



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Applications for the BLM/OWEB Good Neighbor Authority Grant Program and the BLM Community Fire Assistance Program

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Motion to approve the applications submitted for the BLM/OWEB Good Neighbor Authority Grant Program and the BLM Community Fire Assistance Program, and further authorize the County Administrator to accept such grants if awarded.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Deschutes County Natural Resources Department has applied for an OWEB/BLM Good Neighbor Authority Grant and a BLM Community Fire Assistance Grant. The applications were submitted before securing Board authorization due to the need to meet the inflexible deadlines, and can be withdrawn should the Board so direct.

Both of these grant opportunities are similar in scope and would complement completed treatments throughout the County.

- 1) The Deschutes County Fuels Reduction & Forest Restoration Project will be a three-year project spanning from September 2025 to November 2028. The Deschutes County Natural Resources Department will have three years of grant awards for fuels reduction projects within Deschutes County.

The Deschutes County Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project will treat County-owned parcels in high wildfire risk areas as well as forest restoration projects. With the allotted funds, the Deschutes County Natural Resources Department will offer grant opportunities to Deschutes County property owners, organizations, and local municipalities to implement defensible space projects, forest restoration projects, fuels/fire mitigation projects, and noxious weed projects. The Deschutes County Natural Resources Department will allocate \$75,000 each year to fund three \$25,000 projects, totaling \$225,000 over the three years.

- 2) The second grant is the Deschutes County BLM Community Assistance 2025 Fuels Reduction Project. This project proposes to accomplish fuels reduction on non-

federal lands adjacent to or with benefit to BLM lands within Deschutes County. Funds will be utilized for contractual fuels reduction using contractors and agreements with landowners. The project will target treatment on approximately 320 acres of non-federal lands adjacent to or with direct benefit to BLM lands. Activities would include tree thinning, pruning and brush mowing, mastication and/or removal.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

- 1) Deschutes County Fuels and Forest Restoration Project Reduction Project total amount is \$275,000. Most of the award (\$225,000) would be used for contracted services tied to community awards through a grant application process. The remaining amount (\$50,000) would be used to treat County property.

- 2) Deschutes County BLM Community Assistance 2025 Fuel Reduction Project t total amount is \$480,000 Most of the award (\$300,000) would be used for contracted services tied to community awards through a grant application process. The Indirect cost would amount to \$40,000. We would also provide a \$40,000 In-kind match to leverage the project and ensure success. The remaining \$100,000 would be used to treat County properties.

ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Moriarty, County Forester
Lauren Street, Natural Resources Specialist