

Deschutes County Right of Way Fuel Reduction Project – Community Wildfire Defense Grant

Proposal –Key Points

- Deschutes County roads service hundreds of thousands of county residents and non-residents throughout the year. During wildfire season, County owned and maintained roads serve as evacuation and transportation routes.
- Reducing fire risk along these routes will greatly improve evacuation procedures and first responder needs.
- Using the “Wildfire Crisis Strategy”, the USDA Forest Service has identified Central Oregon as one of 10 landscapes in the West to invest funding with partner organizations to reduce wildfire risk.
- Underserved communities such as La Pine have been identified as areas of high fire risk.

Treatment: Tree removal and limbing of remaining trees for 31 miles of right of way along Deschutes County maintained roads. The project would focus in the La Pine area which has been identified as an underserved community.

- La Pine-30.82 miles (La Pine CWPP)

Requests for Funding:

1.) Tree Removal

Funding Category-Contractor Services

Scope of work: Remove suppressed and understory trees 15 ft. from the fog line on Deschutes County maintained roads. Trees to be removed will be 10 inch DBH or less. Tree species and location will determine maximum DBH trees to be removed. Maximum DBH to be removed would vary between 6-10 inches depending on treatment. Limb remaining trees up 8 feet high to reduce potential wildfire ignition. Stumps to be cut to 4 inches high or less. Maps are provided for La Pine.

Cost: Cost in this area is higher than average because of the high tree density. We estimate the cost to be \$10,000 per mile. One mile of treatment includes both sides of the road.

$30.82 \times 10,000 = \$308,000$

2.) Masticator head for Skid Steer Cat 299

Funding Category- Equipment

The Road department would like to purchase a masticator head for their Skid Steer to improve mowing operations. Blade mower are sometime inadequate for mowing heavy brush with a large wood component. Masticator heads are more efficient for woody vegetation.

Cost=\$40,000

Match

The Deschutes County Road Department would conduct brush mowing and herbicide treatments in conjunction with fuel removal treatments along the Project identified roads. The Road Department estimates spending \$100,000 per year on brush removal and herbicide treatments for the identified roads.

\$100,000 per year x 5 years= \$500,000

