

FORESTRY AND FIRE DIVISION
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March 14, 2024

Mary Anderson, Chief, Air Quality Planning Bureau
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

Subject: CPRG IDL Commitment Letter

Dear Ms. Anderson:

On behalf of the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), thank you for the opportunity to participate with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in applying for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program.

IDL manages approximately 2.5 million acres of State endowment trust lands. These lands were granted to the State through various Territorial Acts and upon statehood by the federal government for the express purpose of maximizing returns to the trust beneficiaries – the largest trust beneficiary being K-12 public schools. Healthy, resilient forests are essential to accomplishing this mandate. Insect and disease outbreaks and wildfires on federal lands do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries and pose a threat to private property and State endowment trust lands. IDL is also responsible for fire management of over 9 million acres of federal, state, and private forest and range lands throughout Idaho.

IDL has become increasingly concerned about land development and risk of wildfire to private property and associated livelihoods due to rapidly increasing populations in many communities throughout the state. In combination with that development and past land management actions IDL is concerned about the integrity of fragile ecosystems, in particular riparian zones.

Idaho has developed effective partnerships and collaborative teams to accomplish mutual goals and effectively respond to forest, ecosystem, and landscape threats. A recent example of this is Idaho's "Shared Stewardship" initiative, which emerged through increased collaboration between the State and the USFS. On December 18, 2018, the State of Idaho, USDA – Secretary of Agriculture, and the USDA Forest Service, Northern and Intermountain Regions executed the first Agreement for Shared Stewardship in the nation. This effort has resulted in robust programs, utilizing all available resources such as contracts and agreements to increase wildfire mitigation desperately needed for forest health and resilience treatment activities across Idaho.

IDL is committed to continued delivery of its mitigation, restoration, and conservation programs. IDL is further committed to actively engaging with IDEQ for the delivery of these programs through CPRG awards. IDL has a culture and history of building and maintaining relationships for the benefit of Idaho citizens, and we are committed to continue to do so with IDEQ.

IDL appreciates its ongoing partnership with the IDEQ and welcomes the opportunity to assist with implementation of activities included in the CPRG application through our programs.

Respectfully,



Craig Foss
Division Administrator, Forestry and Fire

cc: Ara Andrea, Chief Shared Stewardship; Archie Gray, Chief Forestry Assistance;
Tyre Holfeltz, Program Manager; Jennifer Barker, Program Manager