

WESTERN COMPETITIVE, FIRE MANAGERS, AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Idaho's had its share of fire this year, - 1,451 fires have torched 742,050 acres as of today - leading many folks to call for an increase in the pace and scale of fire fuels management. There's a USFS grant program to do just that. Although a number of Idaho conservation districts have been involved in fuels management projects for some time, the Conservation Commission urges all eligible districts to consider applying. Fuels management is a critically important way to advance Conservation the Idaho Way.



The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) announced this week that pre-proposals are due December 20th in their Coeur d'Alene office for upcoming US Forest Service Western Competitive, Western Fire Managers, and Community Protection Program (CPP) grants.

Conservation districts are eligible primary applicants for Western Competitive grants only, however they can partner with counties (which would be the lead agencies) on Western Fire Managers and CPP grant programs, as well. Collaborative projects are highly encouraged.

Western Competitive Grant pre-proposals should develop solutions to issues identified in Idaho's Forest Action Plan (FAP). Specific areas of emphasis for the 2015 pre-proposals include education, stewardship, and biomass utilization.

Projects for all grant programs must be completed in 1-3 years and must accomplish goals and strategies stated in Idaho's

Forest Action Plan within the project's priority landscape area. The Idaho Forest Action Plan is available at <http://www.forestationplans.org/states/idaho>.

Work on federal land, research and construction activities are not eligible for grant funding. *(Construction includes new or improved structures, roads, bridges and culverts, even if in connection to a thinning or restoration project. If these activities are part of the overall project, they can be used as project match.)*

Western Fire Managers/CPP Grants exclude individual homeowner defensible space, maintenance on previous federally funded fuels projects, preparedness and suppression capacity building (e.g. purchase of fire department equipment), small business start-up funding, and GIS/database development.

The IDL encourages project projects costing approximately \$240,000 each.

When awarded, payments will be made on a reimbursement basis. Indirect and associated project costs can be included.

A minimum of four pre-proposals will be selected by IDL for full development to be submitted to the USFS in mid-June of 2014. IDL will select projects from the pre-proposals and will assist applicants to flesh-out competitive proposals.

States will be notified which projects are selected by the USFS for funding in late-November 2014. Projects will begin in the summer or fall of 2015.

For more information, contact:

Western Competitive Grant: Mary Fritz mfritz@idl.idaho.gov or phone 208-666-8667.

Western Fire Managers or Community Protection Program Grants: Craig Glazier cglazier@fs.fed.us or phone 208-666-8646.

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Conservation the Idaho Way: Sowing Seeds of Stewardship