

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Conservation Fund

Founded by the Butler Family Foundation

October 2015

This proposal is being developed to emphasize the importance of habitat conservation, youth involvement, and continuing research to aid the long-term conservation of bighorn sheep in Wyoming. It will be called the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation Conservation Fund (WY-WSFCF).

The Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation (WY-WSF) has developed the permanent WY-WSCF to address the following:

- 1) Bighorn sheep transplants to reestablish or augment existing populations
- 2) Habitat Priorities in Wyoming
 - a) Grazing allotment adjustments (e.g. change in class of livestock, buyouts, long-term grazing management which improves the quality and quantity of available forage for bighorn sheep)
 - b) Purchase of conservation easements or fee title to benefit bighorn sheep
 - c) Facilitate other habitat improvements to benefit bighorns as opportunities are presented
 - i) Examples of acceptable projects:
 - (1) Water developments for bighorn sheep
 - (2) Prescribed burns
 - (3) Seeding
 - (4) Noxious/invasive plant species management
 - ii) Examples of unacceptable projects:
 - (1) Building construction, repairs
 - (2) Road/trail construction or maintenance
 - (3) Fence construction/modification
- 3) Youth Development

Provide life time WY-WSF memberships for youth (≤ 14 years of age). The number of youth memberships awarded annually will be at discretion of the WY-WSF Board.

4) Research Development

Provide financial assistance (scholarship/grant) to graduate student(s) working directly to benefit bighorn sheep in Wyoming. The number of annual scholarships/grants will be at the discretion of the Board.

The WY-WSF Board will have the flexibility to utilize the interest generated by the WY-WSCF to address the above priorities as they deem necessary.

This would be a permanent fund with an inviolable corpus. The goal will be to build the Wy-WSFCF to a minimum of \$250,000 over the next ten or fewer years. The interest from the corpus will be used annually or periodically at the WY-WSF Board's discretion as the funds are sufficient or needed. The priorities above will be addressed in the listed order with # 1 being the highest priority and # 4 being the lowest priority. This will be a permanent corpus with only the interest being used to address priorities as listed.

The Butler Family Foundation will provide \$25,000 to initiate establishment of the Fund.

- a) It will be the responsibility of the WY-WSF Board and Staff to solicit funding from members and donors to meet the minimum goal of a \$250,000 corpus within ten or fewer years.
- b) The WY-WSFCF provides an excellent opportunity for folks in the bighorn world memorialize a loved ones passion for wild places and wild sheep. Emphasis will be placed on memorial donations.
- c) The goal of a \$250,000 corpus may be adjusted upward by the WY-WSF Board at any time.
- d) The WY-WSF Board and staff will also solicit memorial funds to supplement this corpus.

- e) The WY-WSF will inform members annually of the Trust Fund's growth and expenditures via an article in the Fall issue of the Rampage and/or other media outlets.
- f) WY-WSFCF assets will be invested at the discretion of WY-WSF Board in consultation with a certified and experienced investor. The WY-WSF Board will review investment returns and options annually.
- g) If WY-WSF dissolves as a nonprofit 501c3 organization actively funding bighorn sheep conservation in Wyoming, all WY-WSFCF assets will be transferred to the national Wild Sheep Foundation.

Signed and agreed upon this 2 day of Nov., 2015



Gary Butler- Butler Family Foundation



Jerry Galles - Chairman WY-WSF