

ODF Small Forestland Grant Program Proposal

Project Name

Robertson Juniper Treatment

Contact Information

Middle Deschutes Watershed Council
625 SE Salmon Ave., Suite 6
Redmond, OR 97756



Treatment Location

The proposed project area is located in Jefferson County on private land SE of Ashwood, OR approximately 8 miles from the Ochoco NF boundary. This project aims to create a fuel break along Axehandle Ridge and treat juniper in proximity to Sand Spring and Sugarloaf Canyon, a headwaters stream of Muddy Creek which drains into the John Day River. Juniper removal is proposed along the ridgetop on north and south facing slopes, southeast of the ridgetop around the spring and opening of the canyon, and in an area of heavy juniper infestation north of the ridgetop. This property represents a small acreage ownership of two parcels totaling 580 acres, surrounded by larger ownerships, on the divide of the Trout Creek watershed and John Day watershed. The project area falls within the moderate wildfire risk class; however, high densities of juniper create considerable wildfire risk from the associated fuel load.

Description of Treatment Activities

The landowner plans to treat 74.1 acres of juniper using mastication with some cutting and stacking of larger trees. The proposed treatment area would expand the treated footprint, connecting to 100 acres of juniper previously removed through NRCS' Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) program on the northern parcel which falls within the Trout Creek watershed. The southern portion of this property drains into the John Day watershed and has been ineligible for CIS funding, making this a valuable opportunity to address wildfire risk created by encroaching juniper. In the event of a wildfire, clearing a fuel break in a swath across the ridgetop and along the road would help slow or stop fire from progressing to wooded adjacent private lands or national forest lands.

This property is an important wildlife corridor and wintering grounds used extensively by deer and elk. Several springs are on site including four spring developments with troughs. Infrastructure includes a pump house for a 200-foot deep well producing 15 gallons a minute, and cleared and rocked water storage facility awaiting installation of two 2500–5000-gallon tanks where fire trucks can refill. This would provide a source of water for fire response in a very remote area where the nearest water facility is about 80 minutes away under ideal conditions. Hawley Road runs through the proposed treatment area and is the only access road to the water storage facility in an area with limited roadways.

The Council in partnership with Jefferson SWCD explored pursuing outreach activities to target adjacent landowners for treating additional acres; however, the large ownerships typical of the greater Ashwood region make most landowners ineligible for this funding. As part of the in-kind contribution provided by the Council, any eligible landowners encountered in general Council proceedings within the Willow Creek and Trout Creek watersheds will be made aware of this funding opportunity. Overall, the goals of this program directly align with Council priorities of enhancing landscape and watershed resiliency by treatment of invasive juniper.

Description of the Anticipated Benefit

The landowner is committed to using best management practices to achieve conservation goals that reduce wildfire risk, improve watershed function, and enhance wildlife habitat. Mastication is the preferred treatment method for limiting soil disturbance and the potential of the plant community to bounce back rapidly from increased soil moisture capacity from the slash layer. Targeted treatment of juniper around Sand Spring and Sugarloaf Canyon has the potential to increase soil water content and subsurface flow into Muddy Creek. Additional ecological benefits include reducing interception of water through juniper canopies, limiting the presence of ladder fuels contributing to wildfire risk, releasing growth of Ponderosa pine, and recolonization of perennial grasses to enhance uplands habitat and forage value for wildlife. Furthermore, expansion of treatments on the landscape wherever possible help reduce overall potential for catastrophic wildfire and associated impacts, especially in a remote region that experiences extreme drought conditions. As such, this project would expand on CIS-treated acres by this landowner and adjacent landowners, who also represent under protected properties outside of ODF protected lands. This project area is within the Ashwood-Antelope community which the Jefferson County CWPP identifies as 'at-risk to the effects of wildfire'. This region is served by the Ashwood-Antelope RFP; however due to large distances and limited road network, wildfire response times can vary. This project area is also categorized as an ODFW Conservation Opportunity Area: East Madras- Trout Creek Sagebrush and Grassland Area.

Timeline for Implementation

- Spring 2022: Begin treatments using mastication and 'cut and let lay' method for larger trees.
- Fall 2022: Continue treatments
- Spring 2023: Stacking of larger limbs and trees, final cleanup.

Budget

Juniper cut rates were determined using the latest NRCS cost scenario for heavy equipment juniper removal for 2022. An assessment of the site has been previously conducted by the Council's partner Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District to determine the number of acres needing heavy, medium, and light treatments. Personnel time is budgeted to reflect project management by the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council including any technical assistance provided to landowner, grant reporting, and monitoring through three site visits to oversee project and take photos, and project administration by Jefferson SWCD. The Council and Jefferson SWCD will also provide in-kind project management. The landowner is highly motivated to conduct treatment and will provide labor and equipment in-kind services as well as a \$4,000 cash contribution. Additional breakdown of costs and hours are provided in the budget worksheet.

**Oregon Department of Forestry
Small Forestland Grant Program
Budget Calculation Sheet**

Instructions: Fill out blue-bordered boxes

Grant Agreement #/Project Name: # _____ / Robertson Juniper Treatment

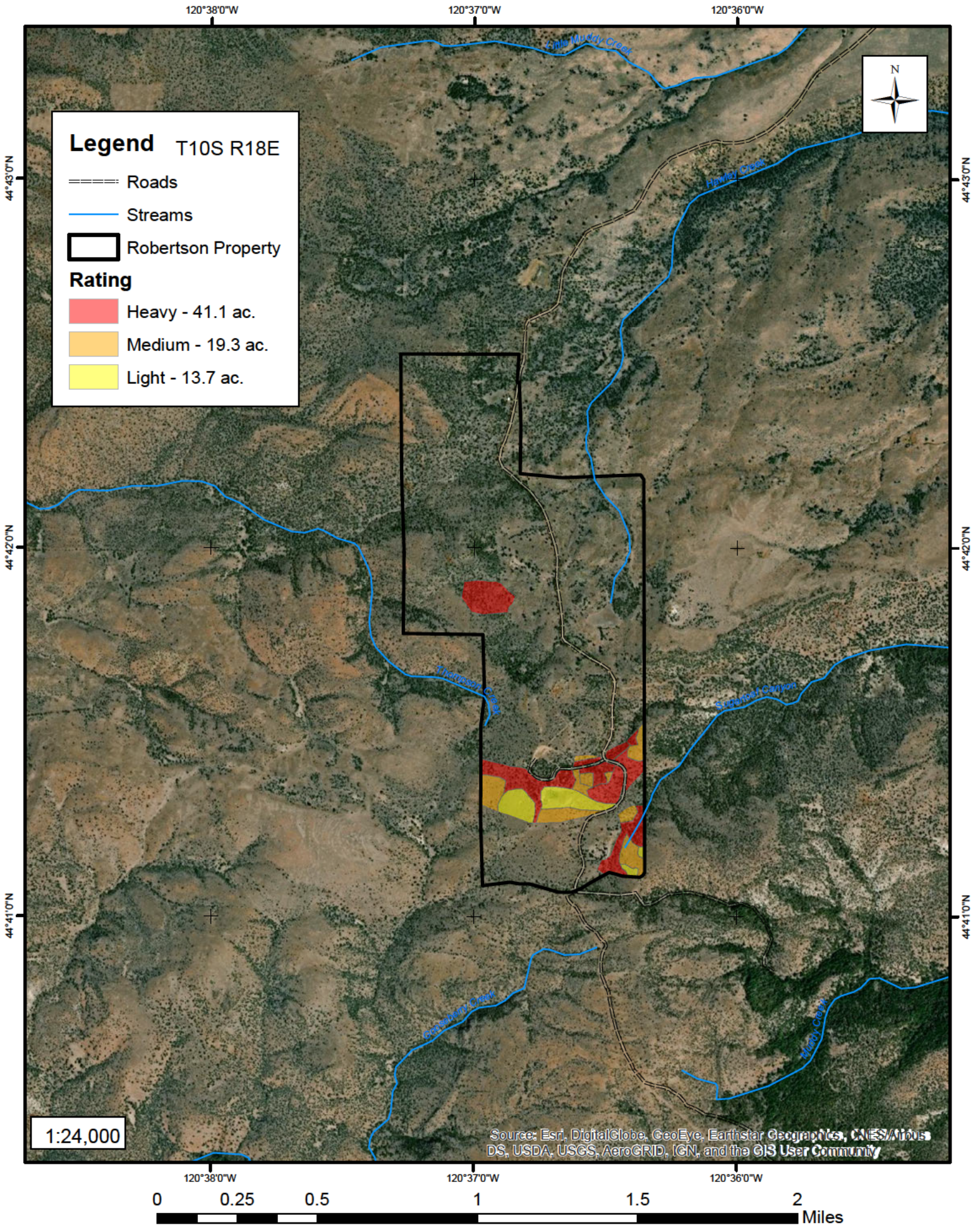
Deliverables	
Below are examples, replace with your projects quantified treatment activities (acres)	
	41.1 mechanical juniper removal (heavy)
	19.3 mechanical juniper removal (medium)
	13.7 mechanical juniper removal (light)
	74.1 acres mulched in place
Treatment Footprint	74.1 acres

Cost Category	Grant Request	Leverage (25% required)		Total Project Cost
		Match (if any)	Leverage (if any)	
1. Personnel	2400	\$ 750.00		3100
2. Fringe Benefits	960	\$ 300.00		1210
3. Travel	242.19			242.19
4. Equipment				0
5. Supplies				0
6. Contractual	\$ 25,743.24	8585		\$ 34,328.24
7. ODF (if applicable)				0
8. Indirect	\$ 2,934.54			\$ 2,934.54
Total	\$ 32,279.97	\$ 9,635.00	0	\$ 41,814.97

Narrative justification by line item: totals should match claim above.

For each line item	Detail by position or item cost, rate, number of units, and subtotals. Tie costs to Deliverables. Example: Personnel and Fringe (\$1,480 and \$740=\$2,220) for 1 Ecologist working 40 hours @ \$37/hour to treatment plan 100 acres of fuel treatments
Personnel & Fringe	<p>Personnel: 1 Project Manager working 80 hours @ \$30/hour (\$2,400) to oversee treatment plan</p> <p>Fringe: 1 Project Manager fringe benefits (including health insurance/retirement) working 80 hours @ \$12/hour (\$960)</p>
Travel	<p>3 site visits (1 pre-implementation, 1 during implementation, 1 post-implementation):</p> <p>138 miles round trip x 3 visits x 0.585 (current federal mileage rate) = \$242.19</p>
Equipment	
Supplies	
Contractual Payments	<p>41.1 acres @ \$542.58 Heavy Treatment = \$22,300.04 x 75% cost share = \$16,725.03</p> <p>19.3 acres @ \$434.30 Medium Treatment = \$8,381.99 x 75% cost share = \$6,286.50</p> <p>13.7 acres @\$265.86 Light Treatment = \$3,642.28 x 75% cost share = \$2,731.71</p>
ODF (if Applicable)	
Leverage Sources	<p>Personnel (staff time) 25 hours @ \$30/hour = \$750 in-kind services (project mngmt)</p> <p>Fringe (of staff) 25 hours @ \$12/hour = \$300 in-kind services (project mngmt)</p> <p>\$4,000 cash contribution by the landowner</p> <p>100 hours of landowner labor and equipment in-kind services (project implementation) @ \$45.85/hour = \$4,585</p>
Indirect Costs	<p>10% de minimis indirect cost rate = \$2,934.62</p>

Robertson Juniper Treatment - Middle Deschutes Watershed Council



Number of Panel Reviewer #1		Project Name	Robertson Juniper Treatment	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	19	
Reviewer Comments	74.1 acres: Treat juniper using mastication with some cutting and stacking of larger trees. Mastication is the preferred treatment method for limiting soil disturbance and the potential of the plant community to bounce back rapidly from increased soil moisture capacity from the slash layer. Treatment will limit the presence of ladder fuels and help reduce overall potential for catastrophic wildfire and associated impacts, especially in a remote region that experiences extreme drought conditions.			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	13	
Reviewer Comments	Infrastructure includes a pump house for a 200- foot deep well and cleared and rocked water storage facility awaiting installation of two 2500–5000-gallon tanks where fire trucks can refill. The project area falls within the moderate wildfire risk class			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	9	
Reviewer Comments	This property represents a small acreage ownership of two parcels totaling 580 acres, surrounded by larger ownerships. In the event of a wildfire, clearing a fuel break in a swath across the ridgetop and along the road would help slow or stop fire from progressing to wooded adjacent private lands or national forest lands.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	This property is an important wildlife corridor and wintering grounds used extensively by deer and elk. Several springs are on site including four spring developments with troughs. Recolonization of perennial grasses will enhance uplands habitat and forage value for wildlife. This remote region experiences extreme drought conditions.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	9	
Reviewer Comments	The proposed treatment area would expand the treated footprint, connecting to 100 acres of juniper previously removed through NRCS' Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) program on the northern parcel which falls within the Trout Creek watershed. The southern portion of this property drains into the John Day watershed.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Project is on under protected properties outside of ODF protected lands in a very remote area where the nearest water facility is about 80 minutes away under ideal conditions.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	This project area is within the Jefferson County CWPP and is also categorized as an ODFW Conservation Opportunity Area.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	Could not find information to address this criterium.			
Final Score		Out of 100	85	

Number of Panel Reviewer #2		Project Name	Robertson Juniper Treatment	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	15	
Reviewer Comments	juniper removal benefits for wildfire risk reduction note, although with more emphasis on ecological benefits and watershed health			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	moderate categorization / significant fire-fighting infrastructure benefits			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	2 parcels but one owner —possibly more with additional outreach? benefits to neighboring properties of this work			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	juniper removal, enhancement of wildlife habitat & watershed health			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	yes			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	outside ODF protection			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	yes			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	unspecified			

Final Score

Out of
100

85

Number of Panel Reviewer #3		Project Name	Robertson Juniper Treatment	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	20	
Reviewer Comments	Excellent description for the proposed treatment activities, clearly ties to reducing risk of high severity wildfires			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Moderate Wildfire Risk Class, but would implement a fuel break along a ridgetop road. Infrastructure includes a pump house			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	Treats one property, but could benefit others			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Good description of how project would enhance wildlife habitat			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Ties into previous efforts funded by NRCS			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	Appears that the remote nature of the property would make it difficult to respond to if there was a fire by the local RFPA, and neighbors under protected lands			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, several planning efforts noted			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	4	
Reviewer Comments	Application provides details for preferred treatment method (mastication) as it limits soil disturbance, allows for faster recovery.			
Final Score		Out of 100	84	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 4		Project Name	Robertson Juniper Treatment	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	9	
Reviewer Comments	The treatment prescriptions described within the Proposal will have an impact of reducing fire risk, the area is not a high-risk zone			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	9	
Reviewer Comments	Most of the area is within a moderate fire risk zone, however the land clearing and removal of juniper would provide some benefit.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	8	
Reviewer Comments	The primary return from the project goes to the single landowner.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	8	
Reviewer Comments	The project could provide some benefits to wildlife by opening access.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	6	
Reviewer Comments	Show limited collaboration between ODF and watershed councils & a local SWCD			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	4	
Reviewer Comments	Vulnerable populations are limited within the area			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	0	
Reviewer Comments	No forest management plan is addressed			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	2	
Reviewer Comments	There may be limited opportunity from the juniper			
Final Score		Out of 100	46	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 5		Project Name	Robertson Juniper Treatment	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	13	
Reviewer Comments	Treatment activities described but how future condition reduces high severity wildfire risk not articulated.			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	Creates fuel breaks along roadway/ridgetops and in wildfire risk moderate			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	Treats two properties, unclear if additional outreach would lead to additional landowners receiving treatment			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Good job articulating additional resource benefits (drought stress, h2O availability, wildlife)			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	References multiple additional funding sources by name, council and local SWCD involvement. Landowner placing water source for remote area as well.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	7	
Reviewer Comments	Remote and under protected area. Water source has ability to enhance community protection			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	7	
Reviewer Comments	CIS mentioned but which one? CWPP and ODFW conservation opportunity area.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	Non listed.			
Final Score		Out of 100	70	