: 661,525. **Total number of acres in NEPA process:** 182,311

A brief (~100 word) description of the collaborative/partners who will engage in implementing the extension: The SBRC is supported by two collaborative groups – the Blue Mountains Forest Partners (BMFP) and Harney County Restoration Coalition (HCRC) – as well as additional partner organizations listed in Attachment K.

Total amount of CFLRP funding requested: $30 million

Acronym List: See Attachment J

Proposal Overview

1. Please provide a map to orient reviewers to your CFLRP landscape.
There are two maps in Attachment A. The map "Southern Blues Restoration Coalition" shows the completed NEPA shelf stock in SBRC landscape and areas expected to have NEPA completed in the next 4 years. The second map "Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Fire Management Strategy" highlights the backlog of prescribed fire still planned, and that is overlayed with our Potential Operational Delineations (PODS, described in question 12). The online "Landscape Restoration Project Proposal" Webmap includes additional information such as CFLRP accomplishments to date by activity type, the 2018 Wildfire Hazard Potential Map, and the Watershed Condition Classification (showing the location of the three existing Priority Watersheds plus a new priority watershed, Bear Creek).

2. Briefly describe how the CFLRP project relates to a broader perspective on shared restoration opportunities and stewardship and why this is a priority landscape for treatment within that broader perspective? Continued investment in restoration of the Southern Blues CFLRP is a priority for four reasons: First, we have created an exemplary collaborative framework involving state and local government, two place-based collaborative groups (BMFP and HCRC), and others. This collaborative framework is widely recognized as a model of successful collaborative conservation. *See also*, Attachment I. Second, the prevalence of dry, fire-prone forest types and the geographic location of the Southern Blues CFLRP on the northern edge of the Great Basin makes this landscape vulnerable to changing climate and disturbance regimes. Third, Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 restoration activities are tightly aligned with and implemented in close coordination with state, local, and tribal strategies. These partnerships allow us to leverage capacity and expertise of multiple restoration programs, including but not limited to the State of Oregon Federal Forest Restoration Program, the Grant and Harney County Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and restoration initiatives undertaken by the Burns Paiute, Umatilla, and Warm Springs tribes. Our CFLRP landscape also contains portions of the John Day, Malheur, and Harney basins, all of which have active watershed councils and strategic plans for restoring or protecting aquatic species, rivers, upland, or groundwater ecosystems. Fourth, we have already completed approximately 40% of the treatments that research suggests are needed to accomplish landscape-scale restoration of

desired future disturbance regimes (McDowell and Allen 2015, Finney et al. 2008, Ager et al. 2007).

3. Why are you requesting an extension for this period of time? Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0 met our goals for treating identified acres with commercial thinning restoration prescriptions, but we have not met our goal of treating 40% of the landscape to restore ecological integrity. With an increased emphasis on using prescribed fire, implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 would allow us to meet our goal of accomplishing landscape scale treatments by 2032.

Past Performance:

4. Did the CFLRP project meet the goals outlined in the original 2012 (or revised) proposal:

Key CFLRP Lifetime Goal Performance Measure	**Cumulative CFLRP Lifetime Goal Accomplishment To Date (2012-2020)**	**Percent of CFLRP Lifetime Goal Accomplished To Date (2012-2020)**
Terrestrial habitat enhanced (acres)	Goal: 248,000 acres Accomplished: 136,497 acres	55%
Hazardous fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) (acres)	Goal: 120,000 acres Accomplished: 55,127	46%
Hazardous fuels treatments outside the WUI (acres)	Goal: 230,000 acres Accomplished: 45,360	20%
Timber volume sold (ccf)	Goal: 649,012 ccf Accomplished: 873,245	135%
Landscape Prescribed Fire (acres)	Goal: 100,000 Accomplished: 37,167	37%
Forest vegetation improved (acres)	Goal: 39,900 acres Accomplished: 48,022	120%
Invasive plant species treatments (acres)	Goal: 3,626 acres Accomplished: 8,676 acres	239%
Biomass (green tons – “BIO-NRG” Agency performance measure))	Goal: 80,000 tons Accomplished: 111,238	139%
Stream habitat enhanced (miles)	Goal: 260 miles Accomplished: 182 miles	70%
Roads Decommissioned (miles)	Goal: 144 miles Accomplished: 9.5 miles	7%
Roads improved or maintained (miles)	Goal: 2,213 miles Accomplished: 1,525 miles	69%
Trails improved or maintained (miles)	Goal: 90 miles Accomplished: 67 miles	74%

Soil and water resources protected, maintained, or improved (acres)	Goal: 15,090 acres Accomplished: 95,245	631%
Stream crossings improved for fish passage (each)	Goal: 10 each Accomplished: 8 each	80%
Lake habitat enhanced (acres) Carp Removal	Goal: 500 acres Accomplished: 501	100%

5. To provide context for the table above, briefly describe in what areas the project achieved stated goals and in what areas work remains. Why? We have made significant progress on restoring frequent fire on the Malheur National Forest, but much more is needed. First, there remains a need to complete a first mechanical restoration entry on 150,000 acres, a need to implement prescribed fire on these same acres, and a reoccurring need for maintenance treatments – mechanical and prescribed fire – across all acres. We have fallen short on achieving our prescribed fire goals for two reasons: 1) the overstocked nature of much of our landscape means that mechanical treatments must come before prescribed fire, so to some degree we've had to "wait" to put fire back into the system; and 2) state smoke management rules until recently dramatically limited our available burn windows; but with recent changes to those rules, we should be able to increase our prescribed fire use. Second, while we are close to our targets for aquatic restoration, baseline conditions remain degraded for many waterways and there remains an important restoration need. Third, we have fallen short on road closure and decommission due to three factors: 1) the need to complete service work (after mechanical treatment) prior to road closures and decommissioning; 2) substantial local opposition to road closures of any kind; and 3) and the lack of a travel management plan: we intend to emphasize completing this step of our restoration in Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0.

6. Describe the main social, economic, and ecological outcomes of project implementation to date on the landscape and in the community. Perhaps the most dramatic impact of the Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0 was saving the mill in John Day from imminent closure. By far the largest private employer in John Day, and essential to restoration of the Malheur National Forest, the mill was on the verge of closing due to lack of a predictable supply of timber. Numerous factors came together to change that trajectory, but the sustainable supply of raw material generated by the implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0 was essential to ensuring socioeconomic and ecological outcomes. For example, the Forest Service entered into a 10-year stewardship contract with a local contractor has made multi-million-dollar investment in new equipment and wood processing capability. Other factors included the social license built by the collaborative and state investment in accelerated restoration. Since then, K-12 enrollment has increased, community investment back into the community has increased, the housing market is very robust, new businesses are coming to the community, and existing businesses are expanding and hiring new staff. For example, the Seneca post and pole facility increased local capacity for small diameter wood by 3-4 mmbf annually, employs 18 full time employees, and recently added a swing shift. Overall, our stewardship contractor has added approximately 50 employees company-wide since the beginning of the long-term stewardship contract associated with our CFLRP project. Today, approximately 378 permanent and

temporary local jobs have been supported or maintained by implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0. The increased stability of local businesses and industry has allowed our communities to invest in community revitalization projects.

Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0 placed a premium on developing and utilizing the best available science, including social science, to inform our restoration treatments: we allocated approximately 10% of our 1.0 CFLRP award to implementation and effectiveness monitoring. In addition, the long term data set has attracted numerous scientists, leveraged additional research dollars to extend the variables analyzed, and been featured in several peer-reviewed papers, with many more currently in review. In addition to developing our own scientific information to guide our work, the Southern Blues CFLRP has been extremely well-studied by the Forest Service and academia, and lessons learned on the southern Blues CFLRP have informed other collaborative restoration activities across the west and nation. A complete literature review of social and biological science involving the Southern Blues CFLRP is provided as Attachment I.

To date, monitoring of upland forest restoration treatments show that mechanical thinning in the absence of prescribed fire moderates modeled fire behavior after a short initial period (~2 years) of elevated fire behavior. Approximately a fifth of mechanically thinned areas have been treated with prescribed fire following thinning which extends the effectiveness of fuel treatments (Johnston et al. in review). The effectiveness of fuel treatments was also validated by exposure of treatments to the 2015 Canyon Creek Fire. When the fire encountered these treatments, fire behavior was significantly less severe than in untreated stands. Monitoring clearly shows that treatments are achieving fire risk management and forest resiliency objectives over a broad spatial scale (Lindsay and Johnston 2020). Critically, approximately 215,000 acres or 26% of the non-wilderness CFLRP acreage is set up for the re-introduction of low severity fire that will reduce risk to communities and support a wide range of ecosystem services. Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 would permit us to treat an additional 200,000 to 300,000 upland forest acres.

Applying Learning to the Future:

7. Moving forward, what about your approach will be the same under an extension? What, if anything, will you change based on lessons learned and/or changed conditions? Monitoring of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0 has taught us several important adaptive management lessons: 1) meet basal area targets at a stand and not a per acre scale to create heterogeneous forest conditions; 2) create openings by enhancing naturally treeless areas such as meadows and scablands; 3) aggressive efforts are needed to shift species composition from shade tolerant species (e.g., grand fir) to more drought tolerant species (e.g., ponderosa pine); 4) aggressive efforts are needed to restore aspen stands by removing competing conifers, and in many cases fencing out wildlife and livestock; and 5) use an age-based – rather than size-based (i.e., diameter limit) – method to identify and protect old trees (Johnston et al. 2021b, Lindsay and Johnston 2020, Johnston et al. 2018).

We plan to design and implement projects in Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 based on this learning, which is also responsive to emerging knowledge about future climate and disturbance regimes (Kerns et al. 2018). Working with our partners at OSU, we will integrate emerging climate science and will continue to refine, update, and integrate our Zones of Agreement documents every 2-3 years to reflect monitoring results and the best available scientific information. For example, we plan to increase riparian restoration by increasing thinning in riparian areas and planting of hardwood species to restore natural vegetation and disturbance regimes (Harley et al. 2020), and will develop Wildlife Zones of Agreement based on the course/fine filter approach of the Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule to ensure protection of important wildlife habitat. Moreover, we are in the process of identifying Potential Operation Delineations (PODs) to better inform wildfire suppression decisions and to allow us to use managed fire for resource benefit where possible. Given the completion of NEPA analysis for larger planning areas and the use of state and federal agreements to increase Forest Service burner capacity, we expect to dramatically increase our use of prescribed fire to meet ecological objectives. With collaborative support, we have built more social acceptance to use fire more and chainsaws less as a tool to reduce stand density.

Readiness to Implement Extension:

8. Describe your readiness to implement the extension. We have 661,525 acres of terrestrial restoration (75% of our CFLRP landscape) covered under current, signed NEPA that focus on accelerated restoration. Similarly, we have 49,370 acres of implementation-ready piling and burning, and 364,949 acres of implementation-ready landscape prescribed fire within our CFLRP boundary. New landscape-scale NEPA analysis is currently underway for three large areas within our CFLRP landscape: Cliff Knox, Upper Bear Lake and Austin and are expected to be signed by 2022. Starting in 2024, the final two projects will be underway: Upper John Day and Pronghorn. Some categories of restoration work, including aquatic projects can move forward under the Malheur Forest-wide Aquatic Restoration Decision Notice (2014).

The Malheur National Forest has led the nation in the use of long-term (10-year) stewardship contracts, which has utilized local contractors, "designation by prescription," and required biomass removal to help encourage new biomass markets and reduce smoke impacts from future fire. Other stewardship agreements with organizations such as National Wild Turkey Federation will help us improve wildlife habitat across the Forest. The Forest Service has used Good Neighbor Agreements (GNA) with the State to reduce hazardous fuels, complete both commercial and noncommercial restoration, and address fish passage issues.

Alignment with the Forest Plan: The Malheur National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was promulgated in 1990, and has been scheduled for revision since at least 2002. A draft revised plan was published in 2018 but withdrawn in 2019, although the Forest Service implemented an amendment to the 1990 plan in 2021 to modify interim provisions pertaining to old tree conservation. While the forest plan is in need of revision, the Zones of Agreement utilized by our collaboratives synthesize the best available science that helps guide project development and is incorporated into project level decisions.

Economic, Social, and Ecological Context:

9. Briefly describe the ecological, social, and economic conditions in and around this landscape and highlight any important changes since the 2012 proposal.

Current socioeconomic conditions: Both Harney and Grant counties are among the most rural and isolated counties in the inland Pacific Northwest, and both have a high percentage of federal ownership: 73% of Harney County, and 63% of Grant County, is managed by the federal government. Consequently, our communities are challenged by high unemployment and chronic poverty, and the local economy lacks diverse sectors and is dominated by natural resources management and farming.

Changes to our 2012 landscape: In 2015, the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition successfully petitioned for an expansion of our CFLRP landscape to include additional watersheds that feed into the Middle Fork John Day River system. The expansion increased the CFLRP landscape by 333,325 acres with the objective to restore about 50% of that additional acreage. The expanded footprint allowed us to restore new watersheds and bring in new partners, particularly tribes, who have treaty interests in the expanded landscape.

Current condition of key vegetation types: The majority of the Southern Blues CFLRP project area is composed of Rocky Mountain Forest and Woodland vegetation communities. Common National Vegetation Classifications include G210 Central Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir - Pine Forest Group, G211 Central Rocky Mountain Mesic Grand Fir - Douglas-fir Forest Group, G213 Central Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Open Woodland Group. The current condition of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and grand fir vegetation communities is significantly departed from historical conditions and at significant risk of stand-replacing disturbance from the combined effects of drought, fire, and insect attack. Research indicates that stand density and stand basal area has increased by more than 400% and 200% respectively since fire exclusion policies were implemented beginning in the late 1800s (Johnston et al. 2018, Johnston 2017). Typical flame lengths and crown fire potential are twice as high in untreated than stands restored to natural conditions (Johnston et al. in review). There have been dramatic shifts in species composition over the last 150 years. In particular, basal area of grand fir as a percentage of total stand basal area has increased by almost 2,000%, while ponderosa pine and western larch have declined as a percentage of total stand basal area (Johnston 2017).

Current status of invasive/exotic species: Invasive grasses such as cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*) and *Ventenata dubia* are invasive grasses that are spreading through eastern Oregon and within the CFLRP area. Smallmouth bass, which flourish in warmer waters, have continued to spread in the John Day River, including up the Middle Fork John Day. Insect and disease concerns from bark beetles and other insects continue due to overstocked stands and drought stress. Carp, which were a focus in Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0 are still an ecological concern to the Silvies River and Malheur Lake, and a partnership to remove them will continue with USFWS regardless of CFLRP funding.

Current condition of fish and wildlife habitat: Habitat for some sensitive wildlife species, management indicator species, and other socially important wildlife species remains degraded

or departed from historical and desired conditions. The landscape is substantially deficient in large snags, and overstocked young forest stands of grand fir occupy large portions of the landscape in the absence of fire. Juniper continues to encroach into drier areas historically dominated by upland shrubs like mountain mahogany and bitterbrush. Legacy effects from overgrazing and changes in climate have contributed to degradation or a loss of unique and critical habitats like wet meadows from species composition changes and lodgepole intrusions, and big game winter ranges are undergoing conversion to primarily invasive annual grasses. Much of the landscape is fragmented by high road densities and extensive livestock fencing. Many riparian areas across the CFLRP area were frequently visited by fire that facilitated dominance by riparian hardwoods like willow, alder, dogwood, maple, cottonwood, and aspen. Today, most riparian areas are dominated by shade tolerant conifers (Harley et al. 2020), lack connectivity to the historical floodplain because of mining and grazing impacts, and water temperatures continue to be a concern in many streams.

Current watershed condition: An overall rating for watershed condition is primarily "Functioning at Risk" for watershed in our CFLR landscape, with some portions "Functioning Properly." High road densities, poor location of some road segments, and overly dense forest stands with high fire risk, along with continued grazing impacts in some areas, are inhibiting more rapid improvement in condition ratings.

Current condition of roads and trails: We have improved the sustainability of the trail system by addressing 90 miles of trails in need of drainage improvement and have treated an additional 32 miles of trails located adjacent to riparian areas to decrease sediment delivery to waterways. The Malheur National Forest has not yet commenced or completed the travel management planning process due to agency capacity constraints and significant local opposition to curtailment of access to the Forest. We recognize that the lack of a travel management plan on the Forest is a significant barrier to road remediation and large landscape restoration. The Forest Service is working with county government and tribal interests to develop a set of principles around access and forest planning.

Current fire regime: Our research demonstrates that all of the ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and grand fir potential vegetation types within the Southern Blues CFLRP landscape historically burned frequently (Johnston et al. 2017). These vegetation types are significantly departed from the natural fire regime (Johnston et al 2018, Johnston 2017). Fire behavior under most weather conditions is modeled to be moderate to severe. Risks to ecological values include uncharacteristic conifer mortality (including mortality of old-growth trees) from fire and drought and insect attack.

Climate change projections: Key climate change projections for the Southern Blues CFLRP are summarized in Kerns et al. (2018) and more generally for eastern Oregon in Halofsky et al. (2017, 2020) and Mote and Salathe (2010). Ongoing climate change is expected to result in hotter and drier summers, earlier springs, and diminished snowpacks. As a result, we can expect more fire on the landscape, which can threaten important ecological values and local communities. We can also expect significantly deeper and more prolonged drought periods,

which exacerbates tree stress and is associated with large-scale die-off of trees. In addition, we can expect an increased risk of non-native plant invasion because of warming temperatures and an increased tempo and severity of wildfire.

Wildland-Urban Interface and Community Wildfire Protection Plans: The two community wildfire protection plans that cover the CFLRP area are found at Grant County CWPP (2021 Draft) and Harney County CWPP (2013). The populated areas of Grant and Harney counties on average have a greater wildfire risk to homes than 86% of counties in Oregon.

Proposed Extension and Treatments:

Desired Conditions 10. Briefly describe the desired ecological conditions for the landscape, and the rationale for these conditions. By 2030, we will make significant progress towards, and by 2050 will achieve the following desired conditions (Kerns et al. 2018). First, we will remove significant young and shade tolerant tree cover (e.g., grand fir) that has high leaf area and transpires significant water. These actions will make more water available during the critical growing season to conserve residual drought-tolerant conifer species (e.g. ponderosa pine) as well as fish and other sensitive species and assist in adaptation to decreased spring snowpack. Second, we will significantly reduce forest density to conserve trees, especially old-growth trees, from the effects of severe wildfires and drought during increasingly hot and dry summers. Third, we will take actions to restore the historical extent of species sensitive to changing water availability including aspen and whitebark pine. The most important long-term desired condition is to implement these goals at a landscape scale, i.e., at a scale of 400,000-500,000 acres across the CFLRP area. Fourth, we expect upward trends for water quality standards.

Most Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) climate change models report predictions to 2050, and evaluating CFLRP investment's ability to attain desired conditions by this date will allow us to compare desired conditions to climate change model predictions and to actual climatic and disturbance variability.

Ecological Restoration Strategy

11. Focusing on the key issues you described in the Ecological Context section above, what is your strategy for moving towards desired conditions to address these issues? The goals of our restoration are to create ecological resiliency at multiple spatial and temporal scales to: 1) Facilitate a range of future fire effects, with an emphasis on low severity surface fire; 2) Prevent spatially extensive mortality of older forest structure from drought, insects, and fire; 3) Facilitate a range of fish and wildlife habitat sufficient to maintain viable populations.

Prioritization process: The Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 restoration strategy is an iterative strategy developed over a number of years, beginning with the Malheur National Forest Strategic Plan that was subsequently amended by prioritization processes (Bigger Look and CFLRP Strategic Plan) undertaken by our collaborative partners and Accelerated Restoration, a regional initiative commenced in 2013 to increase the pace, scale, and quality of restoration in eastern Oregon. In the future, our priority will be risk reduction in the WUI, restoration of at-risk

watersheds (including the use of exclosure fencing around waterways), creating large burn blocks, and reducing forest road density.

Restoration of forest composition, structure, and function: Our thinning prescriptions focus on improving the survivability of older conifers by removing ladder fuels and competing trees; reducing forest density and shifting species composition from late seral, shade tolerant species to early seral, shade intolerant species; and increasing forest diversity at both the stand and landscape scales by varying treatment intensity, creating openings, leaving untreated areas, and by implementing restoration activities in special habitats like hardwood stands, riparian areas, and meadows. We use managed and prescribed fire primarily to reduce surface fuels following mechanical treatments.

Alignment under a changing climate: Our restoration treatments incorporate the best available science about adapting forests to climate change (Stephens et al. 2020, Bradford and Bell 2017). First, we are significantly decreasing forest density and stand basal area to reduce competition and increase the ability of trees to withstand drought and fire. Second, we emphasize treatments that remove encroaching conifers from around old-growth trees, which are well-adapted to climatic variability. Third, we are aggressively shifting stand species composition from less drought and shade tolerant species to drought tolerant, shade intolerant species, particularly ponderosa pine. Finally, we are making more water available to streams by decreasing transpiration of water by removing young and shade tolerant trees from the landscape that are utilizing water better utilized by fire-tolerant species. The best available science recommends these actions to mitigate the effects of climate change (e.g., Tepley et al. 2020, Westlind and Kerns 2020, Vernon et al. 2018, Sohn et al. 2016, Johnston et al. 2021a).

Intersection with other stewardship efforts: To the west of our CFLRP landscape, the Deschutes Skyline CFLRP received its original CFLRP award in 2010 and was identified as the highest ranked CFLRP extension project in 2020. To the north, the Northern Blues Restoration Project was awarded the only new funding in 2020, and utilized many of our lessons learned in developing their project, including our science-based restoration prescriptions, monitoring and adaptive management approaches, zones of agreement, and collaborative governance principles. (The Northern and Southern Blues monitoring teams in particular are closely aligned and regularly share research results with each other and their respective collaboratives to inform future restoration work. We expect this iterative shared learning process to continue.) The Ochoco National Forest recently received a Joint Chiefs award to implement the same dry forest restoration we are planning to accomplish with the Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0. Moreover, the John Day Basin Partnership is implementing a large Focused Investment Project (FIP) in the John Day Basin. Three federally recognized tribes, the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, hold treaty rights and other interests in the management of the Malheur National Forest, and are engaged in consultation and collaboration on forest and aquatic restoration projects with an emphasis on using First Foods and other traditional cultural resources as benchmarks to determine the success of restoration efforts.

Wildfire Risk Reduction

12. Describe your strategy for reducing long-term uncharacteristic wildfire risk.

Our wildfire risk reduction strategy: All proposed treatments are explicitly designed to: 1) reduce surface fuels, which reduces potential flame length; 2) increase height-to-live-crown, which requires longer flame length to begin torching; 3) decrease crown density, which makes tree-to-tree crown fire less likely; and 4) reduce competition around old trees to facilitate their persistence in the face of fire, insects, and drought. These measures have been proven to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic disturbance, re-establish low-severity fire regimes, and increase forest resilience (Tepley et al. 2020, Westlind and Kerns 2020, Vernon et al. 2018, Sohn et al. 2016). The Forest Service will continue to apply planned ignitions (prescribed fire) once the majority of mechanical treatments (thinning) is complete, and is beginning to utilize Potential Operation Delineations (PODs) to identify and utilize strategic wildfire response zones to reduce the risk to valuable infrastructure, communities, and resources.

Types of hazardous fuels treatments, including the use of fire: Principles for dry forest restoration presented by Franklin and Johnson (2012) serve as the basis for our hazardous fuels reduction treatments, and reflect other scientific recommendations (e.g., Hessburg et al. 2016, Stine et al. 2014, Agee and Skinner 2005, Brown et al. 2004). Key Franklin and Johnson principles adapted to respond to the needs of the Malheur National Forest are: 1) Retain and improve survivability of older conifers by removing ladder fuels and competing trees; 2) Thin forests to reduce forest density and shift composition from late seral shade tolerant species to early seral shade intolerant species; 3) Reduce surface fuels by reintroducing fire to stands following treatment; 4) Increase forest diversity at both the stand and landscape scales by varying treatment intensity, creating openings, leaving untreated areas, and by implementing restoration activities in special habitats like hardwood stands, riparian areas, and meadows. Use of variable density thinning, openings, and untreated areas all have specific ecological rationale tailored to site specific conditions.

Intersection with future climate predictions: Our most important strategy to account for future climate projects is to treat a large landscape. Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 will allow us to treat more than half of the Malheur National Forest, and treatments at this spatial scale are necessary to create conditions resilient to drought and contagious disturbances like wildland fire at a landscape scale (McDowell and Allen 2015, Finney et al. 2008, Ager et al. 2007, Halofsky et al. 2017).

Cross-boundary restoration: The Forest Service is engaging landowners in cross-boundary landscape restoration, particularly through the Wyden Amendment and Good Neighbor authorities for both mechanical treatments and prescribed fire use. We are also in the process of developing a Joint Chiefs proposal for all-hands, all-lands restoration work within and outside of our CFLRP landscape. The Forest Service will continue to engage landowners in current Firewise communities to increase effectiveness of fuels treatments on federal land and fire resiliency between federal FS and private land. Both the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Burns Paiute Tribe own lands within the landscape that they plan to restore in the next 5 to 10 years.

Addressing barriers to fire use: We are engaging our forest collaborative groups, county leaders, and the public early and regularly during the planning implementation process. The Forest Service's public affairs officers release monthly messages around prescribed fire, the benefits of fire, and other informational messages to keep the public apprised of Forest Service burning operations. Both forest collaborative conduct regular public community outreach on the benefits of prescribed and managed wildfire. We also strive to use real-world examples to demonstrate the way in which we can use fire to fight fire. For example, the 2019 Cow Fire occurred in an area that regularly experiences frequent fire, and we were able to use indirect suppression strategies to use this fire for resource benefit. This fire gave us the opportunity to create a short video highlighting this fire and why the Forest Service used it for resource benefit rather than fully suppressing it.

Benefits to Local Communities:

13. Given the economic and social conditions described above, what are the economic and social goals and desired outcomes of your extension? The socioeconomic goals of the Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 are: 1) retain existing wood processing infrastructure; 2) retain existing wood products and restoration workforces; and 3) increase community awareness and support for forest restoration on the Forest. With the certainty provided by Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0, we have been able to not only retain the only existing wood products infrastructure in our region (Malheur Lumber Company), but also to expand the facility to process low value material into pellets and other products. In addition, our past work has attracted new investment in new technologies used to process the byproduct of restoration into new energy sources, and has also prompted local contractors to launch new businesses utilizing small diameter byproducts. This new infrastructure employs workers from Grant and Harney Counties, pays a living wage, and is appropriately scaled to the ecological restoration need.

Expected outcomes: As a result of Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0, we expect to see a continuation of the modest but sustainable increase in employment; home sales and new construction; school enrollment; and social services offered locally through local government, nongovernmental, and community organizations. We also hope to see a reduction in domestic violence and drug-related crimes.

Beneficiaries: Aside from all Americans who benefit from healthy national forestlands, the primary beneficiaries of our CFLRP work to date have been Grant and Harney County residents and the Malheur National Forest. Due to their geographic isolation, those who benefit from restored public lands, and those who are involved in the restoration work itself, are the people who live and work in the area and are generally considered "local." The ability of these communities to implement protective restoration strategies is limited by access to capital and political influence and is an environmental justice concern (Adams and Charnley 2020). We expect the benefits from Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 to largely benefit the same constituencies as our initial project. However, we are proposing to expand our community outreach to specifically include tribal interests, which are much broader geographically and socially than our more narrow CFLRP objectives and its footprint.

To that end, our upland and aquatic restoration treatments facilitate the maintenance and restoration of First Foods that are important to our tribal partners. Water, salmon, big game, roots, and berries are essential to indigenous peoples in the Blue Mountains but have declined in distribution and availability due to fire suppression, overgrazing, development, mining, and unsustainable timber harvest. Climate change also threatens the propagation of First Foods. Focusing on the restoration of fire to the landscape, reducing road density to increase elk security, altering species composition of riparian areas to increase nutrient availability, installing beaver dam analogues to slow and cool water, and other restoration treatments all serve to deliver First Foods to native communities.

Intersection with community wildfire response plans: During implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0, three residential areas have established Firewise Communities, and we expect more to become established during the implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0. In particular, several of our communities were encouraged by the experience of the Pine Creek Firewise Community, which only lost a few outbuildings as a result of the Canyon Creek Fire in 2015 as opposed to other communities that lost significant structures and primary residences.

14. What is your strategy to move towards desired social and economic conditions under this extension? Based on our experience with Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0, Accelerated Restoration, and our 10-year stewardship contract, we know that the best way to ensure sustainable economic well-being of local communities is through the development of a predictable program of work in the woods; and the best way to achieve that objective is to develop and expand social license or agreement on what that program of work in the woods looks like. To that end, and to achieve our desired social and economic conditions, we propose two strategies: 1) development and refinement of Zones of Agreement that capture the areas of agreement – and disagreement – on particular aspects of forest management such as moist mixed conifer forest restoration, prescribed and managed fire, and wildlife habitat restoration; and 2) implementation monitoring and adaptive management of restoration projects developed based on our Zones of Agreement.

Zones of Agreement are developed collaboratively and iteratively in consultation with Forest Service, academic, and nongovernmental scientific experts and the best available scientific information, and are regularly revised and updated based on monitoring results. In turn, the Forest Service considers the ZOA, along with other public and governmental input, when the agency develops proposed actions.

Through implementation and monitoring of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0, we have learned that while our ZOAs have helped us to develop common ground on restoration treatments and that this in turn has increased the pace, scale, and quality of restoration on the forest, we now know that we can be much more efficient in project layout and implementation given the scope of the ecological need for restoration on the Malheur National Forest. Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 expects to emphasize improving the efficiency of implementation of our common ground restoration projects, while continuing to develop and refine our Zones of Agreement that make implementation possible.

Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts:

15. Briefly describe your strategy to-date for utilization of forest restoration byproducts, including what worked well in the first ten years of your project, and any key challenges or barriers encountered. While most of our restoration work involves the cutting and removal of low- to no-value trees that have little economic value, local businesses have found ways to create value-added products out of this material, such as through torrefaction, post and pole manufacturing, animal bedding (wood shavings), pellets (for heat), etc. Removing small diameter trees reduces wildfire risk, restores species composition and forest structure, and provides an economic benefit to local communities. Commercially valuable trees can help pay for the removal of this low-to-no-value material, and can help finance noncommercial restoration work such as prescribed burning, meadow enhancement, and culvert replacement.

Restoration capacity has increased to meet the increased level of work in the woods as a result of the implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0. This capacity included not only the nearly doubling of the capacity of Iron Triangle, the holder of the 10-year stewardship contract, but also other logging companies and supporting contractors have increased their level of employment; and new contractors have entered the workforce to meet the increased demand for restoration forestry work. For example, Iron Triangle built, opened, and operates a post and pole plant in Seneca that currently employs 15 full time workers and utilizes approximately 20,000 tons of non-saw biomass from the Southern Blues CFLRP project area, and opened a new firewood facility in John Day to utilize a portion of the residual from the post and pole plant. Similarly, BioDynamics LLC has opened a new pellet plant in Burns that will utilize approximately 20,000 tons of biomass annually from our restoration projects, and Restoration Fuels – an endeavor supported by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities – plans to be fully operational in 2021 and will torrefy (i.e., roast at very high temperatures (i.e., 400-750 degrees Fahrenheit)) small-diameter thinnings and low-value residuals from restoration treatments to produce an advanced solid fuel for power generation.

As discussed above, in 2012, Malheur Lumber Company – the only dimensional lumber facility serving the Southern Blues – announced that it would close its doors due to the lack of supply of raw material. Thankfully, our partners worked with Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to develop a plan to save the mill, which worked: the Forest Service provided not only with CFLRP funding, but also an "Accelerated Restoration" program of work that involved increases in Forest Service staff for planning. In addition, we developed and implemented a long-term 10-year stewardship contract that provided local contractors with a predictable supply of work.

16. Briefly highlight your approach moving forward, including any changes to your strategy for utilization of forest restoration byproducts under the extension. We expect Malheur Lumber Company (our mill) to utilize the commercially valuable raw material for dimensional lumber and related products, including shavings (for animal bedding and similar uses) and pellets. Other byproducts will be utilized by Iron Triangle LLC in their Seneca post and pole or John Day firewood facilities, by Biodynamics in their Burns pellet facility, and by Restoration Fuels in their John Day torrefaction facility.

Local manufacturing and processing, restoration forestry, and support business infrastructure that make up the local economy are highly dependent upon the continuation of the level of restoration work being planned and implemented on the Malheur National Forest. Through our monitoring associated with Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0, we know that the ecological health of the Malheur National Forest requires a continuation and even an expansion of our restoration work begun almost a decade ago. Meeting this ecological need with on-the-ground restoration will result in at least the retention of the local workforce, if not its expansion.

We recognize that commercial volume from the Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 landscape is expected to decline by about 2025, as the Forest Service awards the last large commercial sales. After this date, commercial harvest will still occur, but will be concentrated mostly outside of the CFLRP landscape. Smaller commercial sales will still take place within the CFLRP landscape.

Collaboration:

17. Describe how the CFLRP project meaningfully collaborated with multiple diverse interests in a transparent and nonexclusive way to date. Our two forest collaboratives, the Blue Mountains Forest Partners and the Harney County Restoration Coalition, were both deeply involved in the development and implementation of our first CFLRP project and will be equally as engaged in the development and implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0.

Collaborative governance: Our two collaboratives have created operation manuals that outline the groups' vision and goals, governance structure, decision making processes, and modes of operation for participating members. Both collaboratives are comprised of diverse individuals including county residents, conservationists, forest contractors, timber company representatives, ranchers, and city and county representatives. In addition, multiple Forest Service staff are active and valuable partners with both collaboratives. Both groups emphasize development of science-driven "Zones of Agreement," that the Forest Service uses – along with public comment and other input – to develop large landscape restoration projects. Implementation of these treatments is monitored by the collaboratives and the Forest Service through a combination of fuels, vegetation, aquatic, and qualitative monitoring procedures. These two collaboratives have been working together since 2008, and term their joint collaboration the "Southern Blues Restoration Coalition."

Barriers to collaboration: Barriers to participation include the distance from major urban areas and level of scientific education required to really understand forest management issues. Neither make participation impossible, but interested people have struggled with both. Most recently, the COVID-19 global pandemic has compelled us to severely scale back collaborative efforts. The pandemic has required us to move our meetings online and to curtail field trips, which has been a barrier to moving our collaborative work forward.

Collaborative trends: Our forest collaboratives have noticed two trends in collaborative membership since implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0. First, our memberships have generally expanded to include more members of the public overall. Second, as with any long-

term endeavor, our collaboratives have seen the departure of some members for varying reasons. Forest Service partners have taken new assignments elsewhere or joined the collaborative process as personnel turn over, which can be a serious barrier to the collaborative process. Some key original collaborative members have passed on, leaving important gaps in institutional knowledge and diplomacy. Other stakeholders have left the collaborative table, believing that other avenues of influencing the land management process are more amenable. Third, we recognize that we can improve our ecological and socioeconomic outcomes by working with the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Through formal Government to Government consultation between the Forest Service and these tribes, we know the tribes focus their restoration goals on the maintenance and recovery of First Foods and other traditional tribal resources. Our collaboratives have partnered with Sustainable Northwest to begin a series of dialogues with the tribes to strengthen our common restoration objectives that will take place over the next two years.

Collaborative successes: Over the course of implementing the Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0, there have been at least 4 significant successes: 1) retention of Malheur Lumber Company, the only sawlog infrastructure in the region; 2) implementation of a long-term stewardship contract; 3) implementation of an innovative research project involving post-fire management in the wake of the Canyon Creek Fire; and 4) development of science-based Zones of Agreement to facilitate social license for active management. As discussed above, working together, we were able to develop and implement a plan to accelerate science-based restoration on the Malheur National Forest in order to keep Malheur Lumber Company open and operating, which was bolstered by the implementation of a 10-year stewardship contract on the Forest. Retention of this infrastructure and workforce were made possible by the social agreement facilitated by the development and implementation of ZOAs, which themselves were developed in collaboration with research partners at Oregon State University, University of Washington, and the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain Research Stations. In turn, the monitoring of the implementation of our ZOAs lent support for the Forest Service's recent regional forest plan amendment to protect old growth trees: our data demonstrated that the status quo policy of protecting all live trees larger than 21 inches in diameter was not only compromising ecological integrity, but also failed to protect old growth trees from stressors such as uncharacteristic wildfire and climate change.

Another significant outcome from implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0 has been our partnership with the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) to develop and implement a research project within the footprint of the 2015 Canyon Creek Fire. Understanding the socioeconomic drivers behind post-fire logging, and the opposition to it, as well as the need to provide for sensitive wildlife in the wake of wildfire, our collaborative partners reached out to Dr. Vicki Saab with RMRS to design a research project to examine the intersection between post-fire economic recovery and wildlife habitat conservation. The results of that study have been published and used to develop a wildlife habitat model that the Forest Service and other land managers can use to design more ecologically-sensitive post-fire harvests in the future, and the collaboratives expect to develop a Post-Fire Zone of Agreement based on it. The four

year study also attracted the attention of local media, who have heralded it as a model for civil discourse across the country.

Collaborative challenges: Although the Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0 has been highly successful, it has not been a journey without substantial challenges. Malheur Lumber Company announced shortly after our initial CFLRP award in 2012 that it was going to close its doors due to insufficient long-term supply of timber. Working together, we were able to turn that challenge into a success story by developing and implementing a ten-year stewardship contract and accelerating restoration that resulted in a predictable supply of restoration byproducts to the mill. And then came the 2015 Canyon Creek Fire, which destroyed 43 homes and burned more than 100,000 acres, increasing local pressure to harvest a high percentage of the burn. Although it is a highly controversial issue, our partners used this challenge to our collective advantage by working with Dr. Saab to develop and implement a research study of the Canyon Creek Fire as discussed above. In addition, the wildfire intersected with some of our early restoration treatments, which provided us with important insight about the effectiveness of our treatments as discussed above.

No sooner had the Forest Service extinguished the Canyon Creek Fire than armed insurrectionists occupied the Malheur Wildlife Refuge in Harney County in early 2016. Asserting the need for rural residents to have a greater voice and role in federal land management, the occupiers soon found themselves pointedly unwelcome in Harney County largely because stakeholders there had spent years collaboratively developing land management strategies that worked for the land and the community, including the Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0. Although the occupation was a serious challenge to the integrity of collaboration, as a prominent Harney County rancher remarked, collaboration "inoculated us from the Bundy disease."

More recently, we have been challenged in the implementation of the ten-year stewardship contract as market factors and experience with the contract have informed expectations. While this contracting mechanism was the appropriate tool at the time, we have since identified important gaps and inefficiencies in this implementation mechanism. These challenges are consistent with those identified by the Region 6 Office with other long-term contracting mechanisms around the region, and have been discussed with our forest collaboratives who in fact originally highlighted this issue with the Forest Service. We plan to work together during the coming years to address these inefficiencies so that we are able to maximize the value of the investment in forest restoration.

18. Describe how lessons learned will inform collaboration under an extension. We have learned at least 3 key lessons during the implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0: 1) our projects need to treat a higher percentage of each planning area and further reduce basal area; 2) even with significant investment, the scope and scale of the ecological need for restoration is substantial; and 3) infusion of scientific expertise in the collaborative process is essential to increasing the pace, scale, and quality of restoration.

First, we have learned that our projects need to be of substantial size in order to be effective in restoring ecological integrity to this landscape. Over the past ten years, we have increased the size of projects we develop and implement: project areas have grown from approximately 5,000 to over 60,000 acres. Having seen several early projects completed according to collaborative recommendations, and some of them tested in the Canyon Creek, Cow, and Box Fires, we have become substantially more confident that we are on the right track to restoring ecological integrity across the landscape.

Second, a key lesson learned we are coming to grips with is that even with CFLRP funds and other investments, the scope and scale of the need for ecological restoration is substantial, much of the needed work does not have an appreciable economic value, and the work that is most frequently getting left behind appears to be non-commercial restoration (meadow enhancement, aquatic restoration, prescribed burning, etc.). Consequently, we must focus on efficient implementation, which is why we plan to focus on increasing implementation efficiency in the Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0.

Third, an essential lesson learned is that partnering with scientists is an enormous asset to developing social agreement around forest management and facilitating restoration treatments. As a result of our partnerships with academic institutions, the research branch of the Forest Service, and others, peer-reviewed papers about the ecological and socioeconomic setting of the Malheur National Forest have been published and several more are expected within the year. See Attachment I.

Multi-party Monitoring:

19. Describe the multiparty monitoring process in place to track progress towards stated goals and promote adaptive management. A wide variety of material related to our multiparty monitoring programs is available online. Our current monitoring plans explicitly address all of the core questions and indicators from the Common Monitoring Strategy. We currently monitor aquatic restoration treatment, wildlife use within the Canyon Creek fire perimeter, and invasive species within all treated areas. Our Forest Vegetation and Fuels (FVF) multi-party monitoring program collects data on an annual basis from a network of 550 systematically located plots across project areas to make inferences about the effects of treatment on overstory tree structure and composition, surface fuels, and understory vegetation. We use this data to assess biodiversity responses to treatment and modeled fire behavior, and to adjust our treatments moving forward (i.e., adaptive management).

We have made a variety of changes and adjustments to management based on the results of monitoring, including: 1) Treatments involve more aggressive removal of trees to shift species composition from shade tolerant to shade intolerant; 2) Treatments remove large (>21”) but young shade tolerant trees; 3) treatments significantly reducing basal area and forest density in mixed conifer stands; 4) treatments restore historical extent of openings, which can involve removal of all or most forest cover to restore meadows and openings. These actions will facilitate the reintroduction of low intensity surface fire that will facilitate the persistence of fire adapted old trees and remove small diameter trees/biomass that will protect communities and

valuable fish and wildlife habitat from the effects of severe, stand replacing fire. Our emphasis on restoration of streams, special habitats (i.e., aspen and whitebark pine stands) will significantly augment native biodiversity and support a huge variety of ecosystem services ranging from recreation and hunting opportunities, healthy threatened, sensitive, and endangered species populations, and provision of clean water for fish and human uses.

The most important effect of implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 will be to accomplish these changes at a landscape-scale. Research suggests that if we can treat approximately half of the target landscape, this will facilitate a tempo and intensity of natural disturbance conducive to restoration of the entire landscape (McDowell and Allen 2015, Finney et al. 2008, Ager et al. 2007). Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0, in concert with Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0, is explicitly designed to treat half of a very large landscape (1.4 million acres). We anticipate that this large landscape will be continue to be a national model for adaptation of dry forests to future change.

20. If, and how, will the multi-party monitoring strategy be adapted for the extension? We are engaged in a rigorous, long-term adaptive management process that involves: 1) creation of zones of agreements; 2) outreach to different constituencies via field trips, presentations, and multi-party monitoring; 3) information synthesis among stakeholders; 4) implementation of restoration treatments; 5) implementation and effectiveness monitoring; and 6) revision of existing Zones of Agreement and creation of new Zones of Agreement as needed. Our forest collaboratives' Zones of Agreement provide the Forest Service with evidence of social consensus and also form the analytical basis of most current silvicultural treatments planned by the Forest Service. This strategy has proven successful in the past, and we expect it to serve us well in the future: a literature review involving our work is available as Attachment I.

We expect our partners within the Forest Service (local Malheur staff, Regional Ecology Team, PNWRS and RMRS) and academia (Oregon State University) to continue to play key roles in our monitoring and adaptive management approach. The Malheur NF has identified the Integrated Staff Officer to be the liaison to work with the collaborative multi-party monitoring lead, James Johnston (OSU), to consolidate the monitoring reports and annual reports. The Forest leadership expects their staff to stay very engaged with the collaborative groups and to be part of the multi=party monitoring.

Unit Capacity:

21. Describe the unit capacity for implementing this extension and why your unit is ready for this scale of investment. The Forest Service has designated staff dedicated to CFLRP implementation and multiparty monitoring, and contracting and agreement specialists, the Forest Fuels Specialist, Natural Resources Staff Officer, and the rest of the Forest Leadership Team play critical roles in working with the CFLRP Coordinator to prioritize projects for annual funding and to ensure accomplishments are reported. We leverage this internal capacity with that of our collaborators, several of whom have natural resource-related contracting experience who help us to identify efficiencies in how contracts are designed and how specifications are written to help reduce overall costs. The efficiencies described elsewhere in

this application, including the use of prescribed and manage fire, will continue to help us efficiently implement proposed restoration treatments.

Exit Strategy: If CFLRP is not reauthorized by Congress, we expect that we will start to fall behind quickly on the goals we were moving towards in reducing fire hazard, improving fish and wildlife habitat, and creating resilient communities. Without the Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0, we will continue with our restoration efforts to the extent we can using appropriated funds and product value, but we will be unable to leverage the additional resources that have helped us be successful to this point.

Project Funding:

22. Referencing Attachment F, describe the federal and non-federal investments anticipated within the landscape during the extension. We expect the following federal investment during Southern Blues 2.0: 1) appropriated dollars; 2) Secure Rural Schools Title II; 3) stewardship contracts/agreements; and 4) Good Neighbor Agreements. We expect the following nonfederal investment during Southern Blues 2.0: 1) product value; 2) new and existing partnership in-kind contributions.

23. How has/will the CFLRP project and unit(s) adapt work under Budget Modernization? We do not expect a reduction in permanent Forest Service staff as the result of Budget Modernization, but our challenge will be in funding some of our temporary seasonal positions that have played a big role in implementation of Southern Blues CFLRP. To fill that gap, we will seek assistance from our State partners through Good Neighbor Agreements, and we plan to expand partnerships with local and statewide programs such as Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Northwest Youth Corps, local watershed council youth crews, veteran job training, and resource assistant's programs.

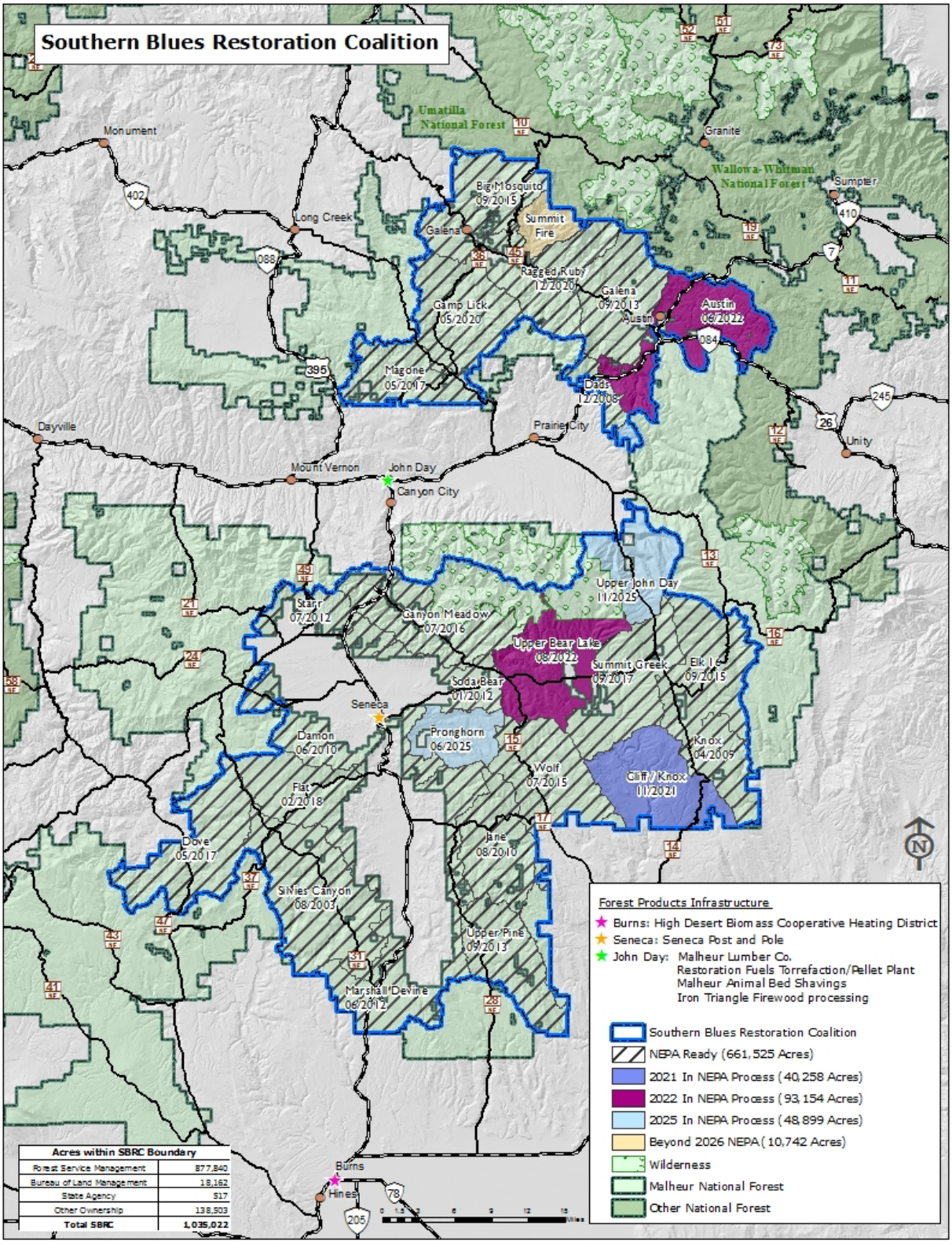
24. Why is the estimated Multi-party Monitoring budget appropriate for the scale of the project extension? Published research indicates that the scale of monitoring facilitated by this funding was adequate to make reasonable inference across the CFLRP landscape (see, e.g., Johnston et al. 2021b). We will devote approximately the same budget (10% of our original 2012 award) to monitoring for Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0.

Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0)

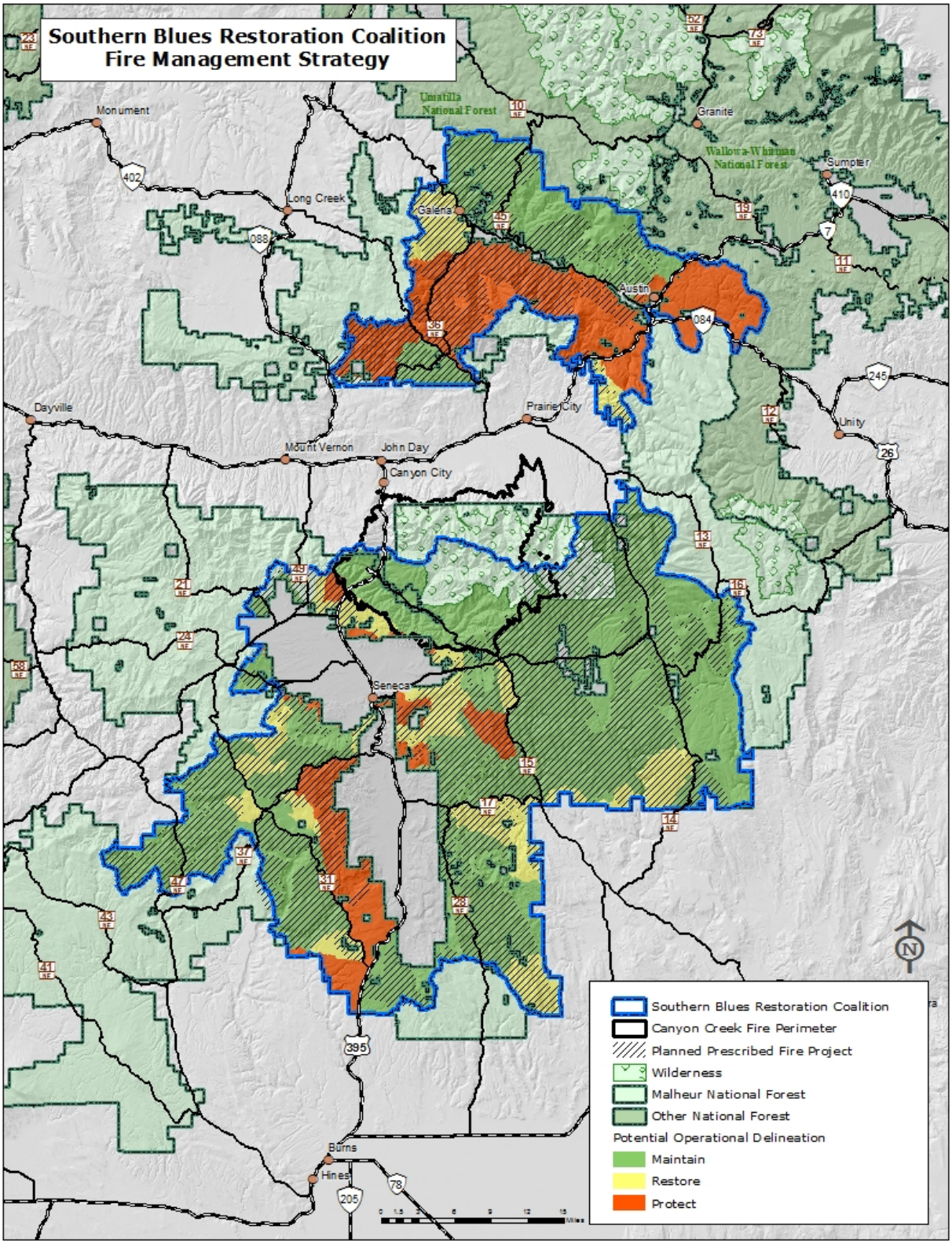
List of Attachments

ATTACHMENT A: Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Maps
ATTACHMENT B: Planned Treatments
ATTACHMENT C: Utilization of Forest Restoration Byproducts
ATTACHMENT D: SBRC Collaborative membership
ATTACHMENT E: BMFP and HCRC Letters of commitment
ATTACHMENT F: Project funding
ATTACHMENT G: Malheur NF Letter of commitment
ATTACHMENT H: Literature cited
ATTACHMENT I: Literature review of publications involving the Southern Blues CFLRP, Blue Mountains Forest Partners, and/or Harney County Restoration Coalition
ATTACHMENT J: Acronyms used
ATTACHMENT K: Full list of partners involved in implementing the Southern Blues CFLRP
ATTACHMENT L: Letters of Support

ATTACHMENT A: Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Maps



ATTACHMENT A: Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Maps



Core Restoration Treatment Types	***Please provide additional background information for the prompts as needed***	**Year 1***	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Years 5-10**	***TOTAL***	**Key treatment objectives**	**Estimated % accomplished on NFS lands (across all years)**	**Other landownership types (other federal, tribal, state, private, etc.) where treatments will occur**	For each item, indicate whether the expected output is the **same as the original proposal, or if it has been adjusted** (given changed conditions or lessons learned) to meet broader CFLRP proposal objectives.	**For items that have been adjusted from the original proposal,** (briefly) why have they been adjusted?
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (total of acres below)	Most of the mechanical treatment acres will also receive prescribed fire treatments several years after the mechanical treatments are completed.	35000	35000	35000	35000	210000	*350000*	See below.	99%	The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Burns Paiute Tribe lands.	Original goal	
Subset of hazardous fuels treatments: Mechanical Thinning (acres)	Includes footprint acres of commercial and non-commercial thinning and piling of slash.	15000	15000	15000	15000	90000	*150000*	To reduce ladder fuels and surface fuels to help reduce future fire severity and intensity.	99%	The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Burns Paiute Tribe lands.	Original goal	
Subset of hazardous fuels treatments: Prescribed Fire (acres)	Includes footprint acres of landscape burning and pile burning. There is overlap with the mechanical fuels treatments.	20000	20000	20000	20000	120000	*200000*	To further reduce surface and ladder fuels but with the added objectives of improving wildlife habitat and improving overall watershed and range condition.	99%	With Wyden agreement we expect a minor percentage to be accomplished on private lands.	Adjusted goal	New Oregon smoke rules are making it easier to use prescribed fire and now the landscape is set up better for prescribed fire.

Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Total acres treated to mitigate wildfire risk	Both the footprint acres of mechanical and the prescribed fire treatments help mitigate wildfire risk.	35000	35000	35000	35000	210000	*350000*		99%	The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Burns Paiute Tribe lands.	Adjusted goal	Increase due to expected higher number of prescribed fire acres.
Subset of Wildfire Risk Mitigation Outcomes - Acres within the WUI	Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Grant and Harney Counties are the source for identifying WUI acres.	17500	17500	17500	17500	105000	*175000*		100%		Original goal	Our original goal was that >50% of treatments would be in the WUI.
Invasive Species Management (acres)		2000	2000	2000	2000	12000	*20000*		99%	The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs	Adjusted goal	In 2015 an Invasive Plant EIS Record of Decision was signed allowing the use of some herbicides, increasing the number of acres treated each year.
Road Decommissioning (miles)		10	10	10	10	60	*100*	To remove detrimental impacts of roads in riparian areas and take roads off the National Forest System to improve wildlife security.	100%		Original goal	
Road Maintenance and Improvement (miles)	Improving drainage	200	200	200	200	1200	*2000*	Helps reduce sediment run off into streams	100%		Adjusted goal	We plan to continue our annual road maintenance schedule each year so we will be on target to maintain the same number of miles in the

												next 10 years as we did in the past 10 years.
Wildlife Habitat Restoration (acres)	Integrated fuels, aspen, meadow, shrub and road reduction treatments	20000	20000	20000	20000	120000	*200000*	To improve big game forage, browse and security. Protect and improve wildife niche habitats	100%		Original goal	
Crossing Improvements (number)	AOP's, weir removal	4	4	4	4	24	*40*	Remove barriers to spawning habitat.	100%		Adjusted goal	We underestimated the number of in-stream barriers to fish passage across the SBRC landscape in our orignial proposal.
Riparian and In-Stream Fisheries Improvements (miles)	Hardwood planting, riparian protection measures. Large wood placement, Beaver Dam Analogs, Road Decommission, irrigation ditch screening	16	16	16	16	96	*160*	Improve fish habitat complexity, floodplain connectivity, and water quality.	99%	The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs	Adjusted goal	With our 2015 expansion, we underestimated the amount of work the Forest and our partners would identify as in need of restoration, especially in the Middle Fork John Day River.

Soil and Watershed resources enhanced or maintained (acres)	Integrated fuels treatments. Meadow restoration. Riparian planting, protection, large wood placement.	20000	20000	20000	20000	120000	*200000*	To reduce future impacts to soil and watersheds from large, high severity wildfires. Improve overall watershed condition.	100%		Adjusted goal	In the original proposals we did not consider all of the integrated treatments that inhance soil and watershed resources.
Priority watersheds moved to improved condition class (number)	4 priority watersheds are Upper Camp, Lower Camp, Lick Creek and Bear Creek	0	0	1	2	1	*4*		99%	The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs	Adjusted goal	This is a new goal for the SBRC.
Stand Improvement (acres)	Stand density reduction	15000	15000	15000	15000	90000	*150000*	To improve stand resiliency to fire and insects and increase tree growth.	100%		Adjusted goal	
Timber Harvest (acres)**	80% - 90% of the timber harvest acres will be ground based. In years 5-10 we will be revisiting some project areas to consider adding units that were deemed not feasible and dropped from past stewardship contracts. Most of these units are on steeper slopes. With new logging systems such as tethered, these units should be more feasible.	19200	15000	6500	3800	12000	*56500*	Same as other mechanical treatments. Timber value will be used to offset the restoration costs.	100%		Original goal	

CFLRP 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 f						
Fiscal Year	Estimate of acres awarded annually that will generate restoration byproducts	Total projected annual harvested volume (ccf) from NFS lands	Expected percentage commercially utilized* from NFS lands			
2022	19,200	80,070	100%			
2023	15,000	80,000	100%			
2024	6,500	60,000	100%			
2025	3,800	20,000	100%			
2026	2,000	12,000	100%			
2027	2,000	12,000	100%			
2028	2,000	12,000	100%			
2029	2,000	12,000	100%			
2030	2,000	12,000	100%			
under extension)	2000	12000	100%			
TOTALS:	56,500	312,070	10			
	Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on NFS lands:	100				
	Estimated % of TOTAL acres accomplished on other landownerships within the CFLRP boundary:	0				
*Commercially utilized refers to the volume you expect to sell across all product classes (sawtimber, biomass, firewood, etc.)						
	On average 70% of the volume from SBRC is saw logs and 30% is non-saw which is used for many					
	purposes including chips, post and poles, heat and energy production.					
*Include volume that is expected as a result of being selected for CFLRP. Do not include volume for sales that are already awarded						
if the work would have happened without CFLRP.						

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

Craig Trulock	Forest Supervisor
Lisa Cook	Deputy Forest Supervisor
Bob Foxworth	Blue Mountain District Ranger
Josh Giles	Emigrant Creek District Ranger
Ed Guzman	Prairie City District Ranger
Roy Walker	Collaborative Liaison
Colleen Malaney	Partnership Coordinator
Amy Unthank	Natural Resources Staff Officer
Joe Rausch	Integrated Veg Staff Officer
Sarah Bush	Fuels Program Manager
Lindsay Davies	Fisheries Program Manager
Dustin Hollowell	Wildlife Program Manager
Lori Stokes	Forest Silviculturist
Don Hann	Forest Archaeologist
Amanda Lindsay	District Silviculturist
Matt Cawlfield	District Silviculturist
Tim Boyce	District Fuels Specialist
Erika Porter	Fish Biologist
Jessi Brunson	Invasive Plant Specialist

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
Pam Hardy	Western Env. Law Center	Yes	Environmental	Wildlife	Fire Ecology	

Mark Webb	Executive Director, BMFP	Yes	County	Watershed	Community Development	
Dave Hannibal	Grayback Forestry	Yes	Fire Ecology	Fire Management	Recreation (motorized)	
Susan Jane Brown	Western Env. Law Center	Yes	Environmental	Watershed	Wildlife	
James Johston	Oregon State University Researcher	Yes	Fire Ecology	Research	Watershed	
Rick Minster	Community Member	Yes	County	Community Development	Forest Products	
Mark Cerny	Community Member	Yes	Community Development	County	Other	Smoke Management
Zach Williams	Iron Triangle	Yes	Forest Products	Fire Management	Community Development	
Glen Johnston	Backlund Logging	Yes	Forest Products	Fire Management	Community Development	
Irene Jerome	Community Wildfire Protection Manager	Yes	Fire Management	County	Community Development	
Jack Southworth	Facilitator, HCRC	Yes	Fire Ecology	Watershed	Range	
Ben Cate	High Desert Partnership	Yes	Collaboration			

April 27, 2021

To: CFLRP Advisory Committee

RE: 2021 Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLRP Project Extension Proposal Letter of Commitment from the Blue Mountains Forest Partners

Dear CFLRP Advisory Members:

Blue Mountains Forest Partners (BMFP) supports the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition's 2021 CFLRP Extension Proposal and commits to partnering in its implementation. Let me explain some of what that support and commitment amounts to for us.

BMFP formed in 2006. It consists of a diverse group of stakeholders who work together to create and implement a shared vision to improve the resilience and well-being of forests and communities in the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon.

BMFP stakeholders and partners include individuals with environmental and conservation organizations, the timber and service industry, local community members, university and other researchers, Malheur National Forest staff, and other collaborative organizations. We work hard to develop a shared decision space informed by best available science which facilitates collaborative planning and decisions that implement ecologically appropriate treatments across the landscape in a manner that provides socioeconomic benefits to rural communities in Grant and Harney counties. We do this challenging work by holding regular public meetings, field trips, science workshops and presentations as well as consistently engaging with Forest Service staff and pursuing a rigorous monitoring program that is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Taken together, these efforts inform our adaptive management approach to restoring landscape resilience on the Malheur National Forest.

The scope and rigor of our work along with our commitment to restoring public landscapes is nicely captured on our website at www.bluemountainsforestpartners.org. The kind of rigor and commitment evidenced there informed our decision to partner with the Harney County Restoration Collaborative (HCRC) and Malheur National Forest staff to develop and implement the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition's 2012 CFLRP proposal over 9 years ago. CFLRP projects are now larger and more ecologically complex (and efficiently planned) than they were before 2012. They are more complex in the sense that the treatments being implemented will shift species composition, reduce basal area (or stand density) and reconfigure stand structure in ways that are ecologically appropriate and will restore landscape resilience for the fire adapted forest types we work with. In brief, our partnership efforts with HCRC and Malheur National Forest staff has enhanced forest and watershed health, helped mitigate the effects of uncharacteristic wildfire, and benefitted Grant and Harney counties socioeconomically speaking.

BMFP would approach implementing the 2021 Extension Proposal in similar fashion. We also firmly believe an extension is warranted. One reason for this is that the amount of project acres that will be collaboratively planned and NEPA-ready by our project's end date far exceeds the scope of restoration work the Malheur will have been able to implement.

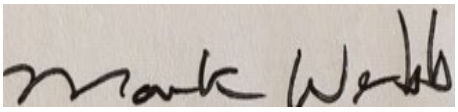
A second reason involves the type of treatments now being collaboratively planned: Our earlier projects were bound by "old NEPA shelf stock" which embodied an incomplete understanding of how fire adapted landscapes like ours function ecologically speaking. However, we worked through the "old NEPA shelf stock" some time ago and have been collaboratively planning and developing projects the implementation of which promises to be far more effective ecologically speaking for restoring landscape resilience (via the kind of work and approach briefly noted above).

A third reason involves local infrastructure and work force capacity: Our 2012 CFLRP project wouldn't have gotten off the ground short existing mill infrastructure and capacity, a commitment by the timber and service industries to develop additional workforce capacity, and a willingness by industry to risk new ventures and diversify its ability to address the challenge posed by the incredible amount of non-merchantable biomass that has to be removed if we are to restore the landscape in an ecologically appropriate manner.

In short: our successful 2012 CFLRP project warrants an extension because a considerable amount of NEPA-ready landscape within the existing project boundary area still requires restorative treatment; the type of treatments our 2021 CFLRP Proposal plans to implement going forward will restore landscape resilience at a scale that matters ecologically; and the type of retooled mill and workforce capacity required to treat and restore our landscape at a scale that matters is operative and will positively impact Grant and Harney counties in substantive ways.

To reiterate: Blue Mountains Forest Partners supports the 2021 Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLRP Project Extension Proposal and commits to partnering with its implementation. In addition, the signatories below were directly involved in developing the proposal and/or are committed to partnering with its implementation.

Respectfully,



Mark Webb
Executive Director
Blue Mountains Forest Partners
bmfp06@gmail.com
541-620-2546

Signatories:

Susan Jane Brown (BMFP)
Western Environmental Law Center

Dave Hannibal (BMFP)
Grayback Forestry Shop Manager

Pam Hardy (BMFP)
Western Environmental Law Center

Irene Jerome (BMFP)
Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Manager

Glen Johnston (BMFP)
Backlund Logging

Rick Minister (BMFP)
Community Member

Mark Webb
Executive Director, BMFP

Zach Williams (BMFP)
Iron Triangle Logging

April 28, 2021

US Forest Service
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
Attn: CFLRP FACA Committee
1220 SW 3rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

To the members of the CFLRP advisory panel,

On behalf of the Harney County Restoration Collaborative, we are writing to express our full support for the application to extend Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) funding for the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition on the Malheur National Forest. With 13 years of experience in working together to find common ground, the diverse group of partners that make up the Harney County Restoration Collaborative are committed to continuing to advance and support restoration activities on the southern Malheur National Forest. We will accomplish this by working with local US Forest Service employees to ensure broad community engagement in planning, implementing, and monitoring of collaboratively developed and reviewed projects.

The Harney County Restoration Collaborative partners include representatives from environmental conservation organizations, the timber industry, local community members and landowners, elected officials, university and researchers, Malheur National Forest Service staff, and local non-profit organizations. More details about the work of the Harney County Restoration Collaborative can be found at our website: https://highdesertpartnership.org/collaboratives/harney-county-restoration-collaborative/.

Our partnership efforts with the Blue Mountain Forest Partners, our sister collaborative focused on activities in the northern Malheur National Forest has enhanced forest and watershed health, helped mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and benefitted the socioeconomic well-being of Grant and Harney Counties through the utilization of forest products. One example of that in Harney County is the establishment of the High Desert Biomass Cooperative, which utilizes a forest bi-products (biomass) boiler system to heat Harney County School District and Court buildings.

Over the past ten years we have built our local workforce capacity to increase the pace and scale at which forest restoration can be accomplished on the Malheur National Forest. To maintain the momentum of those investments, continuation of Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration funding will be critical. We believe that an extension is warranted, based on past performance of acres of restoration activities accomplished and the amount of collaboratively developed NEPA-ready acres within the existing project boundary area that will still require restorative treatment at end of our current CFLR project's funding cycle.

In conclusion, the Harney County Restoration Collaborative supports the 2021 Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLRP Project Extension Proposal and commits to partnering with its

implementation. In addition, the signatories below were involved in developing the proposal and/or are committed to partnering with its implementation and monitoring.

Sincerely, *Benjamin Cate,*
Ecological Coordinator, High Desert Partnership
on behalf of the Harney County Restoration Collaborative

Collaborative Member/Partner Name	Organizational Affiliation
Jared Tappero	Bureau of Land Management
Kristen Shelman	Harney County Commissioner
Patty Dorroh	Harney County Commissioner
Jack Southworth	Facilitator (HCRC)
Irene Jerome	Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Manager
Dave Hannibal	Grayback Forestry (contractor)
Pete Runnels	Harney County Judge
Benjamin Cate	High Desert Partnership (local community non-profit)
Zachary Williams	Iron Triangle Logging (Timber Industry)
Jim Campbell	Local citizen, Harney County
Steve Rickman	Local citizen, Harney County
Steve Grasty	Local citizen, Harney County
Jon Reponen	Local citizen and landowner, Harney County
Rich Fulton	Malheur Lumber (Forest Products)
Tom Segal	Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
James Johnston	Oregon State University (Researcher)
Mark Owens	State Representative
Shane Theall	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Pam Hardy	Western Environmental Law Center

Fiscal Year 1	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned***
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$250,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$340,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$1,200,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$2,790,000	$1,000,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	$0
Fiscal Year 2	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$260,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$350,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$1,000,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,050,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$2,610,000	$1,050,000

CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	$0
Fiscal Year 3	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$270,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$360,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$500,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,100,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$2,130,000	$1,100,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	

Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	$0
Fiscal Year 4	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$280,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$370,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$250,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,150,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$1,900,000	$1,150,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	$0
Fiscal Year 5	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$290,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$380,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$250,000	

USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,200,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$1,920,000	$1,200,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	$0
Fiscal Year 6	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$300,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$390,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$250,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,250,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$1,940,000	$1,250,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	

Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	#VALUE!
Fiscal Year 7	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$310,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$400,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$250,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,300,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$1,960,000	$1,300,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	#VALUE!
Fiscal Year 8	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$320,000	

Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$410,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$250,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,350,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$1,980,000	$1,350,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	$0
Fiscal Year 9	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$330,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$420,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$250,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,400,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$2,000,000	$1,400,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	

Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	
Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	$0
Fiscal Year 10	**Discretionary/Program Funding Planned**	**Salary and Expense Funding Planned**
Partner fund contributions on NFS lands	$340,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on NFS lands	$430,000	
Goods for Services or Revenue from GNA to be applied within CFLRP landscape	$250,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on NFS lands	$1,000,000	$1,450,000
Total non-CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$2,020,000	$1,450,000
CFLRP Funding Request	$3,000,000	
Total CFLRP funding for NFS lands	$3,000,000	N/A (CFLN for discretionary/program expenses only)
Partner fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
Partner in-kind contributions on non-NFS lands	$25,000	
USFS Appropriated, Perm, and Trust fund contributions on non-NFS lands	$0	

Total non-CFLRP funding for non-NFS lands	$50,000	$0
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).*	NEPA funding is covered under our normal appropriations. No additional funds are needed.	

Forest Service **Malheur National Forest**

P.O. Box 909
431 Patterson Bridge Road
John Day, OR 97845
541-575-3000
Fax: 541-575-3001

File Code: 1930; 2400; 2500 **Date:** 5/17/21
Route To: 2600; 3400; 5100

Subject: Letter of Commitment CFLRP

To: CFLRP Advisory Committee

The Malheur National Forest (NF) leadership team fully supports the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition (SBRC) 2021 Project Extension Proposal for the CFLRP. The success of the CFLRP efforts to date indicates the Malheur NF's intention, the collaborative partners, contractors, and the public to prioritize restoration efforts in and around the rural communities of John Day and Burns/Hines in Grant and Harney counties. The Malheur NF intends to continue efforts to implement large landscape restoration projects efficiently, effectively, and with broad support from diverse constituents. The scale of future efforts is largely dependent on support from our Regional Office, the Advisory Panel, and the Washington Office staff.

The role of the Malheur NF in these communities is environmentally, socially, and economically complex. The Forest provides high-quality recreation and hunting opportunities important to local rural communities surrounding the Malheur NF. It also supports the local labor market for residents and additional economic contributions to the community from visitors. As shared in the proposal, collaborative efforts and forest product and restoration continue to be vital for these communities.

Our partnership with SBRC, a coalition of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners and Harney County Restoration Collaborative, has been strong, enduring, and productive. Having SBRC as a partner allows us to communicate more effectively, with broader voices, and better understand public interests.

Having a mature collaborative has allowed us to make great strides in restoration while responding to local industry needs. This collaborative has also led to increased social licensing for prescribed fire, which is essential to reducing fire risk and restoring the landscape for community and ecological values.

While we have made great strides in restoration throughout the original CFLRP timeframe, the work is not complete. Funding this proposal will allow efforts to continue sharing stewardship of this extraordinary landscape in the Malheur NF. The shared stewardship will help protect our neighbor's lands and engage partners in additional restoration work. We will continue to serve as an example of what is possible with collaboration in a complex social, economic, and environmental landscape.

CRAIG TRULOCK
Digitally signed by CRAIG TRULOCK
Date: 2021.05.17 12:56:30 -07'00'

CRAIG TRULOCK
Forest Supervisor

ATTACHMENT H

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Allen, J.H., Ozawa, C.P. and Babcock, J., 2019. Strengthening Your Community by Tackling Challenges Together: Lessons from the High Desert Partnership.	Technical report	Collaboration	Focuses on HDP and includes work of HCRC	https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/ncpp_pub/11/
Antuma, J., Esch, B., Hall, B., Munn, E. and Sturges, F., 2014. Restoring forests and communities: lessons from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. Bennett, D., Davis, E.J., White, E.M., & Ellison, A. 2015. Economic Impacts from the Malheur 10- Year Stewardship Contract: Evaluating Year One. Ecosystem Workforce Program Fact Sheet #5, University of Oregon: Eugene, OR.	Student thesis Technical report (fact sheet)	How collaboration is affecting public lands management Economic	The CFLRP is one of 13 case studies Directly evaluates economic impacts	https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/106559 http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/FS_13.pdf
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Crawford, L.J., 2020. Soil Disturbance Recovery After Timber Harvests on the Malheur National Forest, Oregon (Master's thesis, University of Idaho).	Student thesis	Soils, timber harvest	Study occurred on MNF	https://search.proquest.com/openview/8866ac09dc94805c5907271b2963039c/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y
Crawford, L.J., Heinse, R., Kimsey, M.J. and Page-Dumroese, D.S., 2021. Harvest operations and soil sustainability: A review. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-421. Fort Collins, CO: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 39 p., 421.	GTR	Soils, timber harvest	Study occurred on MNF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/download/61810.pdf
Cross, T.B., Latif, Q.S., Dudley, J.G. and Saab, V.A., 2021. Lewis's woodpecker nesting habitat suitability: Predictive models for application within burned forests. Biological Conservation, 253, p. 108811.	Journal article	Wildlife habitat, postfire	Canyon Creek is one study site	https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/download/61780.pdf
Dabson, B., Jensen, J., Okagaki, A., Blair, A. and Carroll, M., 2012. Case Studies of Wealth Creation and Rural-Urban Linkages. RUPRI Rural Futures Lab, Rural Policy Research Institute. Accessed June, 19, p.2014.	Technical report		Includes brief writeup of BMFP	https://www.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/files/content/docs/csg/csg-Rural-Urban- Linkages-Case-Study.pdf

Dalke, P., 2019. Federal Forest Working Group: Retrospective of Accomplishments and Ongoing Considerations 2009–2018.	Technical report	FFWG	Mentions importance of BMFP in overall collaborative context in Oregon	https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/ncpp_pub/12/
Davis, E.J., & Santo, A. 2019. The Financial Picture of Oregon's			BMFP and HCRC are in	
Forest Collaboratives. Ecosystem			here although not named.	
Workforce Program Working Paper #90. University of Oregon:			BMFP is the top funded	
Eugene, OR.	Technical report	Collaborative funding	group.	http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_90.pdf
Davis, E.J., Cerveny, L.K., Ulrich, D.R. and Nuss, M.L., 2018. Making and breaking trust in forest collaborative groups. Humboldt Journal of Social Relations, 40, pp.211-231.	Journal article	Collaborative process, trust	BMFP is one of three case studies	https://www.jstor.org/stable/90023273
Davis, E.J., Santo, A., & White, E.M. 2019. Collaborative Capacity and Outcomes from Oregon's Federal Forest Restoration Program. Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper #92. University of Oregon: Eugene, OR	Technical report	FFRP, collaborative grants and outcomes	Includes grant impacts/outcomes for BMFP, HCRC	http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_92.pdf
Davis, E.J., White, E.M., & Bennett, D. 2015. Collaboration and the Malheur Ten-Year Stewardship Project. Ecosystem	Technical report (fact sheet)	Collaborative process	Focuses on collaboration around the stew con	http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/images/resources/economy/FS_8_Malheur.pdf

Workforce Program Fact Sheet #8, University of Oregon: Eugene, OR.				
Davis, E.J., White, E.M., Nuss, M.L. and Ulrich, D.R., 2018. Forest Collaborative Groups Engaged in Forest Health Issues in Eastern Oregon. In The Human Dimensions of Forest and Tree Health (pp. 383-417). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.	Book chapter	Collaboratives, process	Includes BMFP and HCRC	EJ can scan and send chapter on request
Downing, W.M., Johnston, J.D., Krawchuk, M.A., Merschel, A.G. and Rausch, J.H., 2020. Disjunct and decoupled? The persistence of a fire-sensitive conifer species in a historically frequent-fire landscape. Journal for Nature Conservation, 55, p.125828.	Journal article	Forest ecology	Study occurred on MNF	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1617138120300741
Gatz, C., 2011. Opportunity for the New Natural Resource Economy on National Forests? A Case Study of the Malheur National Forest and Potential Impacts on Grant and Harney County Residents (Department of Planning, Public Policy & Management, University of Oregon). Goodell, J.M. and Seager, S.T., 2015. The Northern Goshawk on the Southern Blue Mountains and Malheur National Forest: A Technical Review of its Status, Ecology and Management.	Student thesis Technical report	Economic Goshawk science synthesis	Directly focuses on the relationship between collaborative forest management and economic outcomes In CFLRP landscape	http://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/11684 https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/defaults/47429970d
Harley, G.L., Heyerdahl, E.K., Johnston, J.D. and Olson, D.L., 2020. Riparian and adjacent upland forests burned	Journal article	Fire history	Study occurred on MNF	http://www.publish.csiro.au/WF/WF19101

synchronously during dry years in eastern Oregon (1650–1900 CE), USA. International Journal of Wildland Fire, 29(7), pp.602-610.				
Hess, E.S., 2021. Shoulder to Shoulder: Working Together for a Sustainable Future. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.	Book chapter	Collaboration	Appears to contain a chapter about BMFP	https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=EuUXEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=%22blue+mountains+forest+partners%22&ots=CZar5spNDo&sig=-RVezxOLjFBB4nmiKhGRAFDvt1w
Hibbard, M. and Lurie, S., 2013. The new natural resource economy: environment and economy in transitional rural communities. Society & Natural Resources, 26(7), pp.827-844.	Journal article	Economic	BMFP as one case study	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08941920.2012.720358
Hibbard, M., Senkyr, L. and Webb, M., 2015. Multifunctional rural			Focuses more on the	
regional development: Evidence from the John Day watershed in			watershed work but	
Oregon. Journal of Planning Education and Research, 35(1), pp.51-			mentions forest	
62.	Journal article	Economic, social	collaboration	https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0739456X14560572
Hutchins, E.G., 2015. Restoring Landscapes in the Context of Environmental Change–A Mental Models Analysis (Doctoral dissertation, The Ohio State University).	Student report	Conceptualizations of ecological restoration	The CFLRP is one of the case studies	https://etd.ohiolink.edu/pg_10?0::NO:10:P10_ACCESSION_NUM:osu1431008926
Johnson, C., 2020. Influence of disturbance on tree growth and	Poster	Tree growth, fire impacts, ponderosa	In CFLRP landscape	https://www.essoar.org/pdfjs/10.1002/essoar.10501660.1

defenses. Poster presented at the AGU 2019 Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA.		pine, disturbance		
Johnson, C., 2020. Restoring Ponderosa Pine: Understanding Individual Tree Defenses, Disturbance Responses, and Resilience.	Student dissertation	Tree response to disturbance, ponderosa pine	In CFLRP landscape	https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/downloads/wd376328b
Johnston, J.D., 2016. Forest successional and disturbance dynamics in the southern Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon.	Student dissertation	Forest ecology	In CFLRP landscape	https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/graduate_thesis_or_dissertations/tx31qm969
Johnston, J.D., 2017. Forest succession along a productivity gradient following fire exclusion. Forest Ecology and Management, 392, pp. 45-57.	Journal article	Forest ecology	In CFLRP landscape	https://www.researchgate.net/profile/James_Johnston31/publication/314494478_Forest_succession_along_a_productivity_gradient_following_fire_exclusion/links/5a828a2ea6fdcc6f3ead8ac0/Forest-succession-along-a-productivity-gradient-following-fire-exclusion.pdf
Johnston, J.D., Dunn, C.J., Vernon, M.J., Bailey, J.D., Morrissette, B. A. and Morici, K.E., 2018. Restoring historical forest conditions in a diverse inland Pacific Northwest landscape. Ecosphere, 9(8), p. e02400.	Journal article	Forest ecology, HRV	In CFLRP landscape	https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/ecs2.2400
Johnston, J.D., Greenler, S.M., Miller, B.A., Reilly, M.J., Lindsay, A.A. and Dunn, C.J., 2021. Diameter limits impede restoration of historical conditions in dry mixed-conifer forests	Journal article	Forest ecology	In CFLRP landscape	https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdfdirect/10.1002/ecs2. 3394

of eastern Oregon, USA. Ecosphere, 12(3), p.e03394.				
Kantor, S., Kerns, B. and Day, M., 2020. Can prescribed fire do the work we hired it to do?. Science Findings 226. Portland, OR: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 5 p., 226.	Newsletter article	Prescribed fire	Mentions importance of collaboratives	https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/59663
Kitayama, E.K., 2019. The Use of Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Within the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program 2010-2018.	Student capstone	Monitoring, fish and wildlife	CFLRP is included in study	https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/graduate_projects/5138jm578
Latif, Q.S., Saab, V.A., Dudley, J.G., Markus, A. and Mellen-McLean, K., 2020. Development and evaluation of habitat suitability models for nesting white-headed woodpecker (Dryobates albolarvatus) in burned forest. PloS one, 15(5), p.e0233043.	Journal article	Wildlife habitat, postfire	In CFLRP area	https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0233043
Lindsay, A.A. and Johnston, J.D., 2020. Using historical reconstructions of moist mixed conifer forests to inform forest management on the Malheur National Forest.n: Pile, Lauren S.; Deal, Robert L.; Dey, Daniel C.; Gwaze, David; Kabrick, John M.; Palik, Brian; Schuler, Thomas M., comps. The 2019 National Silviculture Workshop: a focus on forest management-research partnerships.	Chapter within general technical report	Forest ecology	Based on BMFP work	https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr-nrs-p-193papers/04-lindsay-gtr_nrs-p-193.pdf

Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-193. Madison, WI: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 23-33.				
McKelvey, K.S., Block, W.M., Jain, T.B., Luce, C.H., Page-Dumroese, D.S., Richardson, B.A., Saab, V.A., Schoettle, A.W., Sieg, C.H. and Williams, D.R., 2021. Adapting Research, Management, and Governance to Confront Socioecological Uncertainties in Novel Ecosystems. Frontiers in Forests and Global Change, 4, p.14.	Journal article	Big picture	Mentions CFLRP and Latif et al.	https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2021.644696/full
McLain, R.J., Wright, K. and Cerveny, L., 2015. Who is at the Forest Restoration Table? Final Report on the Blue Mountains Forest Stewardship Network, Phase 1.	Technical report	Participation in Blue Mtn forest collaboratives	BMFP and HCRC included in study	https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/iss_pub/100/
Mildrexler, D.J., Berner, L.T., Law, B.E., Birdsey, R.A. and Moomaw, W.R., 2020. Large Trees Dominate Carbon Storage in Forests East of the Cascade Crest in the United States Pacific Northwest. Frontiers in Forests and Global Change, 3, p.127.	Journal article	Carbon storage	Data from MNF included in study	https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2020.594274/full?fbclid=IwAR3cYaDKWjTqq6-uZt6pyp7bOTvaHLm9AVtcRhP-vaMSH7Qgza55ci0ROms
Nuss, M.L., & Davis, E.J. 2015. Formalizing Decisions: A Case Study on Collaborative Zones of Agreement. Case Study Research Brief #2, Forest Research Laboratory, Oregon State University.	Technical report	Collaborative process	How BMFP uses ZOA	

Nuss, M.L., 2014. The" great hope": bioenergy in eastern Oregon and its implications for dry forest restoration.	Student thesis	Biomass	Case study of biomass utilization focused on Grant County; collaboratives mentioned	https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/graduate_thesis_or_dissertations/ht24wn370
Olszewski, J.H., 2019. LiDAR as Tool for Assessing Hazard Fuel Reduction Projects.	Student thesis	Lidar, fuel continuity	In CFLRP landscape	https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/graduate_thesis_or_dissertations/qv33s3054
Salerno, J., Huber-Stearns, H., Jacobson, K., Ellison, A. and Moseley, C., 2017. Monitoring restoration progress on Oregon's eastside national forests during the Federal Forest Restoration Program.	Technical report	FFRP (2nd biennium), pace and scale of restoration	Includes grant impacts/outcomes for BMFP, HCRC	http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_78.pdf
Santo, A., Davis, E.J., Huber-Stearns, H., & Ellison, A. 2018. Successes, Challenges, and Opportunities for Collaborative Accelerated Restoration in Oregon's Blue Mountains. Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper #88. University of Oregon: Eugene, OR. Santo, A., Huber-Stearns, H., Davis, E.J., and Policy Analysis Group. 2019. Monitoring Investments in Oregon's Federal Forest Restoration Program, FY 2014-2019. Ecosystem Workforce Program	Technical report Technical report	Pace and scale of restoration FFRP (3rd biennium), pace and scale of restoration	Includes interviewees from BMFP and Malheur NF Includes grant impacts/outcomes for BMFP, HCRC	http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_88.pdf http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_91.pdf

Working Paper #91. University of Oregon: Eugene, OR.				
Schultz, C.A., McIntyre, K.B., Cyphers, L., Ellison, A., Kooistra, C. and Moseley, C., 2017. Strategies for success under Forest Service restoration initiatives.	Technical report	CFLRP, other landscape initiatives	BMFP/HCRC likely among survey respondents but not about them	http://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/22980
Seager, S.T., Ediger, V. and Davis, E.J., 2015. Aspen Restoration and Social Agreements: An Introductory Guide for Forest Collaboratives in Central and Eastern Oregon.	Technical report	Aspen, ZoA	Includes aspen in CFLRP area and how to build ZoA	https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/defaults/s7526c88h
Senkyr, K.L., 2012. The Role of Habitat Restoration and Conservation in the Changing Socio-economic Conditions of Grant County, Oregon. Sumlin, B., Fortner, E., Lambe, A., Shetty, N., Daube, C., Liu, P., Majluf, F., Herndon, S. and Chakrabarty, R.K., 2021. Diel Cycle Impacts on the Chemical and Light Absorption Properties of Organic Carbon Aerosol from Wildfires in the Western United States. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions, pp.1-22.	Student thesis Journal article	Economic Aerosols from fire	204 Cow Fire sampled	https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/open_access_etds/463/ https://acp.copernicus.org/preprints/acp-2021-247/acp-2021-247.pdf

Summers, B.M., 2014. The effectiveness of forest collaborative groups at reducing the likelihood of project appeals and objections in eastern Oregon.	Student thesis	Collaboratives, appeals and objection	Includes Malheur NF	https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/mem_gradprojects/41/
Teimouri, M., 2020. Bayesian Inference for Johnson's SB and Weibull distributions. arXiv preprint arXiv:2005.02302.	Journal article	Forestry statistics	Plots from southern MNF	https://arxiv.org/pdf/2005.02302
Teimouri, M. and Podlaski, R., 2020. Modeling tree diameters using mixtures of skewed Student'st and related distributions. Canadian Journal of Forest Research, 50(10), pp.1039-1049.	Journal article	Forestry statistics	Plots from southern MNF	https://cdnsciencepub.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjfr-2020-0008
Teimouri, M., Doser, J.W. and Finley, A.O., 2020. ForestFit: An R package for modeling plant size distributions. Environmental Modelling & Software, 131, p.104668.	Journal article	Forestry statistics	Plots from southern MNF	https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mahdi_Teimouri/publication/339773711_ForestFit_An_R_package_for_modeling_plant_size_distributions/links/5e7ce06392851caef4a1ce5c/ForestFit-An-R-package-for-modeling-plant-size-distributions.pdf
Toman, E., Walpole, E.H. and Heeren, A., 2019. 6 From conflict to shared visions. A New Era for Collaborative Forest Management: Policy and Practice insights from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.	Book chapter	Collaborative conceptions of ecological restoration	The CFLRP is one of three case studies	https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=2PODDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PT205&dq=%22southern+blues+restoration+coalition%22&ots=kLbfy9XoKV&sig=wjl50JC7MEsZZhpBbXv6mhpBxaQ
Vogler, K., Johnston, J., Morici, K., Bailey, J., Cole, E. and Boston, K., 2016.	Technical report	Biomass supply	Includes data James	https://research.libraries.wsu.edu/xmlui/handle/2376/11991

Sustainable Biomass Supply from Forest Health and Fire Hazard Reduction Treatments.			gathered with BMFP?	
Westlind, D.J. and Kerns, B.K., 2021. Repeated fall prescribed fire in previously thinned Pinus ponderosa increases growth and resistance to other disturbances. Forest Ecology and Management, 480, p. 118645.	Journal article	Forest ecology, rx fire	Study areas are on MNF	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112720314146
White, E.M, Davis, E.J., Bennett, D.E., & Moseley, C. 2015. Monitoring of Outcomes from Oregon's Federal Forest Health Program. Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper #57, University of Oregon: Eugene, OR. White, E.M., Bennett, D.E. and Moseley, C., 2015. Social and economic monitoring for the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Project, fiscal years 2012 and 2013. Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper #59, University of Oregon. White, E.M., Bennett, D.E., Davis, E.J., & Moseley, C. 2016. Economic Outcomes From the U.S. Forest Service Eastside Strategy. Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper #64, University of Oregon: Eugene, OR.	Technical report Technical report Technical report Newsletter article Journal article	FFRP (1st biennium), pace and scale of restoration Economic, social, monitoring Economic, social, monitoring Collaborative process Forest ecology, rx fire	Includes grant impacts/outcomes for BMFP, HCRC Directly evaluates economic impacts of the CFLRP Directly evaluates economic impacts including on the Malheur Contains short writeup of BMFP and Trent's role Study area is on MNF	http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_57.pdf http://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/1794/19466 http://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_64.pdf https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/download/53157.pdf https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/11/8/834/pdf

White, R., Charnley, S., Grant, G., Rowland, M. and Wisdom, M., 2016. Restoring rivers, sustaining communities. Science Update 23. Portland, OR: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 19 p., 23. Zald, H.S., Kerns, B.K. and Day, M.A., 2020. Limited Effects of Long- Term Repeated Season and Interval of Prescribed Burning on Understory Vegetation Compositional Trajectories and Indicator Species in Ponderosa Pine Forests of Northeastern Oregon, USA. Forests, 11(8), p.834.				
Zhang, J., Oliver, W., Graham, R. and Moser, W.K., 2020. The Level- of-Growing-Stock (LOGS) study on thinning ponderosa pine forests in the US West: A long-term collaborative experiment in density management. Journal of Forest Science. 66 (10): 393-406., 66(10), pp.393-406.	Journal article	Silviculture	One plot is on MNF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/download/61584.pdf

Acronyms Used

AOP: Aquatic Organism Passage

BDA: Beaver Dam Analog

BMFP: Blue Mountains Forest Partners

CTUIR: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

CTWS: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

FIP: Focused Investment Project

FRV: Future Range of Variation/Variability

FVF: Forest Vegetation and Fuels (monitoring program)

GNA: Good Neighbor Authority

HCRC: Harney County Restoration Collaborative

HRV: Historic Range of Variation/Variability

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

JDBP: John Day Basin Partnership

LOS: Late and Old Structure forest

OSU: Oregon State University

PNWRS: Pacific Northwest Research Station

RMRS: Rocky Mountain Research Station

SBRC: Southern Blues Restoration Collaborative

Southern Blues CFLRP 1.0: Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLRA Project (2012)

Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0: Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLRA Application (2021)

TES: Threatened or endangered species

ZOA: Zones of Agreement

Full List of Partners

Burns Paiute Tribe

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

Grant Soil and Water Conservation District

John Day Basin Partnership

Malheur Watershed Council

National Wild Turkey Federation

North Fork John Day Watershed Council

Oregon Department of Corrections

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon Natural Desert Association

Oregon State University

Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest Research Stations

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

South Fork John Day Watershed Council

Sustainable Northwest

United States Endowment for Forests and Communities

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2021

The Honorable Vicki Christiansen
Chief
United States Forest Service
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building
201 14th St SW
Washington, DC 20227

RE: Letter of Support for the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project Extension

Dear Chief Christiansen:

We write to express our support for the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) extension request. Since 2012, the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition CFLRP has demonstrated how diverse stakeholders can successfully partner with the Forest Service to reduce wildfire risk, improve the health of our public forests, and help stabilize rural economies.

The Southern Blues CFLRP is located in a frequent fire ecosystem in eastern Oregon. The Coalition has restored more than 215,000 acres to a more resilient condition on the Malheur National Forest. Their restoration efforts helped to build and retain local jobs and also increased trust among local stakeholders. In 2015, Coalition expanded the Southern Blues CFLRP boundary to allow work on additional watersheds because of its successful track record on the forest.

Among its many successes, the Southern Blues CFLRP was able to prevent the closure of Malheur Lumber Company's timber products mill in the City of John Day by accelerating restoration on the Malheur National Forest, implementing a long-term stewardship contract held by local contractors, and initiating the development of "Zones of Agreement" to facilitate social license around science-driven restoration. Today, complementary infrastructure has been built to use the byproducts of restoration including small diameter and low-value material. Infrastructure includes Iron Triangle's post and pole facility in Seneca their firewood facility in John Day, the Biodynamics pellet facility in Burns, pellet and shaving infrastructure at Malheur Lumber Company, and Restoration Fuels' torrefaction facility in John Day, all of which are new since 2012.

While Southern Blues CFLRP has had a positive impact on the landscape and local economy, more work remains. If extended, the Coalition hopes to complete forest restoration work on approximately 75% of the 1.4 million acres of the Malheur National Forest that are not designated as wilderness. The project will seek to reduce the risk of damaging fire near homes and infrastructure, and facilitate cross-boundary work. The extension would facilitate greater use of prescribed fire as a management tool as well as restore aquatic ecosystems. Further, the

Coalition is committed to ensuring that diverse goods, services, and employment opportunities are provided to local communities.

Thank you for your full and fair review of the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition's application for CFLRP. Should you have any further questions, please contact Senator Merkley's Natural Resources Liaison Jessica Keys at 541-278-1129 or Senator Wyden's Natural Resources Director Malcolm McGeary at 503-326-7525.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

CLIFF BENTZ
SECOND DISTRICT, OREGON

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE:
1239 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TEL: (202) 225-6730

DISTRICT OFFICES:
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MEDFORD, OR 97501
TEL: (541) 776-4646
FAX: (541) 779-0204

2430 SW 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 2
ONTARIO, OR 97914
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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

April 27, 2021

Chief Vicki Christiansen
United States Forest Service
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20227

Dear Chief Christiansen & CFLRP Advisory Committee:

I write in support of the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition's (SBRC) proposal to extend funding for their Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP). With this extension, SBRC will continue in its efforts to reduce wildfire risk, develop healthy forests, and promote community socioeconomic stability. Based on the success of these efforts in the past decade and their strong application, I urge you to continue funding the SBRC's project.

The SBRC is comprised of two forest collaborative groups, the Blue Mountains Forest Partners and Harney County Restoration Coalition, who have worked with the USFS to successfully accelerate restoration of the Malheur National Forest. By working together, the SBRC has restored more than 215,000 acres of forest to a more resilient condition. These results warranted an expansion of the SBRC's CFLRP boundary in 2015, which allowed them to work in additional watersheds to expand the pace, scale, and quality of restoration on the Malheur National Forest. While extensive restoration continues, much more remains to be done, including expanded maintenance treatments that are critical to truly accomplishing wildfire resilience.

Given their track record, the SBRC continues to be a smart investment for an extension of their CFLRP designation as they maintain the capacity to achieve positive results. In addition, the SBRC's project is strategically located not only in the heart of the frequent fire ecosystem, but it is also surrounded by other CFLRP projects: the Northern Blues Restoration Coalition to the north, the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project to the west, and the Lakeview Stewardship Project to the south. Continuing fire mitigation and forest restoration work is essential to effectively reduce wildfire risk for forests and communities in Southern Oregon.

I strongly encourage the CFLRP Advisory Committee to fully and fairly consider SBRC's application for extended funding. If you need any additional information for your review, I am happy to provide it to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me in my Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

HARNEY COUNTY COURT
Judge Runnels, Commissioners Dorroh and Shelman
450 North Buena Vista #5, Burns, Oregon 97720
Phone: 541-589-4384 Fax: 541-573-8387
E-mail: kristen.shelman@co.harney.or.us
Websites: www.co.harney.or.us ♦ www.harneycounty.org

April 21, 2021

Re: Support for the CFLRP Application from the Malheur National Forest and Southern Blues Restoration Coalition

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to express our unqualified support for the Malheur National Forest and the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition (Blue Mountain Forest Partners and Harney County Restoration Collaborative), in their application for an extension to their CFLRP award.

The successes of the Blue Mountain Forest Partners and the Harney County Restoration Collaborative are well known regionally. Through the work of finding agreements between conservation, timber industry, and community interests, we have made significant advances in forest management activities over the past decade. We continue to seek innovative ways to expand the utilization of forest products in Harney County while improving the ecological integrity of our forests. Through collaboration, we continue to gain the social license necessary to expand the pace and scale of restoration actions on the southern Malheur National Forest, decreasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires to the communities of Harney County.

The continuation of funding through the CFLRP will allow for more management goals to be accomplished and provide the needed resources that will determine whether or not we are able to make the kinds of impacts to forest restoration that is needed here locally. Please note that these funds are being used wisely and with discretion. We want to acknowledge the positive impact that this funding has had locally and want to show continued support for the extending the CFLRP.

Sincerely,

County Judge	Commissioner	Commissioner

Date: April 7, 2021

Re: Support for the CFLRP Application from the Malheur National Forest and Blue Mountains Forest Partners

Dear, Members of the CFLRP Selection Committee --

We are writing to express our unqualified support for the Malheur National Forest and our neighbors, the Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP), in their application for an extension to their CFLRP award.

The Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (NBFC) works to find common ground on the management of the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The Malheur is immediately to our south and adjacent to the land we call home. We share the larger Blue Mountain ecoregion, and many of the ecological and social issues.

The successes at BMFP are well known regionally, and inspired us in part to submit our own CFLRP application in January of 2020 (awarded in September 2020). The depth of their Zones of Agreement and the top-quality researchers whom they have drawn to the area have helped us better understand and restore ecological health on our own forests, many of which share myriad of the same dynamics. Because of the BMFP's work finding agreements between conservation and timber industry interests, the Malheur lumber mill in John Day remains open. Many mills in our area have shut down, and we continue to struggle to assure the stable supply of wood that we know will keep those industries healthy into the future.

Collaboration helps make that supply a little more reliable. Were it not for a regional example of success, it's possible that we would have given up on this difficult work of collaboration long ago. Their leadership in the region has been an inspiration. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to extend their funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JV Costello

Jeff Costello, *Facilitator*
Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
401 NE 1st Street, Suite "A", Enterprise, OR 97828
Voice: (541) 426-8053 Ext. #30
Cell: (510) 390-2121
jeff@wallowaresources.org

OCHOCO FOREST
RESTORATION COLLABORATIVE

April 7, 2021

Re: Support for the CFLRP Application from the Malheur National Forest and Blue Mountains Forest Partners

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to express our unqualified support for the Malheur National Forest and our neighbors, the Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP), in their application for an extension to their CFLRP award.

The Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative (OFRC) was founded in 2012, in part due the evident success of the Blue Mountains Forest Partners. We work to find agreement on the Ochoco National Forest which is immediately west of and adjacent to the Malheur.

Because of the BMFP's work finding agreements between conservation and timber industry interests, the Malheur lumber mill in John Day remains open. Prineville lost all of its mills in the downturn, but with the help of our collaborative, we are building the social license to assure the steady supply of timber that will be required to revitalize some of that industry, while still improving the ecological integrity of our forests. Were it not for a regional example of success, it's possible that we would have given up on this difficult work long ago. Their leadership in the region has been an inspiration.

We strongly encourage you to extend their funding.

Sincerely,

Janet Hutchison

Janet Hutchison
Prineville City Councilor
Chair, Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative

U.S. Endowment
for Forestry and Communities

The Honorable Vicki Christiansen
Chief
US Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

April 16, 2021

RE: Letter of Support for the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project Extension

Dear Chief Christiansen:

For a decade, the U.S Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the USDA Forest Service have jointly invested in market-based solutions and product innovations to provide new tools to support forest restoration. Our successful work together has helped spur the advancement of mass timber, led to the creation of state wood energy teams nationwide, advanced the science and understanding of the carbon benefits of wood products and many other notable accomplishments. Our most audacious joint investment to date is in the commercialization of advanced wood fuels through the Consortium for Advanced Wood-to-Energy Solutions and the Restoration Fuels facility in John Day, Oregon.

Today, I write to express the Endowment's support for the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) extension request. The success and the hard work of the collaborative led directly to the decision to invest in this location. To date, the collaborative has shown how a group with differing backgrounds and interests can work together with the Forest Service to both improve public forests and rural communities.

Restoration Fuels represents a $30 million investment in this community with the goal of adding resiliency to the existing infrastructure. The market Restoration Fuels provides is necessary to implement management prescriptions aimed at forest restoration. Providing a market will make restoration less costly and provide more opportunities to treat additional acres. This investment, approximately 25 percent of which is from the Forest Service, is designed to support this landscape-scale restoration work and prove a model that can be applied to other areas of need within the National Forest System.

As we commence operations at Restoration Fuels, we will continue to work with you to demonstrate that a stable, scale-appropriate, long-term market will help increase the pace and scale of restoration. Renewed support of the Southern Blues Restoration Coalition's CFLRP is vital to implement this work.

We look forward to continuing our work together on this project and realizing the benefits of the years of investment the Forest Service and The Endowment have made to address the forest health crisis.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding our support or if I may assist in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. I can be reached at (864) 233-7646.

Sincerely,

Pete Madden
President and CEO
U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

908 East North Street
Greenville, SC 29601

(864) 233-7646
www.usendowment.org

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife
John Day Field Office
PO Box 9
John Day, OR 97845
Voice: 541-575-1167
Fax: 541-575-0948
http://www.dfw.state.or.us

May 25, 2021

Chief Vicki Christiansen
United States Forest Service
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20227

To Whom it May Concern,

The John Day District Office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is submitting this letter of support for the proposed Southern Blues Restoration Coalition (Blue Mountain Forest Partners and Harney County Restoration Collaborative) application to extend funding for their Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project.

The Southern Blues CFLRP 2.0 proposed treatments will enhance fish habitat through both terrestrial and aquatic restoration treatments in critical spawning and rearing streams. These treatments will reduce fire risk to essential riparian and help restore stream habitat occupied by ESA listed steelhead and bull trout. In addition, it will benefit sensitive westslope cutthroat trout (only population in Oregon), redband trout, spring Chinook and other native aquatic species.

Primary limiting factors to accelerate fish recovery goals for the John Day Basin include providing additional rearing habitat, enhancing instream flows, reducing stream temperatures, and increasing fish distribution. The treatments proposed by Southern Blues Restoration Coalition will help achieve these restoration goals through barrier removal projects, increasing rearing habitat, and reducing sediment inputs.

The terrestrial restoration treatments will enhance wildlife habitat for a variety of species. The treatments will open the forest canopy, reduce fire severity, and move the forest to a more historical range of variability. They will also improve forage for deer and elk on summer range where high quality forage is extremely important to support lactating females and to build fat reserves for winter.

Road closure goals were not met on the first CFLRP. However, recent efforts by the Blue Mountain Forest Partner to develop a wildlife habitat zones of agreement and forest biologist have developed better guidance for creating elk security areas may make road closures more palatable and understandable for the local public. ODFW's goal of maintaining more elk on public lands may be met with these efforts and the continued funding of this project.

The Blue Mountain Forest Partners and the Harney County Restoration Collaborative have been very successful in the past and ODFW fully supports the continuation and extension of the CFLRP.

Sincerely,

Brent Smith
Assistant John Day District Fish Biologist
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ryan Torland
John Day District Wildlife Biologist
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry
Central Oregon District
PO Box 670
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Prineville, OR 97754
PHONE: 541-447-5658
FAX: 541-447-1469
www.ODFcentraloregon.com

"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

May 26, 2021

Re: Letter of support for the Malheur National Forest CFLRP application

To Whom It Concerns,

With this letter, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Central Oregon District, shows its wholehearted support of the Malheur National Forest's application for an extension to the CFLRP award. The restoration activities, wildfire risk reduction, and the support of the local community are just a few of the outcomes this funding has provided and would continue to provide if extended.

ODF has developed a partnership with the Malheur National Forest that exemplifies collaboration and shared stewardship of National Forest lands. Through the utilization of Good Neighbor Authority, ODF has staffed a State employee fuels crew for the last 5 years. This crew has accomplished many valuable restoration activities on the Malheur NF ranging from timber sale layout, pre-commercial thinning, fuels reduction projects, Aspen restoration activities, and many more. Much of the work accomplished was done through funding provided by the CFLRP award. Simply put, without these funds, this crew would not exist and the work they accomplish would be delayed or simply not done.

CFLRP funding has provided the opportunity for ODF and the USFS to truly demonstrate shared stewardship. Operational direction and treatment prescription details are communicated at the lowest level on a daily, weekly or bi-weekly basis to the ODF GNA Fuels crew. The trust and relationships built over time through this collaborative effort has and will continue to benefit both agencies.

In closing, ODF is appreciative of the opportunity to implement the use of CFLRP funds for much needed restoration work on the Malheur National Forest. Please know we support this application for an extension of the award. With that extension, we are excited to be able to support the Forest and their restoration goals into the future.

Sincerely,

Mike Shaw – District Forester

Ryan Miller -- Federal Forest Restoration Coordinator