

## Qs and As

# Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) and Advisory Committee

### CFLRP description, Jobs, Advisory Committee

#### 1. What is the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)?

Congress passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 in March last year . The Act directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program CFLRP (Title 1V). The program funds up to 50 percent of program implementation and monitoring costs for the selected projects. The projects will use ecological treatments to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires by reducing hazardous fuels and reestablishing natural fire regimes, which could reduce wildfire management costs on priority forest landscapes. The program will be managed in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on National Forest System lands. Projects will occur on landscapes of at least 50,000 acres with strategic plans that identify and prioritize restoration treatments.

CFLRP will create jobs by leveraging local programs and businesses with national and private resources. This multiple-benefit program will enhance natural resources; reduce wildfire risk, while improving forest health; reduce fire management costs; promote the use of forest byproducts, such as woody biomass; and revitalize local rural economies in communities across America.

#### 2. What kind of jobs, how many and where will jobs be created?

A variety of jobs for forest workers will be created, including hand crews and equipment operators. For example, hand crews would thin trees, cut small-diameter trees to reduce hazardous forest fuels, and pile slash; plant trees and other native plants; maintain or relocate trails; spray or pull invasive weeds; build fire lines; and ignite and hold prescribed fires. Equipment operators would cut and remove trees to provide biomass for renewable energy; decommission, rehabilitate and/or maintain roads; and repair degraded streams. Small, independent contractors and partnerships with counties that have existing programs to accomplish the types of work outlined above will benefit from this program. Also, the funding will indirectly support jobs in the biomass industry and local economies in areas that are selected.

The selected proposals will involve a variety of Forest Service funding sources and may include stewardship contracts, grants, and agreements. The number and location of jobs will not be known until proposals are selected and implementation begins. Each national forest selected for proposal work will have specifics on the number and kind of jobs created.

#### 3. Why is a national advisory committee being formed to select national forest restoration proposals?

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 directs the Secretary to appoint an advisory panel of up to 15 members to evaluate and provide recommendations for proposal selections. Advisory panel

membership will represent a diverse group of interests to balance points of views and panel advisory functions. Membership will include experts in ecological restoration, fire ecology, fire management, rural economic development, strategies for ecological adaptation to climate change, fish and wildlife ecology, and woody biomass and small-diameter tree utilization. This diversity ensures that a valuable, constructive, public process is involved in determining priority landscapes for science-based, restoration treatments to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires, reestablish natural fire regimes, and reduce wildfire management costs.

#### **4. How will committee members be nominated and selected, how many will be selected, and how long will they serve? How long will the committee be in existence?**

The Federal Register Notice of Intent published at <http://www.thefederalregister.com/d.p/2010-03-05-2010-4686> explains the process for nominating committee members. All nominations must be received in writing by March 22 to the Forest Service address noted below. The Secretary of Agriculture will select up to 15 committee members representing diverse fields of expertise (see Answer 3) who will serve two-year terms. The committee is authorized by law until 2019.

##### **Nomination process**

Nominations must contain a completed application packet that includes the nominee's name, resume, and completed form AD-755 (Advisory Committee Membership Background Information).

Address: The package must be sent to William Timko, USDA Forest Service; Forest Management, Room 3NW; 201 14th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024 by express mail or overnight courier service.

If sent via the U.S. Postal Service, they must be sent to the following address: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Forest Management, National Forest System, Mail Stop 1103, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-1123.

For more information contact: Thomas Peterson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Forest System, Forest Management; telephone 202-205-0893, fax 202-205-1045, email: [tpeterson01@fs.fed.us](mailto:tpeterson01@fs.fed.us), or contact William Timko, U.S. Department of Agriculture; National Forest System, Forest Management, telephone 202-205-0893, fax 202-205-1045, email: [btimko@fs.fed.us](mailto:btimko@fs.fed.us). Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday

#### **5. What kinds of funding are involved?**

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 authorizes up to \$40 million annually through Title IV of the Act for fiscal years 2009 through 2019. Congress appropriated \$10 million for fiscal year 2010 for up to 10 proposals with a cap of \$4 million for any one project. Funding covers up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments for the selected projects on National Forest System lands for projects that meet the eligibility criteria as specified in the Act. Selected national forests will match the other 50 percent of project costs from funds they have designated for ecological restoration treatments, their implementation, and monitoring activities. This could also include appropriated, trust, partnership funds and in-kind services.

## **Restoration Program**

### **6. How will landscape restoration benefit Americans?**

Ensuring healthy national forest ecosystems will provide clean, abundant water and help mitigate the effects of climate change. The program will use ecological restoration treatments that reduce hazardous fuels by removing woody biomass and small-diameter trees, thinning, and applying prescribed fire to modify fire behavior, which will mitigate wildfire activity and fire management costs. Large trees that contribute to old growth structure will be retained. The program promotes the use of woody biomass or forest byproducts harvested from forest restoration activities to offset treatment costs, which can benefit local rural economies while improving forest health. Restoration treatments may also improve fish and wildlife habitat; improve water quality and watershed function; control invasion of exotic species; and maintain and rehabilitate roads and trails.

### **7. How can the public stay informed of project implementation and benefits?**

Forests will announce their project selections to their stakeholders; this will occur in addition to any national announcements. Additional updates will be posted on forest Web sites as projects proceed. In addition, the Secretary will publish an annual report on the accomplishments of each selected proposal, which will include progress evaluations; community benefits, including local economic benefits; and results of a multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process to assess ecological, social and economic effects.

### **8. Will these proposals involve building new roads in forests?**

No permanent roads will be constructed for these projects. The Omnibus Act clearly states that funded proposals will include funding to decommission all temporary roads constructed to complete the project work.

## **Information Links**

### **9. How can people get more information on the Forest Service CFLRP and the Federal Register Notice?**

The Forest Service CFLRP Web site is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/index.shtml>.

The Federal Register Notice is available at <http://www.thefederalregister.com/d.p/2010-03-05-2010-4686>

The USDA news release is available at [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/\\_s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0110.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0110.xml)