SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
PUBLIC LAW 110-343

TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE

Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Olympic
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2015

2. Project Name: Big Quilcene Habitat Enhancement & Youth Engagement	**3a. State: Washington** **3b. County(s): Jefferson**
4. Project Submitted By: Kurt Aluzas	**5. Date: 10/30/2015**
6. Contact Phone Number: 360-765-2230	**7. Contact E-mail: kaaluzas@fs.fed.us**

8. Project Location: Big Quilcene River Watershed	
a. National Forest(s): Olympic NF	b. Forest Service District: Hood Canal RD
c. Location (Township-Range-Section): T27N R03W Sections 1, 2, & 12	

9. Project Goals and Objectives:
1 – To create legacy components for important wildlife species and to improve future late-successional habitat on a portion of the landscape
2 – To foster a greater understanding of wildlife habitat structure, ecological function, and forest stewardship among youth

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*)

By educating and engaging local youth in the implementation of ONF/USFS habitat restoration treatments, this project will improve land health while fostering a culture of learning, safety, and stewardship among participants.

b. Detailed: Former forest management practices in the Big Quilcene Watershed have resulted in stands with reduced components of late successional habitat that many wildlife species depend on. To address biological deficiencies in the stands, the Olympic National Forest (ONF) administers scientifically proven stand improvement treatments (detailed in #19). To maximize potential of requested Title II funds, this project endeavors to engage local youth in the implementation of habitat restoration techniques. This mutually beneficial target epitomizes the USFS motto: *Caring for the land, serving the people.*

The youth participation model is based on a successful 2014 program which engaged 35 students at West Sound Technical Skills Center (WST, a regional high school cooperative trades school in Bremerton). The program consisted of an in class presentation, the creation of more than 40 flying squirrel nest boxes, and a field day on the ONF in a commercially thinned stand. To begin with, an ONF wildlife biologist presented on the value of the work, including the short and long term impact on local ecology, trades, and economy, as well as related potential career opportunities. During the next step of constructing nest boxes, the students attained valuable skills in operating stationary power

equipment, which fulfilled course requirements in their construction trades class at WST. Lastly, the students, accompanied by ONF staff, took their completed boxes to the field, affording them the opportunity to cooperate with natural resource specialists, witness the installation of the nest boxes, and engage in other restoration methods such as tree girdling, slash piling, and thinning practices. Awarding this proposal ensures the continuation of this effective collaboration with WST.

Expanding the model in FY16 will bring nest box construction activities to more students in Jefferson County. Because many facilities lack necessary equipment, the ONF Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew manufactured about 45 ready-to-build kits which require only fasteners and screw drivers for assembly. If funded, crews from local youth corps (e.g. 4H, Ranger Corps, WCC, etc.) will contribute to the overall production achieved in the stands.

We have given careful consideration to the tools, activities and locations for the work to ensure that they are age- and skill-appropriate and will allow us to maximize safety of the participants. For example, activity areas are adjacent to system roads with a short walk in. Our preparatory work with the WCC will ensure we have safe and well-marked routes in and out of the work areas. The dense understory conifer layer is small enough in diameter that it can be safely thinned using loppers. The resulting slash will be small enough to easily and safely moved into piles. The wood pieces for the ready-to-build flying squirrel nest boxes have been pre-drilled to allow quick and safe assembly with screws. A Job Hazard Analysis specific to working with youth and volunteers has been used and refined over the past several years. We will conduct safety briefings prior to each new work activity.

The stands considered are uniquely poised for the project due to their proximity to the community of Quilcene, their access (a majority of paved road), their capacity to benefit from treatment, and extensive completed project planning; including NEPA and silvicultural prescription. Because of these factors in addition to significant in-kind contributions and a functional template this project is essentially 'shovel ready'.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Land Status:

If Yes, specify:

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

- ☐ Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- ☐ Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
- ☒ Restores and improves land health.
- ☐ Restores water quality

13. Project Type

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

☐ Road Maintenance	☐ Trail Maintenance
☐ Road Decommission/Obliteration	☐ Trail Obliteration
☐ Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
☐ Soil Productivity Improvement	☐ Forest Health Improvement
☐ Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	☒ Wildlife Habitat Restoration

☐ Fish Habitat Restoration	☐ Control of Noxious Weeds
☐ Reestablish Native Species	☐ Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
☐ Implement CWPP Project	☐ Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Wildlife Habitat Restoration	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: 130
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated:
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 0.25
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 100 youth
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 11/15/15	**16. Estimated Project Completion Date:** 09/30/2016

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.
This project continues collaboration between the Olympic National Forest and West Sound Technical Skills Center (WST) in Bremerton, WA. WST is a nine school district cooperative serving 11th and 12th grade students from the Kitsap Peninsula, Olympic Peninsula, and Bainbridge Island. Functioning as an off-campus training site for the sending schools, the center provides students opportunities to receive job training and a jump-start on a post-secondary education. The project also enlists the help of the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC). The WCC, an AmeriCorps program specializing in environmental work and disaster response, is dedicated to providing meaningful service and training opportunities to young adults (18-25) and military veterans. Along with increased output, project funding will allow for more WCC involvement in the preparatory field work, deepening their

understanding and contribution. Additionally, the project lends itself to enrich existing relationships between the ONF and local schools and youth groups including, 4H, Boy/Girl Scouts, Quilcene Ranger Corps, etc.

18. Identify benefits to communities.
The framework the project provides for participants to examine contemporary land management careers expands the engaged youths catalog of potential career paths. Additionally, it shows the connection between careers in natural resources or related outputs and principles of public lands management. For example, the understory thinning itself provides insights into the importance of density management as a forestry practice, and the nest box project shows the connection between the products from commercial thinning and restoration activities. Knowledge of these various tenets supports a better informed community. Given the recreational importance of this watershed, any increase in biological diversity in these areas could provide indirect benefits to the local community's recreation tourism trades. Part of the funding will provide wages to youth crews for approximately two weeks. Indirect benefits to communities include expenditures made in the local area by the crew and support staff on fuel, food, and miscellaneous items during the life of the project.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?
The affected stands are characterized, in part, by dense, heavy stocking of single tree species overwhelmingly uniform in age or size, and thus have an insufficient proportion of snags, large woody debris, and plant species in the understory. A wide variety of birds, mammals, mollusks, and amphibians depend on the existence of the aforementioned forest elements. Late-successional wildlife species such as the northern spotted owl (Threatened) and fisher (a re-introduced Sensitive Species) have lost nesting, roosting, denning, and foraging habitat, and are affected by decreased prey availability. Snags, coarse woody debris and other biological legacies are important determinants of prey species abundance. Artificial nest boxes serve as an important substitute for natural cavities until they develop on the landscape. The nest boxes and snags will provide direct benefits to the primary prey of the northern spotted owl, the northern flying squirrel. Understory thinning promotes plant species diversity, improves forest stand structure, and mitigates risk for potential high intensity wildfire. The piling of the thinning slash and other debris provides a substitute for coarse woody debris that benefits small mammals, and amphibians. It will also benefit other woody debris-dependent organisms such as beneficial fungi that can serve to increase tree growth and health. Flying squirrels feed on these species of fungi and also spread their spores. By adding biological values and diversity in the stands, these activities complement the habitat enhancement benefits of pre-commercial thinning that has recently occurred in the watershed, without precluding future thinning potential.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
☒ Contract	☒ Federal Workforce
☐ County Workforce	☒ Volunteers
☐ Grant	☐ Agreement
☒ Americorps (e.g., WCC)	☐ YCC/CCC Crews
☐ Job Corps	☐ Stewardship Contract
☐ Merchantable Timber Pilot	☒ Other (specify): West Sound Tech, 4H

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? ☐ Yes ☒ No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: $15,050.00
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? ☐ Yes ☒ No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:
NEPA has been completed for this project using appropriated funds. Appropriated funds have also been used for field site surveys, project planning, and a portion of supplies. West Sound Technical Skills center has made a significant in-kind contribution by allowing the students and staff for this project to construct these boxes, in addition to the necessary equipment. The Washington Department of Ecology provides matching funds for WCC crews.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above. **See Attached.**

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: **Olympic National Forest personnel and volunteers**

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k): **No Title II funds will be used for monitoring efforts.**

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.
If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:
☒ Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
☐ Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:	**Project Approved By:**
/s/ (INSERT Signature)	***/s/ (INSERT Signature)***
Chairperson	**Forest Supervisor**
Resource Advisory Committee	National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	*Column A* **Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution**	*Column B* **Requested Title II Contribution**	*Column C* **Other Contributions**	*Column D* **Total Available Funds**
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	$1,200		$2,500	$3,700
b. NEPA/CEQA	$1,200			$1,200
c. ESA Consultation	$400			$400
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering	$1,200			$1,200
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries	$600	$11,650	$6,000	$18,250
j. Materials & Supplies	$800	$800	$200	$1,800
k. Monitoring	$1,600			$1,600
l. Other		$2,600	$6,000	$8.600
m. Project Sub-Total	$7,000	$15,050	$14,700	$36,750
n. Indirect Costs				
o. Total Cost Estimate	$7,000	$15,050	$14,700	$36,750

NOTES:

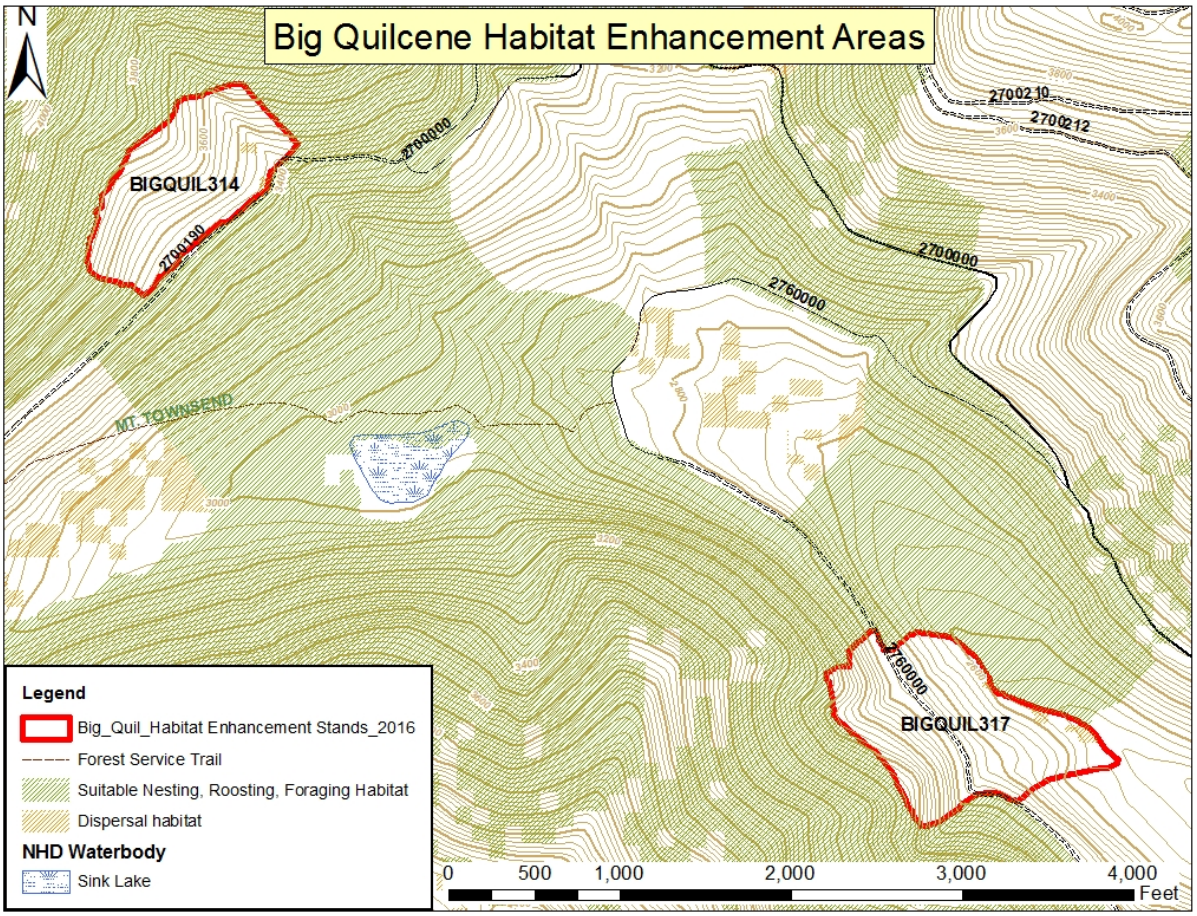
a. Pre-NEPA Costs

g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.

i. Cost of implementing project

l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.


Big Quilcene Habitat Enhancement Areas
N
BIGQUIL314
BIGQUIL317
2700000
2700180
2700210
2700212
2760000
MT TOWNSEND
Legend
Big_Quil_Habitat Enhancement Stands_2016
Forest Service Trail
Suitable Nesting, Roosting, Foraging Habitat
Dispersal habitat
NHD Waterbody
Sink Lake
0
500
1,000
2,000
3,000
4,000
Feet

ATTACHMENT 1 – Big Quilcene Habitat Enhancement Monitoring Plan

1. Data recorded for nest boxes, topped and girdled trees will include GPS locations so that they can be monitored over time for wildlife use and vegetative response. The Olympic National Forest has an established monitoring system and extensive data base for snag monitoring.

2. Self-activated wildlife cameras will be placed in these areas to evaluate wildlife use before and after habitat treatment. This will include monitoring of the flying squirrel nest boxes. Any photographs of flying squirrel use of the nest boxes will be supplied to WST Construction trades program to show the fruits of their endeavors. WST students will write their names on the box they construct so we can report back to them over time.