

0	Admin Section			

1	Proposal Cooperator [ID]					
	Cooperator Organization:	Twin Ridge Rural Fire Department				
	Contact Person:	Tam White				
	Address:	601 Canyon Creek Rd				
	City:	Orofino	State:	ID	ZIP Code:	83544
	Phone:	208-476-7193	Email:	tamowhite@gmail.com		

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			

2	Project Information			
	Name of the Project:	Twin Ridge Hazardous Fuels Reduction		
	Community Name(s):	Orofino		
	Counties:	Clearwater		
Congressional District:	01			

2	GIS Coordinates			
	Ref. Point Name:	Twin Ridge Fire District		
	Lat/Long:	46.534, -116.22		
Description:	Approximate project center			

Applicant Budget [ID]

		Grant	Match		TOTAL
		Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Total Project Cost
3	Personnel / Labor:	\$30,000		\$15,000	\$45,000
	Fringe Benefits:				
	Travel:	\$7,727			\$7,727
	Equipment:				
	Supplies:				
	Contractual:	\$240,000			\$240,000
	Other:		\$285,000		\$285,000
	Indirect Costs:	\$22,273			\$22,273
	TOTAL:	\$300,000	\$285,000	\$15,000	\$600,000

Budget Narrative

4	<p>- Personnel/Labor - (\$30k) for Idaho Dept of Lands staff to manage and administer sub-grant with the Twin Ridge Rural Fire Department (TRRFD)</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) will be sub-granted to TRRFD who will expend grant funds to complete fuel reduction work through contracted services for project administration/management and implementation. Funds will be used by contractor to perform hazard fuels reduction treatments by means of fuel breaks on a minimum of 130 acres through thinning, pruning, mastication, and chipping activities.</p> <p>- Indirect - (\$22,273) is a negotiated rate between the USFS and Idaho.</p>
----------	--

Project Area Description and Challenges

5	<p>The Twin Ridge Fire District covers 26 square miles and is located north of Orofino in Clearwater County, Idaho. The District includes 300 residences and numerous outbuildings. Over the last 10 years, the area has seen an increase of 50 or more homes, many of which are being built in dense timber or on steeper, limited access slopes. The area is characterized by a variety of timber types to include Ponderosa pine, Grand Fir, and Douglas Fir. Increased fire risk is marked by two large fires; the 2013 Braun Fire and the 2015 Municipal Fire, as well as two recent fires; the 2020 Sunnyside Complex (Whitetail Lane and Clover fires) and Ranchette Fire, all of which threatened homes as they rapidly spread up the areas steep slopes.</p> <p>The objective of this hazard fuels reduction project is to expand upon the 2008 Eureka Fuels Reduction project through the development/connection of fuel or shaded breaks along the steep slopes surrounding the district, and the creation of defensible space through fuels reduction around homes.</p> <p>Challenges: Douglas Fir and Grand Fir have encroached into the Ponderosa pine areas. This is causing Ponderosa pine to become more susceptible to stress induced insect and disease outbreaks, resulting in excessive down fuel loadings. These conditions paired with steep slopes (60+%) will present unique challenges as contractors work to abate expected fire risk.</p>
----------	---

Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP

6

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

Clearwater CWPP: The combination of steep slopes and tree mortality/high fuel loadings have resulted in a High to Very High Risk of Uncharacteristic Wildfire rating noted in the CWPP. These conditions are why the Clearwater CWPP identifies the Twin Ridge Rural Fire District as an area where, "Residential structure defensible space needs to be promoted."

The completion of project work will address the FAP goal and the CWPP action item above through the reduction of wildfire threats with the development of defensible space and the expansion of fuel breaks. The goal of improving forest resiliency to drying conditions married with increase in expected fire occurrence will be met through tree thinning and ladder fuel reduction activities.

Proposed Activities

7

This project will expand on the 2008 Eureka Ridge Fuels project which created 3.5 miles of fuel breaks and defensible space along the southwestern portion of the District. The proposed project will continue fuel break development to reduce the impacts associated with wildfire events within the project area. Specifically, 200' to 300' wide fuel breaks will be established along the steeper 'breaklands' starting at the southwest corner and continuing all the way around the district for an additional 9 miles. Similarly, shaded fuel breaks will be created where structures exist within the 9-mile stretch. Approximately 130 acres in total will be treated.

Shaded fuel breaks will be created through contracted activities including brush removal, tree thinning and limbing to reduce ladder fuels and the subsequent risk of crown fires. Site specific prescriptions will dictate the following activities: Live/Dead/Dying trees will be thinned with the intent of creating 20' - 40' of crown spacing amongst leave trees. Ladder fuels will be reduced through limbing/pruning activities of 10' or 1/3 original height of the trees. Prescriptively, timber removal actions will exclude seral species while also prioritizing fire resistant stands as leave trees, promoting long-term forest resiliency. All tree/shrub marking, cutting, pruning, piling and chipping will be carried out by contractors obtained through established TRRFD processes.

Match Activities: Landowners will simultaneously be completing defensible space work directly around their homes to enhance the shaded fuel breaks following similar prescriptive methods used in the contracted activities, as well as gathering large firewood type material created as part of the project work. 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 wildfire risk/prevention education.

Landscape

8

This project is an expansion of the 2008 Eureka Ridge Hazard Fuels project which established 3.5 miles of fuel breaks/defensible space along the southwestern portion of the Twin Ridge Rural Fire District. Limitations in the amount of funding for this project left untreated areas on the south, west, and east sides of the district. This proposed project also complements work completed by the Army Corps of Engineers (2018 Ahsahka Restoration Timber Sale project - 701 acres) and the Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association (CPTPA) (FY19 WSFM New Hope funded project - 115 acres in progress), both with similar prescriptions designed to thin stand densities and reduce hazard fuels. The Twin Ridge HFR project will provide an additional 9 miles of fuel breaks/defensible space by treating those remaining areas, adding to the overall reduction of fire risk for the district and surrounding areas of Clearwater County.

Project Collaboration

9

- IDL (\$270k match) - in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners.
- Twin Ridge RFD (\$5K match) - will provide community education on wildfire risk and mitigation, helping establish project priorities, and facilitate/host community meetings.
- Landowners (\$10K match) - will participate in meetings, engage with neighbors to share experiences/educate about fire mitigation options, gather fire wood, and complete non-grant funded defensible space around structures.
- Clearwater County (LEVERAGE) - engage community members to provide education about wildfire risk and mitigation. They additionally will provide project management support.
- Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protection Association (LEVERAGE) - will provide project design and implementation input.
- North Central Idaho Fire Prevention Cooperative (includes IDL, USFS, BLM, Nez Perce Tribe, FDs, and County Emergency Managers) (LEVERAGE) - will provide public education/prevention materials to project area/county residents.

Project Timeline

1
0

- Summer '21 - TRRFD will engage residents within the district to promote Firewise and healthy forest concepts through an informative newsletter to residents and a public meeting. Initial field reviews will be conducted to prioritize treatment areas through site evaluations.
- Fall '21 - Receive grant award notification and notify pre-identified landowners of available funds. Complete ~25 landowner agreements for initial 60 acres.
- Winter '21/Spring '22 - Contract solicitation for tree/shrub removal, pruning, tree marking and slash work. Initiate work on 60 acres.
- Summer '22 - complete work on initial winter/spring acres; conduct progress inspections.
- Fall '22 - complete ~25 landowner agreements for remaining 70 acres, solicit for contractors and initiate work.
- Winter '22/Summer '23 - Complete fall initiated acres.
- Fall '23 - Conduct final inspections/reports. Enter into monitoring phase.

Project Sustainability

1
1

- Environmental Factors: Slow regrowth of native species in the project area will provide for low maintenance needs/obligations for the first 5 years. Landowners will need to retreat the areas via mowing or shrub cutting to curtail regrowth of brush and trees every 3 to 5 years thereafter.
- Commitment: Participation in this project will require property owners to commit to at least 10 years of treatment maintenance through a signed landowner agreement.
- Education: Landowners will be educated about defensible space activities through the distribution of "Firewise" materials (handouts/pamphlets), informative newsletters, and public meetings. Education about the needed maintenance of treated areas will be provided by the qualified contractor and TRRFD during Rx development and at post treatment inspection.
- Monitoring: The Idaho Department of Lands monitors compliance through a sampling of past projects and current endeavors. Compliance will also be monitored at least annually by TRRFD and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded of their obligations through written and/or verbal communication.