

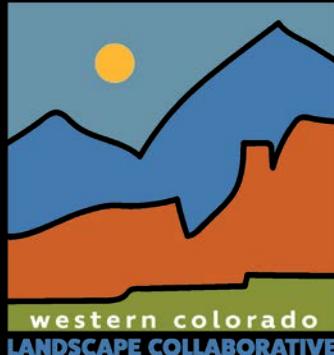
Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project



Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests



Todd Gardiner



COLORADO FOREST
RESTORATION INSTITUTE

Colorado State University

What is the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program?



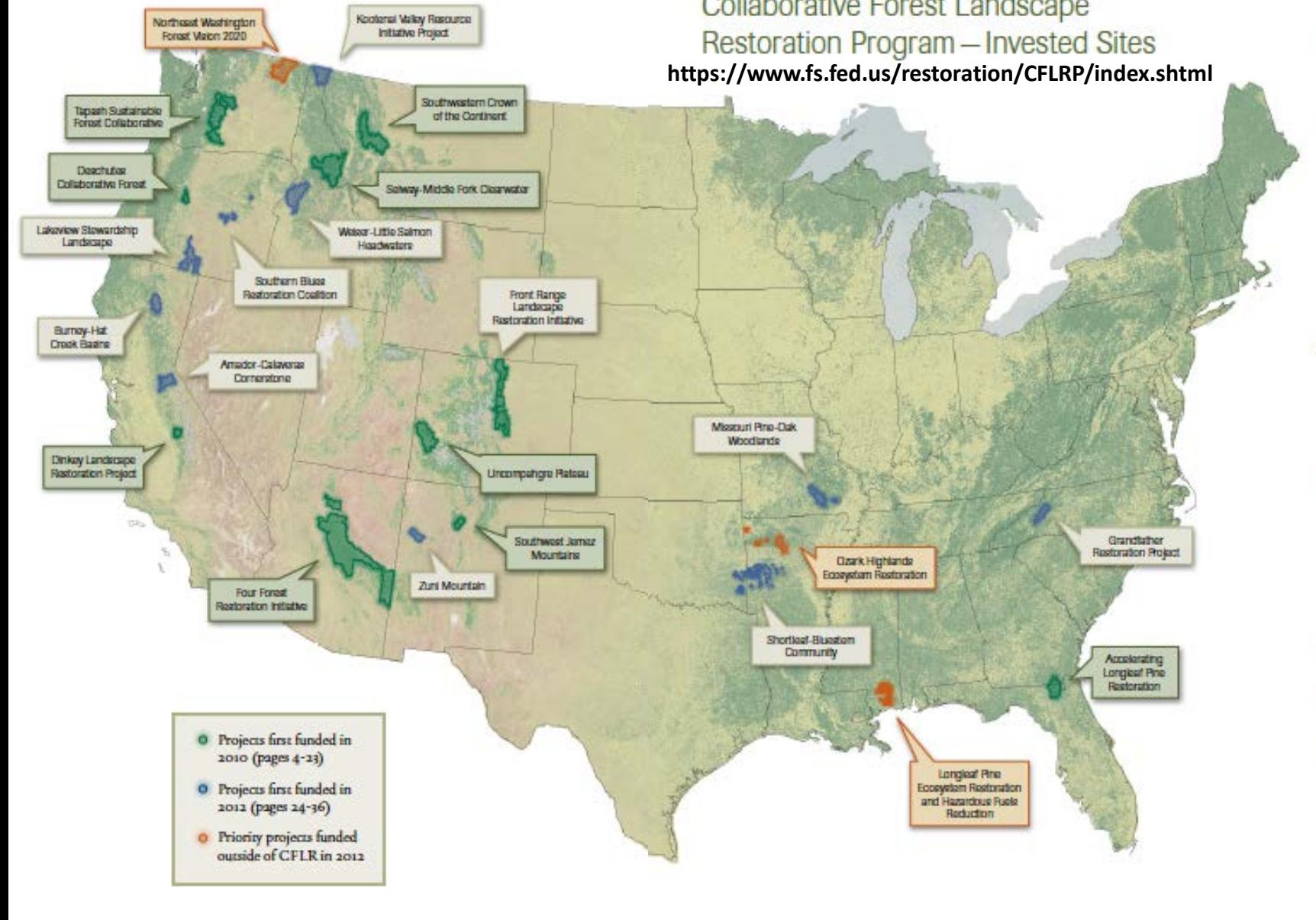
- Federal Landscape Restoration Act of 2009 (modeled off a similar program in N.M.)
- National competitive funding program administered by the USDA Forest Service
- Projects chosen by Federal Advisory Committee
- Collaboratively-developed strategy for >50,000 acres for 10 years
- Ecological and socio-economic goals
- Multi-party monitoring of progress
- Uncompahgre CFLRP selected in 2010

<https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/index.shtml>

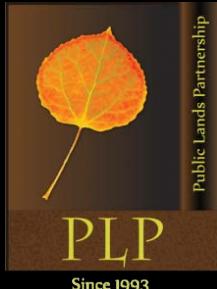
What is the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program?

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program – Invested Sites

<https://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/index.shtml>



Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP Background



2000



- Mule deer habitat
- Native seed
- Invasive weeds
- Spring Creek-Dry Creek Project
- Powerline project
- Many more across the Grand Valley, Norwood, and Ouray Ranger Districts

- Researchers, managers, and community stakeholders
- Leverage and combine funding
- Coordinate collaborative projects
- Community involvement and education

Uncompahgre Plateau: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

- Awarded in 2010 at \$8.6 million over 10 years.
- 550,000 acre landscape across multiple vegetation types.
- Prescribed burns, mechanical treatments (fuels, wildlife & silviculture), timber harvesting, invasive species treatments, re-vegetation with native seed, trail and road work, riparian restoration, and fisheries improvements.



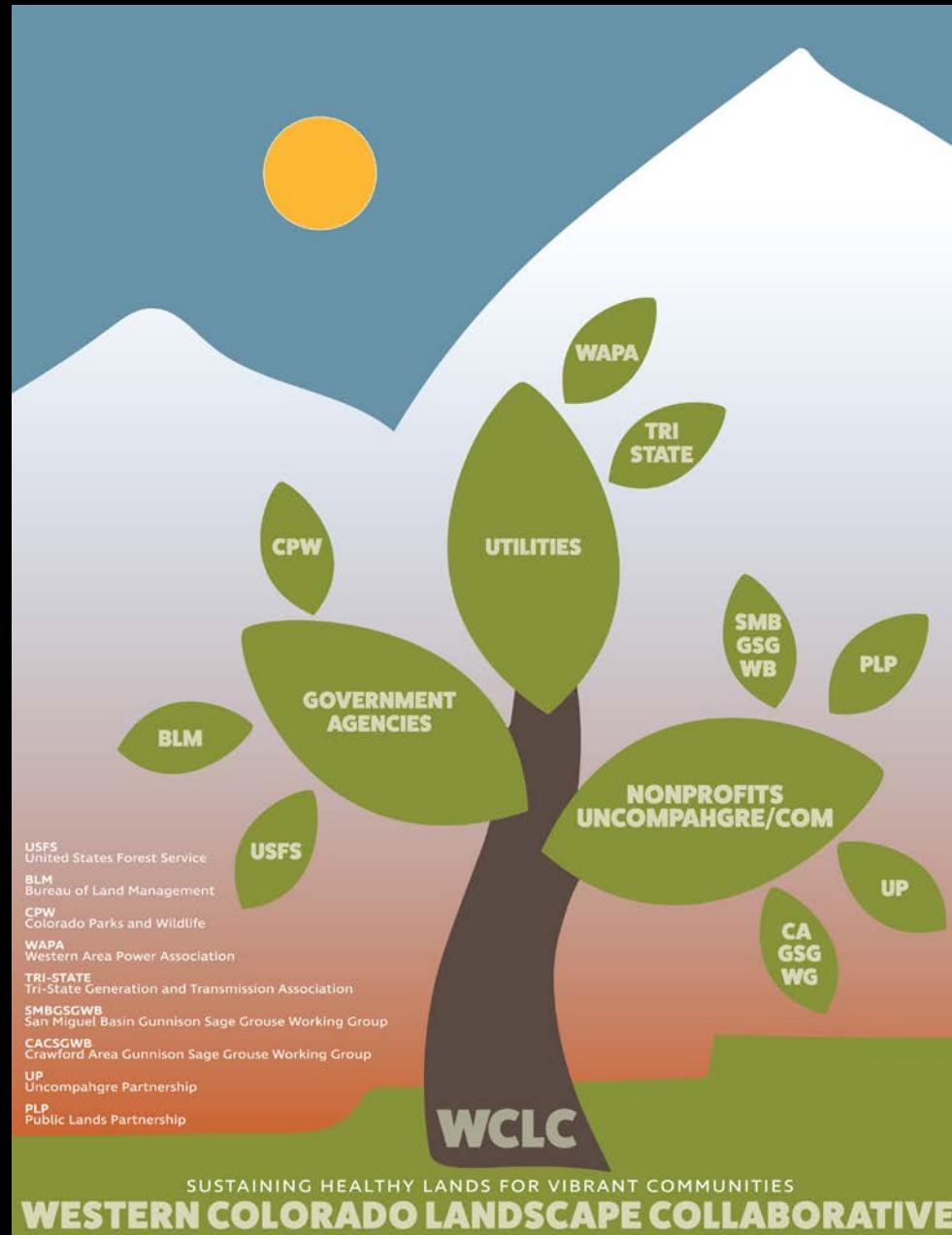


Our Partners



- US Forest Service
- Uncompahgre Partnership
- Environmental Organizations
- Tri-State G&T
- CFRI
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Local Permittees
- Recreation Partners
- Western Area Power Administration
- Public Lands Partnership
- Industry Partners
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Local County Governments
- Montrose, Delta, and Norwood High Schools
- Mule Deer Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Trout Unlimited
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- BLM

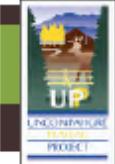




Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP Background

2007-2009





Uncompahgre Mesas Forest Restoration and Demonstration Project

A collaborative forest health workgroup in western Colorado

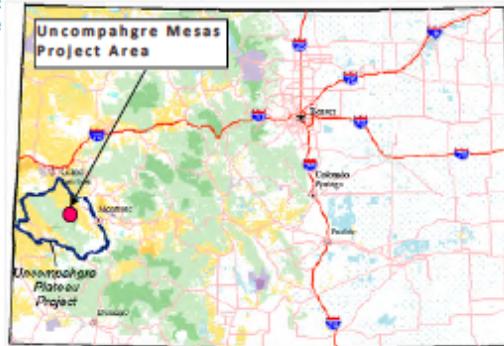
Mission Statement:

To enhance the resiliency, diversity and productivity of the native ecosystem in the Uncompahgre Mesas area of the Uncompahgre Plateau, CO using best available science and collaboration.



Project Area:

Uncompahgre Mesas is a 74,000-acre landscape located on the Uncompahgre Plateau in western Colorado. The area is comprised of U.S. Forest Service lands with a number of private in-holdings. The first phase of this demonstration effort will focus on a 17,000-acre portion of this larger landscape. The major forest types are ponderosa pine, aspen, mixed conifer and spruce-fir.



Workgroup Members:

Numerous individuals and organizations have participated in the workgroup.

The Uncompahgre Plateau (UP) Project, a non-profit landscape collaborative, provides coordination for the project.

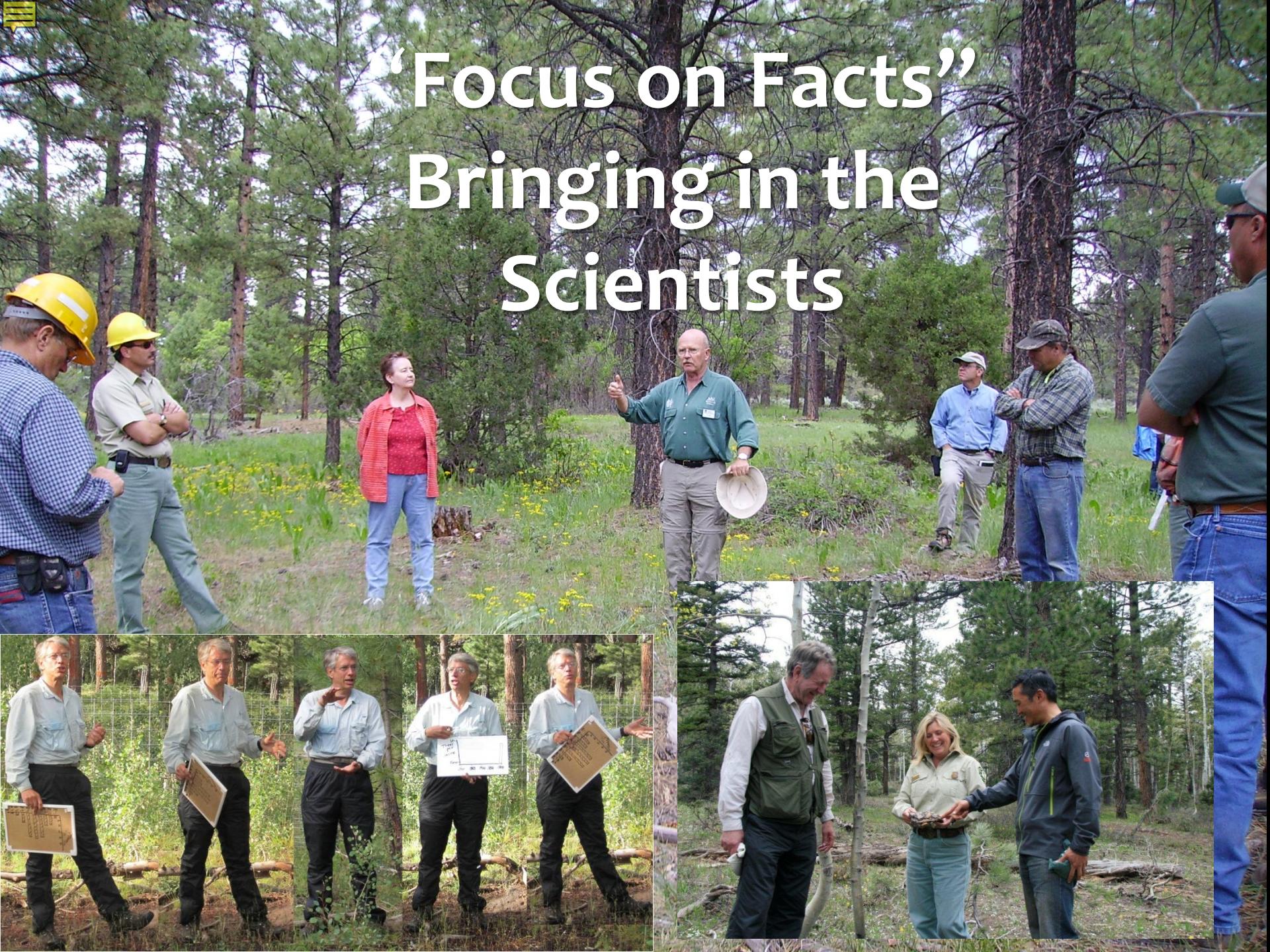
The main workgroup members include:

- Colorado Forest Restoration Institute – Colorado State University
- U.S. Forest Service – Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Colorado Wild
- Western Colorado Congress
- Audubon Society
- Interested Community Members
- Uncompahgre Plateau (UP) Project

Project Goals:

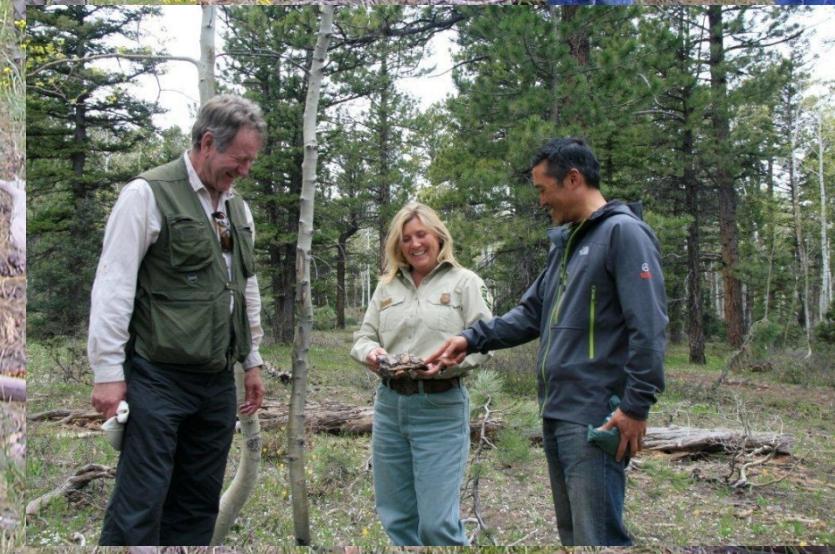
- **Collaborate.** The project seeks to bring together individuals with different perspectives, experiences, and expertise to develop innovative resource management alternatives.
- **Restore ecosystem structure, composition and function.** The protection and restoration of ecosystem structure, composition and function encourages viable populations of all native species in natural patterns of abundance and distribution.
- **Develop and establish research demonstration sites.** Research demonstration sites aid in the development of environmentally sound, economically sustainable and socially acceptable approaches to forest ecosystem restoration.





“Focus on Facts”

Bringing in the Scientists



“Engagement in Science”



Basic, general ecology of forests like those of the UP is known fairly well.

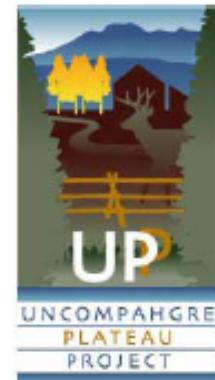
But many local details are also important.

UP and CFRI collaborated to determine the local details – what did the forests of the UP look like before EuroAmerican settlement ?

Historical Forest Structure on the Uncompahgre Plateau: Informing restoration prescriptions for mountainside stewardship

Prepared by the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute,
Colorado State University, Ft Collins, CO 80523
August 2008

Contacts: Dan Binkley (dan@cnr.colostate.edu), Bill Romme (romme@cnr.colostate.edu), Tony Cheng (chengt@cnr.colostate.edu)



Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP Background



United States
Department
of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

August 2009



Environmental Assessment

Uncompahgre Mesas Forest Restoration and Demonstration Project

Ouray Ranger District; Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests;
Montrose County, Colorado



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service



May 2013

Environmental Assessment

Escalante Forest Restoration and Stewardship Project

Ouray Ranger District; Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests;
Montrose County, Colorado

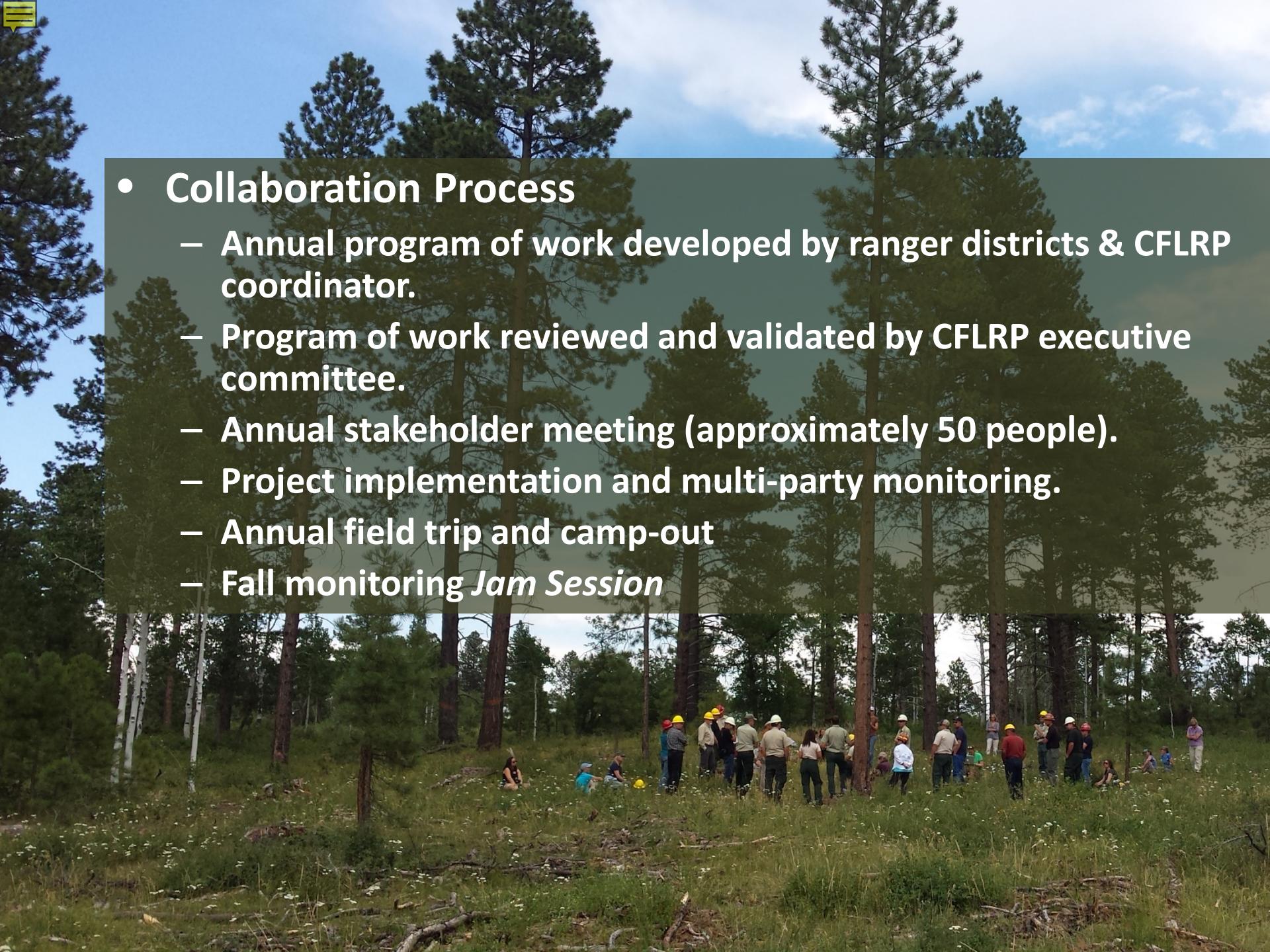
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Projects across the Grand Valley, Norwood, and Ouray Ranger Districts

- **Collaboration Process**

- Annual program of work developed by ranger districts & CFLRP coordinator.
- Program of work reviewed and validated by CFLRP executive committee.
- Annual stakeholder meeting (approximately 50 people).
- Project implementation and multi-party monitoring.
- Annual field trip and camp-out
- Fall monitoring *Jam Session*



Relationship Building Summer Field Trips and Camp-outs



“Balancing Thought and Action”



Before Treatment



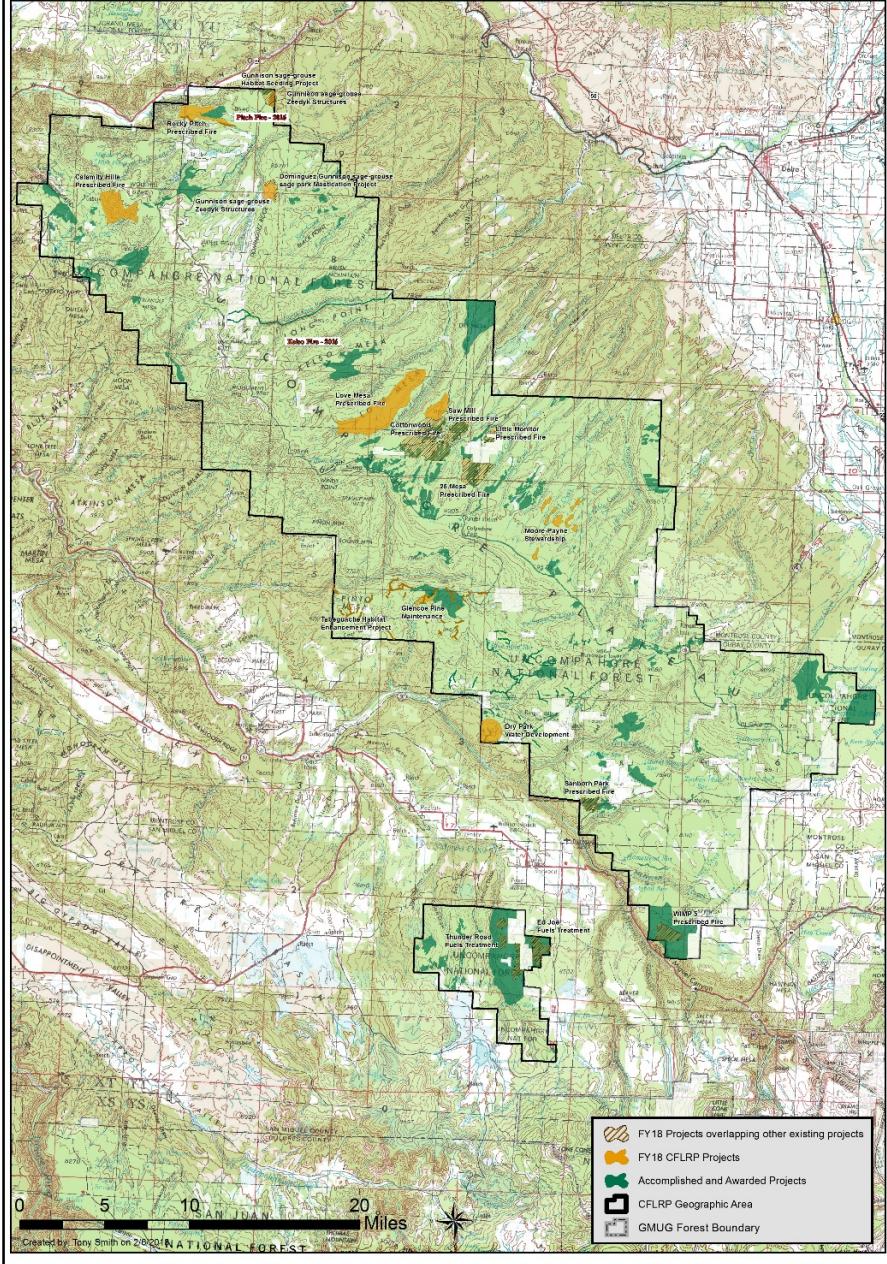
After Treatment

Challenges





Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project 2018 Projects

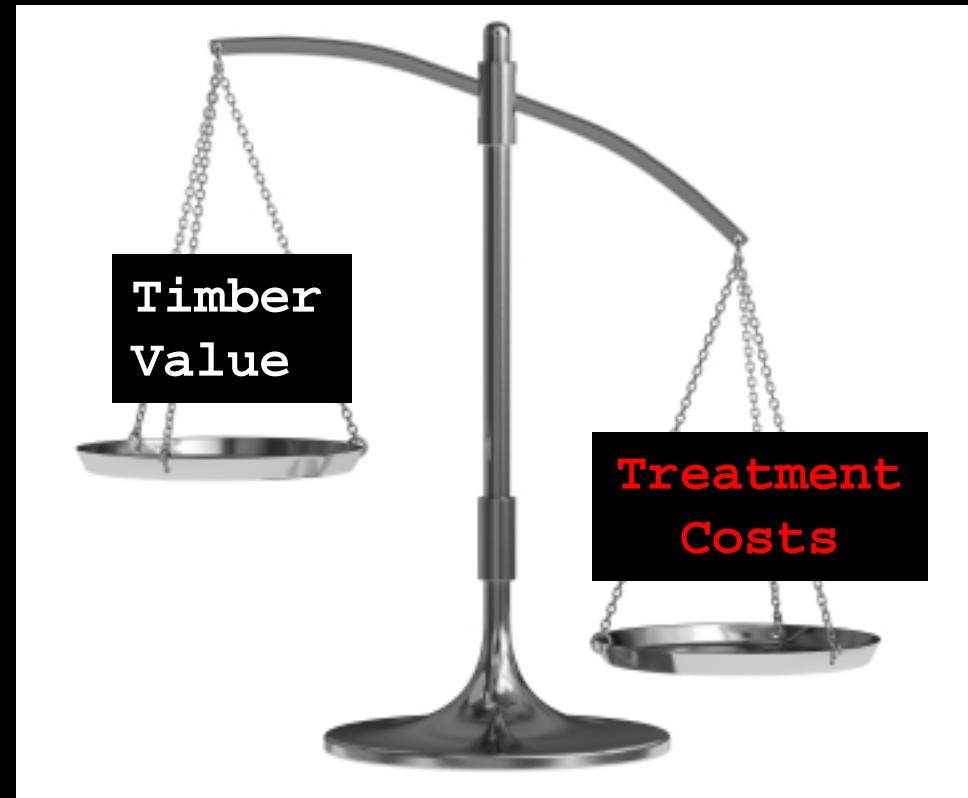


Accomplishments to Date

- 
- Estimated footprint of treated acres: 58,686
 - 38,278 acres of terrestrial habitat & 36 miles of stream restored or enhanced
 - 20,938 acres of mechanical treatment
 - 10,589 acres of prescribed/managed fire
 - 684 miles of trails maintained or improved
 - 5,465 acres of noxious weed control and native species restored
 - 80,199 CCF of timber sold

How is the work being done?

- Traditional timber sales
- Service contracts
- Agency personnel
- Stewardship
 - IRSC
 - Agreements
- Good Neighbor Authority



Monitoring Program of Work: Typically 10% of funds

- Key to maintaining trust and transparency
- Keep scientists actively engaged
- Adaptive management



Uncompahgre CFLRP Multi-Party Monitoring

Multi-Party Monitoring for the Uncompahgre Plateau Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project

Updated March 2017

(A living document—periodically updated)



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- “Living” document and process
- Many topics and questions
- Agency-based, research-based, and citizen/community-based approaches
- About 10% of annual CFLRP funds go to monitoring



Forestry Internship Program (FIP) at Montrose High School

- Established in 2009 by Tammy Randall Parker (USFS)
- Paid internship for ~4 students



2017 FIP crew



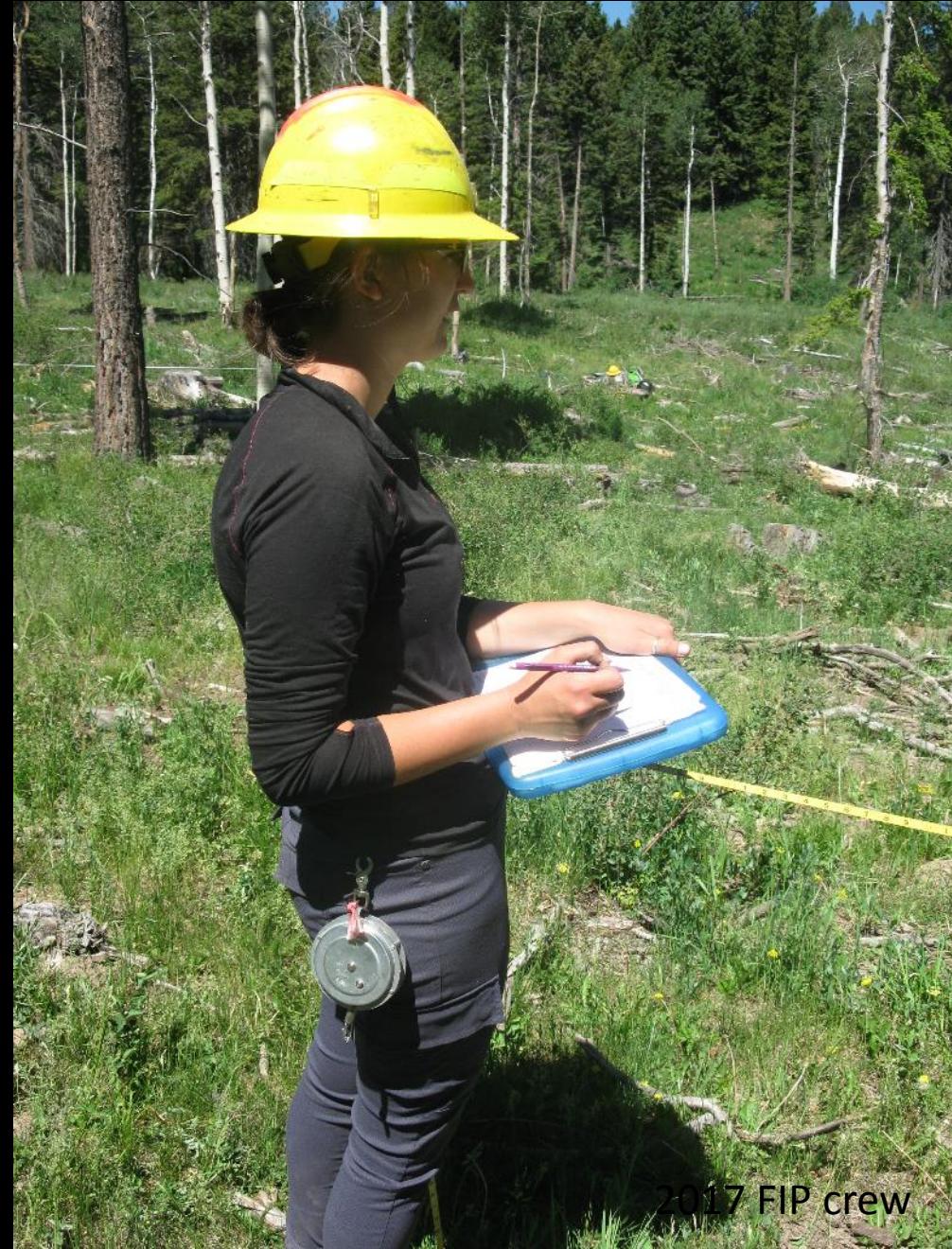
- Run by Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI), USFS, and crew leader (teacher)
- Program recruits high achieving students in STEM courses



Forestry Internship Program benefits:

Provides students
opportunity to:

- Gain vocational skills
- Gain forestry, ecological science, and natural resource skills
- Foot in the door to USFS, other natural resource jobs
- Get paid! Work with great people! Work outside!
Learn new things!





Forestry Internship Program benefits:

Provides USFS:

- Opportunity to recruit and retain local, high quality employees

Provides CFRI and Collaborative:

- High quality data
- Inexpensive cost



Next Steps

The Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP is scheduled to end implementation in 2019:

- Monitoring is required to continue through 2024
- Still uncertainty if the program can be extended...
- Can we broaden the scope of the project to work across National Forest Boundaries?



Uncompahgre Plateau
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program