

Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Proposal Summary

The Southwestern Crown of the Continent landscape (SW Crown) covers almost 1.5 million acres in western Montana and stretches west from Roger's Pass near Lincoln to the confluence of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers near Bonner and south from Swan Lake to the Blackfoot River. While this landscape is characterized by a strong culture of collaboration and has benefited from public and private investments aimed at improving ecological function and enhancing the local economies, much of it remains in need of restoration due to a century of fire suppression and past management practices.

In response to this need, a number of people representing a diverse array of interests came together to form the Southwestern Crown Collaborative and have worked together to develop a landscape restoration strategy for the SW Crown. In order to achieve the goals laid out in the strategy, the Collaborative developed a proposal for the Department of Agriculture's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) and submitted it to Regional Forester Leslie Weldon in April 2010.

The Collaborative's CFLRP proposal outlines a 10-year program of work on National Forest System (NFS) lands focused on reducing the risk of fire to rural communities, restoring forest and aquatic ecosystems to their natural trajectory, and improving ecosystem sustainability in the face of predicted climate change. The proposal, if implemented, would also boost local rural economies by creating jobs and increasing small business income. Specifically, the proposed program of work would accomplish the following:

- Restore 46,000 acres of forest land
- Reduce fire risk on 27,000 acres of high-risk lands within the wildland-urban interface
- Restore 937 miles of streams
- Mitigate noxious weeds on 81,000 acres
- Upgrade 149 stream crossing structures
- Reduce distributions of non-native fish species in area lakes
- Reduce erosion on 650 miles of roads
- Improve 280 miles of trails
- Store or decommission 400 miles of roads
- Improve wildlife security on 9500 acres via road decommissioning
- Restore and rehabilitate 33 campsites in the Bob Marshall Wilderness
- Decommission 50 miles of trails
- Reduce water quality impacts associated with six trailhead facilities
- Reclaim 40 acres impacted by past placer mining
- Create 179 full and part-time jobs during each of the next 10 years
- Contribute \$9.1 million annually in direct labor income
- Produce 100-160 MMBF of sawlogs and biomass over 10 years.

The individuals below have participated in the development of the SW Crown CFLRP Proposal

Gary Burnett	Blackfoot Challenge	Megan Birzell	Clearwater Resource Council
Amber Kamps Kevin Riordan	United States Forest Service Helena National Forest	Angela Farr Keith Stockman	United States Forest Service Region 1
Jim Burchfield Jim Lowery Dave Morris Gunnar Carnwath	University of Montana	Debbie Austin Barb Beckes Boyd Hartwig Tim Love	United States Forest Service Lolo National Forest
Matthew Koehler	Wild West Institute		
Cathy Barbouletos Rick Connell Brad Gillespie John Ingebretson Rich Kehr	United States Forest Service Flathead National Forest	Travis Belote Scott Brennan Joe Kerkvliet Bo Wilmer Anne Carlson Anne Dahl	The Wilderness Society Swan Ecosystem Center
Sterling Miller	National Wildlife Federation	Al Christopherson	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Rosalie Cates Craig Rawlings	Montana Community Development Corporation	Rob Ethridge Tony Liane	Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
Mo Bookwalter	Northwest Connections	Gordy Sanders	Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc.
Jon Haufler	Ecosystem Management Research Institute	Marnie Criley	Montana Forest Restoration Committee
Robert Rasmussen	Trust for Public Land	Jeff Barber Lisa Bay	The Nature Conservancy
Katie Meiklejohn	American Wildlands		

The individuals and organizations below have endorsed the SW Crown CFLRP proposal

Senator Max Baucus	Montana Logging Association
Senator Jon Tester	Montana Community Development Corporation
The Blackfoot Challenge	Montana Forest Restoration Committee
Swan Ecosystem Center	Missoula County Board of Commissioners
Clearwater Resource Council	American Wildlands
Trust for Public Land	The Wilderness Society
The Nature Conservancy	National Wildlife Federation
Montana Wood Products Association	Lincoln Restoration Committee
Swan River State Forest (DNRC)	USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station
Lake County Planning Department	Missoula Fire Sciences Lab
Pyramid Mountain Lumber	Montana Multi-Agency Integrated Restoration Strategy Group
Northwest Connections	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

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