

**State and Private Forestry  
FY 2010 Western Competitive  
Resource Allocation  
Single-State Project Proposal**

<b>Filename</b>	
SD_BHLandscape.doc	
<b>Administration Information</b>	
Dollar Amount Requested:	<b>\$300,000</b>
Matching Share:	<b>\$360,036</b>

<b>Applicant Information</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>State Forestry Agency:</b> South Dakota Department of Agriculture - Resource Conservation & Forestry
	<b>Contact Person:</b> Raymond A. Sowers, State Forester
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	<b>City/State/Zip Code:</b> Pierre, SD 57501
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<b>Project Information</b>				
<b>2</b>	<b>Descriptive Title of Project:</b>	Black Hills Landscape-Level Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Initiative		
	<b>Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:</b>	South Dakota Department of Agriculture-Wildland Fire Suppression (WFS) & Resource Conservation and Forestry (RCF); the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF); Pennington County; the City of Rapid City (RC); Black Hills Volunteer Fire Departments; the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Park; the National Park Service; and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation		
	<b>State(s):</b>	South Dakota	<b>Congressional Districts:</b>	South Dakota
	<b>Counties:</b>	Lawrence, Pennington, Meade, Custer, and Fall River	<b>Forest Service Regions:</b>	II

<b>Total Leverage</b>								
Please specify each 3 <sup>rd</sup> party contributor (partnering organizations and agencies, including other Federal) and the dollar value of each contribution. Please DO NOT show grant requested funds in this table.								
<b>3</b>	<b>Contributors:</b> (Please specify by name)	BHNF	NPS	SD-GF&P	Local Gov & VFD's	NGO's	WFS	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Value of Contributions:</b>	\$50,000	\$6,000	\$60,000	\$200,000	\$40,000	\$22,630	<b>\$378,630</b>

Project Budget					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	TOTAL	
		Cash <sup>1</sup>	In-Kind <sup>2</sup>		
4	<b>Personnel / Labor:</b>	\$42,000	\$15,853	\$57,853	<b>\$115,706</b>
	<b>Fringe Benefits:</b>	\$18,000	\$6,777	\$24,777	<b>\$49,554</b>
	<b>Travel:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Equipment:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Supplies:</b>	\$3000	\$0	\$3,000	<b>\$6,000</b>
	<b>Contractual:</b>	\$220,000	\$0	\$234,776	<b>\$454,776</b>
	<b>Construction:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Other:</b>	\$2,224	\$0	\$2,224	<b>\$4,448</b>
	<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	\$14,776	\$14,776	\$0	<b>\$29,552</b>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$37,406</b>	<b>\$322,630</b>	<b>\$660,036</b>

Project Duration	
5	What is the duration of this project? <input type="checkbox"/> One Year <input type="checkbox"/> Two Years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three Years

National Relevance	
6	Conserve Working Forest Landscapes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Forests From Harm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Project Description	
7	<p>Maximum 5500 Characters Including Spaces – Clearly summarize the proposed project, including goals, objectives, measurable outputs, outcomes, and how grant funds will be used towards successful completion of the project.</p> <p>This is a project designed to address a problem within the Black Hills of South Dakota. The Black Hills National Forest is interspersed with private forest lands that are being fragmented into subdivisions. These are often heavily forested. Most of these state and private lands fall within identified WUI and are considered at high risk to catastrophic wildfires. This effort will concentrate on thinning forest stands, reducing fuel loading, and conducting prescribed burns where they can be done safely. Grant funds will be utilized to cover costs of these projects. This project will result in: treat 4300 acres identified as high priority project through existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP);The treatments include;</p> <p>1) Timber stand improvement (1200 acres) - forest stands will be thinned to level that are fire safe and slash will be lopped and scattered in areas that fire risk is not high and will be piled and burned in areas where the fire risk will not allow heavy accumulations of fuel. This treatment will leave a forest of high quality trees that have adequate room to capture water, light, and nutrients. The long-term result will be a healthy forest that will not only be resistant to insect, disease, and fire, but will produce forest products for future generations.</p> <p>2) Prescribed burning preparations – this includes constructing fire line with the use of bulldozers, road graders, and hand tools. Also, it includes burning slash piles and removing large machine piles that cannot be inside of burn units prior to prescribed burning. Burning preparations include planning burn units and conditions as well as</p>

<sup>1</sup> ‘Cash’ is the value of any qualifying match the applicant pays for such as cash, staff time, supplies, or equipment.

<sup>2</sup> ‘In-Kind’ is the value of any qualifying match contributed by a non-federal 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributor such as donated time, supplies, or equipment.

	<p>organizing resources amongst other agencies.</p> <p>3) Prescribed fire (5500 acres) - burning will be used to eliminate fuel loadings from past and current mechanical treatments, create strategic fuel breaks that will break up fuel continuity, protecting surrounding forests and structures, increase wildlife habitat diversity by creating a patch-work of differing forest structures, and increase the overall health of the forest. By re-introducing fire at a landscape scale that has had fire suppressed for more than one hundred years, the treated areas will become a place with a diversity of productive forests and wildlife habitats. It will also begin the legacy of creating large-scale fuel breaks with the use of fire instead of other costly methods such as cutting, piling, and burning.</p>
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8	<b>Program Integration</b>
	<p><b>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</b></p> <p>This project will integrate forest health, fuels management, forest production, insect, disease and fire hazard reduction, economic development, and education. The project will directly involve 4 state agencies ( South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) Resource Conservation and Forestry and Wildland Fire Suppression and SD Game Fish &amp; Parks (SDGFP) Custer State Park and Wildlife Division); the National Park Service, the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF); the City of Rapid City (as well as other communities); the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and other non-governmental associations.</p> <p>Cooperation on projects occurs across political boundaries among these agencies and agreements are in place. This effort will complement pine beetle control work and fuels management efforts on BHNF lands and dovetail with project work in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. Enhanced habitat will benefit wildlife and prescribed fires will be implemented across boundaries with private, BHNF and state landowners.</p>

9	<b>Collaboration</b>
	<p><b>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</b></p> <p>In general, all collaborative agencies support actions on state and private forest lands within the Black Hills area where fire hazards and fire risks are high. Treating these forest lands will reduce fuel loadings, create large-scale fuel breaks, and stimulate healthy forests resistant to insect infestations and catastrophic wildfires. With the exception of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation all participating agencies have a collaborative agreement or an memorandum of understanding (MOU). In the past all of these agencies have collaborated to complete similar projects. Also, a portion these funds will be used along the boundary of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve in Custer State Park. The Park and the Black Hills National Forest have a memorandum of understanding, and have worked at length as to how to best manage this area especially with the impending threat of mountain pine beetle. Funds from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation that will be used to accomplish a portion of preparation for the projects in the Norbeck area.</p> <p>Volunteer Fire Departments will participate through soft match contributions of personnel and equipment. All agencies will be critical partners in identifying treatment areas</p>

<b>10</b>	<b>Leverage</b>
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	<p><b>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</b></p> <p>The Black Hills National Forest and the National Park Service will participate as cooperating agencies on many of the prescribed burns conducted through this initiative. Their time and effort has been tabulated in this proposal as leverage. Their contributions are not included in the matching funds provided by the other participants.</p> <p>There are three major forms of leveraging that will occur on this project. One is the donation of engine time that will occur between agencies during the prescribed burns. The second is the time required by staff and cooperators to write plans and prescriptions and prepare the project areas for treatment. The third is secured funding from the non-governmental associations, like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, that contribute time and funding to this initiative. This project will further interagency cooperation and lead to additional cooperative work in the future.</p>
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<b>Meaningful Scale</b>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</b></p> <p>One of the distinguishing aspects of this project is that it is at a landscape-scale. It will address serious forest health and fire hazard areas on state and private lands within the Black Hills. This area is identified as a high priority landscape that contributes most of the water to several large aquifers. It contains important watersheds that supply drinking water to several towns - the largest being Rapid City. The scale of this project will aid in creating a large-scale breaks in forest fuels that will protect surrounding forests, historic structures, parks, and private lands. The project will work closely with federal partners to insure that landscape scale management occurs regardless of ownership.</p>

<b>Sphere of Influence</b>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</b></p> <p>The project will become a model of how forest management and prescribed fire can be used to create a healthy, resilient and sustainable forest capable of producing wood products, wildlife, clean air and water on a landscape scale regardless of ownership. Management on a landscape scale has been advocated by many agencies, environmental groups, conservation groups, and the general public. This project will demonstrate that this level of management is possible. Many research facilities and universities are also interested in studying the long-term impact of landscape scale management and they will be conducting studies and research projects on bird diversity as a result of forest management, forage production under forest cover, and ponderosa pine mortality following varying intensities of prescribed fire.</p>

<b>13</b>	<b>Sustainability of Outcomes</b>
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**Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces**

This project will provide an abundance of experience to resource managers within state agencies, collaborating agencies, and private landowners. Participants will gain valuable experience in landscape level planning and design, layout and implementation of large contracts, successful prescribed fire techniques, and collaborating with other agencies. Implementing large-scale and complex prescribed burns will lead to better future collaboration as well as cooperation between agencies. Collaborating agencies will also increase their skills in implementing prescribed burns that are aimed at reducing fuels while maintaining the forest overstory. Much of this project relies on private contractors to enhance forested conditions by timber stand improvement activities. This will build positive relationships between agencies and private contractors. The training provided through this project will extend far beyond the life of the project. The live-fire training provided to multiple cooperating agencies over a several year period will allow ample training opportunities. It will give fire teams the skills they need to fight large wildfires.