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## GIA Form

1 message

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To: info@wyomingwildsheep.org

Mon, Mar 20, 2017 at 1:28 PM

### Project Details:

Project Title: Bighorns of the Canyon

Project Type: Educational Movie/introductory movie for the Visitor Center

Affiliate: Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

Project Location: Wyoming/Montana/Bighorn Canyon

Project Description: The Crow Legend of Big Metal relates the story of a boy pushed over the canyon wall by a hateful stepfather, then rescued by seven bighorn sheep who gave him a warning: "We seven rule these Bighorn Mountains. The rivers down there in the bottom are the Bighorn River. Whatever you do, do not change the name. It shall be known as the Bighorn River. If you ever change the name of the river there will be no more Absarokee (Crow). The Absarokee will be no more." By the early 20th century, the sheep had been extirpated from the Bighorn Canyon area. No longer did the namesake of the canyon have a home here. Reintroduction of bighorn sheep in the Bighorns in the 1970's successfully reestablished the population, with current estimates indicating a herd of approximately 180 sheep. The legend of Big Metal and successful reestablishment of the herd is important to Bighorn Canyon's mission through the sharing of this information about the area's history and the future of bighorn sheep in the canyon. Each year Bighorn Canyon receives more than 200,000 visitors. Ten percent of those visitors will plan a stop at the visitor center. Most of them will have the opportunity to see bighorn sheep along the canyon walls or park road during their tour. During winter months, rangers provide school programs to approximately 800 students who may or may not be able to see the sheep in their natural habitat. With partners Ginger Kathrens with Taurus Productions and Tennessee Tech University, Bighorn Canyon proposes to produce a 15- to 20-minute HD movie about the history, current conditions, future management and challenges of maintaining the herd. Upon completion, the film will be shown in park visitor centers and used as a tool for educational programming.

Project Problem: Bighorn Canyon has a great overview movie of the Canyon and a great, if outdated, movie about the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses, but no movie about the bighorn sheep. We would like to fix that and have a great team of partners that are willing to help with that.

Problem Solution: This movie will be a combined effort from several entities who understand the importance of the bighorn sheep population in Bighorn Canyon. The movie will present details of sheep behavior, correlating the topography of the area with how the species uses it to survive, the adaptations and physiology of bighorn sheep that allow them successfully survive in the area, as well as their history and importance to the native cultures of the Bighorn Canyon area. The movie will illustrate past, current and future challenges to the population including disease, deteriorating range conditions and habitat loss. Bighorn Canyon is fortunate to have several partners that are excited to work on this project. Dr. Rob Kissell has been studying the sheep population in Bighorn Canyon since 1993 when he was a Ph.D. candidate from Montana State University. Since that time Dr. Kissell has spent several summers in the park continuing these studies of bighorn sheep. While working for the University of Arkansas, Monticello, Dr. Kissell spent eight months (May-December 2010, inclusive) on a sabbatical working at Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area studying spatial and temporal aspects of nutrition of bighorn sheep. The following summer (June-August 2011), Dr. Kissell continued similar work mentoring an undergraduate student. The following two summers (2012 and 2013) Dr. Kissell mentored two graduate students on the site to study nutrition and behavior. He will be interviewed on film as well as his students to showcase the past and current research in the park. Our second partner is Ginger Kathrens with Taurus Productions. She is an Emmy award-winning producer and director who produced and was the cinematographer on Nature films including Cloud: Wild Stallion of the Rockies. She started coming to the Bighorn Canyon area in 1994 to film the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses. During this time, she has also had the privilege of filming bighorn sheep, their behavior, and the area's topography, showing how the sheep use that topography. She is donating this footage to the project and is only asking reimbursement for production costs. Staff, working with partners, will gather additional footage and information. This will include footage from the Wyoming Game and Fish of past relocations to the Devil Canyon herd and recordings from the NPS Harpers Ferry Center of Chief Joe Medicine Crow telling the story of Big Metal in Crow and translated into English. To achieve a visual illustration of this important story, Taurus productions will use aerial photography which will need to be filmed. Working with Wyoming Game and Fish, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and Dr. Rob Kissell, park staff will put together a complete history of the canyon's herd. This historical documentation will be added to the 2017 research to illustrate past, current and future challenges to the population including disease and habitat loss. Novice cinematographer, Josh Scheffler will assist park staff with gathering additional footage, assisting Kathrens and filming interviews. Once all pertinent information is gathered, it will be compiled into a narrative. This will be vetted by all the partners and given to Ginger Kathrens for final production. The amount of information on the sheep for the visitor is limited. This movie will increase visitor understanding of the importance of conservation of the bighorn sheep and their

habitat. In 2016, 2100 people viewed the introductory films in the visitor centers. This movie will add to that number by at least ten percent. It will be shown several times per day at both Bighorn Canyon visitor centers. Interpretation staff will show it to school groups and special program groups within a three-hour driving radius of the park. It will not only promote the conservation of bighorn sheep, but will also promote the park and tourism to the area. It will be used to supplement interpretive programming and outreach. Requests for sheep related program topics will increase as will the awareness of the importance of bighorn sheep, not only as a namesake, but as a valuable resource to the canyon. Once completed in the spring of 2018, the film will combine dramatic footage and scenery, scientific research, and compelling narratives to produce an informative, educational film that leaves the viewer with a sense of pride and concern for the challenges that lay ahead for bighorn sheep populations. It will leave them with a sense of responsibility to ensure there is never again a time when the namesake of the canyon is not in its rightful home.

Biography Of Applicant:

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Current Member:	No
Cost To Be Funded	
Equipment.....	1200.....\$0
Services.....	8640.....\$27240
Publishing.....	160.....\$0
Monitoring.....	NA.....\$11800
Supplies.....	0.....\$
Other.....	0.....\$1000
Totals \$.....	15000.....\$40040

Other Organizations:

- Organization 1: Tennessee Tech - additional research - \$11800
- Organization 2: Ginger Kathrens film footage - \$7000
- Organization 3: Park Staff time to write the narrative and vet the movie - \$6240
- Organization 4: WY Governor Big Game Coalition Grant - for additional services, travel expenses and housing for Taurus crew and research crew - \$15000 (Pending)

Media Contacts:

- Media 1: Lovell Chronicle
- Media 2: Powell Tribune
- Media 3: Billings Gazette
- Media 4:

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 Bighorns of the Canyon-budget estimate for Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation.docx  
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