

Oregon Department of Forestry – 2021 Small Forestland Grant Program

Written Proposal for Eugene Water & Electric Board

Project Name

Pure Water Partners: McKenzie Subbasin Forest Fuels Reduction Treatment

Contact Information

Applicant Sponsor: Eugene Water & Electric Board

ODF District representative:

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Treatment Location

The Pure Water Partners (PWP) program was formed in 2014 to protect and enhance riparian forests on private lands in the McKenzie subbasin. The PWP promotes voluntary partnerships with private landowners with established field assessments, cooperative agreements, centralized financial management, and operational procedures. This framework was adapted to respond to watershed restoration needs on private property impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire (HFF). The adaptation included the development of a Forest Fuels Reduction Treatment (FFRT) assessment which delineates upland forest units on enrolled properties, documents forest condition, and prescribes fuel treatment options. Treatments are reviewed with landowners and documented in Management Plans attached to 7-year Watershed Stewardship Cooperative Agreements. The proposed ODF-funded project will support fuels reduction work, documented through FFRT assessment, on private properties enrolled in the PWP. Eligibility for the PWP covers landowners in twelve HUC_6 subwatersheds, including 1 High, 10 Moderate, and 1 Low Wildfire Risk Class.

Description of Treatment Activities

The PWP project will complete treatments to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire on private parcels <160 acres with signed 7-year PWP agreements. Treatments will include pre-commercial thinning, removal of large woody debris for a local firewood program or instream restorations projects managed by PWP, slash pile chipping and spread onsite, pruning ladder fuels, and integrated management of invasive vegetation. Private contractors and the Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) will complete the work. PWP member organizations, specifically the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) and Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (UWSWCD) will provide project management and coordinate with private landowners.

EWEB awarded four 5-year contracts to private contractors in October 2021 to complete fuels reduction treatments on PWP enrolled properties. EWEB also maintains an annual contract with the NYC to complete a range of watershed restoration work, including fuels reduction treatments on PWP properties. Small Forestland Grant Program funding will support these existing contracts. The combination of ODF and locally sourced funding significantly expands the scope and impact of the PWP fuel reduction project.

Prescribed treatments are developed by PWP Project Managers, (MWC and UWSWCD), documented in the FFRT assessment and approved by landowners in the subsequent Management Plan. Landowner-approved treatments are described within work orders distributed to contractors and the NYC through ESRI's Workforce platform. Currently, there are over 140 landowners with signed or pending 7-year PWP Agreements and 37 parcels with delineated FFRT treatment areas, of which approximately half have had fuels treatments completed through EWEB contracts. Assessments on five additional small wood lot parcels ranging from 75-160 acres are pending. Program outreach and enrollment will continue throughout the project.

The PWP relies on several criteria to identify and prioritize forest fuels treatment sites among enrolled properties. Prioritization criteria include ODF Wildfire Risk Class sub-watershed classification, proximity to homes and

infrastructure, evidence of drought mortality or insect/disease impact, quantity of invasive vegetation present, landowner need, and level of connectivity to public, conservation lands or other PWP sites. The intent of the prioritization process is to maximize program impact, efficiency, community inclusion and equity.

Description of anticipated benefit

The project will help prevent catastrophic wildfire in the McKenzie subbasin through the reduction of forest fuels on private property. The project engages landowners through an established cooperative framework developed by a local utility, public agencies, and non-profit organizations to promote watershed restoration and conservation actions. This framework allows for the coordination of work across a range of private lands and creates unique opportunities to develop and leverage local, state and federal funding resources.

The PWP was originally developed to promote the protection and restoration of riparian areas within clearly defined floodplain boundaries along the mainstem McKenzie River and its major tributaries. Member organizations dramatically altered the PWP in response to the HFF by developing and adding forest fuels and erosion control treatments to the program's scope of work and expanding the boundary to include the entire subbasin. These changes address ecological and social need by incorporating uplands habitats and providing resources and prioritizing support to a wider percentage of the community.

Forest fuel treatment areas are defined within Management Plans incorporated into 7-year Cooperative Agreements between EWEB and private landowners. The Management Plans include prescriptions for a range of activities including forest fuel reduction, riparian and floodplain revegetation/restoration, erosion control, and invasive vegetation management. This approach allows for a local and integrated planning approach to watershed restoration and stewardship across landownership. Examples of the benefits of this approach include the use whole trees from private lands in locally managed instream restoration projects and within an emerging free firewood program.

Timeline

4/1/22 – 6/1/23:

- Implement fuels treatments on existing PWP landowners with agreements and FFRT units
- Outreach in project area
- 6/1/23: FFRT assessments on PWP enrolled properties
- Management Plan and Watershed Stewardship Cooperative Agreement development, review with private landowners

4/1/2022 – 6/15/2023:

- Implementation with private contractors under EWEB

4/1/22 – 9/30/22, 2/1/23 – 6/15/23:

- Implementation with NYC

Summer 2022:

- Submit first invoice to ODF

6/30/23:

- Submit final invoice and report to ODF

Budget

The PWP project requests \$300,000 from the ODF Small Forestland Grant Program. EWEB will administer the grant on behalf of the PWP. ODF funding will support contractual services and a portion of salaries and fringe benefits for Project Managers. The total cost over the project period, April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, is \$518,000, which includes \$128,975 in secure match from EWEB. The project will leverage an estimated \$150,000 of additional EWEB funding.

The budget was developed based on an analysis of fuels reduction work completed by PWP sub-contractors in 2021, project management provided by MWC and UWSWCD project managers, and costs documented in contracts with private contractors and the NYC held by EWEB. Project deliverables were developed based on assessment of 2021 work rate by private contractors and the NYC and best professional estimate by EWEB, MWC and UWSWCD project managers. The project is scalable by adjusting acres treated.

Budget Worksheet

Instructions: Fill out blue-bordered boxes

Grant Agreement #/Project Name:

#

Pure Water Partners: McKenzie Subbasin Forest Fuels Reduction Treatment

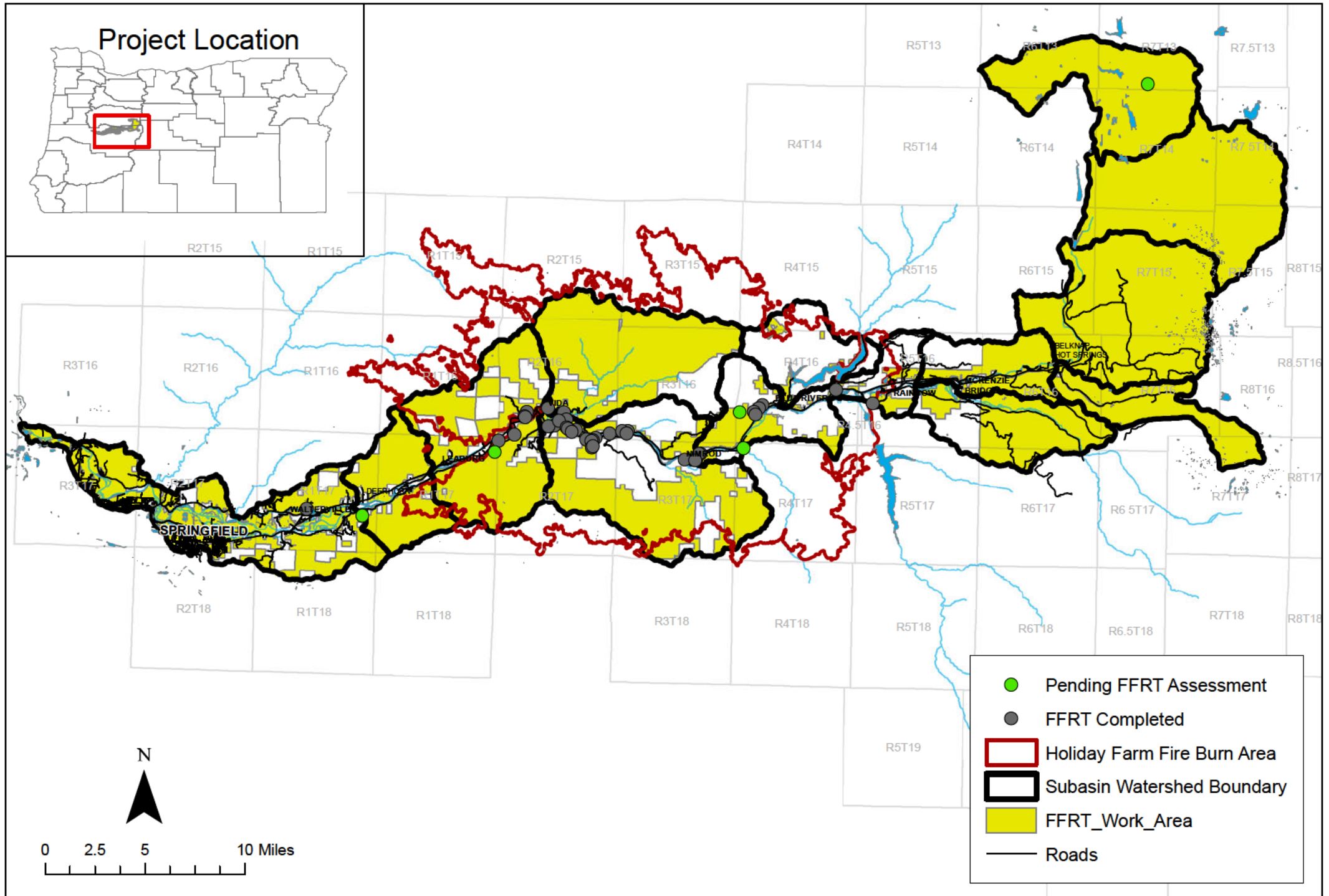
Deliverables	
Below are examples, replace with your projects quantified treatment activities (acres)	
200	acres of non-commercial thinning/clearing, including chipping and haul of woody materials by contractors
25	acres of ladder fuels treatment, chipping of small slash or cut and scatter treatments by NYC
50	acres of chipping slash piles with material over 3" dbh by private contractors
25	acres of invasive vegetation management by NYC
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
#	Add deliverables as needed
Treatment Footprint	300

Cost Category	Grant Request	Leverage		Total Project Cost
		Match (if any)	Leverage (if any)	
1. Personnel	\$ 19,300.00	\$ 19,300.00		\$ 38,600.00
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 6,800.00		\$ 13,600.00
3. Travel	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 2,875.00		\$ 8,775.00
4. Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
5. Supplies	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
6. Contractual	\$ 268,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 518,000.00
7. ODF (if applicable)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 128,975.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 578,975.00

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	Personnel & Fringe costs are the sum estimates of 7 PWP project managers (4 from MWC & 3 from UWSWCD) to manage contractors, coordinate with private landowners and work with partners. Project management cost is estimated at 200 hrs for each project manager @ \$26.5/hr x 800hrs=\$21,200 for the 4 MWC staff & \$29/hr x 600hrs= \$17,400 for the 3 SWCD staff. Fringe cost is calculated at 27% of salary, or \$9.5/hr x 800hrs = \$7600 for the 4 MWC staff & 25% of salary, or \$10/hr x 600hrs=\$6,000 for UWSWCD staff. Total cost is \$52,200 of which 50% (\$26,100) is requested from ODF, and 50% (\$26,100) from EWEB match funds.
Travel	Travel for project managers is estimated at 15,000 miles for the 16-month project period. The total is reflective of travel require to coordinate with private landowners, contractors, NYC, and to oversee fieldwork. Travel costs are calculated at the current state reimbursement rate of \$0.585/mile. The total line item cost of \$8,775 (15,000 x \$0.585) is split between \$5,900 billed to ODF and \$2,875 funding through EWEB match match.
Equipment	Equipment costs associated with the project will be covered under contractual payments line items.
Supplies	Supply costs associated with the project will be covered under contractual payments line items.
Contractual Payments	Contract costs, \$518,000, are the sum of estimated NYC and private contractor expenses. NYC costs for a range of fuels reduction and thinning treatments are calculated at 8 weeks for the young adult crew X \$9,700/week = \$77,600 & 5 weeks for youth crew x \$8,000/week = \$40,000. The total NYC contract cost, \$117,600 is split between requested ODF funds (\$80,000) and EWEB match (\$37,600). Private contractor costs are the estimated at \$400,400. Private contractors (BCI Contracting, Brink Brothers LLC, Integrated Resource Management, and White's Tree Service LLC) working through existing contracts with EWEB will perform a range of fuel reduction treatments. This application seeks \$188,000 from ODF to support private contractor treatments, \$66,400 provided by EWEB as match, and \$150,000 classified as leveraged funding.
ODF (if Applicable)	N/A
Leverage Sources	Leverage funds provided by EWEB

Pure Water Partners McKenzie Subbasin Forest Fuels Reduction Treatment Eugene Water and Electric Board



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Number of Panel Reviewer #1		Project Name	Pure Water Partners McKenzie Subbasin Forest Fuels Reduction Final	
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	300 acres: Treatments will include pre-commercial thinning, removal of large woody debris for a local firewood program or instream restorations projects, slash pile chipping and spread onsite, pruning ladder fuels, and integrated management of invasive vegetation with signed 7-year PWP agreements. The project will help prevent catastrophic wildfire in the McKenzie subbasin through the reduction of forest fuels on private property.			
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	PWP prioritizes forest fuels treatment sites with proximity to homes and infrastructure. 1 High, 10 Moderate, and 1 Low Wildfire Risk Class subwatersheds.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	12	
Reviewer Comments	Approximately 75 landowners for this project.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	14	
Reviewer Comments	Addresses needs on private property impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire. Treatments will include integrated management of invasive vegetation and removal of large woody debris for instream restorations projects. PWP prioritizes forest fuels treatment sites with evidence of drought mortality or insect/disease impact and quantity of invasive vegetation present. The PWP was originally developed to promote the protection and restoration of riparian areas			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Northwest Youth Corps will complete the work. PWP member organizations, specifically the Eugene Water & Electric Board, McKenzie Watershed Council and Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District will provide project management and coordinate with private landowners.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	0	
Reviewer Comments	Could not find information that addresses this criterium.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	8	
Reviewer Comments	Forest fuel treatment areas are defined within Management Plans incorporated into 7-year Cooperative Agreements between EWEB and private landowners. The Management Plans include prescriptions for a range of activities including forest fuel reduction, riparian and floodplain revegetation/restoration, erosion control, and invasive vegetation management.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	Treatments will include removal of large woody debris for a local firewood program or instream restorations projects.			
Final Score		Out of 100	77	

Number of Panel Reviewer #		Project Name	Pure Water Partners: McKenzie Subbasin Forest Fuels Reduction Treatment	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	15	
Reviewer Comments	more descriptive of PWP program than providing specifics of treatment activities/future conditions			
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	7	
Reviewer Comments	12 HUC_6 sub watersheds, mostly moderate risk (although site of HFF), infrastructure noted but not specified			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	yes			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	prioritization of treatment sites based on many of the above, although without specifics			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	multiple partners/adjacency of post-fire restoration work			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	0	
Reviewer Comments	not indicated			
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	all projects include management plans			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	local firewood program, in-stream restoration			

Final Score

Out of
100

72

Number of Panel Reviewer #3		Project Name	Pure Water Partners: McKenzie Subbasin Forest 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	15	
Reviewer Comments	The described treatment activities would appear to reduce risk of high severity wildfire. Some additional detail on prioritization of treatments across the footprint would strengthen the application.			
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	15	
Reviewer Comments	Large treatment footprint that includes one high wildfire risk class, infrastructure throughout footprint			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Many			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, the partnership integrates invasive species control and fish/wildlife habitat improvements into their treatments			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Yes			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	5	
Reviewer Comments	Not noted in detail. Application could be improved with discussion on how vulnerable populations benefit from the proposed approach.			
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	Partnership develops management plans with forest prescriptions.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	5	
Reviewer Comments	Yes, for local firewood program.			
Final Score		Out of 100	90	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 4		Project Name	Pure Water Partners McKenzie Subbasin Forest Fuels Reduction Treatment	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	5	
Reviewer Comments	The proposal does not identify specific treatments by specific landowners. However, it describes a broad area located within the McKenzie River Basin where Pure Water Partners has a history of working.			
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	5	
Reviewer Comments	With the lack of more specific information on landowners that may participate in the program it's hard to describe any outcomes.			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	10	
Reviewer Comments	The proposal references multiple properties within the area, but without specific locations for these properties it is hard to say who will be protected or not			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	5	
Reviewer Comments	No specific treatments or locations are identified so it's difficult to address these additional benefits.			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Pure Water Partners definitely demonstrates a Collaborative nature in its work.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	10	
Reviewer Comments	Because of past fires in the area and the impact they have had on residents there is a vulnerable population within the area.			
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	The treatment area is within a propriety planning and fire risk area and Forest management plans are mentioned as part of an agreement between landowners and EWEB. But once again there are no direct proposals or plans identified.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	2	
Reviewer Comments	Forest products are not listed or defined under the proposal.			
Final Score		Out of 100	54	

Number of Panel Reviewer # 5		Project Name	Pure Water Partners	
Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Possible Points	Reviewer Score	
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20	13	
Reviewer Comments	Great job describing planning and maintenance in place, lists treatment activities but does not provide metrics. Unclear how treatments will reduce high severity wildfire risk			
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	8	
Reviewer Comments	Moderate wildfire risk, will prioritize treatments near infrastructure, but not clearly quantified : half of 37 parcels?			
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15	15	
Reviewer Comments	Over 15 parcels with plans in place, expecting another 5.			
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15	8	
Reviewer Comments	Management plans include prescriptions for some of these resource concerns, but specific benefits of the proposed activities are missing. How many trees placed in stream?			
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10	7	
Reviewer Comments	Multiple partners and collaborative approach including planning pipeline in place, perhaps the best among submitted applications. However, previous or planned hazardous fuels do not include amounts.			
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10	3	
Reviewer Comments	Mentions change in organization address social needs, no mention of community or landowners receiving grant assistance.			
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 6	10	9	
Reviewer Comments	Multiple management plans for landowners, does not mention a priority planning area listed in the CFP.			
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5	3	
Reviewer Comments	Mentions in stream wood placement and firewood program, does not quantify either of these.			
Final Score		Out of 100	66	