

0	Admin Section			

1	Proposal Cooperator [ID]					
	Cooperator Organization:	City of Pocatello				
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1	Applicant Information [ID]					
	Applicant:	Idaho Department of Lands				
	Contact Person:	Tyre Holfeltz				
	Address:	3284 W Industrial Loop				
	City:	Coeur d'Alene	State:	ID	ZIP Code:	83815
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Federal Tax Id:	82-6000952	DUNS#:	UEI: LNALNMHA3NZ5			

2	Project Information			
	Name of the Project:	Pocatello Interchange Firewise Fuel Breaks		
	Community Name(s):	City of Pocatello		
	Counties:	Bannock		
Congressional District:	02			

2	GIS Coordinates			
	Ref. Point Name:	Pocatello Creek Interchange		
	Lat/Long:	42.897821, -112.434906		
Description:	Approximate project area center			

Applicant Budget [ID]					
	Grant	Match		TOTAL	
	Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Total Project Cost	
3	Personnel / Labor:	\$30,000		\$10,000	\$40,000
	Fringe Benefits:				
	Travel:	\$7,727			\$7,727
	Equipment:				
	Supplies:				
	Contractual:	\$240,000			\$240,000
	Other:		\$276,000		\$276,000
	Indirect Costs:	\$22,273		\$14,000	\$36,273
	TOTAL:	\$300,000	\$276,000	\$24,000	\$600,000

Budget Narrative	
4	<p>- Personnel/Labor - \$30k for Idaho Dept of Lands staff to manage and administer sub-grant with City of Pocatello.</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 the City of Pocatello who will expend grant dollars to meet project objectives of creating demonstration green fuel breaks through the establishment of drive-by Firewise demonstration sites at two interstate (I-15) interchanges within city limits. They will do so through staff for administration (grant, contracting, inspection, reimbursements and reporting) and contracted implementation activities (including project design and layout) on 35 acres.</p> <p>- Indirect - \$22,273 is for negotiated rate between USFS and IDL.</p>

Project Area Description and Challenges	
5	<p>Pocatello is located in SE Idaho in the High Desert Sage Steppe transitioning into juniper forest where valley floor gives way to mountain slopes. Ever increasing WUI populations and expansive juniper (native and planted) are major contributors to rising wildfire risk. These issues were highlighted by the Two and a Half Mile Fire (2022 9k acres) that burned in the foothills on the South side of Pocatello. Vehicle ignited fires are the number one start type during the fire season within the project area. To address this issue, this fuels reduction project will develop/establish green fuel breaks within inter-state interchanges with dual purpose: as demonstration sites to showcase fire resistive vegetation options, and be functional fuel breaks reducing risk of fire growth to adjoining developments.</p> <p>Challenges: Drought conditions are exacerbating water availability in SE Idaho and when added to the increasing wildfire ignitions along high traffic corridors reasonable solutions are difficult. Project designs will have to consider limited water availability for the sites in order to maintain the integrity of sites without undue encroachment of non-native invasive annual grasses.</p>

Relation to Forest Action Plan AND CWPP	
6	<p>Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is found in the Caribou Priority Landscape Area (PLA). The FAP identifies the project area as High to Very High risk for uncharacteristic wildfire. The Idaho FAP includes a goal of, "Implementing the National Fire Plan, Cohesive Strategy and Shared Stewardship efforts in Idaho through continued facilitation of effective planning and implementation of hazardous fuels treatments and restoration projects and enhancing firefighting resources and public education".</p> <p>Bannock County CWPP: The Bannock County CWPP identifies the project area as being high to very-high risk for uncharacteristic wildfire. The proposed project is explicitly included in the CWPP with the goal of constructing fuel breaks on City owned/managed property per watershed plans.</p> <p>The completion of project work will address the identified FAP/CWPP goals through the removal of juniper and turf grass/ reduction of hazard fuels and the installment of fire resistant vegetation at the inter-state interchanges which will act as fuel breaks along high traffic corridors while also showcasing resilient Firewise vegetation options for area landowners.</p>

Proposed Activities

The proposed work will be implemented along I-15 interchanges at the Pocatello Creek Rd and Center Street high traffic intersections in the City of Pocatello to establish fuel breaks and showcase fuel break design(s) and fire resistive vegetation options for private landowners (apx 16k homes and community infrastructure). The interchanges link directly to gullies adjacent to residential communities that act as wicks for fire to encroach on development. 35 acres of vegetation removal/replacement will occur along both sides of the interchanges that frequently serve as ignition locations from vehicles (dragging chains, accidents, etc.).

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City of Pocatello staff will be administering the project (\$40k) to include Idaho Transportation Dept engagement, reimbursement paperwork, and reporting. The City will contract (\$200k) project design/layout and purchase of fire resistive vegetation for the fuels reduction project on all 35 acres.

Prescriptively, contracted project implementation will remove existing vegetation via hand/mechanical methods while leaving healthy fire resistive hardwoods/deciduous trees (apple/willow). Post vegetation removal, fire adapted drought tolerant vegetation will be planted at species specific spacing to establish a green fuel break within the interchanges. Leveraged elements of the project include the installment of a "low-water" irrigation system and underlayment/rock to maintain the vitality and integrity of the project. Additionally, post planting, Firewise signage will be strategically placed facing on/off ramp traffic including project information and verbiage indicating that the planted vegetation is fire resistive/drought tolerant species (all educational signs - leverage funds).

Match Activities: Various educational components will be carried out by the City of Pocatello and other collaborators (complete details in box 9) including costs associated with public education/outreach regarding the project.

Landscape Impacts

The east bench of the Pocatello area continues to see conversion development of lands that were historically agricultural and ranching based. With the influx of new development adjacent to increased vehicular traffic and upslope mixed management federal ownership, the probability of destructive wildfire due to human cause has increased.

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This project will enhance and expand upon the efforts of nearby City Projects, including the 2022-2023 City of Pocatello Phase I - East Bench Fuel Reduction project, BLM projects, including the 2019 Pocatello WUI Fuels (3,833 acres of which 555 acres are nearby), 2009 Pocatello Northeast Project (530 acres), and four (Moonlight Mine Camelback Mountain, Buckskin and West Bench) projects in the larger impacted landscape that have treated 20,000 acres since 2003. Additionally, from 2003-2013 Three Rivers RC&D utilized Community Assistance Funding from the BLM and was able complete 110 acres of Hazard fuels work on private land within the Satterfield Development Area, which adjoins this project proposal area. Proposed treatment activities will expand upon previous private, local government and federal work to create a continuity of effort in the project area. The impact of this project initiative will be to reduce the spread of fire from city open space and encourage further fuels reduction and conversion to more fire resilient landscapes.

Project Collaboration

- Idaho Dept of Lands (IDL) (\$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.

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- City of Pocatello (\$24k match) - Staff time (Environmental, Fire, Streets, Engineer, and Parks departments) to coordinate project activities, engage/coordinate with neighboring federal cooperators, provide public education, development of master management plan for the interchange sites (leverage), installment of low-water irrigation (leverage), underlayment materials (leverage), and Firewise signage (leverage).

- Idaho Transportation Dept - technical expertise, adjacent project coordination, meeting participation, traffic control oversight during implementation (leverage)

- BLM - technical expertise, adjacent project coordination, and project meeting participation

- Caribou-Targhee National Forest - technical expertise, adjacent project coordination, and project meeting participation

- Idaho Firewise (501c3) - Technical expertise

Project Timeline

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- Fall '23 - Develop site management plan (leverage), release bid for contracted project manager, secure City and Idaho Transportation Department permits for work, release bid for contracted project designer
- Winter '23 - contracted project manager write prescriptions; flag sites for hazard fuels removal, solicit hand/mechanical contract services
- Spring/Summer '24 - contracted project manager to coordinate with contracted project designer on project design and finalize for review; implement fuels reduction work on all 35 acres at Pocatello Creek and Center St.
- Fall/Winter '24 - City of Pocatello to review/approve project designs for firewise vegetation; coordinate with Idaho Firewise regarding initial signage designs (leverage).
- Spring/Summer/Fall '25 - Initiate/complete leverage funded work on all construction related activities (irrigation/underlayment/rock/etc.) complete purchase and planting on fire adapted vegetation for all 35 acres.
- Winter '25 - finalize signage designs and purchase (leverage)
- Spring/Summer '26 - complete all unfinished work, finalize reports, and enter into monitoring phase.

Project Sustainability

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Environmental: Complete removal of juniper species on the sites requires minimal maintenance needs including pulling new starts to keep regrowth at bay in the initial 3 years. The installment of underlayment and rock will further limit the need for maintenance of potential juniper starts. Maintaining the planted Firewise vegetation will require frequent maintenance to prevent plantings from failing and to manage weed growth in the first 5 years. City of Pocatello parks staff will provide annual maintenance to remove weeds thereafter.

Commitment: City of Pocatello will sign an agreement with the Idaho Dept of Lands committing to maintaining the work for a period of 10 years. The City annually allocates staff salaries to manage and maintain its roadside open space areas and the financial obligations have been made into the foreseeable future.

Education: The City Parks Department has urban/parks foresters that have the expertise/education to maintain the work once completed. These staff will provide the necessary maintenance education to all staff tasked with maintenance obligations.

Monitoring: Monitoring will be done at-least semi-annually by various Pocatello staff as part of the implementation of the master plan that is being developed in parallel with this project. IDL also monitors compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors and when issues arise, IDL will work with Pocatello staff to craft a plan and implement the maintenance to original treatment prescriptions.