

**State and Private Forestry  
FY 2010 Western Competitive  
Resource Allocation  
Single-State Project Proposal**

<b>Filename</b>	
WY_Restoration	
<b>Administration Information</b>	
Dollar Amount Requested:	<b>\$300,000</b>
Matching Share:	<b>\$356,600</b>

<b>Applicant Information</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>State Forestry Agency:</b> Wyoming State Forestry Division
	<b>Contact Person:</b> Bill Crapsler, State Forester
	<b>Address:</b> 1100 West 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street
	<b>City/State/Zip Code:</b> Cheyenne, WY 82002
	<b>Phone (Work/Cell):</b> 307-777-7586
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<b>Project Information</b>				
<b>2</b>	<b>Descriptive Title of Project:</b>	Big Horn Basin Riparian Restoration		
	<b>Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:</b>	Weed and Pest Districts from the following counties: Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, Fremont and Washakie. The following Conservation Districts: Cody, South Big Horn, Hot Springs, Dubois-Crowheart, Shoshone, Powell-Clarks Fork, Meeteetse, Popo Agie, Lower Wind River, and the Big Horn Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council. Wyoming Department of Agriculture and Wyoming Game and Fish. The Bureau of Land Management-Worland field office and the USFS-Big Horn Forest are also involved.		
	<b>State(s):</b>	Wyoming	<b>Congressional Districts:</b>	1 (at large)
	<b>Counties:</b>	Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie	<b>Forest Service Regions:</b>	2

<b>Total Leverage</b>								
Please specify each 3 <sup>rd</sup> party contributor (partnering organizations and agencies, including other Federal) and the dollar value of each contribution. Please DO NOT show grant requested funds in this table.								
<b>3</b>	<b>Contributors:</b> (Please specify by name)	Washakie County Weed & Pest	HotSprings County Weed & Pest	Park County Weed & Pest	Big Horn County landowners	Washakie & H.S. County landowners	Big Horn County Weed & Pest	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Value of Contributions:</b>	\$20,000	\$35,000	\$31,600	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$70,000	<b>\$356,600</b>

Project Budget					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	TOTAL	
		Cash <sup>1</sup>	In-Kind <sup>2</sup>		
4	<b>Personnel / Labor:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	<b>\$10,000</b>
	<b>Fringe Benefits:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Travel:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	<b>\$2,500</b>
	<b>Equipment:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$43,500	<b>\$43,500</b>
	<b>Supplies:</b>	\$70,000	\$0	\$100,600	<b>\$170,600</b>
	<b>Contractual:</b>	\$230,000	\$0	\$200,000	<b>\$430,000</b>
	<b>Construction:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Other:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$356,600</b>	<b>\$656,600</b>

Project Duration	
5	What is the duration of this project? <input type="checkbox"/> One Year <input type="checkbox"/> Two Years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three Years

National Relevance	
6	Conserve Working Forest Landscapes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Forests From Harm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Project Description	
7	<p>Maximum 5500 Characters Including Spaces – Clearly summarize the proposed project, including goals, objectives, measurable outputs, outcomes, and how grant funds will be used towards successful completion of the project.</p> <p>The Big Horn Basin Exotic Plant Steering committee has been working together to protect cottonwood forests from Russian olive, saltcedar, and other weed species since 1996. The purpose of this project is to improve the riparian health and preserve cottonwood forests in the Big Horn River drainage. Invasive species such as Russian olive, saltcedar, Russian knapweed, hoary cress, and spotted knapweed threaten the biodiversity of the Big Horn Basin. The goal of this project is to reduce weed infestations to a level that can be maintained by landowners using standard management strategies. The objectives for this project are: 1. Provide funding to on-going projects that are in the final stages of weed removal and are preparing for restoration. 2. Begin weed control based on inventory data in the upper tributaries and main channel of the Greybull River located in Park and Big Horn Counties. In systems where initial removal has already taken place grant dollars will be used to hire a contractor to treat any persistent regrowth and to apply restoration practices such as reseeding or tree/shrub plantings. In the Greybull watershed grant dollars will be used to select contractors for the initial removal and control of weeds on private lands in the first year and follow-up treatments in year two. The acres of riparian habitat cleared of invasive species will be used as a measurable output. Landowners will commit to sustainable weed management practices. Weed and Pest districts will also be available for on-going weed control support. Invasive species reduce the functionality and</p>

<sup>1</sup> 'Cash' is the value of any qualifying match the applicant pays for such as cash, staff time, supplies, or equipment.

<sup>2</sup> 'In-Kind' is the value of any qualifying match contributed by a non-federal 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributor such as donated time, supplies, or equipment.

production capacity, especially woody invasive species such as Russian olive and saltcedar. Cottonwood forests can thrive without competition and grass production will be enhanced with the removal of invasive species. Restoration and revegetation will not be initiated until year 3 along the Greybull River. It will take a full two years to remove and gain control over invasive species. Follow-up treatments can jeopardize new plantings. Each site's restoration needs will vary based on existing species and the intended land use. The Wyoming Game and Fish has prepared a list of species and recommendation to improve wildlife habitat. Grass and forb species can be improved to support agricultural operations that benefit from cottonwood forests. A healthy forest environment that is free from invasive species will encourage the regeneration of cottonwoods and provide added benefit to adjoining communities.

**Program Integration**

**8** **Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces**  
 These grant dollars will be used in conjunction with on-going county, state and federal programs for weed control in the Big Horn Basin to improve riparian forest health by removing invasive species and favoring native cottonwoods. Removing invasive species and favoring cottonwood restoration improves water quality and wildlife habitat. Each county's Weed and Pest District provides support in the form of technical advice and in many cases cost share programs. These programs are a source of sustainable, long term support to county residents. State funds in the form of grants have provided support to many projects and we will continue to seek state funding. The Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) had played a significant role in cottonwood preservation and restoration in the Big Horn Basin.

**Collaboration**

**9** **Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces**  
 Russian olive was listed as a designated noxious weed in Wyoming in January of 2007. This decision was based on landowner pressure on local Weed and Pest boards. After this decision the Big Horn Basin Exotic Plant Steering Committee was able to integrate Russian olive control into its mission statement, goals and objectives. The Big Horn Basin Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) recently updated an MOU among all participants in the steering committee. This MOU serves as a catalyst for each cooperating entity to achieve a greater degree of success in meeting their invasive species priorities.  
 The Big Horn River flows through the center of Big Horn County with confluences of the Greybull, Shoshone and No Wood rivers. The majority of land adjacent to these rivers is private. These areas are critical to the local environment and economy. There is universal agreement throughout the Big Horn Basin that Russian olive, saltcedar, Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed and hoary cress are detrimental to the land and render it unproductive. For this reason land owners and public land managers work together to reduce the deleterious effects of invasive species.  
 Private landowners encourage their neighbors in weed control.

**10** **Leverage**

	<p><b>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</b></p> <p>Landowners have been active participants in the protection of cottonwood stands on their private land. They have modified their equipment to clear large acreages of woody invasive species, they have also responded well to cost share programs for herbicides to control other weedy species. Additional funds provided through grant requests would encourage and enable landowners to continue clearing their property of invasive species. Grant funds will be leveraged with the efforts of private landowners to maximize and extend the reach of these projects. Successful weed control has a ripple effect throughout a community. Neighbors are able to see the benefits of weed control and restoration practices. This perpetuates the successes with impacts spreading throughout a community and into adjacent communities. Grant funds will also be used to justify budget allocations by all contributing entities. Federal agencies such as the BLM, NRCS, and USFS will also be able to justify budget requests based on additional dollars received in the Big Horn Basin. The BLM owns small, isolated parcels along the river corridors. They have worked hard to coordinate their programs with landowner efforts. Grant funds will only be allocated to non-federal lands.</p>
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11	<b>Meaningful Scale</b>
	<p><b>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</b></p> <p>The Big Horn Basin Exotic Plant Steering committee involves five counties, starting at the headwaters in Fremont County downstream to the Montana border in Big Horn and Park Counties. This allows us to prioritize tributaries on a watershed level. A project of this scale will have far reaching impacts and serve as an example to other watersheds with similar issues and objectives. Already we have been able to share with other organizations such as Big Horn County (Montana) and the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee our strategies of prioritization, successful treatments, tips on working with private landowners and the abilities and limitation of working with contractors. Extensive mapping projects throughout the watershed have enabled us to practice Early Detection/ Rapid Response principles when allocating limited resources. These grant funds will be used to treat areas that have been mapped and selected by the steering committee.</p>

12	<b>Sphere of Influence</b>
	<p><b>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</b></p> <p>Montana and other downstream states will benefit from weed control upstream, especially with the removal of Russian olive and saltcedar. The organization and cooperation among the involved entities is a model for any watershed. Our relationship and cooperation with private landowners has been the key to success and progress. Cooperation between the Weed and Pest offices, the NRCS, and Conservation Districts allows us to maximize our resources. There is also a free flow of technical information. The communication lines are in place so that we can all learn from the mistakes and successes of others throughout the Big Horn Basin. Members of the Big Horn Basin Exotic Plant Steering Committee are also members of regional and national organizations. We will present and network our ideas and experiences to the Western Society of Weed Science, the North American Weed Management Association, and at other national conferences.</p>

13	<b>Sustainability of Outcomes</b>
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**Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces**

Each project has its own unique challenges whether they are social, political or biological. We gain more information with each project which improves our methods and increases our ability to serve the public and the land. Private contractors have been able to expand their businesses and skill set through weed control projects. We rely heavily on contractors for major weed removal programs; this allows us to help the local economy. Projects of this scale catch the attention of the public which helps to increase awareness of invasive species.

Private landowners initiated many of the projects which accounts for the buy-in and cooperation. This drive and understanding will ensure sustainability.

Tons of biomass are produced from the removal of wood invasive species. The Wyoming Department of Agriculture plans to investigate a sustainable use for the biomass in the form of biofuels, wood pellets, or other forms of energy.