

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:	\$ 0.00

This document is for proposal development only.

Hover over each active field for additional guidance and instructions.

Proposal Cooperator	
1	Cooperator Organization: Shoshone County Fire Mitigation
	Contact Person: Bill McLeod
	Address: 700 Bank Street
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	Email: bmcleod@co.shoshone.id.us
Applicant Information	
1	Applicant: Idaho Department of Lands
	Contact Person: Tyre Holfeltz
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	Federal Tax ID\DUNS #: 1

Project Information		
2	Name of Project: East Elizabeth Fuels Reduction	
	Community Name(s): Elizabeth Park	
	County(ies): Shoshone	
	Congressional District: 1	
	GIS Coordinates (pick one: reference point OR area)	
	Reference Point Name: East Fork Elk Creek	
	Lat/Long: 47.523333 116.090548	
	Description: Approximate project area center	
	Area Name: Elizabeth Park	
	Boundary Lat/Longs:	
Description:		

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

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 Shoshone County Fire Mitigation 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 Shoshone County Fire Mitigation who will expend funds through staff and contracted services to administer and manage contracted activities. This will include: County Program Manager: admin/project management and prescription development (400hrs@\$35/hr) \$14,000, County Grant Administrator: reporting and financial tracking (400hrs@\$35/hr) \$14,000, Staff Mileage: landowner engagement, contractor management, and project inspections(3500miles@\$0.565/mile) \$1,977, Supplies Flagging, paint, printer paper and ink, etc. \$1024, Contracted Fuel Removal-Hazardous fuel treatment on 60 acres by means of thinning, pruning, mastication, chipping, burning, and slash removal. (estimated at \$3k-\$3.5k/acre) \$209,000.</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 is located in the community of Elizabeth Park (EP) (pop:4,530) just east of the city Kellogg, in northeast Idaho, bordering the south side of the heavily trafficked I-90. The treatment area lies between the east and west forks of Elk Creek, and directly below the water storage system for the area. The community water line and power line run through the center of the project. The project is on a ridge between the primary ingress and egress roads: East Park Rd and Appleberg Rd. EP is in a high-risk area for natural and human starts and backs up to a large amount of recreation land including the Silver Mountain Ski area. Dense vegetation (hawthorn, vine maple, alder, and dying white pine) encroaches on roads and structures, further increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. A rapid decline of old and new growth white pine health has increased the number of dead/down fuels.</p> <p>The Elizabeth Park Project, a collaborative effort with 5 landowners, will expand on previous County fuel removal work ('15 &'20 WSFM) with 60 acres of hazardous fuel reduction (HFR) in this high-risk WUI community and travel corridor. This objective will be met through contracted HFR hand and mastication work, including slash, pile, and burn.</p> <p>Challenges: The biggest challenge will be the density of fuels resulting in high cost and hazards too challenging for the economic disadvantaged community to mitigate. Steep terrain and high recreation traffic are also challenges for mechanical mastication.</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). The forest action plan identifies the project area as high to extreme risk for uncharacteristic wildfire in the Coeur d'Alene Basin along the I-90 corridor.</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 focus on removing sick and dead vegetation, reducing the risk of insect and disease spread.</p> <p>FAP Goal 3: " Forest ecosystems are more resilient to human activities" The project will proactively reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire through HFR. The EP community, which lies between a busy interstate and a large, forested recreation area, will become a protection zone for more efficient emergency response in the case of a wildfire off I-90 or in the Kellogg mountains.</p> <p>Shoshone CWPP: The project is identified and listed in the CWPP as a high priority because of its high density of homes and infrastructure. The CWPP states that one of its goals is to reduce the rate of spread and acres of land burned by forest fires through the implementation of targeted fuel mitigation treatments where the landscape has the potential to sustain fires that threaten communities and other assets in the wildland urban interface. This project will help achieve these objectives and mitigate the wildfire risk by expanding and connecting past work through reducing hazardous fuels, thus reducing the probability of damage from wildfire to the community of EP, and protecting main water and power sources.</p>	

Proposed Activities (3800 characters including spaces)

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This project, building upon previously successful HFR work ('15 & '20 WSFM) in Kellogg, will establish continuous WUI protection zones, particularly around the city's vital water and power sources. The county project manager (\$14k) will personally reach out to the landowners in the Elizabeth Park WUI development (approximately 70+ homes), recognizing their crucial role in the project. The participation of 3 pre-identified landowners, along with that of 2 additional project participants selected from the 40 landowners in the area, will be instrumental in implementing wildfire risk mitigation treatment options. As a result of the hazard fuels treatment prioritization in the project area, guided by Shoshone County Emergency Management and the Idaho State Shared Stewardship Program, the focus will be to create a continuous fuel break on structures adjacent to the water and power lines, as well as neighboring properties. Due to the technical nature of the work, the poor tree health, and the unique local geographic features, site-specific prescriptions (treatment type, location, timing, and maintenance) will be developed by the trained and experienced county project manager. They will develop site-specific prescriptions for 5 landowners and procure contracted support to carry out the HFR. The project manager will work with contractors to lay out prescriptions on-site (\$3k: supplies & travel). The county grant coordinator (\$14k) will perform all administrative tasks including contractor paperwork, reimbursement requests and reporting.

Contractors (\$209k) will meticulously follow prescriptions based on the regional industry model for HFR, ensuring a careful and effective approach. The prescriptions include establishing a 20ft spacing between trees, 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. Due to the steepness of the terrain (15-30% slope), the majority of the work will be completed by hand, demonstrating our commitment to precision and safety. Mechanical treatment will be used as needed and where appropriate with the topography. Additionally, all material 6" or less will be piled and burned or chipped/masticated where appropriate.

Match Activities: 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. There will be 5 to 10 additional acres will be completed by the county using similar prescriptions on private land in the area using Title III funds.

Landscape Impacts (1700 characters including spaces)

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Shoshone County Fire Mitigation (SCFM) program began in 2002 and has since completed more than 3000 acres of HFR in the Panhandle PLA, including 40 acres behind the west side residences of Elizabeth Park and 30 acres along Appleberg road. Using '15 & '20 WSFM funding, SCFM completed a 120-acre treatment in Jacobs Gulch and Vergobbi Gulch, just west of the EP project area, in Kellogg. This project focused on removing dead or dying white pine; increased health of the forest stand has been observed since project completion. EP treatments will be tied directly into previously completed work to further protect an additional 70 homes in the WUI and natural resources (timber, wildlife, and water) which are significant economic drivers within Shoshone County.

Our treatments are not isolated efforts. We actively collaborate with USFS and BLM to align management activities whenever possible to create and enlarge existing fuel breaks and fuels reduction efforts. This comprehensive approach is aimed at reducing the risk of devastating wildfire across larger blocks of land. Similar work is being conducted by the USFS on the 2019 Two Mile (372 acres) project, 2017 BLM Silver Valley Hz Fuels (68 acres), and I-90 Corridor Project (3,000+ acres planned in collaboration with Shoshone County, Bureau of Indian Affairs & IDL) to enhance through the expansion of work on the checkerboard of federal ownership to reduce the potential spread of fire from federal to private ownership.

Project Collaboration (1700 characters including spaces)	
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 and meeting facilitation/attendance. - Shoshone County (\$20K) - utilization of Title 3, Secure Rural Schools funds to implement additional acres of treatment, and pay administrative costs not requested to be covered by grant dollars. - Landowners (\$4)– additional HFR work using the same treatment prescriptions, firewood collection, meeting participation, neighbor-to-neighbor education, long term maintenance -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	<p>Fall '25—County staff will notify (40) landowners via direct in-person contact in the project area, including the 3 pre-identified (which have been determined as a priority due to their property location) landowners, of available funding. County staff will complete 3 landowner agreements, layout, and contract HFR to begin work (20 acres) on fuel reduction and continue developing fuel break until the winter shutdown.</p> <p>Winter '25/Spring '26 — County staff will complete 2 additional landowner agreements, contract HFR work based on agreed to prescriptions, and complete initial reimbursements and reports on the project.</p> <p>Summer/Fall '26— HFR contractor resumes initial treatment and begin additional treatments (20 acres) when site conditions allow. County staff continues to engage with landowners through door-to-door communication and continue treatments until winter shuts down.</p> <p>Spring-Summer '27— HFR contractor finishes landowner treatments when site conditions allow (20 acres).</p> <p>Fall '27— HFR contractors burn slash piles, cut any snags remaining as weather permits. Final project inspection by IDL. County staff completes final reimbursements and reporting and enter monitoring phase.</p>

Project Sustainability (1700 characters including spaces)

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Environmental Factors: Vegetation consists of dense clusters of brush, grasses, deciduous, and coniferous trees (primarily hawthorn, vine maple, alder, and white pine). With most work occurring on the north-facing slope, regrowth will vary but require ongoing maintenance every five years. Landowners will be provided prescriptions and planning training to maintain treatments using; vegetation removal, mastication, grazing, chipping, pruning, or burning of regrowth.

Commitment: Landowners will sign a project agreement that includes a 10-year commitment to maintain the project or until the property changes ownership.

Education: Shoshone County staff will provide education on maintenance prior to sign-up and at project completion. The materials will be county-produced and supplemented with 'Firewise' and 'Idaho Firewise' educational materials (pamphlets, presentations, postcards).

Monitoring: Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) staff (fire/fuels) will monitor compliance at least twice during the open grant period and then use a sampling of past endeavors. Compliance will also be monitored by Shoshone County (fuels mitigation coordinator) twice a year during the 10-year landowner agreement period, and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded by the county of their obligations through written and verbal communication.