

**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:**  
**Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):  
**Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2014**

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| <b>2. Project Name: Dungeness Habitat Enhancement &amp; Youth Engagement</b> | <b>3a. State: WA</b><br><b>3b. County(s): Clallam</b>                                |
| <b>4. Project Submitted By: Kurt Aluzas</b>                                  | <b>5. Date: 03/27/2014</b>   |
| <b>6. Contact Phone Number: 360-765-2230</b>                                 | <b>7. Contact E-mail: <a href="mailto:kaaluzas@fs.fed.us">kaaluzas@fs.fed.us</a></b> |

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| <b>8. Project Location:</b>  |  |
| a. National Forest(s): Olympic National Forest   | b. Forest Service District: Hood Canal Ranger District |
| c. Location (Township-Range-Section) T29N R04W Sections 24 & 35 and T29N R03W Section 19 |  |

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:**  
**1 - To enhance early successional habitat values and create legacy components for future late-successional habitat on a portion of the landscape**  
**2- To foster a greater understanding of wildlife habitat structure and function among youth and adults**

**10. Project Description:**

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*): The project will use youth and adult volunteers to clear forage openings for early successional species while creating legacy structures for small mammals and other species by making snags, coarse wood piles, and nest boxes in young managed stands.

b. Detailed:  
 A history of intensive forest management in the Dungeness Watershed, accompanied by heavy stocking of single tree species and fire suppression, has led to large tracts of dense, biologically homogeneous, mid-successional stage stands of trees, with few snags or large woody debris and little in the way of understory shrubs and herbaceous vegetation. Other threats include the invasion of non-native plants.

Early-successional species or those that use forest openings, such as Roosevelt elk, Columbia black-tailed deer, black bear and ruffed grouse benefit from increased quantity and quality of forage in the form of grasses, forbs and preferred shrub species. This type of high value understory forage is less common in a watershed managed primarily for late-successional forest. Woody browse provided by willow, red elderberry, red huckleberry, and a variety of native *Rubus* species are important to deer and elk. Soft mast-producing deciduous shrubs are important to a variety of birds and small mammals. Species that use coarse woody debris benefit from slash piles and snags due to the limited number of these legacy elements in managed landscapes.

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. The northern flying squirrel is the primary prey for northern spotted owls on the Olympic Peninsula. It also has an important role in spreading the spores of fungi that are beneficial to many of our forest tree species. Snags, coarse woody debris and other biological legacies are important determinants of flying squirrel abundance. Artificial nest boxes can serve as an important substitute for natural cavities until they develop on the landscape. In addition to restoration thinning, techniques for creating snags and coarse wood have also been used successfully on the Olympic National Forest. Monitoring has shown that these created features are used by wildlife.

All of these elements will increase the diversity of the mid and late-successional stages that later develop. This project is an expansion of efforts that were previously supported with a 2010 CCS grant, Title 2 funds, and non-governmental partner funds. One portion of this project will (A) focus on piling slash and creating small openings, and the other portion will (B) emphasize thinning, snag and nest box creation. All of these proposed enhancement areas are adjacent to previous habitat enhancement efforts such as pre-commercial thinning, slash piling and opening creation, invasive plant treatment, bird box placement, or wetland restoration. These efforts complement each other to improve the functional value of the habitat for wildlife on a larger portion of this landscape. The acreage figures reported here are a conservative minimum.

Students and volunteers from youth and conservation organizations will accomplish the majority of the work, with oversight by the Project Biologist. The ONF youth engagement coordinator will facilitate outreach to urban and rural youth groups from a variety of organizations. A web-based volunteer recruiting tool will be used to gather adult volunteers.

(A)- A previously pre-commercially thinned stand will be targeted for slash piling treatment. This stand is located between an important wetland and another thinned stand, where openings have already been created. During pre-commercial thinning, a slash-bucking provision was applied in the targeted stand to facilitate later handling of slash pieces by volunteers. This avoids the need for chainsaws. Volunteers will clear slash concentrations by creating a series of piles. They will then use handsaws or loppers to cut trees <5" dbh and will girdle larger trees. This process will create 10 of the ¼ acre or equivalent openings and 8 of the ½ acre openings. Trained Forest Service personnel will assist and oversee operations as necessary. Deciduous and other ecologically valuable minor tree species will not be cut in these openings and will benefit from additional growing space. Girdling larger trees reduces safety concerns associated with felling and also allows us to achieve snag objectives. Invasive plant species will be pulled or cut in conjunction with these activities. Where necessary, native grass seed and propagated shrubs will be used to ensure adequate vegetative cover in the short term. If time permits, efforts could be extended to additional nearby stands.

To minimize hazardous fuels and road-related disturbance issues, slash will not be piled within 100 feet of drivable roads. These slash piles will be built to specifications to benefit wildlife (5'x8'x8'), and will not be burned. The piles are intended to clear enough slash to allow ungulate movement and understory growth while leaving some slash to function as smaller woody debris and provide nutrients.

(B)- In addition, a small amount (<5 acres) of pre-commercial thinning (PCT) will be conducted by the students and volunteers. This will augment over 1,000 acres of PCT that has already occurred in young (<30 years) stands in the watershed in the past 5-7 years. The thinning frees growing space for the remaining trees in these dense stands, so that they can develop larger, more robust canopies and

limbs, and favors underrepresented and biologically valuable species. This will also give the students the firsthand opportunity to learn about tree density management and the ecological benefits of thinning, along with different spacing regimes. Participants will help to mark the desired spacing of “leave-trees” in the stand. They will cut smaller trees by hand or girdle larger trees with drawknives, for safety reasons. This will also provide smaller diameter snags. Thinning slash will be piled as described above. Invasive plants will be pulled or cut in conjunction with these activities. A nearby 45 year old stand will be targeted for snag creation using these same participants to girdle at least 40 trees using a safe and effective technique.

An Olympic National Forest wildlife biologist will work with YMCA students in August 2014. The biologist will explain the ecological need for these biological features and the importance of forest management techniques such as thinning, snags and coarse wood creation, and nest boxes. They will also learn about the ecological role of the flying squirrel in spreading beneficial fungi as well as being an important prey species. YMCA participants will also construct 10-15 flying squirrel boxes in addition to their field activities. Once completed, a contractor will install the nest boxes and create at least 20 snags through tree-topping, to create future snags and cavities. More tree-topping or nest box installation would occur if bid prices are lower than projections. This activity will occur in the same stand where the students will girdle trees. A field trip with the group to view nest box installation and see the results of other snag creation techniques is also being arranged. Safety and learning is an emphasis throughout this project.

### 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

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|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):    |
| b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Wildlife Habitat Restoration |   |

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| <b>14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish</b>   |
| 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: 1   |
| Miles of trail maintained:   |
| Miles of trial obliterated:  |
| Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):   |
| Acres of rangeland improved:   |
| Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: <b>75</b>   |
| Acres of noxious weeds controlled: 1   |
| Timber volume generated:   |
| Jobs generated in full time equivalent (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: <b>0.1</b>    |
| People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): <b>&gt;20</b> (10+ youth, 10+ adults) |
| Direct economic activity benefit:  |
| Other:   |

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|--|---|
| <b>15. Estimated Project Start Date:</b><br>June 1, 2014 | <b>16. Estimated Project Completion Date:</b><br>September 30, 2014 |
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**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.**

The Dungeness watershed has a long history of collaboration for the improvement of wildlife habitat. A variety of state, federal, and local government, tribal and non-profit partners (e.g., RMEF) have been involved in habitat enhancement restoration efforts for portions of the watershed for over a decade. All throughout, Forest Service biologists have worked closely with WDFW and tribal biologists in planning habitat improvement efforts. Most recently, the ONF received a grant from the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) to complete slash piling in a nearby area through contracted services.

For 2014, the Olympic National Forest has hired a Youth Engagement Coordinator who will assist in engaging a variety of youth-related organizations, from urban and rural areas, for this effort. In addition, our partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife allows the project access to their web-based volunteer recruiting system for this project. This project will add the YMCA to the list of partners engaged in these endeavors. Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) has submitted a large grant proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation that would fund youth-based work crews for 6 weeks to work concurrently with this and other habitat improvement efforts in the Dungeness Watershed. If funded, NYC's participation would allow us to complete a great deal more habitat enhancement work as well as provide additional benefits of youth employment and outdoor leadership for the participants.

**18. Identify benefits to communities.**

An increase in available forage and resulting population effects could enhance hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Increasing wildlife forage in key areas will indirectly benefit outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy both observing and hunting wildlife. One of the hopes is that this project would increase the amount of forage available on public lands, increasing the probability for success of efforts aimed at shifting elk use patterns to public lands.

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

The thinned areas will provide short-term foraging opportunities for deer and elk, and habitat for other early-successional species. The thinning treatment will contribute to attaining the long term goal of developing late-successional habitat by maintaining stand health, increasing diameter growth and retaining desirable characteristics such as live limbs on the lower portion of the trees, and will contribute to habitat connectivity on the landscape. The woody debris piles will provide stable microclimates for species such as mollusks, amphibians, and small mammals as the surrounding stands continue to develop. The nest boxes and snags will provide direct benefits to the primary prey of the Northern spotted owl. Other wildlife species would also use the snags or incidental woody debris. The use of different snag creation techniques will ensure that cavities and other snag attributes are available to species over a longer period of time. These activities will complement the habitat enhancement benefits of pre-commercial thinning activities that have recently occurred in the watershed. Future tree density reduction treatments will be necessary for continued stand development toward the desired long-term conditions of providing late-successional characteristics.

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|---|---|
| <b>20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment?</b> (check at least 1) |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant  | <input type="checkbox"/> Agreement                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Americorps   | <input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps  | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): YMCA youth |

**21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials?**  Yes  No

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| <b>22. Anticipated Project Costs</b> |
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| a. Title II Funds Requested: <b>\$5180</b>   |
| b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

**23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:**

All NEPA has been completed for this project using appropriated funds. Appropriated funds would also cover the cost of the Youth Engagement Coordinator, and transport of the students to the field site to view the box installation, and miscellaneous staff time associated with the planning and implementation of this project. The YMCA 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, and for their participation in thinning, piling, and snag creation efforts. In addition, the YMCA will pay for the wood for the boxes as well as several days of salary for the biologist.

**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:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*

**Chairperson**

Resource Advisory Committee

**Project Approved By:**

*/s/ (INSERT Signature)*

**Forest Supervisor**

National Forest

# Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

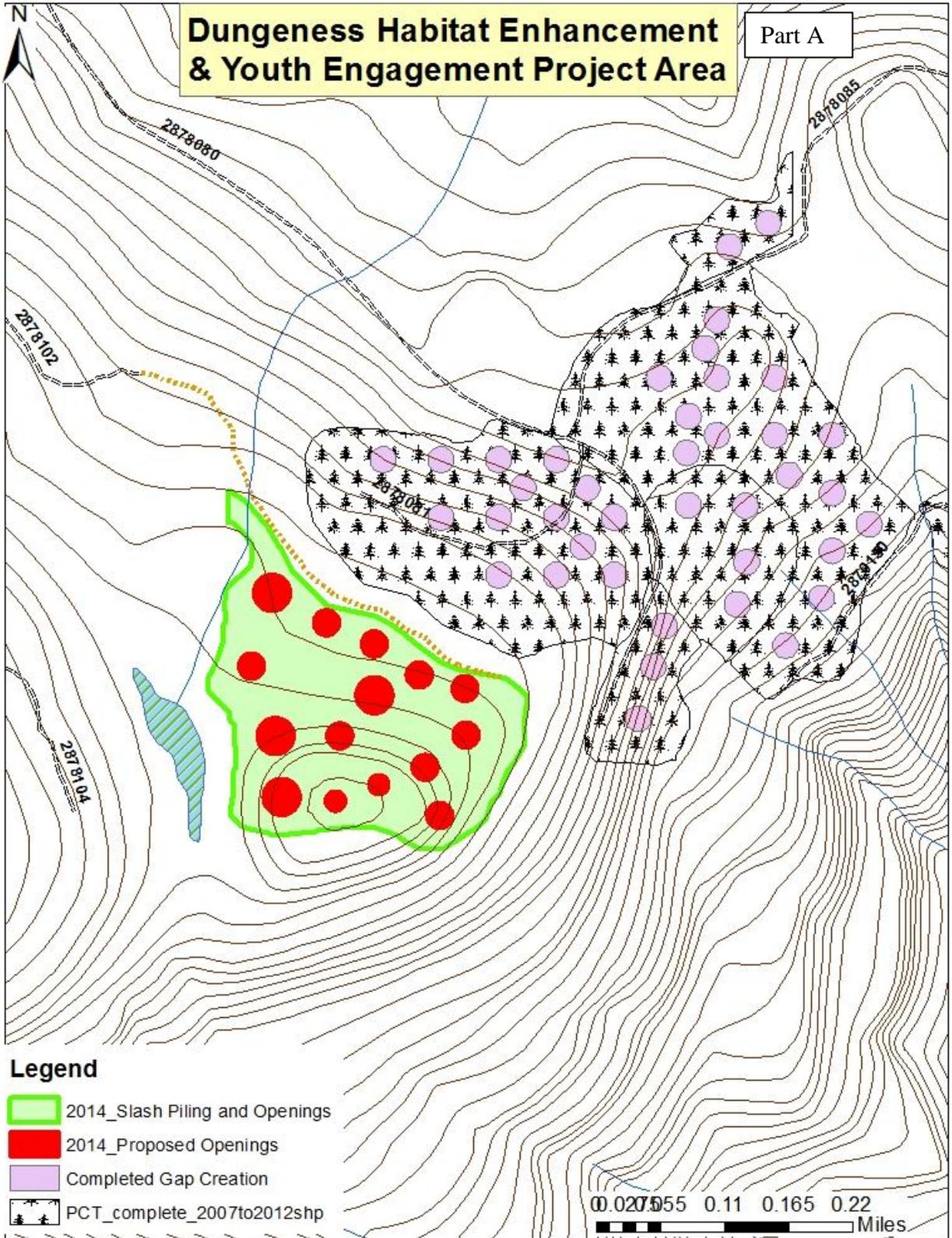
## Worksheet 1

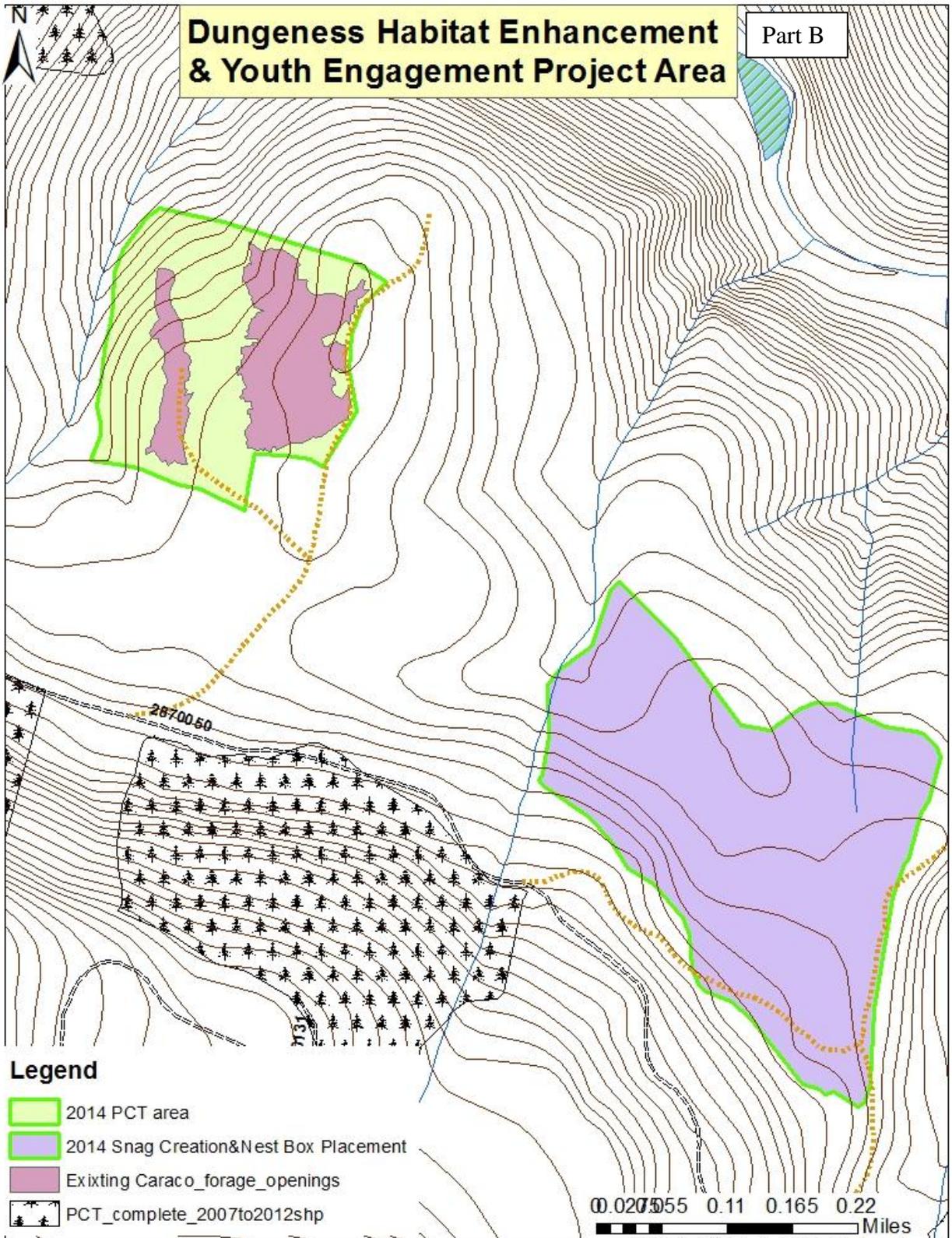
Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

| Item                             | Column A<br>Fed. Agency<br>Appropriated<br>Contribution | Column B<br>Requested<br>Title II<br>Contribution | Column C<br>Other<br>Contributions | Column D<br>Total<br>Available<br>Funds |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| a. Field Work & Site Surveys     | \$3000  |   |                                    | \$3000                                  |
| b. NEPA/CEQA                     | \$680   |   |                                    | \$680                                   |
| c. ESA Consultation              | \$680   |   |                                    | \$680                                   |
| d. Permit Acquisition            |   |   |                                    |   |
| e. Project Design & Engineering  |   |   |                                    |   |
| f. Contract/Grant Preparation    | \$360   | \$360   |                                    | \$720                                   |
| g. Contract/Grant Administration | \$360   | \$360   |                                    | \$720                                   |
| h. Contract/Grant Cost           | \$6000  | \$3500  | \$17820                            | \$27320                                 |
| i. Salaries                      | \$1500  | \$560   |                                    | \$2060                                  |
| j. Materials & Supplies          | \$442   | \$400   | \$300                              | \$1142                                  |
| k. Monitoring                    | \$1080  |   | \$1000                             | \$2080                                  |
| l. Other                         |   |   |                                    |   |
| m. Project Sub-Total             |   |   |                                    |   |
| n. Indirect Costs                |   |   |                                    |   |
| <b>o. Total Cost Estimate</b>    | <b>\$14102</b>  | <b>\$5180</b>                                     | <b>\$19120</b>                     | <b>\$38402</b>                          |

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.





## **ATTACHMENT 1 – Dungeness Habitat Enhancement Monitoring Plan**

1. Data recorded for habitat piles, created openings, nest boxes and larger snags 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. Updates to NAIP aerial imagery in 2014 or 2015 will be compared to earlier images using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. This will provide a measure of what the area looked like before and after the proposed round of treatments and aid in determining if additional treatments are necessary.
3. 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.