

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative Habitat Project Funding Application

Project Title	Rawlins BLM Fence Conversions Proposed for 2014
Local Project Development Team	Carbon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lincoln/Uinta <input type="checkbox"/> Sublette <input type="checkbox"/> Sweetwater <input type="checkbox"/>
Project Type	Access <input type="checkbox"/> Aspen <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian/Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Checklist	Please supply WLCI Project Tracking Checklist
Project Length	New Single Year <input type="checkbox"/> New Multi-Year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing/Phased <input type="checkbox"/>
Project Objectives	Convert existing fences to BLM standard/wildlife friendly designs.
Project Synopsis Description should include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies • Immediate threats or stressors • Animal and Plant species • Habitat Classification (winter range, migration corridor etc.) • Larger ecosystem or landscape • Forage or water resources • Livestock or grazing • Scientific Merit, Management Relevance • Additional (ecological, educational, socio/economic etc.) • Benefits 	<p>Convert fences in migration corridors, crucial winter range, locations with fence damage, and/or where the design of fence (such as mesh with barbed wire or 5-6 barbed) to improve big game passage and reduce stress, energy loss, injury, and mortality. Most of these more constrictive types of fences were built to control domestic sheep, and the majority of these allotments have since been converted to cattle grazing that can be controlled with 3-4 strand barbed wire fences. The focus of past fence conversion projects has been to the south and west of Rawlins, where the majority of fences have been converted in conjunction with willing private landowners. The focus for the next several years would be north and east of Rawlins where four large allotments have sheep type fencing and two of them are under new management more willing to work as partners with BLM in this effort. In the past five years a total of 54 miles of fence was converted, using contracts, WCC, permittees, industry, and BLM labor. Roughly 11 miles of the new fence was rail-top and wood post construction that increases costs compared to more common steel post construction. Total costs were \$545,000, including nearly 282K from WLCI (52%), 122K from NGOs (22%) for materials, \$111K from BLM (20%), and the balance from permittees, industry and conservation districts (6%).</p>
Geographic Description (Electronic shapefile must be included to be considered for funding.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTM Coordinates • Local Name and County • Surface Ownership (check all that apply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p>If project includes a mosaic of land ownerships provide a breakdown for each specific owner by acres and percent of total project area.</p>	<p>Rawlins Field Office, allotment and pasture fences adjacent to the Ferris' Mountains and Seminoe Mountains, north and east of Rawlins, Carbon County. These areas are also contain two landscape prescribed burn projects that may result in burned fences which could be replaced with wildlife friendly fencing. Although primarily on public land, areas may be converted that cross private and state land to improve animal passage between these two mountain ranges and between summer range on the mountains to big game winter ranges located away from them. Although fence conversions in the past five years has been more focused in the areas south and west of Rawlins, there is still a need for additional work there. Specific allotments that still need additional fence conversions, include Powder Rim, Sulphur Springs, and possibly others such as Badwater, Jawbone, Monument Lake, Shamrock Hills, Echo Springs and Wild Cow.</p>
Focus Communities Aspen <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Sagebrush <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riparian <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>List each Action (burn, thin, water, seeding, noxious weed, fencing, study, etc.) and Units of Treatment (acres, miles of fencing, etc.)</p> <p>Convert 8-15 miles of fence annually using contract, WCC, BLM staff, and permittee labor. Materials would be paid with funding from WWNRT, RMEF and/or other NGO's.</p>

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<p>WLCI Goals Goal 1 – Manage, conserve, restore, or enhance the 5 focus communities (aspen, sagebrush, mountain shrub, riparian and aquatic) to ensure sustainability of fish and wildlife population in the WLCI area. Goal 2 – Support opportunities for sustainable agriculture. Goal 3 – Improve the understanding of ecological processes across southwest Wyoming. Goal 4 – Synthesize information and facilitate communication to inform and encourage responsible development and sustain healthy landscapes. Goal 5 – Ensure effective relationships exist among partners, stakeholders, and the public through internal and external partnerships. Goal 6 – Provide mechanisms to ensure effective data and information exchange.</p>	<p>How does this project meet WLCI goals and objectives? Goal 1, helps to ensure sustainability of wildlife populations in the WLCI area, particularly the big game species of antelope, mule deer, elk and bighorn sheep.</p>
<p>Project Implementation Schedule List timeline when project is expected to be initiated and completed</p>	<p>Projects would start in 2014 and likely last for at least 5-10 years as there are approximately several hundred miles of fences which need conversion within the areas described above. Current efforts over the last five years have resulted in approximately 11 miles per year of fence conversion projects. Higher priority areas would be identified to focus on by combining the knowledge of agencies and permittees.</p>
<p>Project Monitoring & Science Activities Describe monitoring and related science activities currently in place and future monitoring and related science activities.</p>	<p>Photos before and after. <u>Long-term maintenance by permittees</u> may document change in fence damage. Long-term big game herd health may be reflected in meeting population objectives for mule deer and antelope.</p>
<p>Project Management Plan (Does project include or consistent with a management plan? How will long term management ensure project success?)</p>	<p>Yes, permittees will have signed responsibility for long-term maintenance, with most permittees having been on the land for multiple generations and likely to continue long-term in the future.</p>
<p>Requested WLCI Funding Include a breakdown of how WLCI funds will be used. (supplies, equipment, labor, etc.)</p>	<p>\$55,000, the majority of which is labor. This would be used for contracts or hiring WCC crews, which would work on their own or with BLM staff, to complete fence conversions.</p>
<p>Matching Funds Anticipated from Partners List each source, amount, date applied for, date approved</p>	<p>WWNRT (or other NGO) funding of materials at \$25,000 annually.</p>
<p>"In-Kind" and Volunteer Services List each source, value and method of valuation</p>	<p>Permittee labor of \$5,000 and BLM labor of \$30,000 annually.</p>
<p>Percentage of Funding in hand or committed</p>	<p>26%</p>
<p>Total Project Costs</p>	<p>\$575,000 for five year period.</p>
<p>Project Lead/Contact Information</p>	<p>Name Andy Warren Title Sup. Rangeland Management Specialist Agency/Organization BLM Rawlins Field Office Address 1300 Third Street City, State, Zip Rawlins, WY, 82301 Phone 307-328-4271 e-mail a75warre@blm.gov</p>
<p>Date Submitted</p>	<p>December 12, 2013</p>