



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
And
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
And
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

September 2, 2005

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the 2006 California Cooperative Rural Fire Assistance Program. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS) and Fish and Wildlife Service are working together in California to coordinate their Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) programs and offer you a “one-stop” application process for RFA grant funding. This program targets rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near Department of Interior (DOI) administered lands. The goals of this program are to enhance the wildland fire protection capabilities of rural fire departments through training, equipment purchase, and prevention work on a cost-shared basis.

Applications will be accepted until **October 7, 2005**. Minimum eligibility requirements for this program include:

1. Your department has an agreement with the state forester or a cooperative fire agreement with a DOI agency;
2. Your department serves a community with a population of 10,000 or less, which is adjacent to or neighboring lands managed by a DOI agency (i.e., BLM, NPS, FWS);
3. Your department is requesting funding for training, equipment, and or prevention activities related to wildland fire; and
4. Your department is able to meet at least a 10% cost share that may include in-kind services.
5. Your department is working towards becoming compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Please review the following checklist and the OES SEMS/NIMS Integration Update letter dated August 3, 2005 for more direction (www.oes.ca.gov).

The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) has developed a phased NIMS compliance process for California. By September 30, 2006, State, Local and Tribal fire services in California will be required to meet the following:

- a. Formally recognize the NIMS and adopting the NIMS principles and policies (this may be addressed within your cooperative fire agreement);
- b. Establish a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements you already meet (this may be established by utilizing the NIMCAST web-based self-assessment system (www.fema.gov/nimcast));
- c. Establish a timeframe and develop a strategy for full NIMS implementation (this may be established within your cooperative agreement and or through the NIMCAST system);
- d. Completing the NIMS Awareness Course “National Incident Management System an Introduction” (IS 700) or federal equivalent “Incident Command Systems (ICS 100). (The IS 700 training available is on-line at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>)

Awards are limited to \$20,000 total from DOI agencies. However, due to the large number of applications expected and the limited funding available, most awards are expected to be in the \$1,000 - \$10,000 range.

Please review all attachments to this letter including the application and supplemental forms, timelines, and selection criteria. All applications will be evaluated against the selection criteria and funding awarded on a competitive basis. There may be additional application procedures depending on the selecting agency's requirements. You will be notified in writing about your selection status and any of subsequent requirements.

For additional information on the RFA program please visit www.fireplan.gov/step1.cfm or contact the following California RFA representatives: BLM- Miriam Morrill at (916) 978- 4436, NPS- Bob Appling at (360) 696-7540 or FWS- Jessica Wade at (916) 978-6181.

For assistance with the application process, contact your local BLM field office, NPS Field Station, and or National Wildlife Refuge for additional information. To locate the office nearest to your department, please view the maps located on the following websites:

BLM Locations: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/fieldoffices.html>.

NPS Locations: <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/parksearch/state.cfm?st=ca>

FWS Locations: <http://pacific.fws.gov/#> (click on California)

2006 California Cooperative Rural Fire Assistance Grant Application Instructions

Background:

Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) funding can be used for training, equipment and/or prevention activities that improve safety and wildland firefighting capacity. Products and services that qualify for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Training
 - Basic, advanced, or refresher wildland fire training
 - Simulation drills
 - Training for future recruitment needs
- Equipment
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Radios (P25's compliant only) & other communication equipment
 - Pumps, hose, shovels, Pulaski's, & other non-capitalized wildland fire equip
(Non-capitalized equipment purchases are those items with a cost less than \$10,000)
- Fire Mitigation/Prevention/Education
 - Home and community protection planning (i.e., inspections, evaluations, and evacuation plans)
 - Educational products with topics related to defensible space, fire prevention and fire ecology
 - Community workshops such as Firewise

Application Process:

The following are required components of your RFA application:

1. The 2006 California Cooperative Rural Fire Assistance Application
2. 2006 Grant Application Supplemental Information Form
3. An itemized list of your request(s), their respective costs and your match
4. Information about your department's status for NIMS compliance. When have or will have your department's personnel taken IS 700 or ICS 100? When and how do you expect to meet the other components of NIMS compliance?

Your application will need to show a minimum 10% matching contribution to the total project/activity cost. You can find guidance to federal grant matching requirements at www.omb.gov sections A-102 C__.24 or A-110C__.23 and fund-raising ideas from www.action-training.com/raising-matching-funds.asp).

The application packet must be received by **October 7, 2005**. **Incomplete** or **late** applications will not be considered for funding. Please mail your packet to:

**BLM – California State Office
ATTN: Miriam Morrill, Rural Fire Assistance Program
2800 Cottage Way, W-1834
Sacramento, CA 95825**

Timeline:

Applications will be reviewed, evaluated, and ranked by individual agency panels between October and December, 2005. The California Cooperative Rural Fire Assistance Committee will compile agency review panel recommendations and make final funding selections. In the following months, successful applicants will be notified of the amount of their assistance award. Additional forms will then need to be completed and an assistance agreement between the funding agency and the fire department will be developed or an existing agreement modified. Once all required paperwork is completed and returned, payment will be made by electronic funds transfer to the fire department's designated financial institution.

Funding Priorities:

Priority grant selections will be based on a department's organizational/operational profile, as follows:

- Operates as a fire department serving a rural population of 10,000 people or less
- Members lack wildland fire personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Members lack wildland fire training OR need updating/advanced course work
- Basic safety equipment is not available for wildland firefighting (including, but not limited to, radios, first aid kits, hand tools)
- Wildland fire prevention programs/activities not available locally
- Regularly assist BLM, NPS, and or FWS in wildland fire suppression actions
- Regularly assist in protecting BLM, NPS, or FWS public lands
- High percentage of wildland/urban interface protected relative to other applicants
- High percentage of "Communities-At-Risk" relative to the other applicants
- High frequency of responses to wildland/urban fire incidents in local area

If your department does not fit the operational profile, as listed above, do not be discouraged from applying to this grant program. These are ranking criteria for a competitive grant process. Applications that meet the grant requirements, but are not funded due to a low-ranking or are post-marked after the closing date, will be compiled for evaluation and development of alternative assistance strategies.

2006
California Cooperative Rural Fire Assistance Application

Fire Department Name:		Date Submitted:
Fire Department mailing address:		
Fire Department Contact Person:		Fire Department Business Phone Number:
Your Cooperative Agreement Number: _____		
Your Cooperative Fire Agreement is with: <input type="checkbox"/> DOI Agency (BLM, FWS, BIA, NPS) <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> None		
Agency Contact Name: _____ Agency Phone Number: _____		
Agency Address: _____		
Nearest Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS) or Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Office:		
Number of wildland-urban intermix acres protected by Fire Dept:	Community Population:	Congressional District Number:
Average annual number of wildland fire responses within primary response area: (Do not include mutual aid responses)		
Average annual number of responses to BLM, NPS, and or FWS wildland fires:		
Average annual number of wildland mutual aid responses:		
Number of Fire Department wildland fire engines:		
Total number of active members on the Fire Department:		
Does the Fire Department currently have wildland fire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all active members? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If not, how many members are not equipped with PPE?		
How many members of your Fire Department do not meet your basic firefighter safety training?		
Have you analyzed your Fire Department's wildland fire prevention program needs? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Have you requested or received funding this year from another source? (e.g., US Forest Service/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Volunteer Fire Assistance Program) If so, how much?		
Has your Fire Department received any RFA funding in the past 3 years? If yes, how much?		
Total cost of Equipment/Supplies/Training/Prevention (requested amount plus matching): \$ _____		
Agency (BLM/NPS/FWS) Grant Amount Requested: \$ _____		
Department's Matching Contribution (min. 10% private match): \$ _____		
Name and Title of Requestor:		
Name and Title of Department of the Interior Officer reviewing:		
<i>FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR USE</i>		
Date Department of the Interior Official Reviewed:		
Date Approved _____ Amount Approved _____		

ATTACH AN ITEMIZED LIST OF YOUR REQUEST AND RESPECTIVE COSTS

Please format your itemized request(s) and show the associated costs within the following categories:

Training (Wildland)

Basic
Refresher
Advanced

Training (Other)- Please include any information about IS 700 or ICS 100 training taken or planned.

Prevention (within local community)

Workshops (Firewise, etc)
Assessments and Planning
Other Activities

Prevention (outside local community)

Equipment (Wildland)

Safety and Communications
Apparatus
Tools/Supplies
Water Handling