To: GYCC Managers  
Subject: Call for FY 2016 GYCC Project Proposals  
Reply due: June 4, 2015

The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) is soliciting new project proposals for their consideration for FY2016 funding. Proposals are due by June 5, and a decision is expected in summer 2015. Funds would be available after October 1, 2015. The GYCC is anticipating that at least $200,000 will be available in 2016, and actual project funding will be contingent on 2016 agency funding levels. Project proposals will be accepted from the GYCC member agencies listed on the left side of this page and from GYC subcommittees.

As in years past, the GYCC will only consider proposals that contribute to their priorities. The GYCC priorities remain the same as in 2015, and the GYCC anticipates focusing project funding on a subset of these priorities. No formula has been developed to allocate funds, but the majority of the GYCC funds are expected to support the Tier 1 priorities listed below.

Subcommittees related to the Tier 1 priorities are invited to prepare or update a “GYCC Project Strategy” (e.g. a program of work for GYCC projects) for 2016. An approved GYCC Project Strategy is eligible for up to $15,000 in base funding. In 2015, subcommittees prepared a GYCC Project Strategy for most of the Tier 1 priorities. These strategies must be updated every year and approved by the GYCC in order to be eligible for the $15,000 in base funding.

Funding may be requested for Tier 2 priority projects that fill a critical need that cannot be funded in other ways, or that support Tier 1 priorities. A strategy or program of work may be valuable for subcommittees related to the Tier 2 priorities; however these subcommittees will not be eligible for base funding.

Tier 1 Priorities

*Ecosystem Health*: Terrestrial and aquatic invasive species  
*Ecosystem Health*: Species on the brink (e.g. whitebark pine, native fish, wildlife, other rare species)  
*Ecosystem Health*: Healthy water quality and flow  
*Sustainable Operations*: Reduce our operational footprint, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water consumption, and solid waste  
*Protect GYA Landscape Integrity*: Particularly land patterns and preservation of open space near public lands.
Tier 2 Priorities

*Ecosystem Health*: Air quality

*Ecosystem Health*: Climate change effects, adaptation

*Ecosystem Health*: Disease

*Connect People to the Land*: Promote public land relevancy and a public land constituency, connect to diverse populations, "kids-in-the-woods" type programs

As in recent years, the GYCC is asking subcommittees to review and rank proposals in their subject area. The subcommittees will forward their evaluation to the GYCC Coordinator, who will review all the proposals, considering the subcommittee ranking. Working groups have been formed to review projects without an established committee (e.g. wildlife). Attachment 1 lists which subcommittee or group will review which type of proposal, the project outcomes and outcome-based measurements and the project ranking system developed by each subcommittee / working group.

The GYCC uses the following project evaluation criteria:

- How well does the project address GYCC priorities?
- To what extent does the project build external partnerships and leverage funds?
- To what extent does the project result in internal partnerships between units or result in wide-scale benefits for the Greater Yellowstone Area?
- In addition, the subcommittee ranking will be considered in project evaluation.

The following guidelines are also 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 GYCC unit. Project contacts must include a GYCC unit staff.

- Individual proposals (not developed by a subcommittee) first need to be submitted to the unit leadership (for example, the Forest Supervisor’s Office). Units have their own processes for GYCC project submittals.

- Units are asked to limit their number of priority proposals to no more than 10. Units do not need to individually prioritize the unit project proposals. Unit leadership then forwards the submittals to the GYCC Coordinator.

- Subcommittees may develop proposals; with no number limit. Subcommittee proposals must be submitted by the subcommittee chairs. The subcommittee chairs send the committee proposals directly to the GYCC Coordinator.

- The subcommittee proposals do not count toward the unit limit of ten proposals. Subcommittee members are asked to ensure unit leadership is aware of the proposals they intend to submit through the committees.

- GYCC funding is primarily available as seed money and is not intended for multi-year funding for similar work over repeated years.
The GYCC managers have agreed upon the following schedule for the FY 2015 project solicitation:

- June 4, 2015. Each unit and subcommittee forward proposals and subcommittee Strategies / Program of Work to GYCC Coordinator.
- June 5, 2015. GYCC Coordinator sends proposals to respective subcommittees.
- June 26, 2015. Subcommittees return rankings to GYCC Coordinator.
- After October 1, 2015. Disbursement of funds for FY2016 projects.

A proposal form is enclosed with this letter for your use. Proposals may be longer than one page. Project proposals and questions should be directed to Virginia Kelly at (406) 587-6704; email vkelly@fs.fed.us

/s/ Joseph G. Alexander

JOSEPH G. ALEXANDER
Chair, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

Attachments

- 2016 Project Funds Request Form (next page)

File name: 2016 GYCC Project Attachment: Subcommittee Review
**Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee**

**2016 Project Funds Request Form**

Note: Fields will expand with additional information; proposals may be longer than one page

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**Strategic fit/importance:** (Describe key benefits, resources improved, fit with GYCC priorities, scope- multi unit or GYA wide benefits. Describe the outcome of the project, how the outcome will be measured, and the timeframe to achieve the outcome. Tier 2 projects should explain how the project fills a critical need that cannot be funded in other ways, or supports Tier 1 priorities.)

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Submit to your unit first for prioritization as one of the unit’s ten proposals. Units send list of up to ten proposals to the GYCC Coordinator. Subcommittee chairs may submit subcommittee proposals directly to the GYCC Coordinator. Send to: vkelly@fs.fed.us. Contact Virginia Kelly with any questions at 406-587-6704.