

0	<b>Admin Section</b>			

1	<b>Proposal Cooperator [ID]</b>					
	Cooperator Organization:	Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District				
	Contact Person:	Anne Connor				
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	Phone:	208-476-5700	Email:	clearwater.SWCD@gmail.com		

1	<b>Applicant Information [ID]</b>					
	Applicant:	Idaho Department of Lands				
	Contact Person:	Tyre Holfeltz				
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Federal Tax Id:	82-6000952	DUNS#:	878072685			

2	<b>Project Information</b>			
	Name of the Project:	Lolo Watershed Fuels Reduction		
	Community Name(s):	Weippe/Greer/Fraser		
	Counties:	Clearwater		
Congressional District:	01			

2	<b>GIS Coordinates</b>			
	Ref. Point Name:	Lolo Creek, Clearwater County		
	Lat/Long:	46.343333, -115.887222		
Description:	Approximate project center			

### Applicant Budget [ID]

	Grant	Match		TOTAL
	Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Total Project Cost
<b>3</b> Personnel / Labor:	\$30,000		\$24,000	<b>\$54,000</b>
Fringe Benefits:				
Travel:	\$7,727			<b>\$7,727</b>
Equipment:				
Supplies:				
Contractual:	\$240,000			<b>\$240,000</b>
Other:		\$270,000	\$6,000	<b>\$276,000</b>
Indirect Costs:	\$22,273			<b>\$22,273</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

### Budget Narrative

<b>4</b>	<p>- Personnel/Labor - (\$30k) for Idaho Dept of Lands (IDL) staff to manage and administer sub-grant with Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District.</p> <p>- Travel - (\$7,727K) for IDL staff to travel to and from projects at established State Fleet Motor Pool Rates.</p> <p>- Contractual - (\$240K) will be sub-granted to Clearwater SWCD who will expend grant dollars to meet project objectives of reducing fuel loads on private lands for the protection of upwind communities. (\$24K) CSWCD will do so through staff (grant administration, contract administration, landowner engagement/education, inspection, reimbursements and reporting) and contracted fuel mitigation activities (\$216K - contracted treatments) on 200 acres.</p> <p>- Indirect - (\$22,273) is a negotiated rate between the USFS and Idaho.</p>
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### Project Area Description and Challenges

<b>5</b>	<p>The project area is located in North-central Idaho, specifically in Clearwater County. This area is characterized by rolling hills of mixed agricultural dry farmland with deep gorges dominated by dry site Ponderosa pine, Douglas Fir, and Grand fir, as well as ninebark and oceanspray. The WUI communities of Greer (~60 structures) and Fraser (~80 structures) lie within the project area and Weippe (city/farm/agricultural lands w/ ~800 structures) is partially w/in the project area. Wildfires in August of 2015 burned across vast landscapes near the project area including approximately 23,400 acres of the Lolo watershed. Over 40 private landowner properties were impacted by moderate to high severity fire across a 2,600+ acre portion of the lower Lolo Creek drainage. The extent and impact of these fires was historic to the local communities and underscored the need for an all-lands approach to restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes.</p> <p>The objective of this fuels reduction project is to reduce the impact of another catastrophic wildfire through the creation of defensible space, increase of crown spacing, and removal of ladder fuels on 200 acres in the Greer/Fraser/Weippe communities.</p> <p>Challenges: The steep, densely forested canyon areas provide conditions for severe, high-intensity fires that, when aligned with up-slope winds, threaten these WUI areas and the more densely developed areas of the Weippe Prairie. There is often no clear line of demarcation between developed areas and wildland fuels making responder ingress/egress and fire management challenging.</p>
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## Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP

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Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP). The proposed project lies within the Clearwater Priority Landscape Area. The project area is characterized as being moderate/high to high for forest health risks and moderate to moderate/high to high for uncharacteristic wildfire. 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".

Clearwater County CWPP: The plan identifies an action item to complete hazard fuels treatment projects to reduce wildfire threat to area developments within WUI areas. The CWPP explicitly lists a project in Lolo Creek to reduce fuels and create defensible space. This proposal is an expansion of that project.

The reduction of fuels as proposed by this project will address both plans by improving forest health (decreasing stand densities) and reducing hazard fuels (dead, down, dying, and ladder fuels), which will provide protection for structures and improve ingress/egress for residents in the outlying areas around Weippe, Fraser, and Greer.

## Proposed Activities

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This project focuses on thinning and fuel reduction activities on private lands to improve forest resilience to wildfire by increasing crown canopy distances and removing ladder fuels. Development of the project involved strategic targeting of 5 landowners whose treated parcels will substantially reduce the potential for crown dominated fire increasing responder effectiveness and overall responder/landowner safety and community protection. Emphasis will be placed on creating fuel breaks along ingress/egress within the communities and along property lines. Work will be completed by mechanical thinning, handwork, or mastication depending on slopes and availability of equipment. Private lands at the break between the steep canyon areas and the more developed rolling landscapes will be targeted for thinning/fuel reduction activities to reduce the potential for fire propagation from the steep gorges of the canyon into intermixed development.

Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) will contract services for the following activities: mechanical thinning, mastication, and hand crews for limbing, chipping, piling, and burning. Treatment of the 5 areas (155 acres) will follow site-specific prescriptions which may include: pruning 15' or 1/3 of the original height of a tree, 20' to 40' of crown spacing between leave trees (depending on slope) and removal of brush from under residual tree crowns, with follow-up herbicide treatment to retard regrowth. All slash 6" or less in these treatment areas will be chipped or piled/burned depending on location when hand work is the method used. Additionally, 150 to 300 ft wide fuel breaks will be established along ingress/egress access roads (25 acres) as well as along property lines (20 Acres) following similar prescriptions to those above to expand project impact to adjacent community areas.

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, implementing weed treatments, and enhancement of treated areas. Various educational components will also be implemented and carried out by multiple collaborators (complete details in box 9) including neighbor-to-neighbor outreach, community educational events, and noxious weed identification/education.

## Landscape

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The Lolo Watershed has been a priority area for multiple fuels reduction projects over the years including work done by the USFS, BLM, IDL, and various non-profit organizations. USFS projects that have been implemented include the Lochsa Thin and Lolo Insect and Disease projects which emphasize fuel reduction via fuel breaks and thinning activities. Swede Fuels and Wapiti Thin projects included timber harvest, invasive plant treatments and fuels reduction. Over 1,000 acres of pre-commercial thinning and 425 acres of regeneration harvest are also being implemented by the USFS adjacent to the project area. BLM projects include Carrot Ridge, North Woodland, and Lolo 80 which implemented fire recovery work via reforestation, weed inventory/treatment, cultural site stabilization, and fuels reduction/fire salvage activities. Additional work completed within the Lolo Watershed consists of work done by the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District and county to reduce fire risk on private property through vegetation management activities (250+ acres). This project will complement these other projects by continuing to mitigate fire risk through similar prescriptive treatments and the overall reduction of fuels on Lolo Watershed private lands.

## 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 (\$24k match) - match includes weed treatments, and maintenance and enhancement of treated areas during the grant period. In addition, landowners will complete non-grant funded defensible space work around homes and gather fire wood. Landowners will also educate neighbors about their options for fire mitigation.
- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (\$6k match) - will assist with contract management/administration and landowner agreements.
- Clearwater SWCD - will coordinate/manage contractors, project layout, development of prescriptions for treatments, project tracking, landowner engagement, project inspections, and expenditure tracking.
- Clearwater County Emergency Management (leverage) - will provide non-grant funded educational events for county residents/landowners to participate in.
- Weippe Rural Fire District - will provide landowner education within the project area
- Clearwater County Weeds Department - will provide chemicals for project area noxious weed control; landowner education on noxious weed identification/suppression/maintenance efforts.
- USFS/BLM - is implementing fuels reduction on adjacent federal lands (non-grant funded). They will also provide technical assistance and landowner education (leverage).

## Project Timeline

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- Fall '21 - Engage 2 pre-identified landowners and complete prescriptions. Complete landowner agreements. Layout projects on the ground. Solicit for contractors to complete work. Set up monitoring and photo points.
- Winter '21 - Begin implementing fuel reduction work on 50 acres. Engage with landowners to ensure that in-kind match work is in progress.
- Spring-Fall '22 - Complete work on initial winter acres. Engage with 2 additional landowners and complete landowner agreements and prescriptions. Begin work on 75 acres.
- Winter '22 - Continue work on spring acres, engage with 1 additional landowner. Initiate work on 75 additional acres. Continue monitoring and photo points.
- Spring-Fall '23 Continue work on previously contracted acres. Continue monitoring and photo points.
- Fall '23 - Finalize mechanical project work (contract and landowner in-kind match)
- Winter '23 - Burn piles, final project inspection, final reporting, continue monitoring.

## Project Sustainability

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Environmental Factors: Regrowth after treatment will vary depending on local site conditions, but generally all sites will require continued maintenance every 5 years through removal of brush re-sprout and conifer regeneration (primarily Ponderosa pine, Douglas Fir, Cedar, and Grand Fir), by spraying, mowing, trimming, pruning, or grazing.

Commitment: Private property owners who participate in the program sign a contract obligating them to maintain the work for a period of 10 years or until the property changes hands.

Education: Landowner agreements instruct property owners on how to maintain completed work. The Conservation District and its partners (IDL, Weippe Rural Fire District, Clearwater Emergency Management and Idaho Soil and Water Commission) provide in-depth descriptive training on site for landowners covering the various maintenance tasks that will need to be completed in order to ensure the viability of the project. During training, Idaho Firewise materials (pamphlets/handouts) will be provided to each landowner who participates in the program which detail the additional roles the homeowner has in fuels reduction.

Monitoring: The Idaho Dept of Lands (IDL) will monitor compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Compliance will also be monitored by CSWCD (at least annually), and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded by CSWCD of their obligations through written and/or verbal communication.