

# 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:	\$ 0.00

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	
1	<b>Applicant:</b> Idaho Department of Lands
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Project Information		
2	<b>Name of Project:</b> South Moscow Mountain Fuels Mitigation Phase I	
	<b>Community Name(s):</b> Moscow, Pottlatch, Viola	
	<b>County(ies):</b> Latah County	
	<b>Congressional District:</b> District 1	
	GIS Coordinates (pick one: reference point OR area)	
	<b>Reference Point Name:</b> South Moscow Mountain	
	<b>Lat/Long:</b> 46.78324534303496, -116.96880585719296	
	<b>Description:</b> Phase I Boundary, Approximate project area center	
	<b>Area Name:</b>	
	<b>Boundary Lat/Longs:</b>	
<b>Description:</b>		

<b>Applicant Budget</b>				
	Grant Funds Requested	Match		Total Project Cost
		Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	
3	Personnel/Labor:	\$ 30,000	\$276,000	\$ 30,000
	Fringe Benefits:			\$ 0
	Travel:	\$ 7,727		\$ 7,727
	Equipment:			\$ 0
	Supplies:			\$ 0
	Contractual:	\$ 240,000	\$24,000	\$ 240,000
	Other:			\$ 0
	Indirect Costs:	\$ 22,273		\$ 22,273
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ 276,000</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>

<b>Budget Narrative (1700 characters including spaces)</b>	
4	<p>- Personnel/Labor - \$30k for Idaho Dept of Lands staff to manage and administer sub-grant with Latah 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 Latah County, who will administer and manage grant activities and implement hazardous fuels reduction treatments in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities of Moscow Mountain. (\$24,000) Latah Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) will coordinate landowner outreach, community/partner meetings, educational workshops, project site field tours, and install permanent signage at recreation access points. Latah County will use funds for (\$12k) contracted administration, reporting, project management &amp; prescription development and (\$204k) hazardous fuels reduction (HFR) contractors to provide fuel treatments on 100 acres of private land including 6 miles of ingress/egress routes utilizing thinning, pruning, mastication, and chipping activities. The cost per acre estimate is \$2,040 dependent on terrain conditions.</p> <p>- Indirect - \$22,273 is for negotiated rate between USFS and IDL.</p>

	<b>Project Area Description and Challenges (1700 characters including spaces)</b>	
5	<p>The project area is in the S ID panhandle, W Latah County, and on the S side of Moscow Mountain (MM). The area is bordered on the W by Viola (pop 66) and Highway 95; S by Moscow (pop 26,677). MM land ownership includes commercial timber companies, private landowners, UI Experimental Forest, and Palouse Land Trust. Safety and evacuation routes are of high concern in the project area, predominantly the two ingress/egress routes (Nearing Rd &amp; Polk St). Vegetation consists of dense ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, western larch, shrubs and upland grasses. Slopes are moderate-steep with rocky outcrops. History of fire suppression on MM has caused sizable hazardous fuels to build up in timbered areas including residential neighborhoods and 5-acre parcel housing developments. In 2024, the 138-acre Wallen Fire burned in a similar Moscow WUI community south of the project area, increasing resident interest in mitigation efforts. Adjacent agricultural land to the S of the area is a common source of wildfire ignitions. This area is at high risk for human-caused ignitions due to 7 popular multi-use trailheads that access 60+ miles of trails on private land.</p> <p>The project will work with 15 landowners to create and expand defensible space on 100 acres including 6 acres of ingress/egress roads by reducing hazardous fuels by thinning, pruning, and mastication. The SWCD will also provide education to 120+ landowners via workshops, signage, and field tours to bolster community knowledge and sustain a wildfire-resilient area.</p> <p>Challenges: Steep slopes and fuel loading contribute to high costs and logistics for landowners to accomplish unassisted. Variety of land management, including public, private, and industrial ownership, which complicates establishing continuity of effort. Public safety for a high recreational use area is another challenge in the event of a wildfire.</p>	

	<b>Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP (2500 characters including spaces)</b>	
6	<p>Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is in the Palouse-St Joe priority landscape area (PLA) for hazard fuel reduction and is characterized as being High in uncharacteristic wildfire.</p> <p>Goal 1 of FAP "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". Education workshops will focus on private landowner stewardship, expansion, and maintenance of treatments. Field tours and permanent signage will showcase project success and provide landowners with an example and resources to implement similar work on additional acres.</p> <p>Latah County CWPP: Explicitly lists this project with these goals; Improve forest health and provide resources for an informed, engaged, and wildfire prepared public; Implement fuels treatment along ingress/egress public and private roads that support evacuation route safety; Work with landowners in this project area to provide defensible space through fuels reduction including thinning, pruning, mastication, to create shaded fuel breaks to protect human development, WUI and natural resources; Develop and install interpretive signs at trailheads on the south side of MM to inform train users about work being implemented in the area about fuels reduction and fire resiliency.</p> <p>The completion of project work will address the identified FAP &amp; 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 by creating a continuous fuel break in the neighborhoods on the south side of MM, engaging landowners in post-project maintenance plans and providing education for wildfire risk reduction and resilience.</p>	



**Proposed Activities (3800 characters including spaces)**

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The project will provide fuels treatments on 100 acres of S Moscow Mountain private land, which includes 6 miles of ingress/egress routes. Fuel reduction will include expanding tree crown spacing, removing poor-quality trees, and removal of shrubs and brush. Latah County will engage landowners in match activities, project outreach, and wildfire resilience education.

Contracted Project Management (\$12k): 15 landowners will be strategically selected for a continuous fuel break on areas adjacent to the MM trail system and target ingress/egress routes. Project manager will provide site inspections, individual site prescriptions, treatment lay-out, landowner agreement facilitation, and project reporting. Project manager will adjust prescriptions based on terrain and work crew availability to maximize acres treated.

HFR contractors (\$204k) will implement treatment prescriptions using mastication where site conditions permits and hand piling/burning in steep slopes 30% degree or greater grade, or excessively rocky areas. Prescriptively, dead/down/dying trees will be targeted for removal, live trees will be thinned to at least 10ft X 10ft between crowns and limbed to 1/3 or no more than 10ft the original height of the tree. All shrubs within the dripline of the remaining trees will be removed. Disposal of slash will be by on-site chipping and/or grinding, pile/burning, or off-site removal in areas with greatest access. Road treatment will include fuel mastication on 150' on either side of Nearing Rd & Polk St, following the same prescriptions.

Education/Outreach (\$24K): LSWCD will provide direct door-to-door outreach to 30 pre-identified interested landowners, community outreach to landowners in the project area through 3 public workshop (20 attendees) and 3 field tours (20 attendees). Project updates in an accessible virtual platform created and hosted on the County and LSWCD websites. Public workshops will be held 3 times throughout the project, each with 20 attendees, to help residents understand wildfire risks and opportunities for mitigation. Attendees will be provided with resources from fire department and state/federal agency guest speakers, Idaho Firewise pamphlets, and FireSmart printables. Field tours will be held once annually after treatments work has begun for a total of 3 tours with 10-20 people and provide education and completed project treatment showcases. Permanent signage (10 signs at \$100 each) will be installed at recreation trail sites adjacent to project work after the HFR treatment, notifying landowners and recreationalists of the project purpose and of resources for implementing similar work in other areas.

**Landscape Impacts (1700 characters including spaces)**

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The treatment efforts on private lands are strategically aligned with those of the USFS, IDL, UIEF, and private landowners through interagency coordination partnerships to enhance hazard fuels reduction initiatives, ensuring coordinated and consistent prescriptive designs.

Seventeen private landowners have initiated over 300 acres of Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) treatments on their properties, using private funds and NRCS EQUIP support. The University of Idaho Experimental Forest (UIEF) has conducted prescribed burning and mastication treatments on approximately 600 acres on the north side of Moscow Mountain (MM) through a 2019 WSFM Grant. The Moscow Area Mountain Bike Association (MAMBA) partners with 18 landowners to develop and maintain vegetation along 93 trails, covering over 60 miles of MM private land. In 2023, MAMBA contributed 2,000 volunteer hours and has maintained this commitment for the past 25 years. Since 2022, the Latah County Project (LCP) has coordinated wildfire mitigation and fuels reduction efforts throughout the county and will continue to do so.

Latah County ranks as "Very High" for forest health and "High" to "Very High" for wildfire risk in the Forest Action Plan (FAP). The proposed project will strengthen protection for hundreds of homes, adjacent UIEF lands, industrial forest areas, and natural resources by expanding fire risk mitigation efforts. This marks the first phase of work on private lands in the region and is a crucial initial step in linking private, state, and federal fire mitigation efforts across Latah County.

**Project Collaboration (1700 characters including spaces)**

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- Idaho Dept of Lands (\$276,000 match) – in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners. IDL will also provide technical assistance, project prioritization and planning assistance, and meeting attendance.

- Latah County (\$10,000): Emergency manager project oversight, reimbursement processing, contractor management and administration (non-grant funded). Expert fire ecologist support for treatment recommendation. Postcard printing and mailing for maintenance reminders.

- Latah Soil and Water Conservation District (\$10,000): Expert education and outreach specialist for community engagement. Expert fire ecologist support for treatment recommendation and technical advisors. Additional wildfire risk mitigation education/outreach events in the broader Moscow community using Title III funds.

- Landowners (\$4,000): Labor and hired contract work outside proposed project boundaries such as additional fuels reduction work, forest thinning, firewood collection, slash burning, participation in meetings, and neighbor education.

- Latah Conservation Partnership (LCP) (\$24,000) In-kind labor match from public entities working on this project. Partners will present at co-host public meetings to educate the public on wildfire mitigation, defining project areas, assist with project prioritization, landowner selection and implementation, identify future funding, technical assistance for education and outreach. Partners include Latah SWCD, University of Idaho Experimental Forest, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Latah County Emergency Services, Idaho Firewise, IDL, and Latah County Planning and Building.

- Fire Districts/Departments (leverage): Moscow Fire Department, Potlatch Fire Department, Latah County Fire Districts, Latah County Fire Chiefs. Outreach efforts and technical advisors.

<b>Timeline</b>	
10	<p>Fall/Winter '25: County signs MOA with LSWCD for ed/outreach activities. County solicits and hires Project Manager (PM) &amp; HFR contractors. LSWCD conducts 1 educational workshop (20 attendees), engages 30 pre-identified landowners with door-to-door outreach to notify of available funding, and launches project page on county &amp; LSWCD website. LCP prioritizes 15 landowners for treatment implementation.</p> <p>Spring/Summer '26: PM develops 5 landowner agreements and unit layout (any combination of thinning, defensible space or miles of ingress/egress routes totaling 33 acres). HFR contractor initiates and completes 33 acres of treatment.</p> <p>Fall/Winter '26: PM develops additional 5 landowner agreements and unit layout (any combination of thinning, defensible space or miles of ingress/egress routes totaling 33 acres). LSWCD conducts 1 educational workshop (20 attendees), and 1 field tour(20 attendees). LSWCD will coordinate with LCP to design and create trailhead display signage and work with landowners to install.</p> <p>Spring/Summer '27: HFR contractor initiates and completes additional 33 acres of treatment as site conditions allow.</p> <p>Fall/Winter '27: PM develops additional 5 landowner agreements and unit layout (any combination of thinning, defensible space or miles of ingress/egress routes totaling final 34 acres). LSWCD conducts 1 educational workshop(20 attendees) and 1 field tour(20 attendees).</p> <p>Spring/Summer '28: HFR contractor initiates and completes final 34 acres of treatments as site conditions allow.</p> <p>Fall '28: HFR contractor completes any unfinished treatments. LSWCD installs 10 signs adacent to trails and hosts 1 field tour(20 attendees). County &amp; PM Conduct final inspections, complete final reporting, and enter monitoring phase.</p>

<b>Project Sustainability (1700 characters including spaces)</b>	
11	<p><b>Environmental Factors:</b> The vegetation (ponderosa pine, douglas-fir, western larch, shrubs and upland grasses) regrowth after treatment will vary by elevation and precipitation but generally will require landowner maintenance every five years through removal of brush re-sprout and conifer regeneration through removal of brush re-sprout and conifer regeneration through mowing, herbicide, trimming, and/or pruning.</p> <p><b>Commitment:</b> Private property owners who receive fuels reduction assistance will sign a contract obligating them to maintain the work for a 10-year period or until the property changes hands.</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Permanent signage will be staged at public access trails on Moscow Mountain to educate about wildfire mitigation practices, details of this project, and forest health resiliency goals. Additional maintenance education will be distributed by the county emergency manager to all landowners prior to project sign-up, during landowner agreement execution and at completion via Firewise materials including handouts and pamphlets. Workshops will be recorded and posted on the county and LSWCD website. Field tours will be photographed and used for subsequent LSWCD newsletters sharing project success after the grant period.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> Idaho Dept of Lands is monitoring compliance annually through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Compliance will continue to be monitored by Latah County annually and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded by the county of their obligations through written or verbal communication. Signage will be maintained by LSWCD and inspected annually for damage.</p>