

0	Admin Section			

1	Proposal Cooperator [ID]					
	Cooperator Organization:	Caribou County				
	Contact Person:	Eric Hobson				
	Address:	40 W Center				
	City:	Soda Springs	State:	ID	ZIP Code:	83276
	Phone:	208-547-2583	Email:	ehobson@co.caribou.id.us		

1	Applicant Information [ID]					
	Applicant:	Idaho Department of Lands				
	Contact Person:	Tyre Holfeltz				
	Address:	3284 W Industrial Loop				
	City:	Coeur d'Alene	State:	ID	ZIP Code:	83815
	Phone (work/cell):	208-666-8653/208-819-9340	Fax:	208-669-1524		
	Email:	tholfeltz@idl.idaho.gov				
Federal Tax Id:	82-6000952	DUNS#:	UEI: LNALNMHA3NZ5			

2	Project Information			
	Name of the Project:	Bailey Creek Fuels Reduction		
	Community Name(s):	Bailey Creek		
	Counties:	Caribou, Bear Lake		
Congressional District:	02			

2	GIS Coordinates			
	Ref. Point Name:	Bailey Creek Rd		
	Lat/Long:	42.575963, -111.584075		
Description:	Approximate project area center			

Applicant Budget [ID]

		Grant	Match		TOTAL
		Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Total Project Cost
3	Personnel / Labor:	\$30,000		\$24,000	\$54,000
	Fringe Benefits:				
	Travel:	\$7,727			\$7,727
	Equipment:				
	Supplies:				
	Contractual:	\$240,000			\$240,000
	Other:		\$276,000		\$276,000
	Indirect Costs:	\$22,273			\$22,273
	TOTAL:	\$300,000	\$276,000	\$24,000	\$600,000

Budget Narrative

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personnel/Labor - \$30k for Idaho Dept of Lands staff to manage and administer sub-grant with Caribou County. - Travel - \$7,727 for IDL staff to travel to and from project(s) at established State Fleet Motor Pool rates. - Contractual - \$240k is sub-granted to Caribou County who will utilize staff and contracted services to administer and manage all hazard fuels reduction activities. Funds will be used to perform hazard fuels reduction treatments on apx 90 acres by thinning, limbing, pruning, chipping and slash pile burning. - Indirect - \$22,273 is for negotiated rate between USFS and IDL.
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Project Area Description and Challenges

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Relation to Forest Action Plan AND CWPP

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Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is found in the Caribou priority landscape area. Goal 1 of the FAP states, " Idaho's forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other threats (fire, insects, disease, noxious weeds, etc.)," with a treatment specific strategy of, "Designing and implementing stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time."

Caribou CWPP: The CWPP lists the project area as a high priority for the thinning of hazard fuels in high risk communities to reduce wildfire risk. The project area was identified because of the high number residences, WUI/draw location, limited ingress/ egress and pinch points, and limited water supplies in the community.

The completion of project work will address the identified FAP goals/strategies and CWPP priorities through the reduction of hazard fuels in the high risk Bailey Creek community which will result in increased resiliency, reduced threat of catastrophic wildfire, and improved efficacy of ingress/egress as a firebreak and evacuation route.

Proposed Activities

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Currently, there are 10 interested/committed landowners wanting to participate in fuels reduction work on their properties. The project will establish fuel breaks along overgrown ingress/egress roads, and reduce hazard fuels on these private parcels (vacant and developed lots) within the community.

Specifically, Caribou County will administer the project (\$40k - contracting, inspection, reimbursements and reporting) and utilize contracted services (\$200k) for project management and implementation of all hazard fuels reduction activities. Site-specific prescriptions will be developed based on site-specific conditions focusing on the removal of specific conifers inside aspen stands. 22 acres of ingress/egress fuel breaks (45' wide for apx 2 miles) will be established through the removal of live/dying/dead standing conifer trees to increase crown spacing (20' - 40') and the removal of ladder fuels through pruning 10' or 1/3 height of remaining trees. Additional thinning will be implemented on 68 acres of private parcels within the project area to create defensible space and enhance ingress/egress activities using similar prescriptions/methods above. Treatment methods may include: mechanical/mastication or hand crews using chainsaws, pruning shears, saw blade brush cutters, chipping, and slash pile burning as needed.

Match Activities: Landowners will be participating in project implementation through slash cleanup activities and gathering firewood, in conjunction with the proposed grant related activities. Various educational components will also be implemented and carried out by Caribou County (complete details in box 9) including education outreach (providing educational materials in the form of handouts/pamphlets) and holding 3 HOA/homeowner meetings.

Landscape Impacts

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Treatments on private lands are tied into USFS, IDL, BLM, and other private landowners vegetative treatments whenever possible to expand upon hazard fuels reduction efforts that have similar prescriptive design. The Caribou-Targhee NF has proposed prescribed burn projects on all managed lands including the Soda Springs Ranger District (analysis completed 2022). However this project is unique in that the Bailey Creek community will be the first in the Soda Springs area to receive fuels reduction treatments. This will also be the first sub-grant between Caribou County and the IDL that will reduce hazard fuels within the county.

The treatments will serve as shaded fuel breaks increasing opportunities for the fire to move from crown to ground before transitioning to the dry sage-brush steppe prairie and Portneuf River below. The work implemented through this project will greatly reduce the risk of watershed failure that could result from a catastrophic wildfire event in the steep hillside gullies above the Portneuf River. Post-fire season rain events are known for causing severe erosion/sluff-off of recently burned ground in the greater SE ID landscape. These events can lead to overall impacts to the vitality of the water system on downstream communities. The strategically implemented fuels reduction activities will mitigate these risks by reducing burn severity. The communities in this area continue to express interest in this important work and additional interest will continue to grow allowing this work to expand further across the privately owned landscape.

Project Collaboration

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- Idaho Dept of Lands (\$276k match) - in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners. IDL will also provide technical assistance.
- Caribou County (\$10k match) - will provide project administration as well as educational materials (handouts/pamphlets) and 3 meetings with the HOA/landowners. Additionally, Caribou County will conduct wildfire home risk evaluations for landowners in the area.
- Landowners (\$14k match) will complete defensible space work around homes, collect firewood, participate in meetings, and educate neighbors on hazard fuel mitigation opportunities.
- USFS (leverage) will provide technical expertise and landowner education.

Project Timeline

No on-the-ground fuels reduction activities will be implemented in winter months due to anticipated snow/site conditions.

- Fall '23 - county will notify 10 interested landowners of available funding; release request for bid for contracted project manager.
- Winter '23 - participate in 1 HOA meeting (match) to provide Firewise educational materials (handouts/pamphlets); prioritize treatment area's
- Spring '24 - contracted project manager to develop landowner agreements/prescriptions with all 10 landowners/all 90 acres
- Summer thru Fall '24 - initiate/complete shaded fuel break work along ingress/egress on 22 acres.
- Winter '24 - participate in 1 HOA meeting (match) to provide Firewise educational materials (handouts/pamphlets); conduct 1 public meeting (match) to increase interest in future fire mitigation treatments.
- Spring thru Fall '25 - initiate/complete fuels reduction treatments on 34 acres of defensible space/vacant lots
- Winter '25 - participate in 1 HOA meeting (match) to provide Firewise educational materials (handouts/pamphlets); conduct 1 public meeting (match) to increase interest in future fire mitigation treatments.
- Spring/Summer '26 - initiate/complete fuels reduction treatments on 34 acres of defensible space/vacant lots
- Fall '26 - Conduct final inspection, documentation and reimbursement activities and enter into monitoring phase.

Project Sustainability

Environmental Factors: The vegetation consists of dry to moderately moist site brush and tree species. Regrowth after treatment will vary with site characteristics, but will require continued maintenance every 5 - 10 years through mowing, removal, spraying, chipping or burning.

Commitment: Private property owners that participate in Caribou County Hazard Fuels Reduction efforts sign a contract obligating them to maintain the work for a period of 10 years or until the property changes hands.

Education: Maintenance education will be provided during landowner prescription development/site visits by Caribou County's contracted project manager. Additionally, a supplemental Firewise handout will be provided with the landowner agreement.

Monitoring: The Idaho Dept of Lands is monitoring compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Compliance will continue to be monitored by Caribou County at least annually, and the Idaho Dept of Lands and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded of their obligations through written or verbal communications.