



# Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

## PAC Project Proposal

### Habitat Enhancement, Wildlife Management, Research

Use your tab key to move between fields

Use shift/Tab or arrow keys to go back

Instruction sheet available as a separate file

Form #: HEWMRE - 2012

Date Submitted:

**Project Title:** Cabin Creek Habitat Improvement

**Project Synopsis:** Cabin Creek is located east of the City of Gunnison in hunting unit 55. In 2010, this area was identified during a travel management process as having high route densities that could have an affect on sage grouse, deer, and elk movements. This area consists entirely of winter range for deer and elk along with several winter concentration areas. Route restoration work in the Cabin Creek area would provide a more contiguous landscape with less fragmentation. We plan on implementing the travel management plan on the area which will close 46 miles of routes between the Cabin Creek and Sewell Gulch. In order to effectively reclaim the habitat, bulldozer ripping and other ground disturbing implements will be used and reseeding will be done on several of the routes. Barriers, signs, and other methods will be used on the routes that don't receive full decommissioning. When complete, this 11,385 (17.79 square miles) acre area will have 49 miles of access roads within the project area (see map) and will provide a large area of less fragmented habitat. It will also create a hiking assessible area for hunters to utilize.

#### Geographic Information

**Location:** (National Forest & Ranger District, BLM District & BLM Resource Area, or local name) BLM, Southwest District, Gunnison Resource Area

**State:** CO **County(s):** List predominant county first Gunnison

Please provide the geographic center of the project treatment site. If the project consists of more than one treatment site (i.e. weed and water projects with scattered spot treatments), please select the largest treatment site and list its geographic center. This point should lie in the predominant county listed above.

**Latitude and Longitude (decimal degrees only):** ex: 46.919042 N -114.032922 W Lat 38.555 N Long -106.757 W

Try this website to convert your coordinates: <http://transition.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDDMSS-decimal.html>

**Project Site Land Ownership:** Federal 100% State % Local gvt % Private % Tribal %

**If private land, list landowner name:**

**Ranch name:**

**If private land, list any adjacent federal, state or other wildlife areas:**

**Has RMEF funded a project on/near this project site?** Yes  No  **Habitat Enhancement**  **Study**

**Submitted By:** Russell Japuntich  
(Lead Agency Project Coordinator)

**Submitter's Title:** Wildlife Biologist

**Submitter's Email:** rjapunti@blm.gov

**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

**Telephone:** 970-642-4949 **Ext:**

**Address:** 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite A.

**City:** Gunnison

**State:** CO **Zip:** 81230

**Coordinated With (Other Than Lead Agency):** Brandon Diamond

**Position/Title:** Terrestrial Biologist/DWM

**Signature:**  2/2/15

**Agency:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**Telephone:** 970-641-7071 **Ext:**

**Address:** 300 W. New York Ave

**City:** Gunnison

**State:** CO **Zip:** 81230

**Project Type** (Burn, thin, water, seeding, noxious weed, fencing {aspen}, study {telemetry}, etc.)  
(List each type as a separate line item)

**Size of Treatment Area**  
(Acres, miles of road, etc.)

**Anticipated Field Work Start Date (mm/dd/yy)**

**Field Work Completion Date (mm/dd/yy)**

Type 1: Ripping

Type 1: 30 miles of road

Type 1: 7/1/15

Type 1: 11/28/16

Type 2: Seeding

Type 2: 30 miles of prepared road.

Type 2: 7/1/15

Type 2: 11/28/16

Type 3: Sign and barrier placement

Type 3: 40 signs/10 barriers

Type 3: 7/1/15

Type 3: 11/28/16

Type 4: Archaeology clearance  
Type 5:

Type 4: 30 miles  
Type 5:

Type 4: 7/1/15  
Type 5:

Type 4: 11/28/16  
Type 5:

*invo* Total acres treated without duplicating acres that had more than one type treatment during this project period. \*\*

**RMEF Policy requires at least a 1:1 match ratio!**

Proposed RMEF Funds (List each type from above as separate line item)		Matching/Contributor Funds (List each type from above as separate line item)		Total Project Cost (List each type from above as separate line item)		For RMEF Use Only PAC Recommended Amount
Type 1:	\$7,000	Type 1:	\$20,000	Type 1:	\$27,000	_____
Type 2:		Type 2:	\$5,000	Type 2:	\$5,000	_____
Type 3:		Type 3:	\$5,000	Type 3:	\$5,000	_____
Type 4:		Type 4:	\$10,000	Type 4:	\$10,000	_____
Type 5:		Type 5:		Type 5:		_____
*	\$7,000		\$40,000		\$47,000	_____

\*To total columns, place cursor on zero at bottom of column, right click, select "update field." If you change any number, update the fields again.

Partners/Contributors (Agency/Org, etc.) List each on a separate line Do not include RMEF \$ in this section	Contribution (\$ Amount)
Bureau of Land Management	30,000(secured)
Colorado Habitat Partnership Program	5,000(expected, grant will be submitted)
Gunnison Sage Grouse Mitigation Fund	5,000(expected, grant will be submitted)

May have to move cursor with mouse to next field, instead of Tab key.

Number of elk that will benefit from this project: 240

Subspecies of elk in project area: Rocky Mountain  Roosevelt  Manitoban  Tule

List Elk Management/Herd Unit Number: 55

List Hunt Area Number: 55

Elk Population Status: At state objective  Below state objective  Above state objective

Habitat Classification: Winter range  Crucial winter range  Summer range  Yearlong habitat   
Parturition area  Migration corridor  Transition range

Is NEPA complete and signed by appropriate authority? Yes  No  Does Not Apply

If NEPA is not complete, what is the expected date of completion and sign-off?

Any opportunity for RMEF volunteer participation? Yes  No  Weekend participation? Yes  No

What type of volunteer work/participation? Transplanting vegetation, any equipment operators?

Is elk hunting allowed on this project site? Yes  No  If yes how is permission granted: Public land

**Project Analysis:** What resource challenges will be addressed by this project? List anticipated benefits to elk and to other wildlife? In 2010, the Gunnison BLM and Forest Service conducted a travel management plan. Several roads were closed to reduce route density to help create security areas for big game. Cabin Creek is a high use area for deer and elk but with a route density of 5.4 miles of road per square mile, game is easily pushed to other areas. By reducing route density to 2.75 miles/mi<sup>2</sup>, big game will have a more secure area and hunters will have an excellent opportunity to hunt on foot in an area that has a fairly low grade.

**Project Objectives:** List specific objectives of project. Rehab routes to increase grasses, forbs, and sagebrush to create a less fragmented habitat.

**Project Strategies:** *List specific actions which will be taken to achieve objectives.* Routes will be ripped with heavy equipment to create a soil bed for seed. Areas will be reseeded and plants will be transplanted to rehab routes to the fullest extent possible.

**Area Description:** *Attach required map with project site clearly marked. Discuss value or potential value of the area to the elk resource and elk use of the area.* This area is heavily used during the transition time of fall and spring and is relied on during the winter. Once the project is complete, we should see a longer use pattern since they will not be disturbed as heavily by motorized vehicles. Last week (Dec.1<sup>st</sup>) there were 240 elk in the project area.

**Existing Project Area Land Management Activities:** *Is this project part of a larger project or a series of projects? Identify related activities/programs that exist in support of this project. Include associated past RMEF project numbers and titles if applicable.* This project will expand on the Gunnison Field Office travel management implementation plan. We identified this area because of the importance to big game and other wildlife such as sage grouse.

**Is project on an active Livestock Allotment?** Yes  No  **Allotment Name** Cabin Alder Creek Allotment  
**Will there be an adjustment in grazing after treatment?** Yes  No   
**Describe adjustment**

**Use of RMEF Funds:** *Describe specifically how the grant funds will be used. List individual items and/or activities along with unit costs, i.e. supplies, equipment rental, contractors, etc.* RMEF funds will contribute to the contracting costs of the heavy equipment and operator and will result in the rehab of many miles of road within the project area.

**Project Monitoring Plan:** *Describe the monitoring techniques that will be used to assess and quantify the effectiveness of the project as related to the objectives. What criteria will you use to evaluate the project's success? Include both short term and long term monitoring. What monitoring feedback will you provide to RMEF?* Photoplots and transects will be done along the roadways to determine the effectiveness of seeding. Roads will also be monitored for enforcement of travel restrictions. Any noxious and invasive weeds within the project area will also be treated by BLM to ensure native vegetation growth.

**Additional Project Benefits:** *Describe any additional benefits of the project from an ecological, educational and or socio/economic perspective (i.e. reduction of threat of catastrophic wildfire, preserving ranching traditions, increasing public awareness, conserving cultural resources).* The main benefits of the project will be holding game in an area with easy walking/hiking/horse access to increase hunter success and experience.

**Dept. of Treasury - Internal Revenue Service requires RMEF to have an IRS Form W-9 on file for any grant recipient or vendor, in the case of vendor direct payments (whoever we write the check to). Please wait to submit this form until the grant is approved and invoices are being submitted. We have these forms on file for U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and most state wildlife management agencies.**

Funds cannot be forwarded without this documentation on file!

## Project Worksheet

*Is this project improving an area already used by elk but in need of improvement?* Yes  No

*Is this project designed to attract elk from another area?* Yes  No

*What is the life expectancy of the project results?* Long-term

*Select the habitat/cover type most representative of project site.* Sage-steppe and Riparian List other.

## Project Type Details: Complete where applicable

### Access Management (Road closures)

*Is the closure part of a new travel management plan?*  *or an existing plan?*

*Is the closure permanent?*  *List number of miles* 46 miles

*Is the closure seasonal?*  *List number of miles*

*Will the roadbed be ripped?* Yes  No  *and/or seeded?* Yes  No

*How many acres of elk habitat behind the closure will be affected?* 11,385 acres

*Is there public support for this project?* Yes  No

**Fencing** Permanent  Temporary  Excludes livestock  Excludes wildlife

**Mechanical Thinning/Manipulation** Forest/Woodland type  Shrub steppe type  Meadow type

*What is estimated acreage of the project?*

*What equipment will be used to thin? Agro-axe Explain other equipment*

*What is the estimated number of trees per acre prior to treatment?*

*What is the estimated number of trees per acre after treatment (Residual basal)?*

*Describe the trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem).*

*Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks, etc.).*

**Noxious Weed – Herbicide**

*How many acres will be treated (not affected)?*

*How many acres could be affected by this invasive in 10 years if not treated?*

*What are the weeds to be treated?*

*What toxicant will be used?*

*What surfactant will be used?*

*What deposition agent will be used?*

*What is the application rate (per acre)?*

**Noxious Weed – Biological Controls**

*How many acres will be treated (not associated or adjacent acres)?*

*How many release sites?*

*List Genus and species of bio-controls.*

**Prescribed Burn** - Is this proposal part of a burn block project? Yes  No

*List the acreage within the black-line perimeter.*

*What percentage of the area will be blackened?*

**Seeding** Native  Non-native  Mix

*What is the seeding rate (lbs per acre)? 10*

*Please list the seed mix by common name and percentages in mix. We will use a common mix that includes over 20 native grasses and forbs*

*How will the seed be distributed? hand spread and worked into ground by youth crews Explain other*

**Water Development** Spring development  Well  Guzzler  Dirt tank  Pond  Other

*Is this a new construction?  or repair of existing structure?*

*Storage capacity? Number of drinker sites? How far to nearest perennial water source?*

*Is water dedicated solely to wildlife?  Is water available to livestock?*

*Acres influenced by the water development?*

*Permanent?  Temporary?*

*Access to the site? 2 wheel drive Can emergency water be easily delivered to this site? Yes  No*

# East Cabin Creek Restoration Proposal

- Closed Route
- Highway
- County Road
- Unmaintained Passenger Car Road
- Primitive Road (high clearance)
- Private Road
- ATV Trail
- Single Track Motorized
- Single Track (foot/horse)
- Project Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service

