

GRANT EVALUATION FORM

1% FOR THE TETONS

Teton Conservation District
Title
Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland

One of the key criteria for funding from *1% for the Tetons* is that the grantee identifies “unambiguous, measurable criteria for evaluating success.” There are two reasons this is a key element in grant deliberations:

1. In highly competitive grant deliberations, a proposal that has clear outcomes and a definite means of evaluating those outcomes demonstrates the applicant has thought through the program well enough to understand its goals;
2. *1% for the Tetons* exists not only to fund change in our community, but also to inform the community and the world on the issues being addressed. One of its key objectives is to “Understand and illustrate the link between the Greater Teton Area’s natural resources and the community’s long-term well-being.” This is why the evaluation of this grant will be placed on *1% for the Teton’s* web site (www.OnePercentTetons.org) along with the application itself.

To that end, the evaluation of the program is as important to *1% for the Tetons* as the funding of the programs themselves. Success or “failure” is not the key issue here: what *1% for the Tetons* hopes to learn from this evaluation is what occurred and why, lessons learned, and extracting critical data from the process.

I. Stated criteria for evaluating success: Evaluation

When the Teton Conservation District applied for *1% for the Tetons* funding, development of the Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland project was in its early stages. The Town of Jackson and Teton Conservation District were the only committed partners and had contracted with Intermountain Aquatics Inc. to complete a feasibility report to investigate the probability of funding and completing an ambitious project to improve habitat in Flat Creek and the Karns Meadow area. After our successful *1% for the Tetons* grant application, the Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland Steering Committee decided to target the funding toward a comprehensive post construction revegetation plan.

Although evaluation of the revegetation plan cannot be made until construction has taken place we have used our *1% for the Tetons* funding to insure that revegetation and habitat enhancement in Karns Meadow is successful. The stated evaluation of the revegetation portion of the grant was:

Monitoring: Monitoring and performance evaluation has three general purposes: (1) assure successful completion of construction and revegetation tasks, (2) evaluate actual as opposed to estimated hydraulic and water quality behavior, and modify operations and/or structures as needed, (3) guide maintenance operations to enhance continued performance and mitigate nuisance problems such as weeds. Components of a monitoring and evaluation program should address the following topics:

Vegetation: Success of revegetation and general condition of vegetation/habitat should be monitored using both quantitative observations (e.g. cover in quadrants) and site inventories. Short-term, post-project observations should address success of plantings and potential problems with weeds. Both post-project and longer-term monitoring should evaluate overall vegetation/habitat quality (desirable versus less desirable plants; wetland versus upland or facultative species; noxious weeds; physical structure in terms of height and horizontal patterns). Methods should specifically address the health, abundance, and habitat structure of the shrub component. Ideally, some permanent monitoring points should be part of the monitoring program in order to identify upward or downward trends. Permanent points for repeat photography should be established, and photographs should be part of the record.

II. Please provide a narrative summarizing the results of your program:

The Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland Steering Committee decided to use the *1% for the Tetons* grant award to specifically fund the revegetation portion of the construction design. *1% for the Tetons* funding was used to; develop a detailed revegetation and weed control plan as part of the final design, collect native plant material from areas that will be disturbed, and design and implement an intensive post construction monitoring plan.

Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland Design Report, Section 5 includes the revegetation plan.



Karns Wetland
Design Report Jan 9 :

1% for the Tetons funding was also used to collect native plant material that would have been lost in the construction process. The Teton Conservation District and Teton Science School organized volunteers that removed willow cuttings from the area designated for construction of the stormwater wetland. These willows would have been destroyed during the construction phase but thanks to student volunteers, the willows were cut into poles and bundled for transportation to North Fork Native Plant greenhouses in Idaho. The cut willow poles were then transplanted to 5-gallon pots and placed in greenhouses until they are needed for revegetation at the project site. The post construction monitoring plan is detailed on page 26 of the Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland Design Report.

III. What were the results of the evaluation process? Please provide specific data gleaned from the process.

Although the evaluation of the revegetation plan cannot be completed until construction of the stormwater wetland, the *1% for the Tetons* grant was instrumental in the completion of a final design report that included a comprehensive revegetation and monitoring plan. Specifics of the

revegetation plan are outlined in the Karns Wetland Design Report, attached above, and in the summary figures attached below.



Karns_FinalReport_Figure 9.pdf



Karns_FinalReport_Figure 7.pdf

IV. Lessons learned: What did you learn from the program and the evaluation? How does this inform future decisions and actions of your organization?

Two key lessons were learned from the program and ultimately the evaluation process. First, the importance of strong partnerships across a wide range of organizations. Large infrastructure projects, such as the Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland, require a broad base of support across many organizations and must clearly spell out the desired benefits and goals prior to the design and implementation phase. If your partners are fully informed of the projects intentions and have a clear understanding of the benefits of the project, the design and implementation phases are much easier to successfully complete. Secondly, the development of a comprehensive implementation and monitoring plan prior to construction. The 3 fold approach used by the steering committee of a feasibility study followed by a comprehensive implementation and monitoring plan prior to construction, has assisted the steering committee in building strong partnerships for the project. Project partners feel they are making a sound investment if you can clearly explain your implementation, construction, and monitoring plans.

V. Is there additional information you would like to share?

The Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland steering committee will continue to provide updates throughout the construction and monitoring stage of our project in order to keep *1% for the Tetons* members informed of our progress. All the members of the Karns Meadow Stormwater Wetland committee would like to thank *1% for the Tetons* for their assistance in making this project possible.