

2021 Small Forestlands Grand Program Proposal

Project Name: Boulder Creek Ranch Fuels Treatment

Contact Information

Project Sponsor

North Fork John Day Watershed Council
PO Box 444
Long Creek, OR 97856

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Landowner

[REDACTED]
Boulder Creek Ranch

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Treatment Location

The project will take place in a 31-acre ponderosa pine stand on the Boulder Creek Ranch (BCR). BCR, Section 23 T10S R33E, is 160 acres in total and takes in approximately 1 mile of Big Boulder Creek, a tributary of the Middle Fork of the John Day. The wildfire risk class for the stand is "benefit", but given the density of the relatively young stand as well as the low canopy base height, combined with the probability of flames over 4 feet at the site, a fire occurring under the current stand conditions would likely be stand-replacing. Although the area is not classified as very high risk, it is classified with a high likelihood of a fire becoming severe. For this reason, treatment of the stand is seen as highly necessary.

The project area burned during the Summit Fire in 1996 and was replanted in 1997, the stand is now 24 years old with both a highly contiguous canopy and ladder fuels reaching near the ground putting it at high risk of crown fire.

Description of Treatment Activities

Mechanical fuels treatment will be performed on approximately 31 acres of even aged (single age class) ponderosa pine. Fuels reduction and fire risk will be achieved in 3 primary ways: thinning of the stand to a spacing of 16-18 feet between trees, pruning of residual trees up to eight feet base canopy height (with 40-50% of the live canopy maintained), and chipping of residues with the resultant chips being spread across the stand. The majority of the treatment will be performed by a contractor with planning and certification to be done by NFJWC staff.

Priority 1: The treatments will serve to reduce the severity of wildfire and its ability to move quickly through the project area. Thinning will reduce canopy continuity reducing the likelihood of crown fire spreading and/or running. Pruning will increase crown canopy height reducing the likelihood of fire spreading to the canopy of the stand. The Wildfire Risk Explorer classifies the area as likely to have flames up to 4 feet in length meaning raising crown canopy height will reduce crown fire risk. Chipping of residues will serve to reduce finer fuels in the understory, which will serve to slow the spread and reduce the severity of a potential wildfire.

Priority 3: While the treatment is confined to one property, this property is surrounded by the Malheur National Forest on three sides and shares its southern border with the Dunstan Conservation Area,

owned and managed by the Confederate Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS). Thinning in the area combined with the conditions on the rest of the property make will make BCR a type of fuel break within this portion of the Malheur National Forest and will benefit both the forest and the tribally owned property very nearby.

Priority 4: The project will also improve forage and habitat availability for elk and mule deer both of which are known to frequent the property near the treatment area as it is close to Boulder Creek, an important year round water source. Additionally, the proposed treatment would serve to release resources to the remaining trees after thinning is complete. This is particularly important in that it will increase water availability to retained trees, ameliorating drought effects and shoring the stand up against potential insect invasion or disease.

Description of Potential Benefit

Priority 6: The property lays well outside of any structural fire protection district in an area that is exceedingly isolated. Access can be an issue for the BCR and the nearest unincorporated towns are Bates, at 12 miles away and Galena which is 9 miles away. The nearest established services are over 40 miles away. In this case the landowner is completely surrounded by public (federal) or tribal land and so this treatment would serve to lower risk in an area that is otherwise underserved and/or under-protected and surrounded by conservation land and habitat. Given the property's isolation and location within other conservation lands, treatment of the project area would render the entire property (160 acres) into a large fuel break in the middle of forested lands that would help to slow the spread of a potential wildfire.

Priority 7: The property is within the Middle Fork John Day Conservation Opportunity Area and so this treatment will serve to strengthen forest resilience in a priority area.

Timeline

- April-May 2022: Planning, pre-project photos and UAV monitoring, bid process
- May-November 2022: Treatment implementation (we don't estimate treatment will take this long but want to allow a large window in case of a long or severe fire season)
- November 2022: Inspection and certification, Post project photos and UAV Monitoring

Budget

\$28,394 is being requested for this grant with a total project cost of \$35,545 with \$7,151 in match. \$1,655 (5%) will go to the project sponsor to cover staff time and travel as well as \$2,581 (9% of overall ask, 10% of total direct costs) for indirect expenses. 86% of the total project cost will go directly towards fuels treatment with 90% of the grant request going directly to stand treatment. Leverage/match sources include:

- NFJWC Staff time for project development (30 hrs at \$37/hr) = \$1,110
- NFJWC Staff time for contract and fiscal administration (20 hrs at \$45/hr)= \$900
- NFJWC Travel to project site for project development (70 Miles at \$0.585/mile)=\$41
- Boulder Creek Ranch (Landowner) commitment of \$3,100 towards contractual payments for stand treatment
- NFJWC UAV monitoring (2 flights at \$1,000/flight)= \$2,000

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

Instructions: Fill out blue-bordered boxes

Grant Agreement #/Project Name: _____ # _____ / Boulder Creek Ranch Fuels Treatment

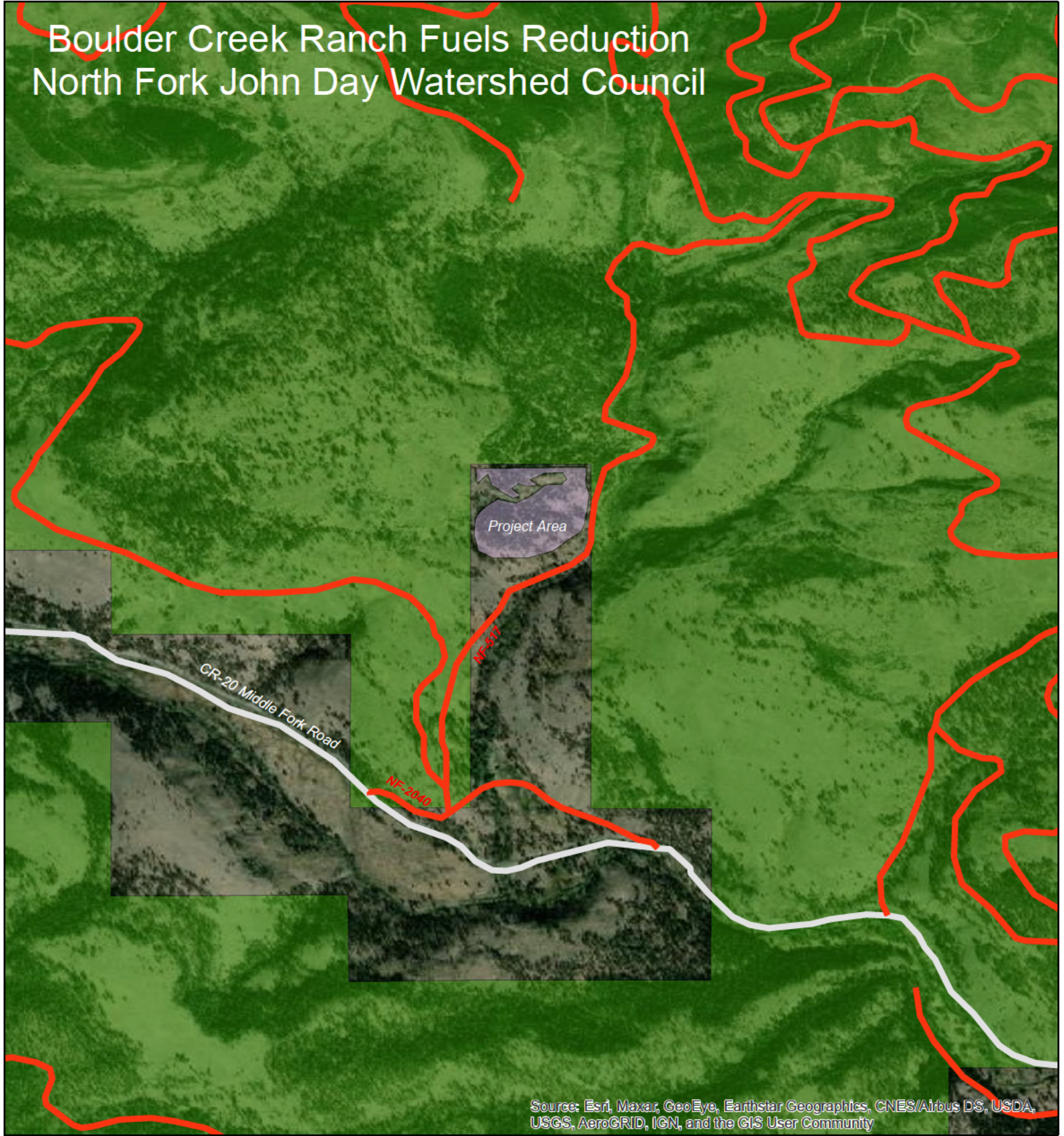
Deliverables	
Below are examples, replace with your projects quantified treatment activities (acres)	
1	31 Acres of ponderosa pine thinned to a spacing of 16-18 feet
2	31 Acres of pruning up to 8 feet
3	31 Acres of chipping and spreading of residue/slash
Treatment Footprint	31 Acres

Cost Category	Grant Request	Leverage (25% required)		Total Project Cost
		Match (if any)	Leverage (if any)	
1. Personnel	\$ 1,480.00	\$ 2,010.00		\$ 3,490.00
2. Fringe Benefits				\$ 0.00
3. Travel	\$ 175.50	\$ 41.00		\$ 216.50
4. Equipment				\$ 0.00
5. Supplies				\$ 0.00
6. Contractual	\$ 24,158.00	\$ 5,100.00		\$ 29,258.00
7. ODF (if applicable)				\$ 0.00
8. Indirect	\$ 2,581.00			\$ 2,581.00
Total	\$ 28,394.50	\$ 7,151.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 35,545.50





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	Restoration Project Manager 40 hrs at \$37/hr for treatment planning, contract development, consultation during treatment, and inspection and certification = \$1,480 total. Restoration Project Manager 30 hrs at \$37/hr for project development and landowner consultation as match. NFJDWC Contract and Fiscal Management (admin personnel) 20 hrs at \$45/hr as match.
Travel	300 Miles (60 miles round trip from NFJDWC office to Project site for 5 trips) at \$0.585/mile for project planning, consultation with contractor and inspection and certification= \$175.50 70 miles (10 miles extra to go through John Day due to road conditions) to project site for initial project consultation with landowner at \$0.585/mile= \$41.00 as match
Equipment	
Supplies	
Contractual Payments	\$8,100 for contractor to perform non-commercial thin on 31 acres of medium/heavy ponderosa pine at \$259/acre. \$5,000 requested with landowner covering \$3,100 as match. \$8,835 for contractor to prune 31 acres of residual trees up to 8 feet at \$285/acre (light) \$10,323 for contractor to chip slash/residue from 31 acre thinning and pruning treatment at \$333/acre (Treatment Rates based on ODF Landowner Financial Assistance Manual - Project Components and Rates) \$2,000 at \$1,000/flight for pre and post treatment UAV monitoring to be performed by NFJDWC as match
ODF (if Applicable)	
Leverage Sources	-NFJDWC Staff time for project development (30 hrs at \$37/hr) = \$1,110 -NFJDWC Staff time for contract and fiscal administration (20 hrs at \$45/hr)= \$900 -NFJDWC Travel to project site for project development (70 Miles at \$0.585/mile)=\$41 -Boulder Creek Ranch (landowner) commitment of \$3,100 towards contractual payments for stand treatment -NFJDWC UAV monitoring (2 flights at \$1,000/flight)= \$2,000
Indirect Costs	\$2,581 for indirect costs for NFJDWC (10% federally accepted de minimis)

Boulder Creek Ranch Fuels Reduction North Fork John Day Watershed Council

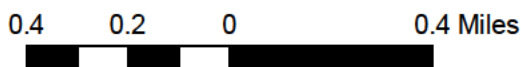


Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

-  USFS Roads
-  CR 20 (Middle Fork Road)
-  Malheur National Forest
-  Project Area

Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree

Legal Description of Project Site:
SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 Section 23 T10S R33E



Number of Panel Reviewer #1		Project Name	Boulder Creek Ranch 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	31 acres: Thinning will reduce canopy continuity reducing the likelihood of crown fire spreading and/or running. Pruning will increase crown canopy height reducing the likelihood of fire spreading to the canopy of the stand. The Wildfire Risk Explorer classifies the area as likely to have flames up to 4 feet in length meaning raising crown canopy height will reduce crown fire risk. Chipping of residues will serve to reduce finer fuels in the understory, which will serve to slow the spread and reduce the severity of a potential 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	8	
Reviewer Comments	The wildfire risk class for the stand is "benefit". Although the area is not classified as very high risk, it is classified with a high likelihood of a fire becoming severe. For this reason, treatment of the stand is seen as highly necessary. The project will render the entire property (160 acres) into a large fuel break in the middle of forested lands that would help to slow the spread of a potential wildfire.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	The treatment is confined to one property.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	The project will improve forage and habitat availability for elk and mule deer. Release resources to the remaining trees after thinning is complete, increasing water availability to retained trees, ameliorating drought effects and shoring the stand up against potential insect invasion or disease.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	This property is surrounded by the Malheur National Forest and the Dunstan Conservation Area, owned and managed by the Confederate Tribes of the Warm Springs. The project will make a fuel break within this portion of the Malheur National Forest and will benefit both the forest and the tribally owned property very nearby.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	The property lays well outside of any structural fire protection district in an area that is exceedingly isolated.			
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	The property is within the Middle Fork John Day Conservation Opportunity Area.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	Could not find where this criterium was addressed.			
Final Score		Out of 100	76	

Number of Panel Reviewer #2		Project Name	Boulder Creek Ranch 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	15	
Reviewer Comments	PCT of 31 acres—well-argued as more broadly beneficial			
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	0	
Reviewer Comments	none of these really apply			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	well argued for potential benefit to neighboring tribal and NF land			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	Enhancement of habitat.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	0	
Reviewer Comments	Not evident			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	isolated, underprotected property			
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	Middle Fork John Day Conservation Opportunity Area			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	not indicated			

Final Score

Out of
100

50

Number of Panel Reviewer #3		Project Name	Boulder Creek Ranch 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	Good description of intended activities, and details how activity would reduce high severity wildfire on the property			
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	0	
Reviewer Comments	Appears not to meet this priority			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	0	
Reviewer Comments	One property treated			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Application notes benefits for elk and mule deer.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	0	
Reviewer Comments	Not noted in application			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Isolated property			
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	Property is in conservation opportunity area			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	noted in application			
Final Score		Out of 100	55	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 4		Project Name	Boulder Creek Ranch 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	A positive project to reduce fuel hazards by thinning and pruning a young Ponderosa pine stand			
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	The project is within an area that has had forest fires in it's past and has the potential for future fires			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	The project is within federal forest and Indian tribal lands			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	The treat is intended to reduce fuel loads within a young stand			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	6	
Reviewer Comments	The treatment has the potential to provide benefits to federal lands and reduce fire risk			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	7	
Reviewer Comments	The project is in an isolated area with limited access and fire protection			
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 Plan was mentioned			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	3	
Reviewer Comments	The project will chip residual debris and spread throughout stand			
Final Score		Out of 100	64	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 5		Project Name	Boulder Creek Ranch	
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	Provides three measurable ways high severity risk will be reduced			
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	5	
Reviewer Comments	Creates shaded fuel break,			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	Treats one property, provides value and added protection to 3 owners			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Enhances wildlife habitat, improves drought resiliency and thins to reduce potential insect outbreak			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	4	
Reviewer Comments	Treatment benefits adjacent properties and resource concerns, but does not list previous or planned adjacent treatments			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	Under protected property that is extremely isolated. No mention of the landowner status receiving treatment			
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	Mentions a conservation opportunity area by name			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	None listed			
Final Score		Out of 100	59	