

**State and Private Forestry
FY 2014 Western Competitive
Resource Allocation
Single-State Project Proposal**

Filename			
State:	Idaho	Keyword:	Kootenai
Administration Information			
Funds Requested:		\$ 300,000.00	
Match:		\$ 300,000.00	

Applicant Information					
1	State Forestry Agency:	Idaho Department of Lands			
	Contact Person:	Mary Fritz			
	Address:	3284 West Industrial Loop			
	City:	Coeur d'Alene	State:	Idaho	Zipcode: 83815
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Project Information			
2	Descriptive Title of Project:	Lower Kootenai River Watershed Restoration (LKRWR)	
	Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	Boundary County (BC); Idaho Panhandle National Forests (FS); Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI); US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW); Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG); Idaho Department of Lands (IDL); Boundary County & Selkirk Co-op Weed Management Areas (BCWM & SCWM); Boundary Soil and Water Conservation District (BSC); The Nature Conservancy (TNC); South Boundary Fire Department (SBFD); Wildland/Urban Interface Committee (WUI Committee); University of Idaho Forestry Extension (UI); non-industrial private landowners (LOs or NIPF)	
	Project Duration:	<input type="checkbox"/> One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years

National Relevance			
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conserve Working Forest Landscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Forests From Harm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests

Project Overview	
4	<p>5 Points. 1,000 Characters Including Spaces – Provide a comprehensive but succinct overview of the proposed project that includes basic details of who is doing what, where, and why. This should give reviewers the “Big Picture.”</p> <p>The Lower Kootenai River Watershed (LKRWR) is renowned for its productive forests and high relief watersheds that drain into the Kootenai River and north into Canada. The rugged mountain scenery and wildlife diversity, including many threatened and endangered species, attract visitors worldwide.</p> <p>The Lower Kootenai Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) focuses on 800,000 acres in this area (½ FS), including 92,000 private acres identified as high priority for restoration in Idaho's Forest Action Plan (FAP). Past practices have degraded forest health and increased fire risk. Project partners will inventory, assess conditions, prioritize & implement complimentary treatments across ownerships to improve biodiversity and stand condition, mitigate fire threats to WUI residents and key wildlife corridors, restore riparian functions, improve habitat & water quality, and treat invasive species on private lands within LKWR, leveraging CFLRP work on adjacent Federal lands.</p>

Project Budget						
	Grant	Leverage ¹			Source	TOTAL
		Match	Non-Match			
	Funds requested	Applicant	Non-federal contributors	Applicant, non-federal, and/or federal	3 rd Party Contributor/s	Total project cost
Personnel / Labor:	\$ 23,784			\$ 132,500	BCWM, IDL	\$ 156,284
Fringe Benefits:	\$ 9,514					\$ 9,514
Travel:						\$ 0
Equipment:				\$ 123,500	BCWM	\$ 123,500
Supplies:				\$ 36,341	Landowners	\$ 36,341
Contractual:	\$ 239,429			\$ 1,110,500	FS, IDL	\$ 1,349,929
Construction:						\$ 0
Consolidated²:		\$ 300,000				\$ 300,000
Other:				\$ 810,569	FS, SCWM, NRCS, IDFG, USFW	\$ 810,569
Indirect Costs³:	\$ 27,273					\$ 27,273
TOTAL:	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,213,410		\$ 2,813,410

¹ Funds qualifying as “match” must meet the same program requirements as grant funds (e.g., program authorities, non-federal sources). Other “non-match” leveraged funds do not need to meet the same standards (e.g., may include funds for construction, funds from other federal partners). Partnership with other USFS programs outside of State & Private Forestry, as well as other federal and state programs is encouraged. See FAQ online for more information.

² If any part of your match requirement is being covered through a consolidated payment grant (i.e. state spending of non-federal funds on activities that meet S&PF program authorities but are not tied to this proposal), please place it here.

³ Indirect costs must be tied to an established rate. Waived indirect costs are an acceptable source of match.

Context, Goals, and Objectives

15 Points. 2,000 Characters Including Spaces – What resource issue/s, threats, and/or opportunities does the project address? What is the desired vision or end state? What are the project goals (long-term) and objectives (short-term), and what impacts do you hope to achieve?

Issues/Threats: Fire suppression, insects & disease, past management and invasive non-native species have degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem function, decreasing forest resilience and T&E wildlife habitat, and increasing fire danger to LKRW communities. The Idaho FAP rates this area as high priority for action based on these issues, and recommends the strategies this project will implement.

Opportunity: KVRI has created social license for needed forest restoration projects on federal lands, and with the FS produced a comprehensive restoration strategy for 800,000 acres in north Idaho. Through the CFLRP, the Nat'l Forest is eligible to receive up to \$2 million annually for 8 years for restoration work to implement this strategy. The LKRW is an emphasis area for terrestrial and aquatic restoration projects, and includes six Forest Legacy Projects. This application proposes to work with and leverage these efforts, extending planning and treatments onto private lands, leading to landscape scale benefits across ownerships.

Vision: The LKRW forests are resilient to insects, disease, wildfire, invasive species and climate change. Watersheds are restored to functional hydrological condition; fish and wildlife habitat are protected and enhanced.

Goals:

- 1) Re-establish and perpetuate forests resilient to fire, invasive species, insects, disease and climate change
- 2) Restore/maintain hydrologic function and riparian habitat
- 3) Forest products utilized through ecologically sustainable timber management practices
- 4) Knowledgeable NIPF landowners actively restore and maintain their forests & riparian areas

Objectives:

- 1) Strategic treatments on ~18,000 acres to improve forest health and fire resilience (eradicate weeds, thin stands, reduce fuels and reforest)
- 2) Reduce chronic sediment delivery within LKRW waters to improve aquatic habitat
- 3) Educate landowners on creating healthy, resilient forests
- 4) Establish a seed bank to regenerate ecologically desirable species

6

Proposed Activities

20 Points. 2,500 Characters Including Spaces – What specific activities will be completed using which grant funds and/or which leveraged resources in the Project Budget? Who will do the work over what timeframe? How do the activities contribute to achieving stated project goals and objectives?

YEAR 1

BC-within 92,000 acres, assess and determine highest priority areas for treatments; work with LOs to align treatments with LKRW partners. IDL/partners host educational event for private LOs promoting landscape management and treatment opportunities. BC meets with 50+ LOs to initiate planning and give treatment recommendations. Plans are developed and thinning, hazard fuel reduction and weed control begins. Genetically superior trees are identified for seed collection to ensure forest resilience.

Partners treat weeds, plant trees to perpetuate growth of desired tree species, thin crowded stands to improve forest health, conduct hazardous fuel treatment to reduce fire threats, mitigate sediment sources to improve water quality/fish habitat and restore riparian habitats. Where feasible, biomass is utilized for forest products/energy use.

YEARS 2-3

BC continues coordination of KVRI partners. UI/IDL/BC provide field trips for LOs and public to demonstrate sustainable forest management. BC/IDL help LOs develop Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs). Treatments are implemented—planting desired tree species, thinning, weed eradication for riparian restoration. BC inspects treatments to ensure results are achieved. Cones are collected and seeds processed and stored for reforestation on private lands. Project partners continue treatments listed in year one.

GF=grant funds

- 1) BC Project Management GF=\$52,229; • 2) 1 educational program & 2 field trips. GF=\$7,600; • 3) Treat weeds & conduct follow-up seeding on 9,514 acres. 2899 LO acres GF=\$9,000; NRCS=\$16,389; SCWM=\$48,600; 6615 partner acres BCWM=3300ac/ \$247,000; FS=1200ac/\$83,000; IDL=540ac/\$42,000; IDFG=375ac/\$15,000; USFW=1200 ac/\$54,000; • 4) Site prep and plant 3,154 acres. GF=100 LO ac/\$59,000; IDL=150ac/\$54,000; FS=2904ac/\$469,48; • 5) Collect 130lbs of seed, process and store. GF=\$37,000; • 6) Pre-commercial thin 1940 acres. 290 LO ac/GF=\$50,000; NRCS=\$13,681; IDL=900ac/\$144,000; FS=750ac/\$112,500; • 7) Treat hazardous fuels on 1207acres. GF=7 LO ac/\$7,700; IDL=200ac/\$50,000; FS=1000ac/\$430,000; • 8) Develop 9 FSPs in highest priority areas. GF=\$4,500; IDL=\$9,000; • 9) Fence & stabilize stream banks on .6 miles and restore 6 acres. GF=12,400; LO=\$36,341; NRCS=\$165,709; 9 projects/ FS=\$45,000; • 10) Reduce sediment into streams. NRCS=1888ac @ \$27,705; FS=2 miles @ \$150,000;•11) IDL project management & administration GF=\$33,298. Match is through consolidation. FS approved Indirect=\$27,273 (GF)

7

Deliverables, Outputs, and Outcomes

15 Points. 2,000 Characters Including Spaces – What are the project deliverables, outputs, and outcomes? What metrics or indicators will be used to measure and monitor progress? Outcomes and outputs should relate directly to proposed activities, goals, and objectives.

8

OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

- Highest priority NIPF lands in LKRW assessed and treatments prioritized
- Individual and collective meetings with 50 landowners and 3 educational events for NIPF landowners/public
- Weed treatments on 2899 NIPF/6615 partner acres to control most dangerous weeds and new invaders
- Stand conversion of 100 NIPF/3054 partner acres by planting desired trees
- Create local seed inventory with storage for 130 lbs of desirable tree seed by species and elevation
- Stand improvement completed on 290 NIPF/1650 partner acres and hazardous fuel reduced on 7 NIPF/1200 partner acres
- FSPs completed for at least 9 LOs
- Riparian habitat restored on .6 mile of stream and 6 NIPF acres and reduced sediment from 1888 private acres and 2 miles of FS stream-side habitat

OUTCOMES:

- Coordinated strategic landscape-wide, cross-ownership management planning & treatments in the LKRW that address multiple resource issues
- Transition to desirable tree species that are more resistant to insect and disease, drought and wildfire, which improve forest health and resilience
- Management and control of invasive species
- Informed landowners that contribute to restoration and maintenance of forest health and resilience
- Reduced risk of loss of residences, infrastructure and critical wildlife habitat from wildfire
- Protection of riparian habitat and elimination of chronic sediment delivery to LKRW streams

MEASURES:

- Number of: • NIPF landowners participating in educational workshops/meetings and implementing treatments; • acres thinned, treated for weeds and hazardous fuels; • acres converted to desired species; • acres resilient to climatic changes; • landowners with new FSPs completed; • acres, miles of riparian habitat and number of acres/miles of sediment reduction
- Pounds of seed collected by species/elevation
 - Measures per monitoring in conjunction with the broader CFLRP requirements

Collaboration

15 Points. 2,000 Characters Including Spaces – Describe the contributions and commitments that each partner has made toward the proposed project. What is the nature of their contributions (project planning, implementation, financial resources, etc.)? How does the project integrate S&PF and/or other programs in a meaningful and complementary way that goes beyond “business as usual”?

9

In 2012, IDL staff, USFS Region 1&4 Directors and all 7 Nat'l Forest Supervisors in Idaho met to review Idaho's Forest Action Plan and select areas of mutual priority and associated strategies. This was one of several projects selected. The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council, the joint advisory group for all Idaho State & Private Forestry programs, assisted in early project development. This project coordinates work on private lands with that of KVRI—a collaborative of government, tribal, conservation, private landowners and business interests—and CFLRP.

For 12 years, KVRI has helped coordinate, integrate and implement existing local, state and federal programs to maintain, enhance and restore the social, cultural and natural resource bases in the area. Boundary County (BC) is a founding member and active stakeholder in the KVRI.

Under BC leadership, the FS, BCS, SBFD, IDFG, TNC, WUI Committee, USFW, IDL and NRCS planned this project. Each partner is committed to coordinating treatments on ownerships they manage w/in LKRW to maximize the value of the combined work in addressing multiple critical issues.

Partner contributions include:

- BCWM, SCWM, FS, IDL, IDFG and USFW will treat 7,965 acres for invasive weeds
- FS and IDL will site prep and plant on 3054 acres, thin 1650 acres and treat fuels on 1200 acres of agency lands
- NRCS will provide financial assistance for work on NIPF forest lands, including: 40 acres of stand improvement; 649 acres of weed control; riparian habitat restoration/protection by fencing to exclude livestock on .6 miles of stream bank; sediment and nutrient delivery reduction on 1888 acres
- FS will complete 9 riparian habitat restoration projects and complete 2 miles of sediment source reduction work on agency lands
- BC will monitor all treatments/manage project locally
- All partners will participate in forest landowner educational meetings and workshops on forest management

Forest Action Plan Integration	
10	<p>10 points. 1,250 Characters Including Spaces – How does the project align with stated priority issues, areas, and/or activities in the State Forest Action Plan?</p> <p>This project is within the North Idaho Panhandle Priority Landscape Area (PLA)—one of 12 such areas identified in Idaho in which to focus efforts. This project addresses a number of critical high priority issues identified in FAP found within this PLA (forest health, wildfire, water quality, wildlife and climate change), and helps achieve FAP strategies specific to KVRI, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess forest conditions on a landscape scale for sustainability and resilience • Create forests resilient to human activities. Design and implement stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time. • Engage collaborative groups and partnerships, such as KVRI, for landscape scale forest health improvement, restoration and stewardship • Utilize partnerships to develop and implement efforts to limit spread of noxious weeds • Provide education for targeted audiences leading to the understanding and support of forest health and resilience <p>The issues as identified in Idaho’s FAP directly influenced congressional funding for CFLRP investment on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest areas within LKRW.</p>

Meaningful Scale	
11	<p>10 Points. 1, 250 Characters Including Spaces – What is the scale of the project? Why/How will the scale of the project facilitate achievement of the stated goals, objectives, and outcomes?</p> <p>The North Idaho Panhandle NF CFLRP identifies the 800,000 acre LKRW as the appropriate scale for landscape analysis and restoration. Goals and objectives have been established and funding received to implement activities on the 400,000 acres of federal forestlands in this area. While half this land is within private ownership, this project will assess and prioritize for treatment the 92,000 NIPF acres identified in FAP and CLFRP as high to very high priority for multiple forest-related issues.</p> <p>The assessment and prioritization of NIPF lands for invasives, habitat restoration, stand condition and fire risk ensure the highest priority areas are treated with grant and partner resources. Work on federal, partner and private lands are designed to complement and enhance each other. Riparian and adjacent forestland restoration in this watershed is important to maintain the variety of threatened and endangered species found here, and to support a critically important forest products-based economy.</p> <p>Having worked hard to establish social license for FS land management, CFLRP funding is a tremendous catalyst to leverage work on adjacent private lands, and the actions within this project are designed to do this.</p>

Sustainability of Outcomes	
12	<p>10 Points. 1, 250 Characters Including Spaces – What skills and capabilities will result from and extend beyond the life of the project; how? Can the project be replicated in other areas; how? What plans are in place or being developed to replicate or expand the project, to build on skills, capabilities, and lessons learned?</p> <p>Project partners, including Idaho Panhandle National Forest, IDL, KVRI and Boundary County are committed to achieving the goals and objectives of CFLRP and increasing future restoration capacity. CFLRP is a forward-looking approach that balances and protects ecological and socioeconomic values of the LKRW. Work in the CFLRP is scheduled over 8 years, providing additional opportunities to leverage resources and address critical issues on NIPF lands.</p> <p>CFLRP activities will create and maintain jobs, which in turn creates/maintains an infrastructure to support utilization of woody material created from private forestland management, incentivizing future treatments. Stand conversions/treatments and removal of invasives will improve long-term forest health and promote ecologically desirable tree species for decades.</p> <p>The creation and maintenance of a locally acquired seed inventory from phenotypically healthy trees ensure long-term forest resilience. County LO education—especially demonstration activities such as those in this project—has led and will continue to lead to increases in private LO management activities. New stewardship plans will provide an additional framework for management.</p>