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| 0 | Admin Section | | | |
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|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | Proposal Cooperator [ID] | | | | | |
| | Cooperator Organization: | Lewis Soil Conservation District | | | | |
| | Contact Person: | Janette Mendenhall | | | | |
| | Address: | 521 Oak Street, Room #8 | | | | |
| | City: | Nez Perce | State: | ID | ZIP Code: | 83543 |
| | Phone: | 208 217 0098 | Email: | lewisscd@outlook.com | | |

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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 |
| | Phone (work/cell): | 208 666 8653 | Fax: | 208 669 1524 | | |
| | Email: | tholfeltz@idl.idaho.gov | | | | |
| Federal Tax Id: | 82-6000952 | DUNS#: | 878072685 | | | |

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| 2 | Project Information | | | |
| | Name of the Project: | Fuels Reduction Western Lewis County - Phase II | | |
| | Community Name(s): | Winchester and Forest, Idaho | | |
| | Counties: | Lewis County | | |
| Congressional District: | 01 | | | |

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|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| 2 | GIS Coordinates | | | |
| | Ref. Point Name: | Mid-area | | |
| | Lat/Long: | 46.2271, -116.6267 | | |
| Description: | West Lewis County | | | |

| Applicant Budget [ID] | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | Grant | Match | | TOTAL | |
| | Funds Requested | Applicant | Non-Federal Contributors | Total Project Cost | |
| 3 | Personnel / Labor: | \$30,000 | | \$30,000 | \$60,000 |
| | Fringe Benefits: | | | | |
| | Travel: | \$7,727 | | | \$7,727 |
| | Equipment: | | | | |
| | Supplies: | | | | |
| | Contractual: | \$240,000 | | | \$240,000 |
| | 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 Lewis Soil Conservation District (Lewis SCD)</p> <p>- Travel - (\$7,727) for IDL staff to travel to/from project at established state Fleet Motor Pool Rates</p> <p>- Contractual - (\$240k) is sub-granted to the Lewis SCD to administer and pay for fuels reduction work on private lands. Project administration (\$24k) will consist of landowner engagement, contracting, travel to sites, photo documentation, reimbursement and reporting. Project activities (\$216k) will consist of contracted treatments to create fire breaks along roads (30 acres) and around homes (140 acres). Work will be completed either by handwork or mastication depending on slopes and availability of equipment.</p> <p>- Indirect - (\$22,273) is a negotiated rate between USFS and Idaho</p> |

| Project Area Description and Challenges | |
|--|--|
| 5 | <p>Winchester (400 people) and forest, Idaho (10 people) are approx. 6 miles apart and are located at the western edge of the Camas Prairie in north-central Idaho. This area is characterized by rolling hills of mixed agricultural dry farmland with deep gorges dominated by dry site Ponderosa pine, Douglas Fir, and Larch. Due to aggressive fire suppression and human development, dense stands of conifer saplings, primarily Lodgepole pine and Grand Fir, are now found nearly continuously throughout the area. The greatest fire threat is from human fire starts (>90%) some of which are from escaped agricultural burns. Nearby Winchester Lake state Park (420 acres) has a high occurrence of campers/day users (350/day average) adding to the increased number of human fire starts in the area as popularity and the number of travelers/visitors, who are not always fire savvy, increases.</p> <p>The primary objective of this fuels reduction project is to thin stand densities to increase crown spacing through the removal of dead/down/dying trees and ladder fuels reduction to reduce crown fire propagation. This project expands upon the FY18 Fuels Reduction Western Lewis project (~290 acres) allowing for work to continue across additional parcels.</p> <p>Challenges: One of the greatest challenges this project faces is designing projects that effectively reduce wildfire risk because fire can come from any cardinal direction influenced by local geography and eradicate non-directional winds. This is compounded by poorly designed ingress/egress for area developments at agricultural fringes and within gorges where a fire occurrence would be most impactful, especially for evacuees which could become entrapped.</p> |

Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP

6

Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is found in the Hells Gate priority landscape area. This area is characterized as being moderate-high for forest health risks and 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".

Lewis County CWPP: The project is explicitly listed as a priority in the Lewis County CWPP falling under the goal of protecting structures and assets while improving ingress/egress safety in the WUI.

The completion of project work will address both plans by improving forest health (decreasing stand densities) and reducing hazard fuels (dead/dying/down trees, and ladder fuels) which will provide protection for structures and improve ingress/egress for the towns of Winchester and Forest.

Proposed Activities

7

Currently, there is a wait list of interested/committed landowners wanting to participate in fuels reduction work on their properties. To this end, each of the 140 acres have been mapped and are awaiting funding to complete work on their ownerships. In the Winchester area (100 acres), 3 locations - Winchester Lake State Park, a development adjoining the state park (20 homes), and Talmaks Church Camp (also adjacent to the park), have been identified for project implementation, providing the greatest continuity of project work. In the community of Forest, there are 2 co-located areas (40 acres) that will be targeted to begin the establishment of a continuous shaded fuel break to reduce the potential for crown propagation as fires spread from the steep gorges of the Salmon River area into this rural development.

Lewis SCD will administer (\$24k) the project as designated through a MOU with IDL to provide for contracted services (\$216k) to include mastication, hand crews to limb, chip, or pile and burning. Prescriptively both areas will be treated following site specific prescriptions that identify pruning up 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. All slash 6" or less in these treatment areas will be chipped or piled and burned depending on location when hand work is the method used. In conjunction with the above listed work, ingress/egress treatments (100ft wide) will be completed on 2.5 miles of roads (30 acres). The road sides will be cleared mirroring the standards listed above to improve line of sight for evacuees and responders while providing greater penetration of aerially dropped retardant within this high density forest. For all mentioned treatments, brush control will be performed using mastication where appropriate or hand crews with saws, followed up with herbicide application to control re-sprout and noxious weed expansion (several varieties of thistles).

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 and implementing weed treatments. 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, wildfire risk assessments/education, and noxious weed identification/education.

Landscape

8

Fire is a perennial occurrence in the Salmon River watershed which is why so many have come together to complete work to protect the communities found in its vicinity. This project will link 11 landowners who have worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to complete forest stewardship plans. From those plans, landowners have been able to complete 123 acres of fuels reduction through thinning trees and brush removal. Winchester Lake State Park has also completed 100 acres of thinning and used Rx fire to increase visitor safety and improve forest health and function which this project will expand upon. Also, to the south of the project area, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Idaho Fish & Game, and IDL have been working to install a continuous fuel break along the Salmon River breaks. This proposed project will also expand upon FY18 WSFM project work which implemented fuels reduction work on ~290 acres. This proposed project will add an additional layer of protection, like an onion, for the communities upon completion by breaking up the continuity of wildfire fuels within and around the communities.

Project Collaboration

9

- IDL (\$270k match) in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners.
- Landowners (\$20k match) will complete defensible space work around homes, gather fire wood, burn piles, educate neighbors on hazard fuel mitigation opportunities, and participate in non-grant funded educational events sponsored by Lewis County Emergency Management.
- Lewis County Emergency Management (\$3k match) will conduct non-grant funded educational events within the communities and facilitate discussions with cooperators to further local collaboration on projects.
- Lewis County Commissioners and Rural Fire Department (\$2k match) will continue their wildfire risk assessment and education program with local residents.
- Lewis County Weeds Department (\$5k match) will provide staff and chemicals for control of noxious weeds in the project area which are substantial contributors to wildfire spread. They will also educate landowners on noxious weed identification, current location/extent, and suppression efforts that can be taken.
- Landowners (\$50k LEVERAGE) will continue to participate in NRCS EQIP to complete stewardship plans and conduct recommended management actions.
- BLM (LEVERAGE) will continue to install the Salmon River fuel break and will provide landowner education.
- Idaho Fish & Game (LEVERAGE) has completed forest restoration actions for big game, has an active logging program to manage the forest, and is completing their ownership portion for the Salmon River fuel break.

Project Timeline

10

- Fall '21 - Notify 5 pre-identified landowners of available funding; complete initial 20 acres of prescriptions; solicit for contractors to complete work.
- Winter '21 - Complete 5 landowner agreements; begin work on initial 20 acres in Winchester; work as weather permits and until winter shutdown.
- Spring '22 - Complete winter work on initial acres; engage 4 additional landowners in Winchester.
- Spring/Summer '22 - Complete 4 landowner agreements in Winchester; write prescriptions/initiate work on the 80 acres.
- Fall '22 - Complete work on spring initiated acres in Winchester; initiate/complete 30 acres of road-side fuel break in Forest.
- Winter '22 - Coordinate with landowners in Winchester for contractors to burn slash.
- Spring/Summer '23 - Complete 4 landowner agreements in Forest; write prescriptions/initiate work on 40 acres in Forest, solicit for contractors and begin work.
- Winter '23 - Coordinate with landowners in Forest for contractors to burn slash to complete work; complete final project inspection/reporting; enter monitoring phase.

Project Sustainability

11

- 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, and Grand Fir) by spraying, mowing, trimming, pruning, or grazing.
- Commitment: Private property owners who participate in the program sign landowner agreements that indicate they will commit to 10 years of HFT maintenance. This agreement instructs property owners on how to maintain completed HFT work.
- Education: Private property owners who participate in the project will receive Idaho Firewise materials (pamphlets/handouts) upon signing landowner agreements as a part of on-site education provided by the qualified contractor and Lewis SCD staff, of the long-term fire mitigation/HFT activities required for project sustainability.
- Monitoring: Idaho Dept of Lands will monitor compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Compliance will continue to be monitored by the Lewis SCD (at least annually) and the Idaho Dept of Lands, and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded by the SCD of their obligations through written and/or verbal communication.