

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:	\$ 32,000.00

This document is for proposal development only.

Hover over each active field for additional guidance and instructions.

Proposal Cooperator	
1	Cooperator Organization: Madison County
	Contact Person: Robert E. Kohler
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Applicant Information	
1	Applicant: Idaho Department of Lands
	Contact Person: Tyre Holfeltz
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Federal Tax ID\DUNS #: 82-6000952 / 878072685	

Project Information		
2	Name of Project: 2024 Madison Fuels Reduction	
	Community Name(s): Madison County, Rexburg, Sugar City	
	County(ies): Madison	
	Congressional District: District #2	
	GIS Coordinates (pick one: reference point OR area)	
	Reference Point Name:	
	Lat/Long:	
	Description: Approximate project area center	
	Area Name: Work Area #1 - Teton River, Area #2 - Warming Hut, Area #3 - Snake River	
	Boundary Lat/Longs: 43.83527, 111.77784, 43.83499, 111.777.86, 43.84048, 111.75051, 43.84075, 11175048 (additional on attached maps)	
Description: Three proposed work areas identified for fuels reduction. (each to be completed)		

Applicant Budget				
	Grant Funds Requested	Match		Total Project Cost
		Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	
3	Personnel/Labor:	\$ 30,000		\$ 54,000
	Fringe Benefits:		\$ 24,000	\$ 0
	Travel:	\$ 7,727		\$ 7,727
	Equipment:			\$ 8,000
	Supplies:			\$ 0
	Contractual:	\$ 240,000	\$ 276,000	\$ 240,000
	Other:			\$ 0
	Indirect Costs:	\$ 22,273		\$ 22,273
	TOTAL:	\$ 300,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 332,000

Budget Narrative (1700 characters including spaces)	
4	<p>1. Personnel/Labor: \$30,000 for Idaho Dept. of Lands staff to manage and administer sub-grant with Madison County to include: fiscal oversight, project support, project inspection and grant reporting.</p> <p>2. Travel: \$7,727 for IDL staff to travel to and from project(s) for project monitoring and inspections at established State Fleet Motor Pool rate.</p> <p>3. Contractual: \$240,000 is sub-granted to Madison County to reduce hazardous fuels on 111 acres using mechanical and hand work through personnel costs of 1 crew boss at \$22/hr and 12 crew members at \$15/hr (\$161,000); fuel and chain saw operational supplies (\$8,000); milage reimbursement of \$0.72/mile for Type 6 engine (\$1,512 @ ~2,100 miles); milage reimbursement of \$0.655/mile for crew transportation vehicles (\$1,376 @ ~2,100 miles); work area signs (\$1,901); contract mastication of piles (\$40,000); an indirect rate (\$16,211); and a project manager for reporting and contractor management (\$10,000). No equipment will be purchased with this grant. Madison Fire Department has the saws and vehicles in place to support the proposed work.</p> <p>4. Indirect: \$22,273 is for the negotiated rate between USFS and IDL</p>

	Project Area Description and Challenges (1700 characters including spaces)	
5	<p>Madison Fire Department (MFD) identified three areas to work in eastern Idaho, west of Hwy 20, along the western side of Rexburg (pop: 40k). Area #1 is 68 acres adjacent to the Teton River. The property is surrounded by 60 primary residential homes and 20 businesses (commercial sales, manufacturing, and healthcare/surgical centers). This work area comprises flat/riverbank terrain with tall grasses/brush/willow/cotton wood vegetation. Area #2, the Warming Hut, is 5 acres in a small valley, with gentle slopes, on Brown's Road. Vegetation consists of Douglas Fir/Timber brush. The Warming Hut is owned by Idaho Department of Lands, who has granted management of it to Madison County Parks and Recreation. The area is surrounded by popular recreational grounds in a forested area. Area #3 is 38 acres of privately owned land along the Snake River. The terrain consists of riverbank/flat land covered with tall grasses/brush/willow/cottonwood trees. This project area is surrounded by active farmland.</p> <p>Project objectives are to remove hazardous fuels on 111 acres in the WUI using mastication, chipping, and debris pile burning. This will address the high risk of fire propagation due to dead/down fuels, the high number of fire starts off Hwy 20, and the targeted removal of bark beetle-infested trees.</p> <p>Challenges: Property owner education and interest in reducing hazardous fuels. Staffing shortages for the Fuels Reduction Crew have been an issue in the past due to the seasonal nature of this work.</p>	

	Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP (2500 characters including spaces)	
6	<p>Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project areas are found in the Sage Steppe and Teton-Yellowstone priority landscape area. Our proposed work areas are within the moderate fire return area of the Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources Final Priority Map.</p> <p>FAP Goal 1: "Idaho's forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other threats (fire, insects, disease, noxious weeds, etc.)". The project treatments will remove sick and dead vegetation, reducing the impact of insects/diseases and easily flammable vegetation.</p> <p>FAP Goal 3: "Forest ecosystems are more resilient to human activities" The project will proactively reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The Rexburg community, which lies between a busy highway and a large recreation/housing/commercial area, will become a protection zone for more efficient emergency response in the case of a wildfire off Hwy 20 or the Snake River floodplain.</p> <p>Madison County CWPP: The project area is listed as a priority for wildfire risk mitigation through the removal of hazardous fuels. This project supports the goals of fuels reduction, increased responder safety, and increased public safety. This grant will allow Madison County to continue its goal of "removing the fuel loading in the canyons and draws in the WUI area of Madison County". Each work area is located within our designated WUI areas. The completion of these work areas will further address the identified FAP/CWPP goals/objectives through the mitigation of fuel removal. Our work will support a healthy ecosystem that will be easier maintained by the property owner or agency responsible for the land.</p>	

Proposed Activities (3800 characters including spaces)	
7	<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>1. Madison Fire Dept, has already identified a crew supervisor. This employee is a holdover from the last two seasons and knows how to identify fuel types, accepted removal practices, and property owner/interested party relationships. Common prescriptions followed are the removal of dead and dying vegetation, removal of dense vegetation, preserving viable vegetation to propagate a healthy property, clear-cutting fuels only when necessary for safety, and removal of ladder fuels. The specific prescriptions will include maintaining a 20ft. spacing, preserving healthy trees larger than 8"-10" diameter, limbing up to 15 feet or half the height on smaller trees, clearing dying/dead trees, and removing all shrubs within the dripline of the remaining trees and 30' of buildings.</p> <p>2. Madison Fire Department will hire the Fuels Reduction Crew from their annual wildfire classes by June 2026.</p> <p>3. Madison Fire Department will begin work in area #1 in July of 2026. Work area #1 (68 acres) is surrounded by riverfront, primary residential, commercial, healthcare facilities, and recreational sites and walking paths. Work area #2 (5 acres) is surrounded by forested recreational land. Work area #3 (38 acres) is surrounded by riverfront and agricultural land. Loss of any of the surrounding property would result in a significant loss to the community and economy of Madison County.</p> <p>4. Madison County will contract on an as-needed basis for hauling off and grinding the vegetation piles, where needed. Burning of the fuel piles will only occur when deemed necessary. Property owners will be encouraged to support pile disposal by contributing to contractor costs, when feasible.</p> <p>Match Activities:</p> <p>1. The wage of the Fuel's Reduction Crew Supervisor will be paid for by Madison Fire Dept. and used towards the required match.</p> <p>2. Madison County, through Madison Fire Department, will use the wages of their employees who are engaged in hiring and training towards the match.</p> <p>3. Any funding used by the property owner to support the fuel pile disposal (not from grant sources) will be used towards the match.</p>

Landscape Impacts (1700 characters including spaces)	
8	<p>Madison County has actively sought out fuels reduction work for the last 8 years. Due to grant funding, we were able to begin fuels reduction work in Madison County in 2023. We began working in a popular camping and recreation area, called Twin Bridges (Madison County). The Fuels reduction crew successfully treated over 45 acres of densely vegetated land. This area is immediately adjacent to our proposed work area #3. The fuels crew continued activity in Eagle Park, (Rexburg, Idaho) in 2023/2024. So far, they have removed over 12 acres of densely overgrown hazard vegetation, increasing the ability of recreationalists to enjoy the property safely. Work is ongoing for the 2024 season in this area. Our proposed work area #1 is to the east of this current site. Work site #2 is a popular recreation site year round.</p> <p>The Madison Fuels Reduction work has met the goals of reducing risk of fire spread and increasing safety for first responders and the public. Our proposed work areas are currently frequently used and will continue to be used by the public. Each of our work areas is used by citizens of Madison County, Jefferson County, Bonneville County, Fremont County, out-of-state visitors, and college students from area schools. Removal of the hazard fuels will support the return of healthy vegetation and eliminate overgrowth. These sites are currently overgrown and pose a significant fire and health risk to the public and first responders.</p>

Project Collaboration (1700 characters including spaces)

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- Idaho Department of Lands (\$276K match) - in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry Assistance in support of Private landowners. IDL will also provide technical assistance.
- Madison Fire Dpt (\$15k) Fuel's Reduction Crew Supervisor will oversee the project activities, provide technical assistance, training and planning/implementation support. The Chief of Madison Fire Department maintains active relationships with our Federal partners (IDL, Forest Service, and BLM) for mitigation and response efforts. Hosting regular community wildland education classes and an initial public meeting announcing project goals.
- Madison County (\$5k) Assistance with hiring and training of the fuels crew
- Landowners (\$4k) will participate in our program through coordination meetings, frequent site tours, collection of usable firewood for community use, public outreach programs, and disposal of piles.
- Island Park Sustainable Fire Community (leverage) technical assistance for project planning and staff education.
- The surrounding counties of Teton, Bonneville, Jefferson, and Fremont (leverage) Commonly train with Madison Fire Department, technical assistance

Project Timeline (1700 characters including spaces)

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April - May 2026: Madison Fire Department (MFD) has already coordinated with the proposed work area property owners and regularly updates them. Creating contracts with three property owners who share the private land in our proposed work areas, updating contracts with Madison County, City of Rexburg, and Sugar city for the proposed work areas. Host a kickoff meeting to announce project goals to surrounding property owners who will see a benefit from our work.

May-June 2026: Hire the Fuels Reduction Crew members. This will be accomplished by MFD advertising in our annual community wildland-related classes. MFD crew supervisor will lay out site-specific treatments for areas #1 & #2 in preparation for summer work.

June-September 2026: Complete prescriptions in project areas #1 & #2, totaling 73 acres. Work for the season will conclude mid-September.

May-June 2027: Hire the Fuels Reduction Crew members. MFD will advertise in our annual community wildland-related classes to accomplish this. The MFD crew supervisor will lay out site-specific treatments for area #3 in preparation for summer work.

June-September 2027: Complete prescriptions in project areas #3, totaling 38 acres. Work for the season will conclude mid-September. Complete final report and enter into a monitoring phase.

Project Sustainability (1700 characters including spaces)

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Environmental Factors: The vegetation consists of dry species such as Ponderosa Pine, Douglas-fir, and Lodgepole Pine. 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 herbicide, mowing, trimming, and/or pruning.

Commitment: Madison Fire Department will coordinate contracts for the landowners to continue to manage their property effectively to maintain the goal of safe public recreation and first responder response. 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. Madison County will assist in monitoring the work area through site visits/response efforts.

Education: Madison Fire Department will educate the property owners in what healthy vegetation management is and how to maintain a managed site. This education will involve the property owner/their designated employee. Education will build off the agreement that the property owner will have entered, as mentioned above. Our supervisor will educate the property owners on growth rates/hazards that are specific to each vegetation type, and methods of maintaining a healthy local ecosystem for long-term use.

Monitoring: Idaho Dept of Lands is monitoring compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Madison Fire Department will monitor compliance through bi-annual site inspections after work is completed. Once property owners have demonstrated their understanding and commitment to maintain the treatments, the site visits will decrease to once a year. Any recommended actions discovered through the site visits will be communicated in writing.

