

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

1. Project Number (Assigned by federal unit): OR116-03-02

2. Project Name: Jackson Creek Fuels Reduction

3. County: Jackson

4. Project Sponsor: Bureau of Land Management

5. Date: April 30, 2002

6. Sponsors Phone # 541-618-2267

7. Sponsor's E-mail: Greg_Chandler@or.blm.gov

8. Project Location (attach project area map)

a. 4th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Middle Rogue Sub-basin HUC# 17100308

b. 5th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Bear Creek Watershed HUC# 1710030801

c. Legal Location:

Township 37S Range 2W Section(s) 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 31

Township 37S Range 3W Section(s) 1, 12, 13, 22, 23, 25, 35

Township 38S Range 2W Section(s) 3, 10

Township 38S Range 3W Section(s) 1, 2

d. BLM District : Medford e. BLM Resource Area Ashland

f. National Forest _____ g. Forest Service District _____

h. State / Private / Other lands involved? Yes No

9. Statement of Project Goals and Objectives: To reduce hazardous forest fuels buildup on BLM managed lands near Jacksonville, Oregon. To remove woody material from the land by using manual, mechanical, and prescribed fire methods. Thinning "from below" and the removal of brush will modify the proposed areas to be more adapted to frequent fire occurrence. The goal is to reduce the vegetation density to help mitigate fire hazard and risk in this wildland urban interface area. The removal of thick forest vegetation would change the probability of having a high-severity fire to a low-severity fire on treated lands.

10. Project Description: (Provide concise description of project and attach map.)

Detailed prescriptions would be developed to complement the existing forest stand. In general, pole sized (6 inch DBH) and smaller conifer and hardwood trees would be thinned manually (by chainsaw) to an average spacing of 20 ft. by 20 ft. Cut material would be handpiled, covered with plastic, and then burned by hand ignition during the fall of the same year. Woody material could also be removed by chipping or loading onto vehicles and removed. In brush type vegetation, brush species would be thinned and spaced to smaller islands either manually (chainsaw) or mechanically (Slashbuster or chipper) and would either be handpiled and burned or allowed to decompose on the ground. Project would occur in 3 phases. Phase 1 is planning and surveys that should be completed by Spring 2003. Phase 2 is manual or mechanical treatment which could be implemented by Fall 2003-2004. Phase 3 is prescribed burning which could be implemented the following Fall 2004-2005.

11. Coordination of this project with other related project(s) on adjacent lands?

Yes No If yes, then describe.

Project would compliment National Fire Plan related activities on adjacent public and private lands.

Project would "tie in" with current City of Jacksonville and Jacksonville Woodlands Association fuels reduction projects.

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12. How does proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

- Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure. [Sec. 2(b)]
- Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems. [Sec. 2(b)]
- Restores and improves land health. [Sec. 2(b)]
- Restores water quality. [Sec. 2(b)]

13. Project Type (check one) [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

- Road Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Road Decommission/Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): _____ [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Soil Productivity Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(B)]
- Watershed Restoration & Mntc. [Sec. 2(b)(2)(D)]
- Fish Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]
- Reestablish Native Species [Sec. 2(b)(2)(G)]
- Trail Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Trail Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Forest Health Improvement** [Sec. 2(b)(2)(C)]
- Wildlife Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]
- Control of Noxious Weeds [Sec. 2(b)(2)(F)]
- Other Project Type (specify)** [Sec. 2(b)(2)]: **Hazardous Fuels Reduction**

14. Measure of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes [Sec. 203(b)(5)]

- a. Total Acres: 1,000 b. Total Miles: _____
- c. No. Structures: _____ d. Estimated People Reached (for environmental education projects): _____
- e. No. of Laborer Days: _____
- f. Other (specify): _____

15. Duration of Project and Estimated Completion Date [Sec. 203(b)(2)]: 2-3 years, Fall 2005

16. Target Species Benefitted (if applicable) :

17. How would cooperative relationships among people that use federal lands be improved? [Sec. 2(b)(3)]. BLM would be coordinating with adjacent landowners, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the local Fire District to combine fuel reduction efforts being instituted on both public and private land. Recreation opportunities (i.e. hunting, hiking, etc.) may also be improved by modified vegetation treatments.

18. How is this project in the best public interest? [Sec. 203(b)(7)] **Identify benefits to communities?**

Community of Jacksonville would have reduced wildland fire hazard in interface area and therefore less potential for loss of life and property. Employment opportunities for local contractors and thus economic benefit to local community.

19. How does project benefit federal lands/resources?

Increased opportunity to contain wildland fire quickly with less expense. Low severity fire and thinning of forest stand density may improve forest health over time. Increased neighbor relations.

20. Status of Project Planning

- a. NEPA Complete: Yes No b. If No, give est. date of completion: **Summer 2003**
- c. NMFS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: Yes No Not Applicable
- d. USFWS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: Yes No Not Applicable
- e. Survey & Manage Complete: Yes No Not Applicable
- f. DSL/ODFW* Permits Obtained: Yes No Not Applicable

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Item	Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Requested County Title II Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Other Contributions [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Total Available Funds
35. Project Subtotal		\$704,000		
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead) (per year for multiple year projects)				
37. Total Cost Estimate	\$26,000.00	\$704,000	\$	\$

38. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding in Column C. Above [Sec. 203(b)(4)]

39. Monitoring Plan (Sec.203(b)(6))

a. What measures or evaluations would be made to determine how well the proposed project meets the desired ecological conditions? [Sec. 203(b)(6)] **Who would be responsible for this monitoring item?**

Photo plots would be established to document changes on the ground over the course of the project. A temporary BLM employee or contractor would be funded to accomplish this. A short write up of effects would be completed by the same person. The BLM Ashland Resource Area would be responsible to accomplish this monitoring.

b. How would the project be evaluated to determine how well the proposed project contributes towards local employment and/or training opportunities, including summer youth jobs programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps? [Sec. 203(b)(6)] **Who would be responsible for this monitoring item?**

A small portion of the fieldwork could be offered to the Northwest Youth Corp, Real Corp, or other similar youth/student group organizations. BLM personnel would gain experience with prescribed fire operations during the course of the project. A final report would be completed by the BLM Ashland Resource Area that includes figures on employment and training opportunities that were created by the project.

c. What methods and measures of evaluation would be established to determine how well the proposed project improves the use of, or added value to, any products removed from National Forest System lands consistent with the purposes of this Act? [Sec. 203(b)(6) and Sec. 204(e)(3)] **Who would be responsible for this monitoring item?**

In the short term, photo plots would demonstrate the effectiveness of vegetation treatment and fuel hazard reduction efforts. Computer modeling can assist with the prediction of wildland fire behavior in treated and untreated areas. If marketable forest products or commodities are later identified, they could be tracked by quantity and value and summarized in the final report. The long term effects on the forested lands may include increased forest health and vigor, however, this would not be easily monitored in the near future. BLM Ashland Resource Area would be responsible for photo plots.

d. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Table 1, Item 33)

Amount: \$25,000

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000
Public Law 106-393
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**Typical understory thinning and
handpiling of material.**



**Typical vegetation before
treatment.**



**Typical vegetation after
treatment with slashbuster
(Mechanical).**