



Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

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**Date:** July 24, 2012

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Ecological Indicator

**To:** Regional Foresters

Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (the Act), which established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program, requires a 5-year report to Congress that assesses whether, and to what extent, the program is fulfilling the purposes of the title. In June 2011, Forest Service Washington Office, Regional, and Forest personnel met with partners to develop a suite of national indicators for this 5-year report to Congress.

The result of this meeting was five draft indicators covering the purposes of the Act. These indicators covered topics including: collaboration, leveraged funds, fire costs, ecology and jobs/economic impacts. The leveraged funds and job/economic impacts indicators have been folded into the CFLR Annual Reporting requirements for fiscal year (FY)2012. The fire cost indicator, a tool called R-CAT, must be run in conjunction with a team of specialized modelers and economists in Region 1. This team is working on running the R-CAT tool for each CFLR and High Priority Restoration Project (HPRP), and this task will likely be completed in 2 to 3 years. The Forest Service will not be implementing the collaboration indicator but is committed to continuing to gather information about community and project successes through our CFLR Annual Reports. Partner groups interested in collaboration may carry this topic forward independently.

The purpose of this letter is to release the guidance for the ecological indicator. This indicator assesses the ecological outcomes of CFLR or HPRP landscapes in a way that is relevant to the individual collaborative groups and their specific desired conditions, while also allowing for national summary for the 5-year report to Congress. Collaborative groups and interested parties can learn more about how to develop desired condition statements and indicators at a Webinar being held by the Forest Service and National Forest Foundation on August 9, 2012.

At this time, CFLR and HPRP projects do not need to submit any information on the ecological indicator. Instead, they should work to set their desired conditions and indicators as outlined in the attached guidance. A separate letter with a reply due date will be sent when the 5-year report to Congress is being drafted in FY2014.



If you have any questions regarding the National Indicators, please contact Lauren Marshall at (202) 205-1218 or [lemarshall@fs.fed.us](mailto:lemarshall@fs.fed.us). Thank you for your continued energy and enthusiasm in implementing and supporting CFLR and HPRP projects.

*/s/ Leslie A. C. Weldon*  
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