

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000
Public Law 106-393
Title II Project Submission Form
**Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory
Committee**

1. Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official): HA-MAL04-228

2. Project Name: ECRD Understory Thinning & Slash Treatment	3. County: Harney
4. Project Sponsor: Margaret David Bailey	5. Date: 04/10/03
6. Sponsor's Phone Number: 541-573-4344	
7. Sponsors E-mail: rschwenke@fs.fed.us or mbailey01@fs.fed.us	

8. Project Location (attach project area map)	
a. 4 th Field Watershed Name and HUC #: 17120002 (Silvies)	
b. 5 th Field Watershed Name and HUC # (if known): (Silvies Canyon)	
c. Location: Township <u>18S</u> Range <u>30E</u> Section(s) <u>13, 14, 25, 27, 33, 34, 35</u> Township <u>18S</u> Range <u>31E</u> Section(s) <u>30, 31, 32</u> Township <u>19S</u> Range <u>30E</u> Section(s) <u>12, 13, 14, 15, 17-20, 22-28, 33-36</u> Township <u>19S</u> Range <u>31E</u> Section(s) <u>5-8, 17-19, 22, 27, 28, 30, 32</u> Township <u>20S</u> Range <u>30E</u> Section(s) <u>3-5, 9, 10, 15</u> Township <u>20S</u> Range <u>31E</u> Section(s) <u>2-5, 8-10, 16, 17, 21</u>	
d. BLM District	e. BLM Resource Area
f. National Forest Malheur NF	g. Forest Service District Emigrant Creek RD
h. State / Private / Other lands involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

9. Statement of Project Goals and Objectives: (max. 7 lines) This project will be implemented simultaneously with commercial harvesting in this area. Following commercial harvesting (and associated road work) and this precommercial thinning, a large part of this area will be prescribed burned to reduce fuels on a landscape basis. This project will move stand structure towards historical structure by reducing stocking of small diameter trees (less than 9" DBH), move the stand composition toward early seral species that are more fire resistant, and would reduce ladder fuels. Following this thinning the fuels would need to be treated. This project would change the fire behavior in these areas from high intensity crown fires, to low intensity underburning.
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10. Project Description: (max. 30 lines.) The stands would be pre-commercially thinned up to 9" DBH to reduce stocking of the small trees. This would increase the moisture available to the larger trees and increase their vigor and ability to resist disease and insects. In most places the tree preference would be 1) Western larch, 2) ponderosa pine, 3) Douglas-fir, 4) lodgepole pine and 5) white fir. By cutting these small trees the ladder fuels would be reduced. Following this thinning, the ground fuels would be treated by piling and burning.
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With the reduction in stocking, favoring early seral tree species (which are more fire tolerant), reducing ladder fuels, and treating both fuels that are created with these activities and existing natural fuels, this project along with commercial treatments proposed in this area would change the fire behavior of a wildfire from a high intensity crown fire, to a low intensity underburn. With reduction in stocking more moisture would also be available to recharge the ground water aquifers.

Estimated cost of a contract is \$200/acre. Minimum number of acres based upon time to prepare a contract would be 1250 acres. Maximum number of acres that we can treat is 4,000 acres per year based upon available personnel to administer a contract.

Following this work and the commercial thinning that will be done in this area, most of the units will be underburned to reintroduce fire into this area on a landscape basis. This later work would be funded using National Fire Plan money, BD money, natural fuels money, etc.

11. Coordination of this project with other related project(s) on adjacent lands?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, then describe (max. 10 lines)
No private adjacent lands within the project area

12. How does proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? [Sec. 203(b)(1)]
<input type="checkbox"/> Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure. [Sec. 2(b)]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems. [Sec. 2(b)]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restores and improves land health. [Sec. 2(b)]
<input type="checkbox"/> Restores water quality. [Sec. 2(b)]

13. Project Type (check one) [Sec. 203(b)(1)]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(B)]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(C)]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Mntc. [Sec. 2(b)(2)(D)]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds [Sec. 2(b)(2)(F)]
<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species [Sec. 2(b)(2)(G)]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify) [Sec. 2(b)(2)]:	

14. Measure of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes [Sec. 203(b)(5)]	
a. Total Acres:1250	b. Total Miles:
c. No. Structures:	d. Est. People Reached
e. No. Laborer Days: *	(for environmental education projects):
f. Other (specify):	

* Based upon an average rate of precommercial thinning of 3 acre per day and approximately 9 acres/day for slash treatment (mostly grapple piling with a little hand piling) and contract administration.

15. Estimated Completion Date: [Sec. 203(b)(2)] Multiyear Project – 2004 thru 2007

16. Target Species Benefited: (if applicable) (max. 7 lines)
 Fire tolerant species such as Western larch and ponderosa pine; bunchgrasses; perennial forbs, and shrubs.
 Animal Species – birds and animals that were historically adapted to an open pine or savannah type forest.

17. How will cooperative relationships among people that use federal lands be improved? [Sec. 2(b)(3)] (max. 12 lines)

With reduction in stocking of trees, more forage should be produced for the use by ungulates (elk, deer, antelope, and cows). This will allow range permittees to graze their allotments with less utilization, which should provide benefits to other uses such as more protection to streams (fish), less noticeable effects to recreational users, etc. More browse should be available for wild ungulates.

18. How is this project in the best public interest? [Sec. 203(b)(7)] **Identify benefits to communities.** (max. 12 lines)

This project should provide employment for a number of individuals due to the labor intensive work involved in accomplishing this project. With more moisture available more forage (grasses, forbs and shrubs) should be available in the uplands for grazing by ungulates (elk, deer, antelope, and cattle) which would reduce pressure in the riparian areas. With the reduction in stocking of trees and favoring tree species that were historically adapted to a low intensity, frequent fire cycle, this project will favor birds and animal that were historically adapted to an open pine dominated forest and savannah area.

19. How does project benefit federal lands/resources? (max. 12 lines)

This project reduces the stocking of trees so that the residual trees have more moisture available so they are more vigorous and are more able to resist disease and insects. With a reduction in fuels, especially ladder fuels, the risk of a large, high intensity wildfire would be reduced in this area. If a large, high intensity fire did occur, the ability to control and reduce damage would be greater.

20. Status of Project Planning			
a. NEPA Complete:	Yes	No	
If no, give est. date of completion: 06/03			
c. NMFS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	X Not needed
d. USFWS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	X Not needed
e. Survey & Manage Complete:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	X Not Applicable
f. DSL/ODFW* Permits for In-stream Work Obtained:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	X Not Applicable
g. DSL/COE* 404 Fill/Removal Permit Obtained:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	X Not Applicable
h. SHPO* Concurrence Received: (local approval needed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	X No **	Not Applicable
i. Project Design(s) Completed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	X No	
*DSL = Dept. of State Lands, ODFW = Oregon Dept.of Fish and Wildlife, COE = Army Corps of Engineers, SHPO = State Historic Preservation Officer			
** The Forest Archeologist can approve this for SHPO. Although this has not been done yet, this should be done before the NEPA document is signed.			

21. Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment (check those that apply)	
X Contract	X Federal Workforce (Administration and Inspection)
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):	

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

Yes No

**This project could potentially generate merchantable material, depending on market demand for small diameter material. If this should happen, the wood material would be available for these other uses.

23. Anticipated Project Costs [Sec. 203(b)(3)]	
a. Total County Title II Funds Requested: \$245,160 (Following Table 1 is cost by acre and a minimum and a maximum number of acres per year.)	
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, then display by fiscal year	
c. FY02 Request:	f. FY05 Request: \$254,000
d. FY03 Request:	g. FY06 Request: \$254,000
e. FY04 Request: \$245,160	h. FY07 Request: \$254,000

Table 1. Project Cost Analysis

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Column B Requested County Title II Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Column C Other Contributions [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Column D Total Available Funds
24. Field Work & Site Surveys	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
25. NEPA & Sec. 7 ESA Consultation	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
26. Permit Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
27. Project Design & Engineering	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28. Contracts Preparation	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
29. Contract Administration	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
30. Contract Cost	\$0	\$225,000**	\$0	\$225,000
31. Workforce Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
32. Materials & Supplies	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
33. Monitoring	\$0	\$2000	\$0	\$2000
34. Other (i.e. Section 106 Compliance) Road Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
35. Project Sub-Total	\$25,000	\$227,000	\$0	\$252,000
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead @ 8%) (per year for multi-year projects)	\$6,550	\$18,160	\$0	\$24,710
37. Total Cost Estimate	\$31,550	\$245,160*	\$0	\$276,710

** Precommercial Thinning and Fuel Treatment estimated contract cost is \$200 per acre.

Minimum – 50 acres per year. Maximum - 4,000 acres per year.

38. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding for Project Identified Above [Sec. 203(b)(4)] (max. 7 lines)

Federal share is from appropriated funds. Following this work and commercial thinning, most of these units will be prescribed burned using funds from the National Fire Plan, BD deposits, and appropriated funding for fuels.

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)] (max. 7 lines) Silvicultural Prescription will be written for each unit describing what should be done in each unit to meet the intent of the Silvies EIS. Inspections during administration of contracts would determine if the work is meeting the Silvicultural Prescription. The cost for this monitoring is included in the cost of contract administration.
Who is responsible for this monitoring item?: Malheur National Forest
- 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)] (max. 7 lines) If the successful bidders are local contractors it should benefit the local economy. The work should be put up for bid using a variety of bid items, of various sizes, so that a variety of local contractors can compete. The cost of this monitoring is included in line 33 in the above table. Since this isn't typically monitored, the cost for this needs to be borne by the county.
Who is responsible for this monitoring item?: Malheur National Forest
- 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)] (max. 7 lines) No product is expected to come from this project but we would remain flexible if the price of wood chips should improve. We would also be willing to work with anyone that has a use for the wood products, instead of just burning the piles.
Who is responsible for this monitoring item?: Malheur National Forest
- d. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Table 1, Item 33)**
(max. 7 lines)
Amount \$2000

County Court Concurrence

(Majority Required per charter)

A majority of the county commissioners of Grant County have reviewed this proposed Public Law 106-393 project for the Grant County Advisory Council and agree with the proposal as submitted, except for the comments noted below:

Attested by Grant County Judge

Date

Priority Rating:

High Medium Low

Comments/Rational:

Project Name: Silvies Precommercial Thinning and Piling

County Commissioner Concurrence

This proposed Public Law 106-393 project to be presented to the Northeast Oregon Forest Resource Advisory Committee has been reviewed by the Harney County Court (or representative thereof). This County Court agrees with the proposal as submitted, except for the comments noted below:

Attested by Harney County Judge/Commissioner

Date

Priority Rating:

X High Medium Low

Comments/Rational: