

Meeting Date: July 27, 2023

Agenda Item No. 5.C.

Agenda Item: Commission Community Challenge
Grant Announcement

Bureau Chief Approval: JF

Prepared by: Deputy Director Amber Worthington

Background: The Fish and Game Commission authorized a Commission Community Challenge Grant (Challenge Grant) composed of 7 regional (\$10,000 each) and 1 statewide grant (\$30,000) to provide partnership opportunity to implement projects broadly supported by the local/statewide sportsman community and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, populations, or associated recreational opportunities.

Attached is the solicitation letter used in 2023 and a copy of the Challenge Grant framework, developed with the Commission, including decision criteria, match requirements, and the structure of the regional and statewide selection committees. The application period was March 1 through April 22, 2023. Grant money is awarded for project expenditure during FY24: July 1, 2023 through June 1, 2024.

The Department received 31 Regional proposals and four statewide project proposals. Regional and statewide committees met in May and June to review the applications and make recommendations for funding.

Justification: Provide public information about outcome of Challenge Grants

Staff Recommendation: Approve recommendations of the regional and statewide review committees and permit staff to announce outcome of FY 2024 Commission Community Challenge Grant process.

Selection Committee recommendations for the Challenge Grants:

Panhandle Region

- Selkirk Conservation Alliance
 - Amount recommended: \$5,000
 - Brief description: Priest Lake tributaries water quality monitoring
- Idaho Trails Association
 - Amount recommended: \$5,000
 - Brief description: Trail maintenance, clearing and restoration in Units 7 and 9

Clearwater Region

- Great Burn Conservation Alliance
 - Amount recommended: \$10,000
 - Brief description: Kelly Creek restoration - noxious weed control

Southwest Region

- Payette River Walk Alliance
 - Amount recommended: \$7,000
 - Brief description: Provide additional river access, riparian plantings and bat boxes
- Foundations for Wildlife Management
 - Amount recommended: \$2,000
 - Brief description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses related to wolf harvest in Game Management Units specified by IDFG.
- Snake River Quail Forever
 - Purchase clay launchers (2) and 12V deep cycle marine batteries (2) for launchers

Magic Valley Region

- Idaho Trappers Association
 - Amount recommended: \$4,000
 - Brief description: Purchase education materials to use at trapper education events
- National Wild Turkey Federation
 - Amount recommended: \$3,000
 - Brief description: Purchase tree watering boxes
- Trout Unlimited
 - Amount recommended: \$3,000
 - Brief description: Hire a firm for fish passage design work on the Big Wood River

Southeast Region

- National Wild Turkey Federation

- Amount recommended: \$8,000
- Brief description: Purchase tree watering boxes, stakes and trees
- East Idaho Houndsman Association
 - Amount recommended: \$2,000
 - Brief Description: Purchase hunting equipment and starter kits for youth

Upper Snake Region

- Eastern Idaho Houndsman Association
 - Amount recommended: \$6,000
 - Brief description: Purchase hunting equipment and starter kits for youth
- South Fremont Archery Team
 - Amount recommended: \$4,000
 - Brief description: Purchase archery targets, equipment and supplies

Salmon Region

- Salmon Valley Stewardship
 - Amount recommended: \$10,000
 - Brief description: Conduct monarch-milkweed monitoring

Statewide Applications:

- Foundation for Wildlife Management
 - Amount recommended: \$24,750
 - Brief description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses related to wolf harvest in Game Management Units specified by IDFG.
- Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation
 - Amount recommended: \$5,250
 - Brief description: Fund sample prep work and testing of serum samples from bighorn sheep (60 from California bighorn and 130 from Rocky Mountain bighorn) to determine prevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* antibodies



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

600 S Walnut / P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

Brad Little / Governor
Jim Fredericks / Director

DATE

Dear XXX

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission is pleased to announce the development of the **Commission Community Challenge Grant** program. This exciting grant program provides competitive funding for officially recognized non-profit organizations to implement projects that are broadly supported by the local sportsman community and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, populations, or associated recreational opportunities.

The Commission Community Challenge Grant program consists of two different awards:

- *Regional Grants*: Projects that benefit a local or regional scale are eligible for up to **\$10,000** made available through each Fish and Game Region.
- *Statewide Grants*: Projects that benefit the state or multiple regions are eligible for up to **\$30,000** made available for the entire state.

Who may apply:

Groups eligible for Community Challenge Grant monies include any officially recognized non-profit (e.g. 501(c)(3)), business (having a state/federal tax ID number), corporation, or recognized regional/state/national sporting organization (such as *Ducks Unlimited*, *Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation*). Private individuals are not eligible for grant funding. Applicants must be willing to provide match, either cash or in-kind support.

When to apply:

Grant applications will be accepted from March 1 through April 22, 2023, with grant awards announced during the July 27, 2023 Commission meeting in CDA. Successful applicants will have until June 30, 2024 to complete the project. Project extensions may be granted for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the Fish and Game Department.

Where to apply:

Grant applications for Regional Grants should be sent to the nearest regional office, care of the **Regional Supervisor**. Grant applications for Statewide Grants should be sent to the headquarters office in Boise, care of the **Deputy Director**. Addresses are provided at the end of this letter.

How to apply:

Submit a proposal letter that includes the following information:

- Applicant name – name of the organization and a brief description (or website link) describing the mission of the organization.
- Amount of funding requested.
- Need – a description of the need for the project and how it will benefit fish, wildlife, and/or associated recreation.

- Project details – a description of the actions that will be taken to complete the project.
- Budget details – a description of how the budget will be used, with anticipated line-item expenditures. Include description of match, whether it be cash or in-kind support.
- Project closeout – a description of when the project will be completed and a completion report submitted.

Grant Application Evaluation Criteria:

A panel consisting of Fish and Game Commission members and staff will evaluate applications and rank them based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Project supports fish and wildlife-based recreation, including hunting, fishing, or trapping;
- ✓ Project addresses a high-priority regional or statewide management need;
- ✓ Longevity of the project (how long will benefits last);
- ✓ Number of fish or wildlife species benefitted;
- ✓ Project has a high likelihood of completion and successfully addressing the need;
- ✓ Project has strong community and/or sporting group(s) support;
- ✓ Budget is realistic and includes necessary match. There is no minimum match requirement, but consideration will be given to the level of match being contributed. Match can be in the form of cash or in-kind support.
- ✓ Project is consistent with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game mission: *To preserve, protect perpetuate, and manage the fish and wildlife of Idaho and to provide continued supplies for hunting, fishing, and trapping.*

Again, the Fish and Game Commission and Department are excited to work with local and statewide sportsman’s groups, communities, and other partners to improve fish and wildlife habitat, populations, and associated recreational opportunities in Idaho. We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions, please contact the Regional Supervisor at your nearest Regional Fish and Game office or the Director’s Office at Headquarters for assistance.

Headquarters Office/P.O. Box 25, 600 S. Walnut/Boise, ID 83707/(208)334-3771

Panhandle Regional Office/2885 W. Kathleen Ave./Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815/(208)769-1414

Clearwater Regional Office/3316 16th Street/Lewiston, ID 83501/(208)799-5010

Southwest Regional Office/3101 S. Powerline Road/Nampa, ID 83686/(208)465-8465

Magic Valley Regional Office/324 South 417 East, Suite 1/Jerome, ID 83338/(208)324-4359

Southeast Regional Office/1345 Barton Road/Pocatello, ID 83204/(208)232-4703

Upper Snake Regional Office/4279 Commerce Circle/Idaho Falls, ID 83401/(208)525-7290

Salmon Regional Office/99 Highway 93 North/Salmon, ID 83467/(208)756-2271

Commission Community Challenge Grant:

2 Programs: Regional Grants: \$70,000 (up to \$10,000/region); Statewide Grants: \$30,000

Competitive proposals will be evaluated on the following:

- Address a high priority management need with more points awarded to projects that meet multiple priorities
- High likelihood of success and success metrics are clearly stated
- Cost of project justifies expected results
- Project has strong community/sportsmen support
- Project outcomes should be consistent with IDFG mission and identified needs
- Project proponent's (organization submitting the proposal) mission and actions are consistent with IDFG mission and objectives
- Matching Required: cash or in-kind. **Note:** A graduated scale of point factoring for level of cost share (e.g., no cost share – ineligible; <1:1 counts for 1 point; between 1:1 and 2:1 for 2 points; and equal to or more than 2:1 for 3 points).

Proposal Review Matrix: a matrix is attached. The matrix is designed to help inform the selection process, not dictate it. Other factors relevant to the decision (e.g. entities debarred from being eligible for federal grants) may be used to determine the final selection.

Regional Grants: competitive grant of up to \$10,000 for each region (multiple grants can be awarded within region)

Selection Committee: Regional Commissioner, RS, regional program manager (RHM, RWM, RFM, RCO, RCE, or ESB)

Statewide Grant: (1 to 3) competitive grants totaling up to \$30,000 (these grants shall be awarded based on project scope and outcome relative to delivering regional or state-wide benefits.) Selection Committee: Commission Chair and Vice Chair and (1) RS, BC and DO representative respectively.

Regional and Statewide Grants:

- Eligible Applicants: Any officially recognized non-profit (e.g. 501(C)), business (e.g. state/federal tax ID number), corporation, or recognized regional/state/national sporting organization (e.g. Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation). Private individuals are not eligible for funding.
- Application Period: March 1-April 22
- Selection and Grant Award: July Commission Meeting
- Project Funding: July 1 through June 30 (fiscal year starting subsequent to May approval)
- Grant Duration: 12 months; grants may be extended at Commission discretion and based on spending authority
- Outcome Reporting: Successful grantees will submit a final completion report, including a detailed expenditure summary report. The host region will work with successful grantees to conduct outreach on project progress and outcomes. When practicable, successful grantees would present their project during a regularly scheduled commission meeting.

