State and Private Forestry FY 2013 Western Competitive Resource Allocation Single-State Project Proposal

Filename			
State:	MT	Keyword:	BROWNS
Administration Information			
Funds Requested:			300000
Match:			300000

1 Applicant Information

State Forestry Agency:	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation				
Contact Person:	Dan Rogers				
Address:	2705 Spurgin Rd				
City:	Missoula	**State:**	MT	**Zipcode**:	59804
Phone:	406-542-4326	**Email:**	danrogers@mt.gov		

2 Project Information

Descriptive Title of Project:	Browns Gulch Watershed Restoration		
Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	Watershed Restoration Coalition for the Upper Clark Fork River (WRC), Mile High Conservation District (MHCD), Trout Unlimited (TU), Clark Fork Coalition (CFC), Butte Silver Bow government (BSB) Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Fish Wildlife & Parks, Montana Natural Resource Damage Program (MNRDP), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Headwaters RC&D (RC&D), Future Fisheries, Family Forest Ownerships (FFO)		
Project Duration:	☐ **One Year**	☑ **Two Years**	☐ **Three Years**

3 National Relevance

☑ **Conserve Working Forest Landscapes**	☑ **Protect Forests From Harm**	☑ **Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests**

4 Project Overview

10 Points. 1,000 Characters Including Spaces – Provide a comprehensive but succinct overview of the proposed project that includes basic details of who is doing what, where, and why.

Browns Gulch, a state & federal priority drainage for remediation of impacts to streams and vegetative communities from past mining & smelting operations in the Upper Clark Fork River drainage. The area is an EPA Superfund site. The WRC and partners with funds from federal, state and private sources will implement projects to improve water quality and fish habitat through streambank stabilization and point source sediment management. This project will dovetail with adjacent watershed projects by integrating forest valley attributes and point source water quality on adjacent private and state owned land. Activities include:1) installation of slash filter windrow combined with vegetative planting to reduce stream sedimentation; 2) forest treatments to increase stand health and vigor; 3) provide a supply of woody biomass to local businesses; 4) provide forest stewardship training to local landowners; and 5) enhance local ability to facilitate fire suppression.

5	Project Budget						
			Leverage[1]				
		Grant	Match		Non-Match	Source	TOTAL
		Funds requested	Applicant	Non-federal contributors	Applicant, non-federal, and/or federal	3rd Party Contributor/s	Total project cost
	Personnel / Labor:	13,500			14,925	BSB, USFS, DNRC, WRC	28,425
	Fringe Benefits:	3,000			2,775	BSB, DNRC, USFS, WRC	5,775
	Travel:	2,500			500	DNRC	3,000
	Equipment:	4,000					4,000
	Supplies:	18,000					18,000
	Contractual:	229,000			50,000	NRDP, BSB & private landowner	279,000
	Construction:						0
	Consolidated[2]:		300,000				300,000
	Other:				250,000	NRDP funding & Future Fisheries	250,000
	Indirect Costs[3]:	30,000					30,000
	TOTAL:	300,000	300,000	0	318,200		918,200

[1] Funds qualifying as "match" must meet the same program requirements as grant funds (e.g., program authorities, non-federal sources). Other "non-match" leveraged funds do not need to meet the same standards (e.g., may include funds for construction, funds from other federal partners). Partnership with other USFS programs outside of State & Private Forestry, as well as other federal and state programs is encouraged. See FAQ online for more information: http://www.wflcweb.org/spf_grants_13/2013_faq_match.pdf
[2] If any part of your match requirement is being covered through a consolidated payment grant (CPG), please place it here.
[3] Indirect costs must be tied to an established rate. Waived indirect costs are an acceptable source of match.

	Context, Goals, and Objectives
6	15 Points. 2,000 Characters Including Spaces – What resource issue/s, threats, and/or opportunities does the project address? What is the desired vision or end state? What are the project goals and objectives; what short- and long-term impacts do you hope to achieve? Project activities will protect water quality, water supply, and mitigate continued forest fuels build-up on FFO and state-owned lands. Existing threats to resource values include: 1) direct stream sedimentation impacts to streams bearing Westslope Cutthroat; 2) encroachment of Douglas-fir forests into historical grasslands caused by a century of fire suppression, 3) no practical year-round water sources for fire suppression and; 4) limited understanding of forest stewardship by private landowners. Goal: Complement and enhance current restoration activities in the Browns Gulch drainage to improve fish habitat, water quality, wildfire safety, and landowner knowledge of and engagement in ecosystem management. Objectives: • Reduce Douglas-fir encroachment • Improved defensibility of homes. • Market harvested material to local commercial operations • Improve Westslope Cutthroat Trout habitat and reduce sediments entering Browns Gulch Creek and its tributaries • Improve landowner capability to manage forested holdings Short term and long term impacts: • Reduce upland sediment sources, long-term sediment in-flow, and sediment flush events • Reduce sediment transport to Silver Bow Creek, (A EPA designated Superfund site undergoing restoration) • Reestablish fluvial runs by Westslope Cutthroat Trout to Silver Bow Creek • Improve biodiversity and resilience of some forested ecotones by reducing stand densities • Movement of woodland grassland ecotone toward more historical, sustainable conditions • Increase efficiency of wildland and structural fire suppression efforts by installing 2 dry hydrants • Sustain a healthy rural landscape integrating structural, and human safety by returning forests to more historical stand densities

	Proposed Activities
7	15 Points. 2,000 Characters Including Spaces – What work will be completed using grant funds and leveraged resources? Who will do the work over what time frame? How do the activities contribute to achieving stated project goals and objectives? WATER QUALITY PROTECTION($155,000) • Prepare and install ~7700 ft. of strategically placed slash filter windrow, combined with planting native riparian vegetation, at critical locations along existing roads to minimize direct sediment delivery to streams. Partner with Butte Silver Bow Municipal Govt., adjacent landowners, MT Dept. of Fish Wildlife and Parks, MT DEQ, NRDP, USFS and the Watershed Restoration Coalition over a two year time frame during periods of low water flow and dry conditions. COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION($105,000) • In the summer of 2013, conduct hazardous fuels reduction on ~90 acres of state land by reducing encroachment through mechanical thinning and chipping on. This will improve the defensibility of homes within the drainage. Fire suppression, wildland and structural, within the drainage would be augmented by localized water sources (2 dry fire hydrants) installed in summer of 2013. FOREST STEWARDSHIP, EDUCATION AND UTILIZATION($10,000) • The DNRC/RC&D Forester will administer work on state lands during the summer of 2013, while providing coordination with partner-based projects on private land. • Coordinate fuels reduction on state lands with future work to begin the creation of a PLOD (Primary Line Of Defense against wildfire) line in the drainage. • Market harvested biomass, approx. 3500 tons, to local small scale biomass companies. Revenues from the sale, if any, would be used to fund additional work. Material will also be utilized for construction of slash filter windrows. • In 2013, provide a Forest Stewardship planning workshop opportunity, to allow FFOs to apply the planning process to their properties, understand multi-resource management and potential consequences of these decisions. Each owner will develop a forest management plan at the end of the session. The match requirement is being met through "Consolidated" and is non-project related. FS approved IDC of 10% as allowed.

	Deliverables, Outputs, and Outcomes
8	15 Points. 2,000 Characters Including Spaces – What are the project deliverables, outputs, and outcomes? What metrics or indicators will be used to measure and monitor progress? • Approximately 7700 feet of slash filter windrow installed along Browns Gulch and Hail Columbia creeks. Browns Gulch and it's tributary Hail Columbia Gulch are important trout fisheries and part of the Upper Clark Fork River network. Installation of the windrows and subsequent vegetative plantings will directly improve and increase available habitat on approximately two miles of stream, as measured by an increased population of fish and cataloged habitat. This will also be measurable in terms of reduced road maintenance costs and improved water quality to be measured before, during, and after project at established downstream locations. • Slash filter windrow material will be supplied from biomass material generated from area fuels reduction projects. • Complete 90 acres of forest fuels reduction on state lands. Maximum stocking would require 15 feet between crowns, restoring stand density and composition to historic conditions, making them more ecologically stable and resilient. In conjunction with the installation of two dry fire hydrants, the safety of people, property, and constructed improvements would be improved by slowing the spread of fire and by increasing local availability of water. • Forest Stewardship Planning Workshop series conducted by Montana State University Extension Forestry providing education to ~20 landowners (majority of the residents). Each landowner will develop a forest management plan for their forest land. • Provide approximately 100 MBF of saw timber for sale to local mills. • Supply approx. 3500 tons of biomass to local producers of soil amendments and juniper to specialty markets. No profit will be allowed on this project. All revenue will be absorbed back into the project activities.

	Collaboration
9	15 Points. 2,000 Characters Including Spaces – What partners have contributed to the project? What is the nature of their contributions (project planning, implementation, financial resources, etc.)? How does the project integrate S&PF and/or other programs in a meaningful and complementary way that goes beyond "business as usual"? • The Watershed Restoration Coalition for the Upper Clark Fork River (WRC) : The WRC will contribute project planning, administration & oversight, matching funds, & integration of the project into existing restoration efforts funded through other state federal and private sources. In addition the WRC Conservation Planner will develop farm conservation plans in conjunction with NRCS planning staff that will incorporate the goals of this grant to provide long-term stability of project results. • Clark Fork Coalition (CFC): The CFC provides technical assistance for stream and road sediment reduction issues through a contract with the WRC and will be involved in placement and site selection for the slash filter windrows. • Trout Unlimited(TU): TU provides technical assistance for the design and installation of fish passage and stream restoration projects and will provide design and placement guidance for revegetation and windrow placement. • Butte Silver Bow Government (BSB); BSB oversees and funds sediment reduction projects in the transportation corridor for the Browns Gulch drainage. BSB will provide contracting funds and/or manpower for placing windrows. • Mile High Conservation District(MHCD) The MHCD will provide outreach and education to area landowners, and public information about the project. • The Future Fisheries, NRDP, DEQ 319 and NRCS programs provide funds for restoration activities in the drainage and are expected to continue those efforts into the future. • MSU Extension Forestry Program will organize and conduct the Forest Stewardship Planning Workshop for private landowners. This project "partners" several elements of DNRC's S&PF programming with other state and federal groups as well as non-profit and economic development groups. These partnerships will be integral in general project planning, coordinating production and use of raw materials, planning, purchase and planting of vegetation, and for education and outreach assistance.

	Forest Action Plan Integration
10	10 points. 1,250 Characters Including Spaces – How does the project align with stated priority issues, areas, and/or activities in the State Forest Action Plan? Browns Gulch ranks VERY HIGH for 4 of 5 MT FAP Priority Focus Areas. These include: 1) Biodiversity & Resilience – Strategy1 & 2: Manage ecosystem and biotic composition to achieve ecological integrity through recovery of species diversity, water quality and quantity, soil quality and function by implementing best available science, and adaptive management. Engage community and interested parties in forest restoration and/or rehabilitation projects. 2) Wildfire & Public safety – Strategy 1: Mitigate the risk to people, property and infrastructure of catastrophic losses from fires in the WUI. (Fire suppression, both wildland and structural, within the drainage would be augmented by installation of localized water sources - dry fire hydrants) 3) Biomass utilization – Strategy 3: Provide supply of materials while emphasizing value of ecosystem goods and services obtained through sustainable land management. 4) Changing Forest Ownership Patterns – Strategy 1: Minimize fragmentation by prioritizing areas "at risk" for management. This project not only addresses and supports several key elements in Montana's FAP but also addresses keystone problems identified by other partners and subsequent plans (i.e. MNRDP, DEQ, EPA).

	Meaningful Scale
11	10 Points. 1,250 Characters Including Spaces – What is the scale of the project? How will doing work at this scale facilitate achievement of the stated goals, objectives, and outcomes? This project will address gaps in the current rehabilitation efforts in the drainage. Installation of slash filter windrows, moving stand density to more historical densities, improving fire suppression capabilities and providing forest management training to local landowners will increase the work accomplished and improve fisheries, fish habitat, water quality, safety and overall land management in the drainage. The cooperators have put together monies from multiple sources to correct water quality, stream stability, sediment transport and fish habitat within the Browns Gulch Drainage that complement and complete ongoing work in the drainage. By working with all of the landowners in the drainage and addressing multiple problems a more practical and thorough cross boundary solution will be realized. This project will address key, previously unfunded, components to the restoration effort that will integrate with ongoing work within this high priority watershed, by providing immediate relief and improvements (reduction of sediment to fisheries).

	Sustainability of Outcomes
12	10 Points. 1,250 Characters Including Spaces – What skills and capabilities will result from and extend beyond the life of the project; how? Can the project be replicated in other areas; how? What plans are in place or being developed to replicate or expand the project, to build on skills, capabilities, and lessons learned? Forest Stewardship training will provide landowners with the knowledge to make sound forest management decisions that will impact both uplands and water quality over the long-term. Establishment of two dry fire hydrants will provide improved fire suppression capabilities for many years beyond installation. This project will serve as a model for future watershed programs by highlighting the cooperation of state, federal and local agencies, organizations and private landowners to accomplish multiple coordinated restoration activities in a large drainage. To facilitate dissemination of this information, tours will be available for interested groups. This project will aid in expansion of current initiatives by increasing the area and type of lands involved. It will also provide needed materials for restoration projects in the transportation corridor and main stem stream restoration. Additional funding requests are now in place with federal and state programs to continue to increase the lands undergoing restoration efforts.