

Project Name: Whiskey Butte Fuels Reduction

Project Sponsor Contact Information

South Santiam Watershed Council



Treatment location

The landowners, [REDACTED], own and occupy the property located at [REDACTED], on Whiskey Butte, east of Sweet Home. The legal description is [REDACTED]. Three contiguous tax lots total approximately 60 acres and the [REDACTED] own additional lots nearby, totaling approximately 105 acres. The HUC_6 Wildfire Risk for this area is moderate, with a mix of small woodlands and larger industrial timber parcels owned primarily by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will be conducting fuels reduction work on land adjacent to the [REDACTED] in Summer 2022. Work on [REDACTED] land will increase the total acres of fuels reduction by 20 and open up .75 miles of shared road for fire access. Two nearby landowners have also expressed interest in conducting fuels reduction work on their own properties; this project may serve as an anchor for other residential owners' projects moving forward.

Description of Treatment Activities

The [REDACTED] property is a former Christmas tree farm, with stands of varying ages. These stands will be thinned to a spacing of 10-12', both to reduce the risk of wildfire being carried through them and into adjacent forestlands, and to support general forest health. Additional treatment in these stands includes masticating undergrowth to ground level, and reducing ladder fuels as much as possible. Several stands of non-cultivated and reprod timber will be thinned to remove dead and dying trees, creating small openings in the canopy. Trees along habitat edges will be limbed to 12' above ground level and existing roads will be maintained to provide a minimum 30' shaded fuel break. Remaining slash will be masticated in place to ground level to reduce ladder fuels and promote growth of a healthy and diverse understory composed of primarily native species. This will further reduce the risk of severe wildfire and increase wildlife habitat value and availability.

Two buildings are located onsite and neither currently has defensible space around it. The large wooden barn, located less than 1/10th of a mile from the main house, is stocked with fire wood; both it and the nearby rental house are surrounded by large trees that will be limbed to 12' above ground height. Any dead or dying trees will be removed and remaining slash will be masticated in place to reduce the risk of fire spreading from wooded areas to structures. The main house has a metal roof and adequate defensible space surrounding it, requiring no additional treatments at present. An old roadbed runs along the edge of plot 5 (see map) and into plot 7. This road, once opened, will provide fire access to the lower property. Several stumps and smaller trees will be removed, and the road will be brushed out to accommodate wildland type engines. Future work outside the scope of this project will include planting fire-resistant native species, additional weed abatement, and work in the riparian area of the creek and springs. There is potential for oak woodlands to thrive, and neighbors interested in also pursuing fuels reduction work.

Description of the anticipated benefit

The project area lies in a mid-elevation transition zone between Willamette Valley and West Cascade Crest habitats. It is within the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Forest Resistance and Resilience Conservation Implementation Strategy area, as well as the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Oak Woodlands Focused Investment Partnership area. The actions described in this proposal will provide fire risk reduction, improve forest health and resilience, serve as a demonstration project for neighbors and create opportunity for future oak woodland development.

The adjoining parcel to the north, owned by [REDACTED], is scheduled to be thinned this summer for fire risk reduction. Tree density will be reduced from 400 stems/acre to 200 stems/acre, maintaining many of the hardwoods that are present. The existing road will be opened up to provide a sheltered fire break, and maintain access to both [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] properties. This is increasingly important as Whiskey Butte is on the southeastern edge of the Sweet Home Fire District, and response times to fires may be prolonged.

The landowners have made significant investments in the property over the 40+ years they have lived there, and are now shifting their focus from Christmas Tree farming to wildlife habitat and forest health. They will continue to sell boughs from the remaining noble firs, and will utilize firewood from smaller trees that are removed. As they age, they are less able to conduct work themselves, but remain engaged in planning and their deep appreciation for the land.

Timeline

- April 4-8
 - Move equipment onsite
- April 11-15
 - Complete work in half of plots
- April 18-22
 - Complete work in remaining plots
- April 25-27
 - Equipment moved offsite
- May 15
 - All invoices received and paid
- June 15
 - All requests for reimbursements complete

Budget

The total cash requested for this proposal is \$49,612. The total project cost is \$103,418, including in-kind contributions of staff time and mileage from the project sponsor, and fuels reduction work previously contracted by the landowner. Leverage is from the fuels reduction work that CTC is undertaking adjacent to the project site, which will expand the effective treatment area in the proposal by approximately 26 acres. Costs associated with on-the-ground work make up 82% of the cash request and 84% of the total project cost. The project sponsor would receive 18% of the cash requested, and 9% of the total project cost. Together, match and leverage make up 46% of the total project cost.

**Oregon Department of Forestry
Small Forestland Grant Program
Budget Calculation Sheet**

Instructions: Fill out blue-bordered boxes

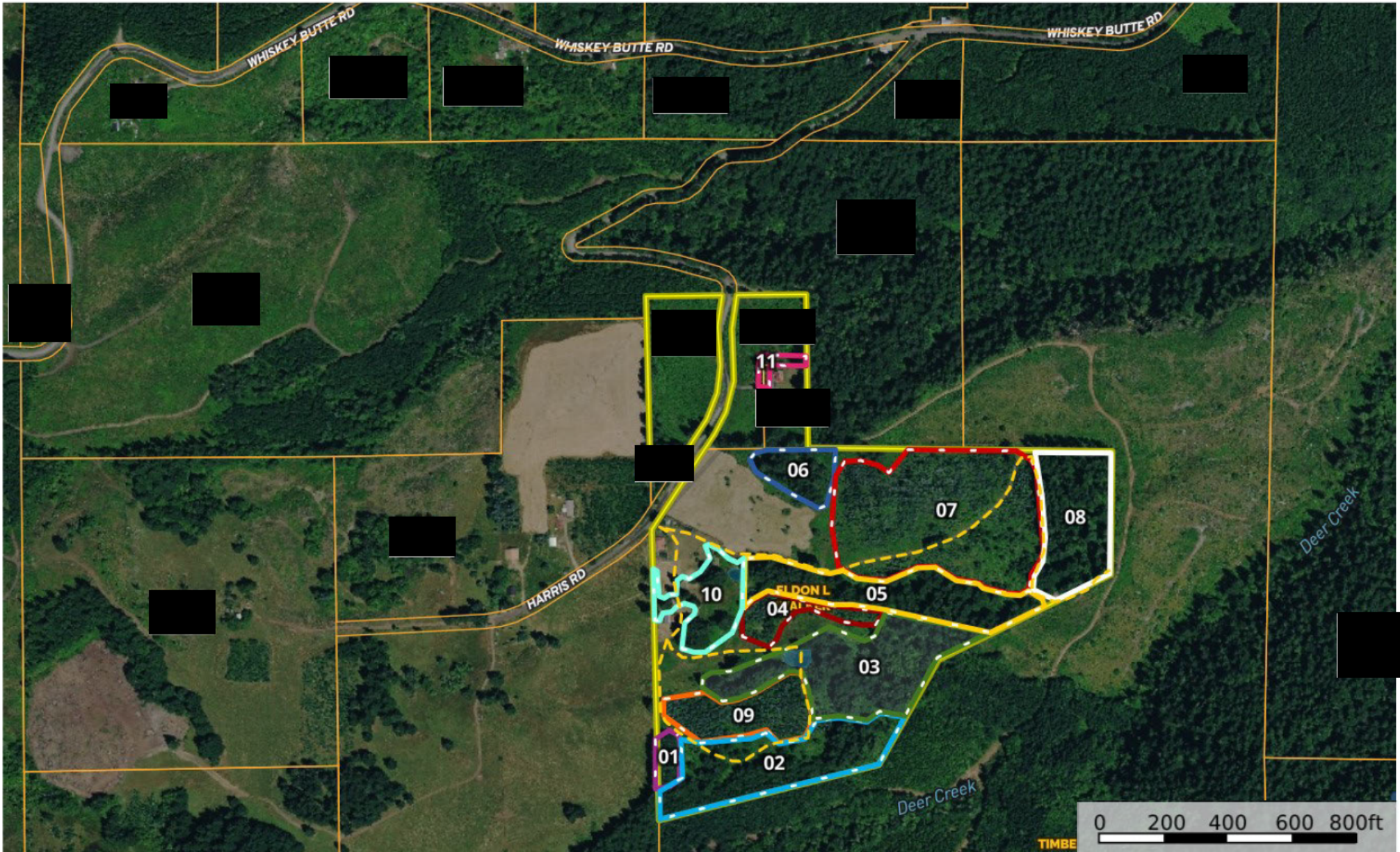
Grant Agreement #/Project Name: # _____ / Whiskey Butte Fuels Reduction

Deliverables	
Below are examples, replace with your projects quantified treatment activities (acres)	
1	38 acres of limbing to 12' above ground and mulching in-place to ground level
2	38 acres of removing slash, dead and dying trees up to 8" DBH
3	22 acres of mulching target vegetation to 4" DBH to ground level
4	11 acres of thinning former Christmas tree stands to 10-12' spacing
5	Establish defensible space zone around rental property (.5 acre)
6	Establish defensible space zone around barn (.5 acre)
7	Open overgrown roadbed to allow access to lower property (1 acre)
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
Treatment Footprint	60 acres total footprint, 38 acres primary treatments

Cost Category	Grant Request	Leverage (25% required)		Total Project Cost
		Match (if any)	Leverage (if any)	
1. Personnel	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 1,365.00		\$ 5,265.00
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 507.00	\$ 177.00		\$ 684.00
3. Travel	\$ 0.00	\$ 146.00		\$ 146.00
4. Equipment	\$ 400.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 400.00
5. Supplies				\$ 0.00
6. Contractual	\$ 40,295.00	\$ 45,800.00	\$ 5,778.00	\$ 91,873.00
7. ODF (if applicable)	\$ 0.00	\$ 540.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 540.00
8. Indirect	\$ 4,510.00			\$ 4,510.00
Total	\$ 49,612.00	\$ 48,028.00	\$ 5,778.00	\$ 103,418.00

Narrative justification by line item: totals should match claim above.

For each line item	Detail by position or item cost, rate, number of units, and subtotals. Tie costs to Deliverables. Example: Personnel and Fringe (\$1,480 and \$740=\$2,220) for 1 Ecologist working 40 hours @ \$37/hour to treatment plan 100 acres of fuel treatments
Personnel & Fringe	Executive Director/Project Manager working 135 hours @ \$44/hour (80 cash, 30 in-kind) to plan, coordinate and ensure completion of deliverables, offer onsite direction of daily work, document work and administer grant.
Travel	10 round-trips of 25 miles each at \$0.585/mile
Equipment	Mobilizations of four machines at \$100/each
Supplies	N/A
Contractual Payments	Contract workers for felling, limbing, brushing, and masticating at variable costs per goal/acre/treatment type (Mulcher class 1 70 hours @ \$185/hour; Mulcher class 2 32 hours @ \$170/hour; Hand labor 37 hours @ \$65/hour). A \$100/day contractor surcharge is included for 10 days to cover fire precautions, should they arise. Fuels reduction work completed by contractor hired by landowner (Thinning, limbing, chipping, burning 22 acres @ \$2000/acre; weed abatement 90 hours @ \$20/hour);
ODF (if Applicable)	Two 3-hour site visits plus transit time by ODF Stewardship Forester at \$70/hour
Leverage Sources	26 acres of adjoining industrial timber, medium thinning, including .75 miles of road opened and brushed @ \$216/acre: \$5,778.
Indirect Costs	Standard non-negotiated 10% indirect rate based on the cash request



— Boundary - - - Roads and Trails

All other lines are plot boundaries



Number of Panel Reviewer #1		Project Name	Whiskey Butte Fuels Reduction	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	17	
Reviewer Comments	60 acres: These stands will be thinned both to reduce the risk of wildfire being carried through them and into adjacent forestlands. Additional treatment in these stands includes masticating undergrowth to ground level, and reducing ladder fuels as much as possible. Several stands of non-cultivated and reprod timber will be thinned to remove dead and dying trees, creating small openings in the canopy.			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Two buildings are located onsite. Trees along habitat edges will be limbed to 12' above ground level and existing roads will be maintained to provide a minimum 30' shaded fuel break. The HUC_6 Wildfire Risk for this area is moderate.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	4	
Reviewer Comments	One landowner with two nearby landowners who have also expressed interest in conducting fuels reduction work on their own properties.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Remaining slash will be masticated in place to ground level to reduce ladder fuels and promote growth of a healthy and diverse understory composed of primarily native species. This will increase wildlife habitat value and availability.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	7	
Reviewer Comments	Two nearby landowners who have also expressed interest in conducting fuels reduction work on their own properties.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	Whiskey Butte is on the southeastern edge of the Sweet Home Fire District, and response times to fires may be prolonged.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	The project is within the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Forest Resistance and Resilience Conservation Implementation Strategy area, as well as the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Oak Woodlands Focused Investment Partnership area.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	The landowners will continue to sell boughs from the remaining noble firs, and will utilize firewood from smaller trees that are removed.			
Final Score		Out of 100	75	

Number of Panel Reviewer #2		Project Name	Whiskey Butte Fuels Reduction	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	20	
Reviewer Comments	nice laid out plan			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	moderate / shaded fuel break			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	single property—stated hope of encouraging/providing a model for others			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	habitat enhancement			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	neighboring industrial land/hoping to be anchor for neighboring property treatments			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	possibly under protected / elderly property owners?			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	yes			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	noble fir boughs (sale), firewood			

Final Score	Out of 100 75
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great map — although complicated to decipher without a key

Number of Panel Reviewer #3		Project Name	Whiskey Butte Fuels Reduction	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	18	
Reviewer Comments	Good description of planned activities and how they would reduce risk of high severity wildfire			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	13	
Reviewer Comments	Moderate wildfire risk class, but would provide a shaded fuel break with protection to some infrastructure			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	One property treated, but would help protect other nearby properties			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, work would lead to invasive species control (with discussion of future weed maintenance) and promotion of oak habitat			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, nearby landowner planning a thinning this summer for fire risk reduction			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	Not noted in great detail in the application. Landowners are aging, and on the edge of local fire district, but didn't get a sense that this was under protected land with vulnerable populations.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, application notes several planning efforts			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	Firewood utilization			
Final Score		Out of 100	81	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 4		Project Name	Whiskey Butte Fuels Reduction	
Butt	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	18	
Reviewer Comments	The plan addresses the conversion of a Christmas Tree Farm to a traditional forest and how thinning treatments can reduce fire risks			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	14	
Reviewer Comments	The project identifies structures on the property that will benefit from fuels reductions.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	The project is adjoined by additional landowners which include industrial forestlands.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	The vegetation treatments implemented under this proposal will assist in addressing these concerns.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	9	
Reviewer Comments	A collaborative approach has developed between the South Santiam Watershed Council and Cascade Timber. Adjoining private landowners should also benefit.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	7	
Reviewer Comments	The proposed projects lack definition on how it will assist vulnerable rural landowners, but neighbors will benefit.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	The area is located within an HUC of moderate risk. There is no reference to a forest plan for the individual landowner.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	The treatments will generate firewood and some greens for holiday decorations.			
Final Score		Out of 100	80	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 5		Project Name	Whiskey Butte Fuels Reduction	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	17	
Reviewer Comments	Clearly lists treatment activities and prescription metrics, more detail on current and future stand conditions would have led to more points			
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	Moderate Wildfire Risk, two buildings with shaded fuel breaks (appropriate based on amount requested)			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	Treats multiple parcels, but seems to be one landowner. May provide benefit to adjacent landowners through project demonstration, but not guaranteed.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	Discusses forest health and wildlife habitat but does not quantify impacts of proposed project on these resource concerns. Is a NRCS forest resistance and resilience area			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	Map does not link treatments to areas clearly. An adjacent planned treatment is listed, but collaborative approach is not evident other than treatment proximity.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Property owners are perceived elderly.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	7	
Reviewer Comments	References two priority planning areas, but does not demonstrate how treatments further actions identified in these planning documents			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	3	
Reviewer Comments	Lists non-traditional forest product use, but does not quantify or provide additional detail.			
Final Score		Out of 100	67	