

Colorado | Restoring Colorado's Uncompahgre Plateau | 2016

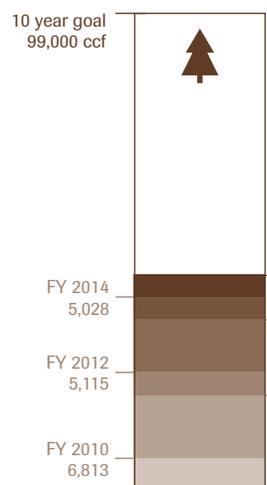


Uncompahgre National Forest. Courtesy John Fielder, johnfielder.com

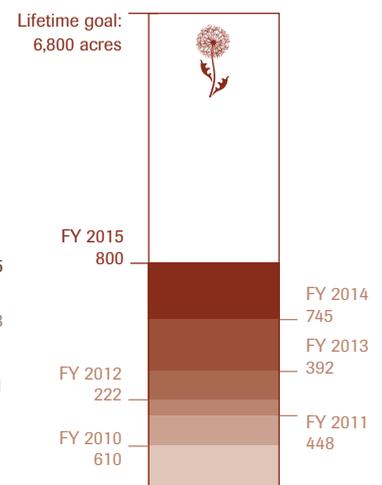
The Uncompahgre CFLR project covers 555,300 acres of mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper, aspen, spruce-fir and riparian areas in Western Colorado. Fuels reduction is a priority for the safety of nearby communities, and the implementation of restoration treatments improves wildlife habitat for native species like the Colorado cutthroat trout while supporting crucial employment opportunities at the last remaining large sawmill in the state.

Partners

- USFS- Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison Natl Forests
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Western Area Power Administration
- Tri-State Generation
- BLM – Uncompahgre Field Office
- BLM – Grand Junction Field Office
- National Forest Foundation
- Uncompahgre Partnership
- Public Lands Partnership
- San Miguel Basin Gunnison Sage-grouse Working Group
- CSU – Colorado Forest Restoration Institute
- Rocky Mountain Research Station
- Western Colorado Congress
- Rocky Mountain Wild
- Western Slope Conservation Center
- Audubon Society
- Black Canyon Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sheep Mountain Alliance
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Western Slope 4-Wheelers
- Thunder Mountain Wheelers
- Uncompahgre Valley Trail Riders
- Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association
- Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative
- Montrose Forest Products
- Colorado Wood Company
- Montrose, Delta, Ouray, San Miguel and Mesa Counties
- Mule Deer Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Local citizens
- Montrose, Delta and Norwood High Schools
- Southwest Conservation Corps – Veterans Fire Corps
- Colorado State Forest Service
- West Region Wildfire Council
- Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



Wood Supply
CCF of timber sold



Invasive and Noxious Plant

High priority acres treated for noxious weeds and invasive plants



Leigh Robertson © Emily MacKinnon

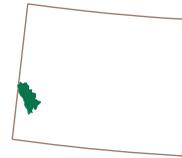
Leigh Robertson, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Uncompahgre Partnership, highlights the Uncompahgre CFLR project for having improved the resiliency of the forest and their community.

Over the past six years, the Uncompahgre CFLR has built upon a tradition of collaboration and community engagement. Through integrated project planning and implementation including prescribed fire, timber harvest, mechanical treatments, trail maintenance, and range management, projects have treated a combined 31,649

acre footprint on the landscape since 2010. Activities focus on moving vegetation towards desired conditions to meet multiple resource objectives.

Additional support from the CFLR program has led to the development and implementation of adaptive management plans, forest restoration projects, improved recreation infrastructure, and habitat improvements for sensitive wildlife. The execution of stewardship contracts has created a consistent supply of timber to revitalize the wood products industry. The sawmill in Montrose, CO that reopened in 2012, provides up to 90 jobs when running at full capacity. Continued engagement with the local community through field trips and sharing of research findings from Colorado State University researchers and field staff continues to build capacity and encourage informed and inclusive discussions. This leads to well-designed projects that work for the forest, wildlife, and people.

All told, these successes clearly demonstrate the long-term benefits of a commitment to collaboration in this community. Crew leader Colleen Trout provides an example, “Levi Wrich, a Montrose High School Student, was a member of our summer Forestry Intern Program. Some of the Forest Service fire crew helped the interns with monitoring for fuel loading. Levi was so inspired by the Forest Service employees, he applied to, and was accepted onto to a fire crew.” By actively involving community members, the Uncompahgre Plateau Project is engaging and inspiring ongoing commitment to forest health and the success of the project.



Total acreage of landscape: 1 million

2015 Results

- \$5.3 million estimated total labor income
- 800 acres high priority acres treated for noxious weeds and invasive plants
- 3,864 acres of wildlife habitat restored
- 2,471 acres of forest vegetation improved



CSU Professor, Dan Binkley, measures the diameter at breast height (DBH) of an aspen tree as part of a study on the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Members of the collaborative on a field trip on the Uncompahgre Plateau. © Leigh Robertson

Contact information

Leigh Robertson

Education & Outreach Coordinator,
Uncompahgre Partnership
info@upartnership.org / (970) 316-1650

Tony Cheng

Colorado Forest Restoration Institute
tony.cheng@colostate.edu / (970) 481-3653