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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Name** | **Applicant Name** | **Amount Requested** | **Matching Funds** | **Total Project Cost** | **Project Location****(Zone)** |
| Thunder Ridge Fee Title Disposition | Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust | $ 35,447.62 | $62,000.00 | $97,447.62 | 3 |

Executive Summary

The Thunder Ridge Preserve Fee-Title Disposition Project aims to maintain a high level of conservation protection at the SSLT owned Thunder Ridge property while increasing connectivity and enhancing the protected lands in the area. Thunder Ridge presents a unique opportunity for enhanced connectivity of protected land in the Bear Lake area as the north end of the property borders BLM lands and the south end of the property abuts additional properties in CE (not held by SSLT). This project would promote private landownership while enhancing the protected land in the Bear River region.

SSLT believes it will serve the organization best and the conservation goals of this property to transfer the property to a private owner and hold a conservation easement on the property. This is a “protect-sell” model that would maintain the protection of this land while providing a landowner the opportunity to better manage and utilize the potential grazing or open resources on the property. Given its location as a priority area in the Bear River watershed, a “highly sensitive area” in the Bear Lake County Comprehensive Plan and being in a highly desirable and develop-able area, the funding of this project would 1) enhance the connectivity of protected lands in this area and 2) allow SSLT to reallocate some of its funding and expertise to other conservation projects to expand the benefit of protected land across the region.