

RESOLUTION 2024 - 67

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO EXPEND COUNTY TITLE III FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark County ("County") elected to receive federal fiscal year 2023 County Title III funding from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act as authorized under Title XII of section 41202 of Public Law No: 117-58 and 7-3-213 of Montana Code Annotated; and

WHEREAS, Title III funds must be used for eligible activities as described in Title 16, Chapter 90, Section 7142 of U.S. Code (16 U.S.C. §7142); and

WHEREAS, an eligible Title III fund use is carrying out a community wildfire protection plan; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark County adopted the Tri-County Regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan in April 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is a requirement of the County Title III funds to provide a public comment period for proposed projects and submit the proposed project to the County's participating Resource Advisory Committee before the County may use the funds; and

WHEREAS, the following proposed projects are proposed for use of County Title III funds for carrying out an approved community wildfire protection plan:

- 1) The City of Helena's proposal to conduct a fuels treatment project on 31 acres on Mt. Helena City Park land. The proposal and map are provided in "Exhibit A."
- 2) The Tri-County FireSafe Working Group's proposal to conduct a fuels treatment project on 13.8 acres of private property. The proposal, project plan, and map are provided in "Exhibit B."
- 3) The Tri-County FireSafe Working Group's proposal to conduct home ignition zone assessments for County property owners. The proposal is provided in "Exhibit B."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners does hereby establish its intention to use County Title III funds for the aforementioned proposed projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public comment period on the proposed projects will be published in the Helena Independent Record and comments will be received for 45-days after the first publication of notice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notification of the proposed projects will be submitted to the Helena-Lewis and Clark Resource Advisory Committee.

DATED this 9 day of July, 2024.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

[Handwritten Signature]
Andy Hunthausen, Chair



ATTEST:
[Handwritten Signature]
Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: Exhibit "A"
Exhibit "B"



EXHIBIT A

DATE: 05-15-2024

TO: Ann McCauley

FROM: Brad Langsather

SUBJECT: Forest Fuel Reduction Projects

The City of Helena would like to submit a request to Lewis and Clark County for cooperative funding related to a proposed fuel management project located within Mount Helena City Park. Attached you will find a project area map that depicts the location of the 31-acre unit proposed for fuels reduction treatment. The proposed project would involve reducing surface fuels, reducing tree canopy bulk densities, and increasing the vertical distances to live tree canopy base height. Prior to the onset of fuel reduction activities, all trees selected for retention would be designated with a flag affixed at or near breast height (4.5 feet). Retention trees would be selected based on their outward expression of good form and apparent vigor. All designated retention trees would be subjected to pruning to a height of 6 feet to 8 feet and non-designated retention trees would be severed at a bole point ≤ 2 inches from ground level on the tree trunks high side. Cut-waste material generated from thinning/pruning activities would be assembled into hand piles for eventual burn disposal by city staff. The following table outlines the city's proposed fuels reduction project budget:

	Grant	Match	Explanation
Personnel	<u>NA</u>	\$5,221.00	Unit Layout, Retention Tree Marking, Burning, Grass Seeding
Contracts	<u>NA</u>	\$1,350.00	Contract Prep, Legal Review, Administration, Invoice Processing, Project Closure
Supplies	<u>NA</u>	\$904.00	Flagging, Grass Seed, Burning Fuel
Operations	\$22,475.00		Contractual - Tree Thinning
Total	\$22,475.00	\$7,475.00	\$29,950.00

City of Helena, Montana

City of Helena Proposed Project Map

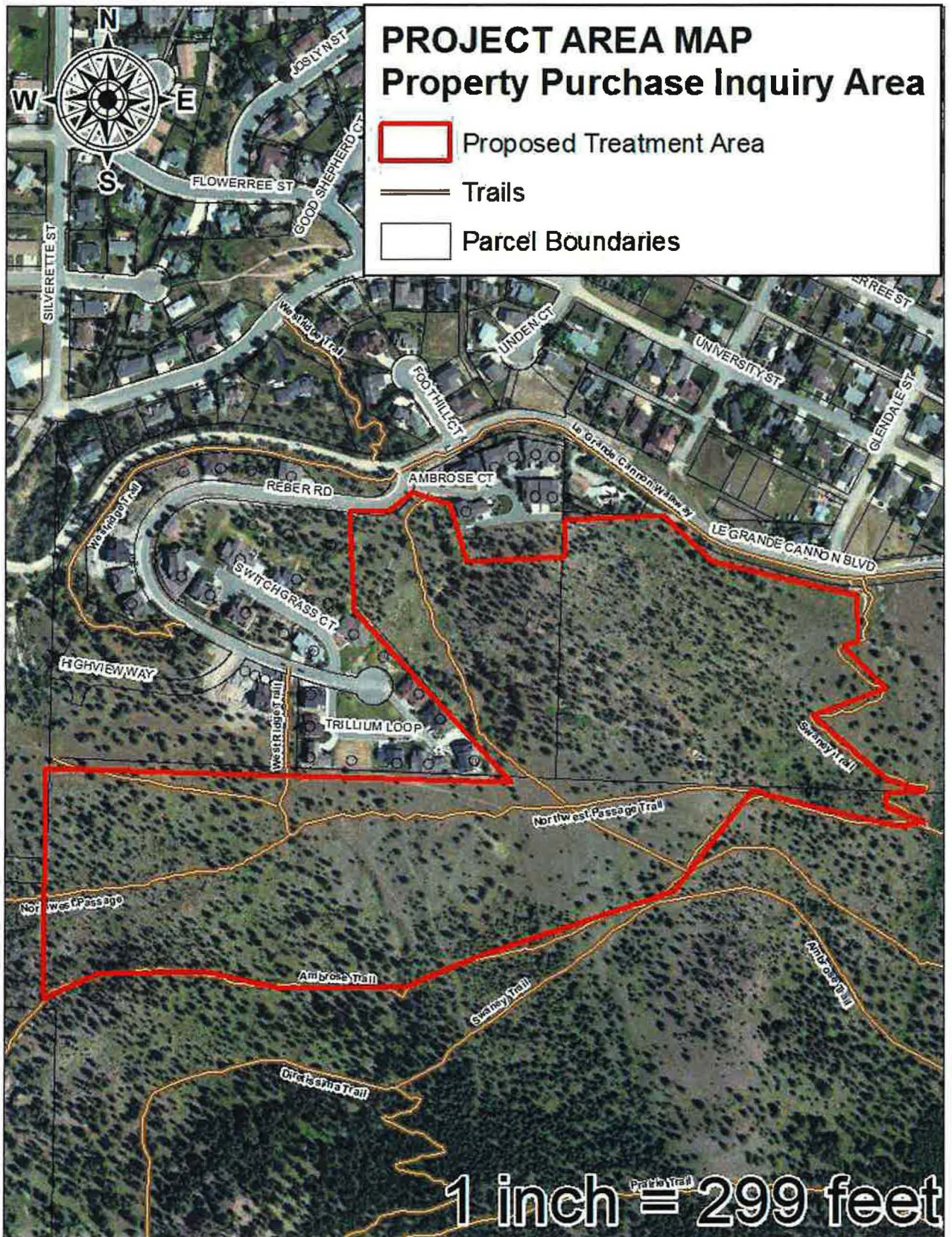


EXHIBIT B



PO Box 934
Helena, MT 59624-2418
www.tcfswg.org

Date: 6/26/24

To: Ann McCauley

From: Tri-County Firesafe Working Group

Subject: Private Land Fuel Mitigation Project

Tri-County Firesafe Working Group would like to submit a request to Lewis and Clark County for \$22,806.19. The proposal includes 2 projects:

1) funding private land fuel mitigation on approximately 16.4 acres in St. Louis Gulch in Lewis and Clark county. We are proposing a 75% grant funded, 25% homeowner funded project. The land would be treated using cut/hand pile/burn with the burning to occur after the fuels have cured. This project is in a subdivision where 13.8 acres of other properties have been mitigated in 2024, and another landowner has a project plan in place. The area is flanked by BLM land which has not been treated and has heavy fuels. The area was identified in the CWPP as WUI and in need of treatment. There are numerous homes to the east of this property. Treating this area provides a buffer to the properties to the east, where the prevailing winds would push a wildfire. St. Louis Gulch is a feeder road to the primary evacuation route of Austin Road. A prescription has been written for the proposed property (see attached). The landowner has secured bids. A financial agreement will be in place prior to work commencing, naming the mitigation funds requested here.

2) Any remaining funds would be used for funding home ignition zone assessments (HIZ) throughout the county. Tri-County anticipates high interest in home assessments following a mailing by DNRC in July to homeowners with high density canopies around their homes in Lewis and Clark County. The mailing will point the homeowner to Tri-County's website application for a free home assessment. The following table outlines the proposal:

Category	Grant	Match	Description
Personnel	\$200	\$200	Tri-county contractor time in inspections, financial agreement, reimbursement agreement, invoicing for fuel mitigation project.
Operations	\$20,460.01	\$6,819.99	Homeowner cost match (25%) Grant cost (75%)
Home Assessments and Project Plans	\$2,146.18	\$800	Tri-county contractor time in HIZ inspections and application processing for home assessments (\$120.00 each), and project plans if appropriate (\$200.00 each). Mileage @ \$0.67/mile (\$35/project)
Total	\$22,806.19	\$7,819.99	

Lois Olsen
TCFSWG Board President

Fuels Mitigation Specifications.

- **Tree Cutting:**

- Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir and Juniper shall be selectively thinned on a tree crown to tree crown spacing approximately equivalent to fifteen (15) horizontal feet. Small islands may be designated as agreed upon but will need to meet spacing requirements around them and in addition must meet limbing/pruning requirements. There may be smaller trees retained for regeneration purposes and must be marked as save trees.
- Thinning and cutting shall take place on trees 12 inches in height to 8" DBH (diameter at breast height) leaving larger mature trees with a 15-foot crown to crown spacing.
- Retention trees will be selected based on their outward expression of good form and apparent vigor with full crowned trees given retention preference over lesser quality trees.
- All cut trees shall be completely severed below the lowest live limb except when prevented by natural obstacles. A live limb is a limb of any size that has green needles attached.
- Stump height shall not exceed 2 inches above ground level on the high side of the tree or 2 inches above natural obstacles and shall be angle cut to match the slope upon which they reside.
- If Limber Pine is present, it shall be retained based on tree health and pruned to meet the specifications outlined below. This will help ensure a diverse tree species.
- All Juniper will be removed within the initial 200' of structures as Juniper has a propensity to spread embers in the event of unwanted fire. Recommend removal of all Juniper due to the flammability and embers produced during unwanted fires.
- Any wood cut that the homeowner would like to retain as firewood will be limbed and cut into 6-8' lengths and left in place for homeowner to remove.
- Downed and dead materials should be cut and piled for burning, larger materials may be left in place for natural decay. At the least materials will be limbed and piled.

- **Tree Pruning:**

- All retention trees > 20 feet in total height shall be pruned/limbed to a height of 6-10'.
- All trees < 20 feet in total height will be pruned/limbed to one-third of their total height.

- **Disposal:**

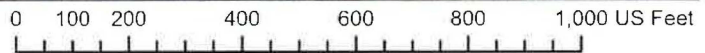
- **Burning:**

- All tree stem and branch material (slash) exhibiting a large end diameter less than 8 inches outside bark, derived from standing and down trees, and having enough structural integrity to be manipulated by hand, will be piled.
- Tree stem material exhibiting small end diameter > 8 inches will be left where it resides, but all limbs attached to said log must be severed flush with the log bole and piled. Green stem and branch material retained onsite will be scored with a chainsaw to promote drying and prevent bark beetle infestation.
- Slash must be piled in forest openings at least 15 feet from retention trees. Slash piles are to be tightly packed with no extruding stems. Slash piles are not to be placed on old stumps, large diameter logs, or junipers. Slash piles should be as tall as they are wide, not to exceed 5'X7'.
- Burning of hand piles will be done after the material has been subjected to one complete (May 1st to October 1st) drying period and will be done in such a manner that 90% of the material contained within each individual pile is consumed.
- It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that whoever is doing the burning (contractor or yourself) that all proper burning permits have been obtained and in possession while burning.

- **Mechanical Chipping/mastication:**



Bob Branson
6655 St. Louis Gulch Rd
Helena, MT. 59602



Craig Kockler Management Services

This project plan shall be given to each potential contractor for bid.