



October 25, 2022

Ms. Katie Cheesbrough
Executive Director
Wyoming Chapter WSF

Dear Katie:

Please accept this Letter of Support (LoS) accompanying Blake Lowrey's Grant-In-Aid (GIA) funding/project application to the Wyoming Chapter. As you know, WSF was not able to fund this project as of 9/1/2022, as WSF juggled and approved more than \$1.2M in GIA project funding for FY 2022-2023. We found merit in the GIA application Blake submitted to WSF; we just didn't have sufficient funding for all the applications we received/evaluated.

That said, I would strongly encourage the Wyoming Chapter Board to support Blake's GIA request to the Chapter. Having supported multiple bighorn sheep radio-collaring projects in the Cowboy State in the past 20-25 years, the Wyoming Chapter has made a considerable investment in collecting telemetry and movement data, in some cases even "fine-scale" habitat selection data. I am confident that Blake and his team will be able to dive even deeper into Wyoming bighorn telemetry and movement data, analyzing existing data and helping develop management-relevant findings, to enhance bighorn sheep population and habitat management in Wyoming.

Of particular interest to me personally, and WSF organizationally, would be analysis that would help advance wild sheep seasonal movement/migration challenges into the "elk/mule deer/pronghorn" focal species, under USDI Secretarial Order 3362 on western big game migration corridors. Hopefully, Blake and his team will be able to glean important bighorn sheep movement data that would reinforce our efforts to include wild sheep in general (and, bighorn sheep in particular) under S.O. 3362 funding programs/priorities.

I'm confident that the WAFWA Wild Sheep Working Group would support this analysis, as well. Although highway crossings (as impediments to wild sheep daily and seasonal movements) have received the most attention in recent years, there are no doubt other landscape considerations that could be identified and addressed, to facilitate wild sheep seasonal movements and migrations.

Please contact me if I may provide further background materials, on this or any other wild sheep conservation projects. Thanks to you and the Wyoming Chapter WSF Board for considering supporting this GIA request from Blake Lowrey.

Respectfully,

Kevin Hurley
Vice-President for Conservation
GIA Coordinator