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GIA Form

1 message

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To: info@wyomingwildsheep.org

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Project Details:

Project Title: Education & Outreach Enhancements at the National Bighorn Sheep Center

Project Type: Education

Affiliate: National Bighorn Sheep Center

Project Location: Dubois, WY & Regional (outreach)

Project Description: To support the educational programs and outreach events at the National Bighorn Sheep Center, The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association (NBSIA) has actively pursued the effort to enhance and grow our hands-on, in-classroom and field-based educational programs and events in 2016, and our goal is to continue the enhancements our Educational Assistant has made to our Education Program by expanding these opportunities in 2017. Since 2016, the NBSIA has reached over 845 people in 23 special events, guided tours and research opportunities. We look forward to offering a diverse and exciting series of special events and programs this year targeting even more participants of all ages, but in particular those in K-12 schools and camps to enjoy the wildlife and outdoor experiences of the Upper Wind River Valley. Additionally, in partnership with CWC and others, we hope to enhance our outreach and education about bighorn sheep migration and herd monitoring through enhanced mapping programs and displays at the Center. Hands-on and field recreational opportunities for both area youth and adults as well as visitors to our area will be offered beginning in May and running through December 2017, including but not limited to guided youth and adult field tours of Torrey Valley to see bighorn sheep and other wildlife, stewardship and field work days with our agency partners and new recreational events such as guided hikes, ecology tours, and wildlife habitat enhancement projects for local youth and visitors to the area to experience the incredible wildlife values of the Upper Wind River Valley first-hand. One example of a field-based recreational opportunity we hope to offer through this program expansion is a fence-removal stewardship program, similar to those field opportunities offered by the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation through their "wildlife friendlier fences" program. Working in partnership with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, private landowners and the public, NBSIA has already identified several unused, old fences which pose a significant wildlife hazard in the middle of prime big-game habitat (not fencing which is currently used for livestock). As part of this program expansion, NBSIA would help coordinate these hands-on projects with volunteer participants. This is just one example of some of the education and outreach-focused projects NBSIA hopes to develop as part of our educational program and event expansion in 2017. For a full listing of planned events, please see the attached Draft Schedule of special events and programs. Please note that final dates, times and details are still to be determined for some events and programs. The mapping and migration work is in development with a specific goal to integrate this into our current educational offerings and exhibits.

Project Problem: The National Bighorn Sheep Center depends on only one full-time ED and one part-time Educational Assistant, along with many volunteers to fulfill the needs of our educational program offerings. While the hiring of our Education Assistant in 2016 has enabled us to reach more students and participants in our educational programs, the need to sustain this position and our educational program is critical to ensuring that more youth be inspired to engage and conserve bighorn sheep and other wildlife. 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, 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. 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: Through our educational and special event program offerings being planned for 2017, we have targeted specific age groups in our continued curriculum development as well as being able to reach a broader audience in our outreach activities. By enlisting the support of volunteers through our seasonal events, and providing opportunities to learn about bighorn sheep in special presentations and outings, it is our goal that the local community as well as those 5-8,000 visitors who come to the Center annually be inspired, be engaged and learn about what they can do to conserve wild sheep and other wildlife. This GIA request specifically would support the Educational Program and Outreach efforts of the Center to ensure proper marketing, boots-on-the-ground support and materials for these programs.

Biography Of Applicant:

Name: Sara Domek-National Bighorn Sheep Center

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Current Member: Yes

Cost To Be Funded

Equipment.....Education Trunk updates (including bags for hides, silicon cast tracks and scat, bighorn research training and classroom practice resources).....\$500
Services.....Educational Assistant (part time) and Volunteer-based reimbursements (mileage, etc.).....
.....\$11000
Publishing.....Publishing/marketing costs for curriculum development and program outreach (ads in County 10, JH News and Guide, statewide and local media outlets and online through our new website).....\$1500
Monitoring.....none.....\$0
Supplies.....classroom bighorn sheep migration tracking software/programming and exhibit update for migration tracking (will work with CWC, WY Game and Fish Department and others).....\$2000
Other.....none.....\$0
Totals \$.....Total Amount requested WY WSF.....\$15,000

Other Organizations:

Organization 1: Never Sweat Recreation Board-\$5118 (pending-applied April 2017)
Organization 2: WY Community Foundation-\$5000 (pending-application in June 2017)
Organization 3: Destination Dubois (marketing specifically)-\$5723 (pending-applied in April 2017)
Organization 4: Robert and Emilie Betts Foundation (\$5000 received April 2017) and Falco Family Foundation (\$500- received April 2017)

Media Contacts:

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