



US Forest Service National Forest System Briefing Paper

Date: March 10, 2010

Topic: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

Issue:

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is seeking nominations from the public for the new Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee. The Committee will inaugurate a new level of collaboration between the USDA Forest Service and the American people in the restoration of forested landscapes. The Committee will include up to 15 citizens with wide-ranging expertise in areas of ecology, wildland fire, rural economic development, climate change, and the utilization of woody biomass and small-diameter trees.

Background:

The Committee was authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (Act) of 2009, which encourages collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forested landscapes. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund (Fund) provides authority to cover up to 50 percent of the cost of implementing and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on forested National Forest System lands. The Secretary may select up to 10 proposals per year. The Act limits the number of proposals that may be selected annually in any one Forest Service Region to two proposals.

The Sustainable Landscape Management Board of Directors (SLMBOD) has appointed a four-person team to develop field guidance on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and Fund requirements. The team developed a web-based user guide, which is posted on the Forest Service Ecosystem Restoration website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/index.shtml>. The guide addresses project eligibility criteria, process, and the uses and limitations of the Fund.

Key Points:

- The notice of intent to establish the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Advisory Committee was published in the Federal Register on March 5, 2010: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-4686.pdf>.
- The Committee will work with the Forest Service through the entire process of restoration work, from identifying needs on the landscape to achieving goals in ways that create jobs and protect local communities from wildfire.
- Regional Foresters should submit CFLR proposals by May 14, 2010. The Committee will evaluate and recommend proposals to fund. Selected proposals will need to obligate the CFLR funds before the end of the fiscal year.

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