

PINEDALE ANTICLINE PROJECT OFFICE (PAPO)

1625 West Pine
PO Box 768
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941
Attention: Project Coordinator 307-367-5386

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING (use additional sheets if necessary)

1. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:

WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY FENCING INITIATIVE (PHASE II)

General Location (distance and direction from nearest city/town, attach map at a scale not less than 1/2" = 1 mile):

A portion of the mule deer migration route identified in the *Sublette Mule Deer Study (Phase II): Final Report 2007* (the "route") from the Hoback Rim to Big Sandy in Sublette County, Wyoming (see attached map). The route begins approximately 15 miles north of Daniel and arcs clockwise along the Wind River Front to its termination approximately 24 miles southeast of Boulder.

Legal Location of Project (attach map at a scale not less than 1" = 2,000'). (see attached map)

Township: T 30 - 36 N
Range: R 105 - 113 W
Section(s): Multiple
County: Sublette

Surface Ownership (check all that apply): Federal State Private

**If project includes a mosaic of land ownerships (e.g., mix of federal, state and/or fee lands), provide a breakdown for each specific owner by acres and percent of total project area.

Owner	Acreage	Percent of Total Project Area
BLM	30,410	35
State of Wyoming	5,283	6
WGFD	4,655	5
Private	46,595	54
TOTAL	86,943	100

Contact Information for Affected Parties or Agencies:

Wyoming Land Trust
% Lara Ryan, Executive Director
131 South Jackson Avenue
P.O. Box 1580
Pinedale, WY 82941
(307) 367-7007 (p)
(307) 367-7207 (f)

2. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name/Organization: Wyoming Land Trust

Mailing Address: 131 South Jackson Avenue, P.O. Box 1580

City: Pinedale

State: WY

Zip Code: 82941

Daytime Phone # (307) 367-7007

Fax # (307) 367-7207

Email Address: Lara@wyominglandtrust.org

Point of Contact (if different from above)

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Project Type (check all that apply):

Land Use/Livestock _____

Land Use/Recreation _____

Cultural _____

Wildlife _____

Air _____

Other _____

Describe Project Proposal (e.g., mechanical treatment, water improvement, etc.)

WLT's Corridor Conservation Campaign is a 5-year effort to make 500 miles of existing fence in key wildlife migration routes in Sublette County workable for ranchers and passable for wildlife at no cost to landowners.

Phase I of the project offered cost-free wildlife-friendly fence modifications to landowners in a portion of the pronghorn migration route between the U.S. Forest Service boundary and Trapper's Point in Sublette County. Thanks to a U.S. Forest Service grant, Phase I was extended to inventory fences on U.S. Forest Service land from Grand Teton National Park to Sublette County.

Phase II of the project will offer the same opportunity to interested public and private landowners within a portion of the mule deer migration route identified in the *Sublette Mule Deer Study (Phase II): Final Report 2007* from the Hoback Rim to Big Sandy in Sublette County, Wyoming.

PAPO invested \$250,000 in Phase II in 2011. That investment helped modify more than 20 miles of

fence in the southern part of the Wind River Front mule deer migration in 2011. Based on the suggestion of PAPO staff, this application seeks additional PAPO funding to continue Phase II fence work.

Like Phase I, Phase II of the project will benefit species impacted by development in the PAPA like mule deer and pronghorn.

Phase II of the project will:

1. Inventory fences within route;
2. Map each fence's location;
3. Involve a team of project partners (PAPO, WGFD, BLM, etc.) to evaluate which fences most affect mule deer, pronghorn and other big game migration based on objective criteria developed by project partners (including private landowners and public land managers);
4. Modify, reconstruct and/or remove (if appropriate) those fences to facilitate better mule deer and other big game movement within the route between summer and winter range; and
5. Monitor mule deer and other big game migration to evaluate the project's effectiveness.

Phase II will accomplish this by:

- Engaging an appropriate contractor through a competitive bidding process to apply the Phase I inventory protocol in the Phase II project area (WLT selected WLC Engineering in Pinedale to perform the inventory in October 2009);
- Contacting private landowners and public land managers to (a) determine their interest in, and/or need for, wildlife-friendly fencing and collect that information and (b) obtain the necessary permissions for the teams to conduct the inventory (WLT has already received permission from landowners to inventory existing fences along approximately 85% of the project area route);
- Assembling and evaluating the data based on objective criteria developed by project partners;
- Determining priority fences for modification/reconstruction/removal as appropriate;
- Engaging appropriate contractors to complete the modifications/reconstructions/removals;
- Completing the necessary modifications/reconstructions/removals;
- Documenting and monitoring the modifications/reconstructions/removals to evaluate their effectiveness; and
- Publicizing the project through media and community outreach events.

Total Project Acres (if applicable)

±86,943 acres

Acres Indirectly Affected (if applicable, explain)

The project will indirectly affect between 400,000 and 18,000,000 acres by:

- Improving the viability of the entire ±86,943-acre mule deer migration route along the Wind River Front;
- Increasing the likelihood that the Sublette mule deer herd can reach 278,480 acres of crucial

winter range and 141,010 additional acres of crucial winter/yearlong range in portions of Teton, Sublette and Fremont Counties; and

- Expanding the opportunities for mule deer, pronghorn, and other big game to continue playing a meaningful role in the health of the 3,400,000-acre Bridger-Teton National Forest, 310,000-acre GTNP and 18,000,000-acre Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Additionally, according to the *Sublette Mule Deer Study (Phase II): Final Report 2007*, “because mule deer that winter on the Mesa and Pinedale Front migrate 40-100 miles to their respective summer ranges, land-use decisions or management prescriptions made in those winter ranges or migration corridors may affect areas as far away as Kelly, Jackson Hole, the Snake River, Greys River, Gros Ventre Range, Wyoming Range, and Hoback Basin.” Thus, it is evident that wildlife-friendly fencing along this section of the mule deer corridor will indirectly affect lands far beyond the immediate project area.

4. OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT, AND BENEFITS TO PAPO OFF-SITE MITIGATION STRATEGIC GOALS.

Phase II of the project has one objective: improving the viability of the mule deer migration route between winter range near Pinedale and summer range in portions of the Salt River, Wyoming, Wind River, Gros Ventre and Snake River ranges to allow unimpeded seasonal movement by these animals and maintain the successful management of the Sublette herd.

This objective aligns with PAPO’s goal to, “actively pursue projects to benefit wildlife on a landscape scale within the Upper Green River Basin with focus on those populations impacted by development on the PAPA” via its noted objective to, “maintain, conserve, restore and/or enhance habitat and habitat function both onsite and offsite for impacted species.”

5. DIRECT/INDIRECT EFFECTS ON OTHER RESOURCES. (if applicable)

The project will positively affect a number of other resources in Sublette County, including:

- Seasonal movements of big game like elk, pronghorn and moose, whose migration routes overlap to some extent with the mule deer’s;
- Tourism (especially hunting) and the revenue it generates for the local economy;
- Agriculture;
- Clean air and water;
- Climate change; and
- Signature scenic views.

6. POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE EXPANSION OF PROJECT. Explain

As above, the project builds upon a previously funded mitigation project and represents Phase II of a 5-year initiative to identify and replace non-wildlife-friendly fencing in up to 3 additional project areas throughout Sublette County.

The project serves as a model for similar initiatives in the Rocky Mountain West, particularly those associated with implementing the Western Governors' Association's Wildlife Corridors Initiative.

6. LIST ALL PROJECT PARTNERS/COOPERATORS, THEIR ROLES AND/OR CONTRIBUTIONS

(See attached list)

8. PROJECT MONITORING AND REPORTING (Describe how monitoring and reporting will be done, and how it relates to the objectives)

WLT and WGFD will monitor the project each year during spring and fall mule deer migrations and submit reports to PAPO and other interested partners. This monitoring and reporting will evaluate whether and how the project is improving the viability of the migration route for mule deer and other big game.

9. RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Like Phase I of the project, Phase II offers outstanding—arguably unprecedented—potential for research because the majority of the project's data and methods will be available to others through the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI). This information will inform subsequent phases of this project and serve as a model for others like it in Sublette County and throughout Wyoming.

10. PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS REQUIRED PRIOR TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (including but not necessarily limited to the following):

PERMIT OR AUTHORIZATION	REQUIRED		SUBMITTED		APPROVED	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Cultural Resource Inventory		X				
COE Section 404 Permit		X				
Cooperative Agreement(s)		X				
NEPA Analysis		X				
Pesticide Application Permit		X				
Private Landowner Agreement(s)	X					
Sensitive Species Clearance		X				
Surface/Ground Water Permits		X				
T/E Species Clearance		X				
Other (explain)						

11. TOTAL PROJECT COST (Attach detailed budget)

Estimated costs for Phase II of the project follow:

Project Planning and Design	\$ <u>20,121</u>
Project Implementation	\$ <u>2,783,587</u>
Project Operation and Maintenance	\$ <u>3,975</u>
Total Required	\$ <u>2,807,683</u>

12. MATCHING FUNDS ANTICIPATED IN CASH (list source and amount)

Type	Source	Status	Amount	
Corporation	Bill Barrett Corporation	Committed	\$2,500	
	Bank of Jackson Hole	Committed	\$1,000	
	BP	Committed	\$100,000	
	CAMCO Field Services	Committed	\$100	
	Conservation Solutions	Committed	\$250	
	EnCana	Committed	\$20,000	
	Goodrich Construction	Committed	\$40	
	Proactive Physical Therapy	Committed	\$75	
	QEP	Committed	\$27,500	
	Other corporations	Pending	\$50,000	
	Agencies and foundations	BTNF	Committed	\$25,000
		Cross Charitable Foundation	Committed	\$35,000
		Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation	Committed	\$1,000
Mule Deer Foundation		Committed	\$10,000	
NFWF		Committed	\$50,000	
PAPO		Committed	\$250,000	
PAPO		Pending	\$1,857,258	
Pope and Young		Committed	\$4,000	
RMEF		Committed	\$10,000	
Safari Club International		Committed	\$10,000	
Wyoming Wildlife-The Foundation		Committed	\$20,000	
Weiss Foundation		Committed	\$5,000	
WGFD		Committed	\$25,000	
WLCI		Committed	\$50,000	
WWNRT	Committed	\$200,000		
Individuals	Individuals	Committed	\$53,960	
TOTAL			\$2,807,683	

13. ANTICIPATED "IN KIND" MATCHING FUNDS (list source, valuation, and valuation method)

N/A

14. PERCENTAGE OF FUNDING ON HAND OR COMMITTED

To date, we have raised \$900,425 (32%) of the Phase II project costs.

15. TOTAL PAPO FUNDING REQUESTED: TBD: \$1,857,258

16. EXPECTED/ANTICIPATED LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP)

Perpetual _____ > 50 Years _____ 25-50 Years X < 25 Years _____

Explain Basis for Projected LOP: Estimated life/utility of average fence in the project area.

17. PROJECT TIMELINE AND ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE. Explain

WLT anticipates continuing fence modifications in the Phase II project area as early as possible in the Spring of 2012 and, funding permitting, completing modifications in the Phase II project area by the end of 2012.

18. ATTACHMENTS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Project Design _____

Letters of Support _____

Management Plan _____ Long Term _____ Short Term _____¹

Monitoring Plan _____ Long Term _____ Short Term _____¹

Relevant Past Experience _____ Other _____ Explain:

¹ Long term is defined as greater than (>) 5 years; short term is less than (<) 5 years.

19. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PAPO CONSIDERATION

Thanks to PAPO's support, this project has maintained and enhanced habitat and habitat function for mule deer and other impacted species migrating along the Wind River Front migration route. Additional support from PAPO will allow us to continue to modify fences along this route and improve the ability of mule deer and other species to move between seasonal ranges.

WLT sincerely appreciates the opportunity to work with PAPO and other partners on the project and will gladly answer any questions or provide additional materials on request.

20. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** this project and requested funding is subject to approval by the PAPO Pinedale Anticline Mitigation Management Board.

J. Ryan

Signed

Lara Ryan

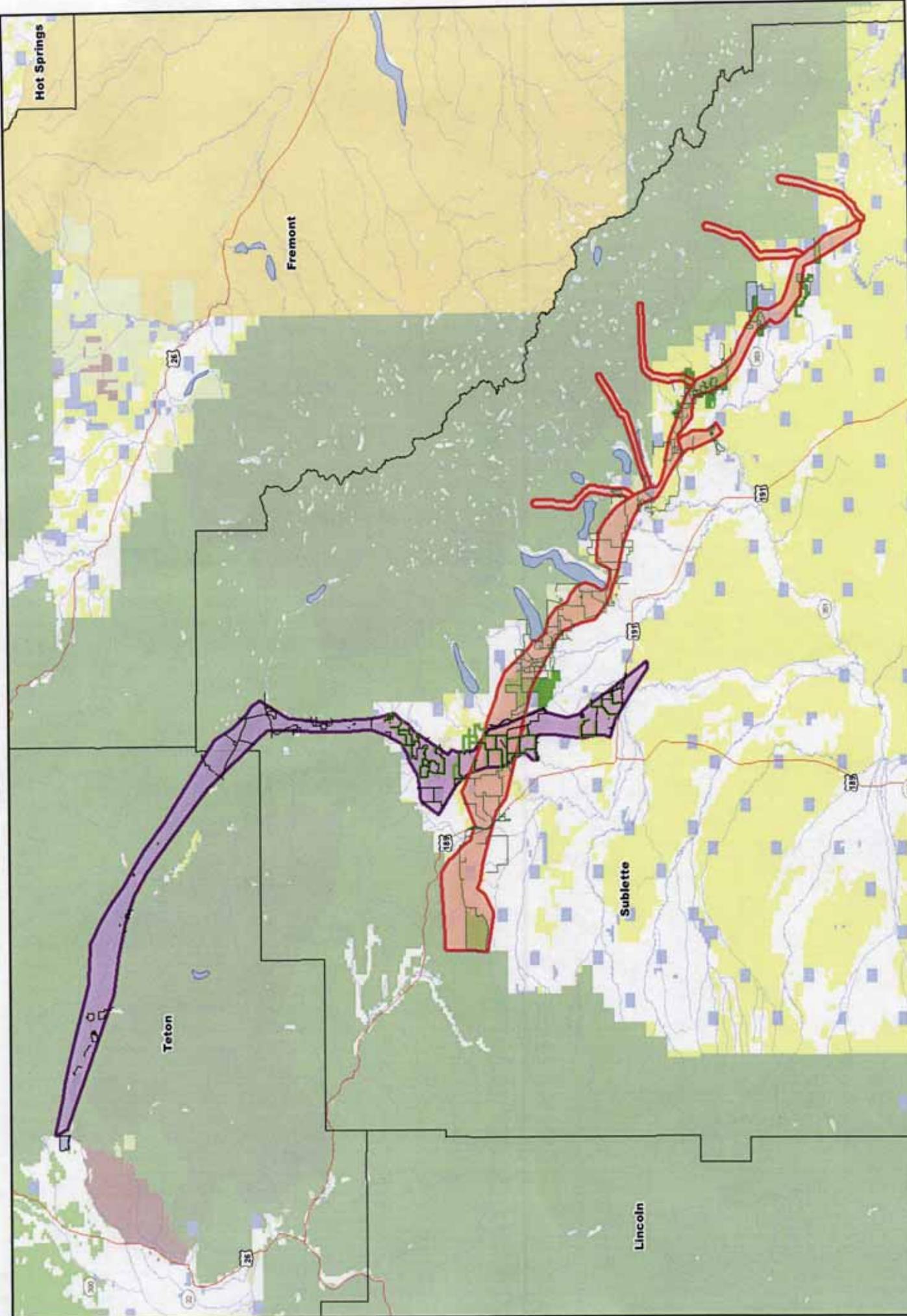
Printed Name

Exec. Director

Title

10/31/11

Date



Wyoming Land Trust Phase I & II Fence Inventories

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For Information Only

- LEGEND**
- ~ PHASE I INVENTORIED FENCES
 - ~ PHASE II INVENTORIED FENCES
 - PHASE I MODIFIED FENCES
 - PHASE II ADDITIONAL INVENTORY LANDS
 - PHASE I BOUNDARY
 - PHASE II BOUNDARY

WYOMING LAND TRUST

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