

1% for the Tetons

Grant Evaluation Form

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 Tetons* 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. This evaluation is due one year from the grant announcement: **June 30, 2010.**

Organization Name: Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 373 Driggs, ID 83422

Contact person: Tim Adams

Title: Executive Director Phone # 208-201-1622

Email address: tim@tvtap.org Fax# N/A

Title of Application topic: Jedediah Smith Wilderness Area Trail Restoration Project IV

Amount Granted: \$1,500

Use the questions below to fully describe the results of your program.

I. Stated criteria for evaluating success:

This project will work to preserve and sustain the Jedediah Smith Wilderness in the Caribou Targhee National Forest by rehabilitating and maintaining current trail systems. The Forest Service is currently not able to contribute funds towards the restoration and rehabilitation of these trails; however the need is significant. This project will fund two individuals to perform trail maintenance for one month in the Wilderness in conjunction with the Foreman of the Teton Basin Trail Crew.

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

The grant received from 1% of The Tetons was used to hire a trail crew of two to work a total of 214 hours. Through our partnership with US Forest Service and the Montana Conservation Corps, the crew:

- cleared 147 trees from the trail

- cleaned 108 water bars and 5 swells
- hardened (improved steps) one stream crossing
- removed two 30 inch sections from two 80 foot trees
- built 17 rock steps which minimized the grade of a particularly popular trail
- created two check steps (improves trail steps)
- decommissioned 2 fire pits
- cleared untold amounts of rocks and brush from the trail

III. What were the specific, measurable objectives of this program? Did the program meet its key objectives? If not, what lessons were learned?

As stated in our application, “the measurable objectives of this project will be; the number that we receive at the end of the season will speak for itself. Whether it is the number of trees cleared from the trail or the number of new water bars constructed. Simply put if we don’t get out there and do the work it will not get done. Without this work there is potential to lead to reroutes (or spider-webbing of trails), erosion, rutting, overgrowth and eventually impassable trails.” As noted above in question II and in question IV, we were able to achieve our objective of contributing to the long-term health of the Jedediah Smith Wilderness in the Caribou Targhee National Forest. We also learned that, while 214 hours may seem like a lot it is simply just a drop in the bucket. There is a significant amount of work that remains to be done in the area in order to offset the ongoing damages created by user groups and natural degradation. We are always hoping to find other revenue streams to support this valuable program.

IV. Outcomes: What were the actual results? Please include here data that can be shared in terms of furthering the knowledge base on the Teton area.

The amount of work that was accomplished in 214 hours was significant. Both crew members were able to include overnight stays in the backcountry to access trails more than a day’s hike in from the trailhead. This allowed the trail improvements to extend beyond the standard 4 miles from the trailhead and into the true Wilderness. A valuable part of this project was the collaboration between public and private agencies. Both TVTAP and the US Forest Service agree that there is much work to be done in our Wilderness Areas. Degradation of these areas by users must be managed or the complete ecosystem is thrown into disarray. Projects like this one are crucial, because the USFS’ resources continue to decrease every year while user patterns continue to increase. Private/public partnerships such as this one are the only realistic option for maintaining the level of integrity of the resource to which most of us in the Teton area are committed.

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

The Tetons are a unique and marvelous landscape that millions visit from around the world every year to view. There are few that choose to venture into the Wilderness to explore the beauty on foot or by horse, but it is important to keep the trails in good condition for those who do. It is our hope to continue contributing to the upkeep of trails in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness for years to come.

We recognize that this project does not meet the current criteria for projects that 1% for the Tetons funds and appreciate your willingness to fund this program in the summer of 2009. We hope that as the 1% for the Tetons program continues to grow you might reconsider the impact that types of projects like this have on the community, the environment, the impact to the great Teton region, and allow for applications to be considered in the future.