

**Project Name**

Laurel Butte Fuels Reduction Project

**Contact Information**

[REDACTED] South Willamette Solutions  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**ODF District Representative**

[REDACTED]

**Treatment location**

To address challenges posed by wildfire, South Willamette Solutions (SWS), an Oakridge based nonprofit that manages the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC) and Oakridge Air, is working with partners to restore forests and create a fire adapted community.

Laurel Butte is a 1,000+ acre ridge that bisects Oakridge and Westfir that has private homes, private timberlands, forest service lands, and critical infrastructure such as public water supply and a state airport. Laurel Butte borders the cities of Westfir and Oakridge and 400 homes. This project proposes to treat 130 acres to reduce fuel loading and wildfire risk for the butte and surrounding communities. Five private qualified landowners have come together to request this proposal and many more forestland owners will benefit from this project. This project occurs in the “High Overall Watershed Risk” for its HUC-6 watershed.

**Description of Treatment Activities**

**In-kind:** Pre-implementation, SWFC, Oregon State University (OSU) and ODF will use best available science to plan restoration and wildfire risk reduction strategies. OSU will donate time to conduct a forest inventory and design a treatment plan that identifies priority areas and evaluates the most effective type of fuels reduction and restoration activities. Landowners will assist with clearing, thinning, and pruning work. Forest Service will conduct understory and pile burning on remaining units of the 2000 acre Oakridge Westfir Thinning and Fuels Reduction (OWTFR) project that surrounds the community and is adjacent to Laurel Butte. SWFC will conduct public outreach and provide collaborative capacity through the Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) to guide project progress.

**Contracted:** SWS will enter into a contracts with partners such as ODF or Inbound LLC and Northwest Youth Corps who have expressed interested and are available to complete the following work for approximately 130 acres: Implement fuels treatments to enhance fuel breaks along 1.5 miles of ridgetop roads, target highly-flammable species for removal, and increase tree spacing to disrupt canopy density and crown fire potential. Invasive blackberries and Scotch Broom will be targeted for removal to reduce fuels accumulation. Create shaded fuel breaks in strategic defensible locations by pruning 6' off the ground or 1/2 the canopy height for smaller trees to reduce ladder fuel density. This reduces risk of surface fire spreading to canopies, decreasing the chance of spot fires. Crews or masticators will treat strategic roadsides for invasive weeds with follow-up herbicide

application as according to best available ecology. Overstocked stands of mixed conifer in most need of treatment will be thinned to 12' density with an emphasis on maintaining fire-resistant trees based on species and age class. Trees under 6" dbh that are unnecessary to meet residual stocking will be prioritized for removal. Slash material will be either used for the Community Firewood Program, chipped or piled and burned.

### **Description of the anticipated benefit**

Laurel Butte is a priority treatment area to reduce wildfire risk to the community and surrounding forest. Oakridge ranks 54 of the top 152 communities at risk of wildfire in Oregon. Oakridge-Westfir is designated WUI with high wildfire risk under the Lane County CWPP because of the forest topography and frequent ignition events. Approximately 4,500 residents live in the Greater Oakridge-Westfir Area and City of Oakridge Firewise boundaries. 21% of people in Oakridge are senior citizens and 26.4% have a disability. 95% of students receive free or reduced lunch, 58% of ninth graders are on track to graduate and 72% of twelfth graders graduate on time. Oakridge has an abundance of older buildings, including five mobile home parks. Reducing hazardous fuels on Laurel Butte will reduce the wildfire risk to the community and surrounding forests.

This project will leverage ongoing similar projects and existing relationships. The SWFC IAC, including community leaders, agencies, nonprofit groups, forestry businesses and the general public, helped to design this project to connect to the surrounding OWTFR units. SWFC will work directly with the landowners and adjacent homeowners throughout the project to provide additional collaboration opportunities and track community firewise hours.

This project will donate any usable biomass to the Community Firewood Program (CFP), a collaborative project between the SWFC, City of Oakridge, and Inbound LLC, which provides affordable, seasoned firewood to the community at a subsidized rate for seniors, disabled and those on the home heating exempt list.

### **Timeline for implementation**

- Spring 2022: treatment plan developed; contracts awarded; in-kind and contractor work begins
- Summer 2022 - Winter 2023: fuels reduction and weed abatement continues; CFP collects useable slash
- Spring 2023: prescribed pile burning finalized
- June 15, 2023: project complete

### **Budget**

TOTAL REQUEST: \$299,942. ASK: \$266,800 contracted fuels reduction, weed abatement, and prescribed burning. \$5,875 SWS RARE Americorps member service time to coordinate landowners and public outreach. \$27,267 in indirect cost at the de minimis rate. MATCH: \$8779 Juniper High fuels reduction, \$7,265 from UO for RARE Americorps service. LEVERAGE: \$122,000 FS OWTFR prescribed burning, \$8,800 Skordahl property fuels reduction, \$2000 OSU Technical Assistance (TA), \$4,000 ODF TA, \$4000 SWFC TA. **This project is scalable.**

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

**Instructions:** Fill out blue-bordered boxes

Grant Agreement #/Project Name: # \_\_\_\_\_ / Laurel Butte Fuels Reduction Project

<b>Deliverables</b>	
Below are examples, replace with your projects quantified treatment activities (acres)	
	80 acres of pre commercial thinning, ladder fuels reduction, or shaded fuel breaks
	40 acres of weed abatement and chemical treatment
	1.5 miles of road treated for shaded fuel breaks (approx. 11 ac)
	Add deliverables as needed
<b>Treatment Footprint</b>	131 acres

Cost Category	Grant Request	Leverage (25% required)		Total Project Cost
		Match (if any)	Leverage (if any)	
1. Personnel	\$ 5,875.00	\$ 7,265.00	\$ 140,800.00	\$ 153,940.00
2. Fringe Benefits				\$ 0.00
3. Travel				\$ 0.00
4. Equipment				\$ 0.00
5. Supplies				\$ 0.00
6. Contractual	\$ 266,800.00	\$ 8,779.00		\$ 275,579.00
7. ODF (if applicable)				\$ 0.00
8. Indirect	\$ 27,267.00			\$ 27,267.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 299,942.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,044.00</b>	<b>\$ 140,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 456,786.00</b>

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. <b>Example:</b> 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	\$5875 for RARE Americorps to facilitate and coordinate homeowners
Travel	
Equipment	
Supplies	
Contractual Payments	
ODF (if Applicable)	
Leverage Sources	MATCH: \$8779 Juniper High fuels reduction, \$7,265 from UO for RARE Americorps service. LEVERAGE: \$122,000 FS OWTFR prescribed burning, \$8,800 Skordahl property fuels reduction, \$2000 OSU Technical Assistance (TA), \$4,000 ODF TA, \$4000 SWFC TA.
Indirect Costs	



# Oregon

## Department of Forestry

South Cascade District  
Eastern Lane Unit  
3150 Main St  
Springfield, OR, 97478-5800  
Phone: (541) 726-3588  
FAX: (541) 726-2501



*"STEWARDSHIP IN  
FORESTRY"*

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To the Proposal Committee,

I am writing this letter of support from the Oregon Department of Forestry for the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborate proposal for the Greater Westfir/Oakridge area.

Oregon Department of Forestry has been working closely with The Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative over the past several years to identify priority areas for treatment and to help develop prescriptions for treatment. The proposal area has been identified as one of the priority areas to treat for hazardous fuels given its location, proximity to the communities of Oakridge and Westfir and recent fire history. There have been several fires in the project area including 3 last fire season that were extinguished quickly. Under different conditions these fires could have been catastrophic to the communities and the landscape.

This project will help build upon other treatments that have been completed in the area and set the foundation for future work to be done. This will help to protect the communities from wildfire and make the landscape more resilient. Additionally, this project will help support the local work force through the use of contractors to implement the work.

If you have any questions regarding the support of this project, please feel free to reach out to me.

[REDACTED]  
ODF Eastern Lane  
3150 Main Street  
Springfield, Or. 97478  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
12/16/2021

**Date:** December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

To Oregon Department of Forestry Request for Proposals,  
Senate Bill 762 Landscape Resilience Program

I am writing this letter express the Middle Fork Ranger District's support for the Southern Willamette Forest Collaboratives Proposal for the greater Oakridge/Westfir area.

Fuels reduction on private lands in the Oakridge/Westfir area is an important aspect of the overall risk reduction to private property from the adverse effects of wildland fire. There have been several fires in this area on private and federal lands in the last several years. The Middle Fork Ranger District has worked on the Oakridge/Westfir Thinning and Fuels Reduction Project on surrounding Forest Service lands, completing approximate 2100 acres of commercial thinning, fuels reduction, and prescribed fire. Implementing fuels reduction on nearby private lands will provide a cross boundary approach to risk reduction.

The Middle Fork district has partnered with the South Willamette Forest Collaborative since 2014 to bring common sense solutions to land management planning through a collaborative process. The recent completion of Firewise assessments and plans for Greater Oakridge/Westfir and the City of Oakridge has been an important step for the community. This proposal provides a path forward to the next steps of getting fuels reduction work done on the ground. The objectives of this proposal, reducing hazardous fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface, and providing local employment opportunities have a clear benefit to the community. Please give this proposal strong consideration.

[Redacted signature block]

Sincerely,

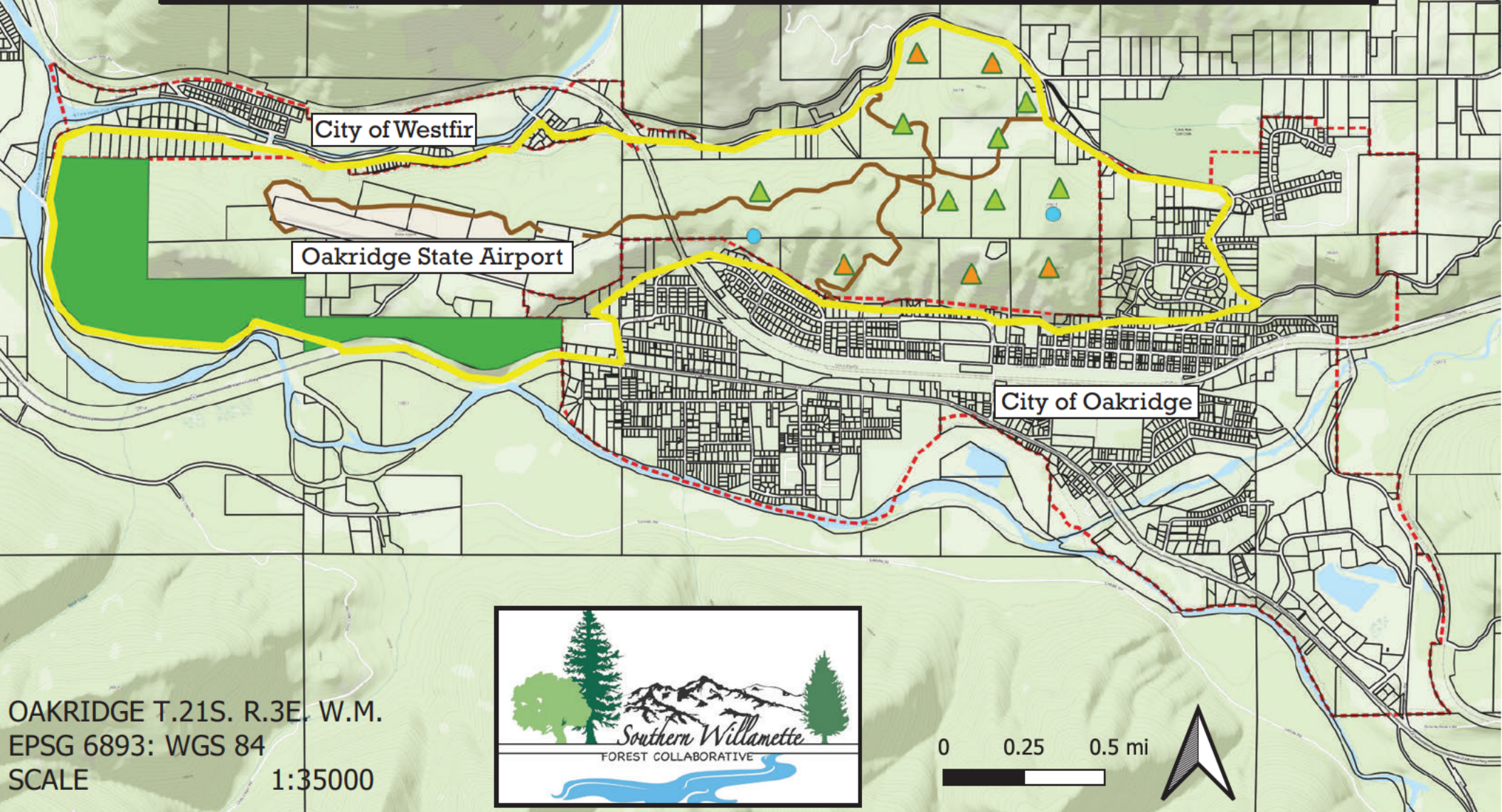
[Redacted signature]

*District Ranger*



# Laurel Butte Fuels Reduction Project (SWFC)

- Laurel Butte Project Boundary
- Lane County Tax Lots
- Committed Small Landowner Parcels
- Partner Private Landowners (Over 160 Acres)
- Back Roads
- Urban Growth Boundaries
- Water Tanks
- Forest Service Lands in Project Boundary



OAKRIDGE T.21S. R.3E. W.M.  
EPSG 6893: WGS 84  
SCALE 1:35000



0 0.25 0.5 mi



Number of Panel Reviewer #1		Project Name	SWS_Laurel Butte_SFPG Application 2022	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	17	
Reviewer Comments	130 acres: Implement fuels treatments to enhance fuel breaks along 1.5 miles of ridgetop roads, target highly-flammable species for removal, and increase tree spacing to disrupt canopy density and crown fire potential, prescribed burning. Overstocked stands of mixed conifer in most need of treatment will be thinned to 12' density with an emphasis on maintaining fire-resistant trees based on species and age class. Laurel Butte is a priority treatment area to reduce wildfire risk to the community and surrounding forest.			
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	18	
Reviewer Comments	Laurel Butte bisects Oakridge and Westfir that have 400 private homes, private timberlands, forest service lands, and critical infrastructure such as public water supply and a state airport. Create shaded fuel breaks in strategic defensible locations. This project occurs in the "High Overall Watershed Risk" for its HUC-6 watershed.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	Five landowners, and many more forestland owners will benefit from this project.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	6	
Reviewer Comments	Invasive blackberries and Scotch Broom will be targeted for removal to reduce fuels accumulation.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	The SWFC IAC, including community leaders, agencies, nonprofit groups, forestry businesses and the general public, helped to design this project to connect to the surrounding OWTFR units. SWFC will work directly with the landowners and adjacent homeowners throughout the project to provide additional collaboration opportunities			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	21% of people in Oakridge are senior citizens and 26.4% have a disability. 95% of students receive free or reduced lunch, 58% of ninth graders are on track to graduate and 72% of twelfth graders graduate on time.			
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	Lane County CWPP			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	4	
Reviewer Comments	This project will donate any usable biomass to the Community Firewood Program, a collaborative project between the SWFC, City of Oakridge, and Inbound LLC, which provides affordable, seasoned firewood to the community at a subsidized rate for seniors, disabled and those on the home heating exempt list.			
<b>Final Score</b>		Out of 100	<b>78</b>	



Number of Panel Reviewer # 2		Project Name	SWS-Dunning Road Small Forestland Fuels Reduction Program	
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	yes			
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	high risk, infrastructure			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	yes			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	invasive species noted			
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	adjacent community			
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	5	
Reviewer Comments	community firewood program			

**Final Score**

Out of  
100

**85**

Number of Panel Reviewer #3		Project Name	Laurel Butte Fuels Reduction	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	18	
Reviewer Comments	Very good details provided in the application, clear how treatments will reduce risk of high severity wildfire			
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	High Wildfire Risk Class and infrastructure protection noted			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Multiple			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Treatments will also involve invasive species control, though application does not note responsibility for maintenance.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	USFS treatment is adjacent to project, application would benefit by including it on the map.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, good discussion of local demographics			
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	Lane County CWPP			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	Community firewood program			
<b>Final Score</b>		Out of 100	<b>93</b>	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 4		Project Name	Laurel Butte Fuels Reduction Project	
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	The proposal describes a process by which it plans to create the treatments and process. However, of the 10 landowners identified to participate no specific descriptions of treatment are identified.			
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	The project will protect infrastructure in and around the airport and roadways			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, the project is intended to treat 10 properties			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Treatments are being designed to reduce the fire risk for the community, with a reference to treat damaged trees and invasive species.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	A strong collaborative approach is described			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	The population of Oakridge has a population base that is deserving of the project and the protection it can provide.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	6	
Reviewer Comments	The proposal references this high-risk area under an HUC6. However, no direct forest planes are identified for the 10 landowners.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	The forest by products will be made available to the city of Oakridge			
<b>Final Score</b>		Out of 100	<b>85</b>	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 5		Project Name	Laurel Butte	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	17	
Reviewer Comments	Clearly describes treatment activities with metrics. Discusses future condition improvements			
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	Project creates shaded fuel breaks in strategic areas, adjacent to community, risk class is high. Further description of benefit to community/structures would have earned more points			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	5 properties, Map does a good job displaying strategic location of this project in relation to adjacent properties			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	9	
Reviewer Comments	Overstocked stands but does not mention drought or insects and diseases. Does target invasives with a maintenance plan			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	9	
Reviewer Comments	Good demonstration of adjacent work, lists amounts, and displays these on map. Youth Corps and additional partners engaged.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	One of the few applications that quantified the vulnerability of the community. Community wood donation too.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	In a high risk area of CWPP, but how do treatment activities align with CWPP priority action items and areas?			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	3	
Reviewer Comments	States any usable biomass will be used for Community firewood program. Does not quantify/estimate amount			
<b>Final Score</b>		Out of 100	<b>81</b>	