

Meeting Date: July 23, 2020	Agenda Item No. 6.
Agenda Item: Commission Community Challenge Grant Announcement	Bureau Chief Approval: PK

Prepared by: Paul Kline

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 are the solicitation letter used in 2019 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 April 15 through July 25, 2020. Upon request, an applicant for regional and the statewide grants was provided opportunity to address some technical and policy issues with their application and resubmit. Grant money is awarded for project expenditure during FY20: July 1, 2019 through June 1, 2020.

Justification: Provide public information about outcome of Challenge Grants

Staff Recommendation: Approve staff to announce outcome of FY2021 Commission Community Challenge Grant process.

Following is a brief summary of the response to the solicitation for the Challenge Grants:

Panhandle Region – One applicant

- Applicant 1: Foundation for Wildlife Management
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.

Clearwater Region – Five applicants

- Applicant 1: Foundation for Wildlife Management (F4WM)
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.
- Applicant 2: The Game Bird Foundation (GBF) – James Hill Property Habitat Improvements
- Amount Requested: \$5,080

- Brief Description: Funding will be used to rehabilitate and develop 30 acres of wildlife habitat on private land. The Hill's participate in the GBF's pheasant chick program and allow sportsmen access by permission.
- Applicant 3: The Game Bird Foundation (GBF) – Carlson Property Habitat Improvements
- Amount Requested: \$3,700
- Brief Description: Funding will be used to rehabilitate and develop 23 acres of wildlife habitat on private land. The Carlson's participate in the GBF's pheasant chick program and allow sportsmen access by permission.
- Applicant 4: Palouse Land Trust (PLT) – Palouse Prairie Conservation
- Amount Requested: \$9,875
- Brief Description: Funding will be used as cost-share on a Conservation Easement to permanently protect 100 acres of rare Palouse Prairie remnant located on private lands. Funds will also be used for weed control on the property. Property available to public for outreach and education.
- Applicant 5: Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) – Kirkwood Wild Sheep Interpretive Project
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: Funding will be used develop interpretive center and signing at the historic Kirkwood Ranch, located in Hells Canyon. Signage will enhance visitors understanding of big horn sheep life cycles, history, management, and cultural and economic values.

Southwest Region – Two applicants

- Applicant 1: Foundation for Wildlife Management
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.
- Applicant 2: Idaho State Bowhunters
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief description: Purchase youth archery equipment and 1 lifetime license to be given away at their annual July membership meeting.

Magic Valley Region – Five applicants

- Applicant 1: Wood River Land Trust
- Amount Requested: \$7,068
- Brief description: Restoring resiliency in Croy creek and the Simons-Bauer Preserve

- Applicant 2: Foundation for Wildlife Management
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.

- Applicant 3: Hurtig Shooting Center
- Amount Requested: 3 projects totaling \$10,700
- Brief Description: Funding will be used to relocate and upgrade ADA wheelchair ramp, new stands at shooting stations, and new clay bird thrower.

- Applicant 4: National Wild Turkey Federation
- Amount Requested: \$5,000
- Brief description: Restore habitat for turkeys and other wildlife species in Big Cottonwood canyon after fire.

- Applicant 5: Wood River Wolf Project
- Amount Requested: \$5,000
- Brief Description: Implement nonlethal strategies to successfully reduce livestock losses and protect native wildlife

Southeast Region – Two applicants

- Applicant 1: The Foundation for Wildlife Management
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.

- Applicant 2: National Wild Turkey Federation
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: For the purchase of 425 tree watering boxes and 300 additional tree seedlings installed on three IDFG wildlife management areas, to include the Portneuf WMA, Georgetown WMA and Blackfoot River WMA.

Upper Snake Region – Four Applicants

- Applicant 1: Western Bear Foundation
- Amount Requested: \$9,512
- Brief description: Distribute free cans of bear spray to hunters and anglers in grizzly bear habitat in eastern Idaho to increase safety, reduce injury and deaths to hunters, anglers, and bears.

- Applicant 2: Pheasants Forever
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: Mud Lake habitat improvement project including fencing, irrigation and planting food plots to benefit game birds and other wildlife.

- Applicant 3: Foundation for Wildlife Management
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.

- Applicant 4: Safari Club International
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: Pronghorn migration study utilizing GPS collars to mitigate pronghorn mortality in the Hamer area.

Salmon Region – Three Applicants

- Applicant 1: Foundation for wildlife management
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.

- Applicant 2: Lemhi Regional Land Trust
- Amount Requested: \$5,146
- Brief Description: West Beaverhead Fence Modification project: Replace 5 miles of ranch fence with wildlife friendly fencing to improve passage on important wildlife migration corridor.

- Applicant 3: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Central Idaho Wildlife Group
- Amount Requested: \$10,000
- Brief description: BHA is seeking grant funds to help accomplish high priority trail work in
- GMU 27.

Statewide Applications – Three Applicants:

- Applicant 1: Brian Bean, on behalf of the Lava Lake Institute for Science & Conservation for the Wood River Wolf Project

- Amount requested: \$10,000
- Brief Description: addressing wolf / livestock in the State of Idaho.

- Applicant 2: Foundation Four Wildlife Management
- Amount Requested: \$30,000; Cost Share: \$30,000
- Brief description: Reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.

- Applicant 3: Applicant: Henry's Fork Foundation
- Amount Requested: \$26,500
- Brief Description: Study to determine: Suitability of year-round riverine habitat in the Henry's Fork River between Big Springs and Island Park Reservoir for trout growth and survival.

Selection Committee Decisions:

Panhandle Region

Foundation for Wildlife Management: \$10,000

Clearwater Region

The Game Bird Foundation – James Hill Property improvements: \$5,080

The Game Bird Foundation – Carlson Property improvements: \$3,700

Foundation for Wildlife Management - \$1,220

Southwest Region

Foundation for Wildlife Management: \$2,000

Idaho State Bowhunters: \$8,000

Magic Valley Region

National Wild Turkey Federation: \$5,000

Hurtig Shooting Center: \$5,000

Southeast Region

National Wild Turkey Federation: \$10,000

Upper Snake Region

Safari Club International: \$10,000

Salmon Region

Back Country Hunters and Anglers: \$10,000

Statewide

Henry's Fork Foundation: \$20,000

Foundation for Wildlife Management \$10,000