

Four Forest Restoration Initiative

A Collaborative Effort to Restore Forest Ecosystems on Four National Forests in Arizona
<http://www.4fri.org>



Stakeholder Resolution in Support of full funding for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is an innovative federal program that recognizes that future forest management will be most effective if it is planned and implemented in a collaborative framework at the landscape level. The projects approved under the CFLRP represent an efficient and prudent investment in forests, water, habitat and the economic and social vitality of rural areas. The specific dividends of the CFLRP projects include increasing employment and business opportunities, protecting recreational resources, improving biodiversity, enhancing water quality, and reducing the threat of unnatural fire to rural communities and forests.

The Arizona fires of 2011 reinforce the need for landscape scale restoration. The cost of fire suppression exceeded \$100 million for the Wallow Fire alone. Studies show that the full cost accounting for a high severity crown fire can be between 2 and 30 times the cost of suppression. Full Cost accounting for the Rodeo-Chediski and Schultz Fire were over seven times the cost of suppression. What this means is that the full cost of the Wallow Fire may approach \$1 billion dollars—an amount that far exceeds the cost of conducting preventive restoration.

Therefore, the Four Forest Restoration Initiative Stakeholder Group supports full funding of \$40 million for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program in FY'12. Full funding will ensure that existing projects, such as the Four Forest Restoration Initiative, are fully funded while allowing for the CFLRP to expand to new landscapes. We urge the Arizona Congressional delegation to act immediately in cooperation with other members of Congress to ensure full funding in FY'12.