

Threat Reduction Stewardship Grant Application

Applicant Name: Nature Collective

Address: 777 Highway 101, Solana Beach, CA 92011, Suite 112

Phone: 858.704.4549

Email: Tito@thenaturecollective.org

Name of Property: Multiple

General Location: North San Diego County

Jurisdiction¹: City of Encinitas, City of Solana Beach, County of San Diego

Total Acres: 5 acres

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 5 acres

Owner(s) of Property:² California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, San Diego County Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Land manager(s) of property (include name[s]): Tracie Nelson of CDFW within San Elijo Ecological Reserve, Jess Cissel of San Diego County Parks and Recreation for San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and Val Sereno Preserve

Brief project summary that includes your primary goal and objectives. (200-word maximum)

NC's proposed project includes two main tasks. Task 1, Annie's Canyon Trail (ACT) Enhancements will focus on adding fencing and signage to discourage people from going off-trail, controlling about 1-acre of invasive species that occur along the trail, restoring this area with Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub and Southern Maritime Chaparral, and implementing erosion control measures to repair damage caused by off-trail use. Task 2, Southern Mule Deer Connectivity will focus on improving two majors undercrossing in the eastern portion of EC within preserved lands (SELER and Val Sereno Reserve) that are heavily used by Southern Mule Deer as they move along this important wildlife corridor. It should be noted that NC will provide as part of the matching funds the monitoring and analysis of photos captured by wildlife cameras that will be installed in these two undercrossing. NC will seek SDMMP's assistance with the placing of wildlife cameras as well as photo processing and data analysis. In addition, and also as matching funds, NC will collaborate with the SDSU Ecological Monitoring Institute in the collection of mule deer scat to provide DNA material for analysis at a small scale and support their regional studies of population dynamics.

¹ Name of city where the project is located. County of San Diego can be listed for the unincorporated areas of the region.

² If the applicant is not the landowner, please submit a letter or right-of-entry permit from the landowner granting permission to perform the land management duties as outlined in the application. Failure to provide the letter or right-of-entry permit will lead to disqualification of the application. *(Attached letter or right-of-entry permit (if applicable) does not count towards 12-page maximum.)*

Quantify expected results (add bullets as necessary)

- Annie’s Canyon Trail
 - 200’ of new fencing
 - 1 new interpretive sign
 - 2 acres of Invasive Species control (12 months)
 - 1 acre of restored DCSS & SMC
- Southern Mule Deer
 - 1 acre of invasive species control (12) months
 - 1 acre of restoration along two undercrossing
 - 4 wildlife cameras installation and data analysis (provided as match)

Brief description of dedicated staff and/or consultants/contractors that would work on the Project. (200-word maximum)

Table 1: Staff/Contractor Profile

Employee/Contractor	Class	Principal Role
Doug Gibson, Executive Director/Principal Scientist	Employee ³	Technical Oversight
Tito A. Marchant, Ecology Director	Employee	Project Management & Monitoring
Stevie Steele, Restoration Ecologist / Botanist	Employee	Implementation
Izzy Santarsieri, Wildlife Biologist	Employee	Wildlife Monitoring
Bradley Nussbaum, Operations Director	Employee	Financial Management
Scott Rothberg, GIS Manager	Employee	GIS Analysis & Mapping
Yassin Wahhab, Habitat Restoration Lead	Employee	Implementation Lead
Antonio Olea, Habitat Restoration Foreman	Employee	Maintenance Lead
Fabiola Larios, Habitat Restoration Tech.	Employee	Implementation & Maintenance
Jordan Luts, Habitat Restoration Tech.	Employee	Implementation & Maintenance
ACS Habitat Management	Contractor	Invasive Species Control/Irrigation

³ Staff bios available upon request.

Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG.

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$41,179	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$8,571	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant/Contractor Expenses	\$	Includes all costs for consultant/contractor services
Other Direct Expenses	\$30,250	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Totals	\$80,000	

**if applicable*

Project Purpose

NC’s proposal includes two main tasks: 1) Annie’s Trail Enhancements; and 2) Southern Mule Deer Connectivity Improvements.

1. Task 1 Annie’s Trail is one of the most used trails in the SELER and the County (see Table 1 below). In San Diego, key objectives of the MSCP and MHCP preserves are to provide passive recreation and educational opportunities, while providing adequate protection for biological resources. The proposed project at Annie’s Canyon addresses threats that come with human use of preserves, including: trampling of native vegetation and erosion from off trail activity, dogs off-leash and invasive species spread. The goal of this proposed project is to reduce the negative impact of human uses on conserved lands at Annie’s Canyon. By installing fencing and signage to encourage the public to remain on-trail, this proposed enhancement reduces habitat degradation through erosion, and lessens the likelihood of disruption of breeding for shrub and ground nesting birds. Human use of preserves can bring with it, non-native seeds on shoes and clothing and aid in invasive species colonization of previously unoccupied areas. Additionally, walking off trail can disturb and erode soil crust thus providing an opportunity for invasive species to colonize from an adjacent area. Lastly, signage reminding visitors to keep dogs on-leash when in the preserve will potentially benefit a multitude of species, including mule deer, as Lenth et al. (2006) found that deer activity is decreased within 100m of trails when dogs are present and Miller et al. (2001) reports when humans and dogs are off trail, sparrows (*Poocetes gramineus*), Western meadowlarks (*Sturnella neglecta*) and American robins (*Turdus migratorius*) all flush at greater distances and exhibit increased sensitivity from dog activity.

Table 1

Annual Trail Usage at Annie's Canyon Trail	
Year	# of Hikers
2019	91,876
2020	48,634
2021	92,084
Note: Trail closed from April 2020 to March 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic	

Task 2 of NC’s proposal will focus on MSP species Southern mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus fuliginatus*) (SL) threat reduction through corridor assessment, identification of choke points, and subsequent habitat restoration of native habitat adjacent to the La Bajada North and El Camino Real North overcrossings (**Attachment A**). Proposed activities include: 1) manage invasive plant species impacting habitat for riparian species along Escondido Creek adjacent to the two overcrossings; 2) restore riparian habitat to form a vegetation barrier to guide mule deer toward the undercrossing and 3.) install, monitor and analyze data on mule deer and other mammals using these two undercrossing.

2. Task 1. The proposed project at Annie’s Canyon addresses threats that come with human use of preserves, including: trampling of native vegetation and erosion from off trail activity, dogs off-leash and invasive species spread. The goal of this proposed project is to reduce the negative impact of human uses on conserved lands at Annie’s Canyon.

Task 2 will address some of the main threats to mule deer including: habitat loss, fragmentation and restricted, or unsafe movement due to roads. We propose to implement measures to improvement movement and linkages in the Escondido Creek corridor, by removing non-native species from under two bridge crossings at La Bajada and El Camino Del Norte to better facilitate connectivity and safe deer dispersal.

3. Task 1 Success criteria for Annie’s Trail include reduction of: 1) invasive species cover; 2) erosion areas adjacent to the trail; and 3) incidence of dogs off-leash.

Task 2 The project site will be evaluated for success based on both quantitative and qualitative measures including: photo monitoring and vegetation assessments. Monitoring will occur before management activities and continue quarterly, performance monitoring for this project will consist of restoration project site assessments and wildlife cameras data. To monitor mule deer’s response to restoration and to determine success, we propose to use camera traps. We will measure success as an increase in use of the two under-crossings, we will record the number of mule deer using the under-crossing before and compare that to the number of mule deer using the under crossing after non-native plant species removal and restoration.

4. Task 1 NC provides on-going management at the SELER and will continue to maintain all restored areas and monitor the use of Annie’s Trail.

Task 2 NC provides on-going management at the SELER and will continue to maintain all restored areas and monitor the use of the two undercrossing. We anticipate that the information gathered from this effort will provide the basis for a wildlife corridor study in the future.

5. Task 1 Annie’s Trail is located within the SELER and is a conserved land within the MSP Area (**see Attachment A**).

Task 2 The La Bajada North undercrossing is located within the SELER and the El Camino Real North undercrossing is within the Val Sereno Reserve (**see Attachment A**). Both are conserved land within the MSP Area.

6. Task 1; Yes, working with our partners at the Escondido Union School District (EUSD) and the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department, Nature Collective offers a series of cost-free (including transportation) programs that welcome participants into new and familiar outdoor spaces where they connect with the natural habitats and ecosystems that define San Diego’s coastal communities, and gain confidence and comfort learning and exploring as a family in outdoor settings. These half-day programs target our existing grade 5 Ecosystem in Action students and their families in order to scaffold student learning and inspire stewardship behaviors outside of the classroom. Annie’s Trail is one of the destinations for NC education and community outreach programs that foster social equity.

Scope of Work by Task

Please break down the application into discrete tasks and include a task name, description of each task, quantifiable expected results, and discrete deliverables for each task.

Note: make sure to list tasks for quarterly reporting on the status of the grant project and a final report on the outcome of the grant project. You may add or subtract rows as needed.

Exhibit A – Proposed Project Scope of Work

Task No.	Task Name	Task Description	Quantifiable Results/Deliverables
1a.	ACT Fencing and erosion control	Installation of additional fencing; and Erosion control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200’ of new fencing • Straw wattles in high erosion areas
1b.	ACT interpretative signage	Interpretative sign that details the geology that formed the canyon and the plant community it is in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 new interpretative sign
1c.	ACT restoration	Invasive species management; Restoration of SCSS & SMC;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 acres of Invasive Species control • 1 acre of restored DCSS & SMC

2.	So. Mule Deer Connectivity Improvements	Invasive species management; riparian scrub restoration; camera traps installation; deer scat collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 acre of invasive species control 1 acre of restoration 4 wildlife cameras set up
3.	Administrative	Indirect Costs (12%)	

Budget by Task

Please include a specific budget for each task described in the Scope of Work (Section B above).

This funding category is intended to fund short-term threat reduction projects in need of one-time funding necessary to fill existing funding gaps for specific tasks and will not cover on-going annual costs within applicant's organization.

Exhibit B – Proposed Project Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Grant Request
1a.	ACT Fencing and erosion control	\$10,701
1b.	ACT interpretative signage	\$8,035
1c.	ACT restoration	\$33,715
2.	So. Mule Deer Connectivity Improvements	\$18,978
	Subtotal	\$71,429
	Administrative (12%)	\$8,571
	Total	\$80,000

Project Schedule

Please include start and end dates relative to the anticipated Notice to Proceed (NTP) (assumes fall 2022) for each task described in the Scope of Work (Section B above). Please list tasks for quarterly reporting on the status of the grant project and a final report on the outcome of the grant project. You may add or subtract rows as needed. *All tasks must be completed within 18 months of the NTP.*

Exhibit C – Proposed Project Schedule (Assumes fall 2022 NTP)

Task No.	Task Name	Proposed Start Date	Months Needed to Complete Task	Task End Date
1a.	ACT Fencing and erosion control	0 Month from NTP	12 Months	12/31/2023
1b.	ACT interpretative signage	1 Month from NTP	11 Months	12/31/2023
1c.	ACT restoration	0 Months from NTP	12 Months	12/31/2023
2.	So. Mule Deer Connectivity Improvements	0 Months from NTP	12 Months	12/31/2023
3.	Administrative	0 Months from NTP	12 Months	12/31/2023

Please explain why and how much additional time would be needed in the event of any delays due to NTP being provided beyond fall 2022 and/or unexpected weather conditions such as drought that could occur during the proposed project implementation.

Notice Regarding Prevailing Wages

California law requires that public works projects pay prevailing wages for workers.

Applicant acknowledges that any work that qualifies as a "public work" within the meaning of California Labor Code Section 1720 shall cause Applicant and its subcontractors to comply with the provisions of California Labor Code Sections 1775 et seq, which includes the payment of prevailing wages to all workers performing prevailing wage work.

X Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that if Applicant or its subcontractors will engage in the performance of a public work as defined by California Labor Code Sections 1720 et seq. and will utilize persons who are not employees of a public entity, registration and payment of an annual registration fee to the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) shall be required of each entity performing the work. This requirement applies to anyone affected by the public works statutes found in the California Labor Code, including but not limited to landscapers, fencers, surveyors, soil testers, dredgers, heavy equipment operators, and inspectors.

X Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that if Applicant will award any subcontracts for the performance of a public work:

- Applicant shall notify SANDAG 30 calendar days prior to the award of each subcontract so SANDAG can create a Project Registration Form (aka PWC-100 form) for each subcontract using the DIR online database. Applicant will provide to SANDAG the name, DIR registration number, and contractor's license numbers of each subcontractor so SANDAG can verify, prior to Applicant's award of the subcontract for a public work, that the selected subcontractor is currently licensed and registered with the DIR. If SANDAG finds that the selected subcontractor is not licensed and registered with the DIR, SANDAG will promptly notify Applicant and Applicant will not be permitted to award the subcontract to the selected subcontractor.

X Yes No

- Applicant shall notify SANDAG ten business days prior to the subcontractor performing the prevailing wage work so SANDAG can prepare for labor compliance monitoring.

X Yes No

- If there are any changes to a subcontractor or lower-tier subcontractor, Applicant will advise SANDAG of these changes as soon as those changes are known to the Applicant.

X Yes No

Required Statements from Applicant

Yes No

- The applicant has read and understands the Sample Grant Agreement (Agreement) and Invoice Template (Attachment 4).
- If the Board of Directors approves the proposed project application, the applicant agrees to sign and return the Agreement to SANDAG, without exceptions or amendments, within 45 days of receipt.
- The applicant agrees to comply with SANDAG's Board Policy No. 035, Competitive Grant Program Procedures, which outlines "Use-it-or-lose-it" project milestone and completion deadlines. Board Policy No. 035 is included in the Agreement, and also available at: sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy_035.pdf
- The applicant understands that 10% of all invoiced amounts will be retained until the completion of the proposed project.
- The applicant understands that all invoices must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds and payment will not be made by SANDAG until all documents are satisfactorily submitted.
- The applicant understands that invoices and reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis within three weeks after each period close covering January 1 to March 31; April 1 to June 30; July 1 to September 30; and October 1 to December 31.
- The applicant understands that the EMP quarterly report template (to be sent to the grantee after NTP is issued and can be found at sandag.org/index.asp?classid=17&projectid=447&fuseaction=projects.detail) must be used to document quarterly progress and that invoices with errors will be returned to the grantee for correction prior to being processed by SANDAG staff.
- The applicant understands that the final invoice must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds; a final report (prepared in accordance with the final report template to be sent to grantee after NTP is issued and can be found at sandag.org/index.asp?classid=17&projectid=447&fuseaction=projects.detail); and all outstanding deliverables in order to receive final payment and have retained funds released.
- The applicant understands that to be considered eligible for funding, a resolution complying with the requirements of Board Policy No. 035, Section 4.1, must be submitted to SANDAG at least *two weeks* prior to the recommendation by the Regional Planning Committee of the list of prioritized project applications. SANDAG will provide applicants with advance notice of the Regional Planning Committee's anticipated meeting date.
- The applicant agrees to submit all project data/information to SANDAG and to upload data and reports to a project page created by the applicant on the SDMMMP web portal in a format consistent with regional management databases.

I have the authorization to submit this application (Grant Application and required supplementary materials) on behalf of my organization.

Doug Gibson

Applicant Name and Title (print or type)

Doug Gibson

Digitally signed by Doug Gibson
DN: cn=Doug Gibson, o=SDG, ou=E.D., email=DougGibson@p.org, c=US
Date: 2022.01.31 10:17:48 -08'00'

1/31/2022

Applicant Signature

Date



Annie's Trail Enhancement



Southern Mule Deer Connectivity Enhancement