

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000  
Public Law 106-393  
**Title II Project Submission Form**  
**Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory  
Committee**

**1. Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official): WA-WAW07-214

<b>2. Project Name:</b> Hands on Lands: Watershed Stewardship Work Program	<b>3. County:</b> Wallowa
<b>4. Project Sponsor:</b> Nils Christoffersen	<b>5. Date:</b> 11/19/05
<b>6. Sponsor's Phone Number:</b> 541-426-8053	
<b>7. Sponsors E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:nils@wallowaresources.org">nils@wallowaresources.org</a>	

<b>8. Project Location:</b>	
a. 4 <sup>th</sup> Field Watershed Name and HUC #: Grande Ronde and Imnaha	
b. 5 <sup>th</sup> Field Watershed Name and HUC # (if known): Upper & Lower Joseph Creek, Upper Wallowa, & others	
c. Location: Township _____ Range _____ Section(s) _____ Township _____ Range _____ Section(s) _____	
d. BLM District:	e. BLM Resource Area
f. National Forest: Wallowa-Whitman	g. USFS District: HCNRA, Eagle Cap, Wallowa Valley
h. State / Private / Other lands involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Not likely, but adjacent fuel reduction possible)	

**9. Statement of Project Goals and Objectives:** The project is a job development and training program focused on public land stewardship. Specifically, the project will employ unemployed and underemployed residents of Wallowa County (including young adults, displaced loggers and mill workers, and veterans) in priority public land stewardship activities. The program envisions a model in Wallowa County of economic empowerment and social equity from watershed stewardship to improve the health of our public lands, and eliminate the risks posed to public safety and rural businesses posed by the current public land conditions.

**10. Project Description:** Large-scale management and maintenance is needed on the public lands within Wallowa County. The condition of these lands affects the environment, economy and public safety of rural communities in Wallowa County. Federal budgets and staffing to address these needs have declined for the past 15 years, and are projected to continue to decline over next 3-5 years (another 22% drop predicted for WWNF). Two priority needs are well suited to this job program – hazardous fuel reduction on land where mechanical equipment is restricted due to terrain or environmental regulations, and trail maintenance. Wallowa County has dramatic seasonal cycles in employment, and declines in year-round manufacturing jobs. These challenges, coupled with declining real income from farm and forestland, contribute to an exodus of

young adults and working families and increasing demand on social welfare programs.

The US has a long history of successful work programs that have committed public funds to the training and employment of adults rather than merely to continued welfare support. These programs target public service projects on public land and in disadvantaged communities. This Watershed Stewardship Work Program considers the development of people as an essential element of environmental conservation.

The program will initially focus on hazardous fuel reduction programs in priority areas identified by the Wallowa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and trail system maintenance within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. Other work watershed restoration and stewardship opportunities will be developed over time, including noxious weed management, T&E surveys, fencing, planting, erosion mitigation, water developments and maintenance, etc.

The first year work program will include fuels reduction in Upper and Lower Joseph Creek and on Mount Howard, and up to 250 miles of trail work in the HCNRA and ECWA. Investments will target a specific number of jobs per annum from previously unemployed (or underemployed) individuals, with specific targets to priority sub-groups defined by gender, ethnicity, age, and potentially disability (See budget note). Each worker will receive a minimum of two days training per month employed in various job skills. Wherever possible, secondary industries will be supported through this work program. Workers engaged in this program will be introduced to these other businesses through their scheduled training.

Every project will have a functional steering committee to oversee progress on all elements of the program, and performance by the private contractors. The steering committee will include state and county government, USFS and local organizational partner representatives.

### 11. Coordination of this project with other related project(s) on adjacent lands?

Yes  No In particular hazardous fuel reduction under WC Community Wildfire Protection Plan

### 12. How does proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure. [Sec. 2(b)]

Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems. [Sec. 2(b)]

Restores and improves land health. [Sec. 2(b)]

Restores water quality. [Sec. 2(b)]

### 13. Project Type (check one) [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

Road Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Trail Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Road Decommission/Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Trail Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Soil Productivity Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(B)]

Forest Health Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(C)]

Watershed Restoration & Mntc. [Sec. 2(b)(2)(D)]

Wildlife Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]

Fish Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]

Control of Noxious Weeds [Sec. 2(b)(2)(F)]

Reestablish Native Species [Sec. 2(b)(2)(G)]

Other Project Type (specify) [Sec. 2(b)(2)]: Hazardous Fuel Reduction responding to County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

<b>14. Measure of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes</b> [Sec. 203(b)(5)]	
a. Total Acres: Up to 400 acres of fuel reduction	b. Total Miles: 150 miles of trail system
c. No. Structures:	d. Est. People Reached
e. No. Laborer Days:	
f. Other (specify):	

**15. Estimated Completion Date:** [Sec. 203(b)(2)] Program will be run in 6-month blocks. Some participants may be involved in two blocks for a total of 12 months. Completion date will be 12 months after start-up. The project is tentatively planned to run from 1 July 2006 through 30 June 2007.

**16. Target Species Benefited:** In this first 12 month pilot, the primary species benefited will be those that are at risk from widespread wildfire and conversion of large blocks of mature forest stands to regeneration, as well as aquatic species that may be impacted by increase sedimentation / siltation following fires on steep slopes. If the program progresses, broader watershed work may be incorporated and species-specific management projects may be undertaken.

**17. How will cooperative relationships among people that use federal lands be improved?** The project is based on strong cooperation between federal, state, county and local groups to develop and implement a watershed stewardship work program that provides jobs and job training to local residents while working on federal lands. The project is being considered as an Oregon Solutions project that will coordinate all relevant State agencies support for and contributions to the project. Existing professional contractors will provide the platform for hiring new crews. These contractors will be paid for job training, as well as management and supervision. Staff from Wallowa Resources and USFS will assist with the job-training component. Other service providers will contribute in the selection of candidates for this program, and additional personal or family support that may be required for candidates to participate.

**18. How is this project in the best public interest? Community Benefits.** The project generates job opportunities, and teaches important job skills to unemployed and underemployed residents of Wallowa County – including young adults, displaced loggers and mill workers and veterans. It will work through existing professional contractors in the same manner that the Wallowa Lake Basin Fuel Reduction Projects were conducted. All work will contribute to improved conditions on federal lands, which will improve the environment, economic opportunities and public safety of rural communities in Wallowa County. See support letters from social service agencies attached.

**19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?** The project helps advance local collaborative stewardship of the federal land, and dedicates the concerted effort of federal, state, county and local groups to the management and maintenance of the federal lands. It will specifically assist with the maintenance and improvement of the trail system, and the reduction of hazardous fuels in critical areas identified by the Wallowa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The improvement in the trail system will facilitate other watershed restoration and stewardship investments by facilitating access.

**20. Status of Project Planning – For Baldwin, Fire Ridge & Trail Work (Pending for Arroz and Mt Howard)**

a. NEPA Complete:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
c. NMFS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
d. USFWS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
e. Survey & Manage Complete:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

f. DSL/ODFW* Permits for In-stream Work Obtained:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
g. DSL/COE* 404 Fill/Removal Permit Obtained:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
h. SHPO* Concurrence Received:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
i. Project Design(s) Completed:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>21. Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment</b> (check those that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Youth Crews and Wallowa Resources' Staff			

**22. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials?** [Sec. 204(e)(3)]

Yes       No      Potentially small saw logs, or post and pole logs and firewood.

<b>23. Anticipated Project Costs</b> [Sec. 203(b)(3)]	
a. Total County Title II Funds Requested: \$50,000	
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No      If yes, then display by fiscal year	
c. FY02 Request:	f. FY05 Request:
d. FY03 Request:	g. FY06 Request: \$50,000
e. FY04 Request:	

**Budget Notes:**

- The first 12 months pilot project will involve 6-9 persons from the target unemployed – underemployed group and 3-6 contractors bring total field labor crew size to 9-15 persons working in teams of three people.
- The per acre costs for fuel reduction work range from \$100 per acre for drop and walk pre-commercial thinning at Fire Ridge, up to \$1000 per acre for hand-piling on Mt Howard. Work opportunities under this project include (1) 120 acres of whipfall and hand-piling within Baldwin, (2) 100+ acres of whipfalling and 100 acres of hand-piling within Arroz , (3) 72 acres of hand-piling within Spooner, (4) 350 acres within Fire Ridge, and (5) 70 acres of hand-piling on Mt Howard. The average cost per acre for the 800+ acres of work identified is \$299. The total cost estimate to complete all acreage identified is \$257,550. Project prioritization is based on acreage that is NEPA ready, or nearly NEPA ready, which in turn reflects broader collaborative planning between USFS and NRAC.

The return intervals for this work are dependent on the ability of the USFS to maintain low fuel loadings with natural and prescribed fire. If weather, funding or other conditions preclude fire as a maintenance tool, the return intervals would be between 10-35 years depending on the biophysical environment of each site.

- The per-mile costs for trail maintenance work are between \$700-\$1700 within the Hells Canyon NRA, and between \$500-800 within the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. On average, professional contracting crews of 3 persons achieve rates of 1-3 mile per day depending on the conditions (in particular the amount of brush clearance. Actual achievements will vary depending on site-specific conditions. The USFS has identified 174 miles of non-wilderness trails and 113 miles of wilderness trails as the top priority for this program. Prioritization considers current conditions, levels of public use, desired and realistic distribution

of use, environmental considerations, and planned allocation of USFS and Back-Country Horsemen labor. The estimated total cost to complete all 287 miles ranges from \$250,000 to \$315,000.

4. Under this first 12-month project, the actual targets for accomplishment are 400 acres of fuel reduction and 150 miles of trail maintenance, generating an estimated contract workforce cost of approximately \$300,000. Options are being explored to allow the workforce trainees to be “employed” by the State, which would then cover their salary and benefits, unemployment insurance and workman’s compensation. This would significantly decrease the cash required to contract this work, and would alleviate the private contractors of the biggest risk factor in this training program design.
5. The USFS will provide support to the initial training and supervision of field crews, as well as logistical support and field tools. The primary social service agencies within the County will provide support to the selection and training of the workforce trainees, and support to their families during the course of the program (see attached letters.)

**Table 1. Project Cost Analysis**

<b>Item</b>	<i>Column A</i> <b>Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution</b> [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	<i>Column B</i> <b>Requested County Title II Contribution</b> [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	<i>Column C</i> <b>Other Contributions</b> [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	<i>Column D</i> <b>Total Available Funds</b>
24. Field Work & Site Surveys	0	0	0	0
25. NEPA & Sec. 7 ESA Consultation	0	0	0	0
26. Permit Acquisition	0	0	0	0
27. Project Design & Engineering		4,000	2,000	6,000
28. Contract Preparation		1,000	0	1,000
29. Contract Administration	TBD	1,000	1,000	2,000
30. Contract Cost	0	30,000	270,000	300,000
31. Workforce Cost	0	5,000	10,000	15,000
32. Materials & Supplies	TBD	3,250	5,000	8,250
33. Monitoring (PART OF PROJECT)	TBD	2,000	3,000	5,000
34. Other		0	0	0
35. Project Sub-Total		46,250	291,000	337,250
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead @ 8%) (per year for multi-year projects)		3,750	23,280	27,030
<b>37. Total Cost Estimate</b>		50,000	314,280	364,280

**38. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding for Project Identified Above** [Sec. 203(b)(4)] (max. 7 lines) The other sources of funding are pending grant and state funding consideration. This project is being reviewed by the Governors Office, OECDD, Oregon Department of Labor (including the Veteran’s Section – Ron Cannon), Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Department of Employment and others for support. The Governor of Oregon is interested in designating this project as an Oregon

Solutions Project<sup>1</sup> (pers. ref. Pete Dalke) which would help coordinate and dedicate state resources to its successful implementation.

The initial funding from County Title II will help complete the project design, coordination and fundraising needed for this project to be successful, and allow for initial pilot implementation.

The volume of fuel reduction and trail maintenance work that could be addressed under this program exceeds anticipated funding availability in 2006. Actual accomplishments in terms of job creation, miles of trail maintained, and acres of fuel reduction completed will depend on the level of funding secured. The breakdown of costs (contract, workforce, materials and supplies) will be further refined in March 2006.

### **39. Monitoring Plan** [Sec. 203(b)(6)]

- a. What measures or evaluations will be made to determine how well the proposed project meets the desired ecological conditions? Who is responsible for this monitoring item?** Detailed work specifications for both the trail work and hazardous fuel reduction work will be provided by the USFS WWNF. Personnel from the USFS and WR will conduct collaborative monitoring, and WR will generate the monitoring report.
- b. How will the project be evaluated to determine how well the proposed project contributes towards local employment and/or training opportunities, including summer youth jobs programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps? Who is responsible for this monitoring item?** The project is designed to generate job and training opportunities for unemployed and underemployed residents of Wallowa County. Young adults are one target group. Project success will be evaluated in terms of the number and types of people who are involved in the program, the training provided, and the continuing employment or skill transfer following the completion of the project. WR and the Oregon Department of Employment – Wallowa County Office will monitor this item.
- c. What methods and measures of evaluation will be established to determine how well the proposed project improves the use of, or added value to, any products removed from National Forest System lands consistent with the purposes of this Act? Who is responsible for this monitoring item?** Any wood removal to local mills, pole plants, or other wood processing facility will be tracked by the USFS and WR using standard protocols. Use of maintained trails by commercial outfitters and guides or other recreation service providers will be tracked by the USFS.
- d. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Table 1, Item 33)**  
**Amount** \$5,000

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<sup>1</sup> The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems that support economic, environmental, and community objectives and are built through the collaborative efforts of businesses, government, and non-profit organizations. In order to achieve sustainable solutions, we often need to work across sectors, jurisdictions, interests, and issues. Oregon Solutions provides the mechanism and the place for this type of problem-solving to occur. Using a new model, the Community Governance System, we work with communities to bring diverse partners to the table to reach an agreement.

**Project Name:** Noxious Weed Management of Canyonlands

**County Court Concurrence**

(Majority Required per charter)

A majority of the county commissioners of \_\_\_\_\_ County have reviewed this proposed Public Law 106-393 project for the \_\_\_\_\_ County Advisory Council and agree with the proposal as submitted, except for the comments noted below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested by \_\_\_\_\_ County Judge

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Priority Rating:

- High
- Medium
- Low

Comments/Rational: