

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000  
Public Law 106-393  
**Title II Project Application**  
**Medford District Resource Advisory Committee**

**1. Project Number (Assigned by federal unit): 118-03-16**

**2. Project Name:** Salmon Creek Interpretive Forest - Phase I  
For NEPA and Architectural & Engineering

**3. County:** Josephine

**4. Project Sponsor:** Glendale Resource Area of the Medford District, BLM  
Katie Wetzel - Outdoor Recreation Planner

**5. Date:** May 5, 2002

**6. Sponsors Phone #** 541-944-8337

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

**8. Project Location:** Sunny Valley, Oregon

a. 4<sup>th</sup> Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Rogue River 17100310

b. 5<sup>th</sup> Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Grave Creek 1710031003

c. Legal Location: T33S, R6W, Sec. 35 & 36. T34S, R6W, Sec. 1

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

f. National Forest \_\_\_\_\_ g. Forest Service District \_\_\_\_\_

h. State / Private / Other lands involved? X Yes (explain) \_\_\_ No

In a unique and innovative partnership the Interpretive Forest will be constructed on lands owned by the BLM, Oregon State Forestry, Josephine County, and private interests.

**9. Statement of Project Goals and Objectives:**

- \*\* To implement steward-ship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems
- \*\* To provide forest related, hands-on, interpretation and education for all ages
- \*\* To enhance recreation opportunities in Southwestern Oregon
- \*\* To improve cooperative relationships among the people that use and care for Federal lands and the agencies that manage these lands
- \*\* To restore, improve, and maintain wildlife and fish habitat
- \*\* To encourage economic stimulus to the rural communities in Southwestern Oregon

## **10. Project Description:**

**Phase I of the Interpretive Forest will encompass accomplishing the regulatory NEPA compliance surveys and workload including the Environmental Assessment, and the creation of the preliminary design of the facilities and trails.**

The following is a description of the proposed Interpretive Forest in its entirety.

The Interpretive Forest will be a multi-collaborative endeavor encompassing the ideas and philosophies of Federal, State, and County agencies as well as environmental education organizations and other educational institutes into the interpretive opportunities of the Forest. The site will be dedicated to a comprehensive educational and interpretive theme focusing on forest ecosystems. The ultimate in forest interpretation will be developed including the interpretation of biological, geological, hydrological, wildlife, fisheries, flora and fauna typical to Southwestern Oregon. Various types of past, and present, forest management practices will also be premiered to provide a complete forest educational experience. The Interpretive Forest will be designed to be a comprehensive hands-on learning experience, teaching those who visit a multitude of natural resource information which will help visitors to gain a better understanding of the complexities of the ecosystem. Existing partnerships, and future to-be-developed partnerships, will ensure long term assistance with the maintenance and management of this Interpretive Forest and its related facilities.

The Interpretive Forest will be located within easy access (within 2 miles) of the I-5 corridor, on fully paved existing roads. There will be ample parking areas to accommodate cars, school buses, large motor homes and travel trailers. It will be also be situated near other traveler conveniences such as grocery stores, gas stations, motels, restaurants, and campgrounds. Other visitor attractions such as the Applegate Trail Museum, The Radio Park Museum, Grave Creek Covered Bridge, and historic gold mining sites are also located on the access road to the Interpretive Forest site. The site itself has a large variety of plant communities, abundant wildlife including Elk, a beautiful year-round stream, extensive riparian area, timber harvest type examples, cultural resources such as wagon roads and mining sties, and examples of past forest fire history, all of which provide endless interpretive possibilities.

We envision state-wide attention toward this new Interpretive Forest with families planning their vacations to Southwestern Oregon to include a visit to this special place. The site will provide the visitor with self-guided tour brochures and maps as well as volunteer tour guides (by appointment) to provide the ultimate experience and learning opportunity available. Families will enjoy the freedom and convenience of the facilities located at this Forest which will include restrooms, picnic areas, playground area, amphitheater, easily accessible trails, a special interactive interpretive center for children, and a wide variety of interpretive opportunities throughout the site. All facilities, and some trails, will be designed to be fully barrier-free.

This innovative new interpretive resource will be a place where people of all ages will come seeking adventure, excitement and education. The Interpretive Forest will be a place of extraordinary sensory opportunities for every age group, every culture, and students from various educational institutes ranging from Kindergartens to Universities. It is our wish that individuals visiting this site will gain an increased knowledge and appreciation of the delicate inter-relatedness of forest eco-systems, and share this knowledge with others, thus fostering new stewardship awareness.

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

X  Yes      No    If yes, then describe.

This project relates to several Oregon Tourism and Economic Development Strategies throughout the region. Development of this Interpretive Forest will enhance tourism to Southwestern Oregon and will tie directly into local tourism themes such as Historic Sites and Tours, the Wild Rogue River, the Cascade and Siskiyou Natural Wonders, the Oregon Coast, Scenic Byways and National Back Country Routes. More locally, the Interpretive Forest will complement the Applegate Trail Museum and Radio Park Museum as well as local historic sites.

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

- Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure. [Sec. 2(b)]
- X  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)]
- Trail Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Road Decommission/Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Trail Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
- Soil Productivity Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(B)]
- Forest Health Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(C)]
- Watershed Restoration & Mntc. [Sec. 2(b)(2)(D)]
- Wildlife Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]
- Fish Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]
- Control of Noxious Weeds [Sec. 2(b)(2)(F)]
- Reestablish Native Species [Sec. 2(b)(2)(G)]

X  **Other Project Type (specify) [Sec. 2(b)(2)]: This project will enhance natural resource educational opportunities for the general public, K-12 Schools, Colleges and Universities.**

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

- a. Total Acres:  80
- b. Total Miles:  4 ( 3 approximate miles of trail) + ( 1 approximate mile of road)
- c. Number of Structures:  4 main structures, parking areas, trails, and several interpretive signs.
- d. Estimated People Reached (for environmental education projects):  Estimated 15,000 people annually
- e. Number of Laborer Days:  200 (estimate)
- f. Other (specify):

**15. Duration of Project and Estimated Completion Date [Sec. 203(b)(2)]:**

This project should take approximately 3 years to complete. Estimated completion date: 2006

**16. Target Species Benefitted (if applicable) : N/A**

**17. How will cooperative relationships among people that use federal lands be improved?** [Sec. 2(b)(3)]

The visiting public, K-12th grade students, college students, and non-profit organizations will greatly benefit from this incredible educational resource. Schools, Colleges and Universities will be capable of providing this self-guided tour as an integral part of their curriculums on all levels of scientific studies. Non-profit organizations will also be encouraged to take advantage of this interpretive and educational opportunity by providing guided field trips to interested persons. Local citizens and small businesses in the area will take a personal interest and “ownership pride” in the Interpretive Forest and will promote the site encouraging visitation on all levels.

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

Small rural communities in the near proximity to the Interpretive Forest will benefit economically due to the increase in visitor numbers to the area. These communities will also benefit due to the improved recreational opportunities located so near to their communities. Multi-collaborative partnerships will be developed to provide funding, planning, development, and construction assistance as well as the long term maintenance and management of this interpretive site. The Interpretive Forest will be promoted and marketed in partnership with other visitor attractions in Southwestern Oregon including the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Crater Lake National Park, Oregon Caves National Monument, the Oregon Coast, museums, historic tour routes, and designated Back Country Byways, to name a few.

**19. How does project benefit federal lands/resources?**

The Interpretive Forest project will enable visitors to gain a greater knowledge of natural resource management. This newly acquired knowledge and understanding will ensure public support for natural resource management in the future.

**20. Status of Project Planning:**

- a. NEPA Complete: \_\_\_ Yes  X  No
- b. Estimated date of completion:  2003
- c. NMFS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: \_\_\_ Yes  X  No \_\_\_ Not Applicable
- d. USFWS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: \_\_\_ Yes  X  No \_\_\_ Not Applicable
- e. Survey & Manage Complete: \_\_\_ Yes  X  No \_\_\_ Not Applicable
- f. DSL/ODFW\* Permits Obtained: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  X  Not Applicable
- g. DLS/COE\* 404 Fill/Removal Permit Obtained: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  X  Not Applicable
- h. SHPO\* Concurrence Received: \_\_\_ Yes  X  No \_\_\_ Not Applicable
- i. Project Design(s) Completed: \_\_\_ Yes  X  No \_\_\_ Not Applicable

**21. Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment**

- X  Contract
- X  Federal Workforce
- X  County Workforce
- X  Volunteers \_\_\_ Other (specify):

**22. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? ( Sec. 204(e)(3))**

- \_\_\_ Yes  X  No

**23. Anticipated Project Costs** [Sec. 203(b)(3)]

- a. Total County Title II Funds Requested: **\$ 102,300**
- b. Is this a multi-year funding request?  Yes  No If yes, then display by fiscal year
- c. FY02 Request: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ f. FY05 Request: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- d. FY03 Request: \$ 102,300 g. FY06 Request: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- e. FY04 Request: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Item</b>	<b>Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]</b>	<b>Requested County Title II Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]</b>	<b>Other Contributions [Sec. 203(b)(4)]</b>	<b>Total Available Funds</b>
24. Field Work & Site Surveys	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$320	
25. NEPA & Sec.7 ESA Consultation	\$2,500	\$10,000		
26. Permit Acquisition				
27. Project Design & Engineering	\$2,500	\$25,000	\$2,000	
28. Contract Preparation	\$1,000	\$3,000		
29. Contract Administration	\$1,000	\$5,000		
30. Contract Cost		\$15,000		
31. Workforce Cost		\$25,000		
32. Materials & Supplies	\$500			
33. Monitoring	\$1,000	\$5,000		
34. Other: Contributions, including lands, from private, State and County.			\$150,000	
35. Project Subtotal	\$10,500	\$93,000	\$152,320	
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead) (per year for multiple year projects)		\$9,300		
<b>37. Total Cost Estimate</b>	<b>\$10,500</b>	<b>\$102,300</b>	<b>\$152,320</b>	<b>\$265,120</b>

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

Applegate Trail Historic Society  
 Josephine County Historic Society  
 Josephine County  
 Oregon State Forestry  
 City of Grants Pass  
 Communities of Sunny Valley, Wolf Creek, Glendale  
 Superior Lumber Co.  
 Boy and Girl Scouts of America  
 Oregon State Parks

Indian Hill Lumber Co.  
 National Park Service  
 USFS Job Corps  
 US Forest Service  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Southern Oregon University  
 Handicap Awareness and Support League  
 Boys and Girls Clubs of America  
 Oregon Department of Transportation



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

Once the Interpretive Forest is constructed, a year-round host will live on site to monitor the number of daily visitors to the Interpretive Forest. Contacts will be made with public and private schools, colleges and universities annually, to ascertain the number of programs and/or students attending the site for educational purposes. The Outdoor Recreation Planner of the Glendale RA of the Medford District BLM will be responsible for the monitoring of the site.

1. **How will 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 will be responsible for this monitoring item?

The Job Council, Boys and Girls Club, and the NW Youth Corps have all been involved for more than 20 years in the development of job training opportunities for youth in Southwestern Oregon. The BLM has been active in providing mentorship, training, and employment opportunities to these youth through partnerships with these organizations for many years. The Interpretive Forest will be an excellent forest-related training arena for the youth involved in these programs, it will be easily accessible and offer a wide variety of forest-related work experience options. It is anticipated that these organizations will partner with the BLM in this project and become involved in the planning and construction of trails, overlooks, interpretive sites, fuels management, silviculture, and other general forest management practices.

2. **What methods and measures of evaluation will 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 will be responsible for this monitoring item?

N/A

3. **Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Table 1, Item 33)**  
**Amount: \$ 5,000**



