
FW: GIA Form

1 message

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To: Dean Dijenno <ddijenno@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 13, 2019 at 2:43 PM

From: dave.cottle@usda.gov [mailto:dave.cottle@usda.gov]

Sent: Friday, November 1, 2019 5:22 PM

To: info@wyomingwildsheep.org; skilpatrick@wyomingwildsheep.org; joni@wyomingwildsheep.org

Subject: GIA Form

Project Details:

Project Title: Tall-Forb Ecological Site Description (ESD) Development Project

Project Type: Development of ESDs - needed for proper management of tall forb communities Interpretation?Development of ESDs

Affiliate: ridger-Teton NF / Sublette, Lincoln, and Teton County Conservation Districts / Natural Resource Conservation Service / Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Project Location: Wyoming / Wyoming and Salt River Mountain Ranges / Tall-Forb vegetation communities

Project Description: This project will consist of three parts: (part 1) Review and compilation of existing Tier 1 data such as Ecological Unit Inventory data, ecological classifications, expert knowledge, and peer-reviewed literature relevant to Ecological Site Description development. The results of this effort will be used to identify sites where Tier 2 and 3 data will be collected in subsequent parts of the project (CY 2020); (part 2) Tier 2 and 3 data collection (CY 2021); (part 3) data analysis and development of provisional ecological site descriptions (CY 2020 - 2022). Tier 2 and 3 data collection involves things like transects for canopy cover and ground cover, verifying soil type in the field to a restrictive layer or to a depth of 200 cm, double sampling for total annual vegetation production, and photographs of the site. Data collection will follow NRCS protocol, including determination of sample size and locations of sample sites. Data analysis will be overseen by an inter-agency working group comprised of NRCS, USFS, and WGFD. CY 2020 funds are requested for (part1) activities above.

Project Problem: There are an estimated 72,000 acres of tall forb communities on the BTNF, for which limited information exists in the published literature to define desired conditions. Tall forb communities are very important for watershed function, vertebrate wildlife such as bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, and domestic livestock. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in partnership with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS), comprising the interagency working group, spent considerable time for several years compiling existing data, conducting a literature search, collecting additional Tier 1 data, and beginning to draft an Ecological Site Description for tall-forb types on the BTNF. A spreadsheet was created for selecting appropriate data collection sites. The project was put on hold until additional field data (Tier 2 and 3 data) could be collected. Funding constraints have prevented further progress. At present, there are no tall-forb Ecological Site Descriptions with which to establish desired condition thresholds to inform project level decision making (e.g. grazing impact analyses) or for establishment of landscape level goals, objectives, and management prescriptions for Forest Plans.

Problem Solution: The Bridger-Teton NF proposes the following: 1) Review and compilation of current "Tier 1" data (such as EUI data), earlier ecological classifications, expert knowledge, and peer-reviewed literature relevant to ESD development for tall-forb communities within Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 43B (encompassing most of the BTNF). This part to be funded and completed in CY 2020. 2) Facilitation of Tier 2 and 3 data collection, compilation, and analysis sufficient to augment existing data, literature, etc. for the purpose of completing provisional ESDs describing tall-forb communities of substantial acreage on the Wyoming and Salt River mountain ranges within the Bridger-Teton NF. This part to be funded and completed in CY 2020. 3) Data analysis and development of provisional ecological site descriptions. This part to be completed in CY 2020 - 2022. Development of Ecological Site Descriptions for

tall-forb communities on the BTNF will augment results of the recent effort to collect nested-frequency data in the Triple Peaks Forage reserve by defining site-specific desired condition thresholds for the purposes of interpreting those data. These thresholds would take the form of clear boundaries between "reference" and "altered" state descriptions of plant community characteristics such as plant species composition, ground cover, soil conditions, and other parameters potentially relevant on a site specific basis.

Biography Of Applicant:

Name: Dave Cottle (Range Program Manager / Bridger-Teton National Forest)

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Current Member: No

Cost To Be Funded

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------------|
| Equipment..... | \$ | |
| Services..... | \$10,000 | \$5,000 (USFS) |
| Publishing..... | \$ | |
| Monitoring..... | \$ | |
| Supplies..... | \$ | |
| Other..... | \$ | |
| Totals \$..... | 10,000 | \$5,000 |

Other Organizations:

Organization 1: Sublette County Conservation District - In-Kind Services

Organization 2: Lincoln County Conservation District - In-Kind Services

Organization 3: Teton County Conservation District - In-Kind Services

Organization 4: Natural Resource Conservation Service - In-Kind Services Wyoming Game and Fish Department - In-Kind Services

Media Contacts:

Media 1: Jck News & guide

Media 2: Wy-WSF Rampage

Media 3: Christine Peterson

Media 4: