

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

- 1. Project Number** (Assigned by federal unit): 117-421 **AMOUNT REQUESTED** \$9,625
2. Project Name: Wildlife Images Blackberry Eradication and Control **3. County:** Josephine
4. Project Sponsor: Middle Rogue Watershed Council **5. Date:** 04-15-2003
6. Sponsors Phone #: 541/474-6799
7. Sponsor's E-mail: mrwa@cpros.com
8. Project Location (attach project area maps showing general and specific locations of project.)

- a. 4th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Lower Rogue; # 17100310
b. 5th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Rogue River/Taylor Creek; #1710031001
c. Legal Location:
Township 35S Range 7W Section(s) 36
d. BLM District Medford e. BLM Resource Area Grants Pass RA
f. National Forest _____ g. Forest Service District _____
h. State / Private / other lands involved? Yes No

9. Statement of Project Goals and Objectives:

Treat and control Himalayan blackberries (*Rubus discolor*) and an emerging population of knapweed (*Centaurea* spp.) on BLM-administered lands bordering Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center. The blackberry distribution of immediate concern for this project surrounds a source of stagnant water and hence, a potential breeding ground for West Nile Virus. The knapweed population has not yet become well established but lies in an area used regularly by river rafters and BLM researchers (bird-banders), who could unwittingly help spread the weed to neighboring areas via their travels. Other severe infestations of weed species found within this property will be treated as is possible within the scope of the project.

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

A contracted work crew will be hired to manually and mechanically treat and control identified infestations of weeds in said project area. Some controlled burning may be implemented, as well as some hand-application of herbicides, but only with the permission of neighboring landowners (Wildlife Images), and in accordance with the Medford District's Integrated Weed Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) #OR-110-98-14. The targeted knapweed species will be manually treated. The blackberries, forming a dense impenetrable thicket around a large pond, will be mechanically and manually removed. Steep slopes along one side of the pond may prevent motorized mowing and chipping, which will be the preferred control method along most of the pond's perimeter. Although some slash piles of cut canes may be left for burning or small mammal and bird habitat, most canes will be chipped into mulch to be applied to the ground for moisture retention and erosion control. The Middle Rogue Watershed Council (MRWC) will then plant the perimeter of the pond with native shrubs, as well as hardwood and conifer tree species, in hopes of further reducing blackberry reproduction (dense shade prevents seed production as well as decreasing blackberry seedling survivability). Eliminating the dense thicket of berries will allow access to the pond in order to control unwanted populations of mosquitoes, and hence, decrease the potential for West Nile Virus, as well as allow better natural drainage from the pond through a currently weed-choked drainage channel. Neighboring infestations of blackberries (as well as other identified weed species) will be treated as well, in hopes of preventing reinfestation around the pond.

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

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

Yes No If yes, then describe.

This project will be coordinated with the BLM's Rogue River Recreation Section Noxious Weed Control project, as well as a weed inventory and management plan proposed to be implemented by the Middle Rogue Watershed Council on neighboring private lands.

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)]

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)]

Other Project Type (specify) [Sec. 2(b)(2)]: _____

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

(Use workload measures used for the budget process)

a. Total Acres: 20 acres _____

b. Total Miles: _____

c. No. Structures: _____

d. Estimated People Reached (for environmental education projects): _____

e. No. Of Laborer Days: _____

f. Other (specify): _____

g. **Program Element:** JD 20 acres _____

15. Duration of Project and Estimated Completion Date [Sec. 203(b)(2)]: 3 months; 12-31-2004

16. Target Species (plants/wildlife etc.) Benefited: (if applicable) native plants, mammals, and birds

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

Wildlife Images hosts more than 20,000 visitors per year. These visitors utilize both private lands owned by Wildlife Images, as well as BLM-administered lands leased by Wildlife Images. The areas slated for

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

noxious weed treatment and control will be visually accessible to these visitors, with the project “interpreted” for the individuals on their tours. This project will communicate to these individuals how private landowners, voluntary groups, and the federal government can work together to rehabilitate degraded resources.

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

West Nile Virus (WNV) is transmitted by a mosquito vector and can result in encephalitis, and death, in infected humans and horses. WNV can also result in wild and domestic bird mortality. Ridding blackberries around a stagnant pool and its natural drainage channel will allow access to the pond for mosquito treatment and monitoring, as well as decrease the potential for maintaining a breeding ground for such vector agents by allowing the pond to drain normally and dry up during normal mosquito season. This, obviously, decreases the potential threat to the many thousands of visitors to Wildlife Images, as well as to the many sick and injured wild birds brought there for rehabilitation. The control of other noxious weeds will also lead to increased benefits for the public, as recreational conditions will improve, habitat for native wildlife and plants will be improved, and spreading infestations to private lands will be reduced.

19. How does project benefit federal lands/resources?

Noxious weed distributions have the potential to a) endanger native flora and fauna through encroachment and competition, b) hamper the full utilization and enjoyment of recreation areas, and c) reduce ecological potential and productivity of federal lands. By controlling their spread, public lands may be protected from further degradation.

20. Status of Project Planning

- | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| a. NEPA Complete: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| b. If No, give est. date of completion: _____ | | | |
| c. NMFS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| d. USFWS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| e. Survey & Manage Complete: | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| f. DSL/ODFW* Permits Obtained: | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| g. DLS/COE* 404 Fill/Removal Permit Obtained: | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| h. SHPO* Concurrence Received: | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| i. Project Design(s) Completed: | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |

* 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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <u>project sponsor (MRWC) will plant native vegetation; Wildlife Image volunteers will monitor project</u> | |

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

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

Yes No

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

- a. Total County Title II Funds Requested: \$ 9,625
 b. Is this a multi-year funding request? Yes No If yes, then display by fiscal year
 e. FY04 Request: \$ _____
 f. FY05 Request: \$ _____
 g. FY06 Request: \$ _____

***** Note: If you have a complex budget, add it as an appendix. The Resource Advisory Committee will want to know specifically how the funds will be spent.**

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				
25. NEPA & Sec.7 ESA Consultation				
26. Permit Acquisition				
27. Project Design & Engineering				
28. Contract Preparation		500		500
29. Contract Administration		750		750
30. Contract Cost		7,500		7,500
31. Workforce Cost				
32. Materials & Supplies (tree seedlings for replanting)			500	500
33. Monitoring			300	300
34. Other (labor for tree planting)			1,500	1,500
35. Project Subtotal		8,750	2,300	11,050
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead) (per year for multiple year projects)		875		875
37. Total Cost Estimate		\$9,625	\$2,300	\$11,925

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

The project sponsor, MRWC, will provide trees and shrubs for planting around the pond, as well as the labor to do so. This source of funding comes from an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant. Monitoring will be

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

provided through in-kind labor donated by Wildlife Image volunteers.

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?**

Volunteers from Wildlife Images will provide baseline, implementation, and effectiveness monitoring through the use of repeated photography at photo plots as well as visual inspection. Indications of re-establishment will be noted, and plans made for re-treatment.

- 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?**

The project sponsor, MRWC, will keep detailed records of employment. However, as this is a rather small project, only one contractor will be hired to treat and control the weeds. The project sponsor will, however, encourage the hired contractor to use local underemployed individuals as employees.

- 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?**

Not applicable, as no products, per se, will be removed. Some of the blackberries removed will be chipped and used as mulch around the native shrub and tree plantings.

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

Amount: \$300