

FY2015 Wildfire Risk Reduction Request for Proposals Comments

Helpful Acronym Definitions

CAR = community at risk

CWPP = community wildfire protection plan

FAP = Forest Action Plan

NFPORS = National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System

NRAP = Northeast Regional Action Plan

SF = State Forester

WUI = wildland-urban interface

FY15 MD-076

Creating Fire Adapted Communities and Expanding the Firewise Maryland Program in the Coastal Plain of Maryland

- Includes SF concurrence and NFPORS. Sets the stage of WUI/risk. Innovative "community chipper day." Cost/efficiency ratio could have been better explained.
- Does mention proposal ties to State FAP and especially strong in addressing wildlife risk reduction in high-risk landscapes. Good involvement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners. Rather innovative in outcomes, products, or elements in reducing wildfire risk. Description of effectiveness lacked proof of concept numbers as shown in other applications.
- Excellent work on getting communities at risk covered by CWPPs (26%). Solid proposal, but lacking specificity in efficiency section (cost/acre).

FY15 RI-074

Prudence Island Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Hazard Fuel Reduction Project

- SF concurrence and NFPORS sheet included. Small project with high local profile. First CWPP for Rhode Island. Clearly show costs, though the high cost/acre prescription burn-more cost effective alternative not discussed.
- A well-written proposal that acknowledges and addresses the letter and spirit of each element.

FY15 WI-072

Education, Planning and Fuels Management to Create Fire Adapted Communities

- Solid, traditional "core capacity" building/sustaining approach.
- Project actions are not strongly unique. Fuel breaks along roads are Standard Operating Procedure.
- Solid proposal. Narrative says 5,000 acres to be treated, NFPORS says 4,000.
- High personnel cost.

FY15 NJ–079

Breaking New Ground in Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities

- SF submitted proposal. NFPORS included. High treatment outputs. Lacks information about effectiveness/efficiency.
- Does mention proposal ties to State FAP and especially strong in laying out steps to implement. Good involvement with variety of partners. Not too innovative in outcomes, products, or elements in reducing wildfire risk. Mentions “alternative methods of fuels reduction,” but does not describe what they are. Description of effectiveness lacked proof of concept numbers as shown in other applications.
- Very little detail of costs and efficiency (costs/acre, cost per program, # of communities assisted) in "Effectiveness & Efficiency" section. No specific management options from Cohesive Strategy Regional Action Plan listed – could use more detail.
- Would be nice to have a cost breakdown of \$/acre or \$/program so effectiveness could be evaluated.

FY15 MN–071

Expanding Fire Adapted Communities

- Solid, traditional "core capacity" building/sustaining approach.
- Proposal not clear about how partners contribute toward a successful outcome. Says MN Department of Natural Resources will work with a variety of communities and organizations, but does not explain how these partners will contribute toward a successful outcome. Proposal activities that support the applicable NRAP's options are not clearly explained.
- Only 6 of 1,593 CARs covered by a CWPP – seems low if the practice has been [a] county-wide CWPP. This grant would add one CWPP; how many more CARs would be covered in that county?
- Few specifics re: "Contractual" although it's two-thirds of the grant.

FY15 NY–070

Shawangunk Ridge Landscape and Community Resilience

- No SF concurrence or NFPORS. Greater than 50% match.
- Good balance of fuels treatment and prevention in a priority WUI area.
- Same project for nearly 10 years; who are they contracting with?
- Needs to better reference State FAP. Need clear explanation of contractual cost.

FY15 OH–073

Wildfire Risk Reduction through Community Mobilization and Targeted Fuels Management

- No SF concurrence. No NFPORS, which prevents understanding what deliverables are proposed, how many communities [are involved], etc. Lacks cost information for hazardous fuels treatments. National Forest partner (both National Forest System and Northern Research Station).
- It is unclear that project actions are tied to a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Fire Adapted Communities. Proposal will also fund prescribed fire projects on state forests – don't see a clear link with that and Community/Homeowner Education objectives of targeting risk, prevention, and

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wildfire risk. Project continues to build upon the Smokey Bear teacher kit developed last year. Not unique, but a continuation of what was unique last year.

- No NFPORS. How many prescribed fire acres will be treated?
- No NFPORS sheet.

FY15 PA-075

Educating Pennsylvania

- SF concurrence and NFPORS included. National Forest partner. Clear, succinct proposal. The hazardous fuels reduction byproducts indicated on NFPORS are not explained in the narrative. No map of communities.
- Does mention proposal ties to State FAP, but not especially strong in addressing wildlife risk reduction in high-risk landscapes. Good involvement with National Forest System and other partners. Nothing unique or innovative in outcomes, products, or elements in reducing wildfire risk. Good description of effectiveness and the six NRAP's identified options.
- More detail needed on how these initiatives fulfill strategies in the Pennsylvania FAP. Is the Allegheny National Forest providing any funds for CWPP development in counties around the forest? Is the state still contributing \$100,000? Will total amount now be \$250,000 on Smokey items? Good description of project costs. Addresses connection to NRAP well.
- No reference to cohesive strategy or FAP. High personnel cost.
- Problem with personnel costs (narrative vs. form(s)).

FY15 MA-078

Massachusetts Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Management

- SF concurrence. No NFPORS. State land only. Uncertain about partners for this project; none are listed on page 1, but the narrative includes references to them.
- Overall, a solid, traditional "core capacity" building/sustaining approach, but with some good focus. I'm okay with the Remote Automatic Weather Station and dry hydrant justifications, though the ties to a "Fire Adapted Community" aspect are not emphasized as suggested in the RFP examples of "qualifying activities."

FY15 NJ-077

Fire Prevention Grant

- No SF concurrence. Short on outcomes, efficiency, and addressing NRAP.
- Good concept, but grant narrative doesn't address any of the required aspects of the grant application for eligibility (state assessments, cohesive strategy, FAP, etc.).