



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

**Southwestern
Region**

June 2013



Project Funding Recommendations and Proposed Evaluation Scores and Comments

2013 Technical Advisory Panel Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

Prepared for the Secretary of Agriculture
Submitted Through the USDA Forest Service

June 17, 2013

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Bird", written over a horizontal line.

Bryan Bird, Chair

June 20, 2013

Date

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Executive Summary

The Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Technical Advisory Panel (Panel) met in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 22-26, 2013, to provide the USDA Forest Service with recommendations for the Secretary of Agriculture on which grant applications submitted for funding under the 2013 CFRP Request for Applications (RFA) best met the program objectives. The Secretary of Agriculture chartered the Panel for two years as a Federal Advisory Committee on June 14, 2012 pursuant to the Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 (Title VI, Pub. L. No. 106-393). The meeting was open to the public. Eleven Panel members attended the meeting. Jennifer Hensiek and Amy Waltz were unable to attend.

The Panel reviewed their Bylaws and responsibilities under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, received Ethics Training, appointed a Chairperson (Bryan Bird), and reviewed 31 grant applications totaling \$10,371,908 in Federal requests. Panel members considered information presented during the public comment periods and then conducted a consistency review of their comments on each application. The Panel also identified objectives for the 2013 CFRP Subcommittee and provided recommendations for improving the Panel review process and Request for Applications (RFA).

If a Panel Member or any member of their immediate family, or organization employing them, would directly or indirectly financially benefit from a CFRP grant proposal being evaluated, or if a Panel Member had an identified role in the implementation of the project, that Panel member left the meeting room during the discussion of that proposal and recused themselves from the Panel's decision to avoid a conflict of interest.

On May 6 the Panel Chairman approved the list recommending 9 CFRP projects for funding in 2013 totaling \$3,100,000 (the funding available for CFRP grants in fiscal year 2013) as well as three additional projects should additional funding become available. The Acting Southwestern Regional Forester approved the Panel's recommendations on May 8, 2013. On May 24 the Acting Regional Forester sent a transmittal letter to the Chief of the Forest Service with the Panel recommendations and a decision memo for the Secretary of Agriculture. Grant award letters will be issued by the appropriate administering National Forest following approval by the Secretary.

This report includes: An overview of the application review process; Panel review comments and scores on the 2013 CFRP applications; Recommendations for improving the proposal review process and RFA; the Panel Charter and Bylaws, A list of Panel members; and project funding recommendations for the Secretary. This report, the Meeting Minutes (including the meeting agenda), the Panel Charter, and the Federal Register Announcement for the Panel meeting and the 2013 RFA can be obtained on the CFRP website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp>) or by contacting Walter Dunn, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, telephone (506) 842-3425.

Application Review Process

The Forest Service sorted applications into three categories prior to the Panel meeting: 1) Implementation of on the ground restoration treatments; 2) Planning, assessment and NEPA compliance; and 3) Small diameter tree utilization. The Panel reviewed administrative observations provided by Forest Service staff and then used a consensus based process to develop agreement on a description of how well the application met the evaluation criterion. Each Panel member then filled out a score sheet indicating how well the application addressed each of the evaluation criteria (0=not at all, 5=exceptionally well).

The Panel eliminated 4 of the 31 applications from further consideration because they were missing specific information required in the 2013 RFA. Applications were eliminated for the following reasons: Missing letters of commitment from project partners for whom specific roles were described in the project budget and/or work plan.

Public comment periods were scheduled each day, and members of the public could bring application review matters to the attention of the Panel during those periods if they provided written comments to the Forest Service staff in advance. After the applications were reviewed the Panel conducted a consistency check of their comments on each application, considered the information presented during Public Comment periods, and made corrections to the Panel report language when necessary.

Following the consistency check Panel members developed a process for scoring each proposals effect on long term management and assigned a weight of 1.5 to that criteria. The Panel identified the following elements to consider in developing their score for a projects effect on long term management:

- Best return on the investment to accomplish CFRP purposes and objectives
- Innovation that makes appropriate forest management more cost efficient
- Contribution to accomplishing larger landscape scale objectives
- Part of a landscape scale effort within an area that leads to land and watershed protection
- The ability to act as a catalyst to increase the effectiveness of projects beyond the one being proposed
- Facilitates protection of communities from wildfire
- Allows more flexibility in wild land fire management
- Ability to create assets that are capable of generating net benefit streams past this project
- Increases community awareness and acceptance of fire's role in the landscape
- Creating utilization infrastructure
- Self-sustaining businesses
- The extent to which the proposal builds on (innovation and experimentation) previous CFRP projects as opposed to repeating previous CFRP accomplishments
- Maintaining local sustainable forest industries that provide land managers with a source (of workers) for removing excessive fuels and establishing healthy forests
- Collaboration between using small diameter timber and a market based approach
- Commitment to follow up first entry with second entry to avoid losing fire benefits gained

- Most bang for the buck while protecting life and limb, creating jobs, utilizing materials and creating better managed forests

Forest Service staff calculated the average score for each application and created a table listing the applications from highest to lowest score in each of the three project categories (planning, utilization, and implementation). The Panel recommended funding two planning, two utilization, and five implementation projects totaling \$3,100,000. The Panel recommended funding the next highest scoring implementation projects should additional funding become available.

Evaluation Criteria

The Panel Review Comments for each application include numbered paragraphs which correspond to the numbers for each of the following criteria:

1. Will the proposed project reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfires and the negative effects of excessive competition between trees by restoring ecosystem functions (including healthy watersheds), structures, and species composition, including the reduction of non-native species populations?
2. Will the proposed project re-establish fire regimes approximating those that shaped forest ecosystems prior to fire suppression?
3. Will the proposed project replant trees in deforested areas, if they exist, in the proposed project area?
4. Will the proposed project improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees?
5. Will the proposed project include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders as well as appropriate Federal, Tribal, State, County, Land Grant, and Municipal government representatives in the design and implementation of the project? (Conservation Groups are non-government, non-commodity groups whose objectives include forest restoration, biodiversity and/or habitat conservation, education and/or outreach.)
6. Does the proposal include a plan for a multiparty assessment that will:
 - a. Identify both the existing ecological condition of the proposed project area and the desired future condition; and
 - b. Monitor and report on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of the project including improvements in local management skills and on the ground results?
7. Does the project proposal incorporate current scientific forest restoration information?
8. Will the proposed project preserve old and large trees?
9. Will the proposed project create local employment or training opportunities within the context of accomplishing restoration objectives and include summer youth job programs, such as the Youth Conservation Corps, where appropriate?
10. Have the proponents demonstrated the capability to successfully implement the proposed project?
11. Does the proposal facilitate landscape-scale, multi-jurisdictional efforts?
12. Is the proposed activity in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction?
13. Is the cost of the project reasonable and within the range of the fair market value for similar work?

2013 CFRP Grant Application Panel Review Comments

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 01-13
CATEGORY: Planning
ORGANIZATION: Forest Fitness
FOREST: Cibola
PROJECT TITLE: Multi-Jurisdictional, Fire Focused Planning within the Luera-Pelona Landscape, Southwest New Mexico
FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 359,614
MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 89,900
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 449,515
EVALUATION SCORE: 48.91

1. NEPA clearance of the project area and the preparation of a burn plan will enable federal funding of continuing efforts to reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires as part of a larger scale and ongoing effort among the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the State Land Office (SLO) and NM State Forestry to address restoration on a landscape scale.
2. The proposed burn plan will enable naturally ignited fires for resource benefit which, coupled with ongoing and future mechanical treatment, will help reestablish historic fire regimes. Past prescribed burns have demonstrated a commitment from the land agencies to the reestablishment of fire.
3. N/A
4. One of the collaborators is a forest products operator and will participate in the multiparty monitoring. Given the remote location of this project, it may not be feasible to have utilization.
5. The proposal includes a diverse group of land and resource management agencies, but missing from the collaborators are grazing lessees from the State Land Office lands whose cooperation is essential if post fire recovery is to be successful. The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), a conservation group, is involved only in the multiparty monitoring and was not involved in the preparation of the proposal.
6. Multiparty assessment includes a diverse group, but will focus primarily on the achievement of the tasks outlined in the proposal rather than on the ecological and economic outcomes of an implemented plan.
7. The project references current scientific restoration information. The proposal presents an opportunity to explore the potential interaction of climate change, wildfires, drought and forest restoration practices, as well as how invasive species impact forest restoration.
8. The proposal states that it will preserve old and large trees but includes no specifics in this regard.
9. The project will sustain several jobs with the proponent and contractors and will train and certify a small number of youth in monitoring protocols.
10. The proponent seems to have the experience and capacity to coordinate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities.
11. By tying previous efforts in BLM lands in the Paloma Mountains with Forest Service efforts in the San Mateo Mountains to a significant SLO landscape in the Luera Mountains, the proposal effectively facilitates landscape scale multijurisdictional efforts in forest restoration. The project builds upon past adjacent, implemented projects.

12. Although the project area is identified as a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction in the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Statewide Assessment strategies, few other assessments are offered to justify the planning area. This area offers one of the highest potentials for the reintroduction of fire across a landscape.
13. The cost is reasonable for planning efforts at this scale. Note: the lease of a 4-wheeler at \$80/day for a total of \$13,200 appears excessive.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 02-13, Revised
CATEGORY:	Planning
ORGANIZATION:	GIV
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Planning Collaborative Restoration of the Rio Tusas-Lower San Antonio Landscape
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	49.43

1. NEPA clearance of the project area will enable federal funding of continuing efforts to reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires as part of a larger scale and ongoing efforts among the Forest Service, the BLM, and NM State Forestry to address restoration on a landscape scale. The project is proposing landscape scale NEPA clearance of over 60,000 acres, which is a good first step towards reducing the threat of large high intensity wildfires.
2. The application offers an opportunity to address the interaction between domestic livestock and elk grazing and the reestablishment of natural fire regimes and included numerous permittees and grazing associations as collaborators.
3. N/A
4. Several of the collaborators have proven records in the forest products industry.
5. The proposal includes multiple conservation organizations with significant commitments to both planning and monitoring. The applicant made an exceptional effort in building a broad collaborative group with strong letters of support, especially from residents in the project area, grazing associations, and conservation groups.
6. The application has strong letters from agencies and organizations that support this planning effort. This is a comprehensive monitoring plan that was made stronger with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality partnership. The monitoring plan includes unique and important components related to wildfire suppression costs. The proposal for a prioritization workshop is innovative, as well as The Nature Conservancy (TNC) model they are proposing to use, and was an appropriate response to a previous Panel weakness because it builds and maintains the involvement of the collaborators.
7. The project references current scientific restoration information. The proposal presents an opportunity to explore the potential interaction of climate change, wildfires, drought and forest restoration practices, as well as how invasive species impact forest restoration.
8. The proposal states that it will preserve old and large trees and references the NM Forest Restoration Principles.
9. The proposal includes students from both a university and a college that will participate in monitoring and stand exams.

10. The applicant’s CV demonstrates a long career with the Forest Service and experience in planning and the collective experience of the collaborators is demonstrative. The grass roots approach likely will support the successful implementation of the project.
11. Planning will not cover more than one jurisdiction; however, the project leverages 430,000 acres of proposed BLM planning directly adjacent to the project area and therefore addresses a larger landscape.
12. Although the project area is identified as a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction in the Carson National Forest Five Year Restoration Plan, few other assessments are offered to justify the planning area. This area offers a high potential for the reintroduction of fire across a landscape. There are a number of small communities adjacent to the planning areas that are at high risk of wildfire. This is a high risk area because there are considerable impacts to cold water fisheries and the ecosystem associated with them if a wildfire were to occur, as referenced on page two. There were numerous letters of support from fishery interest groups emphasizing this point.
13. The cost is reasonable for planning efforts at this scale. Note the difference in costs for archeological contractors: in the previous proposal 01-13, the rate for the archeological contractor was \$18.15 per acre and this proposal identifies cost for archeological services to \$26.86 per acre. This may be related to the density of potential cultural sites in the proposed project area.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 03-13, Revised
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Silver Dollar Racing & Shavings
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Utilizing Small Diameter Trees to Strengthen Forest Restoration Projects
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	48.73

1. The project would indirectly reduce the threat of wildfires. It would add capacity for handling small diameter trees and therefore facilitate thinning and forest restoration activities in New Mexico. In addition, the products being created can be used in the recovery of natural watersheds and ecosystems. Strength: The weed-free certification enhances the value of the product as a restoration tool.
2. The project would provide an indirect benefit to the Forest Service by providing increased capacity for the utilization of small diameter trees from thinning operations that support the reintroduction of historic fire regimes.
3. N/A
4. Strength: The applicant identified multiple products they currently manufacture from small diameter timber and described additional future product lines. The proposal would be strengthened if there was a marketing plan for the future products.
5. The proposal had an appropriately broad list of partners including suppliers, buyers and affected communities.
6. Recommendation: add more detail to the multi-party assessment regarding what variables would be measured and what methodologies would be utilized, especially for economic benefit (e.g., job creation and increased income). There was no information on production

- capacities or volumes. However, there is a reference to future data collection and a broad group of participants would be involved in multi-party monitoring.
7. The applicant participates in a number of collaborative restoration initiatives and references current scientific forest restoration information in the application.
 8. The proposal mentioned the preservation of old and large trees but did not provide any detail. The nature of the product referenced in this proposal does not require large diameter trees.
 9. This proposal had a strong youth component utilizing video techniques as well as site visits by Maxwell schools. The project would create additional jobs in the community and maintain current employment status.
 10. Strength: The proposal demonstrates that there is a demand for the product. Certification by the Texas and New Mexico Highway Departments demonstrates the need for small diameter material, and the applicant demonstrated that a niche market has been developed for the product that creates opportunities for the expansion of that market.
 11. The proposal could have been strengthened with more specific information on the project's contribution to landscape scale restoration. By increasing the capacity to process small diameter trees, the project will facilitate landscape scale forest restoration.
 12. Recommendation: The proposal could have been strengthened if the letters of support or endorsement from the land management agency referenced a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), a Statewide Assessment or a Watershed Assessment indicating that the material that would be processed would be coming from a high priority area for hazardous fuel reductions.
 13. Personnel wages and equipment costs are in line with industry standards.

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 04-13
CATEGORY: Utilization
ORGANIZATION: Spotted Owl Timber
FOREST: Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE: Building Relationships While Sustaining Our Forests
FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 324,031
MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 45,616
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 369,647
EVALUATION SCORE: Eliminated from consideration.

Santa Fe Public Schools was listed as a collaborator in the table on page 3, but the proposal did not include a letter from them confirming that the school would participate in the project.

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 05-13
CATEGORY: Utilization
ORGANIZATION: Ellinger Logging
FOREST: Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE: Utilization: Addition of a Small Log Side to the Existing Ellinger Logging Sawmill
FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE: 45.71

1. The project would indirectly reduce the threat of wildfires. It would add capacity for handling small diameter trees and therefore facilitate thinning and forest restoration activities in New Mexico.
2. The project would provide an indirect benefit to the Forest Service by providing increased capacity for utilization of small diameter trees from thinning operations to support the reintroduction of historic fire regimes.
3. N/A
4. The proposal would be strengthened by providing a better description of the products proposed by the applicant. The proposal includes a business plan that indicates the volume to be taken in and the volume going out. Much of the equipment being proposed is specific to small diameter utilization. A strength of this proposal is that there are letters of support from businesses that would purchase the products manufactured from small diameter trees.
5. There are no letters of support from state or municipality agencies. The proposal could have been strengthened by these or other appropriate government representatives.
6. The monitoring plan does address the objectives of their work plan but is somewhat vague, i.e. measured number of jobs created or number of youth trained. The application needs more information on or monitoring of what would be processed at their facility with CFRP funding as compared to their current production.
7. Weakness: The proposal didn't include any discussion of scientific references or references to planning documents that include the necessary scientific references. The statement of need would have been the appropriate place for such references. The project could be strengthened by collaboration with members of the conservation and academic community who could provide current scientific information for the proposal.
8. The proposal mentioned the preservation of old and large trees but did not provide detail. The equipment specified in the proposal will only process material 12" or less.
9. Jobs will be created by this proposal. However, there are no letters of support from state or municipality agencies expressing their support of this proposal. The youth component could have been strengthened by collaboration with schools and educational organizations.
10. Strength: The applicant has a well-demonstrated record of implementation and production that is confirmed in the Forest Service District Ranger's support letter.
11. The proposal could have been strengthened with more specific information on the project's contribution to landscape scale restoration. By increasing the capacity to process small diameter trees, the project will facilitate landscape scale forest restoration.
12. Recommendation: The proposal could have been strengthened if letters of support or endorsement from the land management agency indicated that the material that would be processed would come from a high priority area for hazardous fuel reductions and referenced the supporting documents. During the Panel meeting the Lincoln National Forest timber staff clarified that the projects would be in high priority areas for hazardous fuel reduction.
13. The cost for this project is reasonable. Quality used equipment is incorporated where possible, allowing the proponent to greatly improve small diameter tree utilization. There were no funds requested for personnel, and a detailed description of the supplies that would be used was provided.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 06-13
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Jensen Contracting
FOREST:	Lincoln

PROJECT TITLE: Sort Yards and Sustainability of the Southeastern New Mexico Small Diameter Wood Market
 FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 360,000
 MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 90,000
 TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 450,000
 EVALUATION SCORE: Ineligible

The proposal was eliminated from consideration because Rocky Mountain Ecology, LLC was listed as a collaborator on page 4 of the narrative, but the proposal did not include a letter from them confirming participation in the project.

PROJECT NUMBER: **CFRP 07-13**
CATEGORY: Utilization
ORGANIZATION: Forest Restoration Management
FOREST: Cibola
PROJECT TITLE: Collaborative Restoration and Thinning Utilization
FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE: 45.15

1. The proposed project would indirectly reduce the threat of wildfires. It would add harvesting capacity and therefore facilitate thinning and forest restoration activities in New Mexico. The proposal included a strong letter of endorsement from the Forest Service District Ranger indicating the number of treatment acres to be treated and the District's commitment to perform a prescribed burn of the site one year after treatment.
2. The project would benefit the Forest Service by increasing the harvesting capacity of thinning operations that support the reintroduction of fire regimes. The proposal includes a strong letter of endorsement from the Forest Service District Ranger indicating his commitment to preform prescribed burns on at least 3,000 acres per year. The proposal also states that there have been 3,900 acres of prescribed fire to date in the area.
3. N/A
4. It is important to note that this equipment is used to transport product. The equipment purchased will increase the efficiency of forest product removal and therefore add to small tree utilization. The proposal describes products that would be produced (e.g., cants, vigas, and construction lumber).
5. Due to the membership of the CFLRP, tribal, state and other government representatives would be included in the projects diverse group of stakeholders. It would have been helpful to reference the summary table of the stakeholders in Attachment C.
6. The monitoring plan was clearly described and includes a diverse group of participants. Detailed socio-economic factors were taken into consideration.
7. Through its relationship to the CFLRP, the science of forest restoration has been incorporated into the proposal.
8. Due to the connection with the CFLRP, the project includes provisions for the preservation of old and large trees, but there is no direct reference for the preservation of old and large trees in the application.
9. The project would create four jobs in New Mexico and the proposal provided information regarding continued operations in the state.

10. The proposal demonstrates that the applicant is currently operating, accomplishing one hundred acres treatments per month. The Forest Service District Ranger provided a strong letter of endorsement.
11. Through its relationship to the CFLRP, the proposal will facilitate landscape-scale, multi-jurisdictional efforts.
12. Through its relationship to the CFLRP, the project is in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction.
13. The proponent plans to purchase used equipment wherever possible, which would improve the effectiveness of CFRP funding.

Administrative Note: In the budget the fringe benefit total was incorrect. It should be (in Section 6-B), \$21,600, not \$57,600.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 08-13
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Alamo Navajo School Board
FOREST:	Cibola
PROJECT TITLE:	Alamo Navajo CFRP- Maximizing Efficiency through Utilization
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 279,149
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 67,500
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 346,649
EVALUATION SCORE:	47.50

1. The proposal addresses the reduction of the threat of high intensity wildfires in key areas.
2. The proposed project would reestablish historic fire regimes. The letter of endorsement from the Forest Service District Ranger indicates that the proposed project would increase the number of acres treated. That would allow the District to implement larger prescribed burns in a timely manner that anchored off the mechanically treated acres.
3. N/A
4. This project is utilizing piñon-juniper in large quantities for mass shipments. Ponderosa pine will also be treated and utilized.
5. The proposal builds on previous CFRP projects and includes a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders.
6. The monitoring plan is clearly described and includes a diverse group of participants.
7. This proposal references the scientific basis for the land treatments in NEPA document, soil surveys, and resources specialists that have been involved. The proposal indicates that the applicant will be following the guidelines described in those references (page 7).
8. Page one of the application states that the primary goal of the project would be the removal and marketing of 5-9 inch diameter small diameter trees. The application does not directly mention preservation of old and large trees, but it is referenced in the appendix, where those documents clarify that the targeted material is small diameter.
9. The project would facilitate the creation of new tribal jobs in a geographic area where they are much needed. The proponents have a business plan to guide the development of their business.
10. The applicants have a solid market for their product and a history of successful CFRP projects.

11. If the larger market for firewood can be sustained, the project will increase the capacity to treat on a landscape scale.
12. Clear statements were provided indicating that the proposed activities will occur within a priority area. The NEPA Decision Memo from the Forest Service Magdalena Ranger District was included in the application.
13. The proponent plans to purchase used equipment wherever possible which would improve the effectiveness of CFRP funds.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 09-13
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Mt. Taylor Machine, LLC
FOREST:	Cibola
PROJECT TITLE:	Cibola National Forest Small Wood Utilization
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	52.01

1. The proposal addresses threat reduction from high intensity wildfires in key areas.
2. The project would reestablish fire regimes. The Forest Service District Ranger's letter of endorsement states that there are approximately 12,000 acres of Ponderosa pine restoration treatments yet to be accomplished under the Blue water EIS decision. This proposal includes the Zuni Mountain CFLRP proposal in the appendix, which references the potential of reintroducing fire as it relates to restoring a healthy landscape.
3. N/A
4. The proposal includes a biomass burner which would increase the efficiency of small diameter wood utilization by creating new products and utilizing waste wood as a fuel source. Strength: The applicant described multiple products he currently manufactures from small diameter timber and identified future potential product lines. This application allows for increased drying capacity which will further aid in the utilization of small diameter timber.
5. The proposal includes a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders as indicated on page 5 and evident in the Zuni Mountain CFLRP. The application includes varied and comprehensive letters of support.
6. The monitoring plan was clearly described and includes a diverse group of participants and metrics. This proposal clearly explained the ecologic and economic monitoring that would occur on this project. The letter from CE Lab in the Appendix demonstrates that they are qualified, willing and committed to develop and document the methodology for calculating the economic base and service sector job creation impacts to the region that would flow from the project.
7. The proposal incorporates and references current scientific information through its relationship to the CFLRP and is particularly strong because of its use of the Watershed Condition Framework included as Appendix I.
8. The proposal mentions the preservation of old and large trees on page 6 and references the CFLRP guidelines.
9. The project will create 7 new jobs and maintain 38 existing jobs. It would include Grants High School and The Forest Guild in education outreach as described in the letters of support. Page 6 indicates that students would be involved in education and monitoring elements of the project.

10. The project includes a clear description of the product that would be produced on page one of the statement of need. The applicant has a long family history in this business. The proponent has a successful history with CFRP.
11. Through its relationship to the Zuni Mountain CFLRP, the project would facilitate landscape-scale, multi-jurisdictional efforts. The Forest Service District Ranger’s letter verifies that 12,000 treatable acres are available and states that the objective is to improve landscape scale forest restoration.
12. Through its relationship to the Zuni Mountain CFLRP, the project would occur in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction.
13. The cost of this project is reasonable, and the applicant states he has materials and parts in his inventory that will minimize the costs of equipment purchases. The proponent effectively leverages his machine tool capabilities to minimize costs.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 10-13
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Gila Wood Products, LLC
FOREST:	Gila
PROJECT TITLE:	Gila Wood Products LLC Delivery Utilization Expansion Project
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 102,600
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 25,650
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 128,250
EVALUATION SCORE:	34.34

1. By increasing the capacity to transport product, the project would facilitate forest treatments and thereby reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires. The applicant addresses this by using large volumes of biomass.
2. By increasing the capacity to transport product, the project would facilitate forest treatments which make it possible to re-establish fire regimes.
3. N/A
4. This project would improve the utilization of small diameter trees by allowing the proponent to successfully deliver a secondary product. However, no direct value-added activities would occur as a result of this project.
5. Weakness: The project only includes three partners and is therefore not diverse or balanced.
6. Weakness: The proposed multi-party monitoring assessment lacks detailed information.
7. Weakness: The proposal did not include any discussion of, or references to, scientific publications or planning documents that would include those scientific references. The statement of need would have been the appropriate place for such references. The project would be strengthened by collaboration with members of the conservation and academic community who could provide current scientific information.
8. The proponent plans to preserve old and large trees and the project would help improve watershed health for those trees. The entire product line would utilize trees less than 12 inch DBH.
9. Only one part-time person would be employed by the proposed project. The proposal does not include a youth component.
10. The proponent has a long and successful history with CFRP grants and specific activities under those grants are mentioned in the application.

11. The proposal could have been strengthened by including more specific information on the project's contribution to landscape scale restoration. By increasing the capacity to transport product, the project would facilitate landscape scale forest restoration.
12. There is a clear statement indicating that the proposed activity would occur in a high priority area. The Panel received further clarification that it would occur in a high priority area and the NEPA has been completed.
13. The cost of this proposal is reasonable and within the fair market value.

Administrative Note: The in-kind match is approximately 25%, but only 20% is required. \$ 20,520 is required. The application includes a \$25,650 non-federal match.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 11-13, Revision 3
CATEGORY:	Utilization
ORGANIZATION:	Restoration Technologies
FOREST:	Gila
PROJECT TITLE:	Adding Value to Low Grade Biomass for Watershed Restoration
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 357,932
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 91,207
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 449,142
EVALUATION SCORE:	44.90

1. By increasing the capacity to utilize low grade biomass, the project would facilitate forest treatments and thereby reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfires. Erosion control would be an added benefit to fire and watershed restoration.
2. By increasing the capacity to utilize low grade biomass, the project would facilitate forest treatments that would make it possible to re-establish fire regimes.
3. N/A
4. The Zerosion product described in this application would be a unique way to add value to low grade biomass and small diameter timber. A strength of this proposal is that the raw material for Zerosion can be low grade and be contaminated by dirt.
5. The proposal includes a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders.
6. The project would include extensive monitoring geared towards commercialization. The monitoring plan for the demo sites was scientifically based. It would result in the collection of useful data to compare treatments and would be directly related to the project objectives.
7. This proposal has a scientific basis, incorporates up to date information on forest and watershed restoration, and references the Signal Peak landscape assessment. This would be a demonstration project, not scientific research. Although this is a demonstration project, the applicant has reached out to Dr. Peter Robichaud, a subject matter expert.
8. The project would preserve old and large trees as indicated on page 6.
9. No direct job creation was mentioned in this proposal. The proposed project includes training opportunities for the Alamo Navajo Tribe. The proposal includes a letter of support from the Aldo Leopold High School indicating they would participate in pre and post treatment.
10. The proponent demonstrated they have the capability to implement the proposed CFRP project. However, it is noted that the ability to commercially produce and distribute this product on a large scale has not been proven yet.

11. The application could have been strengthened by including more specific information on the proposed project's contribution to landscape scale restoration. The Forest Service District Ranger's letter references the Signal Peak Landscape Assessment.
12. The proposed activity is in a priority area for hazardous fuels reduction as indicated by the reference by the applicant to the Signal Peak Landscape Assessment and Plan and the Grant County CWPP.
13. The cost of the project is reasonable and within the fair market value. It should be noted, however, that the proponent would be using a second sole proprietorship to do \$42,000 worth of grant-funded work.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 12-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Arid Land Innovation, LLC
FOREST:	Cibola
PROJECT TITLE:	Sharing Trees with Soil - Value-Added Restoration Products Fueled by Landscape Restoration in David Canyon
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	57.51

1. The proposal addresses a number of forest issues including excessive competition and the threat of wildfire. It also addresses forest health by avoiding the nesting season for birds and by being attentive to the problem of attracting bark beetles.
2. The proposed project will re-establish fire regimes as is evidenced by the commitment by the Forest Service District Ranger to 2,100 acres of prescribed burning. Further, future conditions would allow fire to play its natural role, mimicking natural ecosystem traits.
3. N/A
4. The project would fabricate 150,000 linear feet of mulch sock. The project would include utilization with implementation.
5. The proposal indicates that the proposed project would include a broad and diverse set of stakeholders.
6. The proposed multi-party assessment goes beyond the CFRP core indicators and includes a youth component.
7. The proposal includes many scientific references for specific proposed activities which are supported by the literature citations. The proposal references the New Mexico Forest Restoration Principles on page 5, second paragraph, third sentence.
8. The proposal includes details on the prescriptions to be used and references the retention of large trees and snags on page 10.
9. The proposed project would create employment. The proposal includes a strong youth component that could potentially reach 10,000 students. The project would involve college and high school students, which could lead to an increase in and development of the forest sector work force in the near future. An outreach annual event is planned for the community.
10. The proposal includes documentation of past work experience which demonstrates the applicants capacity to successfully implement the project.
11. The Forest Service District Ranger's letter of endorsement indicates that the proposed project would facilitate the treatment of 40,000 additional acres that are adjacent to the Torrance County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the East Mountain CWPP (cited on pages 1

- and 2). The project would implement components of the Isleta EA and build on a previous cross-jurisdictional 2009 CFRP planning project.
12. The proposal project is in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction. It would facilitate additional treatment on 40,000 acres of as stated in the District Ranger's letter and it is adjacent to the Torrance County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the East Mountain CWPP, and an area identified on the New Mexico Communities at Risk Assessment (cited on pages 1 and 2). The project would also implement components of the Isleta EA.
 13. The project cost is reasonable on a per acre basis and is an example for other CFRP projects. This cost per acre is about half of most CFRP projects. This low cost allows the proponent to treat a higher number of acres.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 13-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Griegos Logging, LLC
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Las Vegas (Gallinas) Municipal Watershed WUI Fuels Reduction Project Phase 2
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	45.87

1. The proposed project would be part of a larger, landscape-level initiative that would help reduce the threat of high-intensity wildfire in the Gallinas watershed.
2. The history of conducting prescribed fires in the watershed and the letter of endorsement from the Forest Service District Ranger at the Pecos-Las Vegas District make it clear that fire will be reintroduced into the project area. The extremely sensitive nature of the watershed may preclude a completely natural fire regime from being established.
3. N/A
4. This is an implementation project and does not address utilization except inasmuch as products from the project will be used by utilization industry in the area. It does not contain any activities that in themselves increase the utilization of small diameter trees. Depending on what equipment is purchased and how it is used, the project may result in increased capacity for forest restoration activities. Through the proposed partnerships, products could include Douglas fir flooring, vigas, latillas and firewood.
5. The project includes a relatively diverse set of stakeholders and collaborators. Collaboration with conservation groups should result in a recommendation to avoid the nesting season for birds when performing mechanical or ground-disturbing activities.
6. There is a diverse multi-party monitoring plan that will assess the ecological and economic success of the project.
7. The project includes current scientific forest restoration information.
8. The proposal states that it will preserve old and large trees, but includes no specifics in this regard. The volume data presented in Appendix F from the Pecos Las Vegas Ranger District indicates that 227 MBF of saw logs and 326 cords of firewood would result from the proposed treatment.
9. The project would help sustain 5-8 seasonal jobs in the industry. The project includes an extensive educational component with Mora High School and Luna Community College, both of which commit to cooperating with the proponent.

10. The proponent has participated successfully in a number of previous CFRP implementation grants. It is not clear what equipment is being purchased or how it will be used. It appears that a CTR 314 is a delimeter; not a feller-buncher. The equipment quote in the appendix is for a John Deere 843G feller-buncher priced at \$43,500, but that piece of equipment is not included in the detailed budget justification.
11. The project would be part of a landscape-scale effort that would build on three previous CFRP projects and include Forest Service, private, and municipal lands.
12. The Gallinas watershed is a very high priority area for treatment because of its importance to the city of Las Vegas as a water source and because of the potential of major flood damage in the city of Las Vegas in the event of a large-scale fire in the watershed. The project area is in the San Miguel CWPP.
13. The cost of the project is reasonable and within the fair market value.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 14-13, Revised
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Santa Clara Pueblo
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Collaborative Post Fire Restoration in Santa Clara Canyon
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	49.35

1. The proposed project would begin to restore the watershed of Santa Clara Creek following Las Conchas fire. It would include attempts to preserve the genetic patrimony of Santa Clara canyon by collecting cones and seeds from the area (see page 4).
2. The proposed project would help make the site more resilient to impacts from natural fire by restoring ecosystem function, structure and ecosystem species composition.
3. Strength: The project would grow seedlings and plant trees from locally sourced stock.
4. It would add value by using small diameter trees for erosion control and onsite channel stabilization as noted on page 4.
5. A broad and diverse group of stakeholders would be included in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project.
6. Specific monitoring indicators were provided in the proposal. A survey of tribal youth would provide a measure of the success of the project. A broad and diverse group of stakeholders would be involved in multi-party monitoring. The project would provide an opportunity to monitor the effect of an extreme landscape scale fire event.
7. Although the project incorporates current scientific research, other research indicates that contour felling may not be the most effective method of stabilizing slopes post fire (RMRS General Technical Report 63 Sept. 2000 literature review by Peter Robichaud). The Panel recommends that the applicant reconsider the use of contour felling.
8. This proposal is for a post-fire restoration project, not a thinning project. All residual live large old trees would be retained.
9. The project would create a number of employment opportunities that would include young people. The proposal includes a diverse education component.
10. The applicant demonstrated the capability to successfully implement the project through past performance before and after the fire.

11. The proponents are dealing with a watershed scale project that is in dire straits. The proposal seeks to ameliorate the damaging impacts of a landscape scale event that occurred across multiple jurisdictions.
12. The proposed project would be in a priority area for hazardous fuels reduction because of the density of traditional cultural properties and the anticipated recovery of vegetation in the burned area.
13. A large part of the proposed project budget would be for personnel, and those costs seem to be reasonable.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 15-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Northeastern Contractors, LLC
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Multi-Jurisdictional, Watershed Scale Restoration in Barbero Canyon on Rowe Mesa, New Mexico
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	48.40

1. This project would reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfire. It would be located in a high density piñon-juniper area. The proposal includes a very robust discussion of the interaction of grazing and ecosystem restoration (page 2).
2. The proposed project would re-establish fire regimes as evidenced by the Forest Service District Ranger's letter of endorsement which mentions the Decision Memo to implement 3,200 acres of prescribed fire. The District Ranger also pointed out that the Forest Service reintroduced fire and burned activity-slash from a previous implementation project performed by the proponent. Future conditions would allow fire to play its natural role, mimicking natural ecosystem traits. The proposed project would be in an allotment that received an EQIP contract that included 1650 acres of prescribed fire burning.
3. N/A
4. Page 4 states that utilization will be in the form of firewood.
5. The proposal indicates that a broad and diverse group of stakeholders would be involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project.
6. The proposed multi-party monitoring plan would assess the ecological and economic success of the project. The applicant intends to use the Short Guide for CFRP grant recipients.
7. The project would include current scientific forest restoration information and references the most current science on piñon-juniper ecosystems, i.e. Romme et al. The proposal is for piñon-juniper woodland savannah restoration, not piñon-juniper woodland restoration. It references the Watershed Action Strategy for Rowe Mesa, a scientific assessment of that grassland savannah, and woodland savannah restoration.
8. Specific language is used in the proposal for the preservation of trees over 16" DBH. However, this may not reflect that old and large piñon-juniper trees are measured at the root crown.
9. The project would create up to 7 part-time jobs and provide natural resource education and outreach to local students.

10. The letter of endorsement from the Forest Service District Ranger indicates that the applicants past performance in the area demonstrates their capacity to successfully implement the proposed project.
11. Based on past performance in the area the project would facilitate landscape scale and multijurisdictional efforts. This project would implement previous CFRP planning projects and treat land administered by both New Mexico State Land Office and Forest Service.
12. The proposal references the Rowe Mesa Landscape Scale Assessment: Planning for Fire Focused Forest Restoration (CFRP 34-10) and the Watershed Action Strategy for Rowe Mesa.
13. The cost is reasonable and within the fair market value.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 16-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Arizona Board of Regents
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Strategic Implementation in a Large Ponderosa Pine/Piñon-Juniper Landscape
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 359,494
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 89,874
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 449,368
EVALUATION SCORE:	51.00

1. The proposed project would reduce the threat of large intense wildfires by thinning 675 strategically located acres followed by 2,500 acres of prescribed fire on the 70,000 acre mesa landscape. The project would implement a strategic fuel treatment where just 20% of the landscape receives mechanical treatment while reducing fire risk on 70% of the landscape. A strength of the proposal is the use of fire spread modeling to strategically select treatment areas.
2. The project would effectively reintroduce fire to a large landscape on Rowe Mesa. The Forest Service District Ranger’s letter commits to the implementing a prescribed burn in the project area following the treatment. Strength: The applicant determined the fire history of Rowe Mesa.
3. N/A
4. The project would not specifically improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees, but local users would be able to harvest material from the area to offset treatment costs.
5. This project would include a particularly diverse group of collaborators. There is, however, no commitment from the grazing permittees to rest the burned areas following the prescribed fire. The seasonal restriction for protection of bird nesting is commendable.
6. Strength: The monitoring plan includes implementation and effectiveness monitoring as well as an after-action review.
7. The proposal includes citations to the current literature and is strengthened by the intention to improve the scientific understanding or scientific basis for piñon-juniper fire ecology. Site-specific data was collected and used in conjunction with existing assessment data such as fire regime condition class. This project would present an opportunity to learn how fire behaves in masticated fuels.
8. The proposal identifies a 12” DRC diameter cap on trees which qualifies as “old” piñon-juniper.

9. The project would create up to 13 local jobs. The proponents do not clearly state the socioeconomic variables they would measure. The letter of commitment from EcoTone is not consistent with what is proposed in Table 3. For example, the number and type of full time jobs is stated in Table 3, but not in the EcoTone letter of support. The proposed economic analysis of quantified monetary and non-monetary benefits is vague. The education outreach would be coordinated with Forest Guild’s Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), but the letter of commitment from Forest Guild does not correspond with the text in the application.
10. The applicant and proposed collaborators have a history of successfully implementing CFRP projects in the area.
11. The project would implement a landscape scale multijurisdictional planning effort.
12. The proposal referenced the Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC), the New Mexico Communities at Risk, and the CWPP.
13. This cost of the proposed project is reasonable for personnel and for the treatment.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 17-13, Revised
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Cordova Logging, LLC
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation – Seven Springs Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project (Revised)
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 358,066
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 76,132
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 444,198
EVALUATION SCORE:	47.70

1. The project would help protect homes in the Seven Springs community from the threat of high intensity wildfires and improve watershed health, especially regarding surface water.
2. The proposal states that thinning will allow Jemez Ranger District to conduct prescribed burning.
3. N/A
4. Felled material will be removed from the project area and transferred to a large local sawmill for processing. The applicant plans on removing all material 3” diameter and smaller. The proponent would also provide a community service by donating firewood to the Navajo Nation and the Village of Cuba.
5. The project would include a diverse group of collaborators. The proposed exclusion of bird nesting season is commendable.
6. The project includes a detailed plan for monitoring and outreach. The monitoring plan calls for breeding bird surveys and Jemez Mountain Salamander monitoring.
7. The proposal references current scientific information on forest management and ecology.
8. The project will preserve most old and large trees but will cut trees up to 18” DBH, as needed.
9. This project would not create any new jobs, but it would sustain seven existing jobs. It would also provide training in forest ecology to youth from Jemez Mountain Schools and include them in monitoring activities.
10. A long history in the area and extensive experience in logging operations demonstrates that the proponents do have the capability of implementing the proposed project.
11. The proposed project would be adjacent to the southwest Jemez CFLRP and would facilitate landscape scale multi-jurisdictional efforts in the area.

12. The proposed project would be in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction under the Greater Cuba, Jemez Mountain Protection Plan. The community of Seven Springs was included in the 2010 New Mexico Community at Risk Report.
13. Costs per acre for this project are high. However, this cost may be due in part to steep slopes, Endangered Species Act (ESA) and topographic restrictions on mechanical harvesting and the density of the stand. The narrative and the budget are inconsistent in use of the skidders. For example, it is not clear if sorting will be done in the treatment area or at the landing.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 18-13, Revised
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Los Amigos de Valles Caldera
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Ponderosa Pine and Xeric Mixed Conifer Restoration on the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP)
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 358,873
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 89,710
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 448,583
EVALUATION SCORE:	48.00

1. The proposed project would reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires. It offers an opportunity to experiment with and demonstrate restoration prescriptions in xeric mixed conifer (in relation to mesic mixed conifer) forest types.
2. This project would lead to the re-establishment of natural fire regimes. The land manager commits to reintroducing fire within four years of the completion of the mechanical work.
3. N/A
4. The project plans to use small diameter trees to produce an established value-added commodity. However, as the applicant states, steep slopes and difficult access may limit utilization opportunities.
5. The proposed project would include a broad and diverse group of stakeholders.
6. The multiparty monitoring assessment goes beyond the CFRP core ecological indicators to include water quantity and quality as well as snow sublimation effects. The assessment would also be part of the monitoring for the Southwest Jemez CFLRP.
7. The proposal incorporates current scientific forest restoration and ecological information, and the project would be part of an extensive monitoring project on the Valles Caldera.
8. The narrative discusses the retention of large and healthy trees, especially in groups, but it does not mention the preservation of old and large tree groups.
9. The project would create 12 short term jobs for students and provide educational and training opportunities for 225 people in the local community. In addition to the 12 short term jobs, the project would sustain 10-12 forestry sector jobs. This project would also sustain three part time jobs.
10. The documentation provided in the proposal adequately demonstrated the applicants capacity to implement the project.
11. The project is part of a landscape scale restoration initiative: The Southwest Jemez Mountain CFLRP.
12. The proposed project would be in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction. It references the Sandoval County CWPP.
13. The overall project budget is reasonable. However, the cost per acre is high (Table 13).

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 19-13
CATEGORY: Implementation
ORGANIZATION: Santa Fe County Fire Department
FOREST: Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE: Reducing Wildfire Risk and Changing the Dots, a WUI Project
FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 359,535
MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 90,420
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 449,955
EVALUATION SCORE: Ineligible

The proposal was eliminated from consideration because there was no letter of commitment from New Mexico State Forestry confirming the \$4,500 non-federal match from them that is included in the detailed budget justification. Santa Fe Community College is also included under "Other" in the budget justification as providing a total in kind match of \$4,500 but the letter of support from the College does not confirm that match.

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 20-13, Revised
CATEGORY: Implementation
ORGANIZATION: The Wellness Coalition
FOREST: Gila
PROJECT TITLE: The Wellness Coalition/Youth Conservation Corps Forest Restoration Project
FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE: 48.59

1. This project would reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires by thinning 200 acres in the Signal Peak area of the Gila National Forest.
2. Strength: The project will create a buffer between burn blocks as described on page four, facilitating the re-establishment of fire in the planning area. Their project would allow for managed fire.
3. N/A
4. This proponent would conduct firewood sales and distribute firewood to low income families in the community. Although this action is inferred, no specifics are provided as to how the wood would be distributed. No other activities are proposed to add value to small diameter material removed during the forest restoration treatments. However, the proponent's intends to work with the Small Business Development program to enhance their profitability.
5. The project would include a diverse group of stakeholders.
6. The multiparty monitoring assessment goes beyond the CFRP core ecological indicators to include youth skill building metrics and other educational components.
7. The proposal does not directly incorporate or reference current scientific forest restoration information, but it is based on the Signal Peak Assessment, which does reference current scientific forest restoration information.
8. The preservation of old and large trees is mentioned in the proposal, but no maximum Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) was specified.

9. The project would include 15-25 youth in an extensive Youth Conservation Corps program and benefit and as many as 200 more students in school programs. The youth component of the proposal was strengthened by the inclusion of fire fighter and worker safety training, as well as natural resource technician training (e.g. GPS data collection, etc.), which could lead to jobs in the future. The project will also sustain four to six part-time employees for four years.
10. The proponent has successfully participated in a number of previous CFRP projects. The letter of endorsement from the Forest Service District Ranger indicates that those projects were accomplished in an efficient manner.
11. By providing a buffer between two larger management blocks, the project will enable landscape scale treatments on the Signal Peak Assessment area.
12. The proposed activity is in the Signal Peak landscape area. In addition, the project area has been identified as a priority for fuels reduction in the Silver City Ranger District – Healthy Forest Restoration Act Environmental Assessment.
13. The cost of the project is reasonable for the proposed work.

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 21-13 (I) Revised
CATEGORY: Implementation
ORGANIZATION: Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District
FOREST: Gila
PROJECT TITLE: Implementation of Fuel Reduction and Bosque Restoration Next to Percha Dam Recreation Site
FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 161,430
MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 82,286
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 243,716
EVALUATION SCORE: Ineligible

The proposal was eliminated from consideration because Palomas Volunteer Fire Department is listed as an integral partner in the project but there is no letter of commitment from them confirming that role. Listing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the CWMA as collaborators is not appropriate as they are plans or polygons, not entities which can collaborate. There is no documentation of letters to tribes other than the Navajo Nation.

PROJECT NUMBER: CFRP 22-13
CATEGORY: Implementation
ORGANIZATION: Andy Chacon Forest Restoration
FOREST: Carson
PROJECT TITLE: Agua/Caballos Forest Restoration and Improvement Project
FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE: 48.50

1. The proposed project would reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires through reducing fuel loading.

2. The proposed project would contribute to the re-establishment of historic fire regimes. It would be helpful if the proponent identified other treatment areas which contribute to reintroducing fire to the landscape.
3. N/A
4. Small diameter timber would be utilized in the form of fire wood, latillas and vigas. The proponent indicates that this material would be distributed among local manufacturers and the community, although no specifics are provided describing how or in what quantity that would occur.
5. The proposal includes a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders and letters of support from members of the community. It is a strength that ditch associations and parciantes are included. Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing treatment to exclude nesting seasons for birds (April through July). Although members of the grazing associations are collaborators, they do not commit to deferring grazing on treated or burned acres.
6. The proposal presents a monitoring plan with clear ecological and socio-economic indicators.
7. The proposal does not directly incorporate or reference current scientific forest restoration information, although it is based on the NEPA documentation. A strength was the proposed Aspen regeneration treatments.
8. This proposal would preserve large and old trees by performing individual tree selection thinning. Recommendation: the use of terms such as pre-commercial thinning can cause confusion and does not appear to be consistent with a forest restoration objective.
9. This project will directly sustain six jobs for longer periods. The training and outreach component is well developed.
10. The proponent has a long family history in the business and successfully participated in a number of previous CFRP projects. The letter of endorsement from the Forest Service District Ranger indicates those projects were accomplished in an efficient manner.
11. Although not multi-jurisdictional, the project would facilitate landscape-scale efforts in the Agua/Caballos. It would be adjacent to the Ensenada and La Maquinita areas where other restoration activities are ongoing.
12. The proposed activity is in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction. It is situated near Canon Plaza, Vallecitos, both of which have been identified as at risk for fire in the Rio Arriba County CWPP.
13. The proposed equipment and personnel costs are accurate and within reason.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 23-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Jaramillo & Sons Forest Products
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Revision of the Ensenada Analysis Area
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 164,854
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 39,233
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 204,087
EVALUATION SCORE:	48.23

1. The proposed project would reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires by reducing fuel loading. It would contribute to healthy watersheds by rehabilitating road segments that cause damage. The proposal includes an excellent map showing the relation of the proposed project to other CFRP projects in the area.

2. The proposed project would contribute to the re-establishment of historic fire regimes.
3. N/A
4. This proposal did an excellent job of addressing the utilization of all sizes of timber that would be removed from the project area. The material would be sorted prior to removal from the area according to its best use and then distributed accordingly. This distribution would aid both community and local business entities.
5. The project would include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders. Allotment permittees, however, are collaborators on the project, but they do not explicitly commit to resting the allotments to enhance recovery. The letter from the Gabriel Aldaz Jarita Mesa allotment seems open to adjusting the grazing schedule to benefit of the project. Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing treatment to exclude nesting seasons for birds (April through July). Attention to squirrel habitat is commendable. It is a strength that ditch associations and parciantes are included in the proposal.
6. This project would facilitate collaboration among a diverse group of participants in multi-party monitoring as can be seen in the numerous letters of support in the appendix.
7. The proposal does not directly incorporate or reference current scientific forest restoration information, although it is based on the NEPA documentation.
8. This proposal states that older and larger trees will be preserved, but there are no specifics on diameter class or similar restrictions. Recommendation: the use of terms such as pre-commercial thinning can cause confusion and does not appear to be consistent with a forest restoration objective.
9. The project would create or sustain up to eight seasonal jobs and an additional seven jobs will be created or sustained through the goods for services contract. Students from the Mesa Vista School District are committed to participate in monitoring or data analysis, and workshops will be held for the community.
10. The proponent has a long family history in the business and successfully participated in a previous CFRP project which the Forest Service District Ranger indicates was accomplished in an efficient manner.
11. Although not multi-jurisdictional, the proposed project would facilitate landscape-scale efforts in the Ensenada planning area and be adjacent to the Agua/Caballos and La Maquinita areas where other restoration activities are ongoing.
12. The proposed activity is in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction in the Rio Arriba County CWPP.
13. Proposed project costs are accurate and within reason.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 24-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Chimayo Conservation Corps
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Develop Local Capacity Through Extensive Training of Young Adults to Restore and Protect Our Natural Resources
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	47.58

1. The proposal directly states that the project would reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfires on three forest landscapes in north central New Mexico and build on several past CFRP planning and implementation projects. The proposal also discusses riparian ecosystem treatments as part of restoring healthy watersheds. It also mentions removing invasive non-native woody species.
2. The project would facilitate the reintroduction of fire in some of the landscapes to be treated, but the Forest Service District Ranger did not commit to prescribed burning on Forest Service land as called for in the environmental analysis.
3. Yes. Native plants will be planted where applicable as indicated in the breakdown of re-plantings on page 4.
4. The application does suggest the utilization of downed material for use as firewood. The proposal includes stewardship blocks which allow for permittees to remove fuel wood from the site.
5. The proposal includes a diverse group of stakeholders from multiple jurisdictions, but they are not cross-jurisdictional. Recommendation: Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing treatment to exclude nesting seasons for birds (April through July). The work plan states that activities would occur on the Carson year-round, which would include nesting seasons.
6. The proposal presents a monitoring plan with clear ecological and socio-economic indicators. Monitoring would occur twice a year, but the monitoring plan does not address the regrowth of exotic species within the riparian area. Recommendation: If funded, the applicant should consider monitoring the regrowth of invasive species.
7. The proposal does not directly incorporate or reference current scientific forest restoration information, although it is based on the NEPA documentation.
8. This proposal explicitly states that older and larger trees will be preserved and references these diameter restrictions in the proposal.
9. This proposal includes a robust youth training and development component. Up to 22 positions would be created amongst the area's young adults. Due to the proponent's experience with Youth Conservation Corps, this project has the potential to be an international exchange demonstration project.
10. The proponents have demonstrated the capacity to successfully implement the proposed project.
11. The applicant proposes to address landscape scale efforts in multiple jurisdictions and the project would be adjacent to completed CFRP projects.
12. The letter of endorsement from the Forest Service indicates that the proposed treatments acres are a priority for the agency under the Carson Forest Plan.
13. Proposed project costs are accurate and within reason.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 25-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Navajo Dam Multi-Jurisdictional Restoration Project
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 357,526
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 89,382
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 446,907
EVALUATION SCORE:	47.50

1. The proposed project would reduce the threat of high-intensity wildfire in the bosque of the San Juan River by removing over-dense stands of invasive exotic trees (mostly Russian Olive and Salt Cedar, but should also include Siberian Elm). Replanting native species would also help restore ecosystem function and healthy wetlands through the restoration of a natural or natural-mimic hydrograph. The project would implement treatments on both BLM and BOR lands.
2. Frequent fire is not a natural force in bosque riparian communities. The restoration of a native riparian forest will help reduce the incidence and intensity of fire in the bosque.
3. A major goal of the project would be the restoration of a native riparian vegetation community. The project would replant several species of native plants and trees.
4. In some of the areas, firewood would be made available to local residents. Most of the area would be masticated. Use of small-diameter trees is not a goal of the project. Most of the species that would be removed are non-merchantable.
5. The project would include a diverse group of collaborators, primarily government agencies and contractors. Collaboration with conservation groups should result in a recommendation to avoid the nesting season for birds when performing mechanical or ground-disturbing activities.
6. A diverse multi-party monitoring group would be led by a specific contractor, Catherine Ortega. This extensive monitoring plan includes activities such as vegetation monitoring, pellet and bird surveys. Consider monitoring the number of fishing permits sold in the area.
7. The proposal incorporates current scientific understanding of riparian restoration.
8. The proposal targets only invasive, exotic species. The preservation of old and large native trees were not specifically addressed.
9. In addition to using local contractors for much of the land clearing work, both youth and veteran crews are an integral part of the implementation plan.
10. The proponents have been involved in a previous CFRP riparian restoration project and the Forest Service District Ranger stated that the project was completed satisfactorily. "The District did an outstanding job on the Shiprock Restoration Project. They went above and beyond the requirements of the CFRP grant in the treatment and monitoring of the project."
11. The project would involve several overlapping jurisdictions and agencies. It would demonstrate good cooperation and collaboration. The project itself would not be on a landscape-scale, but it would promote future efforts along the San Juan River riparian landscape.
12. The area is a priority for hazardous fuel reduction as exhibited by recent fires in the area.
13. The cost is quite reasonable for riparian restoration in southwest ecosystems.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 26-13 (I) Revised
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Joe Gurule & Son
FOREST:	Carson
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: Restoration and Educational Opportunities in the Agua/Caballos - Revision
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	49.33

1. The proposed project would reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires through reducing the fuel loading.
2. The proposed project would contribute to the re-establishment of historic fire regimes. It would be helpful if the proponent identified other treatment areas which contribute to reintroducing fire to the landscape.
3. N/A
4. Small diameter timber would be utilized for fire wood, latillas, peeled posts and vigas. The proposal indicates that this material would be distributed among local manufacturers and the community, but no specifics are given on how or in what quantity this distribution to the community would occur.
5. The project would include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders. The proposal includes letters of support from members of the community. It is a strength that ditch associations and parciantes are included in the proposal. Collaboration with conservation groups should result in the deferment of mechanical and ground disturbing treatment to exclude nesting seasons for birds (April through July). Although members of the grazing associations are collaborators, they do not commit to deferring grazing on treated or burned acres. Collaboration with the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the LANL Foundation to develop a science curriculum is a strength of this proposal. It is important that the proposed educational efforts emphasize science aspects and curriculum standards, not just field trips. The attention to squirrel habitat is commendable.
6. The monitoring plan includes clear ecological and socio-economic indicators.
7. The proposal directly incorporates and references current scientific forest restoration information. The proposed Aspen regeneration treatments strengthen the application.
8. This project would preserve large and old trees by having 12” cap on diameters of thinned trees. Recommendation: the use of terms such as pre-commercial thinning can cause confusion and does not appear to be consistent with a forest restoration objective.
9. The training and outreach component of the proposal is well developed and would create future jobs. Collaboration with the Los Alamos National Lab and LANL Foundation to develop a science curriculum strengthens the application. It is important that educational efforts emphasize science aspects and curriculum standards, not just field trips.
10. The proponent has successfully participated in a number of previous CFRP projects.
11. Although not multi-jurisdictional, the project would facilitate landscape-scale efforts in the Agua/Caballos. The project would be adjacent to the Ensenada and La Maquinita areas where other restoration activities are ongoing.
12. The proposed activity would be in a priority area for hazardous fuel reduction. It is situated near Canon Plaza, Vallecitos, both of which have been identified as at risk for fire in the Rio Arriba County CWPP.
13. The proposed equipment and personnel costs are accurate and within reason.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 27-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Big Beaver Clearing
FOREST:	Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation Project for Alamo Peak / Two Goats Forest Restoration
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000

EVALUATION SCORE: 40.90

1. Yes, the proposal addresses the threat of large high intensity wildfires in this area and is supported by the Two Goats NEPA documentation.
2. On page 4 the proposal states that the proponent would work with Forest Service experts to reestablish fires. On page 5 the proposal indicates that the project would implement treatments that would move toward introducing fire in fire adapted ecosystems.
3. N/A
4. This project would utilize small diameter timber as well as 100% of the material from the restoration treatments. The firewood utilization aspect of the proposal is strengthened by the kiln drying process which would add value to the end product.
5. The proposal includes a diverse group of stakeholders.
6. The multiparty monitoring plan goes beyond the CFRP core ecological indicators and includes business, financial, and workforce indicators as well as bioenergy indicators.
7. Other than referencing the NEPA documentation, this proposal lacks references to current scientific forest restoration information.
8. The proposal is not clear on how it will preserve larger trees; a 24" DBH diameter cap seems high. Recommendation: the use of terms such as pre-commercial thinning can cause confusion and does not appear to be consistent with a forest restoration objective.
9. The use of a complete biomass system provides a unique opportunity for the training and education of students and industry professionals on current biomass systems. The project will provide two full time and 3 part time employment opportunities as well as safety training.
10. The proponent's resume indicates they have ten years of experience in forest thinning.
11. Under the project history section of the narrative the project area is identified as a strategic, high priority for the community and the Forest Service Ranger District. Several treatment blocks have already been implemented or are currently underway. The proposed project would tie into several past, ongoing and planned future projects. It would include the creation of a 300 foot defensible zone around the community of High Rolls.
12. Under the project history section of the narrative, the project area is identified as a strategic, high priority for the community and the Forest Service Ranger District. Recommendation: A project map showing previously completed projects would be helpful. The project would tie into several past, ongoing and planned future projects, and include the creation of a 300 foot defensible zone around the community of High Rolls.
13. The cost per acre seems high. However, the Smokey Bear District Ranger indicated that it is in the range of prices the Lincoln National Forest is paying for treating similar acres.

Administrative Note: Review budget unit costs for Big Beaver Clearing.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 28-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	South Central Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council
FOREST:	Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE:	Ruidoso Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Interagency Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Implementation Project
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 348,802
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 88,675
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 437,477

EVALUATION SCORE: 55.25

1. This project would conduct prescribed fire on 1,000 acres and mechanical thinning on 120 acres in the Ruidoso WUI to reduce the threat of high intensity wildfires. The treatments would be scheduled to avoid disturbance of bird nesting and to be in accordance with other wildlife requirements. The proposal evidences public acceptance of prescribed fire in this area to maintain healthy forests in the future. The project is especially strong in its effort to include and educate the public about forest management and prescribed burning in the WUI.
2. The proposed project would reestablish fire regimes by performing treatments in strategically selected locations that would create large continuous blocks. The applicant plans to include local fire agencies and private fire contractors in the burn plan, which would lead to reintroduction of natural fires. The prescribed fire components would be conducted by federal, state, and private crews alongside municipal and volunteer fire departments. The treatments would include pile burning and broadcast burning following the burn plan objectives.
3. N/A
4. This project would produce approximately 200 cords of fuel wood and saw logs for the community.
5. The proposal includes a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders. The project would be an exemplary model of interagency collaboration that would build upon a multi-decade partnership amongst agencies and the community of Ruidoso. The project would also expand and build on existing interagency and community relationships to improve long term management. The grazing lessee on state land is supportive and has specifically agreed to rest the land prior to the reintroduction of fire. The attention to nesting season for birds is commendable. Including private fire contractors strengthens the proposal and would ensure the long term success of the project, potentially leading to a new industry in the state. The project would increase the capacity for wildfire response.
6. The proposal includes clear ecological and socioeconomic variables that would be measured including task book accomplishments, public perception and 911 calls.
7. The proposal incorporates solid scientific forest restoration information in the design of the project. The proposal builds on an education program that has existed for decades in the community.
8. Although the applicant indicates that large and old trees would be preserved, the proposal would be stronger if it including more specific information (e.g., desired condition diameter class distribution) on how the old and large trees would be preserved.
9. The project would create employment opportunities related to thinning and prescribed burning operations and wildfire education. Additionally, the proposal includes informative education and outreach components.
10. The proponent has been a collaborator on local CFRP and non-CFRP projects, and has been deemed to be “a thorough, dependable partner”. The proponents adequately demonstrated the capability to complete the plan.
11. The project would facilitate landscape-scale restoration by strategically selecting treatment locations and connecting multi cross-jurisdictional efforts. It would set a new standard for multi-jurisdictional forest restoration by implementing the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The proposed implementation activities are supported by the Lincoln County and Greater Ruidoso WUI Area CWPP. This multi-jurisdictional project would accomplish landscape scale restoration by treating over 1,000 acres in the Ruidoso WUI using mechanical thinning and prescribed fire.

12. The Grindstone and Cedar Creek are identified as priorities in the CWPP and Lincoln National Forest Resource Plan. Moon Mountain is also a priority project for the State Land Office.
13. The cost per acres seems high; however this is in the range of prices being paid by the Forest Service for treating similar acres as stated by the Smokey Bear District Ranger. The State Land Office has indicated the price is high due to difficult access, rocky terrain, high fuel loading and steep slopes. CFRP investments in utilization capacity could potentially lead to a reduction in per acre treatment costs.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 29-13 Revised
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	National Wild Turkey Federation
FOREST:	Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation and Revision of Pre-commercial Thinning and Fuels Reduction in Bear Canyon
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	44.65

1. This project would addresses the threat of large, high intensity wildfires and nearly complete their planning objectives. Strength: The proposal had a very detailed description of restoration prescriptions. Mention was made of safety of the fire fighters.
2. Burning is scheduled to occur over the next three years. The proposed project would be in a high priority area for contiguous treatment.
3. N/A
4. The proposal noted that 150 cords of firewood would be made available to the community to purchase.
5. This project would include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders including volunteer fire departments. The letter of support from Otero County strengthens the proposal. The letters of support from the Wildlife Biologist and Forestry Technician on the Forest Service Sacramento Ranger District demonstrate that they were significantly involved in the development of the proposal and would be involved in the implementation of the project. Although the proposal discusses the interrelationship with livestock grazing, it would have been made stronger with a letter of support from the permittee committing to participation. Although the proposal states that bird nesting will be protected, it does not include any specifics as to how this will be accomplished. Since this proposal occurs along the border of a large piece of private property, a letter from that land owner would have improved the proposal.
6. The proposal includes a multiparty assessment plan. This proposal provides clear variables for ecological monitoring and includes a rigorous discussion of how the trees will be thinned.
7. Although the proposal is based on and references the Rio Peñasco Analysis Area EA and has a thorough discussion of prescriptions, the proposal does not directly utilize or reference current forest restoration science.

8. Specifics were provided on DBH removals per species throughout the project area. Recommendation: the use of terms such as pre-commercial thinning can cause confusion and does not appear to be consistent with a forest restoration objective.
9. Six to eight jobs will be created and three would be maintained through the duration of the project. The current jobs would continue to be supported. The proposed project does not appear to support training opportunities for youth.
10. The resumes included in the appendix demonstrate the applicant’s capacity to successfully implement the proposed project as does their past experience with CFRP projects. The Forest Service also lists this project as a high priority and commits two staff people’s time to the success of this project.
11. The proposed project would facilitate landscape-scale, multi-jurisdictional efforts through the identified Rio Peñasco II Planning Unit Decision Notice.
12. The proposed treatment areas are listed as priority watersheds for hazardous fuels reduction. The Forest Service clarified that they are updating the CWPP. The proposal also states that there are Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs) within Bear Canyon, which are listed as at risk of wildfire.
13. The costs of the proposal is reasonable given the rocky terrain which results in high mastication equipment maintenance costs as indicated by a Forest Service representative.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 30-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso
FOREST:	Lincoln
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation of Forest Treatments in Mexican Spotted Owl Habitat: Improving Forest Health While Recovering a Species
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 359,999
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 449,999
EVALUATION SCORE:	56.25

1. The project would reduce the threat of large high intensity wildfires on the proposed treatment acres and potentially lead to a vast increase in forest restoration treatments in the southwest. The project objective is to reduce the impact of wildfire on PACs, which was identified in the Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) recovery plan as the largest threat to the birds’ survival.
2. The project would re-establish natural fire regimes on the proposed treatment areas and potentially lead to a vast increase in forest restoration treatments in the southwest. The project would provide information which could be used on future Mexican Spotted Owl PACs. The Forest Service District Ranger’s letter commits agency resources to provide contingency resources to back up other crews for the Mescalero burn.
3. N/A
4. The project would improve the use of small diameter trees through the commitment expressed by Custom Crates and Pallets to purchase material to manufacture pallets, crates, mulch and sawdust.

5. The proposed project would include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders including academics, tribes, and industry, as well as county, state and federal agencies.
6. The proposal includes a multiparty assessment plan which provides clear variables for ecological monitoring. The proposal goes beyond the CFRP core ecological indicators to include important information on Mexican Spotted Owl occupancy, demographics and prey.
7. The proposal references and uses current scientific forest restoration information. The project would add significantly to that body of information and potentially lead to more forest restoration activities in the Southwest.
8. The proposal states that the project would preserve old and large trees, however, little specific information is provided on the details of open canopy techniques. Recommendation: The use of terms such as pre-commercial thinning and commercial thinning do not appear to be consistent with a forest restoration objective.
9. The proposal would train up to 30 members of the Mescalero YCC and give BIA fire crews work experience on prescribed fire operations. No fewer than 20 undergraduate students at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) Ruidoso would be given training in wildlife biology and resource management. Additionally, the project would employ almost 50 workers, including 20 tribal workers. The utilization of small diameter material would directly create 12 jobs, but they would not be local jobs due to recent closing of a large saw mill.
10. The proponents demonstrated their capacity to successfully implement the proposed project. Support from a large manufacturer would allow utilization of all materials. The groundwork for the harvest would be done by Jensen contractors, who have over thirty years' experience.
11. The project would facilitate landscape scale, multi-jurisdictional efforts in the Sacramento Mountains and potentially in forest treatments across the Southwest.
12. The project would be in a priority area for hazardous fuels reduction identified in the Rio Peñasco II EA. The treatments would surround the Village of Cloudcroft and occur on Mescalero Apache Tribal land. The Forest clarified that they were updating the CWPP.
13. The cost of this project is reasonable. The treatment costs per acre are competitive and are within the statewide market place.

PROJECT NUMBER:	CFRP 31-13
CATEGORY:	Implementation
ORGANIZATION:	Rio Puerco Alliance
FOREST:	Santa Fe
PROJECT TITLE:	Implementation: La Jara Headwaters: Restoration and Resource Management in a Wildland-Urban Interface
FUNDING REQUESTED:	\$ 360,000
MATCHING FUNDS:	\$ 90,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$ 450,000
EVALUATION SCORE:	44.41

1. The project would help reduce the threat of high-intensity wildfire in the La Jara watershed. The application included a particularly strong description of existing conditions, which were helpful in judging the potential effectiveness of the project. The proponent also described that the community uses surface water as its main source of drinking water.
2. The project could potentially lead to the reintroduction of fire. Prescribed fire is mentioned in the Decision Memo that is included in the appendix and in the Executive Summary of the proposal, which indicates that 550 acres would be thinned and prepared for later burning.

3. N/A
4. Felled material would be available for firewood and mulch as a service to the community.
5. The proposal includes a diverse group of collaborators in program development and monitoring. Collaboration with conservation groups should result in seasonal restrictions on mechanical and ground disturbing activities to protect nesting birds. Grazing associations are not part of the collaboration.
6. In addition to the standard ecological monitoring, the proposal includes some unique socio-economic monitoring. Nearly all of the collaborators have committed to participating in the multiparty monitoring assessment.
7. The proposal includes current scientific forest and ecological information.
8. The proposal was strengthened by the reference to the District Silviculturalist Susan Schuhardt's Treatment Prescription and Marking Guide for the La Jara Vegetative Management.
9. The Desired Conditions for Live and Dead Tree size in the Ecological Monitoring table (Table 4) implies that the project would preserve old and large trees, but the proposal does not explicitly commit to the preservation of old and large trees.
10. The project would provide education and training opportunities for the Cuba Independent Schools. Jobs related to thinning and chipping would be provided during the project. Strength: This proposal includes grassroots community involvement.
11. Although project proponents have extensive experience, the proposed contractor does not seem to have experience with forestry.
12. The applicant references the Sandoval County CWPP, adjacent BLM project work, and commitment to the community, but the proposal is for work on Forest Service land.
13. Strength: The project would be located in the municipal watershed for the community of La Jara, the sole source of drinking water for a community.
14. The cost of this project is reasonable. The majority of funds requested are for contracted thinning operations.

Administrative Note: Review the non-federal match (specifically related to the value of firewood harvest under contractors in the detailed budget) to ensure that program income will not be used in the initial budget as non-federal match.

Recommendations regarding Panel process:

Process – focusing on criteria is an improvement.

Drawbacks – new panel, short turnaround for reviewing applications.

Suggestions: The Forest Service should send the proposals to the Panel members six weeks in advance of the Panel meeting. Use the same 13 criteria. Panel members should write up their responses for the 13 criteria for each application. The responses should be shared and made available to all the reviewers prior to the meeting, or the time for the Panel review should be extended to 45 minutes.

Letters of support or commitment will not be considered after the application due date.

Notify applicants in advance if their proposals will not be considered because their documents were late.

The date of Panel meeting should be available in advance, at least by January.

Weighing the effect of long term management differently worked well. Using a weighting of 1.5 worked well.

Overall the process worked very well.

Maybe preserving old and large trees should be scored as a yes no rather than a 0-5, but I would be hesitant to remove a criteria because you are removing the score. Tom thinks a score is useful, because some applicants do better on this than others, and because it restricts the flexibility in ranking further. Since it is worded as a yes or no question, then perhaps the RFA should include more information regarding what the Panel is looking for on this point. More discussion beyond we will protect old and large trees, if they explain the prescription and the situations where old and large trees would be removed (mistletoe? never?) and why. Include this explanation in the summary, so the Panel does not have to review the NEPA document in detail.

The Panel should provide feedback to the Forest Service Washington Office regarding the lack of preparation time. Who back east needs feedback.

The Panel discussed using the boilerplate language they developed during the meeting to prepare a separate document for future use, but they did not agree to do that. They felt it is more valuable to discuss each criterion than it is to use boilerplate language, and that it is better to develop language separately for each application. When applicants are listening to a roll call of boilerplate language they find it difficult to follow the Panel discussion, or understand the perspectives of individual Panel members. The Panel agreed not to use boilerplate language at their 2014 meeting.

There were many references to source documents during the Panel meeting and Panel members asked if they could use the Google drive more effectively. They asked if the applicants or the Forest Service staff could upload reference documents to the Google drive. Panel members also asked if it would be possible to have print outs of these documents available. Some Panel members asked if a Compact Disk (CD) could be sent to them instead of using Google drive.

Tom and Bryan are ok with electronic only. Dr. Ching wants box of hard copy applications and CD. Everyone else wants box and an electronic version. Collaborator interest sheets are not useful.

RFA

The appendices should be limited to 50 or 100 pages. Only the NEPA decision memo should be included in the appendix, not the whole NEPA document. The RFA should encourage applicants to provide hyperlinks to references such as whole NEPA documents.

Applicants need to state their qualifications that are relevant to proposal.

Applicants should describe why the area is a high priority.

Add criteria: Did the applicant provide an adequate map describing the treatment area?

Modify criteria 17 to address the Panel comments.

Subcommittee

Review multiparty assessment reports from completed projects and provide recommendations to the Panel. The Subcommittee report should include information on past performance of CFRP grant recipients.

Potential Subcommittee Members: Doug Boykin; Bryan Bird; Krys Nsytrym; Eytan K; Ruben Montes; and Bill Ferranti.

Glossary

BLM: Bureau of Land Management
BOR: Bureau of Reclamation
CFLRP: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project
CFRP: Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
CWPP: Community Wildfire Protection Plan
CWMA: Cooperative Weed Management Areas
DBH: Diameter at Breast Height
DRC: Diameter at Root Collar
EA: Environmental Assessment
EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
ESA: Endangered Species Act
EMNRD: Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
ENMU: Eastern New Mexico University
EQUIP: Environmental Quality Incentive Program
FRCC: Fire Regime Condition Class
GPS: Geographic Positioning System
LANL: Los Alamos National Laboratory
MSO: Mexican Spotted Owl
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
NMEP: New Mexico Environment Program
NWTF: National Wild Turkey Federation
PAC: Protected Area Center
Panel: The CFRP Technical Advisory Panel
Parciantes: People who utilize an asequia.
NMSLO: New Mexico State Land Office
TNC: The Nature Conservancy
WUI: Wildland Urban Interface
YCC: Youth Conservation Corps

Appendix A. Charter

Forest Service Southwestern Region (R3), Regional Forester's Office, Cooperative and International Forestry Staff

1. Committee's Official Designation
Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel (The Panel)
2. Authority
The Panel is established consistent with the Community Forest Restoration Act (Pub. L. No.106-393, Title VI, Section 606) (the Act) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App.II
3. Objectives and Scope of Activities
The purpose of the Panel is to evaluate proposals for forest restoration grants and provide recommendations to the Secretary about the proposals that best meet the objectives of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.
4. Description of Duties
The Panel shall provide recommendations to Secretary, through the Forest Service, Southwestern Regional Forester on a schedule to be established by the Panel Chair. The Panel's recommendations shall consider the proposed projects' effects on long-term management and provide recommendations regarding which proposals best meet the following objectives pursuant to Section 605 of the Act: (1) Reduce the threat of large, high-intensity wildfires and the negative effects of excessive competition between trees by restoring ecosystem functions, structures, and species composition, including the reduction of nonnative species populations; (2) Reestablish fire regimes approximating those that shaped forest ecosystems prior to fire suppression; (3) Preserve old and large trees; (4) Replant trees in deforested areas if they exist in the proposed project area; (5) Improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees; (6) Comply with all Federal and State environmental laws; (7) Include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders as well as appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, county, and municipal government representatives in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project; (8) Incorporate current scientific forest restoration information; (9) Include a multiparty assessment to identify both the existing ecological condition of the proposed project area and the desired future condition; (10) Contain a plan for reporting, upon project completion, on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of the project including improvements in local management skills and on-the-ground results; (11) Create local employment or training opportunities within the context of accomplishing restoration objectives including summer youth jobs programs, such as the Youth Conservation Corps, where appropriate; (12) Not exceed 4 years in length; (13) Not exceed a total annual cost of \$150,000 per project, with the Federal portion not exceeding \$120,000 annually per project nor exceed a total cost of \$450,000 for each project, with the Federal portion of the total cost not exceeding \$360,000 per project; (14) Leverage Federal funding through in-kind or matching contributions; and (15) Include an agreement by program grantees to attend an annual workshop with other stakeholders for the purpose of discussing the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program and projects implemented under the program. In developing their recommendations, the Panel shall seek to use a consensus-based decision-making process. Consistent with applicable laws and Departmental regulations, the Panel may adopt such by-laws or rules of operation, as it deems advisable.
5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports
The Panel will report to the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Regional Forester of the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service. The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint the panel members.

6. Support

Administrative support for the Panel will be provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years

Estimated annual operating costs of the Panel are \$90,000. Costs include Federal staff support estimated to be 0.5 full-time equivalents. Panel expenses will be covered through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. Members of the Panel serve without compensation. Reimbursement for travel expenses will be made in accordance with Federal per diem rates for attendance at meetings. All Panel expenses will be subject to approval of the DFO.

8. Designated Federal Officer

A permanent Federal employee will be appointed in accordance with agency procedures to serve as the DFO. The DFO will approve the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Panel will meet as often as is necessary to complete its business, approximately one or two times a year. A majority of the Panel members must be present to constitute an official meeting of the Panel. The Panel shall not hold any meetings except at the call of, or with the advance approval of, the DFO. Notice of each meeting shall be provided in the Federal Register and in major New Mexico newspapers at least 15 days before each meeting. Panel members will be notified personally of the date, time, and place of each meeting. All meetings will be open to the public.

10. Duration

Continuing.

11. Termination

In accordance with Departmental regulations, unless renewed, the Panel will terminate 2 years from the date of filing the charter.

12. Membership and Designation

- a. The Panel will consist of 12 to 15 members approved and appointed by the Secretary as follows: (1) A State natural resources official from the State of New Mexico; (2) At least two representatives from Federal land management agencies; (3) At least one tribal or pueblo representative; (4) At least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration; and (5) Equal representation from - (a) Conservation interests, (b) Local communities, and (c) Commodity interests. Each Panel member shall serve as a representative of one of the interest groups described in Section 606 (b) of the Act.

The Regional Forester, Southwestern Region may recommend substitutes to represent members at meetings they are unable to attend. The Secretary must approve and appoint substitutes before they attend.

Vacancies on the Panel will be filled in the manner in which the original appointments were made. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term of the member's predecessor will be appointed only for the remainder of such term. Appointments to vacant or expiring positions will be made annually.

- b. Of these members, one will become the chairperson who is recognized for his or her ability to lead a group in a fair and focused manner and who has been briefed on the mission of this Committee. The Committee will select its own chairperson. A co-chairperson may be assigned, especially to facilitate their transition to become the chairperson in the future.
- c. 12c. Ethics Statement
To maintain the highest levels of honesty, integrity and ethical conduct, no Committee or subcommittee member shall participate in any “specific party matters” (i.e., matters are narrowly focused and typically involve specific transactions between identified parties) such as a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, grant, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct or indirect financial interest. This includes the requirement for Committee or Subcommittee members to immediately disclose to the DFO any specific party matter in which the member’s immediate family, relatives, business partners or employer would be directly seeking to financially benefit from the Committee’s recommendations. Members of the Committee shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by the Forest Service, or in any litigation related thereto.

All members will receive ethics training to identify and avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Committee’s advice and recommendations. Members who are appointed as “Representatives” are not subject to Federal ethics laws because such appointment allows them to represent the point(s) of view of a particular group, business sector or segment of the public.

Members appointed as “Special Government Employees” (SGEs) are considered intermittent Federal employees and are subject to Federal ethics laws. SGE’s are appointed due to their personal knowledge, academic scholarship, background or expertise. No SGE may participate in any activity in which the member has a prohibited financial interest. Appointees who are SGEs are required to complete and submit a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE-450 form) and, upon request, USDA will assist SGEs in preparing these financial reports. To ensure the highest level of compliance with applicable ethical standards USDA will provide ethics training to SGEs on an annual basis. The provisions of these paragraphs are not meant to exhaustively cover all Federal ethics laws and do not affect any other statutory or regulatory obligations to which advisory committee members are subject.

13. Subcommittees

The Forest Service has the authority to create subcommittees. Subcommittees must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency.

14. Recordkeeping

The records of this Committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. Information about this Committee is available online at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp>

15. Filing Date
June 14, 2012

Bylaws

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

Technical Advisory Panel

April 22, 2013

Section I: Purpose

The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel (Panel) is to evaluate proposals for forest restoration grants and provide recommendations on funding. Recommendations will be presented to the Secretary of Agriculture through the USDA Forest Service.

Section II: Authority

The Secretary of Agriculture established the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel as a Federal Advisory Committee on July 12, 2001 pursuant to Section 606 of the Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 (Pub. L. No. 106-393) (the Act), which directs the Secretary to convene a technical advisory panel to evaluate proposals that will receive funding through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. The Panel is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the Government in the Sunshine Act (GISA).

Section III: Membership Selection and Appointment

The Secretary of Agriculture, or his delegate acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, will appoint Panel members. The 12-15 member panel, as outlined in Section 606 of the Act, includes: a State Natural Resources official from the State of New Mexico; At least two representatives from Federal land management agencies; at least one tribal or pueblo representative; at least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration; and equal representation from: conservation interests; local communities; and commodity interests.

Members of the Panel shall be appointed for terms of 2 or 3 years, but may be reappointed. A vacancy on the Panel will be filled from the list of applicants who responded to the original solicitation for applications. A list of qualified applicants who passed the required background clearance check will be kept on file for this purpose. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his/her predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. A replacement shall fill the vacancy as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs.

At the end of each 2-year or 3-year term, the Secretary of Agriculture will solicit applications for new membership on the panel. Notices will be sent to tribal, county and local governments, conservation organizations, and appropriate Colleges and Universities. A notice describing the purpose of the Panel and the application procedure will be published in local newspapers and a news release will be sent to television stations, radio stations, and their local translators in New Mexico soliciting nominations for Panel membership. Letters will also be mailed to individuals who have expressed an interest in the program or are involved in the forest restoration issue in New Mexico. Information on the Act and how to submit an application for membership on the Panel will also be posted on the Forest Service Southwest Regional Internet Website at: www.fs.fed.us/r3/spf/community.

The Secretary of Agriculture, in selecting Panel members, shall seek to ensure the membership of the Panel is balanced and represents and includes a broad range of diverse views and interests. Additional criteria for selection will include but not be limited to: long-time familiarity with forest management issues in New Mexico; past experience working with the government planning process; knowledge and understanding of the various cultures and communities in New Mexico; ability to actively participate in diverse team settings; demonstrated skill in working toward mutually beneficial solutions to complex issues; respect and credibility in local communities; and commitment to attending panel meetings.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint a Designated Federal Official (DFO) under sections 10 (e) and (f) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., who shall also serve as the Chairman of the Panel.

Section IV: Meeting Procedures

The panel will provide an environment where interest groups that have a stake in forest management issues can work towards agreement on how forest restoration should occur on public land in New Mexico with the grant proposals as the focus of the discussion.

The panel makes recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on which grant proposals best meet the objectives of the Act. The Panel will meet as often as is necessary to complete its business. The DFO (or a designated substitute) will convene Panel meetings. A majority of the Panel members must be present to constitute an official meeting of the Panel.

A. Agenda

The DFO/Chairman will approve the proposed agenda for each meeting and distributed it to panel members prior to each meeting. An outline of the agenda will be published with a notice of the meeting in the Federal Register at least 15 days prior to the meeting. CFRP project proposals will be distributed to panel members for review at least six weeks prior to the panel meeting. Any member of the panel may submit additional agenda items to the DFO prior to the meeting if they are related to proposal evaluation. Members of the public may submit items for consideration that are related to proposal evaluation by sending them to the DFO prior to the meeting.

B. Minutes and Records

The DFO will prepare minutes of each meeting and distribute copies to each Panel member. The minutes will include: a record of the persons present (including the names of panel members, names of staff, and the names of members of the public who made written or oral presentations); a description of the matters discussed and conclusions reached; and copies of all reports received, issued or approved by the Panel. All documents, reports, or other materials prepared by, or for, the Panel constitute official government records and must be maintained according the Government Services Administration (GSA) policies and procedures. Minutes of open meetings will be available to the public upon request.

C. Open Meetings

The meeting is open to the public. Panel discussion is limited to Panel members and Forest Service staff. Project proponents may respond to questions of clarification from Panel members or Forest Service staff. Persons who wish to bring Collaborative Forest Restoration Program grant application review matters to the attention of the Panel may file written statements with the Panel staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who submitted written statements prior to the public input sessions will have the opportunity to address the Panel at those sessions. Oral comment shall be limited to 3 minutes. All materials brought before or presented to the Panel will be available to the public for review or copying at the time of the scheduled meeting.

The panel will not consider new information that was required by the RFA if it constitutes a substantial change to the original proposal. The panel may consider information provided in response to a request for clarification or if it is a factual correction.

Section V: Role of Panel Members

A. Designated Federal Official (DFO) or his delegate

The DFO will establish priorities, identify issues that must be addressed, and assure compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Community Forest Restoration Act. The DFO also serves as the government's agent for all matters related to the panel's activities. By Law, the DFO must: (1) approve or call the meeting of the Panel; (2) approve agendas; (3) attend all meetings; (4) adjourn the meetings when such adjournment is in the public interest; and (5) chair meetings when directed by the Regional Forester or his/her designee. The DFO is responsible for determining the level and types of staff and financial support required and providing adequate staff support to the Panel, including the performance of the following functions: (a) Notifying members of the time and place for each meeting; (b) ensuring that adequate facilities are provided for meetings; (c) ensuring detailed minutes are taken at the meeting and maintaining records of all meetings, including subgroup or working group activities, as required by Law; (d) maintaining the roll including subgroup and working group activities; (e) attending to official correspondence; (f) maintaining official Panel records and filing all papers and submissions prepared for or by the Panel, including those items generated by subgroups and working groups; (g) acting as the Panel's agent to collect, validate and pay all vouchers for pre-approved expenditures; and (h) preparing and handling all reports, including the annual report as required under FACA.

B. Chairperson

The Chairperson works with the DFO to establish priorities, identify issues which must be addressed, develop the agenda, determine the level and types of staff and financial support required, and serves as the focal point for the Panel's membership. The Chairman works with the meeting facilitator to assure that each member of the Panel has an opportunity to express their views. In addition, the Chairperson is responsible for certifying the accuracy of the Panel Report and the Meeting Minutes developed by the Panel to document its meetings. The DFO may also serve as the Chairperson.

C. Panel Member

Appointment to the Panel does not make a Panel member an employee of the federal government. The primary responsibility of each Panel member is to review and evaluate each CFRP project proposal to determine which ones best meet the purposes and objectives of the Act. Panel members shall attend Panel meetings, and participate in related workgroups as determined necessary by the Panel and approved by the DFO. Panel members may contact project proponents to clarify specific aspects of a proposal and seek input from other sources familiar with the technical and social aspects of the intended activity.

If a Panel Member or any member of their immediate family, or organization employing them, will directly or indirectly financially benefit from a CFRP grant proposal being evaluated, or if a Panel Member has an identified role in the implementation of the project, that Panel member **shall leave the meeting room during the discussion of that proposal and recuse themselves from the Panel's decision** to avoid a conflict of interest. Panel members may answer questions from grant applicants regarding the eligibility and appropriateness of project proposal ideas and still engage in the discussion and decision on a proposal.

During Panel discussions, each member of the Panel shall take the concerns of other Panel members as seriously as they do their own regarding the contribution individual project proposals make towards forest restoration in New Mexico. Panel members are encouraged to support the recommendations of the Panel in their workplaces and in other groups concerned with forest restoration in New Mexico.

D. Recorder

The recorder shall capture issues raised and consensus recommendations of the Panel for each CFRP project proposal and for items of general discussion. The recorder shall take direction from the Chairman on final wording for consensus recommendations, and work with Panel members to assure that issues are captured accurately in the record of the meeting.

Section VI: Process for Developing Recommendations

By law, the Panel must seek to use a consensus based decision-making process in developing their recommendations. If the Panel does not reach agreement through discussion, they may use a weighted ranking system to identify the highest priority projects. The Secretary of Agriculture will make the final decision on which proposals receive funding.

Section VI: Expenses and Reimbursement

Members of the Panel serve without compensation. Reimbursement for travel expenses will be made in accordance with Federal per diem rates for attendance at meetings. Panel members should request authorization from the DFO prior to incurring any expenses associated with collecting input on project proposals including but not limited to photocopies, postage, and telephone calls. All expenses will be subject to approval of the DFO. Advisory Panel Expenses will be covered through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

Appendix B. 2013 Technical Advisory Panel Members

Interest	Name, Organization
State Natural Resources Official	Nina Wells, NMED-Surface Water Quality Bureau
Federal Land Management Agency	Kenneth Jaramillo, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
Federal Land Management Agency	Jennifer Jo Hensiek, USDA Forest Service
Federal Land Management Agency	Jeremy Kruger, Bureau of Land Management
Tribal	Alan Hatch, Pueblo of Santa Ana
Independent Scientist	Amy Waltz, PhD, Ecological Restoration Institute, Northern Arizona University
Independent Scientist	Ching-Hsun Huang, PhD, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University
Conservation	Bryan Bird, Wild Earth Guardians
Conservation	Tom Jervis, Audubon New Mexico
Local Community	John Sanchez, New Mexico Land Grant Council
Local Community	Krystyn Nystrom, Santa Fe County Fire Department
Commodity	Sara Kuykendall, Kuykendall and Sons Lumber
Commodity	Shiloh Old, Old Wood, LLC
Designated Federal Officer	Walter Dunn, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region

Appendix C. List of Recommended Proposals

Planning

1. **Planning Collaborative Restoration of the Rio Tusas-Lower San Antonio Landscape**
GIV, Gilbert Vigil, Rio Rancho, NM Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: GIV and their project partners will develop a three-year, multi-jurisdictional process to assess and prioritize ecological needs within the Rio Tusas-Lower San Antonio (RTLSA) landscape of the Carson National Forest. This landscape-level plan will encompass approximately 160,000 acres on the central and northeastern portions of the Tres Piedras Ranger District and will be developed in concert with a separately-funded Bureau of Land Management (BLM) analysis area of close to 430,000 acres immediately east to the RTLSA border. The project will identify and prioritize landscape scale restoration opportunities across jurisdictional boundaries. Emphasis will be placed on the restoration of desired conditions in frequent fire ecosystems, improvements to wildlife habitat, forest and watershed health, and restoration of the ecological process of fire and its associated effects on forest structure. The project will identify and prioritize a broad range of treatment alternatives and then develop a purpose and need for proposed activities within the scope of the Carson Forest Plan. The objective is to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and have the appropriate decision documents signed by the end of the year three of the project.

Partners: Carson National Forest Tres Piedras Ranger District; BLM; NM Dept. of Game and Fish; NM Environment Dept.; NM State Forestry; NM State Land Office; Rocky Mountain Youth Corps; NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute; NM Highlands University; Northern NM College; The Nature Conservancy; Quivira Coalition; Carson Forest Watch; Kuykendall & Sons Sawmill; Tres Piedras Community Enhancement; National Wild Turkey Federation; and David Elliott/Rush Ranch.

2. **Multi-Jurisdictional, Fire Focused Planning within the Luera-Pelona Landscape of Southwest New Mexico**
Forest Fitness, LLC, Tijeras, NM Federal Request \$359,614

Abstract: Forest Fitness, LLC and their partners will complete NEPA analysis for a 60,000 acre planning area within the Luera-Pelona Mountain landscape in Southwestern New Mexico encompassing land administered by the New Mexico State Land Office and the BLM. The project will create five jobs, using qualified biologists, foresters and archaeologists to complete surveys. The project will also train approximately 20 youth from the surrounding communities in environmental stewardship.

Partners: BLM Socorro Field Office; New Mexico State Land Office; NM State Forestry Division; NM Dept. of Game & Fish; Cibola National Forest; Rocky Mountain Ecology LLC; National Wild Turkey Federation; and Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc.

Small Diameter Tree Utilization

3. **Cibola National Forest Small Wood Utilization**
Mt. Taylor Machine, LLC, Milan, NM Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: Mt. Taylor Machine, LLC will purchase a biomass burner, a disc chipper and three walking floor trailers to increase the utilization of small diameter trees thinned from the 12,000 acre Bluewater Ecosystem Management Project in the Zuni mountains of the Cibola National Forest Mt. Taylor Ranger District. The project will lead to the development and stabilization of the small diameter wood utilization industry in the area. Seven jobs will be created and 38 forestry sector jobs will be sustained by the project.

Partners: Forest Restoration Harvesting; Forest Guild; National Wild Turkey Federation; Cibola National Forest Mt. Taylor Ranger District; Wood Industries Network; Village of Milan; Grants High School; and Cordoba Logging, Inc.

4. Utilizing Small Diameter Trees to Strengthen Forest Restoration Projects

Silver Dollar Racing & Shavings, Maxwell, NM Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: Silver Dollar Racing & Shavings will hire three new employees and purchase a logging truck with a grapple and trailer, a delivery truck, and a conveyor to expand production of Woodworms, an erosion control and water filtration product made from wood shavings from small diameter trees. The project will allow the proponent to increase production to meet the growing demand for Woodworms for post-forest fire rehabilitation. Project partners will produce two education videos for students that link the importance of a strong forestry sector, healthy watersheds, wildfire prevention and post fire rehabilitation.

Partners: Colfax County; Forest Guild; NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute; Carson National Forest; KS Berry Engineering; Hurtado Lumber; Maxwell Public Schools; HR Vigil Small Products; and NM Forest Industry Association.

Implementation

5. Sharing Trees with Soil – Value-Added Restoration Products Fueled by Landscape Restoration in David Canyon

Arid Land Innovation, LLC, Sandia Park, NM Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: Arid Land Innovation, LLC and their partners will restore 625 acres of Ponderosa pine forest in the Wildland-Urban Interface of the Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District. The project area was analyzed under the Isleta Environmental Assessment, a multi-jurisdictional landscape-scale planning effort. The area borders Isleta tribal land, a U.S. Department of Defense Withdrawal Area, and two miles of private property. The area will be hand and mechanically thinned and industry partners will utilize over 7000 cubic yards of small-diameter wood to generate 450,000 linear feet of value-added erosion control mulch sock. Arid Land Innovation will train approximately 200 educators and college students in ecological monitoring and forest ecology.

Partners: Forest Fitness; Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District; Isleta Pueblo; 814 Solutions; Sandia Mountain Natural History Center; NM Museum of Naturel History and Science; East Mountain Interagency Fire Protection Assoc.; Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District; Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District; Backyard Tree Farm Program; Talking Talons; Central New Mexico Community College; Bats in Flight; University of Arizona Tree Ring Lab; and The Nature Conservancy.

6. **Implementation of Forest Treatments in Mexican Spotted Owl Habitat: Improving Forest Health While Recovering a Species**

Eastern New Mexico University, Ruidoso, NM Federal Request \$359,999

Abstract: Eastern New Mexico University and their partners will conduct forest restoration treatments followed by prescribed fire inside Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) Protected Activity Centers (PACs) as part of an adaptive management strategy for this federally threatened species. Open-canopy treatments will be implemented within five MSO-PACs and/or foraging areas on 491 acres of the Lincoln Nation Forest. Approximately 330 acres of Mescalero Apache Tribal land bordering the Lincoln National Forest will also be treated. The treatments will mimic natural disturbances by creating uneven-aged stands with openings in the forest canopy to increase habitat for the small mammal prey which the owl relies on. Disrupting fuel continuity will restore historic fire regimes and reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfire fires. Promoting heterogeneous stands will increase forest resiliency. Approximately 50 people will be employed and job training will be provided for more than 100 young people. The project provides an opportunity for numerous stakeholders to work together that might not otherwise collaborate. The outcome should reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire in the Sacramento Mountains and provide forest managers and scientists with important information regarding forest restoration and Mexican Spotted Owls.

Partners: Lincoln National Forest; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Mescalero Apache Dept. of Resource Management and Protection; Mescalero Youth Conservation Corps; Southwest Fire Science Consortium; Northern Arizona University-School of Forestry; Forest Guild; The Wildlife Society; Otero County Working Group; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Jensen Contracting; and Custom Crates and Pallets.

7. **Ruidoso Wildland Urban Interface Interagency Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Implementation Project**

South Central Mountain Resource Conservation Federal Request \$348,802
and Development Council

Abstract: The proponent and their partners will accomplish landscape scale forest restoration treatments on over 1,000 acres of Piñon-Juniper and Ponderosa pine forests in the Ruidoso Wildland Urban Interface. The treatments will occur on land managed by the New Mexico State Land Office, BLM, the Village of Ruidoso, the Mescalero Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the Lincoln National Forest. Treatments will be conducted using mechanical thinning and prescribed fire. Prescribed fire will be conducted by federal, state, and private crews alongside municipal and volunteer fire departments. The project will create six fuel reduction jobs and produce approximately 200 cords of firewood and saw logs. Prescribed fires will be used as on the ground training for at least 30 local firefighters to improve interagency teamwork. An education and outreach program involving at least 150 residents will focus on fire ecology, defensible space, local mitigation, fire suppression, and the use of fire as a management tool. Ecological monitoring data will be collected by EcoServants youth crews.

Partners: Lincoln National Forest; NM State Forestry Division; Ruidoso Fire Department; American Wildfire; NM State Land Office; Ruidoso Forestry Dept.; Lincoln County Fire Services; EcoServants; Eastern NM University-Ruidoso; Little Bear Reform Coalition; Mescalero Bureau of Indian Affairs; The Nature Conservancy; and Glacier Technologies.

8. **Strategic Implementation in a Large Ponderosa Pine/Piñon-Juniper Landscape**

University of Arizona Tree Ring Lab, Tucson, AZ Federal Request \$ 359,494

Abstract: The project will treat 2,500 acres of Ponderosa pine forest and Piñon-Juniper savanna on Rowe Mesa, Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest. Thinning and mastication treatments will be implemented on 675 strategically located acres in the most effective locations for reducing high-intensity fire spread. The treatments will be followed by prescribed fire on the entire 2,500 acres. Treatment locations were pre-determined from a landscape assessment that included fire spread modeling, which indicated that strategically located treatment on 20% of the forest would reduce catastrophic fire risk on 70% of the landscape. The restoration treatments will provide 13 local jobs. The Forest Guild Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) from the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District will be trained to conduct ecological monitoring of the project. The Sierra Club will conduct field based outreach to foster support for the proposed project and future restoration in the region.

Partners: Santa Fe National Forest; Ecotone; Forest Guild; Northeastern Construction; Caro's General Works; Las Vegas YCC; and the Northern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club.

9. **Collaborative Post Fire Restoration in Santa Clara Canyon**

Santa Clara Pueblo, Santa Clara, NM Federal Request \$360,000
(Partial Funding based on \$3.1 M for CFRP Recommended \$232,091
in FY13)

Abstract: Santa Clara Pueblo will restore watershed and forest ecosystem functions to a landscape in the upper headwaters of Santa Clara Canyon that was devastated by the Las Conchas Fire. Over 1,200 acres of Santa Clara Tribal land will be treated in the mixed conifer and spruce-fir forest types by installing one-rock dams, log barriers, boulder veins, and minor sediment catchments to prevent excessive erosion, destruction to wildlife habitat, and loss of rare high elevation wetlands and bogs. Contour and directional tree felling will also be used. Native tree seeds will be collected and sites will be prepared for reforestation. Training and employment opportunities will be provided to the local community and an education program will be developed to increase tribal youth awareness of the forest restoration activities in Santa Clara Canyon.

Partners: Valles Caldera National Preserve; The Sierra Club; Santa Fe National Forest Espanola Ranger District; Zeedyk Ecological Consulting; La Calandria & Associates; The Boy Scouts of America; The Santa Clara Youth Program; The Santa Clara Day School; Sustainable Ecosystems; The Santa Clara Education Dept.; Eight Northern Tribal Youth Program; The Audubon Society; Northern Pueblos Agency; Santa Clara Pueblo (SCP) Office of Environmental Affairs; SCP Rights Protection; NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Dept.; and TC Company.

Projects Recommended Should Additional Funding Become Available

10. **Restoration and Educational Opportunities in the Agua/Caballos**

Joe Gurulé & Son, Vallecitos, NM Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: Joe Gurulé & Son will conduct forest restoration treatments on 310 acres in the Agua/Caballos Analysis Area of the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit on the El Rito Ranger

District of the Carson National Forest. The treatment area is located in the East Rio Arriba County Wildland Urban Interface Zone as defined in the 2007 Rio Arriba Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The proposed treatments will reduce the threat of wild fire in a watershed that provides drinking water to Ojo Caliente, Vallecitos, and other villages. Forest thinning will occur on 295 acres of dry mixed conifer and Ponderosa pine forest and aspen regeneration will be implemented on 15 acres. Approximately 2.5 cords/acre of wood will be removed from the treatment areas. The proponent will purchase a used flatbed dump truck to haul small diameter trees from the site, which will increase efficiency and reduce labor cost. The Forest Service will conduct low intensity burns adjacent to and later in the treatment area to further mimic historic fire regimes. The project includes an inquiry-based science program for elementary students in the Mesa Vista School District. Course curriculum will be developed, and ecological monitoring and forestry training will be provided annually to at least 20 youth.

Partners: Carson National Forest; NM Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute; NM State Forestry Division; Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools; Kuykendall and Sons Sawmill; Alfonso Chacon & Sons; Leonel M. Chacon Wood Products; Jarita Mesa Cattlemen Association; La Asociacion de Rio Callecitos, Rio Tusas y Rio Caliente, Acequia de los Gallegos; Acequia de Chacon y Asociados; Rachel Wood Consulting; Kit Carson Electric Cooperative; Forest Guild; Northern NM Stockman's Assoc.; Spring Creek Cattleman's Assoc.; and Carson Forest Watch.

11. **The Wellness Coalition/Youth Conservation Corps Forest Restoration Project**

The Wellness Coalition, Silver City, NM

Federal Request \$360,000

Abstract: The Wellness Coalition Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) will reduce fuel loads by hand thinning approximately 200 acres of mixed conifer in the Signal Peak area of the Silver City Ranger District of the Gila National Forest. The treatment area is located along a road and will act as a buffer between burn blocks. The project will hire, train and certify 15-25 members ages 18-25 in forest thinning and provide basic firefighting training to qualify them as Type II Firefighters. Small diameter trees suitable for firewood will be distributed to low income families in a four county area. The Youth Corps will also engage 200 elementary and middle school students in Grant County in community outreach and education activities through the "Adopt a Classroom" program.

Partners: Silver City Ranger District, Gila National Forest; Silver Consolidated School District; Jose Barrios Elementary School; Western New Mexico University; Small Business Development Center; Arid Land Innovation LLC; Aldo Leopold Charter School; Gila Conservation Education Center; The Guadalupe Montessori School; The Upper Gila Watershed Alliance; NM Environment Dept. Surface Water Quality Bureau Watershed Protection Section; and Gila Tree Thinners.

12. **Agua/Caballos Forest Restoration and Improvement Project**

Andy Chacon Forest Restoration Company,

Federal Request \$360,000

Ojo Caliente, NM

Abstract: The proponent will restore 293 acres of NEPA ready Ponderosa pine/mixed conifer and aspen forest in the Agua/Caballos area of the Carson National Forest El Rito Ranger District. Approximately 694 cords of firewood will be removed. Six jobs will be sustained. Students from Mesa Vista High School will be trained in ecological monitoring.

Partners: El Rito Ranger District; Carson Forest Watch; Mesa Vista High School; Mesa Vista Future Farmers of America; Forest Guild; NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute; Acequia de Chacon y Asociados; Acequia de los Gallegos; Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc; Alamosa & Escondido Livestock Assoc.; Oliver's Inc.; Leonel M. Chacon Wood Products; Chacon and Sons; Kuykendall and Sons Sawmill; and Northern NM Stockman's Assoc.