

FY 2023 State Fire Assistance WUI Grant

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State Submitting Project:	Idaho
State Priority Number:	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$ 300,000
Matching Share:	\$ 300,000.00

This document is for proposal development only. Applications must be submitted to the appropriate state/island forestry entity and entered into the online submission system.

Hover over each active field for additional guidance and instructions.

Proposal Cooperator	
1	Cooperator Organization: Bonner County
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Applicant Information	
1	Applicant: Idaho Department of Lands
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Federal Tax ID/DUNS #: 82-6000952 / 878072685	

Project Information		
2	Name of Project: Sagle South Phase III	
	Community Name(s): Sagle, Careywood, Cocolalla	
	County(ies): Bonner	
	Congressional District: 01	
	GIS Coordinates (choose one)	
	Reference Point Name: Sagle	
	Lat/Long: 48.148114/-116.576854	
	Description: Approximate project area center	
	Area Name:	
	Boundary Lat/Longs:	
Description:		

Applicant Budget				
	Grant Funds Requested	Match		Total Project Cost
		Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	
3	Personnel/Labor:	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 50,000
	Fringe Benefits:			\$ 0
	Travel:	\$ 7,727		\$ 7,727
	Equipment:			\$ 0
	Supplies:			\$ 0
	Contractual:	\$ 240,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 250,000
	Other:		\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000
	Indirect Costs:	\$ 22,273		\$ 22,273
	TOTAL:	\$ 300,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 600,000

Budget Narrative (1700 characters including spaces)	
4	<p>- Personnel/Labor - \$30k for Idaho Dept of Lands staff to manage and administer sub-grant with Bonner County</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 Bonner County who will expend funds through staff and contracted services to administer and manage contracted activities. Funds will be used to administer and perform hazardous fuels reduction treatments on a minimum of 135 acres by means of thinning, pruning, mastication, and chipping activities.</p> <p>- Indirect - \$22,273 is for negotiated rate between USFS and IDL.</p>

	Project Area Description and Challenges (1700 characters including spaces)	
5	<p>The unincorporated community of Sagle encompasses much of the south-central portion of Bonner County in northern Idaho (4000 residents) and is just 5 miles south of the City of Sandpoint. Project areas are located at Eaglecrest Drive and Old House Road. These areas have dense stands (500-1500 stems per acre) of ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine and grand fir, with intermixed Douglas-fir and Larch. Most of this area once existed in a historic 5-15 year fire regime, but in-growth of vegetation has been dramatic with the advent of aggressive fire suppression/exclusion. These landscapes average 42 fires/year that generally are kept under 10 acres. However, the 3 Sisters and Cape Horn fires of 2015 proved that under the right conditions, large wildfire propagation can overwhelm local resources resulting in the destruction of large swaths of private timberlands and homes. These communities have been heavily developed over the last 40 years, adding to the WUI concerns (human ignitions) in this already high-risk area.</p> <p>The primary objective of this fuels reduction project is to thin stand densities through the increase of crown spacing, removal of ladder fuels, and overall fuels reduction activities, to reduce crown fire propagation. This project expands upon the FY2017 and FY2021 funded Sagle South projects.</p> <p>Challenges: One of the major challenges that this project will face is the steep terrain and narrow, winding spiderweb of ingress/egress roads amongst landowner parcels. This obstacle, paired with drought affected stands and beetle infestations will force project manager to adjust prescriptions and activities across landowner parcels to abate expected fire risk.</p>	

	Relation to Forest Action Plan and CWPP (2500 characters including spaces)	
6	<p>Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP): The project is found in the Panhandle Priority Landscape Area (PLA). The project area is characterized as being High in uncharacteristic wildfire and is directly adjacent to the Southwest Bonner County Shared Stewardship Project area. 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".</p> <p>Bonner County CWPP: The CWPP explicitly lists the following sites within the project area for fuels treatments: Old House Rd. and Eaglecrest Dr. The area serves as a recreational asset, and is characterized by steep slopes, limited water supplies, and plenty of fuels, with south and west aspects creating a difficult situation when fire response is necessary.</p> <p>The completion of project work will address FAP goals through the reduction of wildfire threat and address the CWPP by completing fuels treatments within communities and decreasing first responder ingress/egress risks within Bonner County.</p>	

Proposed Activities (3800 characters including spaces)

7 The Sagle South Phase III project area is comprised of approx. 1800 private developments/structures along narrow winding roads within single drainage systems. Currently, there is a wait list of interested/committed landowners wanting to participate in fuels reduction work on their properties, as a result of the FY17 Sagle South funded project which treated 120 acres. Prioritization of hazard fuels treatments in the project area will be guided by Bonfire (county WUI committee) comprised of technical experts from Bonner County, IDL, USFS, BLM and members of the public. Structures as well as the spiderweb of ingress/egress routes are the areas of highest priority. Specifically, the next phase will focus on Eagle Crest Drive and Old House Road. Additionally, areas adjacent to Highway 95 will be included in project activities as funding allows.

Bonner County will contract work (\$240,000) to complete hazard fuels reduction activities on a minimum of 135 acres for no less than 20 landowners in the above listed home sites/areas through the prescriptive removal of vegetation. Specifically, work will be accomplished in accordance with site-specific prescriptions developed by trained qualified contractors. Project work will initially be focused on removing live/dying/dead trees to increase crown spacing as site-specific conditions allow (forest health and geography). Ground fuels under remaining trees will then be addressed via the removal of tree ladder fuels through pruning (10' or 1/3 of the original height of tree). Project actions may include: mechanical mastication (grinding of all slash material) on ground not exceeding 30% slope and hand crews using saws, pruners and chippers on slopes greater than 30%.

Match Activities: Landowners will simultaneously be completing defensible space work around their homes following similar prescriptive methods to those above (provided by trained qualified contractors) as well as gathering firewood. Title III Secure Rural School funding for county right-of-way work activities will take place in parallel with this project's activities. Various educational components will also be implemented and carried out by multiple collaborators (complete details in box 9) including landowner-to-neighbor outreach and educational meetings.

Landscape Impacts (1700 characters including spaces)

8 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. The USFS has implemented the following fuels reduction projects within this area, each encompassing approximately 1000 acres; Golden Pond, West Gold, Tumbledown, South Grouse and Scattered Old House. The USFS also completed the Gold Crown Fuels Reduction Project in 2018 (470 acres) on the Southeast side of Gold Hill, as well as an ongoing roadside salvage and brushing project in order to reduce hazardous fuels in the area. The Sagle South Phase III project will tie into these projects at various points across the landscape via similar prescriptive treatments/activities. This project will also protect several additional housing developments that are being developed within Sagle. This project will benefit these new residences by reducing fuels along the main access road (ingress/egress) and potentially within subdivisions.

This project complements work completed in Phase 1 and will help treat additional work not completed in Phase II of the Sagle South Fuel Breaks. Additionally, many priority areas were not able to be funded during this project and additional funding will allow for additional work to be completed, further reducing the fuel loading and threat of wildfire within these communities.

	Project Collaboration (1700 characters including spaces)
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Idaho Dept of Lands (\$270k match) - in the form of consolidated payments associated with Forestry and Fire Assistance in support of private landowners. IDL will also provide technical assistance. - BonFire (county WUI committee) (non-grant funded match) - this committee will provide planning/prioritization guidance for HFT work on private lands, meeting facilitation, landowner education, and technical expertise. - Landowners (\$10,000 match) - completion of defensible space work around homes, firewood collection, participation in meetings, and neighbor education. - Bonner County Program Manager - coordinate and prioritize fuels reduction work, manage/inform contractors on landowner property lines and project layout, develop prescriptions for treatments, track projects, make contact with landowners, inspect project work, manage invoices for payments and track expenditures. - USFS (leverage)- Outreach efforts and technical advisor or federal projects in the area and ties to complimentary work.

	Project Timeline (1700 characters including spaces)
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fall '23 - Program Manager will notify 5 pre-identified, interested landowners of available funding, conduct 1 public meeting (match funds). -Winter '23 - Complete 5 landowner agreements; develop prescriptions and initiate fuels reduction work on 30 acres as weather permits. -Spring to Fall '24 - Complete unfinished winter work on initial 30 acres; notify 5 more pre-identified landowners and complete landowner agreements for winter work. -Winter '24 - Develop prescription and initiate work on 30 more acres as weather permits. Conduct 1 public meeting (match funds). Spring to Fall '25 - Complete unfinished winter work; notify 5 more pre-identified landowners and complete landowner agreements for winter work. Winter 25' - Develop prescriptions and initiate work on 30 acres as weather permits. Conduct 1 public meeting (match funds). Spring to Summer '26 - Complete unfinished winter work; notify 5 more pre-identified landowners and complete landowner agreements; develop prescriptions and initiate/complete work on on approximately 15 acres Fall '26 - Complete any unfinished work, complete final project inspection, finish reporting and enter into monitoring phase.

	Project Sustainability (1700 characters including spaces)
11	<p>Environmental Factors: The vegetation consists of dry and moderately moist site brush and tree species such as ponderosa pine, larch, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Regrowth after treatment will vary but will require continued maintenance every 5 years through removal, mastication, grazing or burning.</p> <p>Commitment: Private property owners who participate in the Bonfire program sign a contract obligating them to maintain the work for a period of 10 years or until the property changes hands.</p> <p>Education: Maintenance education outreach will be given to landowners prior to sign up/landowner agreement execution, and at project completion through the U of I extension office, Bonfire materials and Bonner County Noxious Weeds Program.</p> <p>Monitoring: Idaho Department of lands is monitoring compliance through a sampling of past project and current endeavors. Compliance will continue to be monitored by Bonner County and the Idaho Department of Lands and if problems arise, landowners will be reminded by the county of the obligations through written or verbal communication.</p>