

2010 Community Assistance National Fire Plan Grants Briefing Paper

The Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group, National Fire Plan Working Team (PNWCG NFPWT) will employ a competitive process for evaluating and ranking Community Assistance grants for federal fiscal year 2010 that is very similar to last year's process. To efficiently utilize funding and to continue to recognize community efforts in developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), a locally driven grant process will occur in Oregon and Washington. Proposals will be submitted by CWPP groups to NW_Fire_Plan_Grants@or.blm.gov. Oregon Department of Forestry or Washington Department of Natural Resources will coordinate state level reviews and make recommendations to the PNWCG NFPWT.

Step 1. Local CWPP Group Coordinates and Submits Proposals

Local CWPP groups may collaboratively develop hazardous fuels treatment projects on non-federal lands and/or fuels utilization and marketing proposals identified as high priority in CWPPs. Applications will be available at: www.nwfireplan.gov and must be submitted, along with a map no larger than 2Mb, to NW_Fire_Plan_Grants@or.blm.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6th, 2009.

Successful applications will meet the following criteria:

- Project is identified in a CWPP completed by February 6, 2009
- Adjacent to a federal land fuels reduction project planned within the next three years or completed within three years of the planned project start date
- In a high-risk area identified in the statewide wildland urban interface risk assessment*
- The federal share of the project budget is a maximum of \$200,000
- Have collaborative match of at least 50 percent of the total project budget (may include in-kind)
- Include a map clearly identifying the project area on non-federal lands and the adjacent federal project or projects (map must be smaller than 2 Mb)
- Marketing and utilization proposals must not be contingent upon a separate 2010 grant-funded fuels reduction project

The CWPP group will also recommend which organization involved in the group, such as a non-profit group, county organization, or state organization, would be the most appropriate to submit the project proposal and become the grant recipient. Communities adjacent to National Park Service and Tribal lands are particularly encouraged to develop project proposals.

* For Oregon communities, visit: http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/fire.shtml#Fire_Prevention
For Washington communities, visit: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/fire/pdf/communitiesatrisk.pdf>

No more than two proposals per county may be submitted. If two proposals are submitted, they must be prioritized by the county-level CWPP group.

Step 2. Statewide Review and Prioritization

Oregon Department of Forestry or Washington Department of Natural Resources will coordinate state-level reviews and make recommendations to the PNWCG NFPWT. The state forestry organizations will each submit a prioritized proposal list of approximately 10 projects to the PNWCG NFPWT by 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2009.

Review at the statewide level will also consider:

- Statewide wildland-urban-interface risk and national forest-health assessments
- Project integration with other hazardous fuels projects and programs
- Communities that have been awarded a National Fire Plan grant in the last two fiscal years, both from the Western States Fire Managers grant process and from this Wildland-Urban Interface Community Assistance grant program may be prioritized lower than communities with less recent awards
- Project's enhancement of community capacity (e.g., educate on FireWise principles, provide jobs/job training, assisting underserved communities)

Step 3. PNWCG review and decision

PNWCG NFPWT will review each prioritized state's proposal list and make its 2010 grant program recommendation to the PNWCG Steering Committee for grant selection by March 18, 2009.

Review at the geographic level will also consider:

- Geographical distribution of funding and the appropriate funding agency
- Project integration with other hazardous fuels projects and programs
- Biomass utilization
- Project's enhancement of community capacity (e.g., educate on FireWise principles, provide jobs/job training, assisting underserved communities)

Applicants will be notified by the PNWCG NFPWT regarding their application by March 31, 2009.