



RESOLUTION No. 22-521

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NEVADA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE USDA FY22 COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT (CWDG) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$225,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO EXECUTE ALL ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services is responsible for preparing and mitigating wildfire hazards in the County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada has a severe and present danger of wildfire presenting a threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a key planning tool to help prioritize wildfire mitigation action; and

WHEREAS, Community Wildfire Protection Plans should be updated periodically to reflect work that has been completed, and guide strategy for future work; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan was last updated in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the USDA Fiscal Year 2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Notice of Funding Opportunity specifically funds the updating of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan; and

WHEREAS, if awarded acceptance of this grant will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval per County Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Nevada County does hereby authorize the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to submit a grant application to the USDA FY22 Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Notice of Funding Opportunity in the total amount of \$225,000 with a required 10% match (\$25,000), and authorizes the Director of Office Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant application on behalf of the County of Nevada.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 27th day of September, 2022, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Susan K. Hoek and Hardy Bullock.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 


Susan K. Hoek, Chair

9/27/2022 cc: OES*
AC*

FY 2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Roofing Ordinance (Y/N): | |
| Keyword: | |
| Dollar Amount Requested: | \$ 0.00 |
| Matching Share: | \$ 0.00 |

This document is for proposal development only. Applicants must contact their state or federal contact to get a unique link to enter this information into the online submission system at CWDG.Forestrygrants.org.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Proposal Cooperator (Community Contact) | |
| | Cooperator Organization: | |
| | Contact Person: | |
| | Address: | |
| | City/State/Zip Code: | |
| | Phone (Work/Cell): | |
| | Email: | |
| 1 | Applicant Information (Implementer of Project) | |
| | Applicant: | |
| | Contact Person: | |
| | Address: | |
| | City/Zip Code: | |
| | Phone (Work/Cell): | |
| | Email: | |
| | Fax: | |
| | Federal Tax ID\DUNS\UEI #: | |

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2 | Project Information | |
| | Name of Project: | |
| | Community Name(s): | |
| | County(ies): | |
| | Congressional District: | |
| | GIS Coordinates (choose one) | |
| | Reference Point Name: | |
| | Lat/Long: | |
| | Description: | |
| | | |
| | Area Name: | |
| | Boundary Lat/Longs: | |
| Description: | | |

Brief Project Overview and Purpose (0 points):

Provide a brief overview and purpose statement for the project, addressing the overall intent of this program to assist communities with planning and mitigating their risk against wildfire.

| | |
|---|--|
| 3 | Brief Project Overview and Purpose (3000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

Grant Component (0 points)

Respond with the grant component type that applies to the application: (please select only one per application)

- 1.) Creating or Updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is more than five (5) years old.
- 2.) Project described in a CWPP that is less than ten (10) years old.

| | |
|---|--|
| 4 | Grant Component Type (3000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

Is your community considered at-risk? (0 points)

Please respond yes or no if the community is considered "at-risk" (please refer to the definition within the NOFO). Provide a link to the verification source.

| | At-Risk Community (3000 characters including spaces) |
|---|---|
| 5 | |

Roofing Code/Ordinance (0 points)

Do you currently have, or will you adopt prior to grant award, an ordinance or regulation that requires that roofs for new building construction, as well as the reroofing or replacement of a roof on existing buildings, adheres to standards that are similar to, or more stringent than, the roof construction standards established by the National Fire Protection Association or applicable model building code established by the International Code Council (this is not a requirement for eligibility but determines source of funds).

| | Roofing Code/Ordinance (3000 characters including spaces) |
|---|--|
| 6 | |

Grant Waiver (0 points)

Are you planning on applying for a grant match waiver based on the project serving an underserved community? Please respond yes or no.

| | |
|---|--|
| 7 | Grant Waiver (1000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

Project Description (10 points)

Provide a comprehensive but succinct overview of the proposed project that includes basic details of who is doing what, where, and why this is important. Explain how the project is described in a CWPP (if applicable). Provide linkages to the tenets of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the State Forest Action Plan. Specify if benefits to traditionally underserved or marginalized audiences are a component of the work.

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 | Project Description (9000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

| Applicant Budget | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Grant Funds Requested | Match | | Total Project Cost |
| | | | Applicant | Non-Federal Contributors | |
| 9 | Personnel/Labor: | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| | Fringe Benefits: | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| | Travel: | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| | Equipment: | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| | Supplies: | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| | Contractual: | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| | Other: | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| | Indirect Costs: | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| | TOTAL: | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |

Project Budget Explanation (10 points)

Provide any additional remarks needed to clarify your budget request. Clearly explain how the budget will be spent by line item, sources of match, and how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project.

| Project Budget Explanation (5000 characters including spaces) | |
|--|--|
| 10 | |

Measurable Outcomes Table

Use this table as a reference to complete the 'Accomplishment' section.

| | Number of Activities | Cost |
|---|----------------------|---------|
| | Planned | Planned |
| <u>CWPP</u> | | |
| Development of New CWPPs | | |
| Updates of CWPPs | | |
| <u>Planning</u> | | |
| Training in mitigation practices | | |
| Tabletop or functional exercises, testing or evaluating plan effectiveness | | |
| Planning development, including building codes, zoning ordinances, land use planning, public health and safety, mitigation, prescribed fire and smoke ready efforts | | |
| Creating local/regional mitigation partnership or collaborative groups | | |
| <u>Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach</u> | | |
| Firewise or similar programs outreach to communities and property owners | | |
| Fire education presentations | | |
| Property inspections and/or assessments | | |
| Training to conduct property inspections and/or assessments | | |
| Implementation of WUI Structure/Parcel/Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology (HMM) for community hazard reduction. | | |
| <u>Reduce Hazardous Fuels / Restore Fire-adapted Ecosystems</u> | | |
| Hazardous Fuels Reduction or Mitigation Projects, including maintenance | | |
| Total # of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels (direct grant only) | | |
| Monitoring components of projects for effectiveness | | |
| Prescribed fire training, including smoke management | | |
| Design and installation of dry hydrants and cisterns | | |
| Purchase and maintenance of equipment | | |

Accomplishments (10 points)

Clearly define how the project will be accomplished, including at least one of the quantitative accomplishment measures provided in the measurable outcomes table. Identify measurable outcomes and timelines (are the proposed activities clear and achievable, goals defined, outcomes measurable, # of acres treated, # of education/outreach programs, planning/assessment efforts clearly described, etc.). Describe any applicable less quantifiable return on investments.

| Accomplishments (8000 characters including spaces) | |
|---|--|
| 11 | |

Collaboration(10 points)

- 1.) Identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and add value towards planning and carrying out the project.
- 2.) Describe what these partners and collaborators contribute.
- 3.) Demonstrate residual positive benefits, as a result of collaboration, related to capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach, among others.

Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of the partners may be more important than the number of partners involved.

| | |
|----|---|
| 12 | Collaboration (8000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

Landscape Impacts (10 points)

Clearly define the scale of the project, including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually. Describe overall landscape that the project influences.

| | |
|----|---|
| 13 | Landscape Impacts (8000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

Project Sustainability (10 points)

Clearly define how, or if, the project will sustain itself after the grant period is over. Describe any plans or steps that will be taken to continue the project benefits beyond the life of the grant.

| | |
|----|--|
| 14 | Project Sustainability (8000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

Does this project benefit a low-income community? (10 points)

Does this project benefit a low-income community as defined in the NOFO?

Please respond yes or no. Provide a link to the verification source.

| | |
|----|--|
| 15 | Low-Income Community (3000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

Has this community been impacted by a severe disaster? (10 points)
Has this community been impacted by a severe disaster within the previous 10 years?
Please respond yes or no. Provide a link to the verification source.

| | |
|----|--|
| 16 | Severe Disaster Impact (3000 characters including spaces) |
| | |

Does the project location have wildfire hazard potential? (20 points)
Please respond yes or no, if this project is located within an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a state, regional, tribal, territorial or national wildfire hazard potential assessment? Provide a link to the verification source.

| | |
|----|---|
| 17 | Wildfire Hazard Potential (3000 characters including spaces) |
| | |



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry
Fiscal Year 2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant
Notice of Funding Opportunity Instructions
South**

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Overview and Submission Dates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022

- Applications are being requested for the FY2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)
- This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is for projects that will be carried out within the footprint of the **Southern States** (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, and for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). For Tribes and other regions of the United States, please see appropriate NOFO for specific instructions.
- Search for the following grant Opportunity Number in **grants.gov** and follow the included instructions:

USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-SGSF

- **SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS BY 11:59 pm, EASTERN TIME ZONE, OCTOBER 7, 2022**

Purpose of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant

The purpose of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant is to assist at-risk local communities and Indian Tribes with planning for and mitigating against the risk created by wildfire. This program is authorized in Public Law 117-58, "An Act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes," commonly referred to as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Specifically, the CWDG is provided for in Title VIII, Section 40803 of that Act. There are two primary project types for which the grant



provides funding: The development and revising of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), and the implementation of projects described in a CWPP that is less than ten years old. The Act prioritizes at-risk communities that are in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and/or have been impacted by a severe disaster. More details on these three priorities can be found in this NOFO.

The CWDG helps communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) implement the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy):

- **Restore and Maintain Landscapes:** Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances, in accordance with management objectives.
- **Create Fire Adapted Communities:** Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.
- **Improve Wildfire Response:** All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

Key Points

- **Who Can Apply:** Entities eligible to apply for funding under the CWDG include:
 - a. Units of local governments representing communities located in an area with a risk of wildfires,
 - b. Indian Tribes (please apply through either the Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Corporations specific notice or the applicable regional notice),
 - c. Non-profit organizations including homeowner associations that assist such communities,
 - d. State forestry agencies (including U.S. territories and interests), and
 - e. Alaska Native Corporations (please apply through either the Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Corporations specific notice or the applicable regional notice).

For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

- **Eligible Lands:** Eligible applicants may apply for grant funding for a project proposal to be conducted on lands with the following ownership types, provided the project proposal directly reduces wildfire risk to a community:
 - a. Private lands,
 - b. Local governments,
 - c. Homeowner associations,
 - d. State government, and
 - e. Tribal/Alaska native corporation (includes Trust lands).

Lands administered by the federal government are not eligible for this funding opportunity with the exception of lands held in trust for Native American Tribes and individuals (hereinafter Trust lands).

- **State Forest Action Plans and the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:** Projects should further the priorities, e.g., goal, strategy, and/or priority landscape, in the most recent State Forest Action Plans as well as the relevant regional cohesive wildland fire management strategy document.
- **Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government:** We prioritize applications that show a clear benefit to underserved people and the communities where they reside or the forest areas that they value. Where this is the case, this should be described in the "Project Narrative Form." Underserved communities are also eligible to request a waiver of match requirements.
- **Minimum and Maximum Funding Levels:**
 - a. There is no *minimum* Federal funding limit for projects under CWDG.



- b. The *maximum* amount of Federal funding awarded to any one community or Tribe via this competitive process is:
- \$250,000 for the creation or updating of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and
 - \$10 million for a project described within a Community Wildfire Protection Plan less than 10 years old.
- c. For planning purposes, the Federal funding allocated through the CWDG competitive process is expected to be approximately \$160 million annually for the next five years.
- **Required Matching Funds:** The CWDG program has differing levels of match dependent upon the proposal for which is being applied. For proposals to develop or update a CWPP, the required match is 10%. For proposals to implement projects described within a CWPP, the required match is 25%. Matching funds must be derived entirely from non-Federal sources (unless expressly authorized in law by the other federal program). The match must be met by eligible and allowable costs and is subject to match provisions in grant regulations (Code of Federal Regulations Title 2 Part 200.306 and Subpart E for Cost Principles). Match must meet all the same requirements as the Federal share and be documented sufficiently to support financial tracking and accountability. **Communities meeting the definition of underserved may request a waiver of match;** no other waiver requests are allowable under this program.
 - **Lead Agency or Organization:** All applications must identify the lead agency or organization that will have primary responsibility for coordinating project work and reporting. The lead agency may pass funds to other partners performing work as relevant.
 - **Grant Timeframes:** Projects must be completed within five (5) years.
 - **For Proposals including multiple communities:** For separate projects in separate communities, a single application (424, 424A) within grants.gov may be submitted, however, a separate narrative form and included budget will need to be filled out for each community for purposes of determining eligibility, prioritization, and ranking. For an application consisting of a single project that spans multiple communities, the project can be applied for and described within the same application and narrative form.
 - **Scoring and Ranking of applications:** Applications will be scored by members of a regional review panel. Individual reviewer scores will be normalized. All regionally-scored applications will be compiled in a single nationally-ranked list, which will be used to distribute funding.
 - **Reporting:** Funded CWDG projects will be required to provide financial reports to the grant's administrator on a quarterly basis, and project performance reports on an annual basis. The annual performance report shall include a spatial data component. This requires both Forest Service grant monitors and CWDG grant recipients to coordinate in entering project information.
 - **Build America/Buy America:** The Build America, Buy America Act, enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, established a domestic content procurement preference for all Federal financial assistance obligated for infrastructure projects after May 14, 2022. The Buy America preference requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in infrastructure projects are produced in the United States. If a recipient proposes a waiver of the Buy America preference, they must identify the items for which a waiver will be sought in the application. Applicants should not proceed with the expectation that waivers will be granted.
 - **Floodplain Management Criteria:** If applicable and appropriate, a project located in a Special Flood Hazard Area must implement and meet the conditions contained within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS).
 - **Labor Standards:** All laborers and mechanics employed by the applicant, subrecipients, contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work on an award or project in excess of \$2,000 funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by funds made available under this grant program shall be



paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code commonly referred to as the "Davis-Bacon Act" (DBA).

Applicants shall provide written assurance acknowledging the DBA requirements for the award or project and confirming that all laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work on projects in excess of \$2,000 funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through funding under the award are paid or will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code (Davis-Bacon Act).

Recipients of funding will also be required to undergo DBA compliance training and to maintain competency in DBA compliance. The U.S. Department of Labor offers free Prevailing Wage Seminars several times a year that meet this requirement, at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction/seminars/events>.

For additional guidance on how to comply with DBA provisions and clauses, see <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction> and <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>.

Detailed Eligibility and Qualifying Proposal Types

All applicants are highly encouraged to coordinate with the State Forestry Agency (or equivalent) in proposal development. State Forester contact information is available on the [National Association of State Foresters website](#). The Forest Service State & Private Forestry staff are also available to facilitate and assist with this coordination, can provide liaison support for Tribes, and can assist with application submission if needed.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- The following entities are eligible to submit a project proposal for funding:
 - Units of local governments representing communities located in an area with a risk of wildfires,
 - Indian Tribes (please apply through either the Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Corporations specific notice or the applicable regional notice),
 - Non-profit organizations such as homeowner associations that assist such communities,
 - State forestry agencies, and
 - Alaska Native Corporations (please apply through the either Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Corporations specific notice or the applicable regional notice).
- For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for a grant under this program.

For applications submitted by organizations that plan to work with multiple communities, it will be a requirement of the application to name each of the specific communities that the organization plans to assist. Those specified communities will each need to meet the same eligibility requirements as a community that would be applying on their own.

If a non-profit or other organization is contracted with a State forestry agency for Community Wildfire Defense Grants Program related work, they will not be eligible to apply for a grant under the program unless the grant can be separately managed with no conflict of interest concerns.

Location of Projects

An eligible applicant may apply for grant funding for a project proposal to be conducted on lands with the following ownership types provided the project proposal directly reduces wildfire risk to a community.

- Private,



- Local governments,
- Homeowner associations,
- State government, and
- Tribal/Alaska native corporation (includes Trust lands).

Lands administered by the federal government are not eligible for this funding opportunity with the exception of Trust lands.

Project Objectives

A project proposal must advance objectives and priorities identified in a community wildfire protection plan that is not more than 10 years old.

A project proposal must be designed to achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- a. Assist a community with planning to address management of wildfire risk.
- b. Assist a community with mitigation measures or actions to reduce wildfire risk.

Projects to be Given Priority

Applicants will have the responsibility to indicate on the application if they meet any or all of the three priorities. The applicant will also need to provide supporting documentation or a link to such documentation for each priority that is checked. Priority will be given to project proposals that:

- Are located in an area identified as having a high or very high wildfire hazard potential;
- Benefit a low-income community; or
- Are located in a community impacted by a severe disaster within the previous 10 years.

General Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for grant funding, a project proposal must meet the following criteria:

1. Projects must be for a qualifying activity.
2. Meets the cost-share match or waiver requirement.
 - a. The cost-share match can be in the form of a cash or in-kind contribution.
 - b. A cash match cannot utilize other federal funding.
3. The maximum grant amount is:
 - a. \$250,000 to develop or revise/update a CWPP
 - b. \$10,000,000 to carry out projects described in a CWPP
4. Funds cannot be used on lands administered by the federal government with the exception of Trust lands.
5. The grant term is for a total maximum of five (5) years.
6. Communities that request funding for mitigation projects or the development/ update of a CWPP must verify if they currently have in place a code, ordinance, or regulation pertaining to wildfire exposure protection that requires that roofs for new building construction as well as the reroofing or replacement of a roof on existing buildings adheres to standards that are similar to, or more stringent than the roof construction standards established by the National Fire Protection Association or applicable model building code established by the International Code Council. (*Note: It is not a requirement to have a roofing ordinance for grant eligibility.*)
7. Communities that request funding for mitigation projects must:
 - a. meet the definition of an "at-risk community" as defined, and
 - b. be following a CWPP, Tribal hazard mitigation plan, or FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan with a wildfire component that is not older than 10 years, or
 - c. have a CWPP or FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in place by the application deadline, and at the time of obligation of grant funds for mitigation projects, and
 - d. have the project(s) requested for funding described in the CWPP or similar plan.

PROJECT PROPOSAL TYPES

Applications may be submitted to fund the following types of project proposals:



Planning:

Local and Tribal governments are encouraged to conduct planning and exercises to assist their communities with wildfire preparedness, response, and adaptation efforts. One of the fundamental building blocks in creating a fire adapted community is the development, adoption and continuous use of a well-prepared Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). In some cases, a community may choose to utilize a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan or Tribal hazard mitigation plan with a wildfire component that meets the same objectives of a CWPP. A well-prepared CWPP or similar plan should address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness (which includes smoke readiness), structure protection, or a combination of these issues, and will greatly assist a local government body in planning and prioritizing project work.

Specific CWPP development guidance, as well as any more stringent requirements of the relevant state government, may be obtained by contacting your state forestry agency.

In addition to the development of a CWPP or similar plan, local governments should also consider how tools such as zoning, building codes and land use planning may be used to change how and where homes and businesses are constructed and located so that wildfire risk is reduced, and firefighter safety is improved if protective actions are required. In developing any planning tools, and determining risk both now and into the future, a community should consider the most recent climate data available for the planning area involved, as appropriate. In support of the Biden-Harris Administration’s National Initiative to Advance Building Codes, launched in June 2022 by the National Climate Task Force to accelerate adoption of modern building codes to improve resiliency, create good-paying jobs, and lower energy bills, communities who develop and adopt modern NFPA, ICC, or similar building codes will receive access to funding reserved for communities with code requirements for any future CWDG applications.

Finally, communities are encouraged to regularly refer to their CWPPs or similar plans, keep them updated, and conduct tests and exercises to ensure that recommended practices and objectives are being achieved.

| Examples of Planning Projects | |
|---|--|
| Eligible Projects | Ineligible Projects |
| Creation of a CWPP or development of a wildfire section for a hazard mitigation plan. | GIS and database systems unless they support a CWPP, wildfire risk reduction planning or fuels mitigation initiative or project |
| Update of an existing CWPP/hazard mitigation plan (Existing plan must be over five (5) years old.) | Creation and/or update of Forest Stewardship Plans |
| Contract support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances or land use planning. | Economic development projects |
| Direct staff funding support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances or land use planning. | Small business start-up funding |
| Tabletop or functional exercises to test effectiveness of community wildfire | Research and development projects |



| Examples of Planning Projects | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Eligible Projects | Ineligible Projects |
| planning. | |
| Plan and address public health and safety effects of smoke and mitigation from wildfire and projects that use prescribed fire (“Smoke Ready” efforts) | |
| Direct staff support for community wildfire mitigation leadership/coordination | |
| Training in the use of proven effective mitigation practices, such as the Forest Service’s mitigation best practices | |
| Direct staff support to assist in creation of a local or regional mitigation partnership | |

Table 1 - Eligible Planning Projects

Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach:

Local and Tribal governments can provide leadership to result in reduced wildfire risk to their communities by coordinating, developing, and distributing educational programs. These programs and outreach may be delivered in association with states, insurance companies, non-governmental organizations, and other partners. Educational and outreach projects must raise awareness of what is the main cause of wildfires, what the risks are, and what actions they can take to reduce that risk.

Projects should lead to actions such as the use or establishment of one or more fire program elements such as fire safety codes, implementation of Firewise USA© practices, establishing local fire safe councils, and fuels treatments within fire-prone communities.

Projects should be concise and clearly demonstrate deliverables and measures of success of wildfire prevention/mitigation education and outreach activities.

| Wildfire Prevention/Education/Outreach | |
|--|--|
| Eligible | Ineligible |
| Firewise USA© or similar programs outreach to communities and property owners | Printing of paper-based materials without an organized outreach/education program |
| Fire education presentation such as Project Learning Tree | |
| Property inspections and/or assessments | |
| Training to conduct property inspections and/or assessments | |
| Implementation of WUI Structure / Parcel / Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology | |



| | |
|--|--|
| (HMM) for community hazard reduction | |
| Adoption, implementation, enforcement, and training of National Fire Protection Association, International Code Council, or similar codes | |

Table 2 - Eligible Prevention/Education/Outreach Projects

Reduce Hazardous Fuels / Restore Fire-adapted Ecosystems:

Fuel reduction projects and vegetation treatments have been identified as an effective means of mitigating wildfire hazards. Recipients shall facilitate and implement mitigating fuel treatments in, or adjacent to communities to reduce the threat of wildfire to such communities.

Effective fuels mitigation treatments can be implemented across jurisdictional boundaries, on adjoining private lands, or within the respective communities. Communities may consider fuel treatments that extend out from community boundaries by 1.5 miles. Projects of this type include fuel breaks, thinning, pruning, landscape modifications, etc. The overall purpose is to modify or break up the fuels in such a way as to lessen wildfire risk and its threat to the public, provide for firefighter safety, and reduce damage to property. Such treatments may have additional desirable outcomes, such as providing sustainable environmental, social and economic benefits.

Project proposals must consider all elements required to implement treatments on the ground, which includes acquiring the necessary permits and consultations needed to complete plans and assessments, as well as treatment prescriptions and measures of success. Projects should also consider any necessary maintenance treatments especially in those areas of the country where woody vegetation regrows rapidly.

| Examples of Hazardous Fuels Reduction/ Restoration Projects | |
|---|--|
| Eligible | Ineligible |
| Defensible space around homes, businesses, and other structures | Capital improvements including construction/infrastructure (building remodel, bridges, road construction, water development) |
| Development, creation, and/or maintenance of fuel breaks and fire breaks, including shaded fuel breaks | Home hardening, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roof upgrades or replacements • Fire resistant siding • Metal gutters and vents |
| Fuels reduction beyond defensible space adjacent to at-risk communities. | Fire suppression training (unless course is a requirement for prescribed fire qualifications) |
| Removal of standing woody vegetation by cutting, piling and burning. | Fire suppression equipment and apparatus |
| Removal of standing woody vegetation by cutting and chipping. | Drones |
| Removal of standing woody vegetation using a mechanical mulcher or masticator type equipment mounted on mobile | |



| Examples of Hazardous Fuels Reduction/ Restoration Projects | |
|---|-------------------|
| Eligible | Ineligible |
| equipment. | |
| Reduction of hazardous fuels through the application of prescribed fire. | |
| Vegetation management (pruning, mowing, chemical treatment, grazing), including rights-of-ways for roads. | |
| Maintenance of fuels projects. Up to two (2) maintenance treatment allowed per project during the grant term. | |
| Monitoring components of projects for effectiveness (must have established baseline) | |
| Prescribed fire training, including training on smoke management associated with prescribed fires | |
| Design and installation of dry hydrants and cisterns | |
| <p>Purchase of mechanical equipment that meets, or does not exceed the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush/wood chippers that are towable or mountable to a skid steer, compact track loader or tractor with a maximum chipping capacity of no more than 15 inches. • Self-propelled forestry mulchers up to a maximum 200 horsepower. • Forestry mulcher attachments designed for skid steers, compact track loaders, excavators or crawler dozers. • Heavy duty brush mowers that can be utilized for maintaining road rights-of-ways and fire breaks. • Trailers necessary to transport equipment that is determined eligible in this section, including box-type trailers to store and transport prescribed fire equipment. | |
| Purchase of equipment for brush/fuel disposal, such as air curtain burner/trench burner | |



| Examples of Hazardous Fuels Reduction/ Restoration Projects | |
|---|-------------------|
| Eligible | Ineligible |
| <p>Purchase of the following equipment and supplies to support the use of prescribed fire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal protection equipment, including fire shelters and N95 filtering face respirators • Drip torches • Wildland hand tools • Backpack blowers • Chainsaws • Portable wildfire pumps • Wildland hose • Portable folding water tanks • Cache of air filtration units for use by the public | |

Table 3 - Eligible Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Restoration Projects

Cost Share Match Requirements and Waivers

Matching Requirements

Cost-share is required for all applications funded under the CWDG Program. The cost share rates for this program are:

- not less than 10 percent for a grant awarded to develop or revise a CWPP; and
- not less than 25 percent for a grant awarded to carry out projects described in a CWPP that is not more than 10 years old.

This means Federal funding is available for up to 90 percent of eligible costs for developing or revising CWPPs and 75 percent for projects described in a CWPP. The non-Federal cost-share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. Cash and third-party in-kind matches must consist of eligible costs (i.e., same eligibility as the Federal share).

- Cash match is from the applicant’s budget, such as personnel salary, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, and supplies, or cash provided by another party. Source of cash match cannot be derived from another Federal award or grant.
- In-Kind match is a non-cash contribution of value. A non-Federal entity’s in-kind match must meet the following criteria:
 - Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records (See Appendix K for examples);
 - Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award;
 - Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives;
 - Are allowable under subpart E of 2 CFR 200;
 - Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs;



- Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Federal awarding agency; and
- Conform to other provisions of 2 CFR 200, as applicable.

Applicants cannot apply other Federal award funds toward the CWDG non-Federal cost share unless the other Federal statutory authority allows the funds to be used to meet cost-share requirements. Ultimately, the recipient is responsible for ensuring that it contributes the proper cost share to its actual project costs. If actual total project costs exceed the projected total project costs stated in the Federal award, the recipient will not receive any additional Federal funding and will be responsible for contributing additional funds above the required cost match. If actual total project costs are less than the projected total project costs stated in the Federal award, the recipient will be responsible for contributing a cost match calculated as a percentage of those actual project costs.

Cost-Share Waiver

The Forest Service may waive the cost-sharing requirement for a project that serves an underserved community. In considering a waiver for the cost-sharing requirement, please include in your waiver request sufficient supporting documentation to demonstrate that the community meets the threshold of vulnerable with a score 0.75 or above on the CDC Social Vulnerability Index, as compared to the nation, or meets the low-income descriptions we provide. To determine if your project qualifies for this cost-sharing requirement, please use CDC's Social Vulnerability Index for 2018, with tracts compared to the nation.



Scoring Criteria for Community Wildfire Adaptation Grants (100 points total)

Clearly and concisely address each of these criteria in the Project Narrative Form:

1. Project Description (10 points)

The application should clearly define the scope of the project, what the project proposes to accomplish, why it is important, and how it links to the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and relevant State Forest Action Plan.

2. Budget (10 points)

| | Grant | Match | TOTAL |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Funds Requested | Non-Federal Funds | Total Project Cost |
| Personnel/Labor: | | | |
| Fringe Benefits: | | | |
| Travel: | | | |
| Equipment: | | | |
| Supplies: | | | |
| Contractual: | | | |
| Other: | | | |
| Indirect Costs: | | | |
| TOTAL: | | | |

The budget narrative must describe how the grant funds will be spent with specific detail for each grant expenditure. It must describe how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project. A project proposal must also show how the applicant will meet matching requirements or qualify for a waiver.

3. Accomplishments (10 points)

A proposal must clearly define how a project will be accomplished, timelines and milestones, as well as measures and metrics. Examples include:

- a. How the selected objectives will lead to measurable outcomes for community wildfire risk reduction.
- b. How the applicant will measure progress towards those outcomes (such as, acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels, change in fire regime).
- c. The proposed metrics for measuring progress, which must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

4. Collaboration (10 points)

The application should clearly define collaborative elements including support from partners, agencies, landowners, and communities. A project proposal must identify partners that will be actively engaged in carrying out the project and add value to project planning and implementation. Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of a partner may be more than the number of partners.

5. Landscape Impacts (10 points)

The application should clearly define the scale of the project including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually. The overall landscape that the project influences, in addition to the defined project area, should be clearly



described, as well as the land ownerships within the area. Specify areas targeted for planning or mitigation. Clearly describe each proposed activity and include details on where they will be occurring. Include the approximate number of structures that will benefit from the proposed action.

6. Project Sustainability (10 points)

The application should clearly define how or if the project will sustain itself after the grant period is over. Any steps or plans that will be carried out to continue the project benefits beyond the life of the grant should be described.

7. Low Income Community (10 points)

The application should clearly demonstrate and document whether the project benefits a low-income community.

8. Affected by a Severe Disaster (10 points)

The application should clearly demonstrate and document whether the project benefits a community that has been impacted by a severe disaster within the previous ten (10) years, and clearly exhibit how the severe disaster increased wildfire risk and/or hazard, and was of a scale and scope to have had landscape impacts (please see full definition later in this NOFO).

9. Area of Wildfire Hazard Potential (20 points)

The application should clearly demonstrate and document whether the project is located in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a local, state, Tribal, regional, or national wildfire hazard potential assessment.

Criteria Scoring Rubric: This rubric is for the review team members to reference while scoring the applications.

| Criteria Scoring Rubric | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Criteria | High Score | Medium Score | Low Score |
| 1. Project Description | 7-10 points Clearly defined purpose and goals. Paints clear picture of what project is trying to achieve and how it will be accomplished. Links to Cohesive Strategy and/or State Forest Action Plan goals and strategies. Proposal includes the updating, adoption and/or development of current building codes that reduce susceptibility to wildfire exposure. | 3-6 points Project described in general, but misses one or two elements that would clarify goal and intent. Outlines project well but does not clearly address risk or hazard. Mentions Cohesive Strategy or State Forest Action plan only cursory | 0-2 points Weak description of purpose of project or how it will protect community. Unclear on how it will be accomplished. No linkage to Cohesive Strategy or State Forest Action Plan. |
| 2. Budget | 7-10 points | 3-6 points | 0-2 points |



Criteria Scoring Rubric

| Criteria | High Score | Medium Score | Low Score |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | Budget is complete, easy to understand, and budget items are clearly labeled. Narrative provides clear and concise explanation of each budget line item and its function within the project. | Budget items are present and detailed, but one or more budget line items lacks explanation and function within project description. | Major errors in budget calculations. Expenditures and budget line-item functions are unclear. Poorly written. |
| 3. Accomplishments | 7-10 points Compelling, clear and concise description of qualitative and quantitative outcomes. Measures are specific, achievable and clear. | 3-6 points Description of how outcomes will achieve one or more objectives of grant. Outcomes are commensurate with budget | 0-2 points Weak description, or lack of clarity for measures. Outcomes are not commensurate with budget. |
| 4. Collaboration | 7-10 points Demonstrates strong collaboration with, and commitment by, partners. High coordination with other entities. Cross boundary collaboration | 3-6 points Limited to moderate coordination with partners. Demonstrates some, but not strong, commitment by partners. | 0-2 points A simple assertion, or very little or no meaningful collaboration. Little to no coordination with neighboring entities or complementary programs |
| 5. Landscape Impacts | 7-10 points Clearly demonstrates forethought given to project location, orientation and/or scope/magnitude of positive impact on a landscape and/or community beyond the defined project area. | 3-6 points Landscape level activities or community reach are described in general or other nearby projects are listed, but it is not clear how or why the project complements directly at a landscape or community level. | 0-2 points Narrative not clearly written; key descriptions of landscape community level activities, and overall project impact are absent. |
| 6. Project Sustainability | 7-10 points Application well-written and clearly shows that items described have been planned in advance and/or have had past success. Describes who is responsible for maintenance, duration, and if any processes or long-term plans are in place to support the project after grant funding is expended. | 3-6 points Missing key details or specificity of how project will be maintained beyond life of grant, but is otherwise well written, detailed, and descriptive. | 0-2 points Omits multiple details on how project will be sustained, and/or is poorly detailed and unclear. No mention of how project will provide benefit beyond the life of the grant |



| Criteria Scoring Rubric | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Criteria | High Score | Medium Score | Low Score |
| | Proposal includes the updating, adoption and/or development of current building codes that reduce susceptibility to wildfire exposure. | | |
| 7. Low income community | 10 points All, or part of a project area is located in a low-income community as defined. | not applicable | 0 points All of a project is located outside the footprint of a low-income community, as defined, or is not documented |
| 8. Impacted by Severe Disaster | 10 points All, or part of a project area has been impacted by a severe disaster in the past 10 years, as defined, and is documented | not applicable | 0 points None of project area has been impacted by a severe disaster, as defined, or is not properly documented |
| 9. High/Very high wildfire hazard potential | 20 points All, or part of project is located within an area of high or very high wildfire hazard potential, and is properly documented | not applicable | 0 points Project is located outside any area with high or very high wildfire hazard potential, or is not documented properly |

Preparing an Application

Submit all applications for this funding opportunity through [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov). Search for grant Opportunity Number **USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-NEMW**. Only authorized Grants.gov Workspace representatives for the applying entity are eligible to submit applications through Grants.gov. See [Appendix I](#) for Grants.gov instructions.

Prior to preparing an application, carefully read this document to ensure eligibility requirements, purposes, match requirements, and what the review panel will be looking for during scoring and ranking. Applicants should also be familiar with the relevant [State’s Forest Action Plan\(s\)](#) as well as the [Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#). ***It is highly recommended to work with the appropriate state contact (see list in this NOFO) early on in the application process for guidance.***

Complete application packages include the following (complete all forms in your Workspace at Grants.gov):

Required Forms Available in the Grants.gov Application Package:

- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance (OMB Control Number 4040-0004). Note: The Catalog of



Domestic Assistance number is 10.720.

- SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (OMB Control Number 4040-0006)
- Attachments Form (must be included in the application package in order to attach additional forms below)

Documents Submitted using the Attachments Form in Grants.gov (attach in this order):

- Community Wildfire Defense Grant Project Narrative Form (required)
- Screenshot showing an ACTIVE registration in SAM.gov (required)
- DBA written assurance (required for construction)
- Documentation of at-risk community, wildfire hazard potential, low-income, and/or impacted by a severe disaster (required if applicable).
- Maps or photos to accompany the narrative (optional)
- Application worksheet (optional)
- Letters of Support (optional)

Completed application packages are due by 11:59 pm, Eastern Time Zone, October 7th, 2022.



Project Narrative Form Instructions

Clearly and concisely respond to each section in the Project Narrative. For the longer sections, we encourage you to include sub-headings, line spacing, and/or other formatting for ease of reading (rather than fill every line with words). You may format text in MS Word and then copy and paste it into the Form. Some text formatting is available in the PDF form, e.g., bold, underline, and italic. To format text in the Form: Highlight the text, right click, and select "Text Style."

- **Project Title:** Provide a uniquely descriptive title for this project. Use this full title consistently on all submission communications and supplemental documents, including letters of support, until an official application number is assigned by the Eastern Region S&PF.
- **Project Applicant:** Enter the name of the organization applying for Federal funding.
- **Program Contact:** Enter the name and contact information for the project or program, i.e., who would be the lead for implementing the project if funded.
- **Brief Project Overview and Purpose:** Provide a brief purpose statement or synopsis for the project.
- **Grant Component Type:** Check the box that best describes the project for which you are applying. Due to differing requirements for match and funding limits, check only one box per application and do not combine CWPP development proposals with project implementation proposals.
- **At-risk community:** Check either the "yes" or "no" box. This is a fundamental eligibility requirement, so if you check "no" you are not eligible for funding under this opportunity. Please verify with state forestry agency or equivalent prior to applying. Documentation and verification will be required. This may be accomplished by either entering a link to the verification source in the application narrative, or by submitting/uploading documentation as an attachment in grants.gov (such as the optional application worksheet signed by an authorized individual). ***An at-risk community is defined as an area that is comprised of:***
 - Option 1: An interface community as defined in the notice entitled "Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire," issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with title IV of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1009) (66 Fed. Reg. 753, January 4, 2001);***
 - or***
 - Option 2: A group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure and services (i.e., utilities, collectively maintained transportation routes, etc.) at risk from wildfire as recognized by a state, regional, or national wildfire risk assessment, in which herbaceous or woody fuel conditions in and adjacent to the community are conducive to a wildland fire disturbance event which threatens human life or values-at-risk.***
- **Roofing Code/Ordinance:** Check either the "yes" or "no" box. A roofing ordinance is not a requirement for this program but may dictate the available source of funds.
- **GIS Coordinates of Project Area:** Include either a reference point with acreage, or boundary points for the project in latitude and longitude entered in the following format: 39.000, 104.300. A "Reference Point" displays a single marker with name on the map and can be used for indicating a general region without specifying exact boundaries. An "Area" defines a region with a boundary defined by straight lines. At least three points are needed to define an area. For projects such as fuel treatments, provide sufficient points to define the area. For CWPP development, please include a description of the planning area and type (e.g., municipality boundary, fire response district, township, etc.). Coordinate data must be in WGS84 datum.
- **Project Description (10 points):** Provide a comprehensive but succinct overview of the proposed project that includes basic details of who is doing what, where, and why this is important. Provide linkages to the tenets of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the State Forest Action Plan. Specify if benefits to traditionally underserved or marginalized audiences are a component of the



work.

- **Applicant Budget:** Provide dollar figures (rounded to nearest dollar) for each cost proposed for each relevant budget category. This information should match your SF-424A.
 - **Personnel:** Expenses for personnel and staff salary
 - **Fringe Benefits:** Fringe benefits should be based upon actual known costs or established formula. Fringe benefits are for the personnel listed in the above category, and only for the percentage of time devoted to project.
 - **Equipment:** Non-expendable items with a single-item value >\$5,000 to be purchased. Applicants should analyze the cost benefits of purchasing versus leasing equipment, especially high-cost items. Rented or leased equipment costs go in the “Contractual” category.
 - **Supplies:** Expenses for supplies <\$5,000
 - **Contractual:** Expenses for product or services to be paid to a consultant, contractor or lease/rental
 - **Other:** any other eligible costs not captured in the categories above
 - **Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs must be tied to an established rate. Recipients must utilize either their approved overhead rate or the standard de-minimus rate for budget calculations.
- **Project Budget Explanation (10 points):** Provide any additional remarks needed to clarify and justify your budget request. Clearly explain how the budget will be spent by line item, sources of match, and how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project.
- **Measurable Outcomes:** Measurable Outcomes Table: Provide the Planned output amounts, as relevant, for both the number and type of activities, as well as planned costs associated with those activities.
- **Accomplishments (10 points):** Clearly define how the project will be accomplished, including describing the planned activities in the previous table, as well as identifying measurable outcomes and timelines (are the proposed activities clear and achievable, goals defined, outcomes measurable, # of acres treated, # of education/outreach programs, planning/assessment efforts clearly described, etc.)
- **Collaboration (10 points):** Identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and add value towards planning and carrying out the project, and describe what these partners and collaborators contribute. Demonstrate residual positive benefits, as a result of collaboration, related to capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach.
- **Landscape Impact (10 points):** Clearly define the scale of the project, including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually. Describe overall landscape that the project influences.
- **Project Sustainability (10 points):** Clearly define how, or if, the project will sustain itself after the grant period is over. Describe any plans or steps that will be taken to continue the project benefits beyond the life of the grant.
- **Low Income Community (10 points):** Check either the “yes” or “no” box. This is a priority for funding, so if you check “no” you are still eligible for funding but will not receive as many points. Please verify with the appropriate state contact prior to applying. Documentation and verification will be required. For purposes of this program, a low-income community is defined as a community where the relevant counties (i.e., the counties in which the community is located) has a median household income of less than 80% of the median household income of the relevant state(s). Documentation may be accomplished by either entering a link to the verification source in the application narrative, or by submitting/uploading documentation as an attachment in grants.gov.
- **Impacted by a severe disaster (10 points):** Check either the “yes” or “no” box if located in a community



impacted by a severe disaster within the previous 10 years. This is a priority for funding, so if you check “no” you are still eligible for funding but will not receive as many points. Please verify with the appropriate state contact prior to applying. Documentation and verification will be required. This may be accomplished by either entering a link to the verification source in the application narrative, or by submitting/uploading documentation as an attachment in grants.gov. ***Impacted by a severe disaster means any event declared, designated, or recognized by a government authority as having caused damage, loss, or destruction to an extent and scale that an unusual or abnormal increase in wildfire risk or hazard potential to a community has occurred. Examples may include Federal, State, Tribal, or county disaster declarations or declared emergencies, events declared by the USDA Farm Services Agency, events declared as a Presidential declared disaster, communities impacted by a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant, or widespread insect and disease mortality.***

- **High or Very High Wildfire Hazard Potential (20 points):** Check either the “yes” or “no” box. This is a priority for funding, so if you check “no” you are still eligible for funding but will not receive as many points. Please verify with the appropriate state contact prior to applying. Documentation and verification will be required. This may be accomplished by either entering a link to the verification source in the application narrative, or by submitting/uploading documentation as an attachment in grants.gov. ***High or very high wildfire hazard potential means the project is located within an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a local, state, Tribal, regional, or national wildfire hazard potential assessment.***

Project Evaluation and Selection

The competitive process is intended to support projects that will make significant contributions to reducing wildfire risk to communities, and advance priorities identified in a State Forest Action Plan and the Cohesive Strategy.

A regional CWDG review panel will be responsible for reviewing/scoring all CWDG grants using the established scoring criteria and process. Panel members will collaboratively review, evaluate, and prioritize project applications for each application assigned to them. Scoring comments will be made public once the scoring process has closed.

Once all submitted grant applications have been reviewed and scored by each regional competitive grant committee and the Tribal grant committee, they will be normalized.

The results will then be provided to the USDA Forest Service Washington Office where they will be combined into one nationally ranked list. The number of projects selected on that list will be determined by available funding. Projects not awarded funding will not automatically be considered for funding the following year; they will be required to submit a new application under the appropriate opportunity number.

Contacts for Further Information

Applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to the relevant State Forester and Forest Service Cooperative Fire Specialist during application development to ensure the project aligns with program purpose and eligibility and receive input to strengthen your application.

US Forest Service FAM Washington Office Program Contacts for CWDG:

- Sheila Walker, 360-956-2298, Sheila.Walker2@usda.gov
- Brad Simpkins, 603-312-8326, brad.simpkins@usda.gov
- Tim Melchert, 208-387-5887, timothy.melchert@usda.gov



Contacts by State and Territory:

Alabama: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Arkansas: Robert Murphy; robert.d.murphy@agriculture.arkansas.gov; 870-723-8110

Florida: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Georgia: Anthony English; aenglish@gfc.state.ga.us; 478-832-9298

Kentucky: Bridget Abernathy; bridget.abernathy@ky.gov, 502-782-7176

Louisiana: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Mississippi: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

North Carolina: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Oklahoma: Andy James; andy.james@ag.ok.gov, 405-823-6742

South Carolina: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Tennessee: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Texas: Bruce Woods; bwoods@tfs.tamu.edu, 979-458-7362

Virginia: John Miller; john.miller@dof.virginia.gov, 434-962-3484

Puerto Rico: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

U.S. Virgin Islands: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831



Appendix I. Instructions for Submitting Applications through Grants.gov

Submit all applications for this funding opportunity through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Search for grant Opportunity Number **USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-SGSF**. Applicants submit your application to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 pm, Eastern Time Zone, **October 7, 2022**. The following section provides guidance on how to submit applications through Grants.gov.

Please read the following instructions carefully and completely. Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and by email at support@grants.gov.

1. How to Register to Apply through Grants.gov

Organizations must have an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov), which will generate a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Applicants must also have a Grants.gov account to apply for grants. Creating a Grants.gov account can be completed online in minutes, but a **SAM registration may take several weeks or more to complete**. Therefore, ensure you apply for your SAM registration promptly.

Complete Grants.gov organization registrations instructions can be found here:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>

- a. Register with SAM: All organizations must register with the System for Award Management; registration must be renewed annually. This registration will generate a UEI.
- b. Register with Grants.gov.
- c. Add a profile to a Grants.gov account: A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., an applicant) or an individual applicant. If you work for or consult with multiple organizations and have a profile for each, you may log into one Grants.gov account to access all your grant applications.
- d. EBiz point of contact authorized profile roles: After you register with Grants.gov and create an organization applicant profile, the organization applicant's request for Grants.gov roles and access is sent to the EBiz point of contact. The EBiz point of contact will then log into Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the authorized organization representative role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization.
- e. Track role status.

Electronic Signature: When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization applicant with the AOR role that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize people who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role.

2. How to Submit an Application via Grants.gov

Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each funding opportunity announcement, you can create individual instances of a workspace. **Note: Grants.gov applicants are required to use Workspace to apply online. Package forms must be completed in or downloaded from Workspace.**

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov using Workspace. For access to complete instructions and training videos, refer to the [Grants.gov "Get Started on Your Workspace Application" web page](#).



- a. **Create a Workspace:** Log in to your Grants.gov account first. Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- b. **Complete a Workspace:** Add participants to the Workspace to work on the application together, complete the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submission. The Workspace progress bar will display the state of your application process as you apply. For page-specific help: click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page.

Mandatory Fields in Forms: In the forms, fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color are mandatory and must be completed to successfully submit your application.

Complete SF-424 Fields First: The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name and address. Once the SF-424 is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.

Note: If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms, you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device then accessed through Adobe Reader. Visit the [Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov](#) to download the appropriate version of the software.

- c. **Submit a Workspace:** Submit your application through Workspace by clicking the *Sign and Submit* button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.
- d. **Track a Workspace Submission:** After successfully submitting a Workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application. The number is listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission. Using the tracking number, access the Track My Application page under the Applicants tab or the Details tab in the submitted Workspace.

Applicant Support: For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to the [Grants.gov Training page](#). Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and by email at support@grants.gov. If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number to track your issue.

3. Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

All applications must be received by 11:59 pm, Eastern Time Zone, October 7, 2022. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application will receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application, serving as proof of their timely submission.

Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and will not be considered for funding.

Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role attempting to submit the application. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.



Appendix II. Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application Requirements

Checklist

This is as an aide for applicants submitting CWDG applications through Grants.gov and is not an exhaustive list of grant requirements.

We prioritize applications that show a clear benefit to underserved people and the communities where they reside or the forest areas that they value. Where this is the case, this should be described in the "Project Narrative Form." This supports Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Requirements:

- Applicant is a unit of local government, nonprofit organization (501c3), Indian Tribe, State Forestry Agency (includes US territories and interests), or Alaska Native Corporation.
- Applicant organization must have an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration, and Grants.gov account.
- Project is focused on reducing wildfire risk to an at-risk community.
- Project is located on non-federal lands and/or Trust lands
- Project is not listed in the "Ineligible" column on pages 5 thru 9
- Required match is met for requested federal funds (10% for CWPP development/revision; 25% for project implementation)
- Submit all forms in Grants.gov by 11:59 pm, Eastern Time Zone, October 7, 2022

Documents Required:

- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance (located in grants.gov)
- SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (located in grants.gov)
- Screenshot that shows ACTIVE registration in SAM.gov
- Community Wildfire Defense Project Narrative Form
- DBA written assurance (required for construction)
- Documentation of at-risk community, wildfire hazard potential, low-income, and/or impacted by a severe disaster (if applicable)

Proposal :: CA / Nevada County CWPP

Submitted to CSS on Oct 7, 2022

Actions

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| FY 2022 USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application | File Name | | |
| | State: CA | Keyword: | Nevada County CWPP |
| | Region: | Priority: | Id: |
| | Administration Information | | |
| | Funds Requested: | | \$250,000 |
| | Match: | | \$90,800 |
| Score: | Ranking: | Project Funding: | |
| | | \$340,800 | |

| | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Proposal Cooperator [CA] | | | |
| | Cooperator Organization: | County of Nevada | | |
| | Contact Person: | Paul Cummings | | |
| | Address: | 950 Maidu Avenue | | |
| | City: | Nevada City | State: CA | ZIP Code: 95959 |
| | Phone: | 530-265-1515 | Email: | paul.cummings@nevadacountyca.gov |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Applicant Information [CA] | | | |
| | Applicant: | County of Nevada | | |
| | Contact Person: | Craig Griesbach | | |
| | Address: | 950 Maidu Avenue | | |
| | City: | Nevada City | State: CA | ZIP Code: 95959 |
| | Phone (work/cell): | 530-557-5118 | Fax: | craig.griesbach@nevadacountyca.gov |
| | Email: | craig.griesbach@nevadacountyca.gov | | |
| Federal Tax ID: | 94-6000526 | DUNS#: | 010979028 | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| 2 | Project Information | | |
| | Name of the Project: | Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update | |
| | Community Name(s): | All communities within the County of Nevada | |
| | Counties: | Nevada | |
| Congressional District: | 1 | | |

GIS Coordinates

Ref. Point Name: Eric Rood Center
 Lat/Long: 39.270100, -121.026400
 Description: Main Government Building, County of Nevada

2
 Area Name:
 Boundary Lat/Longs:
 Description:

Provide a brief overview and purpose statement for the project, addressing the overall intent of this program to assist communities with planning and mitigating their risk against wildfire.

Brief Project Overview and Purpose

In rural, forested Nevada County, California, 92% of residents live in high to very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ) as defined by CAL FIRE. Many of these community members are also considered to be disadvantaged based on income per state and federal agency standards. In the last 10 years the County has been impacted by nine federally declared disasters, five of which were associated with wildfire.

The Sierra Nevada region where Nevada County is located is home to only 2% of California's population who are stretched over 25 million acres of land. As a result, there are only eleven representatives of the Sierra Nevada in the California legislature. This creates challenges in developing state policies that recognize and direct resources to climate resilience and wildfire mitigation projects in the region even though such projects have benefit statewide.

- 3** The purpose of this project is to update the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) thereby providing a scientifically defensible and locally endorsed road map articulating the severity of the hazards that exist and the priority actions that must be taken to mitigate the risk. An updated CWPP will support a multiplicity of partners including local non-profits, the Fire Safe Council, Firewise Communities, State and Federal agencies, and the County itself in justifying needed projects to local, state, and federal leaders and funders. It will serve as a vehicle for coordinating diverse interests around wildfire mitigation including those associated with climate change and watershed impacts - and will equip implementation partners with a toolkit of resources so that the pace and scale of this work can be increased commiserate with the risk.

The Updated Nevada County CWPP is envisioned to function as a one-stop-shop for wildfire mitigation partners from individual community members on up. As scoped, the CWPP will consist of a Wildfire Risk Assessment, a Land Management Plan comprised of a suite of locally vetted treatment prescriptions for different land types, a CWPP Document, and an interactive Project Dashboard. Each of these components will be designed to function as independent resources and will also integrate with one another so that entities interested in pursuing projects can easily reference and strategically plan for implementation of priorities using best management practices (BMPs).

Respond with the grant component type that applies to the application: (please select only one per application)

- 1.) Creating or Updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is more than five (5) years old.**
- 2.) Project described in a CWPP that is less than ten (10) years old.**

Grant Component Type

- The purpose of this grant is (1) Creating or Updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is more than five (5) years old. County of Nevada seeks funding in order to modernize the intent, motive and purpose the Nevada County CWPP, which was last updated in 2016. At this point the County CWPP is significantly out of date. Over the last six years many priority
- 4** projects included in the CWPP have been implemented. In addition, technical expertise, fire behavior modeling, hazard and risk assessment methodology and other key aspects of developing a sound CWPP have evolved. To address this, at the September 27 Board of Supervisors meeting Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) requested permission to apply to the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program in order to update the County CWPP. This proposed \$340,800 project would leverage a California Fire Safe Council Grant that OES was awarded last year for the Community Wildfire Coordinator in the amount of \$90,800 as the required minimum 10% match to our \$250,000 request from CWDG.

Please respond yes or no if the community is considered "at-risk" (please refer to the definition within the NOFO). Provide a link to the verification source.

Is your community considered "at-risk"

- Most communities in Nevada County are at risk to wildfire identified in Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire, issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with title IV of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1009) (66 Fed. Reg. 753, January 4, 2001) including: Alta Hill, Alta Sierra, Cedar Ridge, Cherokee, Cherry Creek Acres, Chicago Park (Pinecrest), Donner, Floriston, Forest Knolls - Banner Mountain, French Corral, Glenbrook, Glenshire-Devonshire, Gold Flat, Grass Valley, Higgins Corner (Wolf), Hirschdale, Hobart Mills, Kingvale, La Barr Meadows, Lake City, Lake of the Pines, Lake Wildwood, Mooney Flat Nevada City, Newtown, Norden, North Bloomfield, North Columbia, North San Juan, Peardale, Penn Valley, Prosser Lakeview Estates, Red Dog, Rough and Ready (Bitney Corner), Sherwood Forest, Soda Springs, Sweetland, Truckee, Union Hill, Washington, Willaura Estates, Willow Valley - Cascade Shores, and You Bet.
- 5**

According to the State of California, the same communities and an additional 5 are also considered at risk from wildfire.: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-plan/communities-at-risk/#> The additional 5 communities include Kingvale, Lake of The Pines, Newtown, Norden, and North San Juan.

Do you currently have, or will you adopt prior to grant award, an ordinance or regulation that requires that roofs for new building construction, as well as the reroofing or replacement of a roof on existing buildings, adheres to standards that are similar to, or more stringent than, the roof construction standards established by the National Fire Protection Association or applicable model building code established by the International Code Council (this is not a requirement for eligibility but determines source of funds).

Please respond yes or no. Provide a link to the verification source.

Roofing Code/Ordinance

6 Yes, Nevada County has an ordinance associated with roofing. Nevada County has adopted via the local Building Ordinance a standard requirement for Class A listed roofing that exceeds the standards set forth in the California Building Standards Codes or the International Building & Residential Codes.

Are you planning on applying for a grant match waiver based on the project serving an underserved community?

Please respond yes or no.

Grant Waiver

7 County of Nevada is not applying for a grant waiver. Despite serving numerous under-resourced and under-represented communities the County of Nevada does not request a grant waiver as we feel it is our civic duty to mitigate the loss of life and property associated with wildfire.

10 points. 9000 characters including spaces.

Provide a comprehensive but succinct overview of the proposed project that includes basic details of who is doing what, where, and why this is important. Explain how the project is described in a CWPP (if applicable). Provide linkages to the tenets of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the State Forest Action Plan. Specify if benefits to traditionally underserved or marginalized audiences are a component of the work.

Project Description

According to the USFS Influence of Forest Structure on Wildfire Behavior and the Severity of Its Effects Report, of the four factors that contribute to catastrophic wildfires, Only fuel abundance can be directly influenced through human intervention the treatments to reduce fuels can significantly modify fire behavior and severity and reduce environmental damage caused by fire.

The purpose of this project is to update a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is more than five (5) years old so that the pace and scale of strategic wildfire mitigation actions can be increased, thus reducing the potential for catastrophic impacts in our communities. County of Nevada seeks funding in order to modernize the intent, motive and purpose the Nevada County CWPP, which was last updated in 2016. At this point the County CWPP is significantly out of date. Over the last six years many priority projects included in the CWPP have been implemented. In addition, technical expertise, fire behavior modeling, hazard and risk assessment methodology and other key aspects of developing a sound CWPP have evolved.

Our current Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) does not take into consideration the 2018 California Forest Carbon Plan. This project will contribute to California Forest Carbon Plan (2018) actions and the Climate Justice Principles of the Safeguarding California Plan (2018) by addressing the imminent threat of wildfire in California's headwaters due to warmer temperatures, earlier spring snowmelt, and overall decline in forest health (Westerling, 2016). The revised CWPP will share the overarching goal of securing California's forests as healthy, resilient net sinks of carbon that provide a range of ecosystem and societal benefits while reducing greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions associated with uncharacteristic wildfire events, tree mortality and other disturbances, as well as management activities and conversion.

The CWPP will highlight a multitude of community projects that will assist in the enhanced productivity of carbon sequestration while simultaneously protecting human life and property.

Best available science indicates that reductions in urban anthropogenic emissions will be offset by increased emissions from wildfire in the midcentury to the next century (Ford et al., 2018; Spracklen et al., 2009; Yue et al., 2013). Thus, investment in forest health and wildfire mitigation actions in the Sierra Nevada is an essential counterpart to urban tactics to increase climate resilience by reducing vehicle and industry associated pollution.

The forest ecosystems in and around the County of Nevada are predominately early to-mid seral stage, less fire tolerant species (often in monocultures), with tree stand densities that far exceed historic circumstances. Unhealthy forest conditions are prone to severe fire, posing a threat to watersheds and communities (Public Policy Institute of California, 2017; Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), 2014; Van de Water and North, 2010 and 2011). Unhealthy forests and loss of forest to catastrophic wildfire reduces retention of precipitation, resulting in higher rates of run-off and less groundwater recharge at the regional scale and consequently less water available statewide. Frequent but more extreme rain-based precipitation may cause early snowmelt and flash flooding during heat waves, leading to landslides in areas where wildfire has occurred. As such, the wildfire mitigation actions identified as priorities in the Updated Nevada County CWPP not only protect our communities from the future natural hazard of wildfire, but from natural hazards associated with flooding, landslides, and water quality and quantity.

As our project will update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, it therefore supports the goals and objectives of the California Strategic Fire Plan, the local CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan, all Nevada County Fire District Plans, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Fire Safe Council Action Plan, Firewise Community Assessment, and local homeowner association plans. Additional plans that

Fire Safe Council Action Plan, Firewise Community Assessment, and local homeowner association plans. Additional plans that our updated CWPP will encompass include the California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map, California Forest Action Plan, Emergency Access Route Study, the Little Hoover Commission Report # 242 2018, and the National Action Plan 2014. Vegetation management, landowner assistance, and community outreach is stated as a priority in each plan.

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The updated CWPP will refresh and re-enforce the three Healthy Forest Restoration Act CWPP requirements:

1. Be collaboratively developed by local and state government agency representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
2. Identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
3. Recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures in areas addressed by the plan. HFRA also requires that the applicable local government, local fire department(s), and the state entity responsible for forest management mutually agree to the final contents of the CWPP.

Finally, the updated Nevada County CWPP is inherently responsive to the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy):

This project restores and maintains landscapes across all jurisdictions in accordance with management objectives that are defensible and vetted with local experts so that traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and place-based knowledge is integrated into meaningful and effective approaches. By creating a multidisciplinary, participatory, and equitable platform for development of the Nevada County CWPP that includes a Land Management Plan as an appendix we will ensure that this project creates and supports strategic opportunities to restore and maintain ecosystems from the 100-foot elevation level on up through the 10,000 level. This effort will encompass all of Nevada County and promote coordination across federal, state, and local jurisdictions to achieve wildfire and climate resilience at the landscape scale using commonly agreed upon methods, metrics, and evaluation scenarios so that as a region we can know better do better.

This project creates fire adapted communities by refusing to discount the role that individual community members have to play as stewards of fire adapted land(s) in Nevada County. The project recognizes that low-income residents and Tribes have been historically left out of processes whereby priorities are identified and proposes to advance a robust engagement plan to counter this. The Updated Nevada County CWPP will create a platform for identifying and implementing key projects and tracking lessons learned in order to increase the likelihood that all community members have the capacity to implement projects that will result in protection of life and property. An updated CWPP will support non-governmental organizations (including mission-drive non-profits), Tribes, Firewise Communities, various levels of local government, Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, and individual landowners in pursuing projects of greatest benefit using the best-available science.

This project improves wildfire response by using a public participatory mapping approach to identify and reach consensus on wildfire hazards and wildfire risks that exist in Nevada County so that appropriate actions can be taken to improve ingress and egress. This will support residents in getting out and first responders in getting in during wildfire.

County of Nevada will be the lead in implementing this project, however the process of updating the CWPP is envisioned as being a robust collaborative effort involving diverse stakeholders from across the County. Nevada Countys Wildfire Coordinator will lead the Initial Program Process, Wildfire Risk Assessment, and outreach components of developing the Land Management Plan and CWPP Document. Refer to the Accomplishments section of this proposal for details. This position is funded by a grant from California Fire Safe Council and will provide the non-federal match to this project. Two consultants will be hired for this project: one will be tasked with spearheading the CWPP Document; a second will develop the Project Dashboard.

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| Applicant Budget [CA] | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Grant | | Match | | TOTAL |
| | Funds Requested | Applicant | Non-Federal Contributors | Total Project Cost | |
| Personnel / Labor: | | | \$47,216 | \$47,216 | |
| Fringe Benefits: | | | \$43,584 | \$43,584 | |
| Travel: | | | | | |
| Equipment: | | | | | |
| Supplies: | | | | | |
| Contractual: | \$250,000 | | | \$250,000 | |
| Other: | | | | | |
| Indirect Costs: | | | | | |
| TOTAL: | \$250,000 | | \$90,800 | \$340,800 | |

10 points. 5000 characters including spaces.

Provide any additional remarks needed to clarify your budget request. Clearly explain how the budget will be spent by line item, sources of match, and how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project.

Project Budget Explanation

Phase 1: Initial Program Process

1. Identify Key Stakeholders and Agencies: 1 week @ \$1,600
 2. Initial Outreach: 4 weeks @ \$3,000
 3. Establish Program Boundaries and Base Maps: 1 week @ \$1,600
 4. Contractor Procurement: \$5,000 (flat)
- TOTAL: \$11,200

Phase 1 will be implemented by the County of Nevada Wildfire Coordinator
Funding Source: California Fire Safe Council (Match)

Phase 2: Wildfire Risk Assessment

1. Create Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): 1 week @ \$1,600
 2. Initial TAC Outreach: 3 weeks @ \$4,800
 3. Create Base Maps, Boundaries, and Assets/Resources At-Risk: 1 week @ \$1,600
 4. Wildfire Hazard Assessment: 3 weeks @ \$4,800
 5. Wildfire Risk Assessment: 4 weeks @ \$6,400
 6. Draft WRA Results: 2 weeks @ \$3,200
 7. Review Results with TAC: 3 weeks @ \$4,800
 8. Finalize WRA: 2 weeks @ \$3,200
- TOTAL: \$30,400

Phase 2 will be implemented by the County of Nevada Wildfire Coordinator
Funding Source: California Fire Safe Council (Match)

Phase 3: Land Management Plan

1. Create TAC: 1 week @ \$1,600
2. Initial Outreach with TAC: 3 weeks @ \$4,800
3. Set LMP Goals: 1 week @ \$2,000
4. Define County BMPs: 3 weeks @ \$4,800
5. Mitigation Strategies: 3 weeks @ \$4,800
6. Draft LMP: 10 weeks @ \$16,000
7. Project Priority Analysis: 2 weeks @ \$4,000
8. Recommend Priority Project Areas: 2 weeks @ \$3,200
9. Review Draft with TAC: 3 weeks @ \$4,800
10. Final LMP: 2 weeks @ \$3,200

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TOTAL: \$49,200

Phase 3 will be implemented by the County of Nevada Wildfire Coordinator
Funding Source: California Fire Safe Council (Match)

Phase 4: CWPP Document

1. Create Development Team: 1 week @ \$2,500
2. Set CWPP Goals: 1 week @ \$2,000
3. Outreach with Applicable Agencies: 3 weeks @ \$6,000
4. Initial Community Outreach: 6 weeks @ \$5,500
5. Community Assessment: 5 weeks @ \$8,000
6. Community Workshops: 6 weeks @ \$10,000
7. Project Priority Analysis: 2 weeks @ \$5,000
8. Recommend Priority Project Areas: 2 weeks @ \$3,200
9. Mitigation Strategies: 3 weeks @ \$4,000
10. Draft CWPP: 15 weeks @ \$65,000
11. Post-Draft Outreach: 4 weeks @ \$7,500
12. Circulate Draft: 4 weeks @ \$6,000
13. Final CWPP: 2 weeks @ \$3,200
14. Plan Adoption: 2 weeks @ \$3,200
15. Printing: 1 unit @ \$1,600

TOTAL: \$132,700

Phase 4 will be implemented by Consultant 1
Funding Source: CWDG

Phase 5: Project Dashboard

1. Produce Project Dashboard: 1 unit @ \$117,300
- TOTAL: \$117,300

Phase 5 will be implemented by Consultant 2
Funding Source: CWDG

TOTAL CWDG Funding: \$250,000 (2 Consultants)

TOTAL California Fire Safe Council (Match): \$90,800 (County Wildfire Coordinator Salary + Fringe Benefits @ 48%)

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$340,800

10 points. 8000 characters including spaces.

Clearly define how the project will be accomplished, including at least one of the quantitative accomplishment measures provided in the measurable outcomes table. Identify measurable outcomes and timelines (are the proposed activities clear and achievable, goals defined, outcomes measurable, # of acres treated, # of education/outreach programs, planning/assessment efforts clearly described, etc.). Describe any applicable less quantifiable return on investments.

Accomplishments

The primary accomplishment of this project will be the Updated Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This will consist of a tangible toolbox that includes a Wildfire Risk Assessment, a Land Management Plan, a CWPP Document, and an interactive Project Dashboard. Each of these items will be a standalone resource and taken in sum these items will provide a comprehensive one-stop-shop of resources to support planning for and implementing wildfire mitigation projects.

The steps to achieve the primary accomplishment, and the timeline and deliverables associated with each of the five project phases is described below. In addition to these quantitative project outcomes, this project will result in the qualitative benefit of increased trust and partnership among the multitude of diverse stakeholders working to address wildfire mitigation in Nevada County.

Phase 1: Initial Process and Outreach

1.1 Identify Key Stakeholders and Agencies

Create a synthesized list of key stakeholders and agencies (Federal, State, and Local) who may be key pieces in outreach.

1.2 Initial Outreach with Key Stakeholders and Agencies

Coordinate initial outreach with identified key stakeholders and agencies. The purpose is to discuss the overall program, program expectations, and tentative timeline. The goal is to begin establishing a consistent relationship with key groups.

1.3 Establish Program Boundary and Base Maps

Create program boundaries and base maps for aspects of the projects. Potential base maps:

Program Boundary

WUI Boundary

Fire History

Fire Hazard Areas

Timeline: January 2023-February 2023

Deliverable(s): List of Stakeholders; List of CWPP Outreach Events Convened; Base Maps.

Phase 2: Wildfire Risk Assessment (WRA)

2.1 Technical Advisory Committee

Create a technical advisory committee (TAC) to inform and advise on fire modeling consisting of two layers the first being comprised of fire behavior experts to directly aid in the fire behavior modeling. The second layer will be representatives from the local fire agencies to provide ground truthing on the modeling results.

2.1.1 Initial Outreach With TAC

Initial Outreach with the TAC will be phased. Phase one will be outreach with the fire behavior advisors to overview the methodology approach and data needs. Phase two will be initial engagement with the second layer of the TAC to inform them of the wildfire risk assessment project and expectations.

2.2 Create Base maps, Identify Communities Boundaries, and Assets at Risk

Create base maps for the risk assessment (vegetation, fuel, and topography) including community boundaries. Identify and categorize High-Value Resources and Assets at Risk.

2.3 Conduct Hazard Assessment

Use the Interagency Fuel Treatment Decision Support System (IFTDSS) program to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment. Perform a Landscape Burn Probability analysis to determine the Integrated Hazard for the County.

2.4 Conduct Risk Assessment

Use IFTDSS to conduct a Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (QWRA) to evaluate wildfire risk for the County. Analyze the level of exposure of identified high-value resources and assets at risk to wildfire using the results from the hazard assessment and the QWRA. The QWRA determines the likelihood of a fire occurring and the potential impact on resources.

2.5 WRA Results Review with TAC

Initially meet with the first level of the TAC to confirm the results. Review the results with the second layer of the TAC to ground the truth of the results.

2.6 Finalize WRA

Adjust the WRA based on feedback.

Timeline: January 2023-May 2023

Deliverable(s): WRA Results Maps and WRA Report

Phase 3: Land Management Plan (LMP)

3.1 Create TAC

Create a TAC consisting of major land managers in the County.

3.2 Initial Outreach with TAC

Initial outreach with the TAC to discuss the overview of the Program, overview of the Land Management Plan (LMP), and provide initial opportunities for feedback on existing land management in the County.

3.3 Draft LMP

1 Draft the LMP. Identify existing vegetation management techniques and vegetation treatment types. It will also identify existing land management projects and programs. Establish the minimum standard and BMPs for vegetation and fire risk reduction in the County.

3.3.1 Recommend Priority Project Areas

Identify and recommend priority locations in the County for vegetation and fire risk reduction projects.

3.4 Review Draft WRA with TAC

Review the Draft with the TAC and submit the draft to the TAC for comments.

3.5 Final LMP

Incorporate comments on the LMP into the final draft of the LMP.

Timeline: April 2023-October 2023

Deliverable(s): Land Management Plan

Phase 4: CWPP Document

4.1 Create Development Team

The development team is responsible for engaging with communities, attending CWPP meetings, providing feedback on the CWPP drafts, providing recommendations for Projects, and in some cases facilitating field assessments. The team should be carefully selected.

4.2 Outreach with Applicable Agencies

Conduct initial outreach with applicable agencies that are included in the boundary of the CWPP. The initial agency meeting will introduce the CWPP Planning Process and solicit input.

4.3 Initial Community Outreach

Initial outreach with communities to introduce the CWPP Planning Process, present potential engagement opportunities, and solicit initial feedback.

4.4 Develop Community Risk Assessments

Process the WRA results to develop specific community risk assessments. Risk assessments will be at a multi-community level and inform the community action plans.

4.5 Community Workshops

Conduct outreach with communities in the form of community workshops. Community workshops will allow communities to collaborate on identifying community-specific hazardous and risky areas and identify potential projects.

4.6 Draft CWPP

Using the WRA, the LMP, and the input from the Community Workshops the initial draft of the CWPP will be created. Address wildfire risk on a landscape level and provide community-specific analysis.

4.7 Post-Draft CWPP Outreach

Meet with communities to discuss the draft CWPP and solicit feedback.

4.7.1 Circulate Draft

A draft of the CWPP is circulated for public comment.

4.8 Final CWPP

Comments are incorporated into the final version of the CWPP.

Phase 5: Dashboard

*Note: this will be put out to bid as a single line item.

5.1 Create Dashboard Development Team

The dashboard development team will consist of technical experts with GIS experience. They will be charged with collecting and collating geospatial data for projects within Nevada County and organizing these data into appropriate GIS map layers.

5.2 Compile GIS Data

Conduct outreach with local nongovernmental organizations and local, state, and federal agencies included in the boundary of the CWPP to obtain geospatial data for projects they have planned, underway, or complete.

5.3 Create Community Projects Data Layer

Compile written project information from local Firewise Communities and create geospatial layers of these data.

5.4 Create CWPP Projects Data Layer

Produce data layer of priority projects from the Updated Nevada County CWPP.

5.5 Compile Additional Data Layers

Additional data layers relevant to designing and implementing multi-benefit wildfire mitigation projects will be identified for inclusion in the Project Dashboard. These layers may include information on watersheds, sensitive species, cultural resources etc. and will be able to be toggled on and off depending on user interest.

5.6 Deploy Project Dashboard

The Dashboard will house the web-based results from the WRA, mitigation map from the LMP, and priority projects from the CWPP. It will feature data layers that can be toggled on and off

Timeline: January 2023-September 2024

Deliverable(s): Project Dashboard

10 points. 8000 characters including spaces.

1.) Identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and add value towards planning and carrying out the project.

2.) Describe what these partners and collaborators contribute.

3.) Demonstrate residual positive benefits, as a result of collaboration, related to capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach, among others.

Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of the partners may be more important than the number of partners involved.

Collaboration

The Updated Nevada County CWPP is intended to be a one-stop-shop for planning and implementing wildfire mitigation priorities that is accessible to all members of our community interested in engaging in and supporting this work. We have intentionally designed our approach to the CWPP Update to be multi-faceted so that there is an opportunity to leverage a range of qualitative and quantitative data, including place-based knowledge, traditional ecological knowledge, and technical expertise.

Each aspect of the CWPP will serve as a vehicle for engaging with a unique group of stakeholders. For example, development of the Wildfire Risk Assessment, will involve the participation of those with technical expertise around fire behavior from local, state, and federal agencies to define the hazard(s) but will also include public participatory mapping around risk to ensure that community values are captured in the context of what is defined as a priority mitigation action. The Land Management Plan will rely on the expertise of local ecologists, botanists, soil scientists, Tribal members, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, registered professional foresters and other content experts to deploy a data-driven approach for identifying best management practices (BMPs) for the implementation of wildfire mitigation actions. The result will be a Land Management Plan comprised of a suite of locally vetted treatment prescriptions for different land types. The CWPP Document, will build off the Wildfire Risk Assessment and will take into consideration community input in the identification of specific priority projects and more generalized priority project areas. This approach will provide clearly defined needs and will also be a flexible enough framework that as new priorities rise to the fore they too can be justified as important using the CWPP. Finally, the interactive Project Dashboard will function as a collaborative GIS data clearinghouse and will be a tool for project proponents to use to strategically plan and engage with one another around mutually important projects. Each of these components will exist as independent resources but will integrate seamlessly.

Previous Nevada County CWPP stakeholders included California State Parks, U.S Forest Service, Yuba Watershed Inst., Bureau of Land Management, South Yuba River Citizens League, CDF, California Department of Fish & Game, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Northern Sierra Air Quality Board, Yuba Watershed Council, Siller Bros, and Sierra Pacific Industries.

Our preliminary list of stakeholders committed to supporting the process of updating the CWPP includes Nevada City Fire Safety Advisory Committee, CAL FIRE, California State Parks, Truckee Fire Protection District, Nevada County Consolidated Fire, U.S Forest Service, Yuba Watershed Institute, Bureau of Land Management, South Yuba River Citizens League, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, Sierra Streams Institute, Nevada County Resource Conservation District, and Yuba Bear Burn Cooperative, These stakeholders have a direct relationship to land use in Nevada County, to implementation of this plan, to fire protection activities or to environmental issues which the plan raises.

In our effort to gear up for the process of updating the Nevada County CWPP, over the last three months Nevada County OES has deployed a Community Stakeholder Engagement Plan coordinated around four core activities. As we have worked our way through the core activities we have created a Master Wildfire Stakeholders Contact List featuring individual tabs for the following: Firewise Communities, Virtual Office Hours, Fire-Related NGOs, Local Agencies, State Agencies, Federal Agencies, Fire Protection, Eastern County, Quarterly Wildfire Stakeholder Meeting, and Other. We plan to rely on this list when the time comes for more robust community engagement. The specifics of our effort to engender a collaborative CWPP process are listed below by core activity:

1. Outreach Events: Events that the Nevada County Wildfire Coordinator has participated in to build awareness of the OES program and CWPP Update process:

Events attended included:
Nevada City Summer Nights
Grass Valley Market
First Friday Art Walk
Coalition of Firewise Communities

Nevada County Fair
Nevada County Fire Safety Advisory Council
Quarterly Wildfire Stakeholder Meeting
Tahoe Donner Bingo Night
Tahoe Donner 11th Annual Fall Festival

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2. Firewise Community Outreach: Email introduction followed by in-person meet and greet with Firewise Community (FWC) leaders in order to build relationships with those communities already actively interacting with OES, to leverage their relationships to engage with additional FWC, and to connect FWC leaders with like interests and needs in order to build broader networks of protection by tying neighborhood-based interests and projects into larger-scale visions.

Meetings Held:

West End Donner Lake
Serene Lakes
Tahoe Donner
Deer Creek Southside
Greater Champion
Ananda Village
Salmon-Mine East Sages

Follow-up to build capacity of FWC to participate in CWPP Update by holding Virtual Office Hours themed drop-in office hours every other Friday for two hours on zoom. Thus far turn-out has been 20 plus people per meeting. For each Virtual Office Hours a Powerpoint presentation is created. The meetings are recorded, and the recordings are posted on a private YouTube channel so that participants can go back and re-watch. There is a unique contact list associated with the Virtual Office Hours. Folks can be added to the list by request.

Virtual Office Hours Held:

Project Design
Community Engagement

Dissemination of and education around Priority Project Template a tool designed to better understand the priorities of FWCs and to support them in developing projects that are scoped appropriately for pursuing collaborative action and grant funding. These projects are sorted by type (i.e. shaded fuel break, roadside vegetation abatement, outreach and education etc.) and are recorded on the Projects Master List excel spreadsheet under the Community Projects tab.

3. Non-Governmental Organization and Other Outreach: Email introduction to NGO stakeholders followed by in-person meetings to learn about their priorities and projects that are planned and underway in order to better understand how to collaborate on the CWPP Update and planning and implementation projects moving forward.

Meetings Held:

Bear-Yuba Burn Cooperative
Sierra Streams Institute
Yuba Watershed Institute
South Yuba River Citizens League
Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Truckee Fire Protection District
Placer County Regional Forest Health Coordinator
Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation
Yuba County Fire Safe Council

A highlight of this outreach has been the establishment of reoccurring County Cohort meetings meetings between County staff across Nevada, Yuba, Sierra, El Dorado, and Placer Counties who hold similar wildfire mitigation/planning related positions so that we can coordinate and learn from one another.

4. September Quarterly Wildfire Stakeholder Meeting: Plan and execute Quarterly Wildfire Stakeholder Meeting, including recruitment of new stakeholders with a goal of orienting participants to the pending CWPP Update. The in-person meeting explored wildfire hazard mapping and ignition risk management and included a public participatory mapping exercise to identify priority project areas.

10 points. 8000 characters including spaces.

Clearly define the scale of the project, including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually. Describe overall landscape that the project influences.

Landscape Impacts

The greatest threat to life and property, air quality, watershed and ecological health, and to the ability of California to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change impacts is wildfire. Years of drought and a century of fire suppression have resulted in millions of acres of stressed, desiccated, dense forests that are at risk of ignition - with the potential to release unprecedented amounts of carbon and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and detrimentally effect communities near and far.

Six of the seven largest fires in California history have occurred in the last two years, including two that exceeded one million

Six of the seven largest fires in California history have occurred in the last two years, including two that exceeded one million acres in size and two that crossed from one side of the Sierra to the other something that had never happened in recorded history. From 2000-2019 California lost an average of 600 thousand acres per year to wildfire; in the last two years over seven million acres have burned a six-fold annual increase.

Nevada County's population of over 102,240 resides in 53,186 housing structures (US Census v 2016) spread across a landscape of 974 square miles that ranges in elevation from 100 feet to 10,000 feet. In the unincorporated areas of Nevada County, approximately 28,000 parcels are located within the WUI as defined by the 2016 Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Moreover, according to Cal Fire, Nevada County has over 25,000 structures in the State Responsibility Area, which is the 5th highest county in California.

The scale of this project is all jurisdictions within the County of Nevada. As part of updating the 2016 Nevada County CWPP, this project will conduct a comprehensive audit of projects that are planned, underway, or complete so that an accurate picture of where we are and where we need to go can be ascertained. This will support the identification of priority wildfire mitigation projects and best management practices (BMPs) for implementation that are applicable County-wide. Many of the projects contained in the 2016 CWPP that were previously implemented are now in need of maintenance and the identification of BMPs is key to ensuring that future projects are successful and that their maintenance is sustainable.

Nevada County has historically relied on the 2016 CWPP and the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) Strategic Plan as vehicles for identifying priorities for wildfire mitigation and have been successful in securing funding for a number of shaded fuel break projects including the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone (1,300 acres), the South County Shaded Fuel Break (339 acres), the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break (410 acres), and the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 2 Fuels Reduction Project (300 acres). Funding is currently pending for the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (800 acres).

We have recently expanded our vision to determine where opportunities to knit together projects exist and envision the Project Dashboard component of the CWPP to be an invaluable tool for determining where resources can be directed to fill in spaces between projects and create more contiguous wildfire protection. To this end, Nevada County OES has been actively meeting with local partners including the Nevada County Fire Safe Council and local non-profits in order to better understand the projects they have planned and underway so that these projects can be integrated into strategizing around how to best leverage and extend net benefits.

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3 Though the focus of this project is the landscape of Nevada County, we recognize that wildfire does not heed arbitrary lines and as such the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) has engaged with adjacent Placer, Yuba, and Sierra Counties in order to ascertain how the Nevada County CWPP may be leveraged for larger regional benefits and how we can learn from successful projects to boost outcomes for our rural forested communities. For example, the 30,000-acre French Meadows Restoration Project in Placer County is a model collaborative project that has involved coordination among United States Forest Service (USFS), Placer County Water Agency, Placer County, and others, all of whom recognize the value in working together. See www.placer.ca.gov/5775/French-Meadows-Restoration-Project. Similarly, the North Yuba Forest Partnership in Yuba and Sierra Counties involves USFS, Yuba Water Agency, non-profit South Yuba River Citizens League, and others with a goal of treating 275,000 acres. See www.yubaforest.org. We have met with representatives of both of these projects to discuss our approach to the Updated Nevada County CWPP and anticipate future collaboration so that what is happening at the landscape scale in Nevada County is aligned with work of regional benefit.

Alignment with regional goals is an important component of ensuring that the wildfire mitigation actions pursued by County of Nevada benefit not just our communities but other rural forested communities and residents of the State of California at large. At the regional scale many of climate change impacts as well as opportunities and barriers to addressing these are shared.

The UCLA Center for Climate Science predicts that under climate change conditions the Sierra Nevada will warm by 4 degrees by mid-century and there will be a 30% loss of seasonal snowpack (Reich et al., 2018). According to Cal-Adapt, a dramatic increase in annual heat-waves is expected for the Sierra Nevada by 2021. Temperatures are rising at faster rates in the mountains than in other regions, leading to an increased number of heat events. Warmer temperatures, less snow and consequent drier conditions result in longer fire seasons and more pests and disease in the forests (Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), 2014). Fire season is expected to average 23 days longer by 2050 as compared to 2013 (Yue et al., 2015). With wildfire comes smoke - fine particulate matter (PM2.5) due to fire emissions is predicted to increase 150-170% in the Western United States by 2050 (Yue et al., 2013).

Wildfire mitigation projects represent an opportunity to foster climate resilience that is beneficial statewide. The Updated Nevada County CWPP will provide a roadmap to this resilience by delineating priority projects and the best practices for implementing them. Forests are California's largest carbon sink (California Air Resources Board (CARB), 2018) and more than 70% of carbon-storing forested land in California is in the Sierra Nevada (SNC, 2018). If our forests burn, they are our states single greatest carbon emission liability. However, through wildfire mitigation projects like shaded fuel breaks we can restore healthy forests that are less likely to burn and store more carbon.

Nationwide forests offset nearly 16% of the country's carbon dioxide emissions. Historically, Sierra Nevada forests have played a major role in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it as carbon in the soil, branches, and trunks of trees. As forest conditions decline, these ecosystems are undergoing a shift from being California's largest carbon sink to a carbon source. In 1990, forested areas were removing an estimated 13 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year; between 2001 and 2011 California's forests emitted more carbon than they sequestered (Gonzales et al., 2015; SNC, 2019).

When wildfires occur, the climate impacts are even more immediate and dire. In 2015, emissions from California wildfires on federal land alone were 22.8 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent, vastly overshadowing the States decline in economic related emissions (1.49 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent) (USFS and CARB estimates). In 2013, the smoke plume of the 257,000-acre Rim Fire released what 2.57 million cars emit in a year (Garcia et al., 2017). Nearly a decade later, the 2021 Dixie Fire ravaged almost 1 million acres, underscoring the need to plan for landscape-scale impact.

10 points. 8000 characters including spaces.

Clearly define how, or if, the project will sustain itself after the grant period is over. Describe any plans or steps that will be taken to continue the project benefits beyond the life of the grant.

Project Sustainability

Prior to European settlement in California, low intensity fires took place regularly. In fact, much of the California ecosystem was adapted to fire. However, more than a century of fire suppression policy has resulted in an unnaturally high level of accumulated fuels. A warming climate is exacerbating the threat of wildfire, putting communities at risk of larger, more destructive, and deadlier wildfires which wreak havoc not only on residents, but also on economies and the environment. In order for our rural forested communities to be resilient and sustainable into the future we must take action to strategically mitigate wildfire risk.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) enable communities to plan how they will reduce the risk of wildfire. The primary goal of the CWPP is to protect human life, private property, essential infrastructure and resources through the implementation of fire prevention projects that work to increase public awareness, improve forest health, sustain local wildlife and preserve the natural beauty of the area. The Updated Nevada County CWPP will have a number of environmental, public health, safety, and climate resiliency co-benefits as it will primarily address hazards and risks at a landscape scale. As the CWPP is a community plan, and not a government agency plan, it is developed with active community involvement where government agencies are partners in the process. The CWPP process permits communities to develop plans to fit local, social, and ecological contexts, at a scale where, as a community, we can accomplish and maintain a reduced wildfire risk to our respective communities while creating a means for robust community coordination.

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In creating a roadmap for wildfire mitigation activities, the Updated Nevada County CWPP is inherently sustainable this project will sustain itself because it will result in the development of a coalition of committed partners who have an actionable list of priorities and a Land Management Plan that delineates how these priorities should be implemented for greatest net benefit. To further ensure that the Updated Nevada County CWPP project will be sustained after the grant period, the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) has hired our first ever County Wildfire Coordinator. The seed money for this position came via a grant award from the California Fire Safe Council, however, County leadership in recognizing the importance of community engagement and coordination around wildfire mitigation opted to make this a full-time permanent staff role. A key goal of this staff member in the near term is to support the work needed to update the 2016 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and thus create a consensus-based road-map for tackling priority projects across the County for years to come. In the future the County Wildfire Coordinator will work to ensure that the Wildfire Risk Assessment and Project Dashboard stay up-to-date and that as additional mitigation projects are identified they are folded in to the larger strategic wildfire mitigation plan for the County.

10 points. 3000 characters including spaces.

Does this project benefit a low-income community as defined in the NOFO?

Please respond yes or no. Provide a link to the verification source.

Does this project benefit a low-income community?

Yes, this project benefits a low-income community.

County of Nevada is home to six (6) low-income communities as defined by the U.S Census. These communities are found in Census Tracts 6057000105, 6057000104, 6057000900, 6057000502, 6057000501, and 6057000600. Low-income census tracts are primarily located around Alta Sierra, Grass Valley, North San Juan, and Washington. See www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2020/geo/2020pl-maps/2020-census-tract.html.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) defines a disadvantage community as a community where the annual median household income (MHI) is less than 80% of the Statewide annual MHI (PRC Section 75005(9)), while a Severely Disadvantaged Community is one where the annual MHI is less than 60% of the Statewide annual MHI. See <https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>. Nevada County has two severely disadvantaged communities that will benefit from this project - Grass Valley (MHI: \$35,544), North San Juan (MHI: \$27,500) and three communities with MHIs just over the threshold for severely disadvantaged that will benefit - Penn Valley (MHI: \$40,668), Rough and Ready (MHI: \$40,821), and Nevada City (MHI: \$43,720).

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An update to the CWPP will directly benefit low-income communities by providing guidance on programs available to economically distressed residents. These programs include low-cost chipping programs and Access and Functional Needs (AFN) programs for hazardous vegetation abatement. Implementation of priority projects articulated in the CWPP will reduce the risk and thus the deleterious impacts posed by wildfire, which disproportionately impact low-income communities. These impacts include:

Employment: Tourism is a key economic generator and service industry jobs are primarily held by those in lower-income brackets. Wildfire limits tourism-driven revenue streams and the jobs they support. Following the 2013 Rim Fire, Tuolumne County saw \$275,000 less in estimated income from tourism-driven occupancy tax on lodging (SNC, 2014). In South Lake Tahoe, some hotels saw a 20% decline in business due to wildfire smoke (SNC, 2014).

Loss of Property: Households that have home or renters insurance may have the capacity to recover from wildfire, however, insurance coverage in the WUI is increasingly difficult to obtain and, if available, is unaffordable to many that need it. Low-income communities, which are often underinsured, are at-risk for lifelong economic devastation in the face of wildfire.

Health Impacts: Epidemiologic evidence links exposure to wildfire smoke to adverse health outcomes (Liu et al., 2015; Reid et al. 2016). When air quality is poor, public health officials recommend reducing the amount, duration, and intensity of smoke

air, 2020). When air quality is poor, public health officials recommend reducing the amount, duration, and intensity of smoke exposure by using an air filter, recirculating indoor air, and limiting outdoor activity (Cascion, 2018). Low-income residents are less likely to live in homes with recirculating air and more likely work in labor-based outdoor occupations.

10 points. 3000 characters including spaces.

Has this community been impacted by a severe disaster within the previous 10 years?

Please respond yes or no. Provide a link to the verification source.

Has this community been impacted by a severe disaster?

Yes, the community in which this project will occur has been impacted by a severe disaster within the previous ten years.

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6 Within Nevada County, there have been multiple wildfire related emergencies declared by FEMA including: Lobo Fire (2017, DR-4301-CA); Jones Fire (2020, FM-5-332-CA), and Wildfires (2017, 2020, 2021, DR-4344-CA, DR-4558-CA, DR-4610-CA). Two emergencies were declared in 2017 for severe winter storms, flooding, and mudslides (DR-4301-CA, DR-4308-CA). The storms resulted in a high number of down trees and debris in communities and along roads used for fire access/evacuation that caused extensive, increases in wildfire hazard. As a result of COVID-19, FEMA declared a biological disaster for Nevada County in 2020 (DR-3428 and DR-4482). See <https://www.fema.gov/data-visualization/disaster-declarations-states-and-counties>.

Extended, severe drought has resulted in a Drought Emergency Proclamation by the state of California. <https://cww.water.ca.gov/emergency-county> The drought has contributed to increased wildfire hazard because very low and often extremely low fuel moisture levels are prevalent. This has resulted in increases in area burned, severity and size of fires.

The County is also considered mostly in severe drought, and approximately the western 1/5 in extreme drought according to NOAA <https://www.drought.gov/sectors/wildfire-management> as mapped (9/23/22) by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

20 points. 3000 characters including spaces.

Please respond yes or no, if this project is located within an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a state, regional, tribal, territorial or national wildfire hazard potential assessment? Provide a link to the verification source.

Does the project location have wildfire hazard potential?

Yes, this project is located within an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential.

The 2017 Nevada County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update states that wildland fire is the most significant natural hazard. Wildfires are an annual occurrence in Nevada County and typically appear toward the end of the long, dry summers. The last five years have shown an increase in significant wildfire events.

Almost all of Nevada County is mapped as very high/high fire hazard and/or risk by both CAL FIRE (California) and in the Cohesive Strategy. Nearly 92% of Nevada County residents live in high or very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZs). See <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>.

The Cohesive Strategy has all of Nevada County mapped as having a high Relative Risk of Fires of Concern, Figure 3.16 (2014 The National Strategy, Final Phase). See <https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/thestrategy.shtml>.

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7 Most communities in Nevada County are at risk to wildfire identified in Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire, issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with title IV of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1009) (66 Fed. Reg. 753, January 4, 2001) including: Alta Hill, Alta Sierra, Cedar Ridge, Cherokee, Cherry Creek Acres, Chicago Park (Pinecrest), Donner, Floriston, Forest Knolls - Banner Mountain, French Corral, Glenbrook, Glenshire-Devonshire, Gold Flat, Grass Valley, Higgins Corner (Wolf), Hirschdale, Hobart Mills, Kingvale, La Barr Meadows, Lake City, Lake of the Pines, Lake Wildwood, Mooney Flat Nevada City, Newtown, Norden, North Bloomfield, North Columbia, North San Juan, Peardale, Penn Valley, Prosser Lakeview Estates, Red Dog, Rough and Ready (Bitney Corner), Sherwood Forest, Soda Springs, Sweetland, Truckee, Union Hill, Washington, Willaura Estates, Willow Valley - Cascade Shores, and You Bet.

According to the State of California, the same communities and an additional 5 are also considered at risk from wildfire. See <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-plan/communities-at-risk/#n>. The additional 5 communities include Kingvale, Lake of The Pines, Newtown, Norden, and North San Juan.

Dense montane forests and dense chaparral are the dominant vegetation types in the County. Historically, frequent, low intensity/severity fire regimes were typical, but the landscape is currently highly departed from this regime. See LANDFIRE Fire Regime Groups and Departure Class, <https://landfire.gov/fireregime.php>. The departure is another measure of fuel hazard, forest/ecosystem health, and is manifested in wildfires that mostly burn at high or very high intensity with high tree mortality levels and significant probability of loss of life and property.