

0	Admin Section			

1	Proposal Cooperator [ID]					
	Cooperator Organization:	Bonner County				
	Contact Person:	Pam Brockus				
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1	Applicant Information [ID]					
	Applicant:	Idaho Department of Lands				
	Contact Person:	Tyre Holfeltz				
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Federal Tax Id:	82-6000952	DUNS#:	878072685			

2	Project Information			
	Name of the Project:	Sagle South Phase II		
	Community Name(s):	Bonner County / Sagle, Careywood		
	Counties:	Bonner		
Congressional District:	01			

2	GIS Coordinates			
	Ref. Point Name:	Sagle South II		
	Lat/Long:	48.148114, -116.576854		
Description:	Approximate project center			

Applicant Budget [ID]

	Grant	Match		TOTAL	
	Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Total Project Cost	
3	Personnel / Labor:	\$30,000		\$20,000	\$50,000
	Fringe Benefits:				
	Travel:	\$7,727			\$7,727
	Equipment:				
	Supplies:				
	Contractual:	\$240,000		\$10,000	\$250,000
	Other:		\$270,000		\$270,000
	Indirect Costs:	\$22,273			\$22,273
	TOTAL:	\$300,000	\$270,000	\$30,000	\$600,000

Budget Narrative

4	<p>- Personnel/Labor - (\$30k) for Idaho Dept of Lands (IDL) staff to manage and administer sub-grant with Bonner County</p> <p>- Travel - (\$7,727) for IDL staff to travel to and from project(s) at established State Fleet Motor Pool Rates</p> <p>- Contractual - (\$240k) is sub-granted to Bonner County. The County contracts all services associated with their hazardous fuels program to include project management/administration (budgeted on a "not to exceed" rate) and implementation. Funds will be used by contractor to perform hazard fuels reduction treatments by means of fuel reduction activities on a minimum of 130 acres through thinning, pruning, mastication, and chipping activities.</p> <p>- Indirect - (\$22,273) is a negotiated rate between USFS and Idaho</p>
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Project Area Description and Challenges

5	<p>The unincorporated community of Sagle encompasses much of the south-central portion of Bonner County in northern Idaho (4000 residents) and is just 5 miles south of the City of Sandpoint. The project area lies approx. 2 miles E of why 95 in the foothills of Gold Mountain. The area has dense stands (500-1500 stems per acre) of Ponderosa pine, Lodgepole pine, and Grand Fir, with intermixed Douglas Fir and Larch. Most of this area once existed in a historic 5-15 year fire regime but in-growth of vegetation has been dramatic with the advent of aggressive fire suppression/exclusion. The area averages 42 fires/year that generally are kept under 10 acres. However, the 3 Sisters and Cape Horn fires of 2015 proved that under the right conditions, large wildfire propagation can overwhelm local resources resulting in the destruction of large swaths of timbered private lands and homes. The project area has been heavily developed over the last 40 years, adding to the WUI concerns (human ignitions) in this already high-risk area.</p> <p>The primary objective of this fuels reduction project is to thin stand densities to increase crown spacing and the removal of ladder fuels with the intent of reducing crown fire propagation. This project expands upon the FY17 funded Sagle South project (120 acres).</p> <p>Challenges: One of the major challenges this project will face beyond regular fire occurrence is the steep terrain and narrow, winding spiderweb of ingress/egress roads amongst landowner parcels. This obstacle, paired with drought affected stands and beetle infestations will force contractors to adjust prescriptions and activities across landowner parcels to abate expected fire risk.</p>
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Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP

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Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is found in the Panhandle Priority Landscape Area (PLA). The project area is characterized as being High in uncharacteristic wildfire and is directly adjacent to the Southwest Bonner County Shared Stewardship Project area. 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 specific strategy of, "Designing and implementing stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time".

Bonner County CWPP: The CWPP explicitly lists the following areas for fuels treatments, all of which are located within the proposed project area: Rocky Rd, Upper Rocky Rd, Eaglecrest Dr, and Gold Mountain Rd. The area serves as a recreational asset and is characterized by steep slopes, limited water supplies, and plenty of fuels with south and west aspects creating a difficult situation when fire response is necessary.

The completion of project work will address FAP goals through the reduction of wildfire threat and address the CWPP by completing fuels treatments within communities of Bonner County.

Proposed Activities

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Currently, there is a wait list of interested/committed landowners wanting to participate in fuels reduction work on their properties, as a result of the FY17 Sagle South funded project which treated 120 acres. 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, BLM and members of the public. The Sagle South Phase II project area is comprised of 1801 private developments/structures along narrow winding roads within single drainage systems. Structures as well as the spiderweb of ingress/egress routes are the areas of highest priority. Specifically, Phase II will focus on Eaglecrest Dr, Gold Mountain Rd area, Rocky Rd and Upper Rocky Rd area. Additionally, Talache Rd, Old House Rd, Mirror Lake area, and other locations along Sagle Rd will be included in project activities as funding allows.

Bonner County will contract work (\$240k) to complete hazard fuels reduction activities on a minimum of 130 acres for no less than 20 landowners in the above listed home sites/areas through the prescriptive removal of vegetation. Specifically, work will be accomplished in accordance with site-specific prescriptions developed by qualified contractors. Site specific conditions (forest health and geography) will dictate the removal of tree ladder fuels through pruning (10' or 1/3 of the original height of trees), increased crown spacing (20' - 40') through the removal of live/dying/dead trees, and the removal of ground fuels under remaining tree crowns. Project actions may include: mechanical mastication (grinding of all slash material) on ground not exceeding 30% slope and hand crews using saws, pruners and chippers on slopes greater than 30%.

Match Activities: Landowners will simultaneously be completing defensible space work around their homes following similar prescriptive methods used in the contracted activities as well as gathering firewood. Title III Secure Rural School funding for county right-of-way work activities will take place in parallel with this project's activities. Various educational components will also be implemented and carried out by multiple collaborators (complete details in box 9) including neighbor-to-neighbor outreach and educational meetings.

Landscape

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Treatments on private lands are tied into USFS, IDL, BLM, and other private landowners vegetative treatments whenever possible to expand upon hazard fuels reduction efforts that have similar prescriptive design. The USFS has implemented the following fuels reduction projects within this area, each encompassing approximately 1000 acres: Golden Pond, West Gold, Tumbledown, and South Grouse. The USFS also completed the Gold Crown Fuels Reduction Project in 2018 (470 acres) on the Southeast side of Gold Hill, as well as an ongoing roadside salvage/brushing project in order to reduce hazardous fuels in the area. The Sagle South Phase II project will tie into these projects at various points across the landscape via similar prescriptive treatments/activities. This project will also protect several additional housing developments such as the Pend Oreille Club Grounds (140 acres), Glacier View Estates (71 acres), and Vess Stead Views (60 acres). These new subdivisions are adjacent to the northeast corner of the project area where new-home construction has become more frequent in recent years. This project will benefit these new residences by reducing fuels along the main access road (ingress/egress), primarily Sagle road, and through the creation of a fuel break within the project area subdivisions.

This project complements work completed as part of Phase 1 of the Sagle South Fuel breaks by extending upon Phase 1's completed fuel breaks. Limited funding prevented additional work on Phase 1 priority areas. Funding for Phase II will allow for the additional work to be completed, further reducing the fuel loading and threat of wildfire within these communities.

Project Collaboration

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- IDL (\$270k match) in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners.
- Landowners (\$10k match) will complete defensible space work around homes, collect firewood, participate in meetings, and educate neighbors on hazard fuel mitigation opportunities.
- Bonner County Emergency Management (Bonner County Roads/Bonfire Steering Committee member) (\$20k match) to support non-grant funded activities and additional work within county right-of-ways using Title III Secure Rural Schools funds. Additionally, they will provide education via handouts and meetings with landowners (LEVERAGE).
- BonFire (county WUI committee) (non-grant funded match) will provide planning/prioritization guidance for HFR work on private lands, meeting facilitation, landowner education, and technical expertise.
- Bonner County Contracted Project Manager (grant funded collaborator) will coordinate and prioritize fuels reduction work within BonFire and the Bonner County Emergency Manager. Specifically, they will manage/inform 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.

Project Timeline

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- Fall '21 - contracted project manager will notify 10 pre-identified, interested landowners of available funding
- Winter '21 - complete 5 landowner agreements and initiate fuels reduction work on 30 acres as weather permits
- Spring to Fall '22 - complete winter work and complete 10 landowner agreements
- Winter '22 - initiate work on 50 acres as weather permits.
- Spring '23 - complete winter initiated work, complete 5 landowner agreements, and initiate work on 50 acres.
- Summer '23 - complete spring work
- Fall '23 - final project inspection, report, and enter monitoring phase.

Project Sustainability

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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, 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: Education outreach will be given prior to sign up and at project completion through the U of I extension office, BonFire materials, and Bonner County Noxious Weeds Program.

Monitoring: The Idaho Dept of Lands is monitoring compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Compliance will continue to be monitored by Bonner County (at least annually) and the Idaho Dept of Lands and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded by the county of their obligations through written or verbal communication.