

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				
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Federal Tax Id:	82-6000952	DUNS#:	878072685			

2	Project Information			
	Name of the Project:	Pocatello East and West Bench Fuels Treatment - Phase II		
	Community Name(s):	City of Pocatello		
	Counties:	Bannock		
Congressional District:	02			

2	GIS Coordinates			
	Ref. Point Name:	East Bench Fuels Treatment Phase II		
	Lat/Long:	42.903847, -112.408509		
	Description:	Approximate East project area center		
	Ref. Point Name:	West Bench Fuels Treatment Phase II		
	Lat/Long:	42.820441, -112.424779		
Description:	Approximate West 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		\$20,000	\$260,000
	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) is for Idaho Dept of Lands (IDL) to administer sub-grant with City of Pocatello to include fiscal oversight, project support, project inspection and grant reporting.</p> <p>- Travel (\$7,727) is for IDL staff to travel to and from project site at established State Fleet Motor Pool rates.</p> <p>- Contractual (\$240K) will be sub-granted to the City of Pocatello who will expend grant dollars to meet project objectives of reducing fuels on city open space and adjoining private property. They will do so through staff grant administration (landowner interaction, contracting, project design/layout, inspection, reimbursements and reporting) and contracted mitigation activities on 100 acres.</p> <p>- Indirect (\$22,273) is a negotiated rate between USFS and IDL.</p>

Project Area Description and Challenges	
5	<p>Pocatello is located in Bannock County (SE Idaho) in the High Desert Sage Steppe transitioning into juniper forest where valley floor gives way to mountain slopes. WUI development began in the 1950s on the west side of the valley and over the last 10 years has moved out and up mountain slopes primarily on its northeastern side. Mountain gullies abound in this area and are not suitable for homes due to unstable soil types, steep slopes, and close canopy juniper stands. In the newer developments, developers donate this undeveloped land to the City of Pocatello, who then designates the land as open space. In older developments private landowners have recently grouped together (e.g. Johnny Creek Firewise Group) and have solicited support from neighbors for a gully-wide treatment on private lands.</p> <p>The primary objective of this fuels reduction project is to reduce and/or remove juniper stands and plant fire resistant grasses within the high priority 100 acres of private and city open space. Project actions will increase the probability of survival for homes and neighborhoods, while simultaneously establishing access points (non-grant funded) for responders, improving the effectiveness of wildfire response.</p> <p>Challenges: With the ever increasing use of these open spaces, fire ignitions have steadily risen raising concern over the occurrence for another wildfire like the Charlotte wildfire of 2012 (destroyed 66 homes). An additional challenge for fire responders is access to these open space areas due to geographic features (cut banks/gullies), neighborhood design (home and road locations), and structures (homes, fences, decks etc.).</p>

Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP

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Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is found in the Caribou 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".

Bannock County CWPP: The project area is identified in the CWPP as being high to very-high risk for uncharacteristic wildfire due to an extensive WUI, fuels, topography and fire occurrence. The proposed project is explicitly identified in the Bannock County CWPP as a priority to reduce the impact of wildfire to the Pocatello east bench neighborhoods.

These plan objectives (FAP & CWPP) will be met through the reduction or removal of juniper and installment of green strips within open space priority areas, which will protect communities and increase resiliency of landscapes to wildfire disturbance.

Proposed Activities

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The proposed work is being done within the Highland Bench and Johnny Creek neighborhoods to reduce damage in the event of a wildfire to approximately 1,700 homes and community infrastructures. City of Pocatello staff will be administering the project to include landowner engagement (at least 30), reimbursement paperwork, reporting, project design/layout, and purchase of seed for the fuels reduction projects on 70 acres in city open space and 30 acres of private lands. Additionally, they will follow established procurement policy to obtain contracted services to implement mitigation activities to include; thinning juniper by mastication and hand treatment methodologies, and planting of green strips with seed purchased by City of Pocatello.

Treatments will occur within gullies that act as wicks from bench areas to mountain sides (and vice versa). Prescriptively, juniper will be reduced to approximately 20 trees or fewer per acre through the use of contracted services to reduce crown-to-crown wildfire propagation. Site specific prescriptions will dictate the appropriate methodologies to be used and will include hand thinning, piling, burning, chipping, and/or mechanical mastication. Additionally, fire resistant vegetation (i.e. bunch grasses and forbes) will be planted within the 100 acres of juniper reduction to create an additional resistance to the spread of wildfire, thus increasing the probability of successful control measures taken during a wildfire event.

Match Activities: Landowners will simultaneously be completing defensible space work around their homes following similar prescriptive methods used in the contracted activities. Educational components including neighbor-to-neighbor outreach and community educational events have previously taken place and will continue to be implemented (see box 9 for further collaborative details).

Landscape

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This project will enhance and expand upon the efforts of adjoining BLM projects which include the 2019 Pocatello WUI Fuels project (3,833 acres of which 555 acres are directly adjacent), the 2009 Pocatello Northeast Project (530 acres), and four projects (Moonlight Mine Camelback Mountain, Buckskin and West Bench) in the larger impacted landscape that have treated 20,000 acres since 2003. Additionally, from 2003-2013, 3 Rivers RC&D utilized Community Assistance Funding from the Bureau of Land Management to complete 110 acres of Hz fuels work on private land within the Satterfield Area, which adjoins the proposed project area. Additionally, the USFS has completed various treatments that are directly adjacent to the proposed project: Gibson Jack Prescribed Fire (440 acres), Wildhorse Prescribed Fire (300 acres) and Mud Springs Prescribed Fire (100 acres). Gibson Jack Fence Lower (15 acres), Gibson Jack Trail Lower (45 acres) and Gibson Jack Trail Upper (50 acres) were all mechanically treated (mowing, cutting, piling then pile burning). Finally, 5 private landowners, utilizing BLM Community Assistance funds, have also treated their parcels adjacent to the project area. The proposed project will tie together similar prescriptive designs/treatment activities across private, local, and federal lands in an effort to reduce wildfire propagation on a larger landscape.

Project Collaboration

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City of Pocatello - (non-grant funded, \$10K match) will provide staff time (Environmental, Fire, Street (storm water management), and Parks departments) to coordinate project activities, facilitate public meetings, engage/coordinate with neighboring federal cooperators. Leveraged funding: provide public education, development of master management plan, and long term maintenance of grant funded project work on community open space.

Landowners (\$20K match) - will complete defensible space work and participate in landowner education events/meetings, be ambassadors to other neighbors and neighborhoods within the project area and greater Pocatello WUI. One landowner group has begun outreach with their direct neighbors and are committed to continue this one-on-one outreach.

Idaho Dept of Lands (\$270K) - will contribute over match funds from the consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of non-federal landowners. Additionally, leverage (non-grant funds) will be provided through technical assistance, meeting facilitation/attendance and landowner education.

BLM (leverage partner) - technical expertise, adjacent project coordination, meeting participation, public education

Caribou-Targhee N.F. (leverage partner)- technical expertise, meeting participation, and public education.

Project Timeline

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- Fall 2021 - flag initial open space units, write prescriptions, solicit (hand/mechanical) contract services
- Winter 2021/22 - as site conditions allow begin implementation of work on 50 open space acres; complete at least 10 pre-identified landowner agreements for private acres
- Spring/Summer 2022 - Complete initial contracted acres. Write prescriptions, layout additional units, solicit (hand/mechanical) contract services, begin work on 20 acres of open space and 30 acres of private.
- Fall 2022 - complete summer contracted acres, purchase seed, solicit planting contract services, plant seed on 100 acres of previously treated private & open space
- Winter 2022 - finalize reporting, enter into monitoring maintenance phase

Project Sustainability

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Environmental Factors: In the sagebrush steppe/juniper plant communities found in the project area, annual maintenance (mowing/herbicide) will be initially required of non-native grasses/noxious weeds until native/fire resistant grass species recruitment from in soil/planted sources is high enough to out compete non-native grasses. Because these are dry sites it will take upwards of 10 years for infilling of the native/planted grasses to occur. Thereafter, maintenance needs will be minimal.

Education: City of Pocatello (COP) staff have engaged with BLM/USFS staff on various projects receiving training about project treatment/management/maintenance activities that they will apply to the open space portion of the project. Landowners will be provided education by COP staff at Rx development and throughout the project to include Firewise/Idaho Firewise pamphlets about maintenance activities.

Commitment: The COP allocates over \$25k annually in staff salaries (non-grant funded) to manage/maintain its open space areas. COP has committed to this fiscal obligation into the foreseeable future through the hiring of permanent and seasonal staff. Additionally, 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.

Monitoring: Idaho Dept of Lands monitors compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Compliance will also be monitored by COP staff at least annually. If problems arise, IDL will work with COP staff on open space lands; landowners will be reminded of their obligations by COP staff via verbal and/or written communication.