**U.S. Department of the Interior**

# National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park

Yellowstone National Park

# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Centennial-Jackson Valleys National Wildlife Refuge Complex

*-National Elk Refuge*

*-Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge*

**Bureau of Land Management**

Idaho, Montana, Wyoming

# U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF

Bridger-Teton National Forest

Caribou-Targhee NF

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Shoshone National Forest

**Idaho Fish and Game**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

**Wyoming Game and Fish**

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[**www.fedgycc.org**](https://www.fedgycc.org/)

**Date:** May 13, 2025

**To:** GYCC Managers and Subcommittee Chairs

**Subject:** FY 2026 GYCC Project Proposals – Form and Criteria

**Reply due:** Submittals Due June 13, 2025

The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) is soliciting project proposals for FY26 funding. Proposals are due by COB June 13, 2025, and a decision is expected late July 2025, with funds available after January 1, 2026. Actual project funding will be contingent on FY26 agency funding levels. Project proposals will be accepted from the GYCC member agencies listed on the left side of this page and from the GYCC subcommittees.

Selected projects will benefit the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Collaboration between the GYCC subcommittees is encouraged, and integrated project proposals that benefit the highest ranked needs of multiple subcommittees and resources across unit boundaries will receive priority consideration for funding. Projects will rarely benefit only a single land management unit or resource. The GYCC is looking to fund
5-7 larger dollar, integrated projects, and a few smaller highly prioritized projects.

**GYCC Strategic Priorities**

**1. Maintain Resilient Landscapes within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem**

**2. Respond to Changing Visitation**

**3. Strengthen Coalitions, Partnerships, and Communications**

In FY26, the GYCC will use the following project evaluation criteria:

* **Importance:** How significant is the resource or issue?
* **Strategic Fit:** How well does this project address GYCC Strategic Priorities?
* **Urgency:** How critical is the threat or need, and what is its extent?
* **Coordination:** To what extent does this project integrate the work and meet the needs of multiple GYCC subcommittees/resources/units? To what, if any, extent does this project align with the work of the GYE Assessment?
* **Outcomes:** Does this project result in wide-scale benefits to the GYE? How does this project address a need identified during the development of the GYE Assessment? Does this project assist in increasing or synthesizing data for decision-making at the unit management level?
* **Leverage Resources:** To what extent does this project build partnerships and leverage resources?
* **GYCC Awareness:** How well does this project increase public awareness of the cross-boundary coordination of the GYCC and subcommittees?
* **Subcommittee Planning and Support (Subcommittee Proposals Only):** Will this project help your subcommittee develop a new strategic plan, assist in needed data coordination between units/resources, or support communication needs that are beyond the capacity of the subcommittee?

The GYCC is asking subcommittees to review and rank proposals in their subject area. Please work with the GYCC Executive Coordinator to identify appropriate outcomes and measures. The subcommittees will forward their evaluation to the coordinator for consideration by the GYCC in project selection.

The following guidelines are intended to help with project development:

* The GYCC only considers proposals submitted by the participating GYCC units and from the chairs of the GYCC subcommittees. Outside partners interested in submitting a proposal must cooperatively develop and submit projects with a subcommittee chair. Project contacts must include a GYCC subcommittee chair. (Contact emails for the subcommittee chairs can be found on the GYCC website, www.fedgycc.org: [GYCC Subcommittees](https://www.fedgycc.org/subcommittees).)
* Unit proposals (not developed by a subcommittee) first need to be submitted to the unit’s leadership (for example, the Forest Supervisor’s Office). Units have their own processes for GYCC project submittals.
* Units need to additionally reach out to the relevant subcommittee chair(s) to discuss the proposed project. This gives subcommittees the opportunity to share information on duplicated efforts or suggestions for integration with other proposals.
* Units are asked to limit their number of priority proposals to no more than 3. Units do not need to individually prioritize the unit project proposals. Unit leadership then forwards the submittals to the GYCC Coordinator.
* Subcommittees are asked to limit their number of priority proposals to no more than 3. Subcommittee proposals must be submitted by the subcommittee chairs. The subcommittee chairs send the proposals directly to the GYCC Coordinator.
* The subcommittee proposals do not count toward the unit limit of 3 proposals. Subcommittee members are asked to ensure unit leadership is aware of the proposals they intend to submit through the subcommittees.
* GYCC funding is primarily available as seed money and is not intended for multi-year funding for similar work over repeated years.
* For FY26, please consider submitting a proposal if support is needed to complete a previously funded ongoing GYCC project.

**Schedule for the FY26 project solicitation:**

* **May 13, 2025.** Project call letter for proposals goes out.
* **June 13.**Proposals are due to the GYCC Coordinator.
* **June 17.**GYCC Coordinator sends proposals to relevant subcommittees to rank. All subcommittees are made aware of all proposals.
* **July 1.**Subcommittees complete evaluation and ranking of projects and return rankings to the GYCC Coordinator.
* **July 7.**GYCC Coordinator sends ranked proposals to GYCC managers for review.
* **July 31 Managers’ Meeting.** GYCC managers review the proposals. Projects are selected for the next fiscal year, contingent on actual FY26 budgets.
* **August 6.** Notice of GYCC FY26 project selection.
* **November 1.** Detailed budgets are due to the GYCC Coordinator.
* **After January 1, 2026.**Fund disbursement and agreement development for FY26 projects begins. Some funds may not be available until spring. Check with the GYCC Coordinator for the timeline.

A proposal form is enclosed with this letter for your use. By COB June 13, 2025, please send completed project proposals to Tami Blackford, GYCC Executive Coordinator, tami\_blackford@nps.gov.

If you have any questions, please call Tami at 307-578-7051.

Sincerely,

Chip Jenkins

Chip Jenkins

Chair, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park

Enclosure:

2026 Project Funds Request Form (next page)

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| **Project Title:**  |
| **Project Contact(s):** (Lead for budget/agreement and principal project manager, if different.)Name: Title: Unit: Phone number: Email:  |
| **Lead Subcommittee or Unit:**  |
| **Coordination:** Does this project integrate the work and meet the needs of multiple GYCC subcommittees/resources/units? To what, if any, extent does this project align with the work of the GYE Assessment? List the subcommittees that are supporting this proposal (If listed, those Subcommittee Chairs will have engaged in proposal development. Contact info for the subcommittee chairs can be found on the GYCC website, www.fedgycc.org: [GYCC Subcommittees](https://www.fedgycc.org/subcommittees)). |
| **Project Description:** Significance of the resource/issue? How critical is the threat or need, and what is its extent? How does this project address GYCC Strategic Priorities?  |
| **Outcomes, Accountability, and Implementation:**Describe the key benefits and resources improved, how the outcome will be measured, and the timeframe needed. Does this project result in wide-scale benefits to the GYE? Does this project assist in increasing or synthesizing data for decision-making at the unit management level? How does this project address a need identified during the development of the GYE Assessment? How will project outcomes be delivered? How will results be communicated for use at the ecosystem scale? |
| **GYCC Awareness:** How can the GYCC highlight this project or its results to increase public awareness of the cross-boundary coordination of the GYCC and subcommittees?  |
| **Subcommittee Planning and Support (Subcommittee Proposals Only):** Will this project help your subcommittee develop a new strategic plan, assist in needed data coordination between units/resources, or support communication needs that are beyond the capacity of the subcommittee? |
| **Funding Requested:**Amount Requested: (Include a range, if possible. Describe the difference in outcome at the low and high end of the funding level.)Primary Use of Funds:(Salaries, contracts, procurement, overhead, etc. If selected, a detailed budget will be requested specifying who will be doing the work and where the funds need to be transferred.)Leverage Resources: (Identify partners, quantify to the extent possible the amount of hard and soft contributions of external partners, and describe the opportunity to promote GYCC coordination through your proposal.) |

Subcommittee chairs may submit their proposal directly to Tami Blackford, GYCC Executive Coordinator at tami\_blackford@nps.gov. Call Tami at 307-578-7051 with any questions.