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Conserving the Bridger-Teton National Forest

Applying Organization	Wyoming Wildlife Federation	Application Date	5/8/2026
Applying Contact	Kait West	Status	Submitted
Record Type	Member Collective	Created By	Kait West, 5/8/2026, 6:39 PM
		Create Account	<input type="checkbox"/>

Project Overview

Project Name	Conserving the Bridger-Teton National Forest	Requested Amount	\$50,000.00
Project/Campaign Name	Conserving the Bridger-Teton National Forest		
Type of Project	Management Planning; Defense	Project Multiple Locations	
Project Location (State or Territory)	WY	Longitude	-110.58821
Latitude	42.73857		

Organization Details

Organization Name	Wyoming Wildlife Federation	Primary address for organization	669 Main Street Lander, Wyoming 82520 United States
Contact Name	Kait West	Contact Title	Development Manager
Contact Email Address	kwest@wyomingwildlife.org		
Annual Operating Budget	\$905,050.00	Tax Status/Organization Type	501c3 Organization
Staff Size	7	Main Phone	3072066262
Total Membership	10,500	Organization Website/Social Media Feed	http://wyomingwildlife.org
BIPOC-led	No	C-Suite Staff	

Grant Details

Awarded Amount		Awarded Date	
Funding Program			
Primary Project Type		Secondary Project Type	
Term Start Date		Term End Date	

Proposal Questions

Mission/History Of Organization	The Wyoming Wildlife Federation (WWF) delivers leadership in conservation for Wyoming's wildlife, hunters, anglers, and	Location Details	This project focuses on the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Wyoming Range in western Wyoming, one of the most
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conservationists through policy, education, advocacy, and habitat projects.

Founded in 1937, WWF is Wyoming's oldest and largest sportsmen's-based conservation organization. For nearly 90 years, WWF has brought together hunters, anglers, landowners, outfitters, scientists, wildlife professionals, and communities to conserve the landscapes and wildlife that define Wyoming's outdoor way of life.

Our work is grounded in science, collaboration, and practical problem-solving. WWF leads efforts to conserve migration corridors, defend public lands, improve wildlife habitat, advance wildlife crossings, restore rivers and wetlands, and engage the next generation of conservationists.

We believe Wyoming's wildlife heritage depends on people working together to keep Wyoming, Wyoming.

important big game migration landscapes left in North America.

Spanning roughly 2.3 million acres, the Bridger-Teton contains intact migration routes, winter range, birthing habitat, native trout streams, public hunting access, and working landscapes that support Wyoming's outdoor traditions and rural communities. The forest connects the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with surrounding public and private lands and supports mule deer, pronghorn, elk, moose, cutthroat trout, sage grouse, grizzly bears, and many other species.

The Wyoming Range mule deer migration is one of the longest and most studied mule deer migrations in the West. These deer move seasonally across highways, working ranches, foothills, and high-elevation public lands in search of food, winter habitat, and birthing areas. Research from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, University of Wyoming, and USGS has demonstrated the importance of maintaining intact habitat connectivity across these landscapes.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest is currently revising its Forest Plan for the first time in decades. That process will shape how wildlife habitat, recreation, development pressure, and migration corridors are managed far into the future. WWF is working to ensure the revised plan reflects the best available science while also building durable local support for conservation outcomes.

Our approach is rooted in Wyoming communities. We are engaging hunters, outfitters, local businesses, landowners, wildlife professionals, county leaders, and recreationists across communities including Pinedale, Big Piney, Kemmerer, La Barge, Alpine, Cokeville, and Afton through listening sessions, storytelling, tours, and community conversations.

In addition to the Bridger-Teton planning process, WWF is supporting broader migration corridor conservation efforts tied to this landscape, including progress toward formal recognition of the Sublette pronghorn migration corridor and strengthening long-term public support for Wyoming's migration corridor policy framework.

Final Success

Final success means securing durable conservation measures across 2.3 million acres of the Bridger-Teton National Forest that protect Wyoming Range mule deer migration routes, winter range, and birthing habitat while advancing wildlife connectivity and

Impact on Climate and Biodiversity

Protecting migration corridors and intact seasonal habitat is one of the most effective ways to strengthen wildlife resilience in the face of drought, habitat fragmentation, development pressure, and climate change.

sustaining Wyoming's hunting, fishing, and outdoor traditions.

This project supports biodiversity by conserving connected habitats used by mule deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, native trout, sage grouse, bears, and many other species across western Wyoming. Healthy migration systems allow wildlife to move seasonally between winter range, stopover habitat, and summer range in response to changing environmental conditions. These movements improve survival, reproductive success, and long-term herd health.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest sits within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the most biologically intact temperate ecosystems remaining in the world. Conserving connectivity across this landscape benefits wildlife at an ecosystem scale while maintaining large, functional habitats that can better absorb environmental stressors over time.

WWF's work advances habitat connectivity by supporting science-based management of migration corridors, reducing barriers to wildlife movement, and advocating for wildlife crossings in high-conflict highway areas. We are also working to ensure the revised Forest Plan incorporates the best available migration science and recognizes the importance of winter range, stopover habitat, and landscape permeability.

The project strengthens climate resiliency by protecting intact forests, sagebrush systems, headwaters, wetlands, and cold-water fisheries that store carbon, retain water, and support ecosystem function. Conserving connected landscapes gives wildlife greater flexibility to adapt to drought, changing snowpack, shifting plant phenology, and increasing recreational pressure.

The project also helps create long-term policy resiliency for migration conservation in Wyoming. By building broad local support for science-based migration corridor management and advancing corridor recognition efforts like the Sublette pronghorn migration corridor, WWF is helping lay the groundwork for future state leaders to continue collaborative habitat connectivity efforts across Wyoming.

WWF's strategy combines science-based conservation advocacy, community engagement, coalition building, and long-term participation in the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan revision process. The Bridger-Teton Forest Plan revision is expected to continue through 2028. WWF is focused on ensuring that

Expected Economic & Recreational Impact

Healthy wildlife populations and intact public lands are central to Wyoming's economy and way of life.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest supports world-class hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, backpacking, skiing, horseback riding, and other outdoor recreation opportunities that

Strategy & Timeline For Final Success

drive local economies across western Wyoming. Wildlife-based recreation supports outfitters, guides, restaurants, lodging businesses, gear retailers, gas stations, and rural communities throughout the region.

Protecting migration corridors and habitat connectivity helps sustain the mule deer, elk, trout, and other wildlife populations that support Wyoming's outdoor economy and traditions. This project also helps maintain the quality of recreation experiences that draw residents and visitors to the region.

The project will support long-term public access and responsible recreation across roughly 2.3 million acres of public land while helping reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions through wildlife crossing advocacy and habitat connectivity work. Maintaining intact landscapes and healthy wildlife populations benefits both local communities and the outdoor recreation economy over time.

WWF's community-based approach also creates opportunities for local residents, sportsmen, landowners, and business owners to shape the future management of the landscapes they depend on. Sustaining Wyoming's migration corridor policy framework also has long-term economic importance because healthy big game herds support Wyoming's hunting economy, outdoor recreation industry, tourism sector, outfitters, and rural businesses.

migration corridors, winter range, and key wildlife habitats are fully incorporated into the revised management framework using the best available science while also building durable local support for conservation outcomes.

Phase 1: Relationship Building and Community Engagement (2026–2027) WWF and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) will lead a locally grounded outreach effort across western Wyoming communities including Pinedale, Big Piney, Kemmerer, La Barge, Alpine, Cokeville, and Afton.

During this phase, WWF will:

- Conduct one-on-one meetings with hunters, outfitters, landowners, local businesses, county leaders, wildlife professionals, and recreation groups.
- Participate in existing community gatherings, sportsmen events, county meetings, and local fairs rather than relying solely on formal conservation events.
- Identify trusted local voices and community influencers who care about wildlife and public lands.
- Develop "Wyoming Range Voices" storytelling content featuring local hunters, families, outfitters, and residents.
- Coordinate closely with Wyoming Game and Fish Department staff, conservation partners, and local stakeholders.
- Continue reviewing Forest Plan materials and preparing science-based recommendations.

WWF will also use this engagement process to strengthen long-term public understanding and support for Wyoming's migration corridor conservation framework. This includes supporting ongoing discussions related to the Sublette pronghorn migration corridor designation process and reinforcing the value of collaborative, science-based migration policy across changing political administrations. Rather than treating migration policy as a partisan issue, WWF's approach centers Wyoming's hunting heritage, local stewardship, wildlife science, property rights, and practical problem-solving. Our goal is to help ensure future state leaders continue supporting locally grounded migration corridor conservation efforts that benefit wildlife, communities, and Wyoming's outdoor economy.

Phase 2: Advocacy and Mobilization (2027–2028)

As the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and revised Forest Plan are released, WWF will transition toward broader public engagement and advocacy.

WWF will:

- Organize public comment workshops

and community meetings.

- Mobilize hunters, anglers, landowners, and local residents to participate in the planning process.
- Submit formal technical and scientific comments supporting migration corridor conservation and habitat connectivity.
- Coordinate coalition letters and partner engagement.
- Conduct tours and field visits with decision-makers and community leaders.
- Use local storytelling and practical Wyoming-focused messaging to build broad support for durable conservation measures.

WWF's role is to serve as the trusted Wyoming-based convener and conservation voice throughout the process. Our approach emphasizes collaboration, respect for local communities, science-based wildlife management, and practical solutions that keep public lands working for wildlife and people alike.

Potential challenges include political polarization, misinformation around federal land management, recreation conflicts, and balancing diverse stakeholder interests. WWF's longstanding relationships and Wyoming-rooted approach position us well to navigate those challenges constructively.

This broader policy foundation complements the Bridger-Teton planning process by helping ensure that habitat connectivity conservation remains durable beyond any single administration or planning cycle.

Yes. Engagement from the business community is highly valuable to this effort.

Outdoor businesses, hunting and fishing companies, gear manufacturers, outfitters, tourism businesses, and local employers help demonstrate that healthy wildlife populations and intact public lands are directly connected to Wyoming's economy and outdoor way of life.

Businesses can support this work by:

- Participating in public comment opportunities.
- Joining coalition letters and public statements.
- Helping amplify community storytelling and outreach.
- Sponsoring local events or tours.
- Engaging employees and customers around wildlife connectivity and conservation.
- Supporting long-term funding for migration corridor and wildlife crossing work.

Business voices can also help reinforce that migration corridor conservation

Key Decision Makers

Key decision-makers include the Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor and planning staff, U.S. Forest Service regional leadership, cooperating agencies including the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, county commissioners, and state and federal policymakers engaged in public lands and wildlife management.

The primary regulatory framework is the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan revision under the 2012 U.S. Forest Service Planning Rule. WWF is also engaging around implementation of Wyoming's migration corridor executive order framework and state-led corridor designation processes, including work related to the Sublette pronghorn migration corridor.

WWF believes there is a meaningful opportunity for success because migration corridor conservation in Wyoming has historically received nonpartisan support when grounded in science, local engagement, hunting heritage, and practical solutions. Wyoming has become nationally recognized for migration corridor

Working With Business Community

research led by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and University of Wyoming.

Our approach focuses on building trust early, engaging communities before major decisions are finalized, and elevating respected local voices alongside wildlife science. WWF works closely with sportsmen, outfitters, local businesses, landowners, county leaders, and wildlife professionals to build durable support for habitat conservation.

In addition to federal land managers, WWF is also engaging state leaders, local elected officials, sportsmen's groups, landowners, and agency partners to help sustain Wyoming's migration corridor conservation framework into future administrations.

WWF believes long-term success depends on maintaining nonpartisan credibility and public trust around migration conservation. Our approach emphasizes collaboration, local leadership, and science-based management rather than political conflict.

Elevate Voices

WWF's approach is rooted in local engagement and relationship-building.

We are prioritizing outreach in communities directly connected to the Bridger-Teton landscape, including Pinedale, Big Piney, Kemmerer, La Barge, Alpine, Afton, and Cokeville. Our goal is to listen first, understand local concerns and values, and create space for people to shape conservation outcomes.

WWF is engaging hunters, anglers, outfitters, ranchers, local business owners, county leaders, wildlife professionals, recreationists, and conservation partners through one-on-one meetings, small community gatherings, storytelling, public events, and field tours. We intentionally use informal, community-based settings that encourage conversation rather than top-down presentations.

We are also working to elevate trusted local voices through "Wyoming Range Voices" storytelling efforts featuring hunters, families, guides, landowners, and community members who care deeply about Wyoming's wildlife and outdoor traditions.

WWF recognizes that conservation is strongest when more people feel connected to the work. Our organization has worked intentionally to reduce barriers to participation in conservation and hunting, including through our women-focused More Than Gatherers

remains a broadly supported Wyoming priority regardless of political transitions.



Measurable On-Ground Outcomes

Conservation-focused management direction incorporated into the revised Bridger-Teton Forest Plan across 2.3 million acres of public land.

At least 200 personalized public comments submitted supporting migration corridor and habitat conservation.

Identification and engagement of at least 10 trusted local community leaders or influencers advocating publicly for wildlife connectivity and habitat conservation.

Completion of at least 25 one-on-one community meetings with local stakeholders across western Wyoming.

Increased local and statewide support for long-term migration corridor conservation, including advancement of the Sublette pronghorn corridor designation process and continued bipartisan backing for Wyoming's migration corridor policy framework.

program and broader efforts to create welcoming pathways into Wyoming's outdoor traditions.

WWF is intentionally working to elevate local voices that support practical migration conservation, including hunters, outfitters, landowners, business owners, and community leaders who can help carry this work forward over the long term. Building durable local ownership is essential to ensuring Wyoming's migration corridor conservation framework continues through future political transitions and administrations.

Throughout this project, WWF's role is to serve as a bridge between communities, wildlife professionals, policymakers, and partners while keeping the work grounded in Wyoming values, practical solutions, and respect for people and place.

TCA Funding Plan

TCA support would allow WWF to significantly expand our community-based conservation outreach during a critical window in the Bridger-Teton Forest Plan revision process.

Funding would support travel, local events, community meetings, storytelling, outreach materials, field tours, and coordination with partners and stakeholders across western Wyoming. TCA support would also help WWF dedicate additional staff capacity to relationship-building, public engagement, and science-based advocacy around migration corridor conservation.

Importantly, TCA funding would help ensure that local voices, hunting and fishing traditions, wildlife science, and practical Wyoming solutions remain central throughout the planning process.

TCA support would also help WWF build the long-term public and community foundation needed to sustain Wyoming's migration corridor conservation leadership into the future through locally supported, science-based approaches to habitat connectivity conservation.

Confidential Items

No confidential information included at this time.

Other Relevant Application Details

