

Black Hills Parks & Forest Association

WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE 2009- NFF Grant Proposal

R2 Friends Groups “Combined Grant”

Grant amount: \$17,750

Black Hills Parks and Forest Association (BHPFA) is submitting this grant proposal on behalf of nine wilderness volunteer groups and partners in the Rocky Mountain Region (R2) of the USDA Forest Service (see Appendix A).

The proposed grant would assist in accomplishing the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge (WSC). The goal of the 10-Year Wilderness Challenge is to bring every one of the more 400 wildernesses under the USDA Forest Service’s care to a minimum stewardship level by 2014, the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. To ensure that these wildernesses stay wild forever, we have identified 10 key elements that help define successful wilderness stewardship. These 10 elements combine many essential qualities of wilderness character.

This grant will ensure that minimum stewardship levels are being met, improved or maintained for some elements, with a focus on Recreation Campsite Inventory. 20 wildernesses, covering eight National Forests located in the Rocky Mountain Region (see Appendix B) would participate in this grant.

Nine wilderness volunteer organizations have joined together in this proposal, to focus their limited resources to accomplish measurable, on-the-ground tasks.

Measurable Tasks:

- To conduct Rapid Assessment (national minimum protocol) for Recreation Site Inventory (WSC element #6) on all likely campsites in 20 wildernesses this summer. It is estimated that this will involve the inventory of over 3,000 campsites.
 - To develop an on-line Rapid Assessment training to provide consistent volunteer computer training for all R2 partners conducting Rapid Assessment campsite inventory work in the summer of 2009.
 - To standardize assessment methods across the Region, analyze historic records, identify trends and assist in future resource management decisions.
 - To ensure units already meeting the Recreation Site Inventory standard, maintain their score or update their inventory data using new protocol.
 - To assist Poudre Wilderness Volunteers in conducting Rapid Assessment in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest in Savage Run Wilderness and Platte River Wilderness to improve a sub-standard score.
- To implement wilderness education projects as defined in approved wilderness education plans for the Rawah and Cache la Poudre Wildernesses involving Poudre Wilderness Volunteers; the Weminuche Wilderness involving San Juan Mountains Association.
- To conduct invasive weed inventory and treatments in the Comanche Peaks Wilderness involving the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers.

2009 Forest and Wilderness – Grant Proposal:

2009 Partners and Program of Work

Wilderness (By Lead Forest)	Wild. Partner	2009 Elements of Focus –Program of Work
1. ARNF		
Cache la Poudre	PWV	Campsite Inventory and Wilderness Education
Comanche Peak	PWV	Campsite Inventory and Weeds Inventory
Rawah	PWV	Campsite Inventory and Wilderness Education
Indian Peaks	IPWA	Campsite Inventory
James Peak	IPWA	Campsite Inventory
2. BNF		
Cloud Peak	CCC-WW	Campsite Inventory
3. BBNF		
Black Elk	BHPFA	Campsite Inventory
4. MB-Routt		
Mt. Zirkel	FOW	Campsite Inventory
Sarvis Creek	FOW	Campsite Inventory
Savage Run	PWV	Campsite Inventory
Platte River	PWV	Campsite Inventory
5. PSICC NF		
Buffalo Peaks	AHWP	Campsite Inventory
Mt. Massive	AHWP	Campsite Inventory
6. SJNF		
Weminuche	SJMA	Campsite Inventory and Wilderness Education
7. SNF		
Fitzpatrick	PWV	Campsite Inventory
Popo Agie	PWV	Campsite Inventory
8. WRNF		
Maroon Bells-Snowmass	WW	Campsite Inventory
Hunter-Fryingpan	WW	Campsite Inventory
Eagles Nest	FOENW	Campsite Inventory
Flat Tops	FOW	Campsite Inventory

Goal:

The goal of this grant endeavor is to have all 20 wildernesses either maintain their current 10-Yr WSC scoring or increase their score by at least two points. The WSC scoring is based on points combining all 10 elements with 60 points meeting minimum stewardship level.

To accomplish this, all nine volunteer groups, working in conjunction with their respective Forest Service recreation and wilderness managers, have developed a “program of work” for the 2009 field season to accomplish these tasks. All nine groups and Forest Service managers participated in a regional conference call on January 14, 2009 to (1) agree upon the three elements, (2) to commit funding amounts, and (3) to promote solidarity among the volunteer groups to work together.

Forest Service Support:

The Forest Service fully supports this grant by committing over 100 hours of staff time from 10 recreation and wilderness managers covering 20 ranger districts. In addition, Deputy Regional Forester Maribeth Gustafson has personally been engaged in this effort and fully supports this bold initiative. This grant will allow the nine groups to carry out important campsite monitoring training, inventory, weed treatments and wilderness education work that could not and would not be accomplished this summer given the existing limited Forest Service workforce of seasonal wilderness rangers.

Community Involvement:

Community involvement is paramount to the success of this grant. It is estimated that over 30 volunteers, contributing over 400 hours of volunteer time will be actively be involved in completing the measurable on-the-ground projects. Citizens, mostly retired and highly dedicated individuals, from communities such as Steamboat Springs, Granby, Durango, Leadville, and Ft. Collins, Colorado as well as citizens from Buffalo, Dubois and Cody, Wyoming, and Rapid City and Custer, South Dakota will be engaged in this initiative.

Transferable:

Is this grant proposal easily transferable? Yes, this grant, if awarded, could be a model for the entire National Forest system to emulate, especially the on-line computer training. This grant proposal will demonstrate to other FS Regions that small, medium and large non-profit wilderness organizations can come together as a single voice on behalf of the wilderness resource. We are building on the NFF 2008 grant model and hope to expand our synergism of partners in the 2009 grant.

Lessons Learned:

These nine groups are committed to share their “lessons learned.” At the R2 Wilderness Manager’s winter meeting in December 2008, we had a panel of wilderness partners give a report-out on the 2008 NFF grant accomplishments and what we needed to do collectively to prepare for the 2009 NFF grant submittal.

Budget:

Categories-

Salaries: Forest Service personnel time is estimated at 140 hours, involving 10 wilderness managers and recreation staff officers of grade levels GS-7, 9 or 11, and 40 hours of GS-13 Wilderness Program Manager time, for a total of \$10,000 of in-kind federal funding.

Stipends: NFF funds (\$1,000) will be matched with volunteer funds to pay for travel (gas) and per diem (camp food) for campsite monitoring volunteer crews camping in wildernesses.

Office Equipment: NFF funds (\$1,000) to purchase black and color printer cartridges and other needed office supplies.

Publication/Outreach: NFF funds (\$1,000) to prepare Rapid Assessment campsite inventory forms and research background materials.

Supplies: NFF funds (\$2,000) to purchase and prepare rapid assessment for volunteer field work related to campsite inventory monitoring.

Equipment: NFF Funds (\$2,000) to purchase 10 GPS units campsite inventory work and weeds inventory work. Also, 12 SPOT locator devices will be purchased for safety of volunteer crews.

Travel: NFF funds (\$1,750) cover the fuel expenses of volunteers using private vehicles to travel to trailheads to perform Rapid Assessments.

Training: NFF funds (\$4,000) to arrange and pay for meeting rooms and to coordinate and instruct classroom training for campsite monitoring before field work begins.

Program Coordination: NFF funds (\$5,000) to compensate volunteer program coordinators for additional time to prepare training materials and to instruct, as well as to oversee field monitoring programs. Additional workload will include writing end-of-year accomplishment report to be submitted to BHPFA to compile and forward to NFF.

Volunteer Labor: It is estimated that over 30 volunteers will be involved with this grant; some giving one day's worth of volunteer time (8 hours) and others contributing as much as two weeks (400 hours) to a specific inventory or monitoring project. Total estimated volunteer hours are valued at \$18,000.

Contacts:

Please give this grant proposal your highest consideration. If you have questions or need follow-up information, please contact Steve Baldwin, Black Hills Park & Forest Association, Executive Director at 605-745-7020 or Forest Service Regional Wilderness Program Manager, Ralph Swain at 303-275-5058.

APPENDIX A:

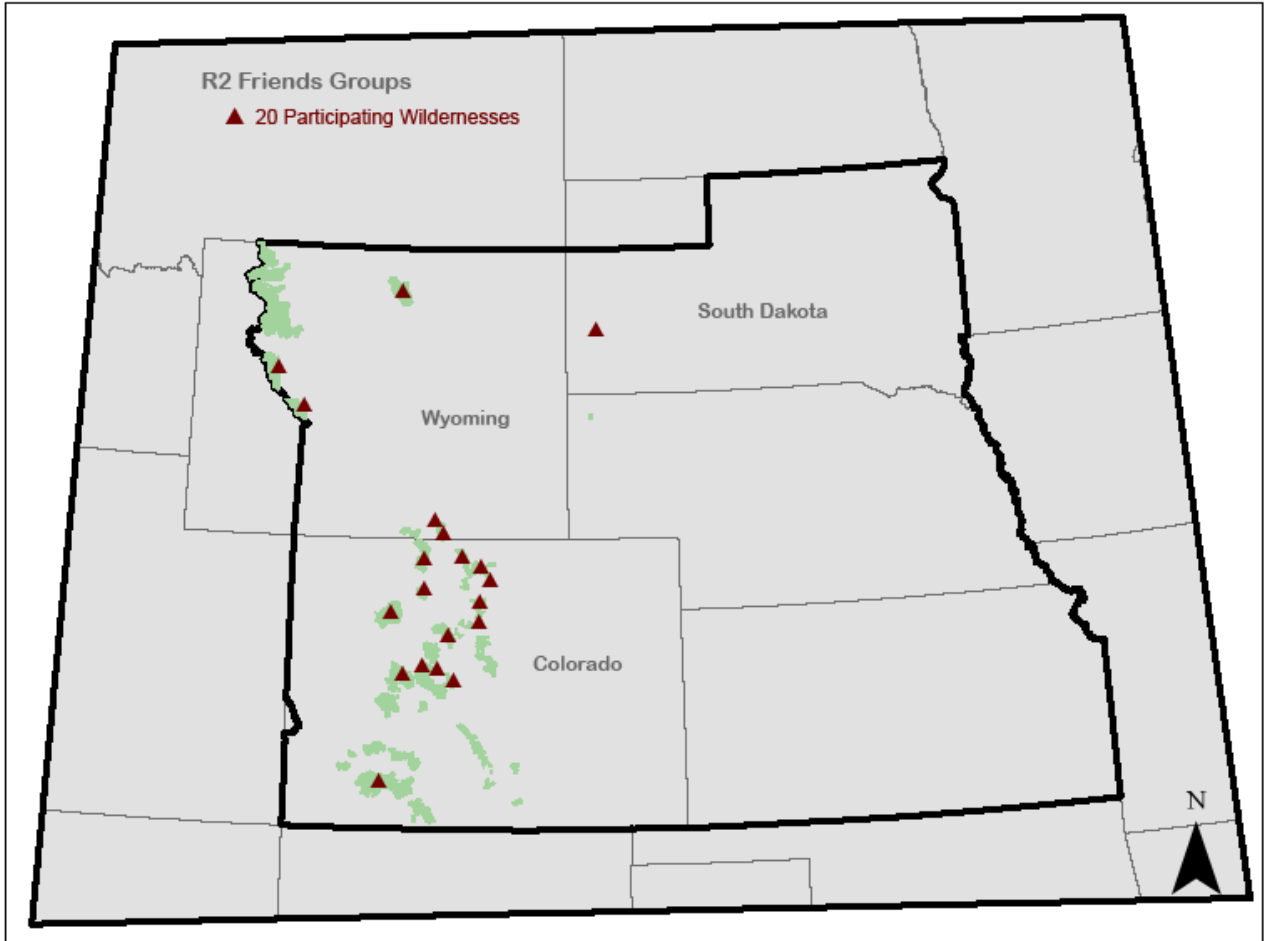
R2 FRIENDS GROUP'S FUNDING COMMITMENT LIST

The following Region Two (R2) wilderness volunteer organizations have committed funds to be matched by the National Forest Foundation (NFF).

Name of Organization:	Amount:	Committed:
1. Friends of Wilderness	\$ 500	Confirmed
2. Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness	\$ 500	Confirmed
3. Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance	\$ 500	Confirmed
4. Black Hills Park and Forest Assoc	\$ 500	Confirmed
5. Arkansas Headwaters Wilderness Partners	\$ 750	Confirmed
6. Cloud Peak Chapter of Wild. Watch	\$ 1,500	Confirmed
7. Wilderness Watch	\$ 2,000	Confirmed
8. San Juan Mountains Association	\$ 2,500	Confirmed
9. Poudre Wilderness Volunteers	\$ 9,000	Confirmed
TOTAL COMMITMENT:	\$ 17,750	

APPENDIX B:

R2 10-Year Challenge Wilderness Map (showing the 20 wilderness units involved in this grant proposal).



APPENDIX C:

R2 Contact List of Participating Partners:

Forest and Wildernesses	Friends Group	Friend's Contact	Email Phone	Forest or District Contact
ARNF				
	Poudre Wilderness Volunteers	Fred Allen, PWV Chair Dave Cantrell	allen@wdemail.com cantell@verinet.com	Kevin Cannon, Canyon Lakes RD
	Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance	Anne Vickery, IPWA Board Director	avickery@boulder.net 303-	Glenn Cook, Boulder RD
BNF				
	Cloud Peak Chapter of Wilderness Watch	Rod Davidson, CPCWW Board Director	r@mail.trib.com 307-684-1255	Craig Cope, Powder River RD
BHNF				
	Black Hills Park and Forest Assoc.	Steve Baldwin, BHPFA President - Board Director	bhpf@gwtc.net 605-745-7020	Rick Hudson, BHNF-SO Laura Burns, Hell Canyon RD
MB-ROUTT NF				
	Friends of Wilderness	Elaine Dermody, FOW Board Director	970-871-1343	Kent Foster, MB-Routt NF Steve McCone, Hahns Peak RD
PSICC NF				
	Arkansas Headwaters Wilderness Partners	Bruce Morrow, AHWP, Ex. Director Bruce Morrow	brcmorrow@yahoo.com 719-293-4112	Chris Prew, Leadville RD
SJNF				
	San Juan Mountains Association	Susan Bryson, SJMA Board Director	970-385-1210	Dave Baker, SJNF-SO Nancy Berry, Columbine RD
SNF				
	Poudre Wilderness Volunteers	Fred Allen, PWV Chair Dave Cantrell	allen@wdemail.com cantell@verinet.com	Jeff Leisy Wind River RD
WRNF				
	Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness	Currie Caven, FOENW Board Director	jcurrie@aol.com 970-453-8749	Cindy Ebbert, Dillon RD
	Friends of Wilderness	Elaine Dermody, FOW Board Director	Already listed	Ron Taussig, Blanco RD
	Wilderness Workshop	Dave Richie Monitoring Committee	richie@wildernessworkshop.org 970-963-3977	Martha Moran, Aspen RD

APPENDIX D:

Wilderness Area(s) and WSC Elements Directly Benefiting:

Wilderness Name	NFF	WSC Element	WSC Element	WSC Element
	#	2	4	6
Cache la Poudre	15		X	X
Comanche Peak	16	X		X
Indian Peaks	17			X
James Peak	18			X
Rawah	21		X	X
Cloud Peak	23			X
Black Elk	24			X
Mount Zirkel	35			X
Platte River	36			X
Sarvis Creek	37			X
Savage Run	38			X
Buffalo Peaks	40			X
Mount Massive	45			X
Weminuche	49		X	X
Fitzpatrick	50			X
Popo Agie	52			X
Eagles Nest	54			X
Flat Tops	55			X
Hunter-Fryingpan	57			X
Maroon Bells-Snowmass	58			X

Note: Region2's Area of Emphasis in fy2009 is Element #6 Recreation Site Inventory.