DT #128 Wildlife habitat improvement on the Walker River in Smith Valley Nevada

Dream Tags Charitable Fund- Fall 2026

Smith Valley Conservation District

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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*
Smith Valley Conservation District

Organization Type*
501(c)(3) Nonprofit

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

88-0158125

Director of Organization*
Dick Huntsberger

Project Contact Name*
LD Bowden

Project Contact Postion/Title*
District Manager

Project Contact Email*
LDBowden@MSVCD.org

Project Contact Phone Number*
7755269150

Organization Mission*
Mission Statement: Protect the resources in the districts, provide education to The Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts (MVCD/SVCD) in Nevada work to conserve and manage local natural resources by coordinating technical, financial, and educational resources for landowners. Located in Lyon and Mineral Counties, we focus on irrigation efficiency, noxious weed control, river restoration, and habitat improvement.

Project Information

Project Name*

Name of Project.

DT #128 Wildlife habitat improvement on the Walker River in Smith Valley Nevada

Amount Requested*

$75,000.00

Project Start Date*

11/01/2026

Project End Date*

05/01/2029

This funding will be used to:*

Complete this sentence with a max of 2 sentences.

Improve habitat for deer and other wildlife along the riparian area of the Walker River in Smith Valley Nevada; treat noxious plants and replace with plants that will be beneficial to deer and other wildlife species.

This project is on:*

Check all that apply

Public land
Private 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.

Date awarded January 19, 2016
Project DT # 35, Walker River Noxious Weed Control
Grant amount $19,872.88

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
B. Embrace unique opportunities for advancing the mission of wildlife conservation in NV

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.

Grant request submitted by Smith Valley Conservation District to Nevada Dream Tags.

I am seeking a grant to help with protecting the deer population in the Walker River Basin by reducing the presence of Poison hemlock, along with the reduction of Tamarisk and Russian olive along the Walker River corridor. This action will enhance the Walker River riparian area to provide better habitat for deer as well as other wildlife species that inhabit the area.

In times of reduced feed availability, deer will resort to eating Poison hemlock and the plants contain deadly alkaloids that attach to the nervous system, leading to respiratory failure. Due to Poison hemlock being an invasive species that displaces native plants, managing hemlock helps both wildlife and pets or livestock.

Tamarisk (salt cedar) is one of the most destructive invasive species in the American West. It aggressively colonizes riverbanks and floodplains, forming dense thickets that severely damage local ecosystems.

Tamarisk has deep root systems that reach underground aquifers. A single large tree can use up to 300 gallons of water per day, making it a serious threat in water-scarce areas. The plant also draws salt from deep in the soil and releases it through its leaves. When the leaves fall, they increase salt levels in the topsoil, creating conditions that prevent native plants and grasses from growing. Removing Tamarisk allows more wildlife-friendly vegetation to return, improving the habitat and supporting healthier deer populations.

Russian olive is highly invasive; it aggressively takes over riverbanks, wetlands, and floodplains. It harms native ecosystems by crowding out native trees like cottonwoods, depleting water reserves, and altering soil chemistry. Russian olive fixes nitrogen in the soil and creates an environment that favors its own growth over native plants. With reduction of Russian olive, the soil can become healthier and provide an additional food source for wildlife; also, removal and replacement of the Russian olive with plants without large thorns like willows and cottonwood will allow wildlife to be able to traverse the area easier and locate better food sources. Deer will browse on willows, especially in the early stages of willow growth. Many states consider Russian olive a noxious plant and recommend active removal. Russian olive is considered noxious in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, and Washington. In these areas, it is illegal to sell or propagate to property owners.

We would like to remove these noxious plants and attempt to plant some willows as well as native grass, and entice them to take over the areas to help hold the riverbank and improve water quality at the same time.

Due to Tamarisk depositing salt into the upper layers of the soil, as well as Russian Olive enriching the soil with nitrogen; it would be difficult to establish willows replacing noxious plants immediately after removal of Tamarisk and treatment of Russian Olive. I would like to propose the planting of willows and native grass seeds in the treated areas two years after the treatment is completed. We will compile records with GPS coordinates in the areas where noxious plants are removed/treated and return to the same location to plant willows and native grass as well after some time has passed for the salt and nitrogen to have dissipated.

I am requesting $75,000 for a three-year time frame to allow the Mason Valley Conservation District to treat these invasive plants and improve wildlife habitat. We will provide GPS data on the location of the treated areas and then follow up with photos the next year to provide evidence of how effective the treatment has been. This funding would support approximately six weeks of invasive plant treatment each year for period.

2.) Describe the project location.*

West Walker River basin in Smith Valley Nevada Conservation District area.

3.) Project Description*

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

Treat Poison hemlock, Tamarisk, and Russian olive and replace the invasive plants with willows and native grass to provide feed source for wildlife.

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.

We have a NVG-87001 for discharge of pesticide along the riverbank, I also have a license for aquatic treatment in the state of Nevada.

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

This request is planned for a three-year time frame, additional funding should not be required.

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

LD Bowden the district manager for the Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts will be managing this project, LD Has many years of experience with riparian repairs and working with conservation of natural resources.

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.

Four persons working part time

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

No volunteers are expected.

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.*

Beginning in the fall of 2026 and completing the project in late spring of 2029.

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

Reduction in Poison hemlock, reduction in Tamarisk, and Russian olive and increase of willows and native grasses. GPS locations and photos of the work area will be provided.

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

$20,575.00

Cash

$0.00

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

Yes

In-kind

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

$20,575.00

Description of matching funds/in- kind donations.*

Cost Share from District

	Units	Days	Cost/Day	Total
Skid Steer			$150	
ATV W/Spray Rig & Trailer	1	60	$150	$9,000
UTV			$250	
Truck Mounted Sprayer	1	10	$125	$1,250
Backpack Sprayer	1	60	$15	$900

GPS W/Digital Camera	1	45	$15	$675
Rotary Brush Cutter	1	30	$50	$1,500
Chain Saw	1	25	$50	$1,250
Woodchipper / W Trailer	1	30	$200	$6,000
In Kind Match				$20,575

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.***

Smith Valley CDBudget Template with Expenditures.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Please upload any additional attachments here.

[Unanswered]

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Smith Valley CDBudget Template with Expenditures.pdf

	ORIGINAL PROJECT BUDGET				REIMBURSEMENT REPORT		
Budget Item Description*	**DT $**	**Other Funding Name****	**Match $**	**Total**	**Expenditures to date DT (cumulative)**	**Expenditures to date (other sources- cumulative)**	**Current Request**
Design/Engineering	$xx,xxx	Agency X	-	$xx,xxx	$xx,xxx		$xxx
Permitting	$xx,xxx	Agency X	$21,200	$x,xxx		$x,xxx	
Labor--paid	$67,636	Agency X	$x,xxx	$x,xxx	$x,xxx		$x,xxx
Labor--volunteer ($35/hr)		Own people	$xx,xxx	$xx,xxx	$x,xxx		$x,xxx
Construction	$xx,xxx	Agency Y	$xx,xxx	$xx,xxx			
Materials	$2,840	Chemicals	$xx,xxx	$xx,xxx			
Other (be specific)	$4,568	Milage	$xx,xxx	$xx,xxx			
Overhead (max 25%)	$xx,xxx	Own agency	$xx,xxx	$xx,xxx			
TOTAL	$75,000		$21,200	$xxx,xxx	$xx.xxx	$x,xxx	$x,xxx

*These are sample descriptions.

**Explain status of other funding if not in hand.

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