

0	<b>Admin Section</b>			

1	<b>Proposal Cooperator [ID]</b>					
	Cooperator Organization:	Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District				
	Contact Person:	Cali Johnson				
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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:	Cottonwood Valley Restoration		
	Community Name(s):	Swan Lake		
	Counties:	Bannock		
Congressional District:	02			

2	<b>GIS Coordinates</b>			
	Ref. Point Name:	Cottonwood Valley		
	Lat/Long:	42.81667, -111.938056		
Description:	Approximate project center			

### Applicant Budget [ID]

		Grant	Match		TOTAL
		Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Total Project Cost
<b>3</b>	<b>Personnel / Labor:</b>	\$30,000		\$11,000	<b>\$41,000</b>
	<b>Fringe Benefits:</b>				
	<b>Travel:</b>	\$7,727			<b>\$7,727</b>
	<b>Equipment:</b>				
	<b>Supplies:</b>				
	<b>Contractual:</b>	\$240,000		\$25,000	<b>\$265,000</b>
	<b>Other:</b>		\$264,000		<b>\$264,000</b>
	<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	\$22,273			<b>\$22,273</b>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$264,000</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

### Budget Narrative

<b>4</b>	<p>- Personnel/Labor - (\$30k) is for Idaho Dept of Lands (IDL) to administer sub-grant to Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to include fiscal oversight, project support, project inspection and grant reporting.</p> <p>- Travel - (\$7,727) for IDL to travel to and from project site at established State Fleet Motor Pool rates.</p> <p>- Contractual - (\$240K) will be sub-granted to Portneuf SWCD who will expend grant dollars to meet fuels reduction project objectives of reducing juniper encroachment in high desert sage steppe type on private lands for the protection of watershed and upwind communities. They will do so through staff grant administration (landowner interaction, contracting, project design/layout, inspection, reimbursements and reporting) and contracted mitigation activities on 315 acres.</p> <p>- Indirect - (\$22,273) is for negotiated rate between USFS and IDL.</p>
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### Project Area Description and Challenges

<b>5</b>	<p>The Cottonwood Valley area is found in SE Idaho (Bannock County) and is known for it's large open landscape. High Desert Sage Steppe transitions into juniper forest where valley floor gives way to mountain slopes. There are 15k+ acres of privately owned grazing lands intermingled with IDL, BLM and USFS land. As a result of many years of fire suppression activities, Rocky Mtn &amp; Utah Juniper have encroached on otherwise healthy perennial bunch-grass/sagebrush rangelands. Wildfire is the most concerning resource issue as well as the encroachment of invasive plants followed by invasive species. Prevailing winds blow towards Lava Hot Springs, a summer recreation destination community (2k visitors/day). Additionally, the community of Lava Hot Springs is expanding south towards the Cottonwood Valley providing the right ingredients for a catastrophic wildfire. Wildfires in this fuel type when aligned with surrounding geographic features regularly grow to 10's of thousands of acres in size like the 2017 Powerline Fire (55,787 acres), 2012 Charlotte Fire (1000 acres plus 66 homes), and the 2007 Cleveland Fire (16,280 acres).</p> <p>The primary objective of this fuels reduction project is to expand upon previous private land work thru the reduction/removal of encroaching juniper and the strategic planting of seed (315 acres) to establish/expand green fuel breaks reducing the risk of fire spread within this open range system and further reducing the probability of a catastrophic fire from impacting the greater Lava Hot Springs community.</p> <p>Challenge: This is a very rural area with limited access so suppression actions and project work in this steep, rocky area can prove to be challenging.</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 Caribou priority landscape area. This area is characterized as being Moderate High for forest health risks and High to Very 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 Bannock County CWPP identifies the project area as being high to very-high risk for uncharacteristic wildfire due to an extensive WUI, fuels, topography and fire occurrence. The CWPP explicitly lists the project area as a priority for the mitigation of wildfire impacts to the community of Lava Hot Springs and the protection of natural resources of the greater Cottonwood Valley.

These plan objectives (FAP & CWPP) will be met through the reduction/removal of juniper and selective seeding on private range lands, which will protect developments and increase resiliency of landscapes to wildfire disturbance.

## Proposed Activities

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Portneuf SWCD has already been in contact with 6 landowners within the project area who are interested in participating in the project and who have already engaged in limited fuels mitigation actions on their land. These landowners are in need of additional assistance to further implement impactful community fuels reduction activities. Portneuf SWCD staff have worked with BLM, USFS and State employees to prioritize and identify strategic locations for fuel breaks, with the express intent of compartmentalization of wildfire on the range to reduce fire spread to the upwind community of Lava Hot Springs. Private lands on the north and west side of the valley have specifically been chosen because of their adjacency to other fuels reduction projects with similar prescriptive design.

315 acres will be treated via procured contract services. Treatment activities may include lop/scatter, piling, burning, chipping and/or mechanical mastication. Prescriptively, juniper will be completely removed on 252 acres. Approx. 200 of the 252 acres will be planted (broadcast or drilled) with Kochia and a native seed mix within the footprint of juniper treatment units, dependent upon the amount of compromised native vegetation. This will reduce the probability of sites being overrun by fire-loving, non-native annual grasses such as cheat grass, while creating a green break, thus reducing fire propagation within the treatment unit. The remaining 63 acres will be treated through the reduction of juniper to no more than 10 trees per acre to reduce the severity associated with a crown dominated fire in the project area.

Match Activities: The Cottonwood Grazing Association (landowners) will be completing work (similar prescriptions) on additional acres beyond the 315 acres identified in this project to expand the impact of grant funded fuels reduction work. Additionally, landowner education and project administrative support activities will be implemented as part of this projects match contributions.

## Landscape

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Treatments on private lands are tied into USFS, IDL, BLM, and other private land owners vegetative treatments whenever possible to expand upon hazard fuels reduction efforts that have similar prescriptive design. As previously mentioned, this project area lies within 15,000+ acres of privately owned grazing lands intermingled with IDL, BLM and USFS land. Proposed treatment activities will tie together efforts across these lands at all levels of ownership to create a continuity of effort beyond the project area through similar prescriptive treatments. Specific projects that the Cottonwood Valley Restoration project will complement are the FY19 awarded Cottonwood HFR project (completed 250+ acres of private land treatments), and the awarded FY16 WSFM Station Creek (165 acres in progress) and Thunder Mtn (60 acres in progress) projects all located within the Cottonwood Valley south of Lava Hot Springs. The impact of this project initiative is the overarching establishment of a landscape-level treatment across this particular sage-steppe Juniper rangeland.

## Project Collaboration

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- IDL (\$264K match) in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners. Additionally, leverage (non-grant funds) will be provided through technical assistance, meeting facilitation/attendance and landowner education.
- Cottonwood Grazing Association (\$25K match) to complete additional acres of treatment
- State of Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (\$11K match) will provide project administration, technical assistance, and landowner education.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (leverage) to provide technical assistance for landowners
- BLM (leverage) to provide technical assistance, landowner education, and meeting participation
- Idaho Department of Fish & Game (leverage) to provide technical assistance for landowners
- Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District (leverage) to provide landowner education/engagement, meeting facilitation/participation, and project administration/management

## Project Timeline

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- Fall '21 - Portneuf SWCD staff will notify the pre-identified 6 interested landowners of available funding. Complete 2 landowner agreements, layout, contract, and begin work (55 acres) on juniper treatments until winter shutdown. Purchase seed for planting in treatment units, contract planting of seed.
- Late Fall/Winter '21 - begin plant seed utilizing contracted services.
- Winter '21/Spring '22 - complete 2 landowner agreements and contract work based on agreed to prescriptions.
- Summer/Fall '22 - resume treatments (200 acres) when site conditions allow; continue to be engaged with landowners.
- Fall '22 - complete 2 landowner agreements, layout, contract and continue treatments until winter shut down. Purchase seed for planting in treatment units, contract planting of seed.
- Late Fall/Winter '22 - plant seed utilizing contracted services.
- Spring/Summer '23 - finish landowner treatments when site conditions allow (60 acres).
- Fall '23 - purchase seed, contract planting.
- Late Fall/Winter '23 - Plant seed utilizing contracted services. Final project inspection by IDL, complete reporting and enter monitoring phase.

## Project Sustainability

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Environmental Factors: In the sagebrush steppe/juniper plant communities that are found in the project area, maintenance will be required the first year to remove any re-sprout from previous year treatments. Thereafter, maintenance will be needed every 5-7 years to lop/scatter site recruitment of juniper due to edge effect from remaining trees.

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: Education on maintenance will be given prior to sign up and at project completion by Portneuf SWCD staff, which will utilize NRCS and Firewise materials (handouts/pamphlets) supplemented with 'Idaho Firewise' educational materials.

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