

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 & 501(c)3 number:

If applicant is not a 501(c)3, please provide the name and 501(c)3 number of the sponsoring organization that will administer the grant:

**Teton Valley Trails and Pathways
501(c)3#: 82-0506420**

Address: PO Box 373 Driggs, Idaho 83422

Contact person & title: Liz Sisson, Program Manager

Phone # 208-419-6722

Fax # n/a

Email address: tvtapliz@gmail.com

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

Amount Requested: \$1,500.00

Summary statement describing your proposal (75 words or fewer)

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.

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 **Jedediah Smith Wilderness Area Trail Restoration Project IV** will involve work exclusively in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. This will be the fourth year that Teton Valley Trails and Pathways has worked on this project. Due to the continued decrease in funding that the National Forest Service receives annually it is critical for local groups and nonprofits to take the initiative to fund trail maintenance and construction in the Wilderness. At this point the local Forest Service office has no idea how much funding they will receive for this year's trail crew. However, given the trend of the shrinking budget for the trails program, employing a crew of six in 2006, two in 2007, and just three trail crew employees last year, it seems safe to assume they could use our help!

Over the last three years Teton Valley Trails and Pathways has provided over 500 hours of labor in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness alone. The TVTAP trail crew often works alongside the Montana Conservation Corps and Forest Service trail crews. In addition to working within a larger group the

small crew of two is often best used hiking in long distances to clear the trails of dead and down trees and assessing the trail status for the Forest Service. Because the group is small it takes far less organization and maintenance to get them where they need to go in the backcountry, in turn, freeing up the larger trail crews for the larger projects. In the end, keeping more trail miles free of trees and debris without tying up the Forest Service trail crew or the Montana Conservation Corps.

This project would send a trail crew of two into the Wilderness for a total of 240 hours. The work is scheduled to start when the snow has melted from the trails, generally early July, and would be completed by the beginning of autumn, generally mid-September. The flexibility of the program allows the crew to hike deep into the Wilderness and camp out there in order to access trails that are further out and to service the various branches of the trail systems that reach towards the Tetons. The Teton Valley Trails and Pathways crew will be in constant dialogue with Scott Bossell, the foreman of the Teton Basin trail crew. He along with, Liz Sisson, the Program Manager for Teton Valley Trails and Pathways will determine the schedule and set the priorities for the crew.

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

The Jedediah Smith Wilderness is a unique destination for many backpackers, hikers and equestrians. However, due to the lack of fees that support the Wilderness, the Federal Government has little or no money set aside for the maintenance of the trails that abound there. Instead, the Forest Service trail crew is supported by the licensing and taxing of motorized vehicles which means the crew spends far more time in the Big Hole Mountain Range, where vehicular use is permitted. This has led to neglect and abandonment of many trails throughout the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. It is our hope to maintain and rehabilitate the trails so that people who seek the solitude of the Wilderness are able to do so throughout the Valley.

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

Trail work involves protecting natural resources by providing a route for hikers and equestrians to travel that is free of trees and debris, thus encouraging people to stay on the trails and preserve the wild aspect of the Wilderness –including the limited number of trails per acre allowed in the Wilderness. Water bars and check dams prevent water from travelling down the trail thus preventing erosion and increased run off in the streams. Bridges preserve stream banks and the fragile ecosystems that live on the edge of streams by preventing people from hiking up and down the stream banks. Well constructed trails, when maintained, last many life times, providing a recreational opportunity for generations to come.

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

1. Trails that are properly constructed and maintained last for generations. The current standard for constructing water bars and check dams requires that they are built to last a minimum of 20 years. The same is true for bridges and puncheons. The regular maintenance and surveying of

trails ensures that problems do not go unresolved for too long, ideally preventing irreparable damage from occurring.

2. Teton Valley is a magical place where people come not just for the beauty but for the quiet. The easy access to the Jedediah Smith Wilderness encourages locals and tourists alike to step into the "wild" and savor the peace and solitude that Wilderness Areas provide. The power of the Teton Mountain Range looming overhead encourages people to go ever deeper into the woods exploring this natural resource that is free and open to all. Those who travel to reach our Wilderness are an asset to the community and the economy. Many who live here now, first came through as visitors and returned as friends. It is the easy access to public lands that lures many visitors to the Valley and keeps those who live here sustained.
3. Sending the Teton Valley Trails and Pathways trail crew into the Jedediah Smith Wilderness on an annual basis ensures that more of the trails are being accessed and maintained on a regular basis. Each year the crew provides a written report outlining the work that was done and the surveys of areas that need to be revisited. This enables Teton Valley Trails and Pathways along with the Teton Basin Ranger District to have clear records to coordinate future crews and ensure that the necessary work is completed in a timely fashion. The only way to keep these trails in good condition is to hike them on a regular basis, removing deadfall, reinforcing bridges and cleaning water bars. The Teton Valley Trails and Pathways trail crew is only one part of this huge process but without the crew there is no telling how long it would take to assure that all the trails in the Wilderness are not only safe, but also enjoyable.
4. Though this will be the fourth year of the Jedediah Smith Wilderness Area Trail Restoration Project this is only the second year that we are sending two crew members out in the field. Last year we had great success sending two people out, as that allowed the option of spending the night out and going further into the Wilderness. A crew of two is also able to run a cross saw, which is absolutely critical in the Wilderness, as chain saws are prohibited and many of the trees that fall on the trail are too large to simply chop with an axe. It also enabled the crew to work autonomously from the Forest Service trail crew, providing further flexibility in scheduling and projects. Whereas with a crew of just one the Trail Crew Foreman was forced to assign tasks that were either manageable by a crew of one or to designate other crews for the Teton Valley Trails and Pathways crew member to work alongside.
5. The amount that can be accomplished by just one person working in the Wilderness, alone, is pretty fantastic! With two people working together in the Wilderness for one month the list more than doubles. For example, last year, with a crew of two working in the Wilderness, more than eight miles of trail was resurrected with days of lopping, rocking and rerouting. The Game Creek Trail was brought back to life and re-established all the way to the boundary of Grand Teton National Park. This along with many other accomplishments has proven again and again that we are making a difference. At the end of each season the trail crew provides a detailed list of accomplishments which can be measured and observed throughout the Jedediah Smith Wilderness.
6. The numbers that we receive at the end of the season speak for themselves. Whether it is the number of trees cleared from the trail or the number of new water bars constructed there is concrete data that shows the effectiveness of this program. Simply put if we don't get out there and do the work it will not get done. Which will lead to reroutes (or spiderwebbing of trails), erosion, rutting, overgrowth and eventually impassable trails.
7. Our continued partnership with the National Forest Service over the course of the last seven years has demonstrated our commitment to and capability of following through with projects such as this one. Our project has been an essential component in the Teton Basin Range District's ability to meet their goals for sustaining our Wilderness areas. We will work closely with the Montana Conservation Corps. Their crews are made up primarily of young adults aged 18 – 28. Often times the corps members have little or no experience in the backcountry. Working alongside these crews will allow us to help teach them about our local area, the wildlife and environmental issues that impact our mountains, as well as, proper leave no trace standards and wilderness etiquette. These are skills they will no doubt take with them wherever they go.

8. At this time we are waiting to hear back from the Targhee Institute. We applied for a grant with them for the other half of this project, one crew member to work full time for one month in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. The Targhee Institute has supported this project for the past two years so we are very hopeful that they will support us again this season. Our organization, Teton Valley Trails and Pathways will also give \$800 to cover the cost of worker's compensation, training and the wages of our Program Manager who will be working along with the Forest Service Trails Supervisor to plan and coordinate the project.
- E. Provide a project budget, including revenue and expense. Add narrative explanations as necessary.

Amount requested: \$1,500.00

Partner contributions (in-kind and/or cash):

Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, Inc. \$800 Program Manager salary for overseeing the project, worker's compensation insurance, taxes and food for work days

Montana Conservation Corps: In kind donation; additional trail crew support and equipment

Teton Basin Ranger District: In kind donation; trail crew support and supervision, tools and equipment

At this time we are waiting for a response to the grant request for \$1,500.00 for an additional crew member in order to have two employees working together. Should we be unable to fund a second crew member the work will still be done in coordination with the Teton Basin Trail Crew and the Montana Conservation Corps.

Total Project Cost: \$3,800

- 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?

Yes, we have received a 1% for the Tetons grant in the past. Yes, 1% for the Tetons has received and approved the final report for the grant.

- G. Is there additional information you would like to provide? Not at this time.

By submitting this proposal, Elizabeth Sisson 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, Elizabeth Sisson 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

Elizabeth Sisson, Program Manager, Teton Valley Trails and Pathways 4/10/2009

Signature: Elizabeth Sisson 5/07/2009

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

Sponsored by:

<i>Name & Title</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Date</i>
Jay Pence, District Ranger, Teton Basin Ranger District	4/10/2009	

Signature: Jay Pence 5/07/2009