

FY 2025 State Fire Assistance WUI Grant

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State Submitting Project:	Idaho
State Priority Number:	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$ 300,000
Matching Share:	\$ 264,000.00

This document is for proposal development only.

Hover over each active field for additional guidance and instructions.

Proposal Cooperator	
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Applicant Information	
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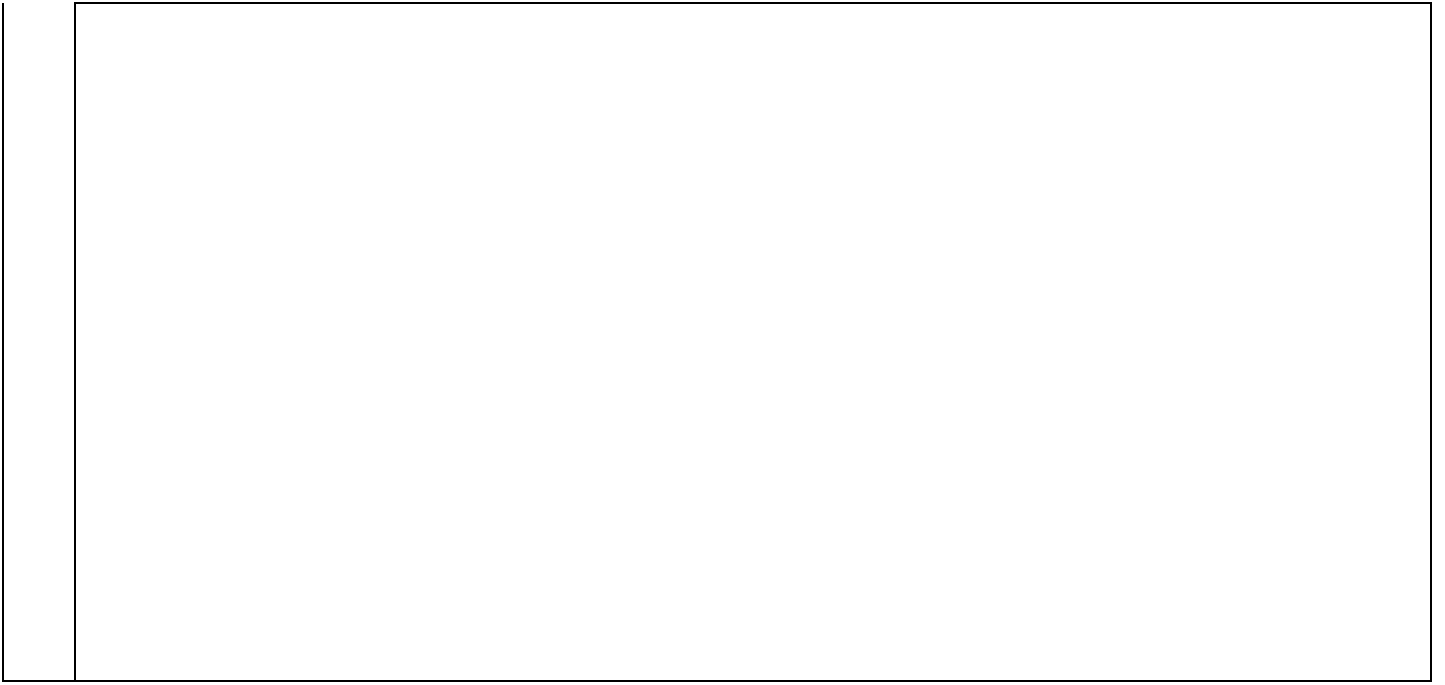
Project Information		
2	Name of Project: Careywood North	
	Community Name(s): Careywood, Kelso, Granite, Clagstone, Sagle, Cocolalla, Athol	
	County(ies): Bonner	
	Congressional District: 1	
	GIS Coordinates (pick one: reference point OR area)	
	Reference Point Name: Careywood	
	Lat/Long: 116.6387825W 48.0431325N	
	Description: Approximate project area center	
	Area Name:	
	Boundary Lat/Longs:	
Description:		

Applicant Budget				
	Grant Funds Requested	Match		Total Project Cost
		Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	
3	Personnel/Labor:	\$ 30,000		\$ 36,000
	Fringe Benefits:			
	Travel:	\$ 7,727		\$ 7,727
	Equipment:			
	Supplies:			
	Contractual:	\$ 240,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 504,000
	Other:			
	Indirect Costs:	\$ 22,273		\$ 22,273
	TOTAL:	\$ 300,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 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 Bonner County Emergency Management</p> <p>- Travel - \$7,727 for IDL staff to travel to and from project(s) at established State Fleet Motor Pool rates for inspections and monitoring.</p> <p>- Contractual - \$240k is sub-granted to Bonner County who will expend funds through staff and contracted services to administer and manage contracted activities. \$28,800 will support County admin/project management and the remaining will support contracted fuels reduction (\$211,200). Funds will be used to administer and perform hazardous fuels reduction treatments on 100 acres by means of thinning, pruning, mastication, and chipping activities. The estimated mechanical mastication treatment cost is \$2,112 per acre.</p> <p>- Indirect - \$22,273 is for the negotiated rate between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and IDL.</p>

	Project Area Description and Challenges (1700 characters including spaces)	
5	<p>The project area is in N Idaho, S Bonner County, N of hwy 53, & in the shadows of the Three Sisters Mountains. With highly subdivided population levels >4k and increasing hazard fuel loading, this rural area is identified as a high-priority landscape for hazard fuel reduction in the Shared Stewardship northern focal area. The project area is densely forested, primarily with lodgepole, ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir. Because of recent fires, community interest has increased to over 50 residents, which includes approximately 80 homes/structures on 5-acre lots to be protected through risk mitigation. In 2020, a 740-acre fire (Hunter 2) burned 4 homes and forced mandatory evacuations of multiple communities; in 2021, the Trestle Creek Fire burned 6,631 acres just east of the area. The landscape contains large tracts of private land with many homes close to densely forested areas. Nearby recreation areas are abundant with unofficial year-round trails/roads, creating navigational difficulties when fire response is necessary.</p> <p>Careywood North will expand on previous County fuel removal work (>400 neighboring acres). The objective of this 100-acre fuel reduction project is to thin stand densities, increase crown spacing, remove ladder fuels, and remove fuels overall to reduce the catastrophic risk of wildfire within the project area.</p> <p>Challenges: Steep terrain and narrow, winding spiderweb of ingress/egress roads amongst landowner parcels. Because of this obstacle, drought-affected stands, and beetle infestations, contractors must adaptively manage prescriptions and activities across landowner parcels to abate expected fire risks. High level of parcellation make treatment continuity from federal, to state, to private land challenging.</p>	

	Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP (2500 characters including spaces)	
6	<p>Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is found in the Panhandle Priority Landscape Area (PLA) and is characterized as High for uncharacteristic wildfire. 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 strategy of, "Designing and implementing stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time".</p> <p>Bonner County CWPP: The CWPP explicitly lists the proposed project area for priority fuels treatment because of dry timber types and limited access for first responders.</p> <p>Objective 1: Protection of Life - " Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for areas of high wildfire risks that are in or adjacent to homes and communities"</p> <p>Objective 2: Protection of Property - " Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for moderate and high wildfire risk properties. Increase public awareness through education, training, and information sharing that addresses wildfire risks and mitigation measures."</p> <p>Project work will address the identified FAP/CWPP goals/objectives through reducing the wildfire threat and completing hazardous fuels treatments within communities of Bonner County. Treatment plans will identify opportunities enhance forest health by strategically thinning hazardous vegetation. Fuels removal on private land will connect multiple wildland fire risk reduction projects across this landscape, contributing to the scale objectives in G1 of the FAP. Creating defensible space and working closely with landowners to develop wildfire mitigation plans will meet objectives 1&2 of the CWPP.</p>	



Proposed Activities (3800 characters including spaces)	
7	<p>There is a waitlist of 50 landowners committed to fuels reduction work on their properties. The Careywood North direct fuel reduction work will include 20 selected residents and an additional 75 through public meetings & education. Prioritization of hazard fuels treatments in the project area will be guided by Bonfire (county WUI committee), comprised of technical experts from Bonner County, IDL, USFS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), private industry, and members of the public. Structures and the spiderweb of ingress/egress are the highest priority areas. Priority roads such as Barnhart, Huckleberry Mountain Road, Road 22, Sunset Road, and Little Blacktail Road are main egress roads with several private arterials to service community residents.</p> <p>Bonner County will utilize staff (\$28.8k - project administration/management including landowner contacts, prescription development, and reporting) and contractors (\$211.2k - on-the-ground hazard fuels reduction treatments) to implement hazard fuels reduction activities with 20 landowners through the prescriptive removal of hazardous fuels on 100 acres. Landowners will be strategically selected to participate to prioritize the greatest treatment continuity. The chosen methods have been proven effective and will be accomplished per site-specific prescriptions by specialty-trained contractors. Forest health and geography, specifically the steepness of terrain, will dictate the fuel removal method. Mechanical mastication (grinding of all slash material) will be used on ground not exceeding 30% slope, and hand crews will use saws, pruners, and chippers on slopes greater than 30%. Field crews will remove ladder fuels by pruning conifer trees (10' or 1/3 of the original tree height) and increasing crown spacing (30') by clearing live/dying/dead trees. Leave-tree preference will be western larch, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and grand fir. Trees 10" DBH or larger will be retained unless otherwise marked. Crews will remove all shrubs within the dripline of the remaining trees and 30' of buildings. Enlisted landowners will simultaneously complete defensible space work around their homes following similar prescriptive methods used in the contracted activities and gathering firewood in conjunction with the proposed grant related activities.</p> <p>Match: The county program manager will hold three public meetings (25 attendees) to present project progress, engage the community in defensible space education using firewise pamphlets/flyers, and recruit new landowners to participate in hazardous fuel removal. These in-person education events will be supported by non-grant funds (Title III Secure Rural Schools funds).</p>

Landscape Impacts (1700 characters including spaces)	
8	<p>These private land treatments are tied into USFS, IDL, BLM, and other private landowner vegetative treatments with similar prescriptive design and aligning treatment areas to expand upon hazard fuels reduction efforts. The USFS is currently implementing the Scattered Lands Project (174,000 total acres) and Sandpoint South Project (1,500 completed acres and over 6,000 acres planned) surrounding the project area, including fuels reduction treatments adjacent to apx 45,800 acres of private land and over 6,100 structures. Additionally, the shadows of the Three Sisters Mountains are comprised of 24,000 acres of State of Idaho land, much of which is currently receiving thinning treatments on over-crowded stands. Collaboration with USFS, IDL and BLM has already occurred in the planning process to determine specific priority areas for expanding the project's scope of impact for the surrounding communities and forests.</p> <p>This project complements work completed (> 400 acres) previously by Bonner county in other high-risk WUI communities just north of the project area, through aligned prescription methods & project messaging. This project will allow for wildfire risk mitigation fuels treatment and education messaging to expand further across the Panhandle Priority Landscape Area, as there are currently more interested landowners than available funding. This expansion will further reduce the threat of fuel loading and wildland fire within the high-risk WUI Corey Wood North community surrounded by popular recreational use land. Treatments benefit recreation as properties become more accessible for activities, improve emergency response routes, and promote natural wildlife habitat.</p>

	Project Collaboration (1700 characters including spaces)	
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Idaho Dept of Lands (\$240k match) - in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners. IDL will also provide technical assistance. - Avista- Fuels Reduction (\$24,000) - completion of hazardous fuel reduction with similar design and objectives on private property owned by the power company within the project area. - Bonner County Program Manager (\$30,000 - non-grant funded match) - coordinate and prioritize fuels reduction work with the Bonner County Emergency Manager. Specifically, manage/inform contractors on landowner property lines and project layout, develop prescriptions for treatments, track projects, contact landowners, inspect project work, manage invoices for payments and tracks expenditures. Support additional public education via handouts and meetings with landowners using Title III Secure Rural Schools funds. - Landowners (\$6,000) - complete additional defensible space within project area and using same prescriptive methods, gather firewood in conjunction with fuel removal activities - BonFire County WUI Committee (leverage) - this committee will provide planning/prioritization guidance for HFT work on private lands, meeting facilitation, landowner education, and technical expertise. - Bonner County Noxious Weed Program (leverage) – provide expert technical assistance for fuels treatments and maintenance education for landowners -Idaho State Shared Stewardship (leverage) – Representatives including IDL, USFS, Local Fire Dept and Power Companies will provide technical assistance, project prioritization and connection with adjoining treatments. - USFS and BLM (leverage) contribute collaboration for prioritization, technical support and adjoining treatments. 	

	Project Timeline (1700 characters including spaces)	
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fall '25 – BonFireWUI committee will meet to prioritize landowners from the waitlist. Program Manager will contact 20 pre-identified, interested landowners of available funding, conduct 1 public meeting (25 attendees). -Winter '25 - Program Manager will complete 5 landowner agreements; develop prescriptions and initiate fuels reduction work on 30 acres as weather permits. -Spring to Fall '26 - Contractors will complete unfinished winter fuels treatments on initial 30 acres; Program Manager will engage 5 more pre-identified landowners and complete landowner agreements for winter fuels treatments. -Winter '26 - Contractors will develop prescriptions and initiate fuels treatments on 20 more acres as weather permits. Program Manager will conduct 1 public meeting (25 attendees). - Spring to Fall '27 - Contractors will complete unfinished winter fuels treatments; Program Manager will engage 5 more pre-identified landowners and complete landowner agreements for winter fuels treatments. - Winter '27 - Contractors will develop prescriptions and initiate fuels treatments on 40 acres as weather permits. Program Manager will conduct 1 public meeting (25 attendees). - Spring to Summer '27 - Contractors will complete unfinished winter fuels treatments; Program Manager will engage 5 more pre-identified landowners and complete landowner agreements; Contractors will develop prescriptions and initiate/complete fuels treatments on final 10 acres. - Fall '27 – Contractors will complete any unfinished fuels treatments, Program Manager will complete final project inspection, finish reporting and enter into monitoring phase. 	

	Project Sustainability (1700 characters including spaces)	
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Environmental Factors: The vegetation consists of dry and moderately moist site brush and tree species such as ponderosa pine, larch, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Regrowth after treatment will vary but will require continued maintenance every 5 years through removal, mastication, grazing or burning.

Commitment: Private property owners who participate in the Bonfire program sign a contract obligating them to maintain the work for a period of 10 years or until the property changes hands.

Education: County staff will provide in-person treatment maintenance education and outreach to landowners through the U of I Extension office, Bonfire materials, and Bonner County Noxious Weeds Program prior to sign-up/landowner agreement execution and at project completion. In-person education will be supported by Title III funding.

Monitoring: The Idaho Department of Lands is monitoring annual compliance at all current project sites and a sampling of past projects. Bonner County will continue to monitor compliance annually, providing ongoing support. If problems arise, the county will remind landowners of their obligations through written or verbal (in-person) communication, ensuring their continued compliance and the success of the program.