



RESOLUTION 2026 - 81

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO EXPEND COUNTY TITLE III FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark County ("County") elected to receive federal fiscal year 2024 and 2025 County Title III funding from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination (SRS) Act of 2025 as authorized under Title XII of section 41202 of Public Law No: 119-58 and 17-3-213 of Montana Code Annotated; and

WHEREAS, Title III funds must be used for eligible activities as described in Title 16, Chapter 90, Section 7142 of U.S. Code (16 U.S.C. §7142); and

WHEREAS, eligible Title III fund uses are carrying out a community wildfire protection plan and covering equipment purchases directly related to emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark County adopted the Tri-County Regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan in April 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is a requirement of the County Title III funds to provide a public comment period for proposed projects and submit the proposed project to the County's participating Resource Advisory Committee before the County may use the funds; and

WHEREAS, the following eligible projects are proposed for use of FY24 and FY25 County Title III funds:

- 1) The Tri-County FireSafe Working Group's proposal to conduct home ignition zone inspections, fuel treatment plans, and fuel mitigation on private properties in Lewis and Clark County. The proposal is provided in "Exhibit A."
- 2) The County's purchase of two mobile reader boards to provide notifications to the public during emergency events in Lewis and Clark County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners does hereby establish its intention to use County Title III funds for the aforementioned proposed projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public comment period on the proposed projects will be published in the Helena Independent Record and comments will be received for

45 days after the first publication of notice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notification of the proposed projects will be submitted to the Helena-Lewis and Clark Resource Advisory Committee.

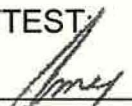
DATED this 23 day of July, 2026.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tom Rolfe, Chair

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board



Exhibit A



Serving the Tri-Counties Since 1984

PO Box 934
Helena, MT 59624-2418
www.tcfswg.org

To: Ann McCauley

Date: 6/10/26; Updated: 7/14/26

From: Tri-County Firesafe Working Group

Subject: Lewis and Clark County Wildfire Education and Fuel Mitigation Project

Tri-County Firesafe Working Group is submitting a funding request to Lewis and Clark County for \$60,000 of Title III funds to be matched with approximately \$15,000 of private homeowner funds.

We are requesting funding for 30 home ignition zone assessments (HIZ) in the County. The BLM grant that is normally used to cover County assessments is ending and will not be available until FY 2027 (we do not have a timeframe). There is no funding available for County assessments outside of the Unionville area at this time.

Tri-County anticipates high interest in home assessments due to increased exposure to wildfire education and the County's extremely dry conditions. The funding would support mailings to 300-500 residents in high-canopy areas within the WUI and in areas with a history of frequent fires. The mailing will direct the homeowner to Tri-County's website to apply for a free home assessment. Social media posts, public meetings, and one-on-one contact will provide wildfire education. Tri-County personnel will be available to any groups within the County who request more information. We will also complete eight fuel treatment plans for residents with a HIZ assessment as requested and one fuel treatment plan for a County evacuation route. This funding for HIZ assessments and fuel treatment plans makes us more competitive for other funding to complete additional fuel mitigation work.

We are also requesting funding to complete fuel mitigation on approximately 11 properties as shown below. The total number of properties and acres treated are dependent on the cost per acre of treatment. We focus on protecting homes; our projects are generally less than 10 acres. Homeowners will contribute labor and funds toward their fuel mitigation project as well.

Category	Title III	Accomplishments	Description
Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Assessments and Fuel Treatment Plans	\$15,000	30 HIZ assessments; 8 fuel treatment plans; 1 County evacuation route treatment plan; Social media, communications, mailing	Tri-county employee and contractor time in HIZ inspections and application processing for home assessments and fuel treatment plans. Postcard mailings (300-500) and public presentations. Number of assessments vs. plans may vary if more assessments are requested, or vice versa.
Fuel Mitigation	\$45,000	~22 acres fuel mitigation	Fuel mitigation on ~11 properties, estimate 22 acres. ~\$15,000 additional value in labor and financing will be provided by the homeowners.
Total	\$ 60,000		