

Dream Tags Charitable Fund

Open Request for Proposal



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Western Nevada



Cover Sheet

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Organization Name: The Nature Conservancy | | Office Use Only | | |
| Organization Type: 501(c)(3) EIN# 53-0242652 Governmental entity? No | | Date received: | | |
| Address: 1 E. First Street, Suite 1007, Reno NV 89501 | | Project # | | |
| Project Name: Mule Deer Habitat Improvement with Community and Youth Outdoor Education at The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch Preserve. | | Grant Amount: | | |
| Is this proposal being submitted as an Emergency funding request? (Circle one) Yes / No | | | | |
| Amount requested: \$58,895 | | Website: www.nature.org/Nevada | | |
| Project start date: 09/2020 | | Projected completion date: 12/2022 | | |
| Funding will be used to implement on-the-ground habitat restoration to improve riparian habitat at The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch Preserve, by planting Cottonwood trees, native shrubs, and willow thickets to support healthy Mule Deer populations. Funding will also support the creation of educational programming by Sierra Nevada Journeys and the River Wranglers, to build awareness and understanding of ongoing habitat restoration efforts with the youth of northwest Nevada, and their families. | | | | |
| Key People: | Director: | Mace Hack (Interim State Director) | | |
| | Board Chair: | Joel Laub | | |
| | Project Contact: | Name: | Lori Leonard | |
| | | Position: | River Fork Ranch Preserve Manager | |
| | | Phone: | (702) 533-3255 | |
| | | Fax: | | |
| | | Email: | lori.leonard@tnc.org | |
| Organization Mission: The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. | | | | |
| Project is on (check all that apply) _____ Public _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private land. | | | | |
| Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project? _____ Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | | | | |

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| Has your organization received other grants from the Dream Tags Fund? Yes/No (use additional pages to list ALL funded projects) | Date awarded: | 03/2020 | |
| | Project # & title: | DT #63 – New Science tools to inform Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Habitat Restoration in Nevada | |
| | Amount of Award: | \$27,264.87 | |
| | Date awarded: | 10/2017 | |
| | Project # & title: | DT#46 – Mapping Mule Deer Habitat Suitability for Restoration Planning | |
| | Amount of Award: | \$26,695.85 | |
| | | | |

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DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION

Indicate the description that best fits the project you are proposing. Mark no more than three categories:

- ☒ A. Projects that improve, protect, or restore habitat
☒ B. Projects that embrace unique opportunities for advancing the mission of wildlife conservation in Nevada

NARRATIVE

1. Specific project goals and measurable outcomes. How do these tie to the project description?

The goal of this project is to implement on-the-ground riparian and floodplain habitat improvement through native shrub and tree plantings at The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch Preserve. These plantings will be an addition to previous floodplain and wetland restoration projects, and will promote habitat resiliency, increase biodiversity, and to support healthy Mule Deer populations.

In addition, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will work with partners Sierra Nevada Journeys and the River Wranglers to build awareness and understanding of ongoing restoration efforts with future generations in northwest Nevada and ensure that work done today is preserved in the future. River Wranglers will bring volunteers to River Fork Ranch to plant native vegetation. Volunteers will also participate in on-site educational activities that complement and relate to the habitat restoration efforts.

Sierra Nevada Journeys' (SNJ) Family Science Nights provide an opportunity to present scientific data to citizens in a fun environment that will further the mission of the Dream Tags program by supporting the preservation, protection, management, and restoration of wildlife and its habitat.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Harvest up to 1000 Cottonwood Trees from Truckee River restoration areas at TNC's McCarran Ranch Preserve and transplant them to TNC's River Fork Ranch Preserve.
- Plant up to 1200 bareroot shrubs and up to 500 willow cuttings.
- Organize up to 5 community volunteer and youth events to plant trees and shrubs.
- Develop educational materials (fliers and interpretive signs).
- Educate up to 1,500 Nevadans through a Family Science Night "Restoration Station" connecting Mule Deer, migratory corridors and critical habitat, Nevada game animals, and outdoor education for the next generation.
- Sierra Nevada Journeys will acknowledge the gift from Dream Tags Fund in a number of ways that may include:
 - Listing Dream Tags Fund as a supporter on the Family Science Nights webpage and the annual supporter page
 - Listing Dream Tags Fund in two issues of SNJ's quarterly e-newsletter
 - Producing content for our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) including information about the partnership and the generous gift

2. Project location.

Habitat restoration and improvements will be implemented at The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch Preserve, located at 381 Genoa Lane, Minden, NV 89423. River Wranglers will assist with volunteer planting events, outdoor education, and sign design.

Sierra Nevada Journeys' Family Science Night events will take place at school sites in Carson City and in Douglas County, as well as at TNC's River Fork Ranch Preserve.

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3. **Project description. Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible. Maps and photos must fit on 8-1/2" x 11" paper and may be attached at the end of your proposal after the budget.**

Improving floodplain hydrological connectivity to waterways and re-establishing native plant communities can improve habitat resiliency in the face of climate change and future drought. As DNOW's *Nevada's Mule Deer Bulletin* notes, "no cyclic phenomenon exerts a greater influence on mule deer populations than weather. Droughts are especially difficult on mule deer and their associated habitats" (2004.) The mule deer population in the Carson Valley is a significant part of the eco-science and preserving water quality is critical for them. The requested funding will expand restoration efforts started in 2008 by re-establishing native cottonwood trees, willows and shrubs.

We will deploy cost-effective streambank stabilization options using native willows, cottonwood trees, and native shrubs along river and irrigation ditch banks. Planting cottonwood trees and riparian shrubs will increase habitat diversity in the areas by adding to the existing mosaic of open water wetlands, hot springs, wet meadows, pastures, Creeping and Great Basin Wild Rye grasslands, and upland Great Basin shrub communities.

The Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan mentions that "palustrine emergent wetlands and riparian cottonwood forests used to be extensive in the Carson Valley." With few cottonwood galleries remaining in the Carson Valley, planting cottonwood trees provides more favorable microclimates for Mule Deer and other species to seek shelter from the elements, to thermoregulate, and provide fawn hiding coverage. Planting native willows and shrubs also provides desirable forage for Mule Deer, nesting habitat for waterfowl, and an important riparian corridor for migratory birds.

To help families understand the importance of Mule Deer and their habitat on the environment, Sierra Nevada Journeys will engage up to 1,500 community members through a science station provided at the Family Science Nights at the River Fork Ranch preserve.

River Wranglers will also provide conservation education and work on the restoration projects, as coupling work projects in this effort with educational activities cements the conservation message while letting students participate in the stewardship of their own watershed.

4. **Permitting.** N/A
5. **If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.** N/A
6. **Principals involved** in leading or coordinating the project or activity.
- Lori Leonard, TNC River Fork Ranch Preserve Manager and Chris Sega, TNC Restoration Projects Manager.
 - Credentialed science educators from Sierra Nevada Journeys will be directly responsible for coordination and delivery of the Family Science Night program led by Sean Hill, Sierra Nevada Journeys' Vice President of Education. Alyssa Wagner, Program Director for Sierra Nevada Journeys, manages the Family Science Night program and work with educators to create the "Restoration Station."
 - Darcy Phillips, Executive Director of the River Wranglers, will oversee on-site volunteer planting days with elementary and high school students from Douglas County.
7. **Number of staff positions involved in project:** 3 part-time TNC, 3 part-time SNJ, 1 part-time RW
8. **Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.**
TNC: 150 volunteer hours for outdoor tree/shrub planting. SNJ: 5 volunteers per event/100 hours.
RW: 50 volunteer hours

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9. Timeline of Project.

Habitat Improvement Timeline:

- Oct 2021 – May 2022: Collect and plant native willows in late fall and early spring
- November 2021: Order bareroot plants.
- Dec 2021-Feb 2022: Harvest up to 1000 cottonwood trees from TNC Truckee River Restorations.
- Jan – March 2022: Transplant cottonwood trees at TNC River Fork Ranch Preserve.
- Jan – May 2022: Plant bareroot material with volunteer groups
- May – Sept 2022: Irrigate plantings
- Oct 2022– Dec 2022: Collect and plant native willows in late fall with volunteers.

Education & Outreach Timeline:

- September – December 2020: Development of the Restoration Station
- September 2020 – September 2022: Outreach and scheduling of Family STEM Nights in Carson/Douglas Counties
- January 2021 – December 2022: Family Science Night delivery

Factors that may cause delay in implementing and/or completing the project:

- Unpredictable snow melt and flooding cycles could impact cottonwood tree harvesting and project implementation times.
- Continued COVID-19 precautions could impact the feasibility of including volunteers for planting and for Science Night events.

10. Success. Tell the committee how we will know you succeeded in what you proposed to do.

- TNC: Streambank stabilization with native vegetation along up to 500 linear feet of the East Brockliss Slough and tree planting on the West Fork of the Carson River; up to 5 volunteer events planting shrubs/trees
- SNJ: Completion of “Restoration Station” and delivery of 10 Family STEM Nights in Carson and Douglas Counties
- RW: Completion of education materials, youth outdoor education events for tree and shrub plantings

11. Grant match (secured)

| | |
|---|--|
| Match amount to be provided: | \$36,140 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10,000 cash – secured • \$26,140 in kind – volunteers (\$27.20/hr) |
| Description of matching funds/in-kind donations: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash: \$8,000 (Patagonia Grant), \$2,000 (Ozmen Foundation at CFWN) • In-kind: 200 Volunteer Hours (\$27.20/hr per Independent Sector value of volunteer time), \$3,000 Backhoe Rental, \$17,700 plant materials • Match is 45% of the project total • Cash dollars have been secured |

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BUDGET

The Nature Conservancy

| Salaries and Labor | \$/Hour | # of Hours | Total | Dream Tags | In Kind | Cash |
|---|---------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| TNC RFR Preserve Manager | \$31 | 140 | \$4,372 | \$4,372 | | |
| TNC Restoration Projects Manager | \$40 | 100 | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | | |
| Benefits | 42% of Salary | 240 | \$3,516 | \$3,516 | | |
| Independent Contractor/Consultant | \$50 | 160 | \$8,000 | \$5,000 | | \$3,000 |
| Volunteer Hours (In Kind) | \$27.20 | 100 | \$2,720 | | \$2,720 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Plant Materials | Cost per item | Total items | Total | | | |
| Cottonwood trees (Washoe State Tree Nursery: 5-gal tree price) | \$19 | 800 | \$15,200 | | \$15,200 | |
| Willow cuttings | \$5 | 500 | \$2,500 | | \$2,500 | |
| Bareroot plants &/or native seed | \$3 | 1200 | \$3,000 | \$1,600 | | \$1,400 |
| | | | | | | |
| Equipment | \$/Hour | # of Hours | Total | | | |
| Backhoe rental (Tree harvesting & planting - McCarran & River Fork Ranch Preserves) | \$75 | 80 | \$6,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | |
| Irrigation and fencing materials | | | \$5,600 | \$2,000 | | \$3,600 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | \$23,489 | \$23,420 | \$8,000 |

| Sierra Nevada Journeys | Cost per item | Total tasks/ events | Total | | | SNJ Match: |
|---|---------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Development of the Restoration Station: Station design, station production, station materials, and delivery training to education staff. | \$ 5,000 | 1 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | | |
| Event Deliver: \$1,000 per event for delivery for school outreach and coordination, event supplies, volunteer outreach and coordination, staff time at events, and follow up and marketing, overall | \$ 1,000 | 12 | \$12,000 | \$10,000 | | \$2,000 |
| Volunteer Hours (In Kind) * | \$ 27.20 | 100 | \$2,720 | | \$2,720 | |
| Administrative costs (10%) | | | | \$1,500 | | |
| | | | | \$16,500 | \$2,720 | \$2,000 |

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| River Wranglers | | | | | | |
| SIGNAGE per sign, for a maximum of three signs, to include design and production. | \$1,750.00 | 3 | \$5,250 | \$5,250 | | |
| FLIERS and other hand-out materials | \$750.00 | 1 | \$750 | \$750 | | |
| EVENTS for activity supplies and 20 hours of staff time to implement the events | \$1,000.00 | 1 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | | |
| Volunteer Hours (In Kind) | \$27.20 | 50 | \$1,360 | | \$1,360 | |
| Administrative Costs (10%) | | | | \$700 | | |
| | | | | \$7,700 | \$1,360 | |
| | | | | | | |

*updated independent sector value of volunteer time: \$27.20/hr

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | <i>Direct Costs</i> | \$47,689 | \$27,500 | \$10,000 |
| NICRA 2020 Rate 23.5% | <i>Indirect Costs</i> | \$11,207 | \$6,463 | \$2,350 |
| | <i>Total</i> | \$58,895 | \$33,963 | \$12,350 |
| | <i>% of Project</i> | 0.55 | 0.33 | 0.12 |

Project Total: \$105,208

References:

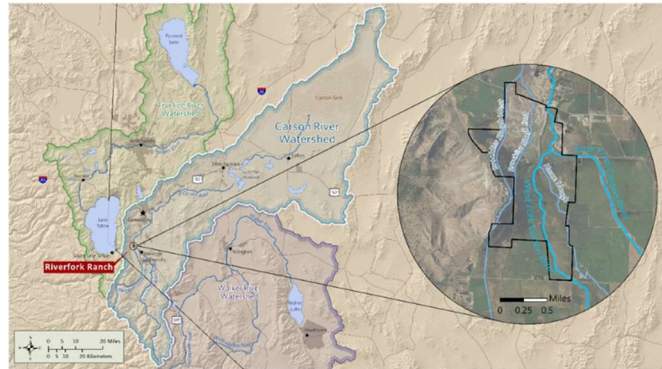
Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD), (2007). Carson Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan. Retrieved from http://www.cwsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/StewardshipPlan_Part1.pdf

Wasley, T. (2004). Nevada's Mule Deer: Population Dynamics: Issues and Influences. *Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)*. Retrieved from http://www.ndow.org/uploadedFiles/ndoworg/Content/public_documents/Wildlife_Education/Publications/muledeer.pdf

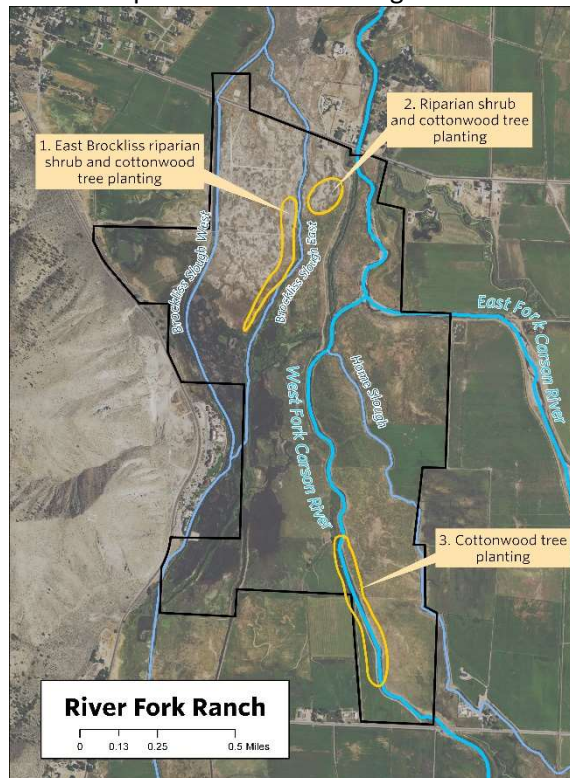
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Project Location Maps: TNC River Fork Ranch Preserve



TNC RFR: Habitat Improvement and Re-vegetation Locations



1. East Brockliss Slough cottonwood tree, willow, and native shrub plantings (~6 acres and 500 linear feet).
 - Earthwork completed in 2011, which included the removal the berm along the E. Brockliss slough to reconnect the waterway to the adjacent floodplain.)
2. Cottonwood and native riparian shrub planting in constructed wetland and enhanced swale (~ 1 acre of plantings).
 - Earth work completed in 2011 including removal of berm along .7 miles of West Fork of the Carson River and ~1 acre constructed wetland and swale)
3. Cottonwoods to be planted along the West Fork of the Carson River (~200 cottonwood trees).