



CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE NINTH CYCLE OF THE
TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
THREAT REDUCTION STEWARDSHIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials (hereafter referred to as "proposal") cannot exceed eight pages.

Applicant Name: Back Country Land Trust
Address: PO Box 1148, Alpine, CA 91903
Phone and Email Address: 619.504.8181 backcountrylandtrust@gmail.com
Name of Property: Wright's Field MSCP Preserve
General Location: Central Alpine
Jurisdiction: Privately-Owned Open Space Land
Total Acres: 230 acres

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 58.77 acres

Owner(s) of Property: Back Country Land Trust

Land manager(s) of property (include name[s]): Jon Green: Program & Outreach Director
Scott McMillan: Director of Biological Resources

Brief Project Summary that includes your primary goal and objectives (200-word maximum)

Back Country Land Trust (BCLT) is seeking short-term funding to address threats to high-priority MSP species through the development and implementation of a Recreation Management Plan (Plan) for the Wright's Field MSCP Preserve in Alpine. The implementation of this Plan will include trail decommissioning and rerouting, interpretive signage, and a 58 acre fire-fuel reduction / weed control program. This project will build upon the very successful 3-year restoration effort for the San Diego Thornmint (Acanthomintha ilicifolia) that was funded by the SANDAG EMP grant program (2013-2016). This program helped to bring the Thornmint at Wright's Field back from the brink of extirpation to a population of over 3,000 plants in 2017. Thornmint is considered to be among the most imperiled sensitive species in Southern California, having suffered serious decline in the last 20 years. San Diego Thornmint is listed as federally threatened, state-endangered, and MSP priority species. The development and implementation of this Plan will also benefit the habitat of the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (Euphydryas editha quino), which is also a MSP priority species and listed as federally endangered, and will benefit vernal pool habitat that supports numerous vernal pool species, including the Western Spadefoot Toad (Spea hammondi).

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

Quantify Expected Results *(add bullets as necessary)*

- Develop Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for Wright's Field MSCP Preserve.
- Decommission 3,000 linear feet of trail adjacent to San Diego Thornmint habitat.
- Reroute 700 linear feet of trail adjacent to Vernal Pool / Western Spadefoot Toad habitat.
- Fire-fuel reduction / dethatching and weed control of non-native grassland over at least 58 acres.
- Install 2 trailside interpretive signs for public education at Vernal Pool & San Diego Thornmint sites.

Brief Description of dedicated staff and/or consultants that would work on Project *(200-word maximum)*

Jon Green will be the primary contact and grant manager on this project. Jon has worked as the Program & Outreach Director for Back Country Land Trust for the last six years. He is the only full-time employee of BCLT and serves as the land manager for Wright's Field. He has over 10 years of professional experience in habitat restoration and fuel-reduction projects, with six years focused on projects in East County, including currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Greater Alpine Fire Safe Council and the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee of the Alpine Community Planning Group.

Scott McMillan has been a member of the BCLT Board of Directors for four years and serves in a volunteer capacity as the Director of Biological Resources for BCLT conservation lands. Scott's professional expertise and career contacts will be utilized in support of this project, and he will serve in a supervisory role for BCLT, ensuring that all goals and objectives are met and that professional standards and practices are employed in achieving our objectives. Scott will coordinate with regulatory agencies throughout this project and will facilitate contracting of consultants and work crews.

Funding Needs Summary

This project will address immediate and perennial threats to native habitat conditions at Wright's Field. Short-term project funding is needed to reduce impacts associated with recreational uses (i.e. trails) to high-priority MSP species (plants and wildlife) found within the grassland habitat and vernal pools on the preserve. If funded, this project would also enhance and expand high-quality native habitat for edaphic endemic plant communities through dethatching and weed control. Development and implementation of a Recreation Management Plan (RMP) will identify and prioritize key objectives in habitat restoration efforts on the preserve, and ensure that recreational trails and other public uses of the preserve are located away from high-priority species.

To complete this project in full, our budget includes support for staff, consultants, work crews and materials, as well as administrative overhead for grant management and reporting to SANDAG on a quarterly basis for the life of the grant. Our budget has also been designed to reflect the possibility of partial funding awards, in which any task within this project proposal could be implemented individually. While the ideal scenario would be full funding to address the multiple threats to high-priority species at Wright's Field, partial funding for any one of these tasks individually, or any combination of tasks within the scope of this proposal, would be effective and valuable for management of the important resources at Wright's Field.

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG.

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$30,000	BCLT staff will manage project work and field crews for implementation of trail decommissioning and fire-fuel reduction projects. Part-time land management personnel will be employed as needed to complete project work. Estimated staff time – Fire-Fuel Reduction: 250 hours (\$60/hour) Estimated staff time – Trail Decommissioning & Re-Routing: 250 hours (\$60/hour)
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$6,000	BCLT grant managers will complete quarterly reports for submission to SANDAG, and compile summary data for final report. Estimated staff time: 100 hours (\$60/hour)
Consultant Expenses	\$20,000	Consultants will be contracted to research and develop a Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for Wright's Field MSCP Preserve. Estimated consultant time: 200 hours (\$100/hour)
Other Direct Expenses	\$5,000	Project supplies and materials to be purchased for signage and fencing on habitat areas. Tools and equipment to be purchased as needed for project implementation. Estimated cost of materials for interpretive signs: \$2,500 Estimated cost of tools and equipment for project implementation: \$2,500
Indirect Costs	\$-	N/A
Totals	\$61,000	

*if applicable

PROJECT PROPOSAL

A. Project Purpose

Please describe how the proposed project meets the following criteria:

1. The proposed project addresses a high-priority Management Strategic Plan (MSP) species and their habitats. Refer to the MSP for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County.

This project will benefit two high-priority MSP species, the San Diego Thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*) and the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*). BCLT has been managing the population of San Diego Thornmint (Thornmint) at Wright's Field along with habitat for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (Quino) since 2013. This very successful management was funded by a 3-Year SANDAG EMP grant (2013-2016) that concentrated on seed bulking and weed control of the Wright's Field Thornmint population. Prior to 2013, the population of Thornmint at Wright's Field was almost extirpated, with numbers down to less than 50 plants total. Following the 3-year restoration effort the population estimate was well over 3,000 plants in the spring of 2017. As part of this restoration effort, the adjacent Quino habitat showed dramatic improvements in the cover of the larval host plant (*Plantago erecta*) and reduction of non-native cover within managed areas.

Despite our ongoing success in recovery and enhancement of this Thornmint population and the associated Quino host plant habitat, several external factors remain as threats to this core habitat area within Wright's Field. Public access for recreation is an important aspect of engaging the community in stewardship efforts and educational programs at Wright's Field. However, visitation by the public, even on established trails, is an continued threat to the long-term viability of this Thornmint population, as well as negatively impacting other sensitive habitat resources on the preserve, such as vernal pools and Western Spadefoot Toad (*Spea hammondi*), native grassland habitat, nearby Engelmann Oak (*Quercus engelmanni*) woodland, and migratory populations of Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*).

2. The proposed project will address an urgent need and includes actions that will reduce or manage an identified threat.

Currently, unauthorized trail use and other disturbance factors (weed invasion, etc.) continue to encroach upon these recently recovered habitat areas. With the development of a Recreation Management Plan, closure of unauthorized and redundant trails, and the installation of public educational signs, the proposed project will help reduce and reroute these unauthorized trails away from the Thornmint population and the Quino habitat, as well as educating trail users of the importance of these species, thereby providing long-term benefits for the continued viability of these species and their habitats. This effort will also help to protect the vernal pools that are adjacent to the Thornmint population. This habitat area within Wright's Field supports numerous vernal pool species, including the Western Spadefoot Toad (*Spea hammondi*), and is a critically misunderstood and underappreciated habitat within Wright's Field. Public education and outreach is a necessary component of reducing the threat to these vernal pools, and rerouting the existing trails away from the pools will ensure that the protection and enhancement of this habitat provides long-term benefits and ongoing viability of the resident amphibian population. Relocating trails away from this area also creates the potential for longer-term, full-scale restoration of these vernal pools, which would otherwise be unlikely with such a high level of foot traffic and ongoing disturbance to this area.

Additionally, the fuel load management and weed control aspects proposed here will help to improve the surrounding native grassland habitat throughout the southern portion of Wright's Field nearest to South Grade Road (one of Alpine's main arterial roads and a major evacuation route for the community), and will provide an important habitat management buffer for both the Thornmint population and Quino habitat. Reducing fire-fuels in close proximity to these core habitat populations also provides the benefit of reduced risk of catastrophic wildfire spreading from dried annual grasses to the nearby Engelmann Oak woodland habitat and adjacent riparian areas within Wright's Field and surrounding properties.

Secondary benefits of this project will include public education and outreach efforts to increase awareness of these sensitive species and habitats through installation of interpretive signs and local media releases, as well as online outreach through BCLT's website and social media platforms.

3. Success criteria have been identified and will be monitored and reported.

If funded, this project includes measurable objectives and specific deliverables that will address immediate threats to high-priority MSP species within a 15-month project timeline. Quarterly reporting to SANDAG will be completed by the grant manager, and all occurrences of MSP species will be entered into the SDMMMP database annually, as well as ongoing management and monitoring of species of concern within the scope of the project. Coordination with regulatory agencies will be conducted throughout the project period.

- Success of the proposed project is likely with clear, measurable, proven results that will promote conservation.

This project builds on BCLT’s successful 3-year grant (2013-2016) restoring native habitat at Wright’s Field in partnership with AECOM and other regional conservation groups. All work within the scope of this proposal is achievable with our current resources and network of professional contacts. Results of this project will likely have an immediate beneficial effect on the health of high-priority MSP species by reducing threats to native habitat on the preserve, and will achieve SDMMP conservation goals and objectives within the 15-month project period and beyond.

- Any activities necessary to maintain the proposed project after the 18-month grant period have been identified and funding for those activities has been secured. Please explain what source of funding (if any) has been used to fund this activity in the past and what kind of funding is available to support this work in the future (if needed).

BCLT proposes to build on our prior funding through SANDAG EMP grant by eliminating ongoing threats to sensitive habitats and endangered species at Wright’s Field, and to enhance the buffer areas surrounding core populations of Thornmint, as well as provide interpretive education for the community, emphasizing the rarity and ecological value of vernal pools and native grassland species. All future maintenance and upkeep costs will be borne by BCLT through subsequent grant-funding sources and/or individual donations and community volunteer projects.

- To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be on lands conserved for native habitat within the MSP area. Where is the project located? (*Attach a map*)

All project work will take place on BCLT-owned and managed lands. **See Map – Attached.**

B. Scope of Work by Task

Please break down the proposal 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
1	Develop Recreation Management Plan for Wright’s Field MSCP Preserve	Contract and manage development of RMP for BCLT-owned land at Wright’s Field in Alpine.	Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for Wright’s Field MSCP Preserve.

2	Trail Decommissioning and Rerouting	Close public access to recreational trails in close proximity to high-priority species. Place barriers to access at trail junctions, install signage, and hand broadcast native seed mix for habitat restoration over 0.51 acres of trail.	* Decommission 3,000 feet of trail near SD Thornmint habitat. * Reroute 700 feet of trail near Vernal Pool & SD Thornmint habitat. * Broadcast native seed mix over 22,200 sq. ft. (0.51 acres) of trail tread.
3	Fire-Fuel Reduction	Dethatching of non-native grassland and follow-up weed control (hand, line trimmers and/or herbicide) throughout project area.	Fire-fuel reduction and non-native weed control covering at least 58 acres of grassland habitat.
4	Trailside Interpretive Signs	Design & Installation of trailside interpretive signs for public education.	Install 2 trailside interpretive signs adjacent to Vernal Pools & SD Thornmint sites.
5	Coordination with Agencies	Management and monitoring of high-priority species with reporting to regulatory agencies and SANDAG.	All occurrences of high-priority species within the project area recorded in SDMMP database.
6	Grant Administration	Track and compile data to prepare quarterly reports.	Quarterly reporting & final report submission to SANDAG.

C. Budget by Task

Exhibit B - Proposed Project Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Grant Request
1	Develop Recreation Management Plan for Wright's Field MSCP Preserve	\$20,000
2	Trail Decommissioning and Rerouting around Vernal Pools and SD Thornmint	\$15,000
3	Fire-Fuel Reduction (Dethatching and Weed Control in Non-Native Grasslands)	\$15,000
4	Design and Installation of Interpretive Signs	\$2,500
5	Coordination with Agencies	\$2,500
6	Grant Administration	\$6,000
Subtotal		\$61,000
Indirect Cost (__%)		\$0
TOTAL		\$61,000

D. Project Schedule

Exhibit C - Proposed Project Schedule

(Assumes Fall 2018 Notice to Proceed [NTP])

Task No.	Task Name	Proposed Start Date	Months Needed to Complete Task	Task End Date
1	Develop Recreation Management Plan for Wright's Field Preserve	1 month from NTP	12 months from NTP	09/30/2019
2	Trail Decommissioning and Rerouting	6 months from NTP	15 months from NTP	12/31/2019
3	Fire-Fuel Reduction	1 month from NTP	9 months NTP	07/31/2019
4	Trailside Interpretive Signs	3 months from NTP	12 months from NTP	09/30/2019
5	Coordination with Agencies	1 month from NTP	12 months from NTP	09/30/2019
6	Grant Administration	1 month from NTP	15 months from NTP	12/31/2019

Please explain why and how much additional time would be needed in the event of any delays due to NTP being provided beyond Fall 2018 and/or unexpected weather conditions such as drought that could occur during the proposed project implementation.

The proposed timeline of this project accounts for the possibility of weather-related delays, such as red flag warnings and / or wet weather conditions that would prevent work being accomplished quickly. In the case of serious delays due to NTP setbacks and / or extreme weather conditions, we are prepared to extend the project timeline from 15-months to a possible 18-month project in order to achieve the deliverable objectives proposed within the scope of work here. We do not anticipate any occurrence that would prevent BCLT from achieving the desired outcomes of this project given the necessity of an extended timeline.

NOTICE REGARDING PREVAILING WAGES

SANDAG's Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) Land Management Grant Program projects are funded with *TransNet* revenues consistent with the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance adopted by the voters in November 2004 (SANDAG Ordinance 04-01). Although SANDAG Ordinance 04-01 does not require payment of prevailing wages, California law may require that public works projects pay prevailing wages for workers.

Applicant acknowledges that SANDAG has strongly encouraged Applicant to seek legal counsel regarding whether the Proposed Project will require applicant to pay prevailing wages and agrees that SANDAG will have no liability for conducting this analysis. Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that if awarded an EMP Land Management Grant, the grant agreement between SANDAG and the grantee requires grantee's compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances applicable to the Agreement. Yes No

- Yes No The applicant has read and understands the Sample Grant Agreement (Agreement) and Invoice Template (Attachment 4).
- Yes No If the SANDAG Board of Directors approves the proposed project proposal, the proposed applicant agrees to sign and return the Agreement to SANDAG, without exceptions or amendments, within 45 days of receipt.
- Yes No 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 is on SANDAG's website at the following link: sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy_035.pdf
- Yes No The applicant understands that 10 percent of all invoices will be retained until the completion of the proposed project.
- Yes No 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.
- Yes No The applicant understands that invoices and reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis within three weeks after the period covering January 1 to March 31; within three weeks after the period covering April 1 to June 30; within three weeks after the period covering July 1 to September 30; and within three weeks after the period covering October 1 to December 31.
- Yes No The applicant understands that the EMP quarterly report template (to be sent to the grantee after NTP is issued) 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.
- Yes No 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 all outstanding deliverables in order to receive final payment and have retained funds released.
- Yes No 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 proposals. SANDAG will provide applicants with advance notice of the Regional Planning Committee's anticipated meeting date.
- Yes No The applicant agrees to submit all project data/information to SANDAG in a format compatible with the regional management database.

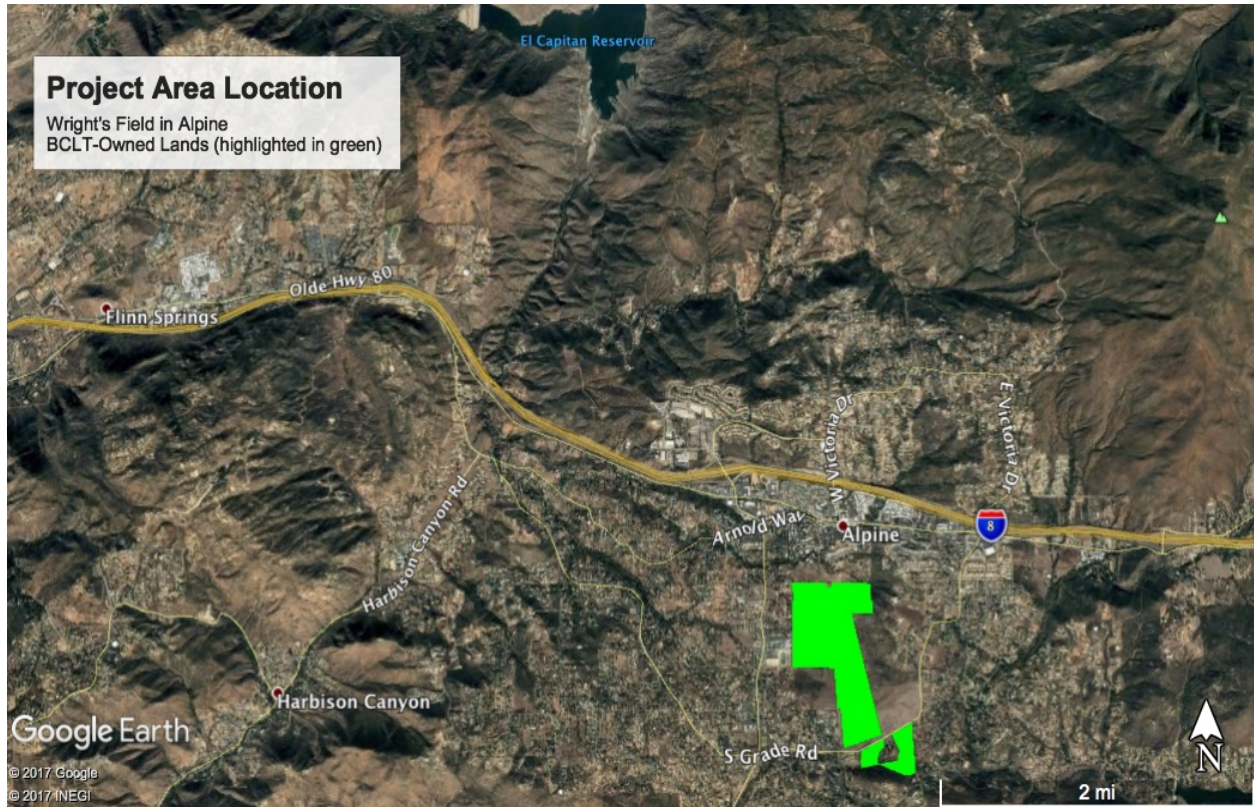
I have the authorization to submit this proposal (Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials) on behalf of my organization.

Jon Green, BCLT Program & Outreach Director
Applicant Name/Title (print or type)

Jon Green  01/12/2018
Applicant Signature **Date**

BCLT Threat Reduction – EMP Grant Proposal 2018

Project Area Map – Wright’s Field MSCP Preserve, Alpine



Proposed Project Area Detail – Southern Parcel, Wright’s Field

