Wilderness Stewardship Performance Challenge—Cost Share

Improving Wilderness Area Performance through Volunteer Efforts

April 15, 2016
Today’s Host

Randy Welsh

Vice-Chair
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

Retired Forest Service
• Assistant Director of Recreation
• National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Leader
• Regional Wilderness Specialist, R4
• District Ranger, Ogden Ranger District
Today’s Topic – Money for Performance

1. A little Background – NWSA’s role
2. Review of Wilderness Performance Stewardship
3. NWSA Challenge Cost Share Grant Program
4. How Do Volunteer Groups Participate?
   1. Program Specifics
   2. Application Process
   3. Timeline
   4. Requirements
5. Questions?
NWSA Background Info

- NWSA was created in 2010 to build a wilderness stewardship community
- Through NWSA, wilderness stewardship organizations have a voice with federal agencies and other stewardship groups
- Board is composed of select individuals from NWSA Member organizations
- Our mission is to “build a wilderness stewardship community” of wilderness stewards, federal agencies, and supporters
- We bring people together through Conferences, newsletters, and most recently grant programs
- The Wilderness Stewardship Performance grants represent our fourth wave of granting opportunities
Wilderness Stewardship Performance Overview

- Each wilderness must select 10 “core” elements from a list of 20
  - May also select “elective” elements
- Each element is worth 10-points, in 2-point increments
- A wilderness is determined to be “managed to standard” when it scores 60-points or higher
- There is no fixed timeline for when wildresses are expected to be managed to standard
  - Forests are expected to make steady improvement
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Element Title</th>
<th>Selection*</th>
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<td>Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation</td>
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Examples of Wilderness Stewardship Performance Activities

- Inventory and monitoring surveys for invasive species
- Eradication and control of invasive species
- Inventory and monitoring of air pollution sensitive receptors.
- Water quality monitoring of lakes and streams, and watershed restoration treatments
- Fish and wildlife population monitoring, fish and wildlife restoration activities to conserve or recover indigenous species
- Wilderness recreation site monitoring and restoration activities
- System trail condition assessments and trail restoration activities
- Inventory of user developed trails
- Inventory of significant infrastructure and administratively provided recreation facilities
- Assistance with developing minimum requirement analyses
- Inventory and monitoring of opportunities for solitude
- Rangeland inventory and monitoring, grazing allotment monitoring, riparian area monitoring, and riparian area restoration activities
- Assistance in developing wilderness management plans and monitoring of special provisions in wilderness legislation
- Wilderness training, including traditional tools and skills
- Public education outreach about wilderness and wilderness stewardship activities
## Scoring and Deliverables:

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<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Deliverables / Outcomes</th>
<th>Recommended NRM Documentation</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 points</td>
<td>A wilderness air quality value plan has been developed that identifies wilderness air quality values, sensitive receptors and indicator(s). This plan has been reviewed periodically and revised as needed.</td>
<td>• Air quality plan</td>
<td>• Title, signature date (MM/YYYY), and last review date (MM/YYYY) of wilderness air quality value plan</td>
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<td>4 points*</td>
<td>A document has been produced that identifies the WAQV threshold, critical load, or critical level that will be used to protect each sensitive receptor indicator for this wilderness. This document has been signed by the Forest Supervisor.</td>
<td>• Signed document with WAQV threshold, critical load, or critical level that will be used to protect each sensitive receptor indicator for this wilderness</td>
<td>• Title and signature date (MM/YYYY) of air quality level protection document</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 points*</td>
<td>A monitoring baseline has been established for a priority sensitive receptor.</td>
<td>• Baseline data stored in corporate database</td>
<td>• Name of sensitive receptor and date (MM/YYYY) of baseline data entry into corporate database</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 points</td>
<td>Trends data for a priority sensitive receptor indicator have been collected and analyzed, and trends in air quality evaluated.</td>
<td>• Data analysis and evaluation, stored in corporate database</td>
<td>• Name of sensitive receptor and date (MM/YYYY) of data analysis and evaluation entry into corporate database</td>
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<td>10 points</td>
<td>A report has been prepared that 1) presents the baseline results, 2) describes any trends in air quality and the sensitive receptor indicator(s), and 3) determines if wilderness resources are currently protected from air pollution effects. The report has been provided to the Forest Supervisor(s) for this wilderness.</td>
<td>• Narrative report provided to Forest Supervisor(s)</td>
<td>• Date air quality analysis report was transmitted to Forest Supervisor(s) (MM/YYYY)</td>
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Resources on Wilderness.net

Wilderness.net

Connecting federal employees, scientists, educators, and the public with their wilderness heritage

GET WILDERNESS UPDATES

Wilderness Regulations

Inconsistencies in the wilderness regulations between the four wilderness managing agencies cause confusion among wilderness managers and members of the visiting public who may be subject to penalties if regulations are violated. Learn about differences between agency regulations and developing consistent interagency wilderness regulations.

PARTNER

Wilderness.net is a public wilderness information website formed in 1998 through a collaborative partnership between the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute—the federal government’s wilderness training and research arms, respectively—and the College of Forestry and Conservation’s Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana.
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Forest Service Agency Resources

- National Strategies and Projects
- Wilderness Performance Management
- Wilderness Stewardship Performance
- National 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge
- Wilderness Character
- Chief’s Wilderness Advisory Group
- Wilderness Information Management Steering Team
- Awards
- Forest Service Management
- Science
  - Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute
  - Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute Research Publications Search
- Training
  - Interagency Online and Classroom Courses
  - Forest Service Workshop Training Materials
Available Toolboxes

A toolbox is a compilation of resources on current issues in wilderness management.

- 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act
- Accessibility (Wilderness Visitor)
- Air Quality
- Climate Change
- Commercial Services (Outfitter and Guide)
- Cultural Resources
- Fire Management
- Fish and Wildlife Resources
Wilderness Stewardship Performance Grants

- This grant program is for wilderness stewardship volunteer organizations to support wilderness stewardship activities that contribute to overall improvement in wilderness stewardship performance scores for individual wilderness areas.
Grant Program Facts

- Sponsored by the Forest Service
  - Project focus on National Forest Wilderness Areas
- $180,000 available for 2016
- Grants from $5,000 - $20,000
- Intended for work accomplished in FY 2016
  - Completion by September 30
- Requires a 1:1 dollar equivalent match
- Must be a 501(c)(3) in good standing with NWSA
- Follows FS Challenge Cost Share procedures
  - Reimbursable expenses according to financial guidelines
Wilderness Stewardship Performance Activity Grants

Fact Sheet

The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is pleased to announce a new 2016 grant program in partnership with the USDA Forest Service's Wilderness Stewardship Performance Activity grants.

What is the Grant Program?

Wilderness Stewardship Performance is the suite of activities which the Forest Service uses to measure the stewardship performance accomplishment. This grant program is for wilderness stewardship when organizations or support with new/unique strategies to achieve that work to increase wildland improvement in wilderness stewardship performance scores for individual wilderness areas.

There are a variety of activities that qualify for consideration. Attachment A is a partial list of activities that qualify for improving wilderness stewardship performance scores. See the Forest Service Wilderness Stewardship Performance Guidelines for more detailed information about the activities that qualify. (http://www.wilderness.net/NWSI/Documents/WSSP_Guidelines_2015-4.pdf)

Who qualifies to apply for these Grants?

Any current CNCA (1-7) member organization of the MSN in good standing may apply for these grants. Organizations may include the cost of joining or renewing their MSN membership in their grant application budgets.

- NPS: Local/Regional organization
- $959: National organization
- $4,000: National organization
- $1,000: Multi-Chapter Groups (all chapters eligible for Partner Only Benefits including grant funding programs)

How much money is available in the Grant Program?

Over $180,000 available to be granted during 2016. NMSA and the Forest Service are hoping to extend this grant program into future years.

What are the amounts of the Grants?

Grants are allocated to be a minimum of $5,000 and a maximum of $10,000 per organization. Actual grants may vary depending on the needs of each project.

Is there a dollar match requirement?

Yes, there is a matching contribution requirement. The match must be dollar for dollar (1:1) or cash equivalent and may be accomplished through cash, contributed funding, and/or in-kind contribution. Each matching will have preferences. Contributed funding in this context is where the member organization pays for a portion of the project through actual cash outlays for salaries, equipment,
Application Materials

Each Grant Application must include:

- The Grant Application, which includes a description of the project, timeline, a budget narrative, and description of matching funds.
- Proposed project budget
- A letter of Support from the District Ranger that also identifies the Wilderness Stewardship Performance Elements that will be improved by this grant.
- IRS 501 (c)(3) letter
The Application

- Organization Information
- Project Details
- Forest Service Coordination
- Timelines
- Budget Information
- Financial Match Information

Attachments
- Performance Chart
- Letter from District Ranger
- Budget Narrative
- Financial Plan
- 501(c)(3) letter
Budget and Finance Info

- Be clear and concise
- Cover major cost components, assumptions, and any unique situations
- Forms are provided with expected category information
- Summarize the budget in the application, use the narrative and spreadsheet for detail
- Explain your estimates as needed
1:1 Match

- Challenge Cost Share requires matching funds
- 1:1 dollars or cash equivalent
- Cash equivalent means
  - paying for something for the project
  - providing in-kind services that have a value
- Describe the source of the match
- Cash matches will have a preference in evaluation
Challenge Cost Share Issues

- Grants are for **Reimbursable Expenses**.
  - Work must be performed first
  - then expenses submitted for reimbursement
- Anticipate a monthly reimbursement cycle
  - All invoices due by first of the month
  - Consolidated invoice submitted to FS
  - Payment to NWSA then routed out to organizations
- Expect between a 45–60 day turnaround
  - Checks will be issued as soon as possible
  - Dependent on FS processing and payment
Forest Service Coordination

- Each Wilderness Area has established which performance elements they are accomplishing
- Grants require coordination and approval of District Ranger
  - Letter of Support part of application package
- Coordinate early and often
Timeline

- Submit Applications:  April 30\textsuperscript{th}
- NWSA Notification of Award:  May 15\textsuperscript{th}
- Work Activities:  May – September
- Completion of Projects:  September 30\textsuperscript{th}
- Submission of Final Reports:  October 30\textsuperscript{th}
Evaluation of Proposals

- NWSA will select projects based on:
  - What will be accomplished
  - How it will affect WSP scores
  - Amount of matching funds and resources contributed to the project
  - Timeline for completion
  - Assessment of project feasibility and success
  - Approval by District Ranger
Key Points

- Grants are for FS Wilderness Areas
- Must contribute to WSP scoring
- Require coordination with local District Ranger
- Application packages must be received by April 30th
- Awards will be made by May 15th
- Funds are Reimbursable after completion of work
- Anticipate completion of work by September 30th
- Final reports due October 30th
Final Thoughts

- Great opportunity to expand volunteer outreach
- Involve volunteers in a broader suite of activities
- Involve volunteers in active management of their wilderness area’s issues and broader viewpoints
- Complement or expand existing programs
- Supplement or extend seasons for interns and paid staff
- Improve wilderness conditions and ultimately, improve wilderness character.
Questions?
Thanks for Attending!

To learn more about NWSA or to become a Member visit:

www.wildernessalliance.org

Your Host:

Randy Welsh
Vice-Chair - NWSA