Social and Economic Monitoring for the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership All-Lands Projects

Fiscal Years 2024-2025

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Executive Summary

In collaboration with the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership (NBRP), Wallowa Resources contracted with the Ecosystem Workforce Program (EWP) at the University of Oregon to conduct socioeconomic monitoring for Northern Blues All-Lands restoration projects (referred to here as the Northern Blues Project).

This report presents the results of social and economic monitoring (question numbers 8, 11, 16, and 17) from the Northern Blues All-Lands Multi-Party Monitoring Plan (Bremer et.al., 2022) for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. This All-Lands Multi-Party Monitoring Plan encompasses Northern Blues Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) projects on federal lands and projects on other public and private lands within the CFLRP boundary. The Northern Blues Project spans 15 counties in northeastern Oregon, southeastern Washington, and Idaho and includes the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. We refer to these 15 counties below as the Northern Blues Project footprint (See Figure 1).

Key Findings

Has the social and economic context changed over time, and if so, how?

We answered this question for all 15 counties within the Northern Blues Project footprint. Since this is the first year of socioeconomic monitoring for the Northern Blues Project, this report serves as a baseline for evaluating future changes.

- Top employment sectors overall were government, healthcare, and retail trade.
- The percent of individuals working in private timber employment was 4.0%, on average, compared to 0.6% nationwide.
- Total federal land payments were $35.5 million. Total federal land payments nationwide were $3.96 billion.
- The percentage of individuals living in poverty was 13.7% on average, which is higher than the nationwide rate of 12.4% in 2023.
- The percentage of households receiving food stamps was 16.1%. This is higher than the nationwide 11.8% of households that received food stamps in 2023.
- Thirteen out of fifteen counties experienced increases in population from 2010 to 2023, but experienced slower population growth on average (6%) compared to the nation (9.4%). Grant and Wheeler Counties which saw slight decreases in population.
- Median household incomes ranged from $49,902 (Malheur County) to $71,528 (Columbia County, WA) in 2023, which were consistently lower than the nation-wide median household income of $77,719.
- Unemployment rates ranged from 3.0% (Wheeler County, OR) to 6.6% (Adams County, ID) in 2024, with a mean rate of 4.2% for the project footprint. By comparison, the national unemployment rate is lower than the project footprint average, at 4.1% in 2024.
- Wildfire risk to homes was considered 'very high' (90th percentile nationwide) or 'high' (70th percentile nationwide) for all counties within the Northern Blues Project footprint.

Did the CFLRP maintain or increase the number and/or diversity of wood products that can be processed locally?

We assessed the timber volume and type of products manufactured at wood processing facilities within the Northern Blues Project footprint from secondary TREAT data and the most recent data from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) timber processing facility surveys.

- Total commercial harvest volumes from All-Lands projects within the Northern Blues CFLRP boundary ranged from a maximum of 100.6 MMBF harvested in 2023 to a minimum of 47.7MMBF harvested in 2024. Yearly variation in timber harvest volumes was likely affected by wildfires in the region.
- Since 2021, the two most common product types were softwood lumber and veneer, followed by firewood for home use with no reported commercial value.
- Production of material for paper products decreased from 19% in 2022 to 4% in 2024.
- Latest reporting in 2017 suggests that local wood processing facilities were operating at 65% capacity with a timber processing capacity of 268.8 MMBF. For comparison, the state of Oregon was operating at 75% utilization, with an estimated timber processing-capacity of 5,142 MMBF (Simmons et. al., 2021)

What are the social and economic changes for private landowners engaging in All-Lands projects?

Of the approximately 305 landowners in the Northern Blues Project boundary contacted about All-Lands restoration work being done on their land, 17 landowners responded to an online survey about their experiences, and 16 confirmed they had All-Lands restoration work done on their land. This preliminary survey found that:

- Forty percent of landowners who responded to the survey agreed that the All-Lands restoration project brought economic opportunity to their land.
- Improved vegetation or rangeland health were the most common perceived changes to private lands following restoration treatments.
- Three-quarters of survey respondents considered prescribed fire an important part of land management.
- Most landowners ranked forest health, wildfire risk reduction, and economic productivity as their most important consideration when making land management decisions.
- As a result of participating in All-Lands projects, twenty-five percent of landowners thought they had a better understanding of prescribed fire, while the majority (69%) neither agreed nor disagreed that they had a better understanding of prescribed fire.
- Fifty percent of responding landowners would be open to having prescribed fire on their land in the future.

What other impacts to local communities have occurred from engagement opportunities with youth, Tribal, and other work crews?

To answer this question, we interviewed eight organizations in the Northern Blues Project footprint who work with youth or tribal work crews or lead educational programs in collaboration with All-Lands restoration projects.

- Types of opportunities for youth included monitoring and restoration work, educational opportunities, Tribal outreach and engagement, and career fairs.
- Interviewees identified benefits youth received, including hands-on experience and being outside in their communities (n=8), paid work (n=7), and career exposure (n=6).
- Ideas for supporting youth and work crews included building pathways for career development in natural resources (n=4), expanding opportunities (n=3), and inspiring interest from a young age (n=2).
- Interviewees identified a need for additional training and supplies to support program leads, stipends for supplies, travel, or food costs for work crews (n=3), and improved focus on prioritizing youth interests and capabilities (n=2) as ways to better support youth and Tribal work crews in the region.

Introduction

The Northern Blues was awarded funding through the congressional Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) in fiscal year 2021. Congress established the CFLRP under Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11 §4003). The CFLRP competitively awards funding to: accelerate collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration in high-priority landscapes; leverage local, national, and private resources; facilitate the reduction of wildfire management costs; demonstrate the effectiveness of ecological restoration techniques; and encourage the utilization of forest restoration by-products to benefit local rural economies and improve forest health (USDA, n.d.). A diverse group of partners in northeast Oregon, southeast Washington, and Idaho, including the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, developed a proposal around common goals of 1) improving wildfire resistance and 2) restoring more natural processes to forests and watersheds (Northern Blues Restoration Partnership, n.d.).

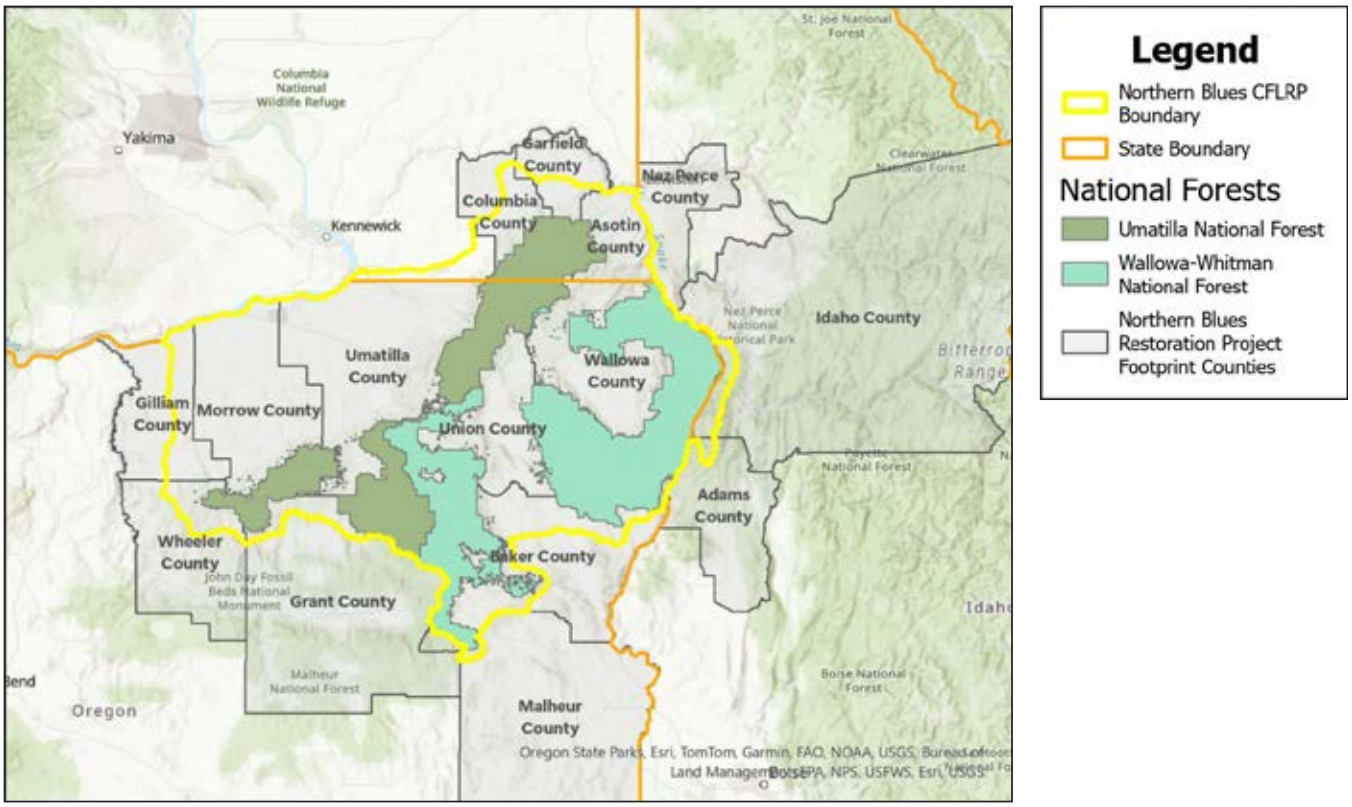
In 2022, the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership (NBRP) developed a multi-party monitoring plan to guide all-lands monitoring called the Northern Blues All-Lands Multi-Party Monitoring Plan (Brammer et.al. 2024).[1] The NBRP covers over ten million acres and includes parts of 15 different counties (Figure 1). The goals of the partnership are to involve local and regional partners in the work of restoring forests, promoting beneficial fire, and supporting community wildfire and workforce development efforts. This is an effort that spans "all lands", engaging the public, youth, Tribes, and landowners.[2]

The NRBP recognizes the need for social and economic monitoring to inform decision-making to meet community needs and desired project goals. This report is the first social and economic All-Lands monitoring report and establishes baseline data for comparison in future monitoring years.

[1] https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62459cec72c01a1e5fee7523/t/66706a714b096a3e5f4091a1/1718643317344/Monitoring+Plan+-

[2] A full list of MOU signatories can be found in the Appendix.

Figure 1 Counties and national forests included in the Northern Blues Project footprint



Approach

The Northern Blues Monitoring Plan includes seven ecological monitoring questions and ten social and economic monitoring questions. Partners within the NBRP (including the USFS, non-profits, and universities) jointly engage in answering All-Lands monitoring questions. For this initial social and economic monitoring report, the Northern Blues Monitoring team contracted with the Ecosystem Workforce Program (EWP) at the University of Oregon to answer the following four social and economic monitoring questions (Table 1).

The Northern Blues Project boundary covers parts of 15 counties including: Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler Counties in Oregon; Asotin, Columbia, and Garfield Counties in Washington; and Adams, Idaho, and Nez Perce Counties in Idaho. We refer to these counties as the Northern Blues Project footprint. Walla Walla County is included within the Northern Blues Project boundary, but is not included in this analysis because the county supports a higher population, more diverse economy, and is not significantly impacted by natural resources management actions.

Table 1 Social and economic monitoring questions and indicators for the NBRP All-Lands Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Questions	Indicators
Has the social and economic context changed over time, and if so, how?	• Population • Demographic information • Unemployment • Median income • Wildfire exposure • Top employment sectors • Total federal land payments • Poverty rate • Percentage of households receiving food stamps • Percentage of potentially vulnerable households
Did CFLRP maintain or increase the number and/or diversity of wood products that can be processed locally?	• Volume and type of wood products generated • Number, size, and types of wood processing facilities
What are the social and economic changes for private landowners engaging in All-Lands projects?	• Increase in economic opportunities by working together • Perceptions and acceptance of prescribed fire or other restoration approaches • Changes in awareness regarding prescribed fire
What other impacts to local communities have occurred from engagement opportunities with youth, Tribal, and other work crews?	• Type, amount, and impacts of youth/Tribal/other opportunities

I. All-Lands Monitoring Question

Has the social and economic context changed over time, and if so, how?

Table 2 Indicators and Data Sources for Question 8 from the Northern Blues All-Lands Multi-Party Monitoring Plan

Indicators	Data Sources
• Population • Demographic information • Median income	US Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates
• Unemployment rate	State of Oregon Employment Department Employment Security Department Washington State Idaho Department of Labor
• Wildfire exposure	Wildfire Risk to Communities
• Top employment sectors • Total federal land payments • Percent of individuals in poverty • Percentage of households receiving food stamps	Headwaters Economics Profile System U.S. Forest Service Socioeconomic Reporting Tool
• Percentage of potentially vulnerable households	Headwaters Economics Profile System Populations at Risk Tool

Approach

The NBRP identified two sets of indicators needed to answer monitoring question 8: (1) local community characteristics including: top employment sectors, total federal land payments, percent of individuals in poverty, percent of households receiving food stamps, and potentially vulnerable households and (2) local population, demographic information, median income, unemployment rate, and wildfire exposure. Data used in this report come from publicly available state and federal resources (as noted in Table 2 and cited in the References).

[3] Our regional comparisons consist of state level data proportionally weighted by the number of counties in each state represented within the Northern Blues project footprint. There are 9 counties in Oregon, 3 counties in Washington and 3 counties in Idaho.

Results

Northern Blues Project footprint using two publicly available tools from Headwaters Economics: the Populations at Risk Tool and the U.S. Forest Service Socioeconomic Reporting Tool. Data presented are from the most recent available data for their respective sources.

We then discuss county-level data in the project footprint. We compare the 15 counties in the project footprint to average regional values for the Oregon, Washington, Idaho regions[3]. To provide further context and establish baseline trends for the Northern Blues Project footprint, current 2023 data were compared with 2010 estimates at the county, regional, and national level. The most recent county- level data on population, age, median income, unemployment rate are summarized in table 4 at the end of this section. Additional county-level information for previous years can be found in the Appendix.

Overview of Community Characteristics

To provide socioeconomic context for the Northern Blues Project footprint, we used two publicly available tools developed by Headwaters Economics, an independent nonprofit research organization focused on improving community development and land management decisions (Headwaters Economics, n.d.). All 15 counties within the project area were analyzed using the Populations at Risk Tool and the U.S. Forest Service Socioeconomic Reporting Tool. These tools offer data on vulnerable populations, food assistance reliance, age-related vulnerabilities, land ownership, and federal payments associated with national forest lands. These data are important for understanding both the region's economic dependence on natural resource sectors and its resilience to social or economic change. A summary of these community characteristics is provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Overview of Northern Blues Project footprint community characteristics

Metric	2024 Northern Blues Project footprint (year reported)	2024 Nationwide averages
Timber as % of private employment	4.0% (2020)	0.6%
Timber and Tourism as % of private employment	13% (2020)	13.9%
Government as % of employment	16.4% (2022)	11.4%
Average earnings per job	$61,710 (2022 reported in 2024 dollars)	$76,741
Federal Land as % of total land ownership[4]	56% (n.d)	27.6%
Top employment sectors	Government, healthcare, retail trade (2022)	NA
Total Federal Land Payments	$34.4 million (2019) reported in 2023 dollars)	3.96 billion
Percent of total individuals below poverty	13.7% (2023)	12.4%
Percent of total, Food stamps/SNAP	16.1% (2023)	11.8%
Potentially Vulnerable Households, % people over 65 and living alone	14.5% (2023)	11.6%
Potentially Vulnerable Households, % single female household with children under 18	7.3% (2023)	7.4%

[4] Headwaters Economics notes that federal land payments include: "Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management revenue sharing payments including the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act payments (SRS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Revenue Sharing payments, and Office of Natural Resources Revenue mineral royalty distributions"

County-level social and economic characteristics

Population

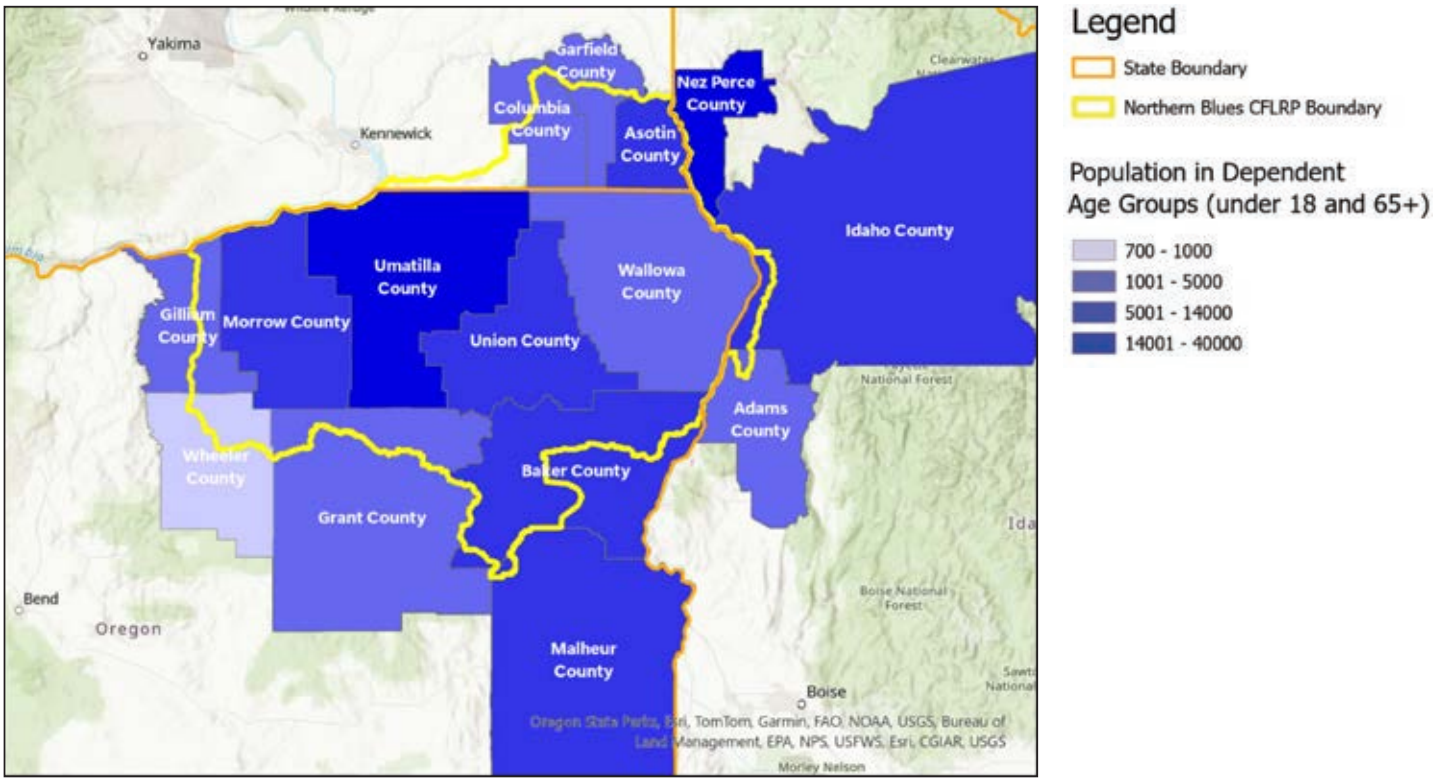
Since 2010, all counties in the Northern Blues Project footprint experienced increases in total population except for Grant and Wheeler Counties which saw slight decreases. The Northern Blues Project footprint experienced slower population growth, 6% on average, than the nation (9.4% increase) or region[5] (15.4% increase) from 2010 to 2023. Adams and Gilliam Counties experienced slightly higher population growth overall, at 16.7% and 15.7% respectively during the same period (Appendix Table A1).

Median age

The median age in 2023 across all 15 counties was 46.7 (Table 3). Median ages ranged from 36.2 in Morrow and Malheur Counties to 57.3 in Wheeler County, OR. On average, residents were 1.9 years older in 2023 compared to 2010. (Appendix Table A2). An increasing average age means that there are fewer young people and more older adults currently living in these 15 counties than there were in the previous decade. This is consistent with the nationwide increase in median age of 1.8 years.

Figure 2 shows the population in dependent age groups, classified as under the age of 18 or over 65, for each county in the Northern Blues Project footprint. Darker shaded counties have comparatively fewer working-age individuals than lighter shaded counties.

Figure 2
Population in dependent age groups (>18 or 65+); CFLRP project boundary outlined in yellow, state boundaries outlined in orange.



[5] "Region" refers to composite Oregon, Washington, and Idaho proportional totals.

Median household incomes

The average median income across all 15 counties was $63,116, which was significantly lower than the median household income for the region ($82,005) and nation ($77,719) in 2023. Median incomes across the Northern Blues Project footprint ranged from $71,528 (Columbia County, WA) to $49,902 (Malheur County, OR) in 2023.

In 2010, median incomes across all 15 counties averaged $40,393. The regional median income in 2010 was $50,289; the median income nationwide was $51,914.

Adjusting for inflation, the Northern Blues Project footprint experienced an 11% increase in median household incomes from 2010-2023. Comparatively, the regional median income rose by 16.3% while the national median income rose by only 6.8%. Idaho County saw a 26% increase in median income while Malheur County's median income declined by 9% from 2010 to 2023 after adjusting for inflation (Appendix table A3).

Unemployment rate

As of October 2024, the average unemployment rate for all counties was 4.4%. The median unemployment rate is similar to the regional average (4.2%), and slightly higher than the national average of 4.1% for 2024. Wheeler County, OR had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.0%. Adams County, ID had the highest unemployment rate of 6.6%.

From 2010 to 2023, unemployment rates decreased across the Northern Blues Project footprint, region, and nation. Contrary to this trend, 14 out of 15 counties experienced increases in unemployment rates in 2024 (Appendix Table A4). Average unemployment rates for the region and nation also increased in 2024.

Wildfire risk to homes

Modeled wildfire risk to homes in the Northern Blues Project footprint ranged from "high" (70th percentile in the nation) to "very high" (90th percentile in the nation). Most counties fell in the 90th percentile and above for wildfire risk in comparison to all U.S. counties (Appendix Table A5).[6] More information about how wildfire risk to homes is calculated can be found in the Appendix.

Race and ethnicity

In 2023, residents in the Northern Blues Project footprint identified, on average, as 90.3% White, 16.5% Hispanic or Latino, 11.6% Other races, 4.7% American Indian and Alaskan Native, 1.6% Asian, 1.4% Black or African American, and 0.5% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. The most racially diverse county in the project footprint in 2023 was Morrow County, OR, with 83.1% White, 41.2% Hispanic or Latino, 29.9% Other races, 3.5% American Indian and Alaskan Native,1.7% Black of African American, 1.0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 0.2% Asian residents.

Race and ethnicity demographics remained relatively stable since 2010 with less than 2% changes in population. One exception is Hispanic and Latino or "other races" which experienced more significant growth. Hispanic and Latino populations comprised 12.9% of the total population in 2010 and increased to 16.5% of the total population in 2023. Other races comprised 4.1% of the population in 2010 and 11.6% of the population in 2023. Race and Ethnicity Data for 2010 and 2023 can be found in Appendix Table A6 and A7. A summary of key county-level social and economic characteristics is found below in Table 4.

[6] Counties in the 90th percentile and above include Adams, ID; Idaho, ID; Nez Perce, ID; Baker, OR; Gilliam, OR; Grant, OR; Malheur, OR; Umatilla, OR; Wallowa, OR; Wheeler, OR; and Asotin, WA.

Table 4 Summary of key county-level social and economic characteristics for the Northern Blues Project footprint

County	Characteristics				
	Population (2023)[1]	Median Age (2023)[2]	Median household income (2023)[3]	Unemployment rate (2024)[4]	Wildfire risk to homes (2024)[5]
Adams, ID	4,599	54.3	$59,286	6.6%	Very High
Idaho, ID	17,120	49.6	$60,975	5.3%	Very High
Nez Perce, ID	42,477	40.9	$71,466	3.3%	Very High
Baker, OR	16,796	47.6	$57,844	4.2%	Very High
Gilliam, OR	2,002	50.3	$64,219	4.8%	Very High
Grant, OR	7,238	50.8	$59,800	5.9%	Very High
Malheur, OR	31,701	36.2	$49,902	3.7%	Very High
Morrow, OR	12,249	36.2	$70,217	3.7%	High
Umatilla, OR	80,087	36.7	$68,958	4.1%	Very High
Union, OR	26,192	40.1	$64,212	4.7%	Very High
Wallowa, OR	7,532	50.2	$65,559	4.4%	Very High
Wheeler, OR	1,434	57.3	$51,250	3.0%	Very High
Asotin, WA	22,424	45.5	$69,107	3.3%	Very High
Columbia, WA	3,996	52.1	71,528	4.7%	High
Garfield, WA	2,326	52.6	62,411	4.8%	High
N. Blues Project footprint	**278,173**	**46.7**	**$63,116**	**4.4%**	**Very High**
Composite Region* (OR, WA, ID)	4,470,084	39	$82,005.40	4.20%	Very High
Nation	332,387,540	38.7	$77,719	4.10%	N/A

[1, 2, 3] Source: US Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates

[4] Source: For Oregon- State of Oregon Employment Department
For Washington- Employment Security Department Washington State
For Idaho- Idaho Department of Labor
Composite Region & Nation- Bureau of Labor Statistics

[5] Source: Wildfire Risk to Communities, national-level rankings reported

*Weighted average of Oregon, Washington, Idaho counties

II. All-Lands Monitoring Question

Did CFLRP maintain or increase the number and/or diversity of wood products that can be processed locally?

Table 5 Indicators and Data sources for Question 11 from the Northern Blues All-Lands Multi-Party Monitoring Plan

Indicator	Data Source
• Volume and types of wood products generated in wood processing facilities in and around the CFLRP area	Treatments for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT)
• Volume and types of wood products generated in wood processing facilities in and around the CFLRP area	Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER)

Approach

This monitoring question examines the local capacity to process different types of wood products within the project area. EWP used two different datasets to answer this question. Indicator 1 (volume and type of wood products generated in wood processing facilities in and around the CFLRP area) was reported in the USDA Forest Service's Treatments for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool (TREAT). TREAT is an economic analysis tool that uses board feet estimates to model job and labor income. Details about how jobs are modelled can be found in the TREAT user guide[7].

Indicator 2 (number, size, and types of wood processing facilities in and around the CFLRP area) was reported by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of Montana through a series of surveys conducted every 5 years. At the time of this report, wood processing facilities data from 2017 were the most recent available.

Results

Volume of wood products generated in and around the area

Over the past 4 years, the volume of timber harvested from Northern Blues All-Lands projects averaged 72 million board feet (MMBF) per year. Commercial harvest volumes ranged from 100.6 MMBF in 2023 to 47.7MMBF in 2024 (Table 6). For context, in all 15 counties in the Northern Blues Project footprint, timber harvest volumes from all ownership types (private, state, forest service, and other public ownership) totalled 246 MMBF in 2023 (Bureau of Business and Economic Research, n.d.).

[7] USDA Forest Service. 2015. TREAT: Treatments for Restoration Economic Analysis Tool User Guide. Available at https://fs.fed.us/restoration/documents/cflrp/TREAT/TREATUserGuide20151005.pdf

Table 6 Volume of wood products (commercial harvest volumes MMBF)

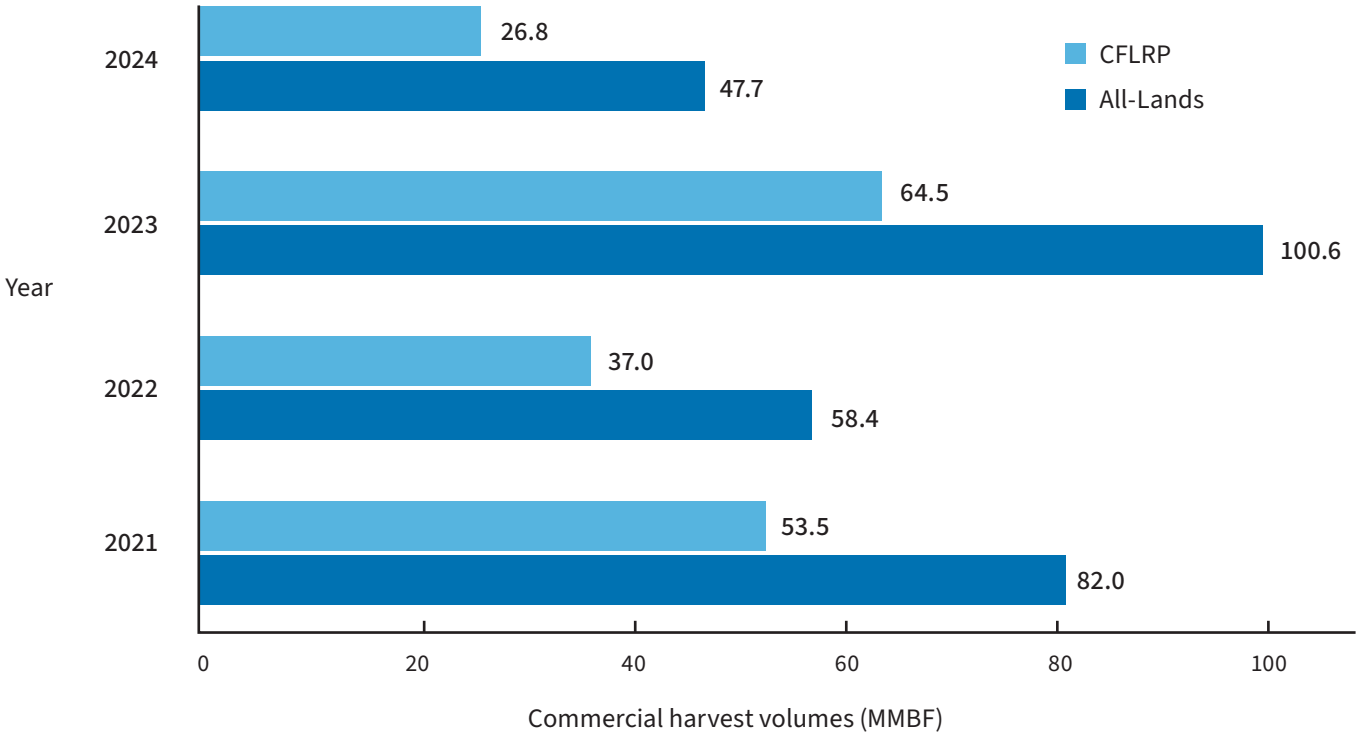
Fiscal Year	CFLRP (MMBF)[1]	N. Blues All-Lands* Projects (MMBF)[2]	All-Lands* percent change from previous year	Total Timber Harvest for N. Blues Project foot-print counties[3]
2021	53.5	82.0	-	208.3
2022	37.0	58.4	-29%	244.5
2023	64.5	100.6	72%	246.1
2024	26.8	47.6	-53%	NA

[1, 2] Source: USDA Forest Service TREAT data (2021-2024)
[3] Source: BBER Timber harvest by county tool

*All-Lands projects include CRLRP and matching funds

Reported commercial harvest volumes for CFLRP and All-Lands Projects varied over the last four years (Figure 3). The largest impact to commercial harvest volumes is likely the number of and size of wildfires in the area with significant acreage burned in 2021, 2022, and 2024. Wildfires affect project planning capacity and shift focus from timber sales to wildfire response and recovery.

Figure 3 CFLRP and All-Lands projects commercial harvest volumes



Types of wood products generated

Softwood lumber and veneer were the most common products produced from All-Lands projects over the last four years. In 2023, softwood lumber and veneer comprised 80 percent of all commercial wood products in the Northern Blues Project footprint. In this same year, firewood with no commercial value comprised seven percent. In 2024, softwood lumber and veneer made up 61 percent, while firewood for home use made up 28 percent of the estimated product mix (Table 4). Pulp, paper, and paperboard products decreased by 15 percent from 2021 to 2024.

Product types and percentage of project volume for All-Lands projects are displayed below (Table 7). For estimated wood products from CFLRP projects only, see appendix Table A8.

Table 7 Product type and percentage of project volume (All-Lands projects)

Type of Product	Percent volume 2021	Percent volume 2022	Percent volume 2023	Percent volume 2024
1. Softwood lumber	48%	47%	63%	53%
2. Softwood veneer & plywood	10%	14%	17%	8%
3. Non-veneer panel plywood	0%	0%	5%	2%
4. Pulp, paper, paperboard	19%	21%	3%	4%
5. Energy (small)	1%	1%	1%	1%
6. Posts and poles	1%	1%	2%	3%
7. Log furniture and other timber products	1%	1%	0%	0%
8. Commercial firewood	1%	1%	2%	1%
9. Firewood for home use	19%	14%	7%	28%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%

*(1) includes bolts, woodchips, pallets, pressure and creosote treated lumber; (3) includes particleboard, fiberboard, hardboard, oriented strand board (OSB); (4) includes paper boxes, containers, cartons, tubes; (7) includes wood windows, door manufacturing, cut stock, resawing lumber, planning, millwork including flooring, wood container, and pallet manufacturing; (9) Firewood for home use assumes no commercial value.

Note: No hardwood products were manufactured; No energy from large biomass energy plants (> 5MMCF) was produced; No log home products were manufactured.

Figure 4 Proportion of product types in 2021 and 2024 (All-Lands projects)

Figure 4 visualizes changes in product volumes in 2021 and 2024. Overall, All-Lands projects maintained the variety of products produced, while the product mix varied. This could be due to variations in timber harvest diameter, species mix, or mill processing capacities.

Number and type of wood processing facilities

As of January 2025, a total of 15 wood processing facilities existed in Oregon within the Northern Blues Project area (Table 8). Secondary data for this portion of the analysis is only available for Oregon through the Forest Inventory and Analysis Timber Product Output (TPO) program.

Table 8 Number and Type of active timber-processing facility by county

	Sawmill	Plywood/ Veneer	Post/Pole	Particle-board/MDF	Roundwood-chipping	Pulp/ paper	Fuel Pellet	**Total**
Grant	2		1		1		1	**5**
Morrow					1	1		**2**
Umatilla	2				1		1	**4**
Union	1	1		1				**3**
Wallowa	1							**1**
Total	**6**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**15**

Adapted from: Simmons et al. 2021, updated 2024

Since the latest BBER survey in 2017, there have been several lumber mill closures across the state of Oregon, including one in the Northern Blues project area. Malheur Lumber in Grant County, OR closed in 2024 citing difficulty hiring reliable workers, lack of housing to recruit new workers, and unfavorable market conditions as reasons for closing the wood processing facility.[8]

Size (Capacity) of wood processing facilities

As of 2017, the timber-processing capacity in the Northern Blues Project area was 268.8 MMBF and the percentage of capacity utilized was 65 percent (Simmons et. al. 2021). For comparison, the state of Oregon had a timber-processing capacity of 5,142 MMBF and operated at 75 percent utilization (Simmons et. al. 2021). Table 9 reflects the flow of timber from Oregon Northern Blues project counties to their locations of processing in 2017.

Table 9 Timber flow from Northern Blues counties to location of processing, 2017

County of harvest	Proccessed within the county of harvest	Processed elsewhere within the Northern Blues	Processed outside Northern Blues
Baker	0%	69%	31%
Grant	82%	18%	0%
Morrow	0%	0%	100%
Umatilla	99%	1%	0%
Union	50%	54%	6%
Wallowa	<1%	94%	6%
Volume-weighted average	**70%**	**27%**	**3%**

Source: Simmons et al. 2021

Considerations for future monitoring

Consistent and repeated wood processing facility surveys could provide more context about the capacity of local wood processing facilities, preference for tree species, and amount of timber coming from public vs. private sources. This could be achieved by expanding upon the census and modelling work done by the BBER to include yearly wood processing facility surveys, such as the report done by Vermeer in 2022 (Vermeer, 2022). More recent details on the types of products produced and preference for materials could aid TREAT analysis and help inform current and future project planning.

[8] https://www.opb.org/article/2024/11/19/grant-county-malheur-lumber-lawsuit-tol/#:~:text=As%20first%20reported%20in%20The,of%20housing%20to%20recruit%20them.

III. All-Lands Monitoring Question

What are the social and economic changes for private landowners by engaging in All-Lands projects?

Table 10 Indicators and Data sources for Question 16 from the Northern Blues All-Lands Multi-Party Monitoring Plan

Indicator	Data Source
• Perceptions and acceptance of restoration approaches • Changes in awareness regarding prescribed fire • Economic opportunities from project participation	Private Landowner Survey

Approach

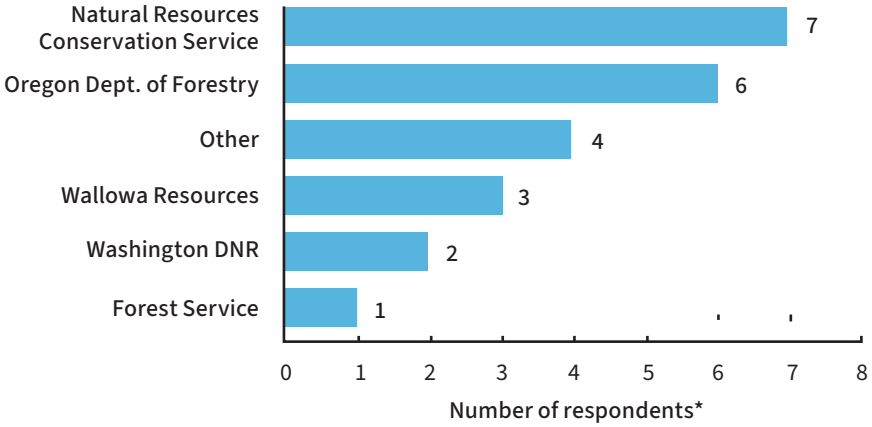
The NBRP and EWP collaborated on a survey to assess the social and economic changes experienced by private landowners in the Northern Blues Project footprint who had All-Lands restoration treatments on their land. Approximately 305 landowners were recruited via email or postcard sent out by the Northern Blues Partnership with a QR code and link to the survey.The survey included questions designed to capture landowner acceptance of restoration treatments, awareness of prescribed fire, and changes in economic opportunities following restoration treatment on their property. This was the first landowner survey in the region and 17 responses were received; this brief analysis should not be considered representative of the region but rather gives some insight into landowner experiences with work being done on private land.

Results

Project involvement and context

The first part of the survey asked about Northern Blues Project involvement. The most common organizations collaborating with landowners on land restoration work were the Natural Resources Conservation Service (41%) and Oregon Department of Forestry (35%) (Figure 5). Two out of four respondents clarified that the "other" organization they worked with included Trout Unlimited and "USDA".

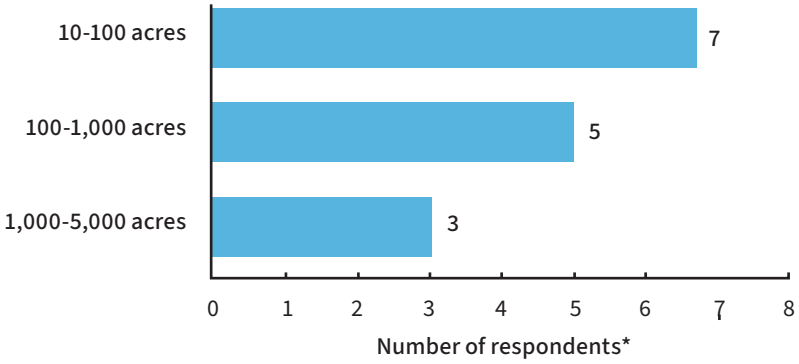
Figure 5 Organizations engaged in restoration work on private land



**Some respondents selected more than one answer. One respondent was 'unsure'.*

The most common number of acres treated was 10-100 acres (44%). No landowners indicated that they had restoration treatments implemented on less than 10 acres or more than 5,000 acres (Figure 6).

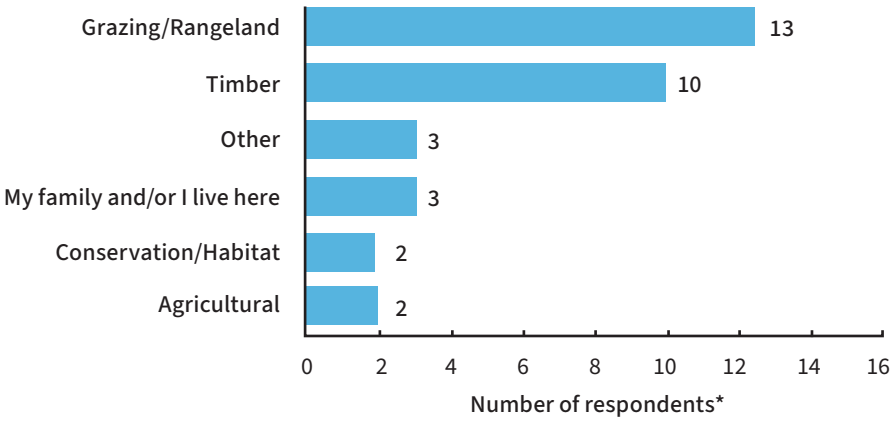
Figure 6 Number of acres treated



**Some respondents selected more than one answer. One respondent was 'unsure'.*

Landowners primarily used project land for grazing/rangeland (81%) or timber (63%). Landowners also identified "other" uses including recreation (13%) and hunting (6%) (Figure 7).

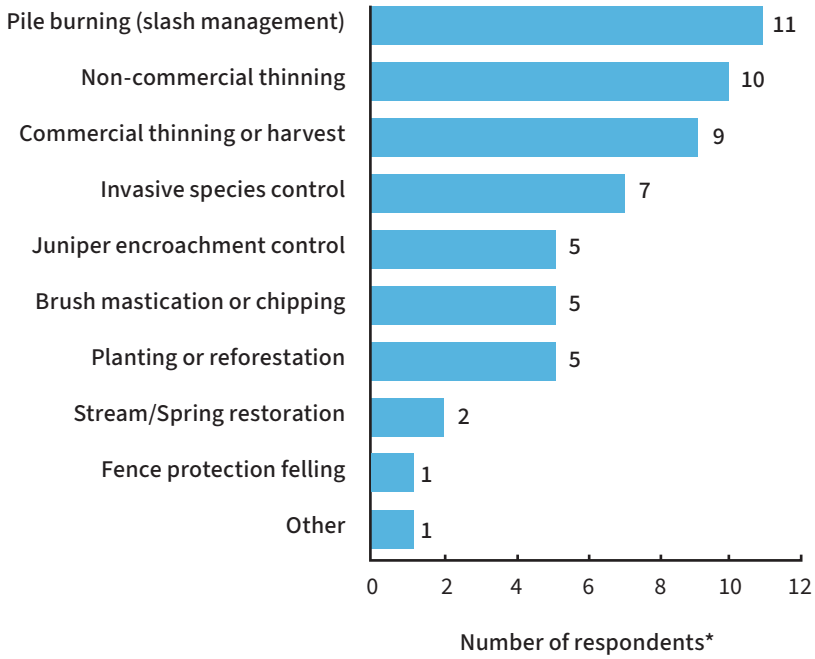
Figure 7 Uses of project lands



**Some respondents selected more than one answer*

The most common restoration treatments performed on private lands were pile burning (69%), non-commercial thinning (63%), and commercial thinning or harvest (56%) (Figure 8). No respondents reported having prescribed fire treatments on their land. One respondent selected "other".

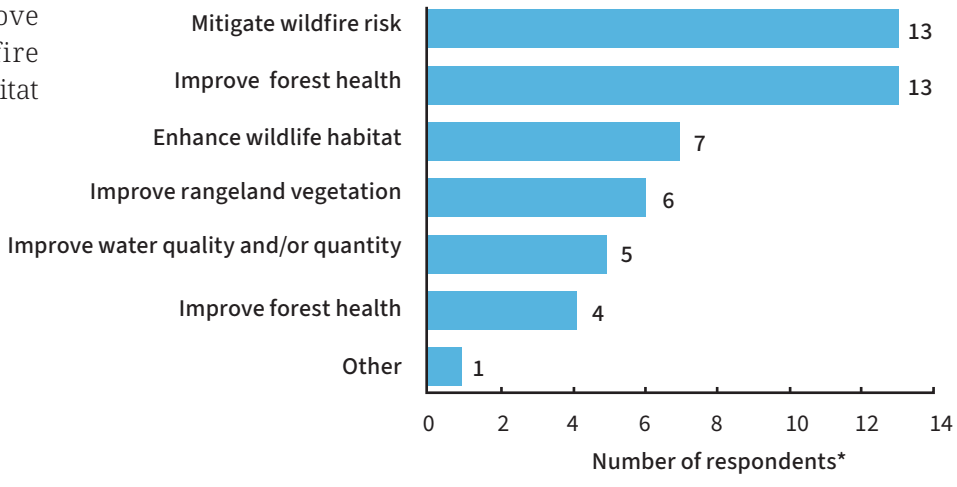
Figure 8 Types of restoration treatments



** Some respondents selected more than one answer. No one selected 'prescribed fire' as a treatment.*

Landowners identified their primary motivations for participating in land restoration projects were to improve forest health (81%), mitigate wildfire risk (75%), and enhance wildlife habitat (44%) (Figure 9).

Figure 9 Motivations for participating in restoration treatments



**Some respondents selected more than one answer*

Economic opportunities from project participation

Many (53%) respondents were unsure whether the restoration project brought economic benefits to their land. Reasons included uncertainty that project costs exceeded revenues, recent completion of the project, delayed start of the project, and the perception that benefits were more related to risk reduction and habitat improvement than economic opportunity. Forty percent of respondents indicated that they did receive an economic benefit from participation. Economic benefits included "eliminating wildfire risk to protect the timber", "grass and timber production benefits", and "improvement of [the] timber stand" (Figure 10).

Figure 10 Responses to *"Has the project brought any new economic opportunities for your land?"*

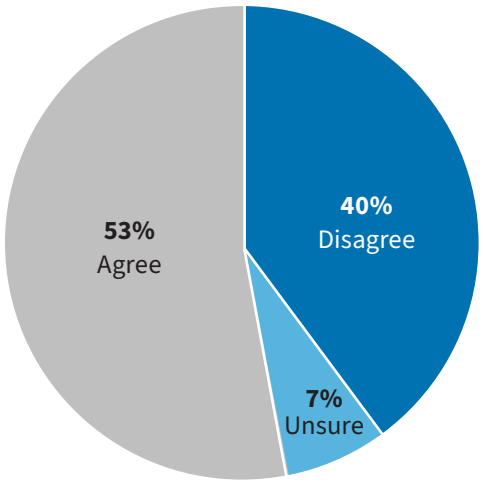
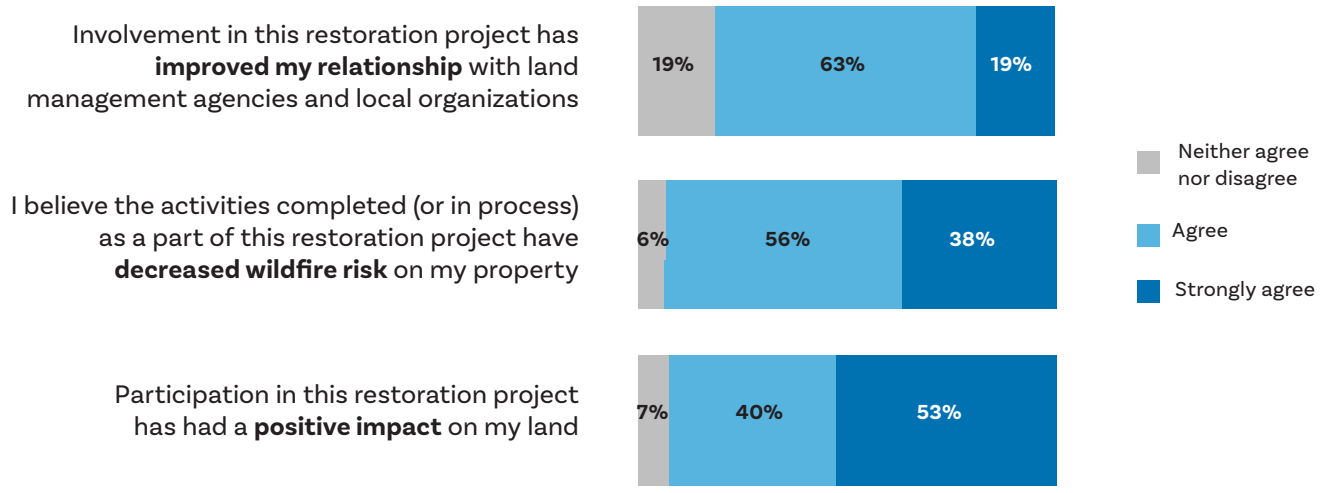


Figure 11 Perceptions of project participation



Experience with All-Lands restoration approaches

Most (82%) of survey respondents indicated that the restoration project improved their relationships with land management agencies or local organizations. Almost all (94%) percent of respondents agreed that the project decreased wildfire risk on their property. Ninety-three percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the restoration had a positive impact on their land. All survey respondents expressed positive or neutral thoughts about project participation (Figure 11).

Figure 12 Perceived changes in land following treatment

Following treatment, survey respondents most often noticed improved vegetation health (50%) and improved rangeland vegetation (31%) (Figure 12).

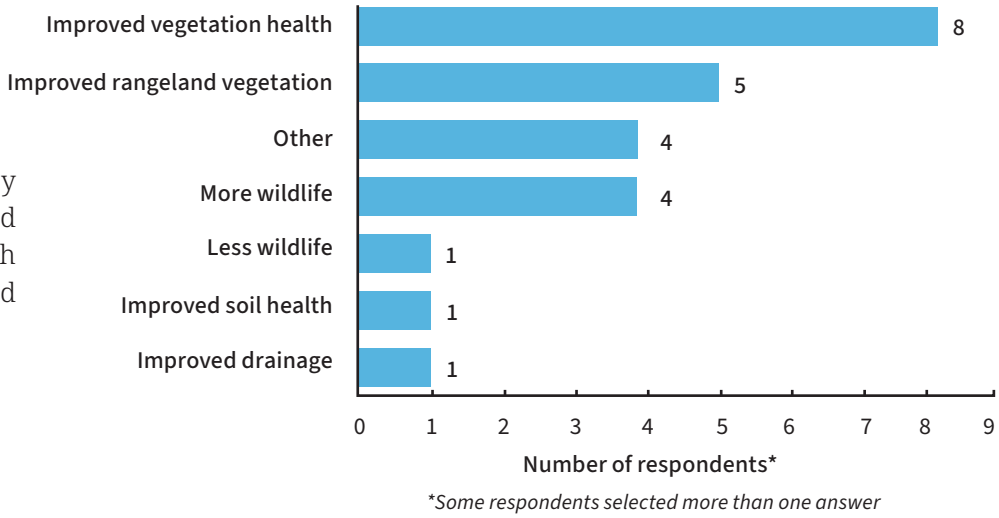
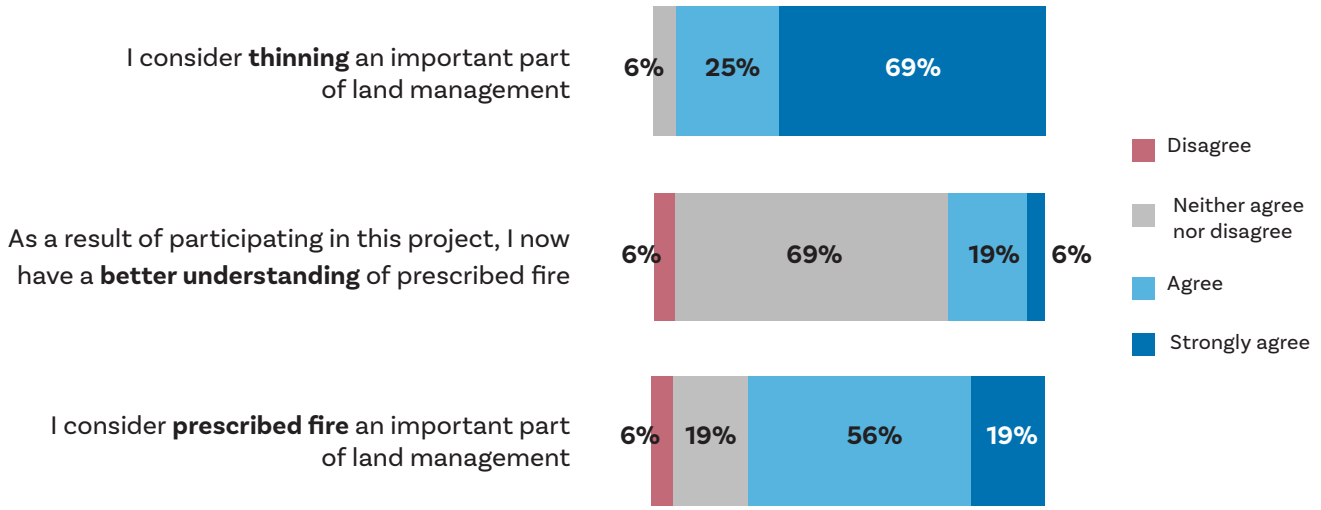


Figure 13 Landowner opinions on thinning and prescribed fire



Changes in awareness regarding prescribed fire

Most (94%) respondents considered thinning an important part of land management. Seventy-five percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that prescribed fire is an important part of land management. When landowners were asked if they had a better understanding of wildfire after participating in the restoration project, many (69%) of respondents indicated that they neither agreed nor disagreed. Twenty-five percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had a better understanding of prescribed fire following project completion (Figure 13).

Figure 14 Landowner willingness to participate in future prescribed fire treatments

Half of landowners surveyed indicated they were willing to participate in future prescribed fire activities (Figure 14). Landowners supported prescribed fire for managing bunchgrass habitat that historically had fire, or for reducing brush and pine needle buildup. Landowners that were not open to prescribed fire (31%) had concerns about killing small reproductive growth and the potential risk of the fire spreading out of control.

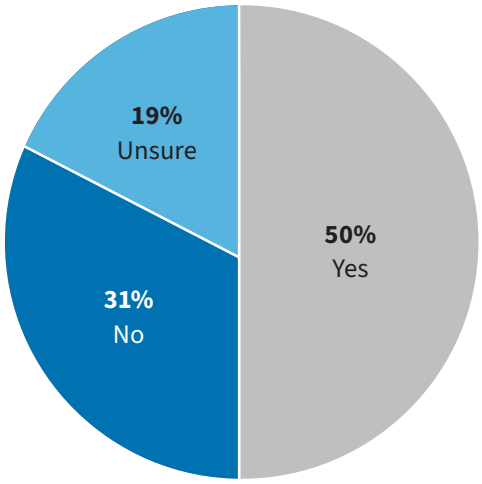
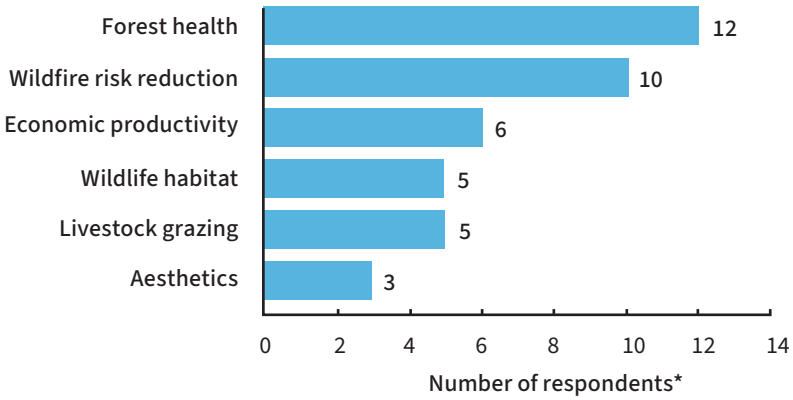


Figure 15 Land management

When asked *"Which of the following is most important to you when considering how to manage your land?"*, landowners indicated forest health (75%), wildfire risk reduction (63%) and economic productivity (38%) as the most important considerations for land management. (Figure 15).



**Some respondents selected more than one answer*

IV. All-Lands Monitoring Question

What other impacts to local communities have occurred from engagement opportunities with youth, Tribal, and other work crews?

Table 11 Indicators and Data sources for Question 17 from the Northern Blues All-Lands Multi-Party Monitoring Plan

Indicator	Data Source
• Type, amount, and impacts of youth/Tribal/other opportunities	Interviews with relevant individuals and organizations

All-Lands restoration activities take place across public and private lands. This enables community members to take a more active role in managing their landscape. The NBRP wanted to identify the types of engagement opportunities youth, Tribes, and work crews experienced in the region.

Approach

EWP conducted semi-structured interviews with 8 individuals identified by Wallowa Resources as having youth or Tribal involvement in the NBRP. Each interview participant was asked questions about their organization or project and impacts from youth, Tribal, or work crew engagement.

Results

Interviewees represented a diverse group of individuals involved in the NBRP representing six nonprofit organizations, one community science project, and one Tribe. Questions were open-ended and most interviewees expressed multiple types of engagement opportunities, benefits to participation, and recommendations for continued support.

Interviewees identified:

- Types of engagement with youth and Tribal communities
- Employment and engagement numbers
- Youth benefits from participation
- Recommendations for organizational support
- Recommendations for youth and Tribal community support
- Additional thoughts

Types of engagement with youth and Tribal communities

(Q2) What other impacts to local communities have occurred from engagement opportunities with youth, Tribal, and other work crews?

Types of youth or Tribal engagement identified by interview interviewees included monitoring and restoration work (n=7), educational opportunities (n=5), Tribal engagement (n=4) and career fairs (n=2).

Monitoring and restoration work crews

Paid monitoring and restoration work was the most common youth opportunity identified by interviewees (n=7). These opportunities included paid monitoring internships for high schoolers, youth crew restoration work, forest monitoring internships, fuels reduction work, and Indigenous First Foods monitoring.[9]

Educational opportunities

Educational opportunities for youth included field trips to restoration sites, after-school programs for elementary and middle schoolers, school yard explorations, and outdoor school. These educational programming activities often included partnerships with state or local agency staff about active restoration work happening in their community. Some students also learned outdoor skills and participated in overnight backpacking trips.

Career fairs

One organization hosted a USA jobs training in 2024 to teach youth and entry career professionals how to navigate the federal job application system. Spring and fall career fairs were also hosted for youth to explore natural resource job opportunities happening in their county.

Employment and engagement numbers

(Q3) If you employ youth or Tribal crews, how many individuals do you typically employ per year? If you did not employ youth or tribal crews, how many youth participate in your project or program each year?

Based on employment data from the five organizations interviewed, aproximately 176 youth participated in paid monitoring or restoration activities from 2022 to 2024. Additionally, over 2,900 students have participated in unpaid educational or community outreach programs since 2021.

Opportunities for organizational support

(Q5) How could the Northern Blues Monitoring team better support your organization's mission?

When asked how the Northern Blues Project Monitoring Team could better support their project, program, or organization, most interviewees could not think of ways to be better supported, stating that they already felt well-supported (88%; n=7). Several interviewees noted attending the NBRP annual meetings as a positive experience. Support from partners and natural resource professionals added value to programs and supported youth and tribal engagement and learning.

Suggestions for increased support from the Northern Blues Monitoring Team or the NBRP broadly included

9 Indigenous First Foods refer to traditionally gathered foods for sustenance and cultural practices including water, fish, big game, roots, and berries.

actively increasing collaboration with local schools, community colleges, or universities (n=4), guiding workforce teams on data collection (n=1), building political leadership (n=1), encouraging more participation from partners (n=1), including youth as "stakeholders" in the partnership (n=1) and providing support for natural resources professionals doing outdoor education with practical tools and strategies for teaching (n=1).

Capacity in terms of funding and staff was identified as a constraint to growth for many programs (n=5). One organization had established a set number of youth per crew that crew leaders were able to take on ranging from 6 to 14 kids. A 6:1 youth to crew lead ratio worked best for another organization. One interviewee wasn't sure of the exact number of youth participants, but noted that spots for their program fill up quickly. Finding creative ways to find funding and generate opportunities was important for leaders of youth education and work crew programs.

Youth benefits from participation

(Q6) How do youth (crew members) benefit from educational opportunities (employment) in the restoration field?

Learning and hands-on experience

Learning and hands-on experience with natural sciences was the most widely noted benefit of youth engagement programs (n=8). Interviewees noted the importance of youth participating in work that is relevant to the community they live in. For example, work involved fuels reduction, monitoring the effects of thinning and prescribed burning, and watershed monitoring. Youth gained hands-on experiences learning monitoring protocols involving native plant diversity, fire and fuels, fisheries, and watersheds. They also learned skills like fencing, trail maintenance, and how to create defensible space around a structure. Gaining work experience with ecological monitoring, developing problem-solving skills, and reestablishing traditional Tribal knowledge were just a few of the perceived benefits.

"I really think it just gives them [youth] a better connection to their home, to their place. They get to learn a lot more about, you know, things that they may never encounter just from a classroom."

Paid opportunities

Youth also benefited by getting paid to do monitoring or restoration work (n=7). The value of paying youth to stay and do work in their rural communities was noted as an overlooked economic benefit since they might otherwise look for work elsewhere and potentially not return to the community. One interviewee emphasized that "stemming the loss of the brain drain" in smaller communities is often overlooked or not quantified in project cost-benefit analyses.

Career exposure

Youth participation in monitoring projects and educational field trips provided exposure to natural resource professionals and restoration work happening in their community (n=6). Natural resource professionals represented a broad range of state, federal, Tribal, or county agencies, and other community-based organizations. For example, some youth program participants had opportunities to meet employees from the Oregon Department of Forestry, USDA Forest Service, Tribal Natural Resources, or local fire departments.

Enjoying the outdoors

Most interviewees pointed to the benefits of youth spending time outdoors, enjoying the natural beauty of their local landscapes, and getting a better connection to the natural world (n=8).

"It reconnects them with the, you know, natural world, if there is anything outside of the natural world, but I think it gets people outside and connects them with the forest, with the mountains, with the community."

Recommendations for youth and Tribal community support

(Q7) How could restoration field crew opportunities and educational programs better support youth and Tribal communities?

When asked how field crew opportunities or educational programs could better support youth and Tribal communities, interviewees identified a variety of ideas for how to improve the current opportunities.

Expand engagement opportunities and build pathways

Many interviewees saw a continuing need to create more engagement opportunities for youth in natural resources (n=3) and inspire interest from a young age (n=2). Building from existing projects and collaborating with local elementary, middle, or high schools to increase youth interest in natural resources work was seen as an important way to support communities in wildfire and landscape resiliency work. Some interviewees suggested that offering college credits or certificates for work crew experience could further support youth work crews. Interviewees also identified the need to provide work crew members with clear pathways for career development following program participation (n=4).

Actively work to remove barriers to participation

Interviewees suggested that including stipends or "wrap-around supports" into budgets (n=3) and paying work crews better (n=2) could help remove barriers and encourage youth participation. Costs for travel, backpacks, proper clothing, and boots are just a few of the personal expenses that work crew participants must cover in order to participate in some of the work programs. Stipends for essential outdoor gear, gas, or food could better support youth, especially those coming from neighboring towns who may have to drive long distances over a mountain pass just to participate in restoration or monitoring work crew opportunities.

Prioritize community needs and interests

Interviewees recommended adapting youth engagement programs based on community workforce needs (n=4), youth's curiosities (n=2), or capabilities (n=2). One participant emphasized not underestimating work crew capabilities. From a Tribal perspective, gathering cultural resources, reestablishing a presence with the land, and getting to know and collaborate with neighbors on restoration projects was important (n=1).

"People need to realize that the natural resources industry needs more of the ability to develop alternative pathways into the natural resources, and further than just entry level. I think that's another thing that conservation corps programs could be doing better."

Additional thoughts

Interviewees expressed a wide range of positive thoughts and reflections when asked "What else haven't I asked you about?" The willingness to be welcomed and heard in the partnership was emphasized by one participant, indicating that there is so much to learn from different perspectives and areas of expertise.

"You know, it's very collaborative, and people make you feel like you're welcome to say whatever you want, without feeling like you're going to get torn down or have to defend yourself."

Youth work crew programs also generated positive comments from private landowners who were encouraged to see youth working outside. These types of programs facilitated community involvement and also made the restoration work, such as maintaining defensible space around structure or clearing excess brush and fuels, seem more manageable for the landowner.

One interviewee suggested that an important reason to continue engaging young people in restoration work is that it helps expose students to alternative perspectives and allows them to participate in the restoration work happening in their communities.

"We're implementing treatments and restoration on our lands that are multi-generational, that work on timescales much longer than a human time scale. So, if we're not engaging youth (and the younger the better), then we're not getting the best return on our investment for all these restoration projects."

Summary

There are a variety of organizations in the NBRP working to engage youth, work crews, and Tribes. Tracking youth involvement through yearly surveys including specific questions about how many people are participating, the types of opportunities, and how to better support programs and organizations can help inform planning and resource allocation to ensure the longevity of this type of work. Hosting more frequent partnership meetings could facilitate increased communication and collaboration opportunities and address the common needs of youth, Tribal, and work crew engagement.Within the IFS academic literature, terms and descriptions of the concept of IFS varied broadly and the majority of articles did not explicitly define the terms they used.

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Appendix

Table A1 Population Data

County	Population (2010)	Population (2022)	Population (2023)	Percent change (2010-2023)
Adams, ID	3,942	4,464	4,599	16.7%
Idaho, ID	15,947	16,787	17,120	7.4%
Nez Perce, ID	38,886	42,200	42,477	9.2%
Baker, OR	16,150	16,685	16,796	4.0%
Gilliam, OR	1,731	1,983	2,002	15.7%
Grant, OR	7,349	7,237	7,238	-1.5%
Malheur, OR	31,326	31,538	31,701	1.2%
Morrow, OR	11,112	12,140	12,249	10.2%
Umatilla, OR	74,804	79,904	80,087	7.1%
Union, OR	25,373	26,286	26,192	3.2%
Wallowa, OR	6,919	7,439	7,532	8.9%
Wheeler, OR	1,443	1,407	1,434	-0.6%
Asotin, WA	21,363	22,370	22,424	5.0%
Columbia, WA	3,957	3,980	3,996	1.0%
Garfiled, WA	2,240	2,310	2,326	3.8%
Northern Blues Footprint	262,542	276,730	278,173	6.0%
Composite Region	3,874,774	4,446,156	4,470,084	15.40%
Nation	303,965,272	331,097,593	332,387,540	9.40%

Source: US Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates
US Census Bureau 2022 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates
US Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates

Table A2 Median Age

County	Median Age (2010)	Median Age (2022)	Median Age (2023)	Median Age (2010-2023)
Adams, ID	46.1	54.4	54.3	8.2
Idaho, ID	47.2	49.5	49.6	2.4
Nez Perce, ID	40.6	40.7	40.9	0.3
Baker, OR	47.3	47.4	47.6	0.3
Gilliam, OR	49.9	51.0	50.3	0.4
Grant, OR	48.7	51.7	50.8	2.1
Malheur, OR	36.0	35.9	36.2	0.2
Morrow, OR	36.1	37.0	36.2	0.1
Umatilla, OR	35.6	36.9	36.7	1.1
Union, OR	40.1	39.7	40.1	0
Wallowa, OR	50.0	50.9	50.2	0.2
Wheeler, OR	54.6	56.1	57.3	2.7
Asotin, WA	43.0	45.4	45.5	2.5
Columbia, WA	47.2	50.8	52.1	4.9
Garfiled, WA	49.7	49.9	52.6	2.9
Northern Blues Footprint	**44.8**	**46.5**	**46.7**	**1.9**
Composite Region	37.0	39.0	39.0	2
Nation	36.9	38.5	38.7	1.8

Source: US Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates
US Census Bureau 2022 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates
US Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates

Table A3 Median Incomes

County	2010 Median Household Income (dollars, 2010 estimates)	2010 Median Household Incomes (dollars, 2023 inflation adjustment)	2022 Median Household Income (dollars, 2022 estimates)	2023 Median Household Income (dollars, 2023)	% change in Median Household Incomes (2010-2023)
Adams, ID	$36,004	$50,469	$55,891	$59,286	17%
Idaho, ID	$34,536	$48,411	$54,745	$60,975	26%
Nez Perce, ID	$44,395	$62,231	$65,023	$71,466	15%
Baker, OR	$39,704	$55,655	$51,657	$57,844	4%
Gilliam, OR	$42,148	$59,081	$58,409	$64,219	9%
Grant, OR	$35,974	$50,427	$56,045	$59,800	19%
Malheur, OR	$39,144	$54,870	$48,371	$49,902	-9%
Morrow, OR	$43,902	$61,540	$64,975	$70,217	14%
Umatilla, OR	$45,861	$64,286	$70,322	$68,958	7%
Union, OR	$42,162	$59,101	$61,946	$64,212	9%
Wallowa, OR	$41,116	$57,635	$62,238	$65,559	14%
Wheeler, OR	$33,403	$46,823	$50,774	$51,250	9%
Asotin, WA	$41,665	$58,404	$63,724	$69,107	18%
Columbia, WA	$43,611	$61,132	$68,825	$71,528	17%
Garfiled, WA	$42,269	$59,251	$57,958	$62,411	5%
Northern Blues Footprint	**$40,393**	**$56,621**	**$59,394**	**$63,116**	**11%**
Composite Region	$50,289	$70,494	$78,087	$82,005	16.3%
Nation	$51,914	$72,771	$75,149	$77,719	6.8%

Table A4 Unemployment Rate by county (2010, 2022, 2023, and 2024)

County	2010 unemployment rate	2022 unemployment rate	2023 unemployment rate	2024 unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted for OR counties only)
Adams, ID	15.3%	4.3%	5.2%	6.6%
Idaho, ID	11.0%	2.8%	3.5%	5.3%
Nez Perce, ID	6.3%	2.6%	2.9%	3.3%
Baker, OR	8.9%	4.5%	4.0%	4.2%
Gilliam, OR	7.4%	2.9%	4.2%	4.8%
Grant, OR	11.3%	4.4%	3.6%	5.9%
Malheur, OR	7.9%	3.8%	3.2%	3.7%
Morrow, OR	7.6%	3.7%	3.2%	3.7%
Umatilla, OR	8.3%	4.3%	3.7%	4.1%
Union, OR	9.1%	4.3%	3.5%	4.7%
Wallowa, OR	10.2%	4.3%	3.4%	4.4%
Wheeler, OR	9.0%	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%
Asotin, WA	7.8%	3.1%	3.6%	3.3%
Columbia, WA	7.4%	3.4%	3.6%	4.7%
Garfiled, WA	6.2%	4.7%	5.2%	4.8%
Northern Blues Footprint	**8.9%**	**3.8%**	**3.7%**	**4.4%**
Region	10.1%	4.0%	3.9%	4.2%
Nation	9.4%	3.6%	3.9%	4.1%

Understanding Wildfire Risk

Table A4 shows the wildfire likelihood for each county in the CFLRP, the probability that fire will occur based on factors such as weather, topography, and ignition patterns. It also shows a 'Risk to Homes' metric, which is determined by a combination of modelled factors including likelihood, intensity, exposure, and susceptibility in each county in the project area.[10]

Risk to Homes and Wildfire Likelihood, national percentile rank

- Low: <40th percentile
- Medium: >40th and <70th percentile
- High: >70th and <90th percentile
- Very High: >90th percentile

Table A5 Wildfire Risk by County

County	Risk to homes	Wildfire likelihood
Adams, ID	Very High	Very High
Idaho, ID	Very High	Very High
Nez Perce, ID	Very High	Very High
Baker, OR	Very High	Very High
Gilliam, OR	Very High	Very High
Grant, OR	Very High	Very High
Malheur, OR	Very High	Very High
Morrow, OR	High	Very High
Umatilla, OR	Very High	Very High
Union, OR	High	High
Wallowa, OR	Very High	Very High
Wheeler, OR	Very High	Very High
Asotin, WA	Very High	Very High
Columbia, WA	High	High
Garfiled, WA	High	High
Walla Walla, WA	High	High
Northern Blues Footprint	**Very High**	**Very High**
Region	Very High	Very High

Table A6 Race and Ethnicity Data (2010)

County	White (%)	Black or African American (%)	American Indian and Alaska Native (%)	Asian (%)	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (%)	Other race (%)	Hispanic or Latino (of any race) (%)
Adams, ID	98.1%	0.2%	5.0%	0.1%	0.0%	3.1%	4.6%
Idaho, ID	96.3%	0.4%	4.7%	1.0%	0.0%	2.3%	3.8%
Nez Perce, ID	93.4%	1.0%	6.5%	1.6%	0.5%	2.4%	4.3%
Baker, OR	95.9%	1.6%	2.9%	1.2%	0.6%	3.8%	5.0%
Gilliam, OR	97.5%	0.0%	6.9%	1.2%	0.0%	7.8%	8.7%
Grant, OR	97.4%	1.0%	2.5%	1.1%	0.6%	5.4%	4.2%
Malheur, OR	87.9%	1.5%	4.6%	2.5%	0.5%	18.7%	33.5%
Morrow, OR	83.1%	1.7%	3.5%	0.2%	1.0%	29.9%	41.2%
Umatilla, OR	83.6%	1.6%	5.9%	1.6%	0.3%	20.7%	28.9%
Union, OR	94.1%	1.5%	2.3%	2.5%	1.6%	4.4%	5.3%
Wallowa, OR	95.2%	1.6%	1.4%	1.0%	0.2%	6.1%	4.0%
Wheeler, OR	95.7%	1.8%	3.2%	0.5%	0.1%	8.9%	4.5%
Asotin, WA	95.0%	1.6%	3.1%	1.7%	0.4%	4.5%	4.4%
Columbia, WA	94.6%	1.3%	7.1%	0.3%	0.2%	10.0%	8.2%
Garfiled, WA	96.3%	2.2%	0.9%	2.3%	0.0%	3.6%	3.6%
Northern Blues Footprint (avg)	**90.3%**	**1.4%**	**4.7%**	**1.6%**	**0.5%**	**11.6%**	**16.5%**

Table A7 Race and Ethnicity Data (2023)

County	White (%)	Black or African American (%)	American Indian and Alaska Native (%)	Asian (%)	Pacific Islander (%)	Other race (%)	Hispanic or Latino (%)
Adams, ID	96.0%	0.1%	6.7%	0.4%	1.5%	0.1%	0.9%
Idaho, ID	96.6%	0.2%	4.4%	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	2.4%
Nez Perce, ID	93.2%	1.1%	6.6%	1.0%	0.5%	0.9%	2.9%
Baker, OR	98.3%	0.4%	3.6%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	3.2%
Gilliam, OR	92.5%	0.8%	1.7%	0.6%	1.0%	6.0%	10.3%
Grant, OR	98.0%	0.4%	3.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	2.5%
Malheur, OR	83.5%	2.4%	3.1%	1.2%	0.2%	15.5%	30.3%
Morrow, OR	91.4%	0.3%	4.4%	1.3%	0.0%	6.0%	29.8%
Umatilla, OR	91.6%	1.3%	5.3%	1.3%	0.2%	5.1%	22.3%
Union, OR	96.8%	0.9%	1.9%	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%	3.9%
Wallowa, OR	97.9%	0.1%	1.3%	0.3%	1.6%	0.9%	2.2%
Wheeler, OR	98.4%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%
Asotin, WA	97.1%	0.7%	3.2%	0.5%	0.4%	1.7%	3.0%
Columbia, WA	95.2%	0.0%	4.1%	1.7%	0.0%	1.8%	4.2%
Garfiled, WA	99.6%	0.0%	5.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%
Northern Blues Footprint (avg)	**93.1%**	**1.0%**	**4.3%**	**1.0%**	**0.4%**	**4.1%**	**12.9%**

Table A8 Volume and type of products CFLRP projects only

Type of product*	Percent volume 2021	Percent volume 2022	Percent volume 2023	Percent volume 2024
1. Softwood lumber	45%	45%	74%	60%
2. Softwood veneer & plywood	10%	20%	13%	0%
3. Non-veneer panel products	0%	0%	6%	0%
4. Pulp, paper, paperboard	19%	25%	0%	0%
5. Energy (small)	1%	1%	0%	0%
6. Posts and poles	1%	1%	2%	5%
7. Log furniture and other timber products	1%	1%	0%	0%
8. Commercial firewood	1%	1%	3%	0%
9. Firewood for home use	22%	6%	2%	34%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%* (99.7)

*(1) includes bolts, woodchips, pallets, pressure and creosote treated lumber; (3) includes particleboard, fiberboard, hardboard, oriented strand board (OSB); (4) includes paper boxes, containers, cartons, tubes; (7) includes wood windows, door manufacturing, cut stock, resawing lumber, planning, millwork including flooring, wood container, and pallet manufacturing; (9) Firewood for home use assumes no commercial value.

Note: No hardwood products were manufactured; No energy from large biomass energy plants (> 5MMCF) was produced; No log home products were manufactured.

Parties to the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership

Blue Mountain Cohesive Strategy Partnership
Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
My Blue Mountains Woodland Partnership
Eastern Oregon Counties Association
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (including Umatilla National Forest, Walla Walla RD, North Fork John Day RD, Heppner RD, Pomeroy RD, Wallowa Whitman National Forest, Wallowa RD, Baker City RD, La Grande RD)
Blue Mountain Prescribed Fire Council
Oregon State University
Wallowa Resources
Western Environmental Law Center
Woodgrain Lumber and Composites
The Nature Conservancy

Ecosystem Workforce Program

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