

DT #121 Queen Springs Habitat Restoration

Dream Tags Charitable Fund- Spring 2026

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Caleb Mcadoo
6980 Sierra Center parkway #120
Reno, NV 89511

O: 775-688-1500

Moira Kolada

1218 N. Alpha St.
Ely, NV 89301

mkolada@ndow.org
O: 775-289-1655 x5

Application Form

Grantee Requirements & Project Evaluation Criteria

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Monies are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Dream Tags Fund shall be used exclusively to provide support for the preservation, protection, management or restoration of Nevada's big game and wildlife habitat
- The Charitable Beneficiaries may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement with all of the terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:
 1. Charitable Beneficiaries must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
 2. Charitable Beneficiaries shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
 3. Charitable Beneficiaries must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
 4. Charitable Beneficiaries must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
 5. Charitable Beneficiaries must implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation forthwith;
 6. Charitable Beneficiaries must provide the Community Foundation with quarterly reports detailing the activities of their projects and/or programs; and
 7. Charitable Beneficiaries must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each proposal will be evaluated on criteria that include but are not limited to:

- Measurable outcomes in accordance with the exclusive goal of the Dream Tags Charitable Fund.
- Monitoring and reporting to learn from the project and track project accomplishments.
- Closeness of project focus to areas of funding emphasis (on-the-ground habitat improvements).
- Readiness of sponsoring organization to undertake and complete project.
- Opportunities to partner with others to leverage funds and accomplish larger outcomes.
- Consistency with established Dream Tags Charitable Fund operations (timeline, match, etc.).
- Impact on preservation, protection, management, or restoration of Nevada's big game and wildlife habitat
- Absence of negative or unintended consequences.
- Solutions to known problems as identified through past research and monitoring.

Organization Information

Organization Name*

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Organization Type*

Governmental Entity

EIN

If the organization is a 501c3, please include the EIN#.

88-6000022

Director of Organization*

Alan Jenne

Project Contact Name*

Moira Kolada

Project Contact Postion/Title*

Habitat Biologist

Project Contact Email*

mkolada@ndow.org

Project Contact Phone Number*

775-289-1655

Organization Mission*

To protect, conserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for the aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States, and to promote the safety of persons using vessels on the waters of Nevada.

Project Information

Project Name*

Name of Project.

DT #121 Queen Springs Habitat Restoration

Amount Requested*

\$50,000.00

Project Start Date*

07/01/2026

Project End Date*

03/01/2027

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

The primary goal of this project is to reduce pinyon and juniper cover in phase 1 and phase 2 encroachment areas. This will help improve wildlife habitat including crucial mule deer summer range while reducing the potential catastrophic wildfire.

This project is on:*

Check all that apply

Public land

Are government permits or decision documents needed for the project?*

Yes

If so, are those permits and decision documents already secured?

If permits and decision documents are needed but not yet secured, in #4 of the Narrative Requirements provide a list of permits and documents needed and a schedule for securing them.

Yes

Previous Funding from Dream Tags Charitable Fund

Has your organization received other grants from the Dream Tags Fund?*

Yes

If yes, please include the following information for all previously funded projects:

- *Date awarded*
- *Project # and Title*
- *Amount of award*

Please attach additional pages as needed to list ALL previously funded projects.

FY13 DT #7 Overland Pass/Big Wash Sage Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project
 FY15 DT #36 Mud and Upper and Lower Scott Springs Habitat Enhancement Project
 FY17 DT #41 Seeds for 2016 Wildfire Habitat Restoration \$100K
 FY17 DT #42 2016 Wildfire Habitat Restoration \$125K
 FY18 DT #45 2017 Wildfire Habitat Restoration Funds
 FY19 DT #58 Wildlife Habitat Restoration Projects
 FY19 DT #61 Cave Valley Ranch Pinyon and Juniper Removal Project
 FY21 DT #67 Emergency Proposal-2020 Wildfire Habitat Restoration Projects and Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
 FY21 DT #68 Emergency Proposal-Southern Nevada Guzzler Fill
 FY22 DT #72 Emergency Fire Rehab
 FY22 DT #73 Nelson Creek Habitat Improvement Project
 FY22 DT #74 Whistler Mountain Pinyon Juniper Hand Thinning Project
 FY22 DT #75 Douglas Canyon 2021
 FY22 DT # 76 Smith Valley 2021
 FY22 DT #80 2022 Wildfire Habitat Restoration Projects and Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
 FY22 DT #81 Dry Valley Rim and Parsnip Fire Seeding Project
 FY23 DT #84 Pole Canyon Ranch Conservation Easement
 FY23 DT #86 FY24 Wildcat Fire Mule Deer Migration Corridor Bitterbrush Planting
 FY23 DT # 87 2023 Wildfire Habitat Restoration Projects and Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
 FY23 DT # 88 Waking Spring Project
 FY23 DT #89 Pole Canyon Easement Access (Fence)
 FY23 DT #90 Parrado Purchase
 FY24 DT # 91 South Schells Land Acquisition
 FY24 DT # 97 Sheep Creek Habitat Improvement Project
 FY24 DT # 92 2024 Wildfire Habitat Restoration & Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
 FY24 DT # 95 Granite Range Mule Deer Habitat Restoration
 FY25 DT # 102 Management Area 7 Fence Removal and Modification in Mule Deer Migration Corridors
 FY25 DT # 104 North Pequop Mountains & Murdock Mountain Habitat Enhancement
 FY25 DT # 107 Area 7 Mule Deer Winter Range Habitat Restoration
 FY25 DT # 109 Northwestern Nevada Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration
 FY25 DT # 110 Management Area 10 Fence Modification and Removal in Mule Deer Migration Corridors
 FY25 DT # 112 Sheep Creek Range Restoration, Phase 2 - Facilitating Succession for Mule Deer Survival
 FY25 DT # 113 Eastern Nevada Antelope Collaring Project
 FY25 DT # 115 Emergency Proposal - 2025 Drought Management of Water Developments and Bighorn Sheep

Description of Project Under Consideration

Indicate the description that best fits the project you are proposing*

Mark no more than three categories.

A. Improve, protect, or restore habitat, especially big game habitat

Narrative Requirements

1.) How do the specific project goals and measurable outcomes tie to the project description?*

All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.

The Queen Springs Habitat Restoration Project aims to restore sagebrush and mountain brush communities over approximately 5,000 acres that have departed from desired (historic) vegetative condition and now include uncharacteristic high densities of trees and below normal levels of perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs with the North Schell Forest Service Treatment Area. Current conditions indicate that appropriate management actions such as vegetation treatments could prevent these areas from further departure from the desired condition and instead move towards a more ecologically sound condition. Targeted treatments in the absence of natural disturbance regimes to remove and/or thin pinyon and juniper trees will improve current conditions and promote a healthy understory of shrubs, grasses, and forbs.

2.) Describe the project location.*

Humboldt Toiyabe Ely Ranger District lands within the Schell Creek Range, approximately 35 miles northeast of Ely, NV.

3.) Project Description*

Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.

Queen Springs Maps and Photos.docx

Today much of what once was historically sagebrush steppe in the Intermountain west is now occupied by pinyon-juniper woodlands (Davies et al. 2011; Miller et al. 2011). A variety of factors including altered fire regimes, climate variability, land use, and historic grazing practices have contributed to the expansion of pinyon-juniper woodlands (Romme et al. 2009) into mountain brush and sagebrush communities. The impacts of pinyon-juniper woodland expansion include decreased shrub and herbaceous cover, increased bare ground, increased surface runoff, increased soil erosion, reduction in quality habitat for sagebrush obligate species, and overall decrease in ecosystem productivity (Miller et al. 2000; Connelly et al. 2001; Miller et al. 2005; Aldrich et al. 2005; Pierson et al. 2007; Davies et al. 2011; Miller et al. 2011). These detrimental impacts to wildlife habitat, especially the loss of shrub and herbaceous cover and the overall decrease in ecosystem productivity, have the potential to decrease the habitat's carrying capacity for a variety of wildlife species.

Tree removal would be done by hand crews with the use of chainsaws. There are currently two treatments proposed. The first is lop/scatter in which all of the trees in the area would be removed. This approach will be used in those areas that are early phase 1 to early phase 2. The second approach is thinning where trees over a certain size would be removed in areas of late phase 2 into phase 3. By combining these two styles of

treatments it allows us to design treatments that benefit wildlife species that prefer open landscapes such as sage grouse as well as those species that prefer edge effect areas such as big game and pinyon jays.

The proposed treatment area for Queen Springs targets both general and crucial summer range for mule deer and elk. In addition, this area is classified as both priority and general nesting, early/late brood rearing and winter habitat for greater sage grouse. This area is also part of greater sage grouse lek cluster trigger which has hit a hard trigger, meaning that this area is experiencing faster declines of greater sage grouse populations than comparable areas. In areas of phase 1 to early phase 2 the objective is to decrease the overstory to improve habitat conditions for nesting and brood rearing for greater sage grouse. In areas of greater tree cover with primarily phase 2, the goal is to decrease overstory to allow for an increase in understory vegetation by removing light and nutrient competition. The remaining trees will provide a suite of uses for wildlife including thermal and security cover as well as foraging and nesting habitat.

4.) Permitting*

Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.

The Ely Ranger District is currently conducting additional tribal consultation and is anticipated to be completed within 2 months. Initial consultation was completed when the Decision Record was signed.

5.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.*

No additional future phases are anticipated at this time.

6.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.*

Moirra Kolada- Nevada Department of Wildlife

7.) Number of staff positions involved in project.*

Identify how many staff will be full-time and how many will be part-time.

“Fulltime” means 100% of their staff position will be dedicated to this project; “part-time” means only a portion of their staff position will be dedicated to this project.

1-part-time

8.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.*

0

9.) Timeline of Project*

List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.

***Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

Sawyer Contract released for bid—June 2026
Sawyer Crew work—July 2026-March 2027

10.) What factors will indicate a successful project?*

The immediate indication of a successful project will be the reduced density of pinyon and juniper trees within the treatment area. Longer term indicators include factors such increased shrub, perennial grass, and forb production and vigor.

Grant Match

All applicants must provide a match of at least 25 percent for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.

If Volunteer Labor is used, it must be documented and valued at a maximum of \$35.00 per hour.

Total grant match to be provided.*

Total Match = Cash + In-Kind
\$386,395.00

Cash

\$386,395.00

For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

No

In-kind

***Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

\$0.00

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.*

\$386,395.00--in hand from various state funds

\$50,000.00--seeking from Heritage this year, funding notification would be received in June.

Attachments

Project Budget*

*Provide detail on line-item expenditures and show which costs are to be paid for by the Dream Tags Charitable Fund grant, which expenses will be paid by other sources of funding, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. **Note: Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent.***

*Grants from the Dream Tags Charitable Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget. **Please contact Lauren Sgandurra, Director of Donor Services at CFNN, at laurens@nevadafund.org for a Sample Budget Template if needed.***

Queen Springs Budget.docx

Supplemental Attachments

Please upload any additional attachments here.

File Attachment Summary

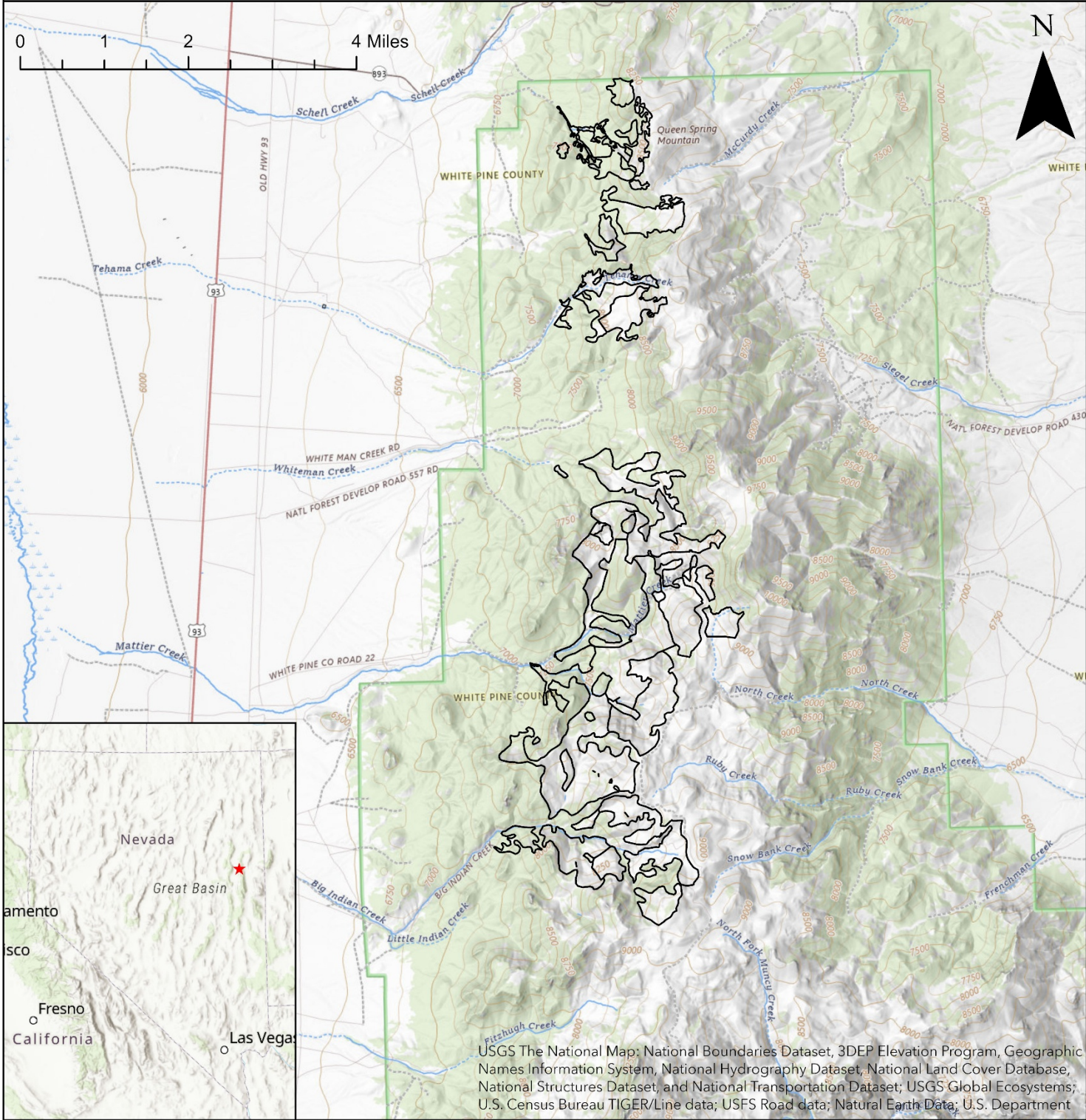
Applicant File Uploads

- Queen Springs Maps and Photos.docx
- Queen Springs Budget.docx

Queens Springs Habitat Restoration

Author Name: Moira Kolada

Date: 1/27/2026



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department

Legend

 Proposed Pinyon Juniper Treatment Areas

Spatial Reference:
Name: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N

No warranty is made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



Representative area of Phase 1 encroachment.



Representative area of Phase 1 encroachment, with Phase 2 on the edges. Phase 2 will likely be thinned rather than complete tree removal.



Phase 2 will likely be thinned rather than complete tree removal.



Representative area of pinyon and juniper encroachment into mountain shrub communities.

Budget Item Description*	DT \$	ORIGINAL PROJECT BUDGET			REIMBURSEMENT REPORT		
		Other Funding Name**	Match \$	Total	Expenditures to date DT (cumulative)	Expenditures to date (other sources-cumulative)	Current Request
Design/Engineering	\$	Agency X	\$	\$xx,xxx	\$xx,xxx		\$xxx
Permitting	\$	Agency X	\$	\$x,xxx		\$x,xxx	
Labor--paid	\$	Agency X	\$	\$x,xxx	\$x,xxx		\$x,xxx
Labor--volunteer (\$20/hr)		Own people	\$	\$xx,xxx	\$x,xxx		\$x,xxx
Construction	\$	Agency Y	\$	\$xx,xxx			
Materials	\$	Agency Y	\$	\$xx,xxx			
Other (Sawyer Crew Contract)	\$50,000.00	AB 578/Heritage	\$386,395.00*	\$436,395.00			
Overhead (max 25%)	\$	Own agency	\$	\$			
TOTAL	\$50,000.00		\$386,395.00	\$436,395.00	\$xx.xxx	\$x,xxx	\$x,xxx

\$386,395.00--in hand from various state funds
\$50,000.00--seeking from Heritage this year, funding notification would be received in June..

*These are sample descriptions.

If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase.