



# STAFF REPORT

**Report To:** Board of Supervisors

**Meeting Date:** May 19, 2016

**Staff Contact:** Robert Schreihans, rschreihans@carson.org

**Agenda Title:** For Possible Action: To authorize Carson City to submit a grant application in the amount of \$102,389.00 to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), through the Bureau of Land Management - Carson City Westside Hazardous Fuels Collection Project. (Robert Schreihans)

**Staff Summary:** This grant will provide funding for the Carson City Hazardous Fuels Collection Project (Carson City Fire Department - trailer/dumpster program) over a six year period.

**Agenda Action:** Formal Action/Motion

**Time Requested:** 10 minutes

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## **Proposed Motion**

To authorize Carson City to submit a grant application in the amount of \$102,389.00 to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), through the Bureau of Land Management, for the Carson City Westside Hazardous Fuels Collection Project.

## **Board's Strategic Goal**

Safety

## **Previous Action**

N/A

## **Background/Issues & Analysis**

The Carson City Fire Department will collect an anticipated 700 tons of biomass over 6 years from the west side of Carson City. We believe this number is conservative and the actual number will be higher. The Fuels Collection Program has been an exemplary program which several other Departments have instituted in their jurisdictions. We have experienced growth in the program every year with no public advertisement. It has been so successful due to neighbors talking to neighbors and citizens seeing the collection bins in their neighborhoods. It has been proven that when you give homeowners a way to get rid of the vegetation, they are willing to create defensible/ survival space on their property and recommend that their neighbors do the same.

Within this program we offer trailers (7'x12') and roll off dumpsters (20 cu. Yds.) for homeowners to fill with vegetation removed while completing defensible space around their home. The collection bins are offered free of charge as an incentive for homeowners to have adequate defensible space. Throughout the entire city we delivered over 400 trailers and 150 dumpsters last year. The total vegetation collected was over 400 tons in 2015.

## **Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation**

N/A

**Financial Information**

Is there a fiscal impact?  Yes  No

If yes, account name/number: N/A

Is it currently budgeted?  Yes  No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: There is not a requirement for matching funds on this grant, although a minimum of 10 hours per trailer and 25 hours per dumpster of in-kind match is anticipated. A low estimate for the number of hours each year would be 2,250 hours, which would be valued at over \$45,000 per year (\$270,000 total, over the length of the six year performance period).

**Alternatives**

The alternative, choosing to not authorize application, would remove the opportunity to receive the funding for this project.

**Board Action Taken:**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Aye/Nay

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Vote Recorded By)

**SNPLMA ROUND 16 NOMINATION FOR  
HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION**



**Carson City Fire Department  
777 S. Stewart Street  
Carson City, NV 89506**

**Project:** Carson City Hazardous Fuels Collection

**Project Timeframe:** 6 Years

**Amount Requested:** \$102,389

**Contact:** Fire Chief Robert Schreihans

**Phone:** 775-887-2210

**Fax:** 775-887-2209

**Email:** BSchreihans@carson.org

**Location:** N 39° 10' 24"  
W 120° 47' 59"

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Carson City Fire Dept. will collect an anticipated 700 tons of biomass over 6 years from the west side of Carson City. We believe this number is conservative and the actual number will be higher. The Fuels Collection Program has been an exemplary program which several other Departments have instituted in their jurisdictions. We have experienced growth in the program every year with no public advertisement. It has been so successful due to neighbors talking to neighbors and citizens seeing the collection bins in their neighborhoods. It has been proven that when you give homeowners a way to get rid of the vegetation, they are willing to create defensible/ survival space on their property and recommend that their neighbors do the same.

Within this program we offer trailers (7'x12') and roll off dumpsters (20 cu. Yds.) for homeowners to fill with vegetation removed while completing defensible space around their home. The collection bins are offered free of charge as an incentive for homeowners to have adequate defensible space. Throughout the entire city we delivered over 400 trailers and 150 dumpsters last year. The total vegetation collected was over 400 tons in 2015.

In 2004 Carson City experienced the Waterfall Fire that burned 9,000+ acres, 18 structures and 51 vehicles, including two fire apparatus. It was lessons learned in those few days that drive Carson City Fire Dept. to create proactive fuel programs like this. We do not want to see a repeat of that event, and neither do our residents, so they have been aggressive in removing hazardous fuels, ladder fuels, and being ember prepared in order to prevent that from happening.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO THE SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN**

The project **promotes sustainability** by including homeowners in the process of fuels reduction and educating them on the proper way to create survivable space. This program also creates "invested" owners who are willing to roll up their sleeves and put in the work it takes to prepare a home for wildfire. The face to face meeting on the property owners land creates a great teaching environment where the homeowner has access to experts in fuels reduction and survivable space.

The project **promotes community** through neighbors talking to neighbors. Once a collection bin is placed in a yard, there is a good chance one of the surrounding neighbors will be asking about it. A healthy community is one where neighbors communicate freely and assist each other in times of need. The fuels collection program also puts peer pressure on one's neighbors to keep yards clean, lean and green.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS/ANTICIPATED PHASES**

Carson City has been fortunate enough to receive SNPLMA Round 8 funding in 2008 for hazardous Fuels Reduction on open space. As the larger fuels breaks surrounding communities are completed the next step in creating Fire Adapted Communities is to reduce the fuels on the

lots that make up the community. This program will enhance the fuels reduction already accomplished by having homeowners take responsibility for their own property.

### **CONTRIBUTED FUNDS**

Carson City Fire Dept. will document the number of hours each landowner spends cutting and filling the collection bins. As the collection bins are dropped off, each landowner will get a packet of educational information along with a form to fill out to document the in-kind hours they spend completing fuels reduction projects that result in the need for the collection bin. We anticipate a minimum of 10 hours per trailer and 25 hours per dumpster of in-kind match. A low estimate for the number of hours each year would be 2,250 hours, which would be valued at over \$45,000 per year.

### **PROJECT DELIVERABLES**

1. Primary Deliverables
  - a. Collect an anticipated 700 tons of biomass in 6 years from the west side of Carson City.
2. Anticipated Deliverables
  - a. Carson City Fire will deliver a packet of educational material with every collection bin.
    - i. *Living with Fire* Information.
    - ii. Ready! Set! Go! Information.
3. Standard Deliverables
  - a. Deliver a collection bin (Trailer or Dumpster) so homeowners have a way to dispose of vegetation removed to create defensible/ survivable space.

### **SNPLMA PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Outcome: Minimize the loss of life, property, and the environment from catastrophic wildfire within the wildland-urban interface of Carson City, Nevada. Achieving the following output will accomplish this outcome:

Output (Primary Deliverable): Reduce hazardous fuels on 140 acres (5 tons of material equals 1 acre treated) in the wildland-urban interface. The SNPLMA Performance Measure is:

- Performance Measure F2 – Acres of Hazardous Fuels Treated – Wildland Urban Interface

Outcome: Increase public awareness about hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire preparedness. Achieving the following output(s) will accomplish this outcome:

Output (Primary Deliverable): Delivery of educational packets with each collection bin. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:

- Performance Measure O5 – Number of Outreach Contact Made (each individual is reported as one unit).

## **PROJECT READINESS**

Carson City Fire has been running this program since 2006 with an increase in usage every year. There is an established system in place for signing up for the program, getting the information to the drivers and an efficient schedule for delivery and pickup

## **HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION RANKING CRITERIA**

### **1. Improves the community within and/or adjacent to the project area.**

#### *A. Addresses immediate public health and safety and community infrastructure.*

This project is 100% in the Threat Zone because it is in the community itself. The collection of fuels from private lots extends fuel breaks previously constructed into the community and onto private property. This will move these communities that much closer to becoming a Fire Adapted Community.

#### *B. Promotes protection of source water (rivers and lakes) or municipal watersheds.*

By giving homeowners an easy way to complete defensible space, we are effectively cleaning up drainages that would not be treated otherwise. Creating defensible/survivable space, removing dead and downed vegetation, and creating adequate space between brush and trees, stream zones will be returned to a healthy, productive part of the ecosystem.

#### *C. Project includes education and outreach to the community on Living with Fire or Fire Adapted Communities and/or the importance of fuels reduction on federal, state, and local government land.*

With the delivery of every collection bin (trailer or dumpster), a packet with educational material will be dropped off as well. These packets will include information from the *Living with Fire* program as well and the Ready! Set! Go! Program from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

### **2. Improves the connection of fuels reduction activities and wildlife habitat.**

#### *A. Project connects previously treated areas to create or increase contiguous blocks of treated land.*

Funding from Round 8 was used to complete fuel breaks around the outside of communities, and this program will enhance those fuel breaks by removing fuels from within the community itself.

#### *B. Project protects or enhances wildlife habitat and/or resilient vegetative communities.*

All of the communities on the west side of Carson City are critical winter range for mule deer. By effectively lowering the average age of the vegetation, this creates more browse opportunities for mule deer. As sage brush and bitterbrush age, their stem production is reduced and chemical changes within the plants make them almost inedible to mule deer.

Since disturbance from fire and grazing has been limited, these types of projects are critical in restoring degraded ecosystems around Carson City.

*C. Project enhances the effectiveness of other treatments in progress or complete.*

This program has been an ongoing program since 2006, with many homeowners using it every year to freshen up their defensible space. What started out as a patch work of lots that used the service, over the years the holes have filled in to create large block of treated land.

**3. Improves sustainability of the multijurisdictional 10-year plans, environment, and financial resources.**

*A. The Project will:*

*1. Improve the sustainability of the forest health and ecosystem function (e.g. stand density, desired species mix and age, tree health, etc.)*

There is a large accumulation of fuels within the communities along the west side of Carson City causing hazardous fuel conditions and a degraded ecosystem not functioning at its peak. By creating defensible space and removing dead and downed material, creating space between tree and brush we are trying to mimic the effects of natural disturbance. Natural disturbance creates interspaces between widely spaced brush and trees where grasses and forbs can establish themselves. This increases biodiversity and increases the productivity of the entire ecosystem.

*2. Improve the habitat for sensitive species and Threatened and Endangered species. Includes mitigation and/or minimization measures when treatment in sensitive habitat is unavoidable.*

There are several species that are of concern that could benefit from this project. None are known to inhabit the project area now, but ongoing monitoring pre and post treatment will identify any of these species. By opening up dense dead and decadent vegetation and exposing the soil to sunlight, we never fully know what could sprout given the right conditions. If any of these species are identified before, during or after implementation, mitigation measures will be put in place to minimize the impact.

The result of no project could be catastrophic wildfire, which would result in bare mineral soil and possible cheat grass infestations. This would not be an environment that could sustain any of the species of concern.

*3. Includes broadcast prescribed fire for resource management objectives for sustainable landscapes.*

This program doesn't have a prescribed fire component.

*B. The method of treatment is fiscally responsible for the project area by balancing resource objectives, values at risk, and cost per acre factors or cost-benefit analysis.*

There are tremendous values at risk along the west side of Carson City. Two of our higher end communities, key winter range for mule deer and critical water infrastructure are just some of the vulnerable assets.

The aftermath of the 2004 Waterfall fire that swept along the west side of Carson City is still our worst case scenario for a wildfire. This single event destroyed 18 homes, 51 vehicles, including two fire apparatus, and caused an estimated \$23,500,000 in damages. These fuel breaks will significantly decrease the impacts of a wildfire in the future.

#### **4. Demonstrates sound project management and quality control measures.**

*A. Project goals and implementation processes are clear, measurable, achievable, and demonstrable.*

The goal is to collect as much vegetation as possible and reach as many residents as we can. All vegetation collected ends up at the landfill where it is weighed before it gets ground up into mulch. The mulch is then used in the local landscape industry.

*B. Project proponent has the capacity to implement this project in a timely manner (contractor and staff availability, no backlog of current project, etc.) and within budget.*

All the processes and procedures are currently in place and have been refined over the years, so this project will be carried out seamlessly.

*C. Is a phase or related component to a previously funded project?*

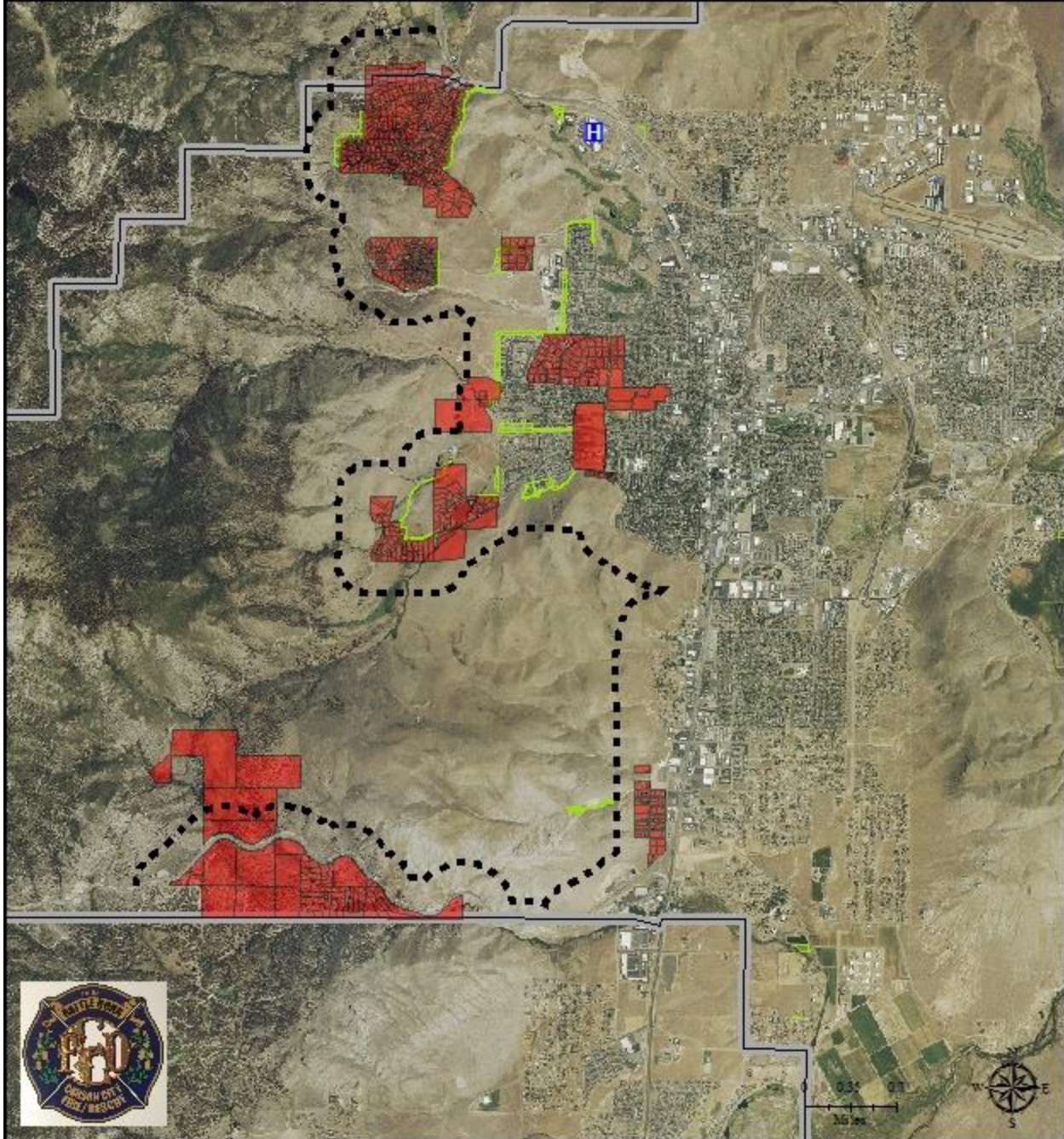
This program has been supported by other grants in the past, creating a phased program as residents are able to make several entry's into their landscape over the years.

*D. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project.*


Carson City Fire Dept. will document the number of hours each landowner spends cutting and filling the collection bins. As the collection bins are dropped off, each landowner will get a packet of educational information along with a form to fill out to document the in-kind hours they spend completing fuels reduction projects that result in the need for the collection bin. We anticipate a minimum of 10 hours per trailer and 25 hours per dumpster of in-kind match. A low estimate for the number of hours each year would be 2,250 hours, which would be valued at over \$45,000 per year.





# Carson City Westside Hazardous Fuels Collection SNPLMA Round 16 Nomination



**Legend**

 City Boundary

 WUI Defense Zone

 Parcels Eligible for Fuels Collection

 Past Fuels Projects (2008-2015)

Map 1 of 1  
Carson City  
Hazardous Fuels Collection



Photo #1 – 7’x12’ Fuels Collection Trailer. Carson City currently has 5 of these trailers which average 1000 lbs. of vegetation per trip.



Photo #2 – Carson City currently has 4, 20 cubic yd. dumpsters allocated to the Fuels Collection Program. These average 1.5 tons per trip.

**Schedule B  
HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION AND FIRE PREVENTION  
ESTIMATED NECESSARY EXPENSES**

<b>Project Name:</b>	Carson City Westside Hazardous Fuels Collection				
<b>Project #:</b>		<b>Priority #:</b>		<b>Agencies:</b>	
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Rodd Rummel				
<b>Phone:</b>	775-283-7161			<b>Initial</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Date:</b>	4/26/2016			<b>Updated</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**1. Planning & Environmental Documentation**

(Surveys/ reports for cultural, natural, biological, archaeological resources, NEPA documentation, etc)

**2. FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**

(direct expenses for FWS if consultation is required)

**3. Direct Federal Labor to Implement Project (Payroll)**

(Federal labor costs for completing the project)

**4. Project Equipment and/or Supplies/ Materials**

(include specialized equipment, supplies and materials not included in contracts/ agreements)

\$ 8,000.00	8%
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**5. Travel & Per Diem for Implementation**

**6. Official Vehicle Use**

(Based on agencies procedures for use, fuel, equipment, and mileage charges)

\$ 39,420.00	39%
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**7. Contracts/Grants/Agreements to complete the project**

**8. Other Direct and Contracted Labor**

Delivery Drivers and Scheduling Admin Staff

\$ 54,969.00	54%
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**9. Other Necessary Expenses - See Expanded Budget**

\$ -	0%
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<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 102,389.00	100%
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<b>COMMENTS</b>	

<b>Project Title: Carson City Westside Hazardous Fuels Collection</b>	
<b>DETAILED COST ESTIMATE</b>	
<b>1. Planning and Environmental Assessment Costs</b>	
Specialist Surveys/Reports	
NEPA	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>2. FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>3. Direct Labor/Payroll to Perform the Project (use fully loaded labor rate)</b>	
Delivery Drivers	\$ 43,776.00
Scheduling Admin Staff	\$ 11,193.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 54,969.00</b>
<b>4. Project Equipment</b>	
Item 1 (list equipment)	\$ -
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>5. Project Materials and Supplies</b>	
Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
Field Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
Vehicle Equipment	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 8,000.00</b>
<b>6. Travel (airfare, car rental, per diem, etc)</b>	
Travel 1 (include purpose)	\$ -
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>7. Official Vehicle Use</b>	
Delivery Vehicles	\$ 39,420.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 39,420.00</b>
<b>8. Required Training for Project Implementation (list purpose)</b>	
Training 1	\$ -
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>9. Cost of Contracts and/or Agreements to Perform Project</b>	
Mechanical Treatment Contractor	
CESU Cooperative Agreement:	-
<b>Detailed Cost Estimate Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 102,389.00</b>
<b>OTHER NECESSARY EXPENSES (APPENDIX B-11)</b>	
<b>10. Examples of Other Necessary Expenses (providing a breakdown of these costs is optional, however a total estimate is required.)</b>	
<b>ADMINISTRATION COSTS</b>	
Budget Tracking/Accounting and Execution	\$ -
Allocation of Transferred Funds to the Region and to the Field*	\$ -
Preparation of OMB Reports Required in Association with Transferred Funds*	\$ -
Project Procurements and Contract Oversight (If any in addition to Direct Labor for the CO, COR, and PI already included on the Estimated Expense sheet)	\$ -

Preparing Transfer Requests*	\$	-
Transfer of Station cost (PCS) for Hiring Project Personnel	\$	-
Managing Allocation of Transferred Funds*	\$	-
Financial Audit Support	\$	-
Supervision and Oversight of SNPLMA-Funded Staff and/or Contractors	\$	-
Travel Administration for Required Project Travel	\$	-
Human Resource/Relations Tasks for SNPLMA-funded Personnel	\$	-
Preparing Quarterly Status Reports	\$	-
Tracking Project Activities, Expenses, IGOs, Task Orders (e.g., project database management)	\$	-
IT Services to Install Hardware/Wiring, Project-Required Software, and Maintain/Trouble Shoot Computers Used for SNPLMA Projects. Hours and costs must be tracked by project and based on percentage of time the computer(s) are used for those projects.	\$	-
A percent of Project-Related Indirect Costs for Support Based on Staff Time Spent on the Project(s), provided these expenses meet the three criteria of necessary expenses and are not covered elsewhere in the cost estimate (Examples of such indirect costs would be secretarial support, printing, copying, cost-center expenses, etc.)	\$	-
<b>PROJECT CONSTRUCTION, CONSULTATION AND MANAGEMENT</b>		
Duties of Project Manager/Supervisor (If not already included on the Estimated Expense Sheet)	\$	-
Construction Trailers and Utilities	\$	-
Required Project Consultations (e.g., safety and fire; cultural and historic, ADA, etc.)	\$	-
Public Scoping and/or Meetings for Environmental Review, Project Design, etc. (Does not include ribbon cutting or opening ceremonies for projects at or near completion.)	\$	-
Review of Contracted Surveys, Assessments, Designs/Drawings, Reports (If not already included on the Estimated Necessary Expense Sheet)	\$	-
Construction Site Security	\$	-
Cell Phones, Cell Service, Radios for Project Personnel Primarily in the Field	\$	-
<b>Other Necessary Expenses Subtotal</b>	\$	-
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		
	\$	<b>102,389.00</b>
<b>CASH/ IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
<b>Volunteer In-Kind</b>	\$	<b>270,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>		
	\$	<b>270,000.00</b>



## CARSON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

*"Service with Pride, Commitment, Compassion"*

4/25/2016

Robert Wandel, Program Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
SNPLMA Division  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

RE: Carson City Westside Hazardous Fuels Collection

Mr. Wandel:

Carson City Fire Dept. will document the number of hours each landowner spends cutting and filling the collection bins. As the collection bins are dropped off, each landowner will get a packet of educational information along with a form to fill out to document the in-kind hours they spend completing fuels reduction projects that result in the need for the collection bin. We anticipate a minimum of 10 hours per trailer and 25 hours per dumpster of in-kind match. A low estimate for the number of hours each year would be 2,250 hours, which would be valued at over \$45,000 per year.

We look forward to working with the Bureau of Land Management on this project,

Respectfully,

Robert Schreihans  
Fire Chief  
Carson City Fire Dept.