MEMORANDUM

TO: Darrel Johnston, WA DNR, Resource Protection Division

FROM: Steve Harris, WA DNR, Northeast Region, Landowner Assistance

DATE: February 26, 2014

SUBJECT: LCG-CWPP Project Selection Process and Region Ranking

The process for development and prioritization of the DNR Northeast Region 2014 National Fire Plan (NFP) Fuels Reduction projects follows:

**LCG-CWPP Process**

**Stevens County**

January 30, 2014: A Stevens County LCG-CWPP meeting occurred in Colville, Washington to develop and prioritize 2014 NFP grant proposals. Nine (9) people attended the meeting. The following federal agency employee was in attendance to share information regarding Stevens County WUI fuels reduction projects on federal lands:

* Jimmy Corvino, USFS Colville NF West Zone, Fuels Specialist

The group proposed and ranked the following NFP projects listed in order of priority:

1. Gulches Fuels Reduction (9 votes)
   1. Adjacent to USFS Mill Creek A-Z Project
   2. Ranking factors: Communities have yet to be targeted for outreach and funding. Very high risk area without fire district protection in much on the area. Communities have major access issues; one way in and out. Key landowners on board already. High projected cost per acre.
2. Onion Creek Fuels Reduction (0 votes)
   1. Adjacent to USFS Mill Creek A-Z Project
   2. Ranking factors: Momentum in place after the ARRA Onion Creek Project, very high risk area without fire district protection in much of the area. High projected cost per acre.
3. Sheep Creek Fuels Reduction (0 votes)
   1. Adjacent to USFS East Wedge Project
   2. Ranking factors: Area was targeted with ARRA Wedge Project already.

Voting was done by a show of hands. Each participant was allowed one vote.

**Okanogan County**

February 14, 2014: An Okanogan County LCG-CWPP meeting occurred in Okanogan, Washington to develop and prioritize 2014 NFP grant proposals. Sixteen (16) people attended the meeting. The following federal agency employee was in attendance to share information regarding Okanogan County WUI fuels reduction projects on federal lands:

* Kathy Busse, USFS Methow Valley Ranger District AFMO

The group proposed and ranked the following NFP projects listed in order of priority:

1. Winthrop Fuels Reduction (16 votes)
   1. Adjacent to USFS McFarland, Mission, Wolf Creek, Fawn Creek, Cub Creek, and Cougar Lake Projects
   2. Ranking factors: Excellent community support, high catastrophic fire history, one way in and out communities, excellent projected cost per acre and interagency participation.
2. Antione Fuels Reduction (0 votes)
   1. Adjacency to USFS Projects questionable
   2. Ranking factors: Uncertain about USFS adjacency, may be a Columbia River RD project. Much of the area has burned already. Would be good teachable moment. A couple of landowners have approached DNR for assistance recently.
3. Tunk-Limebelt Fuels Reduction Project (0 votes)
   1. Adjacency to USFS Projects questionable
   2. Ranking factors: Uncertain about USFS adjacency. Have targeted this area with other funding in last five years.

Voting was done by a show of hands. Each participant was allowed one vote.

**Pend Oreille County**

February 19, 2014: A Pend Oreille County LCG-CWPP meeting occurred in Newport to develop and prioritize 2014 NFP grant proposals. Fourteen (14) people attended the meeting. The following federal agency employees were in attendance to share information regarding Pend Oreille County WUI fuels reduction projects on federal lands:

* Kent Contreras, USFS Pend Oreille Valley District, FMO
* Brian Hicks, USFS Pend Oreille Valley District, AFMO Fuels

The group proposed and ranked the following NFP projects listed in order of priority:

1. Riverview Fuels Reduction (14 votes)
   1. Adjacent to USFS Hanlon Project
   2. Ranking factors: Ties in with work already initiated in the community. Several landowners already lined up with plans ready to go. Projected moderate cost per acre.
2. Renshaw Fuels Reduction (0 vote)
   1. Adjacent to USFS renshaw Projects
   2. Ranking factors: Projected higher cost per acre, portion of area already targeted with grant funds within the last 5 years.
3. Conger Fuels Reduction (0 vote)
   1. Adjacent to USFS Conger and Power Lake Projects
   2. Ranking factors: Projected higher cost per acre, community support unknown

Voting was done by a show of hands. Each participant was allowed one vote.

**Ferry County**

February 20, 2013: A Ferry County LCG-CWPP meeting occurred in Republic to develop and prioritize 2014 NFP grant proposals. Eight (8) people attended the meeting. The following federal agency employees were in attendance to share information regarding Ferry County WUI fuels reduction projects on federal lands:

* Reed Heckly, USFS Republic Ranger District, FMO
* Jimmy Corvino, USFS Colville NF West Zone, Fuels Specialist
* Richard Parish, BLM, Spokane District, AFMO Fuels
* Mike Solheim, BLM, Spokane District, Fuels Technician

The group decided to not pursue a 2014 NFP Grant due to the large amount of state capital grant funds currently available to landowners in the Forest Health Hazard Warning Area which covers the majority of the county. Over $1,000,000 has been allocated for private land forest health treatments.

**Spokane County**

No meeting:

Due to the lack of USFS managed land within the Spokane County, no projects are eligible for NFP funding.

**Lincoln County**

No meeting:

Due to the lack of USFS managed land within the Lincoln County, no projects are eligible for NFP funding.

**Northeast Region Ranking**

The following is the ranked list of 2014 National Fire Plan (NFP) Fuels Reduction projects that are being submitted by DNR Northeast Region. These projects were ranked by County LCG-CWPP Groups and DNR Northeast Region staff.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **National Fire Plan Applications 2014** | | | |  |  |  |  |
| Northeast Region Ranking | | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rank** | **Project Name** | **County** | **Criteria Met** | **WRIA** | **Lead Agency** | **Request Amount** | **Footprint Acres** |
| 1 | Gulches | Stevens | Yes | Colville | WA DNR | $200,000 | 200 |
| 2 | Winthrop | Okanogan | Yes | Methow | WA DNR | $200,000 | 400 |
| 3 | Riverview | Pend Oreille | Yes | Pend Oreille | WA DNR | $200,000 | 250 |
| 4 | Onion Creek | Stevens | Yes | Colville | WA DNR | $200,000 | 200 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |