Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

2019 Grant Application Form

Application Deadline: December 15, 2018



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 🞟 Wildlife Division 🞟 PO Box 200701 🞟 Helena, MT 59620 🞟 406-444-7291

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. **Title of WHIP Project**:
2. **Project Contact Information:**

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| --- |
| ***Project Sponsor*** – Contact Person: |
| Organization: |
| Address: |
| Phone: |
| Email: |

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| ***Project Manager*** – Contact Person (if different from above): |
| Organization: |
| Address: |
| Phone: |
| Email: |

1. **Number of years to complete the WHIP project (5 years maximum)**:
2. **Total Project Acres:**
3. **Priority Wildlife Habitat Acres:**

1. **Treatment Acres (estimates):**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Treatment Acres: | Total Acres to be treated with herbicides: | Total Acres to be reseeded/reveg: | Total acres to be impacted by biocontrol: | Total acres to be improved by grazing project: |
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1. **Grant Funding Summary:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Grant Dollars Requested | Grant Cash Match (non-federal) | Total Grant Cost |
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Use the dollar amounts from the *WHIP Grant Budget Detail* located in the WHIP Funding Plan worksheet in the 2019 WHIP Detailed Treatment and Funding Plans (Excel document).

SPECIFIC PROJECT DETAILS

*Provide the details of your proposed WHIP project below each numbered topic. The space will expand as you enter the descriptions. However, keep the descriptions concise and specific (500-word maximum).* ***Note –*** *you should remove: (enter text here) before typing your narrative.*

1. **Describe the location of the WHIP Project.** (include location relative to nearest community) Provide one or more detailed maps with project boundary lines and land ownership for all participating lands, a general weed inventory, priority wildlife habitats, and proposed treatment areas overlaid with corresponding ownerships.

(enter text here)

1. **Provide a brief history, background, and overview of the proposed WHIP Project:** Include the following information: an overview of partners involved with this proposal. Is the project part of a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)? Does the project area have a weed management plan? If so, how does the WHIP proposal advance objectives in the plan?

(enter text here)

1. **Describe the public hunting accessibility of the participating lands in the WHIP Project**: For scoring purposes, describe public hunting accessibility of **each** of the participating land ownerships within the project area and the types of access provided. Add more rows to the table by right clicking in the last row and click *Insert.*

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| --- | --- |
| **Landowner**  (WHIP partner name: BLM, FS, FWP, Johnson Cattle Ranch, John Smith, etc.) | **Type of Hunting Access** (block management, limited to friends/relatives, closed to all hunting, leased to outfitting, access fee, walk-in without permission, etc.) |
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1. **Describe the priority wildlife species and their priority habitat(s) involved within the WHIP Project area.** Include how the targeted noxious weeds are specifically impacting the functions of wildlife habitat (food, water, shelter, and space to survive and reproduce). Identify the plant community types (conifer-dominated forest, deciduous dominated forest, sagebrush steppe, prairie grassland, montane grassland, riparian systems, etc. that make up the mapped priority habitat(s) for the WHIP project. Was an *FWP biologist involved* with this part of the planning process? If so, how did he/she help?

(enter text here)

1. **Describe the need and urgency of the proposed WHIP Project.** Include details of how the project would restore, rehabilitate, improve, or manage lands as wildlife habitat through noxious weed management.

(enter text here)

1. **Provide a description of measurable objectives for the WHIP Project.** This section details quantitative objectives for the proposed treatments: herbicide, reseeding, biocontrol, and grazing management. Include:

1) the percentage of infestations to be treated within the project area;

2) an estimate of priority wildlife habitat acres to benefit from the proposed treatments; and

3) measurable outcome-based objectives by weed species. Include a percent or acreage reduction of infestations, native vegetation responses, or similar as fitting with the proposal.

***NOTE:*** *outcome-based objectives in this section will form the basis for the monitoring plan.*

(enter text here)

NOXIOUS WEED TREATMENT PLAN

1. **Provide a description of noxious weed infestations in the project area and surrounding vicinity.**

(enter text here)

1. **Provide a description of the types of native plants in the WHIP project and occurrence in association with the noxious weed infestations.** Describe the types of plants that make up the native plant communities. Example: native-grasses such as bluebunch wheatgrass, green needlegrass; primary forbs such as arrowleaf balsamroot, silky lupine, etc., and do the same for shrubs and trees (include some of the dominate species of the plant types). Can native plant communities recover if noxious weeds are suppressed? If not, will that be addressed through the proposed project, such as reseeding?

(enter text here)

1. **Describe what factors are causing the noxious weed infestations and how those may be addressed.** What factors have led to or could lead to weed infestations and are they being addressed through changes in land management practices? If so, how?

(enter text here)

1. **Explain the measures that will be used to minimize impacts to non-target plant species.** For example: type of herbicides used, spot treatment, grazing or biocontrol, buffer zones, or there are nuisance plants and there is not a high concern if damage occurs.

(enter text here)

1. **Describe the management strategies that will be implemented in the WHIP Project to help reduce susceptibility to weed invasion in the post treatment areas.** Include anticipated follow-up treatment(s) that may be needed to help the post-treatment areas from becoming re-infested. Also, discuss post-treatment management plans to support the preferred vegetation such as deferred grazing, organized hand pulls, educational signage such as Adopt-A-Trailhead Montana program, etc.

(enter text here)

1. **Schedule of Major WHIP Project Phases:** Complete the following table with project phases that will be completed to accomplish the objectives of the project. Add or reduce lines to the table as needed.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Phase Name:** (South Hill Treatments or Year 1, etc.) | **Timing:** (May 2019 – Oct. 2019 or June 2019 – Nov. 2020, etc.) | **Anticipated Accomplishments:** aerially spray 450 ac, spot treat 120 ac., release biocontrol on 15 sites, reseed parcel #1. |
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WHIP DETAILED TREATMENT PLAN

Use the pre-formatted **2019 WHIP Detailed Treatment & Funding Plans** Excel spreadsheets to provide details about costs of the proposed herbicide, reseeding, biocontrol, and/or grazing management treatments.

WHIP PROJECT FUNDING PLAN

Use the pre-formatted **2019 WHIP Detailed Treatment & Funding Plans** Excel spreadsheets for WHIP Grant Budget Detail\*, Grant Cash Match (non-federal), and Other Partner Contributions (in-kind).

***\*NOTE:*** *Part of the WHIP Grant Budget Detail section auto-fills the necessary numbers from the Detailed Treatment Plan spreadsheets. Do not enter numbers in those cells that are colored light blue.*

**Budget Narrative Overview:** provide a description on how grant cash match (non-federal) would be used with WHIP grant funds.

(enter text here)

MONITORING PLAN: For Herbicide, Cultural, & Biocontrol Treatments

Complete the following monitoring schedules for herbicide, cultural, and biological control treatments within the WHIP project. Monitoring needs to provide actual results of the measurable objectives described in item #13 from above. Add or reduce lines to the table as needed.

**Monitoring for Herbicide and Cultural Treatments** **– minimum requirements:** quantitative measurements of targeted noxious weeds and native plant community needs to be conducted **annually** at representative locations during the treatment year **and** *three consecutive years post-treatment*.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| WHIP Project Objective(s) | Monitoring Method (transect include length, photo point, etc., # of monitoring sites, and location) | Responsible Partner(s) |
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**Monitoring for Biological Control Treatments** **– minimum requirements:** *three years* of post-treatment monitoring needs to be conducted *to determine occurrence* of biocontrol agent **and** measurement of targeted noxious weeds and native plant community at representative locations **during the treatment year and years three and five post-treatment.**

BIOCONTROL OCCURRENCE:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| WHIP Project Objective(s) | Monitoring Method (sweep net, photo point, etc., # of monitoring sites, and location) | Responsible Partner(s) |
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NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL VS NATIVE PLANTS:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| WHIP Project Objective(s) | Monitoring Method (sweep net, photo point, etc., # of monitoring sites, and location) | Responsible Partner(s) |
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STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks requires the project sponsor to provide a statement of commitment to enter into an agreement with FWP for utilization of grant funds and required documentation, reporting, and monitoring.

The WHIP project sponsor *(enter project sponsor name below)*:

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| --- |
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Will be responsible for the following *(click on the box to select the response)*:

Yes  No 1) signing a sub-recipient agreement with FWP,

Yes  No 2) overseeing the grant project through the duration of the grant funds and required

future treatment monitoring,

Yes  No 3) paying for treatment work upon confirming completed work and then submitting for

reimbursement with proper payment documentation,

Yes  No 4) tracking expenditures and grant balance, and

Yes  No 5) completing required progress reports with corresponding monitoring results, and

final progress and monitoring reports – if monitoring extends beyond the grant period.

WHIP Application Check List:

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| --- | --- |
| **Status** | **Application Requirements** |
| Completed | I. Project Summary |
| Completed | II. Specific Project Details |
| Completed | III. Noxious Weed Treatment Plan – Narrative |
| Completed | IV. WHIP Detailed Treatment Plan – Excel spreadsheets |
| Completed | V. WHIP Project Funding Plan – Excel spreadsheet |
| Completed | VI. Monitoring Plan |
| Completed | VII. Statement of Commitment |
| Completed | VIII. Project maps: project boundary with ownership, weed  inventory, priority wildlife habitat, and proposed treatment areas with land ownership |
| Completed | IX. *Signed Contribution Statements:*  Grant Cash Match (non-federal) |

**WHIP Contribution Statement Format:**

**MONTANA WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2019**

**PARTNER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

Title of WHIP proposal you are contributing to:

Your organization name (private landowners/individuals indicate “Private”):

Type of contribution:

Grant Cash Match (non-federal) Amount: $

Has your contribution been used to meet **any other federal** program match or cost share requirement? (non-federal funds cannot be used more than once for matching federal funds)

Yes  No

WHIP Partner Signature: Date Signed:

Printed Name:

Title: