
GIA Form

1 message

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Fri, Nov 8, 2019 at 8:57 PM

To: info@wyomingwildsheep.org, skilpatrick@wyomingwildsheep.org, joni@wyomingwildsheep.org

Project Details:

Project Title: Education & Outreach Programs December 2019-May 2020

Project Type: Education

Affiliate: National Bighorn Sheep Center

Project Location: Dubois, Wyoming, Regional across WY and neighboring states, and National Outreach

Project Description: To support the educational programs and outreach events at the National Bighorn Sheep Center (NBSC), our organization has actively pursued the effort to enhance and grow our hands-on, Center-based, in-classroom and field-based educational programs and events. This specific GIA request is to assist in our outreach and education programs between December 2019 and May 2020, namely our participation in the Reno Wild Sheep Show Youth Wildlife Conservation Education Experience in collaboration with Ryan Brock of the Wild Sheep Foundation, ongoing K-12 education programs, and our own "Camp Bighorn" 2020 preparations and trainings in early 2020. As a central part of our mission to educate people about bighorn sheep and the conservation of wildlife and wild lands, each year we work to offer specific programs and events highlighting bighorn sheep, wildlife conservation and habitat stewardship opportunities. We focus these programs and events on our goal to educate youth through specific learning opportunities by offering curriculum-based lessons, field tours and activities focused on inspiring the next generation of wild sheep enthusiasts. The remaining programs in December 2019 include a "Breakfast with Bighorns" tour of Whiskey Basin and a "Big Game Harvest Potluck" event. Both events focus on engaging the public in learning about bighorn sheep and other wildlife in a fun, social and community-oriented space. NBSC's Education Manager has been an incredible asset to fulfill the central education mission of our organization, and this part-time staff person and her resulting work has been possible due to the partnership with and support of the WY WSF. In 2019 to-date (early November) we have engaged over 11,000 students (up from 9,000 students in 2018), in programs and outreach activities. These include youth outreach during the WY Outdoor Expo in Casper, the Wild Sheep Show in Reno, NV, the inaugural "Camp Bighorn" in July, as well as our core programming to students during regional classroom visits and guided tours at the Center. This GIA request is three-fold in that the funds requested will be utilized to support our outreach programs (i.e. the December 2019-May 2020 outreach programs including the above-mentioned December events and our ongoing K-12 education programs, our Annual Meeting in February and several other presentations being scheduled for March-May. Secondly, these funds will support our Education Manager and Executive Director to participate in the YWCE at the Wild Sheep Show in Reno in mid-January 2020 (including travel expenses). Finally, the funds requested will support our "Project WILD" workshop for Camp Bighorn staff, volunteers and mentors which we will be hosting with Wyoming Game and Fish partners on January 24, 2020. Bringing in expertise to help us fine-tune our Camp Bighorn programs and better equip our volunteers is an identified need of education program.

Project Problem: The National Bighorn Sheep Center (NBSC) depends on only one full-time ED and one part-time Educational Manager, along with many volunteers to fulfill the needs of our educational program offerings. We reach more students and participants in our educational programs every year, and the need to sustain these educational programs is critical to ensuring that more youth be inspired to engage and conserve bighorn sheep and other wildlife. This work would be impossible without the financial support of and partnership with the WY Wild Sheep Foundation. Our mission to educate about bighorn sheep and other wildlife and to conserve their habitat is only possible if the future generation is inspired and engaged to be active in this pursuit. Working with partners such as the WY Wild Sheep Foundation, Wild Sheep Foundation, agency partners such as the WY Game and Fish Department and local Dubois area schools, nonprofits and youth camps provide us a perfect opportunity to provide this conservation message to the greatest number of youth and their families. The growing partnership between the Wild Sheep Foundation (National), the Wyoming WSF and NBSC is essential to the success of future wild sheep conservation. Not only is the collaboration and tangible outcome of reaching thousands of youth each year very fulfilling to our organization's shared missions, we believe that we are only touching the surface of what these collaborations will grow into in the future. Additionally, with the increased challenges facing bighorn sheep in Wyoming and beyond, there is a critical need now to continue to support the educational opportunities to inspire this next generation of wild sheep enthusiasts and conservationists.

Problem Solution: NBSC's Educational programs and outreach are an essential component of NBSC AND WY WSF's public outreach and education efforts. This partnership has developed through creative approaches in program development and mutually benefit both organizations. The outreach NBSC offers as part of the Reno Wild Sheep Show at the Youth Wildlife Conservation Education Experience is of high-quality, and our unique role as educators (with hands-on learning and activities focused on bighorn sheep), helps reach thousands of youth at this specific event annually with a meaningful and memorable learning experience. Traveling to Reno is not cheap, and our small nonprofit does not have the funds for transportation, vehicle maintenance, hotel rooms, etc. which are associated with this time-intensive event. We love to attend this event and believe our role is critical, thus the funds requested for this portion of this grant will assist NBSC in our program offerings at Reno, including spreading the word to Chapter and Affiliates about Camp Bighorn. As part of NBSC's Educational Program, we once again will be hosting Camp Bighorn in July 2020. As mentioned above, year one in 2019 of Camp Bighorn was very successful, with 25 youth attending the camp from as far away as Alaska! This camp was and will continue to be successful in large part due to the outpouring of support and involvement from a great group of volunteers. With over 40 volunteers who stepped up to support the planning, logistics, programming and supervision during Camp Bighorn, we relied on these volunteers to make the camp possible. While successful, in our evaluations post-camp this year, we did recognize some program and activity-areas where improvements and changes are necessary. Project WILD's mission is to help students learn how to think, not what to think, about wildlife and the environment. All curriculum materials are backed by sound educational practices and theory, and represent the work of many professionals within the fields of education and natural resource

management from across the country. When a volunteer stepped up to offer a Project WILD workshop customized to NBSC and specifically, our Camp Bighorn, we jumped at the opportunity to integrate these programs with our Camp Bighorn program. a. For the Project WILD workshop, the mileage, lodging, supplies, stipends and manuals will be utilized in both the one-day workshop in January as well as in ongoing and follow-up Camp Bighorn educational program planning. Enabling our staff and volunteers to be more effective educators and supervisors through the Project WILD Camp Bighorn customized workshop will enable us to provide an inspiring and educational quality camp to future youth participants. This training is set to take place on January 24, 2020 in Dubois, with an expanded reach to regional teachers and educators as well. Finally, our ongoing outreach programs enhance our public relationships and also provide opportunities for people to learn about bighorn sheep. From our December "Breakfast with Bighorns" and "Big Game Potluck" events to our Annual Meeting in February as well as new youth-oriented presentations and even a second opportunity to host a "bighorn theatre" production, with this GIA financial support, we will continue to educate and reach a diverse population dedicated to wild sheep conservation in Wyoming and beyond.

Biography Of Applicant:

Name: Sara Domek, National Bighorn Sheep Center
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Current Member: Yes

Cost To Be Funded

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Equipment.....500..... | \$760 |
| Services.....2,500..... | \$8,700 |
| Publishing.....250..... | \$250 |
| Monitoring.....250..... | \$250 |
| Supplies.....1,500..... | \$2,000 |
| Other..... | \$ |
| Totals \$.....\$5,000..... | \$12,000 |

Other Organizations:

- Organization 1: The Opportunity Shop (awarded in November, 2019 \$1,895)
- Organization 2: The Wyoming Community Foundation (due December 15, 2019, will request \$10,000)
- Organization 3: Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (TBD-not yet awarded any 2020 license)
- Organization 4:

Media Contacts:

- Media 1: Dubois Frontier
- Media 2: County 10
- Media 3: Riverton Ranger/Lander Journal
- Media 4: Casper Star Tribune