

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

1. **Project Number** (Assigned by federal unit): 116-402 **AMOUNT REQUESTED** \$500,000
2nd year of a 3 year project

2. **Project Name:** Jackson Creek Fuels Reduction

3. **County:** Jackson

4. **Project Sponsor:** Bureau of Land Management

5. **Date:** February 18, 2003

6. **Sponsors Phone #** 541-618-2391

7. **Sponsor's E-mail:** al_mason@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.)

Pole sized (6 inch DBH) and smaller conifer and hardwood trees will be thinned manually (by chainsaw) to an average spacing of 20 ft. by 20 ft. Cut material will 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 will be thinned and spaced to smaller islands either manually (chainsaw) or mechanically (Slashbuster or chipper) and will either be handpiled and burned or allowed to decompose on the ground. Project will need to 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 Spring 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.

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Project will compliment National Fire Plan related activities on adjacent public and private lands.
Project will "tie in" with current City of Jacksonville and Jacksonville Woodlands Association fuels reduction projects.

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 2006

16. Target Species Benefitted (if applicable) :

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

BLM will be coordinating with adjacent landowners 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 will 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?

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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.

20. Status of Project Planning

- a. NEPA Complete: Yes No b. If No, give est. date of completion: **Fall 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
- g. DLS/COE* 404 Fill/Removal Permit Obtained: Yes No Not Applicable
- h. SHPO* Concurrence Received: Yes No Not Applicable
- i. Project Design(s) Completed: Yes No

* DSL = Dept. of State Lands, ODFW = Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, COE = Army Corps of Engineers, SHPO = State Historic Preservation Officer

21. Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment

- Contract Federal Workforce
- County Workforce Volunteers
- Other (specify): _____

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

- Yes No However, areas within the project that are in need of merchantable thinning will be identified. Forest commodities could be identified later.

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

- a. Total County Title II Funds Requested: **\$704,000** _____
- b. Is this a multi-year funding request? Yes No If yes, then display by fiscal year
- c. FY02 Request: \$ _____ f. FY05 Request: \$ 175,000 _____
- d. FY03 Request: \$ 29,000 (received) g. FY06 Request: \$ _____
- e. FY04 Request: \$ 500,000 _____

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
24. Field Work & Site Surveys Botany-24K, Wildlife-5K				
25. NEPA & Sec.7 ESA Consultation				
26. Permit Acquisition				
27. Project Design & Engineering				
28. Contract Preparation				
29. Contract Administration				
30. Contract Cost (\$650 per acre x 1000 acres)		\$425,000		\$425,000
31. Workforce Cost				
32. Materials & Supplies				
33. Monitoring (1 yr term employee)		\$25,000		\$25,000
34. Other				
35. Project Subtotal		\$450,000		\$450,000
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead) (per year for multiple year projects)		\$50,000		\$50,000
37. Total Cost Estimate	\$	\$500,000		\$500,000

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

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

- a. **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?** Photo plots will be established to document changes on the ground over the course of the project. A temporary BLM employee or contractor will be funded to accomplish this. A short write up of effects could also be completed by the same person and reported to the Medford District Resource Advisory Committee. The BLM Ashland Field Office will be ultimately responsible to accomplish this monitoring.

- b. **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?** A small portion of the fieldwork could be offered to the YCC or other similar youth group organizations. BLM personnel will gain experience with prescribed fire operations during the course of the project. A final report would be completed by the BLM Ashland Field Office that includes figures on employment and training opportunities that were created by the project.

- c. **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?** In the short term, photo plots will 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 will not be easily monitored in the near future. BLM Ashland Field Office will be responsible for photo plots.

- d. **Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Table 1, Item 33)**
Amount: \$25,000

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Vegetation before treatment.

**T
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Typical understory thinning and handpiling of material.



Typical vegetation after treatment with slashbuster (Mechanical).