



Application :: MT / GOLDCREEK

Submitted on Sep 13, 2017

Applications

Grant Sections	Reviews						Average
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	
4. Overview	5	5	4	5	5	5	4.83
6. Context	12	13	12	12	15	15	13.17
7. Activities	18	18	18	20	13	20	17.83
8. Deliverables	14	13	15	14	14	15	14.17
9. Collaboration	12	13	8	15	12	15	12.50
10. Integration	5	10	10	10	8	10	8.83
11. Meaningful Scale	6	8	8	5	10	10	7.83
12. Sustainability	7	9	7	5	8	9	7.50
Review Total Score:	79	89	82	86	85	99	86.67
Review Rank:	12	2	2	4	3	2	4.17

FY 2018 Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Program	File Name			
	State:	MT	Keyword:	GOLDCREEK
	Region:	R01	Priority:	
	Administration Information			
	Funds Requested:		\$300,000	
	Match:		\$514,133	
	Score:	86.66	Ranking:	1
		Project Funding:		\$856,133

1	Lead Applicant Information [MT]			
	State Forestry Agency:	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation		
	Contact Person:	Angela Wells		
	Address:	2705 Spurgin Road		
	City:	Missoula	State:	MT
	Phone:	406-542-4221	ZIP Code:	59804
		Email:	awells@mt.gov	

2	Project Information	
	Descriptive Title of Project:	Gold Creek Meadows Habitat, Recreation, and Forestry Partnership (GCMP)
	Partnering Agencies and/or Organizations:	1 The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
		2 Blackfoot Challenge (BC)
		3 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
		4 Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
		5 Blackfoot Prescribed Fire Working Group (BPFWG)
		6 Mountain Bike Missoula (MTBM)
		7 The University of Montana (UM)
		8 Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)
		9 Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)
		10 Missoula County Weed District (MCWD)
		11 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)
		12 Montana Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MTBHA)
		13 National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF)

12/21/2018

Western LSR

US National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTTF)

Project Duration:	<input type="checkbox"/> One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three Years
Is this a Multi-state project? Check "yes" if you want to submit the same proposal with multiple state budget requests. If yes, use the Applicants menu item to add other states/islands. This allows you to work on the same proposal with each applicant requesting funds.			<input type="radio"/> YES or <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO

GIS Coordinates

Ref. Point Name:
Lat/Long:
Description:

2

Area Name:
Boundary Lat/Longs:
Description:

3	National Relevance		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conserve Working Forest Landscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Forests from Harm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests
	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are identified and conserved.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forests are actively and sustainably managed.</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire-adapted lands are restored and risk of wildfire impacts is reduced.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Threats to forest and ecosystem health are identified, managed and reduced.</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water quality or quantity is protected or enhanced.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air quality is improved or energy is conserved.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities plan for and reduce their risks from wildfire.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The economic benefits and values of trees and forests are maintained or enhanced.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife or fish habitat are protected, conserved or enhanced.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People are connected to trees and forests and are engaged in environment stewardship activities.</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trees and forests are managed and restored to help mitigate or adapt to changing conditions.</div>

5 points. 500 characters including spaces.
Provides a succinct and relevant overview; could easily be used to communicate critical elements and value of the project.

Project Overview

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The Nature Conservancy (TNC) proposes a multi-agency, comprehensive restoration approach to improving wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and forest resilience under the Gold Creek Meadows Habitat, Recreation, and Forestry Partnership (GCMP). Using a combination of precommercial and commercial thinning, planting, prescribed burning and weed treatments this project invests in the future productivity and sustainable management of a previously degraded working forest landscape.

Grand Total					
Leverage ¹					
Grant	Match	Non-Match	Source	TOTAL	
Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Applicant, Non-Federal, and/or Federal	3 rd Party Contributor/s	Total Project Cost

5	Personnel / Labor:	\$17,000		\$25,797	\$42,000	1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12	\$84,797
	Fringe Benefits:	\$7,000		\$7,719		1	\$14,719
	Travel:	\$2,775		\$2,300		1	\$5,075
	Equipment:						
	Supplies:						
	Contractual:			\$139,067		1, 6	\$139,067
	Construction:						
	Consolidated²:		\$300,000				\$300,000
	Other:	\$270,000					\$270,000
	Indirect Costs³:	\$3,225		\$39,250			\$42,475
	TOTAL:	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$214,133	\$42,000		\$856,133

¹ Leverage includes all three categories: match, non-match, and source. Funds qualifying as "match" must meet the same program requirements as grant funds (e.g., program authorities, non-federal sources). Other "non-match" leveraged funds do not need to meet the same standards (e.g., may include funds for construction, funds from other federal partners). Partnership with other USFS programs outside of State & Private Forestry, as well as other federal and state programs is encouraged.

² If any part of your match requirement is being covered through a consolidated payment grant (i.e. state spending of non-federal funds on activities that meet S&PF program authorities but are not tied to this proposal), please place it here.

³ Indirect costs must be tied to an established rate. Waived indirect costs are an acceptable source of match.

Applicant Budget [MT]							
5 A	Leverage ¹						
	Grant	Match	Non-Match		Source	TOTAL	
	Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Applicant, Non-Federal, and/or Federal	3 rd Party Contributor/s	Total Project Cost	
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	Travel:	\$2,775		\$2,300		1	\$5,075
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15 points. 2000 characters including spaces.

Context clearly identifies priority landscapes and issues that are being addressed. Goals and objectives address the national themes being addressed by the project.

Context, Goals, and Objectives

Priority Landscapes:

Monroe Mountain encompasses roughly 176,000 acres that are administered by the Fishlake National Forest (Q4) but also includes nearly 12,000 acres of private land inholdings. Of these 176,000 acres, 102,000 acres and 3,800 acres of private lands restoration work has or is currently occurring.

National Themes:

- 6 Most of the existing aspen on Monroe Mountain contain unsustainable ecosystem conditions. Unsustainable conditions include but are not limited to conifer encroachment, abundant fuel loading, and lack of recruitment due to domestic and wild browsing by cattle, sheep, elk and deer. Fire exclusion and over-browsing are identified as the primary underlying causes for these aspen ecosystems being at risk. Aspen of 5-15' high are uncommon despite continued sprouting. Mechanical treatments paired with fencing have proven to be the best alternative to prescribed fire on private lands. Private in-holdings are valuable sources that need to be further addressed with those treatments.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Improve aspen forest health, reduce risk of

Objectives:

- 1). Treat up to 500 acres of private inholdings.
- 2).

20 points. 3000 characters including spaces.

Clearly describes with specificity, activities to be completed with grant funds and leveraged resources. Links specific project activities to funding amounts in the Project Budget and to stated project goals and objectives.

Proposed Activities

Grant funding is planned to be spent evenly over three years doing the following activities on private lands:

- 1) FFSL personnel for technical assistance and grant administration, and funding of a small crew for stand exams, tree marking and monitoring (\$60,000).
- 2) Contractor mechanical treatments on private lands that mirror adjacent USFS (Q4) forest stand improvement projects. (\$210,000).
- 3) Supplies and contractor installation of ex-closure fencing (\$30,000).

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Proposed activities are aimed to improve overall forest health and reduction of fuel loading for at risk areas. The main goal of this project is to restore aspen ecosystems. Aspen forests persist through their ability to sprout following disturbances such as wildfire. This allows aspen to maintain themselves on the landscape for thousands of years even though individual aspen trees may only live a hundred years or so. Mechanical operations will be the primary disturbance agent to promote aspen regeneration and forest improvement throughout the entire mountain. Some fencing may be required on stands struggling to regenerate adequately.

Proposed activities aim to mainly use mechanical equipment to provide disturbance to the landscape to encourage aspen regeneration. Tracked vehicles will be the main source of this forest disturbance on chosen project sites.

15 points. 2000 characters including spaces.

Defines deliverables and outcomes which will achieve the national themes addressed by the project. Provides clear, quantitative measures of success.

Deliverables and Outcomes

Outcomes:

This project, positioned at a focal point of high recreational & ecological value, will increase landscape-scale resilience, improve critical habitat for terrestrial & aquatic species, & enhance recreational opportunities, resulting in significant benefits to over 800 acres on a previously degraded working landscape.

Deliverable/Outputs:**Conserve Working Forest Landscapes:**

- Promote development of merchantable trees through precommercial thinning on ~ 300 acres. Protect important wildlife habitat by including untreated areas for hiding cover. Monitor effects of thinning treatments on snowshoe hare populations, a key food source for endangered Canada lynx, leveraged through partnership with the University of Montana (2-3 yrs).
- Restore forest resilience & provide work for local loggers & wood for mills through restoration-based commercial thinning on ~ 240 acres to maintain tree growth (1-2 yrs).

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Protect Forests from Harm:

- Implement prescribed fire on ~ 255 acres of forests & meadows to reduce fuel loads & improve native plant communities (3 yrs).
- Remove invasive species on ~ 220 acres of native meadow by spot spraying w/ appropriate herbicide to improve wildlife habitat (3 yrs).
- Use low density planting to reestablish historic forest composition, contribute to long-term fire-resilience, provide stream shading & woody debris recruitment, & improve habitat on ~ 40 acres (preferred species ponderosa pine, & western larch, 2-3 yrs).

Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests:

Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

- Improve wildlife habitat through removal of conifer encroachment on ~ 40 acres of aspen stands & historic meadows (2-3 yrs).
- Improve over 8 miles of roads & trails identified as priorities by recreational users through weed management, trail improvements & signage (2-3 yrs).
- Supply ~ 2000+ tons of pulp & 180 tons of small sawlogs to local mills (1-2 yrs).
- Increase streamside shading on ~ 3000 linear feet of critical bull trout habitat along west fork of Gold Creek.

15 points. 2000 characters including spaces.

Project uses coordination and partnerships with complementary state and federal programs to improve outcomes. Clearly describes how partners are committed and will add value during project development and implementation. Collaboration will clearly result in a successful cross-boundary project.

Collaboration/Cross Boundary

TNC- TNC is the landowner/manager & has protected the working forests & public values of Gold Creek & surrounding areas by conserving land slated for private residential development. TNC contributes staff time to the development of the GCMP, treatment administration & prescribed burning. TNC will use timber revenue to cover match costs. TNC also works to build public support for forest restoration activities across the broader landscape of the GCMP (match \$207,633).

BC- Help with outreach, education, project scoping, development, and layout (leverage).

BPFWG- Assist with prescribed burning (leverage \$10,000).

BLM- Assist with prescribed burning (\$10,000 in-kind leverage). Provided funding to support TNC staff time to complete forest restoration activities in Gold Creek & surrounding areas (leverage \$10,000).

9 DNRC- Technical assistance on forestry work, & growing pine & larch seedlings for restoration planting (leverage). Contributing \$300,000 in matching funds under consolidated payment grant rules.

UM- University Fire Club will assist in prescribed burning (match, \$1,500). Wildlife research & monitoring before & after treatments will be leveraged to develop & test restoration-based PCT treatments which aim to long-term snowshoe hare/lynx habitat. Research results broaden the impact of the GCMP, making treatment knowledge transferable to other ownerships.

MT FWP- Technical assistance with wildlife & fisheries data to help plan & prioritize treatment areas. Potential assistance for weed treatments (leverage).

MCWD- Potential assistance for weeds treatments (leverage).

MCC- Labor (in-kind) for PCT & planting (leverage \$22,000).

MTBM- Identifying valued recreation routes & providing funding for weed treatment along routes from an REI grant to improve recreational opportunities (leverage \$3,000).

MTBHA- Volunteer labor (in-kind) for PCT (match \$5,000).

RMEF and NWTF- Technical assistance to optimize benefits for wildlife. Potential leverage through other grant funds.

10 points. 1250 characters including spaces.

Clearly describes the need for the proposed project and relates it to one or more priority landscapes, issues, areas, or strategies identified in the Forest Action Plan.

Forest Action Plan Integration

The GCMP addresses all focus areas of the Montana Forest Action Plan (described on page 3, Part II of the FAP) in the following ways:

- 1) Forest Products and Industry Retention: Logging, planting, and thinning contractors will be employed over the 3-year project. An estimated 180 tons of saw-logs and 2064 tons of pulp from forest thinning work will supply local mills.
- 1** 2) Stewardship of Wildland, Rural and Urban Landscapes: Work on the GCMP will use active forest stewardship to enhance forest values for people and wildlife.
- 0** 3) Forest Restoration, Ecology and Function: Restoration will help forest systems adapt to climate change, future disturbances (wildfire and insects), and maintain habitat for native species.
- 4) Federal Forest Management: The GCMP abuts a large-scale restoration project proposed on BLM land. TNC, an interim owner, plans to transfer the GCMP project area to federal ownership over 15 years. Proposed work will benefit subsequent federal forest managers by providing more productive and fire-adapted forests.
- 5) Capacity, Collaboration, and Partnerships: The GCMP builds on a history of partnerships and collaboration in the Blackfoot Valley and increases capacity to implement stewardship activities over a large lands

10 points. 1250 characters including spaces.

Scale of the project is clearly based on and is appropriate for the stated goals, objectives, and outcomes including cross boundary goals. The scale is sufficient to address the national theme and priority landscape and issues.

Meaningful Scale/Cross Boundary

Gold Creeks Primm Meadow provides a template for successful forest restoration within the Blackfoot Valley and across the Northern Rockies. The GCMP expands the footprint of this cornerstone demonstration site. In addition, it builds upon 11,210 acres of BLM-proposed fuels-reduction and restoration treatments in the Lower Blackfoot Corridor as well as forest restoration done with the Montana Forests in Focus program on TNC and private lands in neighboring Twin Creek.

- 1** 1 Young-forest thinning, prescribed burning, and restoration-based commercial thinning are effective strategies to protect these 800+ acres of forest from harm, and to maintain their working forest character. The science and monitoring efforts leveraged in this project will test the effectiveness of novel precommercial thinning strategies at mitigating negative effects of treatment on wildlife at a scale which is small enough to avoid incidental harm while large enough to produce replicable results.

The project brings together public land management agencies and non-profit conservation organizations to share information and resources, serving as an example of effective collaboration and augmenting similar efforts within the Blackfoot watershed.

10 points. 1250 characters including spaces.

Project clearly results in skills and enhanced capability that extend beyond the life of the project. Project displays how this investment will lead to a specific, quantifiable, cost effective, replicable benefit that addresses national themes.

Sustainability of Outcomes

The GCMP was conceived as a strategic piece of a decades-long effort to conserve the working forests and ranches of the Blackfoot watershed. The organizational partnerships within the watershed, along with TNC staffs tenure beyond the life of this project, assure that the benefits generated will be sustained beyond project completion and replicated in the conservation and protection of other similar forest landscapes across the region and the West.

- 1** In addition to the quantifiable benefits of acres treated and lineal feet of stream restored in and around Primm Meadow, the
- 2** GCMP also creates opportunities for the nascent Blackfoot Prescribed Fire Working Group (BPFWG) to facilitate cross-boundary prescribed burning on all land ownerships in the Blackfoot Valley. This is a critical element in increasing partners capacity to cost-effectively complete forest restoration in this area, now and into the future.

Finally, this project serves to enhance this landscapes benefits to nearby populations of Missoula and Blackfoot-Clearwater communities and improves public understanding of the need and benefits of science-based mechanical forest restoration work coupled with prescribed burning in fire-prone forested landscapes.

Forestry Grants US