

# Oregon Department of Forestry—2021 Small Forestland Grant Program

**Project Name:** Hughes Forestland Management

## Contact Information

- **Sponsor:** Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (Grant SWCD)

- [REDACTED]

## Treatment Location

- The project area is located on Harper Creek approximately 2.5 miles south of Mount Vernon, Oregon. The property is 364 acres, owned by [REDACTED]. The treatment area is the southernmost 118 acres of the tax lot. The treatment area is 1.25 miles from the Malheur National Forest (MNF). The approximate center point of the treatment area is 44.374163, -119.121245.
- The John Day Basin HUC\_6, 170702011004
- The project is also located in the Mount Vernon priority area of the 2021 Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the Mount Vernon community identified in the 2020 Forest Action Plan (FAP) – Communities at Risk (CAR).
- See Map “Hughes Forestland Management”

## Description of Treatment Activities

- Proposed treatment includes 118 Acres of Juniper Removal (completed by contractor), 118 Acres of Slash Piling (completed by the landowner), 118 Acres of Rejuvra Annual Grass Treatment (completed by contractor), and 34 Acres of Conifer Pruning (Completed By landowner). Juniper removal will consist of mechanical and hand cutting to the Grant SWCD/NRCS: Blue Mountains Vegetative Health Initiative (BMVHI)- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) (2017-2021) specifications. Mechanical and hand piling of juniper and conifer slash into piles according to BMVHI-RCPP specifications. Rejuvra treatment will be an aerial application that targets annual grasses such as Madusahead, Cheat Grass, and Ventenata. Pruning will be done concurrently with BMVHI-RCPP specifications.
- The project activities look to accomplish two major aspects: reduce the risk of high severity wildfires and promote sustainable forest health. To reduce the risk of high severity wildfires, the project will create defensible spaces around infrastructure, reduce stand density, reduce hazardous fuels, and support all fire-resistant landscapes. When possible, fuel breaks shall be created adjacent to property boundaries to slow fire spreading. Removing the juniper within the forest will reduce the overall ladder fuels, stocking rate, and density while also reducing competition for resources. The treatment will promote sustainable forest health by removing invasive species and reducing resource competition. The treatment in the grassland ecosystem will reduce the risk of high severity fires from spreading to or from the forest. 34 Acres of conifer pruning will allow for the remaining conifers to resist any fires, by reducing ladder fuels. Slash piling will congregate slash from juniper removal and conifer pruning into manageable piles. Due to time constraints, the piles will be burned or removed by the landowner after the completion of the grant.

- The proposed project activities are also consistent with fuels reduction efforts by the NRCS, Grant County CWPP (October 2021), MFN, Bureau of Land Management, John Day Basin Partnership, and the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District. Specifically, BMVHI- RCPP (2017-2021) for non-commercial thinning and juniper removal and NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

## **Description of the Anticipated Benefit**

- Grant County’s forestlands both, public and private, have become overstocked and have experienced fire suppression, reoccurring droughts, and natural challenges such as weather and steep topography that hinder treatment. These factors have led to increased fire frequency, size, and proximity to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities. The project will look to address issues for the landowners to create defensible space and looks to continue efforts from similar projects within the area.
- The project falls within the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Priority 2 Area, which focuses on fuel reduction processes such as non-commercial thinning and Juniper removal. The project is also located in the Mount Vernon priority areas outlined in the 2021 Grant CWPP and supports one 2020 FAP – CAR.
- The project is 1.25 Miles from the MNF in Grant County, roughly 2.5 miles from the town of Mount Vernon, Oregon. Grant County’s population has been declining since the late 90s. With the population decline, Grant County is serving fewer citizens, reducing the taxable population, and supporting a higher population over the age of 65 (31.4%). Grant County’s poverty level (13.9%) is higher than the Oregon average (11%), the county also has a median household income of \$44,712.00, the second-lowest in the state (concurrent with 2020 Census information). The project benefits MNF’s land by reducing the risk of high-severity wildfires, creating fire breaks, lowering health implications from fires, and improving overall forest health.

## **Timeline**

- **Juniper Cutting** February 2022-Early May 2022
- **Slash Piling** May 2022-June 2023
- **Conifer Pruning** February 2022-Early May 2022
- **Rejuvra Treatment** Late July-Early October 2022
- **Invoices Complete and Sent** June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **Budget**

- The leverage source is in-kind labor from the landowners, [REDACTED] for slash piling on 118 acres @ \$114.21/acre and 34 acres of conifer pruning @ \$178.63/acre, totaling \$19,550.20. All leverage rates are based on NRCS EQIP rates.
- Overall project cost (\$52,130.40). The total grant funds requested for the project are \$32580.20. Personnel to Grant Administration, Project Management and Reporting (7.4%), Contractual (84%), travel (.2%), and Fringe Benefits (Indirect, 8.4%).
- Personnel (\$2390.24) and Fringe Benefit (Indirect, \$2738.42); Travel (\$67.28); Contractual (\$27384.26); see budget spreadsheet for descriptions of costs. Contractual cost based on NRCS EQIP rates.

**Budget Worksheet**

Instructions: Fill out blue-bordered boxes

Grant Agreement #/Project Name:

#

/ Hughes Forestland Management

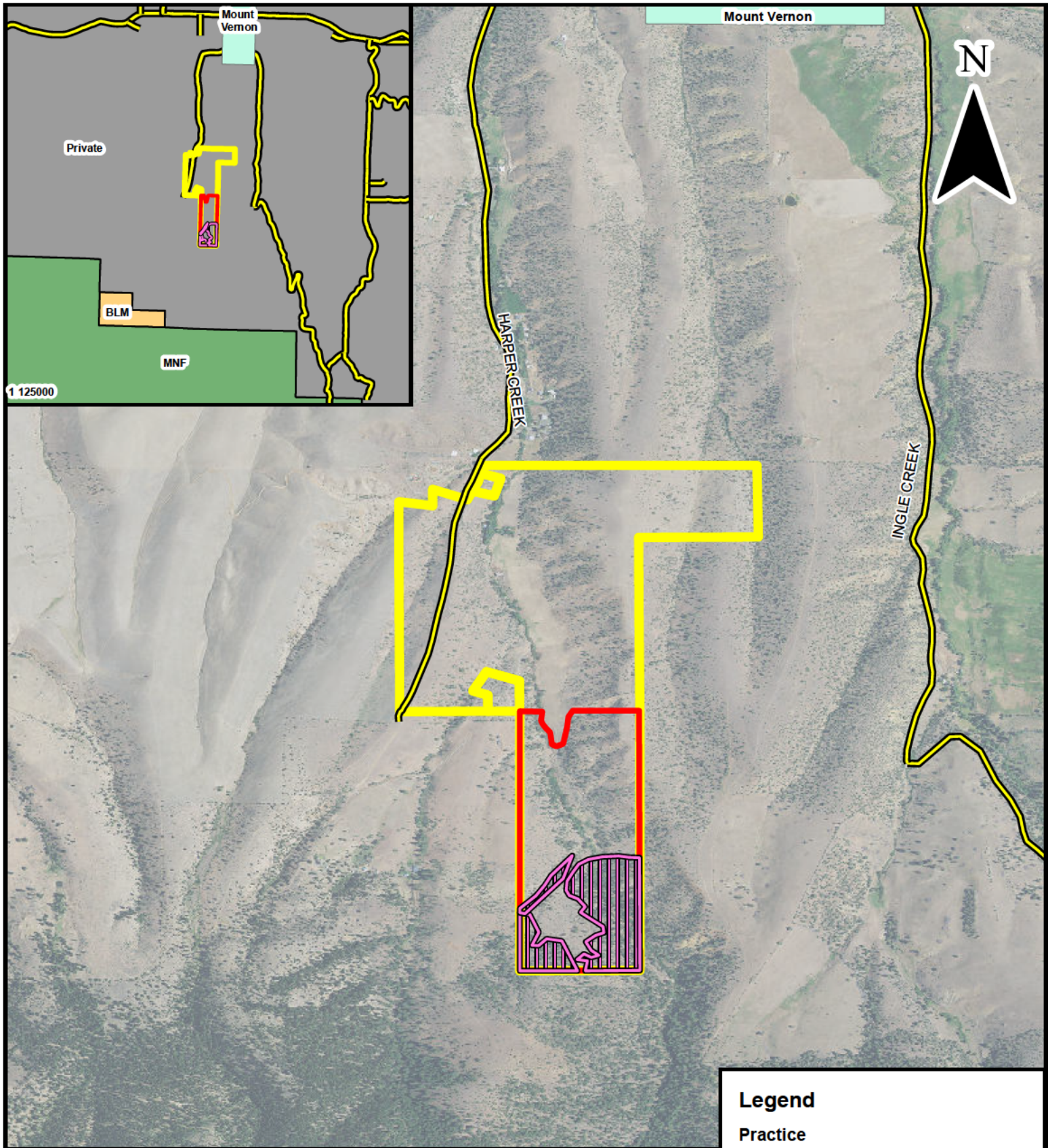
Deliverables	
Below are examples, replace with your projects quantified treatment activities (acres)	
1	118 Acres of Juniper Cutting
2	118 Acres of Slash Piling
3	118 Acres Rejuvra Annual Grass Treatment
4	34 Acres of Conifer Pruning
Treatment Footprint	118 Acres

Cost Category	Grant Request	Leverage		Total Project Cost
		Match (if any)	Leverage (if any)	
1. Personnel	\$ 2,390.24	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,390.24
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,738.42	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,738.42
3. Travel	\$ 67.28	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 67.28
4. Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
5. Supplies	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
6. Contractual	\$ 27,384.26	\$ 19,550.20	\$ 0.00	\$ 46,934.46
7. ODF (if applicable)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 32,580.20</b>	<b>\$ 19,550.20</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,130.40</b>

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

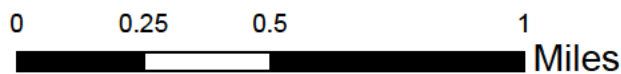
For each line item	Detail by position or item cost, rate, number of units, and subtotals. Tie costs to Deliverables. <b>Example:</b> Personnel and Fringe ( \$1,480 and \$740=\$2,220) for 1 Ecologist working 40 hours @ \$37/hour to treatment plan 100 acres of fuel treatments
Personnel & Fringe	\$1550.80 Conservation technician, 40 hours @\$38.77/hour for project management and reporting. \$369.28 Program Assistant, 8 hours @ \$46.16/hour for fiscal management and reporting. \$470.16 District Manager, 8 Hours @ \$58.77/hour for project management and contract management. Indirect for the district is 10% of requested funds (\$27384.26) for a total of \$2738.42
Travel	\$67.28 for 5, 23 mile round trips (115 total Miles)@ \$.585/mile
Equipment	Equipment cost are reflected in contractual prices.
Supplies	All supplies including herbicide are reflected in contractual prices.
Contractual Payments	(Requested funds) \$18534.26 Juniper Cutting 118 Acres @\$157.07/Acre Per NRCS EQIP Rates for 2022. \$8850 Rejuvra Annual Grass Treatment 118 Acres @ \$75/Acre (price determined by previous treatments by GSWCD Weed Department and current chemical rates). (Match Funds) \$13476.26 Slash Piling 118 Acres @ \$114.21/Acre Per NRCS EQIP Rates for 2022. \$6073.42 Conifer Pruning 34 Acres @ \$178.63/Acre Per NRCS EQIP Raters for 2022.
ODF (if Applicable)	No ODF services requested.
Leverage Sources	All match funds will be in-kind-labor provided by the landowners [REDACTED]

# Hughes Forestland Management Grant Soil and Water Conservation District






T14S R30E  
Coordinate System  
WGS 1984  
1:24,000

1 inch = 667 yards



## Legend

### Practice

-  Juniper and Rejuvra (118 Acres)
-  Conifer Pruning (34 cres)
-  County Roads

Number of Panel Reviewer #1		Project Name	Hughes Forestland Management Final	
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	118 acres: Proposed treatment includes Juniper Removal, Slash Piling, Rejuvra Annual Grass Treatment, and Conifer Pruning. To reduce the risk of high severity wildfires, the project will create defensible spaces around infrastructure, reduce stand density, reduce hazardous fuels, and support all fire-resistant landscapes.			
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	The John Day Basin HUC_6, 170702011004. The project will create defensible spaces around infrastructure, and fuel breaks shall be created adjacent to property boundaries to slow fire spreading.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	3	
Reviewer Comments	One landowner			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	The treatment will promote sustainable forest health by removing invasive species and reducing resource competition. The treatment in the grassland ecosystem will reduce the risk of high severity fires from spreading to or from the forest. Grant County's forestlands both, public and private, have experienced reoccurring droughts.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	The proposed project activities are also consistent with fuels reduction efforts by the NRCS, Grant County CWPP (October 2021), MFN, Bureau of Land Management, John Day Basin Partnership, and the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District. Specifically, BMVHI- RCPP (2017-2021) for noncommercial thinning and juniper removal and NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Grant County is serving a higher population over the age of 65 (31.4%). Grant County's poverty level (13.9%) is higher than the Oregon average (11%), the county also has a median household income of \$44,712.00, the second-lowest in the state (concurrent with 2020 Census information).			
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 project is also located in the Mount Vernon priority area of the 2021 Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) falls within the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Priority 2 Area.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	Could not find information that addresses this criterium.			
<b>Final Score</b>		Out of 100	<b>78</b>	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 2		Project Name	Hughes Forestland Management	
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	solid treatment plan but reads more like a general overview rather than providing specifics			
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	7	
Reviewer Comments	infrastructure noted but not specified, HUC_6 watershed			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	adjacency to MNF? Mt. Vernon?			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	7	
Reviewer Comments	invasive grass treatments noted, drought on a county-wide level			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	unclear beyond utilizing SWCD/NRCS specifications for treatments and "similar projects within the area"			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	unclear relationship between county statistics and proposed project—proximity to Mt. Vernon?			
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	multiple priority planning areas			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	not indicated			

**Final Score**

Out of  
100

**54**



Number of Panel Reviewer #3		Project Name	Hughes Forestland Management	
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	Fairly standard juniper/invasive annual grass treatments, pruning conifer. Seems like the appropriate treatments to reduce risk of wildfire. Could use a little more details though (i.e., pull information out of Blue Mountains Vegetative Health Initiative).			
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	Application does not note wildfire risk class, and mentions infrastructure but it is not clear what type of infrastructure is within footprint. Notes that, "when possible" fuel breaks will be created, but lacking details.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	One property treated, mentions protecting others though			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Treating invasive annual grasses is a feature of this application. Could use some detail on maintenance though (e.g., who is responsible for follow up treatments).			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	Application mentions that other similar projects are in the area, but details are not provided.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, good discussion of Grant County 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	Yes, Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Plan			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	Not noted			
<b>Final Score</b>		Out of 100	<b>65</b>	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 4		Project Name	Hughes Forest Management	
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	The proposal gives a clear description of ownership and how they will implement the treatments to reduce 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	The proposal defines treatment areas within Grant County and the city of Mount Vernon as fires risk areas with an HUC 6 classification.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	13	
Reviewer Comments	The proposal specifically treats the Hughes Ranch. The community of Mount Vernon along with distant neighbors will benefit from the treatments.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	13	
Reviewer Comments	The treatments are intended to treat an entire forest and these issues will also be addressed.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	Working through Grant Soil and Water Conservation District provides a foundation for a collaborative approach			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	The treatments on the ranch will benefit a population of elderly citizens located in and around Mount Vernon.			
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	The project is identified as being within a Fire Risk area of HUC 6. No specific Forest Plan was identified for the Hughes.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	4	
Reviewer Comments	Forest products that are not saleable into a local market will be utilized by the landowners, primarily firewood.			
<b>Final Score</b>		Out of 100	<b>88</b>	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 5		Project Name	Hughes Forestland Management	
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	Lists treatment activities and how treatment reduces future risk of high severity wildfire. Does not provide treatment metrics/specifications.			
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	States HUC 6 but does not list risk class, prioritizes defensible space and shaded fuel breaks			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	One property treated. Adjacent property benefit not defined.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Connects resource concerns with treatment, namely resource competition (water/drought inferred) Invasive species treatments quantified. For size of project OK.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	7	
Reviewer Comments	Describes treatment proximity to public lands, but not clear how this treatment is related (over 1 mile away). Collaborative approach with additional partners not evident, though treatment does address strategic plans (see 7)			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	3	
Reviewer Comments	Mentions community demographics, not clear how proposed activities on one ownership supports community. Is landowner classified as vulnerable?			
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	Good job listing priority planning areas and proposed treatments alignment with strategic actions within plans.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	0	
Reviewer Comments	No mention of non-traditional uses			
<b>Final Score</b>		Out of 100	<b>68</b>	