

National Fire Plan

Community Assistance in Eastern Idaho

2002



The Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) organization will hire a Strategic Fire Planner with grant funds received from a Forest Service grant funded by the National Fire Plan. The Planner will do a needs and capabilities analysis of the 42 county, city, and volunteer fire departments under mutual aid agreements with the USFS and BLM in Eastern Idaho. This is a one-year position. The goal is to canvas the departments and to produce a final product for each department analyzing their respective workloads, needs, and capabilities. The final document can then be used by the fire departments, agencies and organizations as a backup document for applying for grants. The analysis can also be used by the federal and state agencies to look at trends between departments and focus federal and state aid to areas the departments have identified as having the greatest needs. The RC&D councils will also utilize the final document to seek funding to meet local needs. The total grant funding for this project is \$65,750. The Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Upper Snake River-Bureau of Land Management, Blackfoot Fire Department, and the Three Rivers RC&D are functioning together as a steering committee to provide guidance to the position. The position has been filled with a retired fire chief and the assessment is underway.

Funds are available to eligible landowners in the Island Park, Idaho area to create and improve “defensible space” in and around subdivisions and individual homes through a second National Fire Plan grant being administering by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). The Forest Service funds distributed to IDL through a State Fire Assistance Grant have already assisted 63 homeowners participating currently in the program. An additional \$120,000 of the grant has been obligated by IDL for further assistance.