



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

July 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: Recipients of the Commission Community Challenge Grant

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Position/Title: Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator

Agenda Item No.: 5. D.
Supervisor Approval: JF

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, associated recreational opportunities, or education.

Attached is 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 23 through April 30, 2026. Grant money is awarded for project expenditure during FY26: July 1, 2026, through June 1, 2027.

Regional and statewide committees met in May and June to review the applications and make recommendations for funding.

Justification:

Provide public information about the outcome of Community Challenge Grants

Staff Recommendation:

Approve recommendations of the regional and statewide review committees and permit staff to announce the outcome of FY 2027 Commission Community Challenge Grant process.



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2025 Statewide Challenge Grant Selection

1. Truth in Media Foundation
 - a. \$20,000
 - b. Support a multi-episode podcast series aimed at educating Idahoans on the depth and breadth of work the department does to achieve its mission while simultaneously demonstrating how sportsmen's dollars are being spent.
2. Idaho Wildlife Federation
 - a. \$5,000
 - b. To support the laugh of Idaho Women Outdoors, a community-oriented educational platform to help women in Idaho learn to hunt in an ethical and responsible way.
3. Idaho Conservation Officers Association
 - a. \$5,000
 - b. Reduce registration fees for the Mark Hill Memorial Youth Conservation Camp

2025 Regional Challenge Grant - Selections

1. Region 1 – Panhandle
 - a. Idaho Trappers Association - Fisher research project
 - i. \$6,000
 - b. Kootenai Valley Sportsmen Association – Youth pheasant hunt at Boundary-Smith Creen WMA
 - i. \$4,000
2. Region 2 - Clearwater
 - a. Idaho Trappers Association – Fisher research project
 - i. \$10,000
3. Region 3 – Southwest
 - a. Idaho Trails Association - Trail clearing project in the Indian Creed drainage of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness
 - i. \$5,000
 - b. McCall Outdoor Science School – Improve and advance conservation education of 5th and 6th graders
 - i. \$5,000
4. Region 4 - Magic Valley
 - a. Mule Deer Foundation – Habitat improvement
 - i. \$4,000
 - b. Idaho Conservation Officers Association – Reduce registration fees for the Mark Hill Memorial Youth Conservation Camp
 - i. \$6,000
5. Region 5 - Southeast
 - a. Fish and Wildlife Coalition – Pheasant surrogate evaluation on Sterling WMA and habitat improvements



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- i. \$5,000
 - b. National Wild Turkey Federation – Idaho Chapter – Habitat improvement projects
 - i. \$4,000
 - c. East Idaho Houndsmen Association – Youth hound hunting equipment
 - i. \$1,000
- 6. Region 6 - Upper Snake
 - a. Henrys Fork Wildlife Alliance – Riparian fence modification projects
 - i. \$7,000
 - b. South Fremont Archery Team – Archery range improvement
 - i. \$2,000
 - c. Eastern Idaho Houndsmen Association – Hound hunting equipment giveaway for annual youth event
 - i. \$1,000
- 7. Region 7 - Salmon
 - a. Cast Hope – Fly fishing clinic for underprivileged youth
 - i. \$10,000



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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: 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 representatives 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 (variation may occur): March 1-April 15
- 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



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successful grantees to conduct outreach on project progress and outcomes. When practicable, successful grantees would present their project during a regularly scheduled commission meeting