



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Applications for grants from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post Fire – 5500 2024 Fire Management Assistance

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move to approve the applications submitted to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants, and further authorize the County Administrator to accept such grants if awarded.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

On February 3rd, the Deschutes County Natural Resources Department and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office applied for grants from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as a sub-applicant through Oregon Emergency Management. The County will learn in late April if OEM has selected any or all of these applications to move forward in the process.

The Deschutes Natural Resources Department submitted two applications through this grant opportunity, as follows:

- 1) Deschutes County Fuels Reduction Project: Seeking \$769,230 in grant funds to treat up to 850 acres in Deschutes County for fuels reduction in high wildfire risk areas. Through this proposal we plan to partner with the City of Redmond, the City of Bend, and the Central Oregon Irrigation District. Each partner has a project site that would be treated through this proposal. The County would contract the fuels reduction work to be completed on each project site. Locations identified by the City of Redmond for fuel reduction are the Dry Canyon recreation area, up to 140 acres. Locations identified by the City of Bend are the Juniper Ridge area, up to 260 acres. Locations identified by the Central Oregon Irrigation District are in south Bend near the Brookwood community, up to 65 acres. Locations identified by Deschutes County would be on County owned property in La Pine and just north of Bend, up to 380 acres.

Fuels reduction treatments would include thinning or removing identified trees, limbing of trees that remain on site, cutting, and mowing or masticating various

brush species and other ground fuels. These treatments will help protect communities surrounding each project site in the event of a wildfire.

- 2) Deschutes County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update Project: Seeking \$148,880 to update and create one Deschutes County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. There are currently seven Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Deschutes County that need to be updated every five years, each plan is currently on a different update schedule. The goal is to update all seven of these plans and combine them into one county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office submitted three applications through this grant opportunity, as follows:

- 3) Transportation Risk Assessment Project: Seeking \$66,630 in funds to support the analysis of transportation systems throughout Deschutes County and identify locations where high volumes of traffic may create challenges to movement. This project will be utilized during the Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Process to identify mitigation action items pertinent to evacuation and movement of people and goods during disasters.
- 4) Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update: Seeking \$66,184 in funds to support the coordination, analysis, public engagement and writing of the 2026 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, last updated in 2021.
- 5) Deschutes County Fairgrounds Shelter and Alternate EOC Back-up Power Project: Seeking \$218,875 in funds to purchase a generator to power the South and Middle Sister building for use during emergencies.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

- 1) Deschutes County Fuels Reduction Project: Most of the sought award (\$769,230) would be used for contracted services, with \$192,308 contributed in matching funds from project partners and the County. The remaining \$38,462 would be used for administrative costs to administer the contracts.
- 2) Deschutes County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update (total project cost \$202,674). Most of the sought award (\$145,880) would be used for contracted services, with \$49,500 contributed through in-kind matching funds. The remaining \$7,294 would be used for administrative costs to administer the contract and the planning process.
- 3) Transportation Risk Assessment Project requested amount \$66,630. Matching in-kind funds of \$16,657.50 would be provided by the County.
- 4) Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update requested amount \$66,184. Matching funds of \$16,546 would be provided by the County.

- 5) Deschutes County Fairgrounds Shelter and Alternate EOC Back-up Power requested amount \$218,875. Matching funds of \$42,875 would be provided by the County.

ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Moriarty, County Forester

Lauren Street, Natural Resources Specialist

Corinne Heiner, Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator

Sergeant Nathan Garibay, DCSO

Geoff Hinds, Fair & Expo Director