

FY 2025 State Fire Assistance WUI Grant

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
State Submitting Project:	Idaho
State Priority Number:	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$ 300,000
Matching Share:	\$ 300,000.00

This document is for proposal development only.

Hover over each active field for additional guidance and instructions.

Proposal Cooperator	
1	Cooperator Organization: Adams County
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Applicant Information	
1	Applicant: Idaho Department of Lands
	Contact Person: Tyre Holfeltz
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Project Information		
2	Name of Project: Adams County Fuels Mitigation Phase 2	
	Community Name(s): Meadow Creek, Highlands, Little Salmon River Estates and Krieger Ranch	
	County(ies): Adams	
	Congressional District: 02	
	GIS Coordinates (pick one: reference point OR area)	
	Reference Point Name:	
	Lat/Long:	
	Description: Approximate project area center	
	Area Name: Meadows Valley - 45th Parallel	
	Boundary Lat/Longs: 45.0062, -116.29614	
Description: Phase 2 Boundary, Approximate Point		

Applicant Budget					
	Grant Funds Requested	Match		Total Project Cost	
		Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors		
3	Personnel/Labor:	\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000
	Fringe Benefits:				
	Travel:	\$ 7,727			\$ 7,727
	Equipment:				
	Supplies:				
	Contractual:	\$ 240,000			\$ 240,000
	Other:				
	Indirect Costs:	\$ 22,273	\$ 270,000		\$ 292,273
	TOTAL:	\$ 300,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 600,000

Budget Narrative (1700 characters including spaces)	
4	<p>- Personnel/Labor - \$30k for Idaho Dept of Lands (IDL) staff to manage and administer sub-grant with Adams County to include: fiscal oversight, project support, project inspection and grant reporting.</p> <p>- Travel - \$7,727 for IDL staff to travel to and from project(s) for project monitoring and inspections at established State Fleet Motor Pool rates.</p> <p>- Contractual - \$240k is sub-granted to Adams County, who will administer/manage grant activities and implement hazardous fuels reduction treatments in the Meadowcreek Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Adams County will use funds for administrative staff (\$5k) and contractors (\$235k) to provide fuel treatments on 100 acres of private land and 9 miles of ingress/egress routes utilizing thinning, pruning, mastication, and chipping activities. Estimated contractor costs vary from \$1.4k-\$3k per acre dependent on prescription, topography, hand vs manual mastication and location.</p> <p>- Indirect - \$22,273 is for the negotiated rate between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and IDL.</p>

5	Project Area Description and Challenges (1700 characters including spaces)	
	<p>The Meadowcreek Subdivision(pop:575, 1518-acre subdivision, and 255 structures) is located in southwest Idaho, at the 45 parallel, adjacent to the Little Salmon River and the Hwy 95 & Hwy 55 junction in Meadows Valley. Vegetation consists of dense lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, western larch, shrubs, and upland grasses. The forest is also prone to Balsam woolly adelgid, mountain pine beetle and disease outbreaks worsened by continuing drought, adding to hazardous and unhealthy fuel conditions. The history of fire suppression has caused sizable hazardous fuels to build up in this single entrance/exit rural community, isolating residential neighborhoods in the wake of an incident. Safety and evacuation routes are of high concern here and in adjacent subdivisions due to increasing development along the WUI, housing on ridgelines, winding ingress/egress roads, and vertical canyon walls. This area is at a high risk for human-caused ignitions every fire season due to the large influx of summer visitors and outdoor recreation opportunities. The resident interest is demonstrated by a waitlist of 60 landowners, totaling 536 acres, which is a key factor in the project's potential success.</p> <p>The primary objective is to reduce hazardous fuels by thinning, pruning, and mastication. Thus, creating and expanding defensible space on 100 acres of private land and protecting the surrounding area from further fire spread.</p> <p>Challenges: Primarily seasonal landowners, create difficulty in scheduling fuel treatments and engaging participants. Factors like steep slopes and fuel loading contribute to project costs exceeding what is financially feasible for landowners.</p>	

6	Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP (2500 characters including spaces)	
	<p>The project area is identified as a priority landscape (PLA) for hazard fuel reduction by Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP) and characterized as High for Wildfire Risk and Mod-High for Forest Health. Goal 1 of FAP states, "Idaho's forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other threats (fire, insects, disease, noxious weeds, etc.)". Treatments used to address Goal 1 will be based on the FAP strategy of "Designing and implementing stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time", and a partnership strategy to "Develop and engage collaborative groups and partnerships for landscape-scale forest health improvement, restoration and stewardship".</p> <p>The Adams County CWPP explicitly lists this project with the goal of creating shaded fuel breaks to protect human development, WUI, and natural resources. Additionally, CWPP goals are to improve forest health and provide resources for an informed, engaged, and wildfire prepared public.</p> <p>The completion of project work will address the identified FAP/CWPP goals through reducing hazardous fuels, enhancing forest health, engaging landowners, and increasing the safety of the WUI community and the firefighters who serve the area. Goals will be accomplished by removing hazardous fuel loads, including ladder fuels, creating and reinforcing defensible space, improving evacuation routes in the Meadowcreek, Highlands, Little Salmon River Estates subdivisions, and engaging landowners in post-project maintenance plans.</p>	

Proposed Activities (3800 characters including spaces)

7

The project will provide fuels treatments on 100 acres of private land (including 9 miles of primary evacuation ingress/egress routes) in the Meadowcreek subdivision for 60 landowners. Fuel reduction will include expanding tree crown spacing, removing poor-quality trees, and disposing of shrubs and brush.

ACTIVITIES - Adams County will utilize staff and hire contractors (\$5k project administration/sub-contractor sourcing/reporting/landowner outreach & agreements, \$235k contracted fuels reduction activities) to implement grant-funded activities. Prioritization of hazardous fuels reduction work will give preference to areas adjacent to ongoing Shared Stewardship projects to increase the landscape effect of mitigation efforts. Adams County will manage contractors to perform the fuels reduction activities. Contracted field crews will reduce hazardous fuels through various methods depending on available equipment and topography challenges. Project managers will adjust prescriptions based on terrain and work crew availability to maximize the acres treated. Machinery and hand crews will be thinning and pruning to create defensible space around structures and important ingress/egress roads. Slash management will include chipping, mastication, and pile and burn.

Prescriptions - Defensible Space/General Thinning: Remove conifer trees <10' diameter breast height (DBH) to create crown spacing of at least 10' feet. Remove all poor quality trees and those showing signs of disease or insect attack. Leave-tree preference will be western larch/ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and grand Fir. Trees 10' DBH or larger will be retained unless removal is required to meet objectives. All remaining trees will be limbed to a height of 6', but not to exceed 1/3rd live canopy height. Remove all shrubs within the drip line of the remaining trees. Remove all individual clumps of brush <50% live. Within 30' of buildings, remove all brush. -Ingress/Egress Routes: Remove all fuels within 15' on either side of travel routes. These specifications mirror those of ongoing Good Neighbor Authority projects in the area. Because of the steep terrain, hand crews will implement fuel removal on slopes with a 30-degree or greater grade.

Match: County staff will distribute project outreach materials and call for landowner engagement through a targeted mailer, public information releases in local publications, and project announcements at local events. An online outreach portal is also being developed to provide an interactive display of the project area with links to forms and applications. The mailer and online portal will allow seasonal landowners to participate in project communication virtually.

Landscape Impacts (1700 characters including spaces)

8

The proposed project will enhance the protection of homes, parcels of adjacent private (non-industrial) forest lands, endowment lands, and natural resources through expanded fire risk mitigation efforts. This is the second phase of work on private land in the area and key in connecting private, state, and federal wildland fire mitigation efforts on major landscapes in Adams County.

The project will be able to expand further across the Meadows Valley, significantly enhancing the safety and well-being of the surrounding communities. This will also complement the Meadowcreek HOA efforts, which has completed projects on 160 properties in 2002/2003 and 110 properties from 2017 to present. The HOA's thinning program currently has 20 properties on a waiting list, and an additional 30-40 property owners interested, demonstrating the support and need.

Treatments are tied into USFS, IDL, BLM, and private landowner treatments (whenever possible) to expand upon ongoing efforts with similar prescriptive designs. This includes ongoing USFS-IDL Shared Stewardship efforts in the 92,355 acre Highway 95 Corridor Focal Area. Specifically, this project will take place adjacent to 52,968 acre Brush Mountain Project (Payette NF) and 1,485 acres of IDL projects that include harvest, understory thinning, fuel breaks, and prescribed fire. USFS, IDL, and Adams County implemented a pilot project in 2024, consisting of treating 10 properties across 3 subdivisions adjacent to Meadowcreek using current USFS Good Neighbor Authority funding. This project will join these properties to be utilized as demonstration sites to build further interest in work in 2025 and beyond.

9	Project Collaboration (1700 characters including spaces)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Idaho Dept of Lands - (\$270k match) in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners. IDL will also provide technical assistance. - Adams County - (\$24k match) support non-grant funded activities and additional work within county rights-of-way using Title III Secure Rural Schools funds. Additionally, will provide public education via handouts and public meetings with landowners (leverage). - Landowners (\$6k) - complete additional defensible space within the project area using the same prescriptive methods and gather firewood in conjunction with fuel removal activities. - Fire Districts/Depts (leverage) - Council Valley Fire, Indian Valley Fire District, Midvale Fire District, Meadows Valley Fire, SITPA. Outreach efforts and technical adviser. - Adams Soil and Water Conservation District (leverage) Outreach efforts and technical advisers. - USFS Shared Stewardship (leverage) - Outreach efforts and technical advisors on federal projects in the area and ties to complementary work. - Meadowcreek HOA (leverage) – landowner outreach, showcasing project information in flyers, emails & newsletters, completing additional defensible space in project area with the same prescriptive methods 	

10	Project Timeline (1700 characters including spaces)	
	<p>Fall/Winter 2025: County staff will notify 60 landowners on the waitlist of available funding, develop 20 landowner agreements and unit layout (any combination of thinning/ defensible space or miles of ingress/egress routes totaling 33 acres), and prepare contractor solicitation for work to begin Spring 2026.</p> <p>Spring/Summer 2026: Contractors will initiate/complete 33 acres of fuels treatment laid out in fall 2025 upon winter break-up/snow melt when site conditions allow.</p> <p>Fall 2026: County staff will develop additional 20 landowner agreements and unit layout (any combination of thinning/defensible space or miles of ingress/egress routes totaling 33 acres); prepare contractor solicitation for fuels treatment to begin Spring/Summer 2027.</p> <p>Spring/Summer 2027: Contractors will initiate/complete 33 acres of fuels treatment laid out Fall 2026 up on winter break-up/snow melt when site conditions allow.</p> <p>Fall 2027: County staff will develop additional 20 landowner agreements and unit layout (any combination of thinning/defensible space or miles of ingress/egress routes totaling 34 acres); prepare contractor solicitation for work to begin Spring/Summer 2028.</p> <p>Spring/Summer 2028: Contractors will initiate/complete 34 acres of fuels treatment laid out Fall 2027 upon winter break-up/snow melt when site conditions allow.</p> <p>Fall 2028: Contractors will complete any unfinished fuels treatment. Final inspection of mitigation fuels treatment by IDL, complete reporting, and enter monitoring phase. (100 acres treated, which includes 9 miles ingress/egress routes treated).</p>	

11	Project Sustainability (1700 characters including spaces)	
	<p>Environmental Factors: The vegetation consists of dry species such as Ponderosa Pine, Douglas-fir, and Lodgepole Pine. n herbicide, mowing, trimming, and/or pruning.</p> <p>Commitment: Private property owners who receive fuels reduction assistance (including underserved and low-income populations) sign a contract obligating them to maintain the work for a period of 10 years or until the property changes hands. It should also be noted that Meadowcreek HOA has a 50/50 cost share vegetation management program to assist landowners in maintaining hazardous fuel reduction work.</p> <p>Education: Maintenance education outreach will be distributed by county certified forester to all local project participants prior to sign-up/landowner agreement execution and at project completion via Firewise materials (handouts and pamphlets).</p> <p>Monitoring: The Idaho Dept of Lands is monitoring compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Compliance will continue to be monitored annually by an Adams County certified forester and/or emergency management staff, and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded by the county of their obligations through written or verbal communication.</p>	

