

# 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	
1	<b>Cooperator Organization:</b> City of Sun Valley
	<b>Contact Person:</b> Taan Robrahn- Fire Chief
	<b>Address:</b> P.O Box 416
	<b>City/State/Zip Code:</b> Sun Valley, ID, 83353
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	<b>Email:</b> Trobrahn@sunvalleyidaho.gov
Applicant Information	
1	<b>Applicant:</b> Idaho Department of Lands
	<b>Contact Person:</b> Tyre Holfeltz
	<b>Address:</b> 3284 W Industrial Loop
	<b>City/Zip Code:</b> Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
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	<b>Fax:</b> 208-669-1524
<b>Federal Tax ID\DUNS #:</b> 82-6000952 / 878072685	

Project Information		
2	<b>Name of Project:</b> City of Sun Valley Wildland Fuel Mitigation	
	<b>Community Name(s):</b> City of Sun Valley, Elkhorn Homeowners Association (Add More if Applicable)	
	<b>County(ies):</b> Blaine County	
	<b>Congressional District:</b> 2nd Congressional District	
	GIS Coordinates (pick one: reference point OR area)	
	<b>Reference Point Name:</b> Sun Valley City Hall	
	<b>Lat/Long:</b> 43.6925642 / -114.3455764 (Decimal Degrees)	
	<b>Description:</b> Approximate project area center	
	<b>Area Name:</b>	
	<b>Boundary Lat/Longs:</b>	
<b>Description:</b>		

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

Budget Narrative (1700 characters including spaces)	
4	<p>- Personnel/Labor -\$30k for Idaho Dept of Lands staff to manage and administer sub-grant with the City of Sun Valley through reimbursement processing and technical assistance.</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 the City of Sun Valley who will expend funds through (\$200k) contracted Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) and (\$40k)staff time for administration and contractor management. Funds will be used to contract administration and perform hazardous fuels reduction treatments on a minimum of 45 acres by means of thinning, pruning, mastication, and chipping activities. The estimated cost per acre is \$4,444k per acre, dependent on topography and terrain.</p> <p>- Indirect - \$22,273 is the negotiated rate between USFS and IDL.</p>

5	<p>The City of Sun Valley (CSV) is located in central Idaho, SE of the Sawtooth Mountains, and contains the world-class Sun Valley ski resort. CSV (pop: 1,788) encompasses 6,123 acres and variable terrain with large mountains surrounding the area. CSV provides essential support for the ski resort and is a hub for outdoor recreation and tourism. Community interest in forestry management and wildfire mitigation is very high after four recent major wildfire occurrences, resulting in evacuations (Beaver Creek - 2013, Sharps - 2018, Ross Fork 2022, Wapati Fire - 2024). The Project focuses on 3 locations located in the NW hills of Sun Valley: the Elkhorn Subdivision, Rudd Mountain (RM), and Elkhorn Ridge. Elkhorn is a large development with hundreds of homes interspersed with densely vegetated areas (dominated by sagebrush, blue spruce, aspen, bitter-brush ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine), accessed by narrow winding roads and bounded north, south and east by federal land (i.e., BLM and USFS). RM has 60+ homes interspersed in the ski resort area. Elkhorn Ridge is a popular trail and recreation area on private land.</p> <p>This project will focus on Hazardous Fuels Reduction (HFR) using thinning, pruning, and mastication on a minimum of 45 acres with 60 landowners. Through match activities, the CSV will engage with the community through 3 public mtngs and 1 community clean-up week for disposal of fuels that landowners have removed themselves.</p> <p>Challenges: Steep terrain, fuel density (shrub/scrub, deciduous and coniferous forest), and hardy landscaped trees species with county regulation for vegetation management. Paired with drought, beetle infestations and a short working season, project managers need to be adaptive with fuel prescriptions and activities. Contractor procurement is a challenge due to the terrain and rural area.</p>
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<b>Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP (2500 characters including spaces)</b>	
6	<p>Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is located in the Wood River Priority Landscape Area (PLA). The Wood River PLA is characterized by high to very high wildfire risk. The project area is adjacent to Idaho's Sage Steppe Special Landscape Area. Goal 1: "Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other threats (fire, insects, disease,etc.)" Fuel treatments and community education activities within this project employ FAP-guided strategies to maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time, engage collaborative groups, and sustainably support forest health goals and strategies.</p> <p>Blaine County CWPP: CWPP Goals include "Maintaining a space between the dwelling structures and combustible foliage, increase ingress/egress access for first responders, expand fuel breaks in the WUI". The Blaine County CWPP is incorporated in the Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan that explicitly lists the Elkhorn Subdivision as a designated fuel treatment location to improve emergency response and lower the community risk of catastrophic loss to wildfire.</p> <p>The completion of project work will address the identified FAP/CWPP goals/objectives through the reduction of wildfire threats (fuels reduction around structures and fuel breaks), community education(match), and partnerships. This project performs fuels treatments and offers community education(match) within CWPP-designated communities.</p>

## Proposed Activities (3800 characters including spaces)

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The Sun Valley Fire Department and the Blaine County Emergency Management Office will guide prioritization and monitoring of treatments in the project area. Project's goals include: 5 fuel breaks, HFR on 5 miles of ingress/egress routes within high-risk areas, defensible space around 60 structures, fire-safe education for 75+ residents. The City of Sun Valley (\$40,000k) will provide project planning and contractor management. Contractors (\$200,000) will complete three specific treatment areas on roughly 45 acres. All treatments will follow site-specific prescriptions guided by Natural Resources Conservation Service Fuel Break Code 383: Remove ladder fuels by pruning conifer trees (10' or 1/3 of the original tree height, Increase crown spacing (30') by clearing live/dying/dead trees, Masticate equal or less than 8-inch diameter trees to thin the understory, Masticate all live or dead slash to minimize ground fuels, Skid-steer all short vegetation, including shrubs, grasses, forbs, etc.. Slash piles will be removed using chipping, burning and/or firewood collected by landowners. Prescriptive application of reseeding will be through variable-rate seeding and drilling.

Elkhorn: Contracted HFR on 30 acres (mechanical and mowing - 13,000 linear feet) and 15-50 ft wide fuel break creation between structures and on 30ft on each side of 2 mile of ingress/egress routes including Elkhorn rd, Morning Star rd, Juniper rd, and Fairway rd.

Rudd Mountain: (2,000 linear feet) Fuel removal on 10 acres between a historic chair lift and housing. Treatment will be followed by re-seeding with native fire-resistant vegetation and noxious weed mitigation.

Elkhorn Ridge: HFR on 5 acres using complete under story removal, targeting hazardous dead/down/dying cottonwood trees and leaving marked willow trees.

Match Activities: The Sun Valley Fire Department in conjunction with the City of Sun Valley, Sun Valley Elkhorn Association (SVEA), and Wood River Valley (WRV) Community Forestry Group (local NGOs, State, Federal, County and local cities) will host a "clean-up" week. During the clean-up week the Sun Valley Fire Department will provide wildfire education (using Firewise and Prescribed Fire Council printed and virtual materials) to 60 local homeowners during 3 public meetings (20 attendees/per meeting). Homeowners will simultaneously complete defensible space work around their homes following similar prescriptive methods taught by the Fire Department. A chipper will be provided to 50 landowners to dispose of the fiber. Through these various educational components, wildfire education is expected to continue to be taught through neighbor-to-neighbor outreach or peer-to-peer, increasing the entire City and WRV community's wildfire awareness and effective response.

## Landscape Impacts (1700 characters including spaces)

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The CSV and the Elkhorn Subdivision abut federal land. Treatments on private land adjacent to state and federal lands expand the regional fuel break network and reduce the amount of hazardous fuels, contributing to a fire-safe and resilient community. The USFS, IDL, and BLM have implemented significant hazardous fuels removal projects in the area, including the adjacent 20 acre Heatherland Subdivision HFR project. Just west of the project area is the ongoing Bald Mountain Stewardship Project (Managed by Sun Valley Ski Resort), completed over 270 acres of fuels removal in 2022, using a unique steep slope method and has 5,000 additional acres planned for future work. This project also provides protection to several other housing developments that are downslope (west and lower elevation) of Elkhorn, as well as the evacuation corridor of Highway 75 in the event of a wildfire originating to the east the City of Sun Valley.

This project will be the initial phase in the WRV defensible space program. In 2023, Blaine County and the cities of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey and Bellevue collaborated to draft Community Forest Management Plans for each entity. The #1 issue in each entities' management plan was Hazards, aka wildfire. This project meets the City of Sun Valley's strategy of addressing "Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Risk Reduction", specifically "support county-wide efforts to reduce systematic fire risks." Each community in the WRV has similar goals and look to expand treatments throughout the region. We anticipate growing the "clean up" week program outside of the city boundaries to include multiple areas throughout Blaine County in future projects.

<b>Project Collaboration (1700 characters including spaces)</b>	
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- City of Sun Valley (\$10k) - Community outreach and education including organizing, leading and providing materials for a community clean up week during the project, and hosting 3 wildfire risk mitigation public meetings.</li> <li>- Wood River Valley Community Forest Group (non-grant funded match) - this group collaborated to create the Community Forest Management Plans and will provide planning and guidance for HFT work on private lands, meeting facilitation, landowner education, and technical expertise.</li> <li>- Landowners (\$10k match) - completion of additional defensible space work around homes, firewood collection, participation in meetings, and neighbor education.</li> <li>- Sun Valley Fire Department (\$4k match) -(CWPP committee member) coordinate and prioritize fuels reduction work, manage contractors on landowner property lines and project layout, develop prescriptions for treatments, track projects, make contact with landowners, inspect project work, manage invoices for payments and track expenditures.</li> <li>- USFS/BLM (leverage)- Coordination, outreach efforts, and technical advisor or federal projects in the area and ties to complimentary work.</li> </ul>

<b>Project Timeline (1700 characters including spaces)</b>	
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fall '25 - Notification of award. Match: City of Sun Valley (CSV) and Sun Valley Fire Department will notify Elkhorn residents and homeowners of available funding through an email blast and social media, conduct 1 public meeting(25 attendees) to explain project.</li> <li>-Winter '25 - CSV will complete agreements with 60 landowners, identify contractors and sign contracts; contractors will initiate fuels reduction work on Elkhorn areas and complete 20 acres of proposed 30 acres, as weather permits.</li> <li>-Spring to Fall '26 - Contractors will complete unfinished work on initial 30 acres; develop plans for Rudd Mountain.</li> <li>-Winter '26 - CSV will finalize prescription for 10 acres on Rudd Mountain. Match: CSV will conduct 1 public meeting(25 attendees) to present initial year accomplishments and year 2 planned actions (match funds).</li> <li>Spring to Fall '27 - Contractors will complete Rudd Mountain treatments (10 acres). Match: CSV will plan for and promote complete community clean-up week, identify chipper locations, contact landowners, and perform Clean-up week.</li> <li>-Winter '27' - CSV will develop prescriptions and identify locations for treatments along Elkhorn Ridge paths and trails. Match: CSV outreach to homeowners in the vicinity of treatments, conduct 1 public meeting (25 attendees) to present year 2 accomplishments and year 3 planned actions.</li> <li>Spring to Summer '28 - Contractors will complete Elkhorn Ridge paths and trails work (5 acres); complete any other remaining work from previous treatments.</li> <li>Fall '28 - Contractors will complete any unfinished work. CSV will complete final project inspection with IDL, finish reporting and enter into monitoring phase.</li> </ul>

<b>Project Sustainability (1700 characters including spaces)</b>	
11	<p>Environmental Factors: The vegetation consists of generally dry scrub/shrub (sagebrush, bitter-brush etc.) and coniferous tree species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Deciduous species are also present within the canopy (aspen, cottonwood, willow). Cheatgrass and other non-native/exotic species are present. Regrowth after treatment will vary and will require continued maintenance every 5 years.</p> <p>Commitment: The City of Sun Valley and the Sun Valley Fire Department are committed to maintaining the work for a period of 10 years through program budget allocations and staff. Landowners will also sign a 10 year contract committing to upkeep and maintenance of treatments.</p> <p>Education: The Community Clean-up week coupled with annual meetings will provide residents of Elkhorn with wildfire education and proper treatment maintenance actions. The WRV Community Forest Group provides wildfire education/outreach to project participants and will partner with Sun Valley FD to promote the success of this project using County provided FireSmart and Firewise pamphlets and materials. The Blaine County Office of Emergency Management and Blaine County's Noxious Weeds Program will provide project participants important education and oversight in-person during site visits prior to treatment.</p> <p>Monitoring:Idaho Department of lands will annually monitoring compliance through sampling and inspecting treatments. Further compliance and treatment effectiveness over time will be monitored by the City of Sun Valley and the Sun Valley Fire Department, as well as Blaine County every spring and fall. Landowners will be informed of treatments and monitoring actions through written or verbal communication. The SVEA will also provide regular updates to residents and homeowners regarding project progress, monitoring expectations and written reminders.</p>