



Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group

**USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs,
USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal wildland fire suppression agencies call for community assistance and wildland-urban interface project proposals for Fiscal Year 2007

PORTLAND, December 13, 2005 – Communities in Oregon and Washington are invited to apply for National Fire Plan Community Assistance Grants. This federal multi-agency community assistance program is designed to reduce threats from wildfire and enhance local economies. The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs will again pool grant programs and funds to provide community assistance through one collaborated grant application as part of the National Fire Plan.

For Fiscal Year 2007 grants, applications must be submitted on line by 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2006. The agencies expect to award between \$2 and \$4 million for Fiscal Year 2007. Grants for individual projects will have a maximum limit of \$200,000. Awards will be made after October 1, 2006, when fiscal year 2007 funds become available; the probable timeline is February or March 2007.

In a change from previous years, federal wildfire agencies only seek proposals for two categories: 1) fuels reduction in the wildland-urban interface, and 2) fuels utilization and marketing. To best use extremely limited funding, federal wildfire agencies will collaborate with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Washington Department of Natural Resources to identify options to provide seed money to complete county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) in high fire risk counties. In addition, federal and state prevention specialists will work together to develop a prevention and education project or program.

“Grants through the National Fire Plan are highly competitive. I encourage applicants to begin collaboration with state, federal and tribal partners very early,” said Bonnie Wood, National Fire Plan Coordinator for Oregon and Washington. “The most successful proposals are those that respond directly to the criteria, are collaborated and supported locally, leverage other funds, can be completed in one to two years, and have a well-developed budget and work plan.”

Proponents seeking funding through this grant program are expected to have completed CWPPs, and the proposal must be identified in the CWPP. Projects in the wildland-urban interface with adjacent projects on federal and/or tribal land are encouraged.

More information on eligibility, project evaluation criteria, and a link to the electronic application database can be found on line at:

<http://www.nwfireplan.gov/CommunityAsst/Apply.htm>

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