



Dean Dijenno <ddijenno@gmail.com>

GIA Form

1 message

amy.anderson@wyo.gov <amy.anderson@wyo.gov>

Tue, Apr 14, 2020 at 11:10 AM

To: info@wyomingwildsheep.org, skilpatrick@wyomingwildsheep.org, joni@wyomingwildsheep.org

Project Details:

Project Title: Trail Lake Meadow Renovation

Project Type: Habitat Improvement

Affiliate: Wyoming Game and Fish Dept, Shoshone National Forest

Project Location: Dubois, Wyoming, Whiskey Basin WHMA

Project Description: The Trail Lake Meadow is an irrigated field upstream from the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp. This area has historically provided crucial winter habitat for bighorn sheep and mule deer. The meadow is currently dominated by smooth brome and basin wildrye, both species having limited value for either bighorn sheep or mule deer. The Whiskey Basin Tech Committee is tasked with implementing improvements for bighorn sheep as directed by the Whiskey Basin Bighorn Sheep Plan. One of the first items the tech committee will tackle is the renovation of the Trail Lake Meadow. Shoshone National Forest personnel will conduct a fall prescribed burn to remove the herbaceous overstory of smooth brome and wildrye. After the prescribed fire, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will contract herbicide application to treat resprouting smooth brome and basin wildrye. Two herbicide applications are planned to ensure sufficient kill. Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel will farm Trail Lake Meadow during spring 2021. The seed mix is yet to be determined, but will likely include a legume depending on weed densities, and several grass species preferred by bighorn sheep and mule deer. Funding will be used to pay the Shoshone National Forest for expenses incurred with the prescribed burn, contract the herbicide to control resprouting smooth brome , and purchase the seed mix. Wyoming Game and Fish Department will assist with burn preparations and post-burn mop up, farming of the meadow, and irrigating the meadow to ensure establishment and maintenance of the preferred vegetation stand. Due to the nature of both smooth brome and basin wildrye, and their ability to re-sprout, even with herbicide treatment, the meadow will likely require treatment again within the next 7-10 years.

Project Problem: The Trail Lake Meadow historically was a prominent wintering location for bighorn sheep and mule deer. However, with the invasive nature of smooth brome and wildrye, there is currently little preferred forage remaining in the meadow, and both due to declining sheep numbers, as well as declines in the quality of the meadow, sheep no longer frequent this location.

Problem Solution: The Whiskey Basin Technical Committee, whose members come from Wyoming Game and Fish, BLM, and Shoshone National Forest, is planning to restore this meadow as part of the Whiskey Basin Bighorn Sheep Management Plan. The Meadow will be prescribed burned in the fall of 2020, followed with a herbicide treatment if there are re-sprouts in the fall. Spring 2021 will consist of an additional herbicide treatment to further control smooth brome and wildrye, and then the meadow will be seeded using WGFD no-till drill equipment. The USFS has agreed to conduct the low-complexity burn for the costs of equipment mobilization and usage, with WGFD assisting with burn prep and mop-up following the burn. The herbicide treatments will be contracted out. The seed mix, once determined, will likely be purchased from Granite Mountain Seed. The WGFD will irrigate the meadow to help establish the seeding, and as needed throughout the year.

Biography Of Applicant:

Name: Amy Anderson- Wyoming Game and Fish Dept

Address: 260 Buena Vista

City: Lander

State: WY

Zip: 82520

Phone: 3073322688

Fax: 3073326669

E-mail: amy.anderson@wyo.gov

Current Member: No

Cost To Be Funded

Equipment.....\$

Services.....9000.....\$10000

Publishing.....\$

Monitoring.....\$

Supplies.....1000.....\$

Other.....\$

Totals \$.....10000.....\$

Other Organizations:

Organization 1: Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition
Organization 2:
Organization 3:
Organization 4:

Media Contacts:

Media 1: Dubois Frontier
Media 2: Lander Journal
Media 3: Riverton Ranger
Media 4:

 **Trail Lake Meadow Renovation Map 2020.pdf**
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