**U.S. Department of the**

**Interior**

# National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park

Yellowstone National Park

# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge

Red Rock Lakes

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:** April 4, 2024

**To:** GYCC Managers and Subcommittee Chairs

**Subject:** FY 2025 GYCC Project Proposals – Form and Criteria

**Reply due:** Submittals Due May 16, 2024

The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) is soliciting new project proposals for FY25 funding. Proposals are due by COB May 16, 2024, and a decision is expected late July 2024, with funds available after January 1, 2025. The GYCC is anticipating that $250,000 will be available; actual project funding will be contingent on agency funding levels. Project proposals will be accepted from the GYCC member agencies listed on the left side of this page and from GYCC’s subcommittees.

Selected projects will benefit the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and support the GYCC’s Strategic Priorities. 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 2-4 larger dollar, integrated projects, and a few smaller highly prioritized projects. Managers have expressed interest in projects that address these emphasis areas: climate change adaptation, invasive species, wildlife, and visitor use.

**GYCC Strategic Priorities**

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

• Understand and Respond to Climate Change

* Combat Nonnative Species
* Improve and Maintain Ecosystem and Wildlife Health

**2. Respond to Increased Visitor Use**

* Understand and Respond to Impacts of Increasing Visitation
* Develop Cross-Boundary Solutions that Improve Recreational and Visitor Experiences
* Share Best Practices

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

• Strengthen Public Communication and Support

* Improve Communication and Support within the GYCC

In FY25, 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?
* **Outcome:** 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?
* **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 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 you 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).)
* Individual 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.

**Schedule for the FY25 project solicitation:**

* **April 4, 2024.** Project call letter for proposals goes out.
* **May 16.** Proposals are due to GYCC Coordinator.
* **May 30.** GYCC Coordinator sends proposals to relevant subcommittees to rank, with all subcommittees made aware of all proposals.
* **June 20.** Subcommittees complete evaluation and ranking of projects and return rankings to GYCC Coordinator.
* **July 8.** Coordinator sends ranked proposals to GYCC managers for review.
* **July 18 Managers’ Meeting.** GYCC manager review. Projects are selected and assumed to be funded, contingent on actual FY25 budgets.
* **July 25.** Notice of GYCC FY25 project selection.
* **November 1.** Detailed budgets due to coordinator.
* **After January 1, 2025.** Agreements and fund disbursement for FY25 projects begins. Check with the Coordinator for timeline.

A proposal form is enclosed with this letter for your use. By COB May 16, 2024, 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:

2025 Project Funds Request Form (next page)

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| --- |
| **Project Title:** |
| **Lead Subcommittee or Unit:** |
| **Coordination:** Does this project integrate the work and meet the needs of multiple GYCC subcommittees/resources/units? List the subcommittees that are supporting this proposal (If listed, those Subcommittee Chairs 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? 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? |
| **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.) |
| **Accountability and Implementation:**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? |
| **Project Contact(s):** (Lead for budget/agreement and principal project manager, if different.)Name: Title: Unit: Phone number: Email:  |

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.