

Meeting Date: August 23, 2018

Agenda Item No. 7.

Agenda Item: Commission Community Challenge
Grant Announcement

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

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 2018 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 May 15 through June 30, 2018. 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 FY19: July 1, 2018 through June 1, 2019.

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

Upper Snake Region - Four applications:

- Pheasants Forever (Idaho Falls Chapter) - Restoration of forage areas for pheasants on Mud Lake WMA, including infrastructure improvements for the water delivery system to sites on the Marty Ranch section.
- Delta Waterfowl Snake River Chapter – Waterfowl Field day for new hunters of various ages.
- Friends of the Teton River – Boat Ramp improvements on the Teton River and a Recreational Planning document for the Teton River Area.
- Teton Wildlife Rehabilitation Center – Construction of a new building for rehabilitation of wildlife.

Southeast Region - Two applications:

- The Cariboo Conservancy - help replace and maintain riparian fence on the upper Portneuf River that helps maintain the blue ribbon upper Portneuf fishery.
- The Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust - help replace and maintain critical fencing protection of Harris Springs, an important source of quality water to Bear River Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Magic Valley Region – Four applications:

- Trout Unlimited - Elkhorn Creek Reconnection Project.
- Burley Bobcats Trap Team and Burley Trap and Sporting Clays - Shooting Range and Educational Improvements.
- City of Burley - Improvements to the Freedom Park Trout Pond.
- Jerome County Rod and Gun Club - Shooting Range Improvements.

Southwest Region – Two applications:

- Valley County Shooting Range Foundation - covered shooting platform.
- Elmore Sportsman Association - help complete construction of their Hunter Teaching Center, which will offer more than hunter education.

Clearwater Region – Two applications:

- Foundation for Wildlife Management – reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in Clearwater Region big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.
- Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation – to facilitate the purchase and development of a Wildlife Conservation Easement for the 2,948 acre Ten Mile Creek Ranch, which is a critical lambing area for the Idaho Red Bird Wild Bighorn sheep herd.

Panhandle Region – One application:

- Foundation for Wildlife Management – reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves in Panhandle Region big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.

Salmon Region – No applications

Statewide – Four applications:

- Henry’s Fork Foundation – support a Henry’s Lake water quality and limnology investigation to determine factors for poor trout recruitment.
- Foundation for Wildlife Management – reimburse hunters and trappers for expenses accrued in harvesting wolves statewide in big game management units that are currently not meeting elk species management plan objectives.
- Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation – support comparison of different population survey techniques directed at habitat for South Beaverhead bighorn sheep population.
- Elmore Sportsman Association – help complete construction of their Hunter Teaching Center, which will offer more than hunter education.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: Commission has authority to direct budget and spending.

Public Involvement Process: Intent and process for Challenge Grant has been discussed at previous Commission meetings. No other formal process was conducted other than solicitation letters to interested groups.

Staff Recommendation: Announce regional and statewide selection committee funding decisions:

Upper Snake Regional Grant Decision:

Pheasants Forever, Idaho Falls Chapter - \$10,000

Southeast Regional Grant Decision:

The Cariboo Conservancy - \$8,500.

The Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust - \$1,500.

Magic Valley Regional Grant Decision:

Trout Unlimited - \$2,500

Burley Bobcats Trap Team and Burley Trap and Sporting Clays - \$4,500

City of Burley- \$1,500

Jerome County Rod and Gun Club- \$1,500

Southwest Regional Grant Decision:

Valley County Shooting Range Foundation - \$5,000

Elmore Sportsman Association - \$5,000

Clearwater Regional Grant Decision

Foundation for Wildlife Management - \$10,000

Panhandle Regional Grant Decision

Pending

Statewide Grant Decision

Henry's Fork Foundation - \$26,935

Foundation for Wildlife Management - \$3,065

Justification: Provide public information about outcome of Challenge Grants