CFLR – The uncertain future

July 2018
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

• [http://www.ruralvoicescoalition.org/](http://www.ruralvoicescoalition.org/)
• National Gathering in Santa Fe, January 28 – 30, 2019
Recent legislation

• Congress also passed the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill out of both the relevant House and Senate committees last month. Topics of note to RVCC include stable funding for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program at $40 million (FY19), increased funding for hazardous fuels reduction, and some support for the Joint Fire Science Program, albeit at lower levels than in the past. Funding levels for most programs of importance to RVCC are fairly stable relative to the current fiscal year, and mark strong departures from the President's budget, which called for large reductions. The Interior Appropriations bill awaits the consideration of both the full House and Senate.
Legislation still developing

• From Sustainable Northwest’s Dylan Kruse:
  • “A 5-year CFLRP extension boosting the authorized funding level to $80 million a year was included in the Senate Farm Bill. The House did not include CFLRP language. We're now aiming to get the language included in the conference committee discussions and report.”
Legislation still developing

• From Senator Udall:
  • ““This bipartisan effort will support rural communities in New Mexico and across the country as they work to promote healthy forests and grow their economies,” Udall said. “New Mexico communities know too well the increasingly severe toll of wildfires, and that’s why I’m committed to supporting and enhancing common-sense solutions – like this legislation – that are proven to be effective in wildfire prevention. Collaborative approaches to forest management help mitigate and prevent wildfires while engaging local communities and creating jobs for the future.”

Recommendations from sister CFLR projects

• Uncertainties:
  • House bill needs to align with Senate for success
  • Uncertain if new legislation in development requires the original 23 projects to be reauthorized or if it is for new (different) projects
  • Where is the original FACA group to advise the USFS WO?

• Are planning and monitoring on the Region’s radar post 2019?

• What we can do:
  • Talk to the NM Delegation to bolster support.
  • Ask R3 if they are meeting their obligations.
  • Talk with R3 about meeting planning and monitoring obligations.
  • Ask R3 how we as a collaborative can support the CFLR and improve it.
  • What would we change to improve the program?