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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Name** | **Applicant Name** | **Amount Requested** | **Matching Funds** | **Total Project Cost** | **Project Location**  **(Zone)** |
| Matthews Lanes Creek Conservation Easement | Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust | $89,500 | $5,756,225.87 | $5,845,725.87 | 1 |

Executive Summary

The Mathews Lanes Creek project would serve to protect and connect 3,787 acres of valuable fish, wildlife, and traditional agricultural values by enacting a perpetual conservation easement with restrictions, terms, and ongoing monitoring efforts which protect and bolster vital conservation values. This property consists of a multitude of benefits to the community, county, and region of SE Idaho by preserving large scale land holdings which connect to several thousand acres of public land, including tributaries which support the Blackfoot River drainage. A perpetual conservation easement would support big game migratory routes and habitat, and would ensure the future protection of important winter range. Because this property is located in SSLT's newly defined priority area, the Blackfoot - Willow Creek Highlands, a conservation easement of this size and significance would serve as a model for conservation minded practices to surrounding landowners, and further illustrate SSLT's commitment to serving members of the farming and ranching community. The property has been awarded a grant through NRCS ACEP ALE GSS, signifying the importance of upland grassland habitat and responsible grazing practices supporting species such as Greater Sage Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse. It is rare that a property of this magnitude, which supports the variety and number of Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in the Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan 2023, presents the opportunity to be enrolled into a conservation easement. SSLT has a proven history of working with and supporting landowners with a mutual interest in conservation values, and implementing accredited land trust practices to responsibly initiate, close, and monitor conservation easements. These combined values, along with the property's proximity to SSLT fee-owned property and historical sites such as The Oregon Trail, present a special chance to protect and promote open space, natural resources, wildlife conservation, and traditional working land partnerships in SE Idaho for generations in perpetuity.