

Fuels Reduction in the Applegate and Williams Valleys

Sponsor Contact Information

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Treatment Location

The project sites are located in Josephine and Jackson Counties, along Williams Creek and the Applegate River, both ODFW priority one streams. Jackson County sites are spread across eight separate properties along Highway 238 and the neighboring Bridgepoint Irrigation Ditch. Highway 238 is an extremely important transportation artery for the region, especially in times of emergency. These sites are in the second highest wildfire risk category, as determined by the Oregon Explorer Wildfire Risk Tool. The Josephine County sites are situated on two adjoining properties on either bank of Williams Creek, between Williams Highway and Powell Creek Road. This region of Josephine County is in the highest wildfire risk category. The properties addressed by the project are privately owned, contain high quality riparian and aquatic habitats that are being negatively affected by extensive blackberry growth, and are experiencing increased tree mortality due to recent drought conditions and expanded insect activity.

Description of Treatment Activities

The treatment priorities of this project will be two-fold, the removal of invasive species and the cutting of standing dead trees and other fuels on the landscape. The treatment activities would occur on ten separate properties, along two important highways, and would benefit two rural communities with limited firefighting resources. The two Williams Creek properties have seven acres of blackberries to be treated. The Highway 238 sites have sixty acres of blackberries and seventy acres of woodlands to be treated.

Armenian Blackberries are the most problematic non-native plant in the region, when factoring in its contribution to the risk of large fires. Hedges of blackberries propagate throughout local riparian areas and degrade the habitats therein. These thickets of berries contain large amounts of dead, dry canes and thick layers of leaf litter, making them “wicks” that can carry fires directly to homes and communities. Recent regional fires, such as the Alameda Fire, have demonstrated just how dangerous and destructive that these clusters of blackberries can be.

Multiple mechanical removal methodologies will likely be needed to treat blackberries, due to the amount of acreage to be treated, the window of time to complete the work, and the busy schedules of local contractors. Wherever possible, brush mowers or excavators with brush head attachments will be utilized to treat the blackberries. In harder to reach areas, weed eaters will be used to mulch the canes to the ground. After the project is completed, the property owners would take over the maintenance of the blackberries.

Drought and insect damage has resulted in increased tree mortality locally, adding more dry fuels to a landscape that is already overloaded, having not burned in decades. The standing dead trees pose an obvious fire threat to structures and roadways. Thinning out the crowded smaller trees and brush would reduce the risk posed by “ladder fuels” and the likelihood of a fast-moving brush fire carrying through the understory. Chainsaws, pole saws, and hand-piling would be used to accomplish this work. Materials would then be piled to be burned or masticated at a later date.

Description of the Anticipated Benefit

The proposed work on Williams Creek would maximize the benefits of an OWEB Small Grant riparian restoration project planned for the same properties, the application is pending. The OWEB project is focused on the riparian area, therefore, additional funds from ODF would be used to expand the restoration efforts, including the upland areas. A wildfire went through this area a few years ago and threatening several homes, and the property owners are very supportive of wildfire risk mitigation efforts. The Highway 238 sites along the Applegate River are located just downstream of two restoration APWC projects. These projects are part of a multi-year effort to convert a BLM seed nursery into a recreation site and improve habitat along Williams Creek, including extensive invasive species removal, dead tree and brush reduction, and riparian restoration. Extending this work with ODF funds would build the progress that has been made to this point, at least thirty acres of blackberries have been treated to this point by APWC. The rural communities of Applegate and Williams are centered around small-scale agriculture, have populations that tend to be older than surrounding areas, and are reliant on a volunteer fire department to protect these far flung areas.

The Williams Community Forest Project is a Conservation Implementation Strategy area, under the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Jackson and Josephine Counties have Integrated Fire Plans.

Blackberries and other fuels will be mulched onsite, and that mulch will be utilized as a ground cover to reduce erosion and inhibit weed growth.

Timeline

- Spring 2022: solicit bids from contractors and coordinate work with landowners
- Summer 2022: begin treatment of fuels, first invoice, and project update
- Winter 2022: pile cut trees and brush that is too large to be mulched, continue fuel treatment as weather allows
- Spring 2023: continue treatment of fuels and retreat areas affected by regrowth
- Summer 2023: Final inspection of progress, reporting and final invoice for ODF

Budget

APWC is requesting \$163,917 to implement 135 acres of fuels reduction. This amount would cover the total cost to treat the fuels on those 135 acres. The personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, and supplies cost for the project would total \$11,870. There are currently no service provider (ODF or OSU) assistance costs, though we will coordinate with Herb Johson where practical.

APWC has an ongoing, large-scale (\$700,000) restoration project on the old BLM seed nursery in Provolt. Over 30 acres of blackberries have been treated repeatedly at the site, representing over \$100,000 of the project budget. That \$100,000 of fuels reduction work will be used as leverage for this project.

The Williams Creek site is also the location of an OWEB small grant for \$14,500 that will add to the leverage amount.

Total leverage amount: \$114,500

Total Project Cost: \$163,917

Percent leverage: 70%

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

Instructions: Fill out blue-bordered boxes

Grant Agreement #/Project Name: _____ # _____ / Fuels Reduction in the Applegate and Williams Valleys

Deliverables	
Below are examples, replace with your projects quantified treatment activities (acres)	
1	70 acres of non-commercial thinning and piling
2	65 acres of blackberry removal and mulching
3	7 acres of riparian fuel reduction
4	12 acres of infrastructure protected, Bridgepoint Irrigation Ditch and irrigation infrastructure
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
Treatment Footprint	135 acres

Cost Category	Grant Request	Leverage (25% required)		Total Project Cost
		Match (if any)	Leverage (if any)	
1. Personnel	\$ 9,600.00			\$ 9,600.00
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,920.00			\$ 1,920.00
3. Travel	\$ 350.00			\$ 350.00
4. Equipment	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
5. Supplies	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
6. Contractual	\$ 139,905.00			\$ 139,905.00
7. ODF (if applicable)	\$ 0.00			\$ 0.00
8. Indirect	\$ 12,142.00			\$ 12,142.00
Total	\$ 163,917.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 163,917.00

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

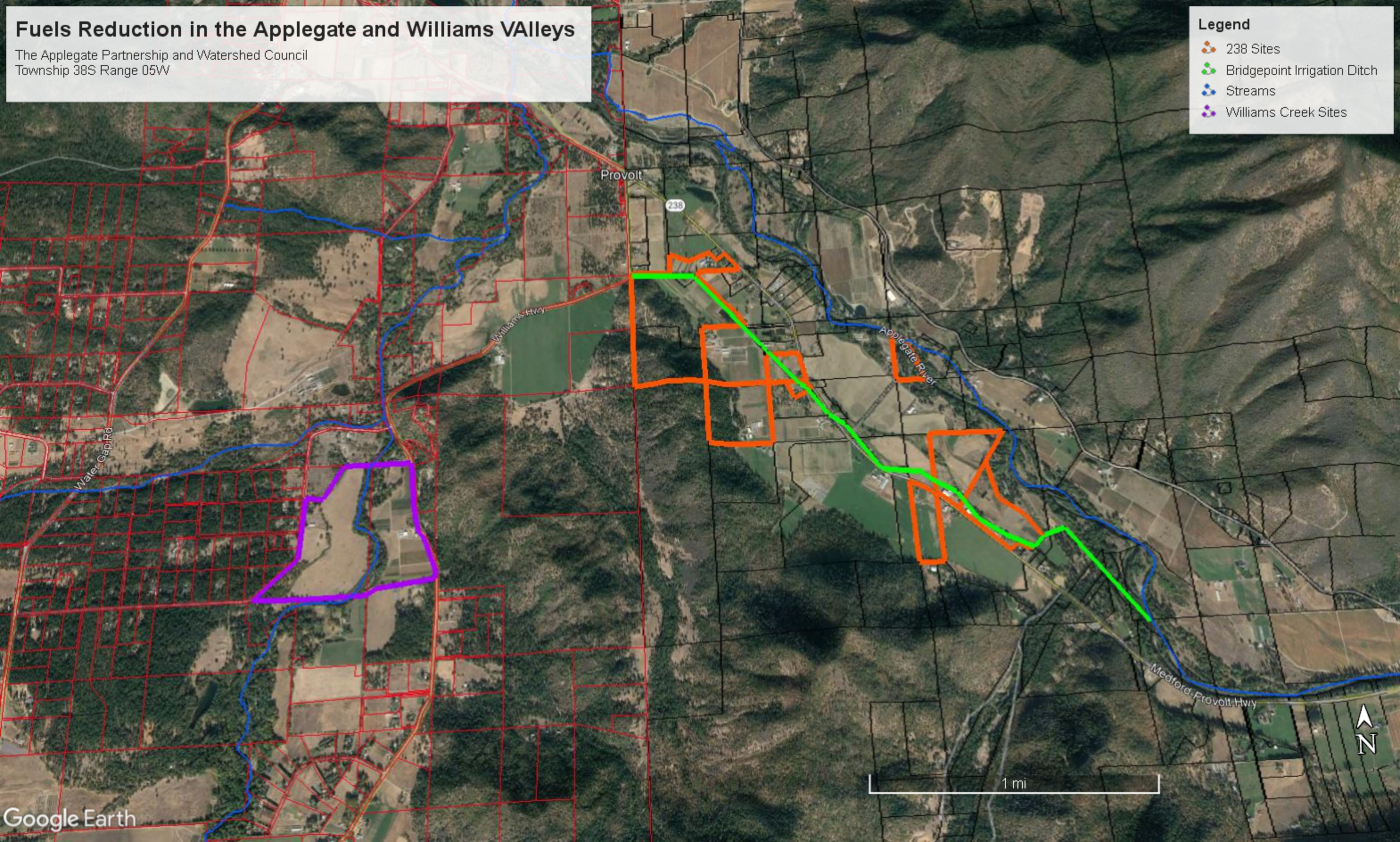
For each line item	Detail by position or item cost, rate, number of units, and subtotals. Tie costs to Deliverables. Example: Personnel and Fringe (\$1,480 and \$740=\$2,220) for 1 Ecologist working 40 hours @ \$37/hour to treatment plan 100 acres of fuel treatments
Personnel & Fringe	APWC Staff for landowner technical assistance and engagement, and project management of the 135 acre fuels reduction project. 160 hours @ \$60/hour, Personnel and Fringe (\$9600 and \$1920=\$11520)
Travel	Limited mileage will be used for LO Engagement and project management by APWC Staff. Average of 30 RT miles and 20 trips to communicate with landowners. 40x20x\$0.585=\$350
Equipment	N/A
Supplies	N/A
Contractual Payments	N/A
ODF (if Applicable)	Where practical we will partner with ODF to provide technical assistance and implementation services. We will coordinate with Herb Johnson.
Leverage Sources	The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council has an ongoing \$700,000 restoration project on the old BLM seed orchard in Provolt. Over \$100,000 of the project budget has been spent on the elimination of blackberries and other fuels on the BLM property. The restoration project on BLM land is located less than one half-mile from the proposed Highway 238 project sites, and borders both Williams Creek and the Applegate River. There is also a \$14,500 OWEB small grant riparian restoration project that will be implemented within the year at the same location on Williams Creek as the proposed Williams Site for this project. Total leverage funds \$114,500 (70% leverage)
Indirect Costs	Indirect costs calculated at 8% of the direct cost rate. Direct Cost \$151,775 Indirect Cost @ 8% = \$12,142 Total project cost = \$163,917

Fuels Reduction in the Applegate and Williams Valleys

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council
Township 38S Range 05W

Legend

- 238 Sites
- Bridgepoint Irrigation Ditch
- Streams
- Williams Creek Sites



Number of Panel Reviewer #1		Project Name	Applegate and Williams Valley 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	8	
Reviewer Comments	135 acres: Non-commercial thinning, piling, mastication; blackberry removal and mulching; riparian fuel reduction; infrastructure protected. Treatment activities would occur on ten separate properties, along two important highways, and would benefit two rural communities with limited firefighting resources			
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	Two properties are in the highest wildfire risk category and 8 properties are in the second highest. 12 acres of infrastructure protected, Bridgepoint Irrigation Ditch and irrigation infrastructure. Highway 238 is an extremely important transportation artery for the region, especially in times of emergency.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	8	
Reviewer Comments	10 properties			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	The properties contain high quality riparian and aquatic habitats that are being negatively affected by extensive blackberry growth that will be removed, and are experiencing increased tree mortality due to recent drought conditions and expanded insect activity. A wildfire went through this area a few years ago.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	The Highway 238 sites along the Applegate River are located just downstream of two restoration APWC projects. These projects are part of a multi-year effort to convert a BLM seed nursery into a recreation site and improve habitat along Williams Creek.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	4	
Reviewer Comments	The rural communities of Applegate and Williams have populations that tend to be older than surrounding areas, and are reliant on a volunteer fire department to protect these far flung areas.			
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 Williams Community Forest Project is a Conservation Implementation Strategy area, under the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Jackson and Josephine Counties have Integrated Fire Plans.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	2	
Reviewer Comments	Blackberries and other fuels will be mulched onsite, and that mulch will be utilized as a ground cover to reduce erosion and inhibit weed growth.			
Final Score		Out of 100	67	

Number of Panel Reviewer #2		Project Name	Fuels Reduction in Applegate & Williams Valley	
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	A little unclear who will be doing the actual work.			
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	2 highways, high risk class			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	10 properties			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Addresses invasive species, drought & insect damage			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Intersection of pending riparian restoration grant, in addition to previous riparian work.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	older, rural communities with limited (volunteer) fire support			
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	3	
Reviewer Comments	mulch			

Final Score

Out of
100

93

Number of Panel Reviewer #3		Project Name	Applegate and Williams Valley 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	Yes, although not clear on how gains will be maintained when it comes to blackberry removal (they tend to grow back without a lot of vigilance)			
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	Yes			
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	12	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, but see above on blackberry control			
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	8	
Reviewer Comments	It seems so, referencing reliance on volunteer fire department for 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	5	
Reviewer Comments	Using material onsite as mulch			
Final Score		Out of 100	90	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 4		Project Name	Applegate and Williams Valley 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 area and needs for project work			
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 more committed to roadside and riparian projects			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Focus on limited ownership in need of assistance			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	This is an area in need of site work and fires protection			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	Working with 10 identified properties and neighbors in rural area			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	9	
Reviewer Comments	No direct reference to vulnerable populations, but is a rural area in need of assistance			
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 Landowner plan's identified			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	No direct reference to forest products			
Final Score		Out of 100	69	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 5		Project Name	Applegate and Williams Valleys	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	12	
Reviewer Comments	Mentions thinning, but not sure if this is a wildfire risk treatment or invasive species treatment, no mention of ladder fuels other than blackberries			
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 risk, along highway, but not sure if it is a shaded fuel break or invasive species treatment			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Lists 8-9 pre-identified landowners, with treatment specifications listed an identified on map			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	Mentions drought, invasive species, insect damage, with standing dead, does not quantify the severity of these resource impacts			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	Lists and displays past treatments and displayed them on the map, not sure how projects relate to each-other, other than invasive species treatment			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	4	
Reviewer Comments	Mentions “older community members, no indication if landowners receiving funds are perceived vulnerable.			
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	Lists a conservation implementation strategy area and local fire plan, but how do proposed activities further the CIS?			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	No mention of how cut non-commercial material will be utilized.			
Final Score		Out of 100	69	