

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

Filename	
WY_Riparian	
Administration Information	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$300,000
Matching Share:	\$300,000

Applicant Information	
State Forestry Agency:	Wyoming State Forestry Division
Contact Person:	Bill Crapsler, State Forester
Address:	1100 W. 22nd Street
City/State/Zip Code:	Cheyenne Wyoming 82002
Phone (Work/Cell):	1-307-777-7586
Email:	bcraps@state.wy.us
Fax:	1-307-777-5986

Project Information			
Descriptive Title of Project:	Eastern Wyoming Riparian Forest Restoration Project		
Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	Wyoming State Forestry Division, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Wyoming Game and Fish, Office of State Lands and Investments, Converse County Weed and Pest, Niobrara County Weed and Pest, Platte County Weed and Pest, Platte County Resource District, Converse County Conservation District, Niobrara Conservation District, Private Forest Landowners, Niobrara County School District, Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture, Colorado State Forest Service Nursery, United States Forest Service		
State(s):	Wyoming	Congressional Districts:	1 (At Large)
Counties:	Converse, Platte and Niobrara	Forest Service Regions:	Region 2

Total Leverage							
Please specify each 3 rd 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.							
Contributors: (Please specify by name)	Conservation Districts	Weed and Pest Districts	Wyoming Game and Fish/Partners	Office of State Lands	N.R.C.S.	Private Landowners	TOTAL
Value of Contributions:	\$77,600	\$46,900	\$115,000	\$7,200	\$12,900	\$30,000	\$289,600

Project Budget					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	TOTAL	
		Cash ¹	In-Kind ²		
4	Personnel / Labor:	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000	\$100,000
	Fringe Benefits:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Travel:	\$5,000	\$9,900	\$4,500	\$19,400
	Equipment:	\$8,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$14,000
	Supplies:	\$75,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$78,000
	Contractual:	\$154,710	\$0	\$107,000	\$261,710
	Construction:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Other:	\$0	\$0	\$89,600	\$89,600
	Indirect Costs:	\$37,290	\$0	\$0	\$37,290
	TOTAL:	\$300,000	\$29,900	\$270,100	\$600,000

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 purpose of the project is to advance the restoration of threatened riparian habitats in eastern WY. Riparian forests account for the greatest species diversity in the state and provide particularly valuable habitat on the otherwise treeless grasslands which are the focus area for the project. Riparian forests are in decline, total forested area is shrinking, the habitat is fragmenting and losing its connectivity between stands and other habitat types. Stand diversity is declining; many stands are in advanced stages of decay exhibiting little or no regeneration and may cease to exist within another generation. Invasive species such as Russian Olive and Tamarisk are out competing native plant species, degrading habitat and impacting stream flows. Landowners, mgrs. and natural resource professionals are increasingly concerned about the degradation and decline of riparian forests and are seeking solutions and strategies to address the issue.</p> <p>The project will address the issue on a number of levels through a combination of site based restoration activities, demonstration and test plots and educational activities designed to enhance the knowledge, understanding and skills of resource professionals, landowners, mgrs. and the community at large. To achieve this, the project has selected areas of focus in three separate counties. The intent was to engage a broad range of partners, maximize the project’s visibility and accessibility, and provide replicable mgt. strategies for the diverse array of conditions, threats and</p>

¹ ‘Cash’ is the value of any qualifying match the applicant pays for such as cash, staff time, supplies, or equipment.

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

concerns facing local riparian restoration projects while maintaining manageability. Site selection was based on visibility, public accessibility, local interest, proximity to complimentary projects and areas of concern, demonstrable forest decline and diversity of condition. The final sites exhibit varying stages of decline, species composition/richness and have different mgt. histories and objectives. This provides the opportunity to demonstrate and test a broad range of mgt. options, individually and in combination and provide viable strategies and objectives to landowners and mgrs. with diverse needs.

A multidisciplinary team will develop site specific mgt. recommendations and restoration strategies. The goal at each site will be the restoration of the native plant communities and riparian function and the enhancement of biodiversity and site resilience. Projects will pay particular attention to wildlife and water quality considerations. Restoration goals will be implemented through a variety of techniques and strategies to showcase different mgt. options and gauge varying degrees of success and cost-benefit ratios. Treatments will include manipulation of existing vegetation to remove invasive species and enhance regeneration, planting and seeding of trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs to improve diversity, augment regeneration, stabilize banks, enhance habitat and compete against noxious weeds. When planting and seeding, only native plants from local sources will be used. The project will partner with CO State Forest Service Nursery to collect and grow local genetic material for use on the project. This will have the added benefit of providing a greater diversity of plant material for general distribution and a ready source of local material for future projects. The use of herbicides and prescribed fire are possible mgt. strategies when their use is deemed appropriate. Fencing and the modification of grazing and mowing regimes will be used as mgt. options and to protect and maintain other restoration practices.

Project Outcomes: Conserve working forests through direct assist. to landowners and mgrs. Educational opportunities and resources created will facilitate informed decision making on the personal, local, state and national levels. Public benefits will be enhanced by reducing the impacts and costs associated with habitat degradation and loss. Interest and understanding of the local ecology and resource mgt. will be expanded through educational opportunities. Forests will be protected from harm through the restoration and maintenance of native habitats with improved structural, age and species diversity, providing resilience to resource threats and enhanced regenerative capacity. Site restoration will be implemented through a combination of service contracts, agency, partner, landowner and volunteer activities. This will provide hands-on training and skills development and build local resources necessary to the implementation of future projects and the long-term goal of effecting change on the landscape level.

The sites will provide a range of educational opportunities. Demonstration and field days will be put on for landowners and resource professionals. Signage will be installed to provide information to casual visitors. The projects and practices will be highlighted by partnering entities through websites, articles and news releases. The project will be used by local school districts to expand science and environmental education curriculums and assist with monitoring of vegetative response to treatments. Projects and treatments will be documented and the resulting materials will be used to develop educational and outreach resources. A Riparian Forest Restoration Guide will be developed in conjunction with the project highlighting local projects, issues, concerns and restoration strategies.

	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project will bridge gaps in existing stewardship, agroforestry and forest health programs and serve a population previously outside the scope of existing programs. Project locations were identified as areas of high priority in the State's SAP Analysis and Statewide Assessment. Site treatments will integrate forest, range, water and wildlife mgt. to conserve and restore native riparian forest systems. Outcomes will include enhanced diversity, habitat, water quality, aesthetics and recreational opportunities. The diverse and complimentary partnerships involved in the project, reinforces this commitment to program integration and holistic mgt. This integrated approach enhances the projects appeal, relevance and applicability to a diverse constituency and provides a greater opportunity to link treatments which compound resource benefits and landscape level resilience.</p>
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11	Meaningful Scale
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	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project focus is the riparian forest habitats to be found within the grassland ecosystem of east central WY. The area is broad enough to encompass a diverse array of site conditions and mgt. needs, connect existing and planned complimentary projects; while remaining relatively compact, allowing resources and results to be sufficiently focused to maximize efficiency and efficacy. All the project partners have staff and resources located in and dedicated to the project area.</p> <p>Treatment sites were chosen for their visibility, accessibility, diversity and commonality with other riparian systems with the purpose of implementing sustainable restoration of local riparian plant communities. The treatments will be of sufficient scale to demonstrate various site appropriate treatment options and fully display site potential and desired forest character. The project intends that treatments and strategies be replicable on a scale sufficient to effect change on the landscape level.</p> <p>The modest local scale of the project was predicated on the need to influence and engage individuals at the grassroots level and empower them to generate beneficial change. This provides greater program stability and a stronger foundation for sustainable growth.</p>
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12	<p>Sphere of Influence</p>
	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project's initial focus is to provide reproducible local solutions and strategies to reverse the decline of riparian forests and repair degraded sites and reinforce and enhance locally led initiatives. The project will be used as a catalyst to expand local interest, awareness and confidence in restoration practices. Experience has shown that projects which have local relevance and can be witnessed firsthand are considerably more effective in connecting with constituents in a positive manner and maintain that connection for the long term. Partners, participants and other service providers will gain resources, skills and knowledge essential to expanding the project goals beyond the original phase. Many of the project partners are active at the national and state level or have strong connections with associate organizations throughout the state. This network of partners will ensure project visibility at all levels. Outreach and efforts will be extended to other riparian initiatives and efforts beyond the project focus in other parts of the state and region.</p>

13	<p>Sustainability of Outcomes</p>
	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project will provide sustainable improvements in habitat and water quality of the riparian systems within the project's focus. Treatment sites will continue to function as educational resources and influence public opinion and encourage responsible mgt. on other sites and ownerships. The documented benefits, outcomes, and cost-benefit ratios will provide proven strategies for other projects throughout the state and region. The knowledge, skills and resources gained in the implementation of the project will be utilized to the benefit of future projects and programs and improve their scope, efficacy and success. Landowner confidence in mgt. and their ability to positively change their environment will expand beyond those originally involved and act as a catalyst for future change. The project will broaden the spirit of cooperation which exists between the many entities with management interests in the area and create new partnerships that will be sustainable beyond the life of the project. The new genetic material introduced into the nursery program will continue to be available to a broad range of restoration and conservation projects.</p>