



Also
Rangeland Health Assessment
Program (RHAP)
Application Information

General Application Instructions – please read as some information has changed.

1. Please read through the entire application prior to starting.
2. The filling out the RHAP project application should be done cooperatively with ALL mandatory partners participating from the inception. Ideally a face to face meeting of ALL mandatory partners should take place and jointly prepare the application. (This includes all landowners and managing agencies, BLM, FS, and State Lands). The WDA suggests that you allow at least 10- bussiness days for federal and state partners to review all aspects of the proposed project.
3. Answer each section in the application. Applications **will not** be reviewed for consideration unless all information is complete. (Refer to the RHAP Application Approval Checklist document and the Sample Application on the website.)
4. The application is not the place to discuss/identify monitoring methods, locations, etc. This information is to be in the monitoring plan that will be submitted one year after a contract has been enacted.

Submission of Application

1. Make sure all the appropriate signatures are affixed to each document. Submit a copy of your application and supporting documents electronically to justin.caudill@wyo.gov . If you are not able to provide electronic signatures on all documents email documents without signatures, and mail hard copies with signatures to:

Wyoming Department of Agriculture
2219 Carey Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001-9980
Att: NR&P

The application must be postmarked on or by RFP deadline

2. A RHAP partnership agreement form must be submitted for each mandatory partner identifying their contribution (may or may not include budget contribution), confirming their commitment to participate if the project. Additional partners shall be determined by the applicant and are welcomed.

For questions about the Rangeland Health Assessment Program or the application process contact:
Justin Caudill at 307-350-5480 or justin.caudill@wyo.gov

PLEASE NOTE:

- **An application including a request for grant funding may only be submitted during the period of Request for Funding Proposal (RFP).**
- **An application without a funding request may be submitted at any time.**
- **The application will be reviewed for approval within 45 days of the WDA receiving the application or the close of the RFP period. Once reviewed, applicants will receive notice of application status – approved or denied.**
- **If grant funding is approved in addition to project approval, a contract will be written and all signatures completed (contract execution). Expenses for work done prior to current contract execution may not be used as grant expenditures. Matching fund expenses commence at the time of contract execution.**
- **Applicants will be required to submit a completed monitoring plan to the WDA by the date specified in the contract agreement and any additional required program support documents.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

In the past the WDA has provided project funding upfront upon project approval by the Board of Agriculture, and the submission of a payment voucher. The Department has changed how funding will be allocated. Upon approval of your application, a proponent must provide a “Yearly Plan of Work” for each year funding will be needed. Upon receipt of this request the WDA will review the “Yearly Plan of Work”, once it is approved the proponent will submit a payment voucher and then the WDA will release funding for that year.



Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP) 2019-2020 Application

COMPLETED FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ALL APPLICATIONS

1. Applicant Information:

Governmental Agency (applicant): Bohica Conservation District (BCD)

Contact Name: Pepper Baron

Contact Title: BCD District Manager

Address: PO Box 1234

City, State, and Zip: Mountain Slide, WY, 82999

Phone: 307-123-4567

Fax: 307-123-7654

Email: pepper.baron@wygrinder.com

Is someone other than the Contact listed responsible for signing agreements or contracts? If so;

Name: _____ Title: _____

2. General Project Information

Project Reference Name: Mountain Allotment Rangeland Monitoring Project

Explain in a paragraph the necessity for a rangeland health assessment project for the proposed area including the impact on state, federal and private property.

3. Project Land Area Included

A land ownership map of the project area that delineates the project borders in addition to the identified land ownership MUST be included with the application.

Please list the number of acres included in this project by land ownership.

Land Ownership	Acres
Bureau of Land Management	0
United States Forest Service	21,922
State Land	0
Private Land	0
Other (specify)	
Other (specify)	
TOTAL	21,922

4. Partners for the project

Mandatory Partners: Include private landowners, permittee(s) / lessee(s), and all federal or state land management agencies (ies) in the project area. Additional partners shall be determined by the applicant and are welcomed. Examples include other local, private, and non-governmental partners. List all partners and indicate if a RHAP Partnership Agreement Form is included with the application. These forms must accompany the application and the application is considered incomplete without all signed agency and permittee forms.

Partners	Yes or No Yes means they have signed a partnership agreement form.
Woody Woodlands	High Meadow National FS District Ranger
Tree Top Cattle Company Owner- Quart Aspen	Permittee
Ed Educated	UW Ag Ext
Landon Position	Office of State Lands and Investment

Up-Falls Creek Cattle Company Owner- Santee Callure	

5. Project Narrative

A Project Narrative is Required: Consideration will only be given to applications addressing ALL of the following components. Components must be identifiable within the narrative but may be presented in any order chosen by the applicant. (See Funding Criteria Score Sheet)

- a. **Project Name and Summary** (one-page maximum)

Mountain Allotment Rangeland Monitoring Project

This project is designed to collect rangeland health monitoring data to aid in determining if desired conditions are being met or moving towards, as defined by the High Meadow National FS Plan. The collected data will be used in future NEPA analysis, Allotment management Plans, and adaptive management strategies. An integral element of this project is permittee involvement, to increase the relationship with the FS, and to be present and interacting in possible decisions related to the allotment.

- b. **Project Description – (NOTE) - In all future update and final reports for this project, you must explain each partner’s role in; developing the monitoring plan, monitoring trainings & meetings relating to this project, and their specific roles in the cooperative monitoring effort(s)”.**

The partners of this project will work cooperatively together to:

- Relocate & reread existing long-term monitoring studies to help determine trend;
- Identify possible area(s) requiring monitoring;
- Establish now monitoring studies to help determine current resource conditions;
- Collect annual monitoring data (e.i. riparian greenline, stubble height, and key species utilization) to determine use by livestock.

Monitoring will be used to determine if desired conditions are being met and or moved towards Forest Service Plan. If livestock grazing is found to be the limiting factor for not meeting desired

conditions, then adaptive management strategies will be taken to reduce livestock use or timing of use. The Forest Service will work cooperatively with the permittee and their managers to select the most appropriate adaptive strategy. The adaptive management strategies applied will be based upon scientifically established management practices.

- c. The projects **Final Report** must include written conclusions provided by the permittee(s), project proponent, and Federal Specialist - With emphasis on how this project has/will benefit the permittee(s) and other partners beyond the life of the project.
 - i. Project. General description of the health assessment project.

See above.

- ii. Monitoring Plan Submission Date: Provide a date when the completed monitoring plan will be submitted to the WDA. Allow up to one year from the closing date of the RFP to complete this paramount step.

The partnership will provide the monitoring plan within 11 months of the enacted contract for this project.

- iii. Goal(s). Describe the over arching goal(s) for the project. Identify monitoring plan goal(s) reflecting management objectives, resource objectives and concerns.

Goal #1 – Relocate and reread existing rangeland monitoring studies and establish new studies as needed.

Goal #2 – Determine rangeland vegetation and ground cover current conditions and establish trends.

- iv. Objectives. Lists the project’s specific measurable and obtainable objectives (specific actions performed), as related to the scope of the RHAP.

Objective #1 - Long-term monitoring studies will have a permanent repeatable photo point, ground cover data, species composition, greenline streambank stability, and/or greenline percentage of late seral species- depending on the location of the study. Annual monitoring studies will have key species utilization, greenline stubble height, and/or photos. Utilization, greenline stubble heights, greenline seral status, protective surface cover, and species composition monitoring data will be collected by the following methods as described in FAH 2209.21 Rangeland Ecosystem Analysis and Management Handbook.

Objective #2 – Monitoring data and results will be compiled during both the 2019 and 2020 fall/winter. Each monitoring study will be assigned a study number and the corresponding photos, maps, and data will be added to a permanent study folder.

- v. Explanation of how the project aligns with the overall short-term and long-term goals of the RHAP as provided in the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) Chapter 15 Regulations governing the RHAP.

Short-term goal of the project is to sustain federal land grazing, and to provide credible monitoring data to complete analysis of said permit. While the main focus is on collecting data that will be used in an upcoming NEPA analysis. Wyoming Game & Fish has identified wildlife ranges in the proposed project area as being; yearlong range for four of Wyoming's large ungulate species, and specifically parturition for Elk and crucial winter range for Moose.

Fish populations are abundant within the allotments stream. The Little Woodpecker and the Up-falls Creeks both contain conservation populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Long-term goal of the project is to provide an adaptive management plan as the preferred alternative and data to support management actions for permit renewal and re-issue of the permit. It is important to establish and/reread long-term and annual use monitoring studies along streams within the allotment to ensure Forest Plan desired conditions are being met or moved towards. Long-term monitoring along the streams will demonstrate current conditions for streambank stability and trend over time concurrent with livestock grazing.

- vi. If project includes any federal/state managed lands, a statement by the agency of how this project fits into their priority areas. (Is this project area a priority and why)

The Forest Service is required by law (Rescission Act) to analyze all grazing allotments thru NEPA to decide whether to continue livestock grazing and if so how. The Mountain Allotment is scheduled to have a signed decision in 2020. As such there is a need to collect annual and long-term monitoring data on the allotment to use for the NEPA analysis process.

- vii. Expected outcomes and the intended use on how project information will be used in the NEPA process, for adaptive management in the project area, management decisions, etc.

First, the monitoring being conducted will show if desired conditions are being met or moved towards. If the evaluation of long-term monitoring determines that livestock grazing is the limiting factor not allowing desired conditions to be met or is inhibiting trend towards desired conditions, then scientifically based adaptive management strategies/practices, possibly including reduce livestock use will be taken.

- viii. Project start and end date. This will be the contract completion date so be sure to include time for data analysis, report compilation, etc.

Start date: July 1, 2018 (beginning field work)
Fall/Winter 2018 (compile 2018 data)
July 1 2019 (field work continued)
End date: Fall/winter 2019 (compile 2019 data)

If application includes a RFP funding request complete sections 6 and 7.

6. Priority

Provide a brief description of how this project addresses RHAP priorities as established by the WDA Director and as listed on the WDA website.

The Mountain Allotment will begin the NEPA analysis process in 2018. Monitoring work will likely affect the permit renewal. The project will involve contractors who are highly qualified and committed to the project. The permittees livelihoods are dependent upon the combined use of private, state, and public land grazing for their operations.

7. Budget

PLEASE NOTE: A minimum match of 30% is required. If more than 30% match is listed in the application budget, the subsequent agreement with the WDA will require the match at the higher level and match must be accounted for in the update & final reports.

How will this funding benefit the permittee / lessee / landowner?

Funding will be used to collect current monitoring data, establishing trend and informing required information to be used in the NEPA process working towards re-issuing the grazing use permit.

How will this funding benefit the federal / state land management agency if the project includes state/federal land?

Monitoring will allow the multi-use mission (i.e. livestock grazing) of this FS Allotment to continue forward. Monitoring will be used to determine if desired conditions are being met or moved forward. Collected rangeland health data will be used to help inform NEPA.

Please complete the following budget summary form.

	Grant Funds	Matching Funds <i>Cash</i>	Matching Funds <i>Contributed In-kind</i>	Total Amount
Administration				
Salaries			\$9,996 (FS)	\$9,996
Contractual Services	\$20,000			\$20,000
Materials / Supplies				
In-State Travel				
Equipment				
Equipment Rental				

Mapping / survey				
Other (specify)			\$1,960 (permittee)	\$1,960
Other (specify)				
Other (specify)				
TOTAL	\$20,000		\$11,956	\$31,956

Budget justification: Information providing rationale for both project costs and match must be included with sufficient detail for each budget category. Provide an approximated itemized account for each of the above categories.

1. Mountain Allotment permittee, Tree Top (and/or their manager): = Field work, selecting sites, discussions explaining operation. (4 days @ 8hr each) 32 hr x\$30.00 per hr = \$960 & Use of personal vehicle at \$0.50/mile x 24 miles _ \$12... Total = \$972.00 in-kind match
2. Mountain Allotment permittee, Up-Falls (and/or their manager): = Field work, selecting sites, discussions explaining operation. (4 days @ 8hr each) 32 hr x\$30.00 per hr = \$960 & Use of personal vehicle at \$0.50/mile x 56 miles _ \$28... Total = \$988.00 in-kind match
3. Woody Woodlands (FS) or the Rangeland Mgt Spec for the High Meadow National FS Ranger District: Planning, field work, and data compilation (July- Oct 2018 & 2019) 34 days x 8 hr each= 272 hs x 36.75 per hr= \$9,996 in-kind match
4. Contractors implementing monitoring work = \$20,000 of WDA funding. (\$10,000 in 2018, and \$10,000 in 2019)

Please indicate all federal, tribal, state, local, private, and non-governmental partners and their level of participation (matching funds). Also be sure to include your contribution to the project. **NOTE: The TOTAL here must match the amount on the previous table for cash and in-kind.**

Monetary Contribution Partners	Contribution Amount	<u>C</u> for Cash or <u>I</u> for In-kind
High Meadow National FS	\$9,996	I
Mountain Allotment permittee, Tree Top	\$972	I
Mountain Allotment permittee, Up-	\$988	I
	\$	
TOTAL	\$11,956.00	

I certify the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand this program is done with the voluntary cooperation and participation of all partners named in this agreement. I further understand I will be required to sign a program agreement and other necessary documentation containing the terms and conditions for inclusion in the program and funding conditions (if applicable) if this application is approved.

Signature

Title

Date

