

Department of Land Conservation and Development

2015 - 2017 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

Application Date: September 24, 2015
Applicant: Wallowa County
Address: 101 South River Street
City: Enterprise, OR
Zip: 97828
Phone: 541-426-4543 Extension #169
Contact Name and Title: Harold Black, Planning Director
Contact email Address: plandir@co.wallowa.or.us
Grant request amount: \$30,000.00
Local Contribution: \$8,000.00

Project Summary:

Project updates Community Wildfire Protection Plan; adopts CWPP into Hazard Mitigation Plan; Adopts Hazard Mitigation Plan into Comprehensive Plan; Creates Wildfire Hazard Overlay Zone, amending zoning map; establishes fire siting and safety standards for structures within WHO Zone, amending Zoning Ordinance.

Project Description and Work Program:

A. Goals and Objectives.

This is a one-biennium, stand-alone project.

Wallowa, Baker, Union and Grant counties have suffered disastrous wildfires this summer of 2015, resulting in the loss of multiple residences and outbuildings. In Wallowa County the Grizzly Bear Complex Fire burned over 100,000 acres, destroyed multiple residences and structures, and almost destroyed the city of Troy, Oregon.

While establishment of dwellings and structures in forest zones in Wallowa County requires implementation of wildfire siting and safety standards pursuant to ORS 215.730, no such requirements exist for establishment of structures in other zones despite inclusion

in mapped, Wildfire/Urban Interface high-risk areas. Wallowa County desires to amend the zoning code to require implementation of ORS 215.730 requirements for fire siting and safety standards in all mapped, high-risk areas, regardless of underlying zone. To accomplish this, the county has mapped out the following strategy:

B. Products and Outcomes.

- a) Update the county’s existing Community Wildfire Protection Plan including an additional mitigation measure – the implementation of fire siting and safety standards in all areas within the boundaries of the high-risk wildland/urban interface maps as mapped by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Emergency Management;
- b) Create a Wildfire Hazard Overlay Zone to match, at a minimum, the high-risk maps;
- c) Create zoning regulations including ORS 215.730 standards for fire siting and safety to be applicable to all structures in the Wildfire Hazard Overlay Zone;
- d) Adopt the CWPP into the Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- e) Adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Goal 7 element of the comprehensive plan;
- f) Include text and policies with the Goal 7 element to enable implantation of items (b) and (c) above;
- g) Amend the county’s zoning map to include the Wildfire Hazard Overlay Zone; and,
- h) Amend the county’s zoning code to include the regulations in item (c) above.

The outcome of this project will be consistent with FEMA requirements and guidelines for a current Community Wildfire Protection Plan and current Wildfire element in the Hazard Mitigation Plan; Oregon Emergency Management requirements and guidelines for the same; and, Comprehensive Plan requirements for a current Goal 7 element. Livability of developed areas at high-risk for wildfire will be enhanced; risk of property damage will be decreased; and, in the event of a wildfire, the safety of residents and emergency management personnel will be significantly increased.

C. Work Program, Timeline and Payment.

Task 1: Initial Actions - to be completed by April, 2016:

Activities:

- A. Hire Contractor
- B. Form Technical Advisory Committee/Citizen Advisory Committee
- C. Hold kick-off meeting to start project

Products: Report including contractor and contact information; contact information for TAC members and minutes of kick-off meeting.

Grant funding: No

Task 2: Draft Products – to be completed by August, 2016;

Activities:

- A. Create Updated CWPP;
- B. Create Wildfire Hazard Overlay Zone consistent with wildland/urban interface high-risk maps;
- C. Create new zoning regulations for WHO Zone including discretion by Planning Commission to adjust siting standards to account for any inability to implement minimums in one or more categories;
- D. Create comprehensive plan text and policies for integration of CWPP into Hazard Mitigation Plan, and, entire HMP into Goal 7 element of the comprehensive plan;
- E. Create new zoning map as necessary to include WHO zone;

Products: Report to include Task 2 products to DLCD with request for Interim Payment of no more than \$20,000 no later than October, 2016;

Grant Funding: Payment #1 of \$20,000 upon submittal of all products listed in Tasks 1 and 2.

Task 3: Refinement – to be completed no later than May 30, 2017;

Activities:

- A. Hold Public Workshop with TAC/CAC, Planning Commission and County Court no later than September, 2016,
- B. Adjust materials per results of public workshop – to be completed no later than January, 2017;
- C. Prepare final products and findings necessary for adoption proceedings – to be completed no later than February, 2017;

Products: Report to include minutes of workshop; adoption ready products and findings necessary for adoption.

Grant Funding: Final Payment of \$10,000 upon submittal of all Task 3 Products.

Task 4: Adoption – to be completed no later than May 30, 2017;

Activities:

- A. Provide Notice of proposed amendments to DLCD, affected property owners and agencies and hold hearings – to be completed by April, 2017;
- B. Provide notice of adoption to DLCD and submit request for final payment no later than May 30, 2017.

Products: Notice of Proposed Amendment and Adoption package with Notice and adopted products, Ordinance(s) and minutes of meetings.

Grant Funding: No

D. Evaluation Criteria:

This project results in an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan, an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, both including new hazards data and new mitigation measures, and incorporates these into the comprehensive plan with a new overlay zone and zoning regulations.

E. Project Partners:

DLCD will provide \$30,000 in funding, technical assistance and grant management services; Oregon Department of Forestry will provide \$5,000 in funding through the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy Program, technical assistance and TAC membership; Oregon Emergency Management, FEMA and the US Forest Service will provide technical assistance; OEM and USFS will be TAC members; Wallowa County will be the grant recipient and manager; Rural and municipal fire districts in Wallowa County will be TAC members.

F. Advisory Committees:

A Technical Advisory Committee will be the backbone of citizen involvement with the Planning Commission serving as the formal Citizens Advisory Committee. TAC invitees will be ODF, DLCD, USFS, Rural and Municipal Fire Districts/Agencies. County OEM staff will be invited along with the Wallowa County Sheriff's Department.

G. Cost sharing and local contribution:

ODF will provide \$5,000 in hard match for this project; Wallowa County expects to provide soft match as staff time and services, materials and facilities, around \$3,000.

A consultant will be retained for this project.

Local Official Support:

A letter of support from the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners is included with this application.