The Rapid City Fire Department is requesting permission to apply for and accept Western States Fire Managers Grant funding for a Wildfire Mitigation Project. The project area includes approximately 290 acres surrounding residential properties within Rapid City’s wildland-urban interface areas that are at high risk of destruction from wildfire.

This project will aid private landowners to mitigate their properties within the identified wildland-urban interface area to create a safer environment during a wildfire. The proposed project will reduce the potential for loss of life and property by reducing the amount of vegetative fuels within the interface area and lessening the probability of multiple structure ignitions in the event of an approaching wildfire, which will quickly overwhelm available resources. The present fuel loading in all wildland urban areas of the city is conducive of large fire development.

The estimate for the proposed wildfire hazardous fuel reduction activities is approximately $600,000. If this grant is awarded, WSFM will provide 50% of the project costs ($300,000), the private landowners will provide $240,000 match costs, with the remainder being in kind match from the city in personnel and equipment costs.

Tim Weaver
Lieutenant
Survivable Space Initiative
Wildfire Mitigation Program
Rapid City Fire Department