

1% for the Tetons – Grant Application Form

Please use this form to apply for funding from **1% for the Tetons**. Submit via email to: grants@1PercentTetons.org. Please put your organization's name in the subject line.

Application deadline is 5:00 pm (MDT), June 12, 2009. **Late applications will not be considered.**

Please complete this form and submit your completed application as a Microsoft Word document.

Organization Name: Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance & Craighead Beringia South

501(c)3 number (if applicable): 83-0245647

Grants can be awarded only to a 501(c)3 organization or government agency (local, state, or federal). If the applicant is not a 501(c)3 or government agency, please provide the name (and 501(c)3 number, if applicable) of the organization that will administer the grant.

Name:

501(c)3 #:

Address: P.O. Box 2728, Jackson, WY, 83001 (or PO Box 147, Kelly, WY 83011)

Contact person & title: Lisa Rullman, Development Director (or Derek Craighead, President)

Phone # (307) 733-9417 (or 732-0188) **Fax #** (307) 733-9008 **Email address:** lisa@jhalliance.org (or derek@bswy.org)

Title of Application: Vegetation Mapping: A Missing Link in Wildlife Protection in Teton County

Amount Requested: \$ 13,200.00

Summary statement describing your proposal *(75 words or fewer)*

The Conservation Alliance will contract with Craighead Beringia South to design and initiate a project to prepare a vegetation cover map for Teton County, Wyoming. Without a vegetation cover map to serve as critical baseline data, future efforts to sustain the area's unique natural resources are severely limited. *Of all future tasks, the Sustaining Jackson Hole Environment Group identifies the production of this map as the highest research priority for protection of native species.*

Please use the questions below to fully describe your program. While there is no word limit for your responses, the grants committee deeply appreciates clarity and conciseness.

- A. Fully describe the program for which funding is requested. If this is a collaborative project with several entities, explain the role of each. Indicate the date range of the program.

The Conservation Alliance will contract with Craighead Beringia South to design and initiate a project to prepare a vegetation cover map for Teton County, Wyoming. The creation of such a map has been identified as the greatest priority in terms of future efforts to protect the area's natural resources on private lands. In November 2008, the Sustaining Jackson Hole Environment Group submitted formal recommendations to elected officials and planning directors regarding our community's ongoing comprehensive planning process. In these recommendations, the group identified the production of a vegetation map, which will serve as the "cornerstone of a habitat map", as the top research priority for natural resource protection in Teton County, Wyoming. In addition, the April 2009 draft of the new comprehensive plan lists "create a vegetation cover map for the county" as a top implementation strategy to meet objectives of the community's highest priority to promote stewardship of wildlife and natural resources. This project directly responds to this priority.

The project for which funding is requested will directly increase our community's capacity to be responsible stewards of the surrounding ecosystem's unparalleled natural resources. Without baseline data on the natural resources that give such value to the greater Teton area, we will fall short in finding ways to sustain them in the long-term. How can we protect our natural resources if we don't know enough about them? *In order to make smart land-use decisions, we must have basic information on existing conditions of available habitats, including their quality and quantity for a diverse range of species.* The viability of our natural resources depends on good data to inform our land-use decisions.

Funds will be used to design a research project to prepare a vegetation cover map for Teton County, Wyoming. Including both private and public lands. Specifically, funds will be used for three primary project phases: 1) research design, 2) pilot assessment, and 3) outreach to share findings of the data with the public and key stakeholders.

Craighead Beringia South, an experienced, independent science-based entity that has the expertise and resources to conduct an assessment, will oversee research design. The Conservation Alliance and Craighead Beringia South will coordinate the project with a number of agencies and organizations, including public land agencies, Teton Conservation District and the Teton County Planning Department, to ensure the best use of existing data products and the identification of new data products that will be most useful in filling information gaps on natural resources.

B. What need or trend does this program address? What data support this? Include citations &/or web links.

The lack of baseline data on vegetative cover and habitat structure in Teton County has been consistently identified as a critical information gap in the management of the ecosystem's natural resources. This data shortage is particularly evident on private lands, which include areas undergoing rapid land use change in Jackson Hole. In 2007-08, the Conservation Alliance contracted with the Conservation Research Center of Teton Science Schools to compile the best available science on wildlife populations in Teton County. Through this project, data gaps were identified. **Most prominent of these gaps is the lack of a vegetation or habitat map of private lands in Teton County.** Also, the Environment group of the **Sustaining Jackson Hole program continues to identify the creation of a vegetation map as the top priority in moving forward with a program to protect natural resources.** Both biologists and planners working as part of the group have confirmed that additional information on vegetation and habitat is critical to make more informed decisions. Importantly, planners need information on existing conditions of vegetative cover and habitat at finer scales, to which this project can make a significant contribution.

To date, primarily opportunistic, observation-based wildlife data is used to evaluate lands for their importance to wildlife. While our community is fortunate to have observational data, its utility is restricted to areas where research is conducted. In Teton County, this geographic area is limited. Data gathered through this project will help complement and strengthen the observation-based data we use today.

Additionally, **this project will provide baseline data from which a long-term habitat-monitoring program can be established.** With basic information on vegetative cover and habitat availability, future research will be able to explore critical questions about the region's natural resources. For example, we can move towards answering questions such as: To what extent have particular habitats been fragmented and how does the habitat structure that exists today benefit different species? What species are at the greatest risk from low habitat connectivity? Which corridors should be prioritized for conservation? Without baseline data, it is difficult to initiate the right research questions and consequently define and implement the best approaches to natural resource protection.

C. How does this program further the mission of *1% for the Tetons*?

Human impacts continue to threaten the natural resources of Jackson Hole. Without an adequate understanding of baseline vegetation, and therefore habitat conditions, we cannot monitor incremental changes nor consider the cumulative impacts of individual land-use decisions in the long term. The viability of our

wildlife populations depends on our commitment to monitoring and understandings shifts in vegetation and habitat conditions. This type of project would bring information forward to remedy some of our current deficiencies in being able to monitor long-term change in vegetative cover and habitat availability.

- D. How does this proposal address each of the 8 Criteria? Specifically address the following:
- i. Re. Criterion #4, what is the role of **1% for the Tetons's funding** in starting or modifying your program?

This project responds to a data gap that was identified as part of a Natural Resource Overlay Mapping project in 2007. Not only does this project extend the benefits of a previously funded project that identified information gaps, but it also serves to provide **critical baseline data that opens the door for many areas of future research.**

The funds invested will initiate a much-needed study that will help us better understand existing vegetative cover conditions, which is critical in understanding the opportunities and barriers for viable wildlife populations in the greater Teton area. *Without this project, the community's top goal to protect wildlife is at great risk, and without funding from 1% for the Tetons; this project will not take place.*

- ii. Re. Criterion #6, what are the specific, measurable objectives of this program? How will you measure success against each of your objectives? Is there baseline information against which to measure success? What objective methodology will you use to evaluate the performance of the program?

This program will result in a specific set of data products that are currently not available, including a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based map of vegetation types in geographic areas where we currently lack information. Specifically, Craighead Beringia South, with the assistance of public agencies, will design a research approach that will be tested and tried for its efficacy in a pilot project. Craighead Beringia South will explore ways in which existing data, such as Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data acquired by Teton Conservation District, could be used to establish a vegetation map on private lands. Through documentation of lessons learned in the pilot project, subsequent research in other areas of the county will be strengthened.

GIS-based products will be shared with government planning staffs to complement the data that is currently being compiled from previous individual development-based environmental assessments throughout the County. The product could also enable a cross-jurisdiction assessment of vegetation cover on private and public lands.

The degree of collaboration among key stakeholders, and the project's ability to respond to diverse data needs, will also demonstrate success.

- iii. Re. Criterion #7, please include letters of support and commitment from participating organizations. Describe how the collaboration is going to work – what is the role of each partner? If collaboration is not possible or desirable, please explain why.

The Conservation Alliance has confirmed that this project addresses a community issue of top priority. Through this project, the Conservation Alliance will collaborate with Craighead Beringia South, a local science-based organization in order to bring critical information to land-use planning processes in Teton County. The Conservation Alliance will work to ensure that the data collected as part of this project will meet a direct and immediate need for planners in Teton County. *We will share the findings with participants of Sustaining Jackson Hole's Environment group and other interested groups, agencies and individuals.*

Re. Criterion #8, describe your other funding sources, and whether or not they are committed at application time.

E. Provide a project budget, including revenue and expense. Add narrative explanations as necessary.

Expense Description	Total Projected Expenses	Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance	Research Organization & Collaborating Agencies	1% for the Tetons (Request)	Total Projected Revenue
Research Design	\$5,000		In-kind: cross-jurisdiction data-sharing to identify priority gaps	\$5,000	\$5,000
Pilot Research	\$5,000		In-kind: expertise (no training costs), GIS software, survey equipment & materials	\$5,000	\$5,000
Project Coordination, Education & Outreach (report design & production)	\$3,200	In-kind: website and newsletter updates		\$3,200	\$3,200
Total	\$13,200			\$13,200	\$13,200

F. Has applicant received a **1% for the Tetons** grant before? If so, has **1% for the Tetons** received and approved a final report for each grant given?

No.

G. Is there additional information you would like to provide?

Throughout the update of the Comprehensive Plan, our community has consistently voiced wildlife stewardship as its top priority. As we strive to identify implementation strategies and policies that will help us achieve our goal of protecting our extraordinary natural resources, it is critical that we commit to long-term monitoring of those resources. Our community must have baseline data on our natural resources – which this project specifically enables - so that we can make informed choices about future land uses.

By submitting this proposal, Lisa Rullman agrees that **1% for the Tetons** has the right to utilize the supporting data however it sees fit, including publishing it.

Further, if this application is funded, Lisa Rullman agrees that **1% for the Tetons** may:

- publish the application in its entirety, including the follow-up evaluation and outcomes report;
- report on, photograph, videograph, and/or otherwise publicize the funded project, and use such information as it sees fit.

Submitted by:

Name & Title

Organization

Date

Lisa Rullman, Development Director – Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance 6/12/09

Signature: Lisa Rullman

If sponsored by another organization, please provide the name, title and signature of the sponsoring organization's responsible party below.

Sponsored by:

Name & Title

Organization

Date

Signature: