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## GIA Form

1 message

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**sara@bighorn.org** <sara@bighorn.org>

Fri, May 1, 2020 at 2:37 PM

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

**Project Details:**

Project Title: Education Program Adaptation &amp; Camp Bighorn Program 2020

Project Type: Education

Affiliate: National Bighorn Sheep Center

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

Project Description: This specific GIA request is to assist in our outreach and education programs between June and December 2020, namely the effort to adapt our education programs to meet current coronavirus-restrictions and challenges (i.e. expand virtual learning opportunities), and to support "Camp Bighorn" scheduled for August 2-6, 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. This year, we have taken on the challenge of adapting our K-12 education programs to meet the current coronavirus pandemic in new and unique ways including expanding our programs to include more online and virtual learning opportunities. Please see [bighorn.org/programs-education](http://bighorn.org/programs-education) for the growing list of resources we are providing our teacher, student and family partners across Wyoming and beyond. We had already planned and scheduled all 2020 special events before the coronavirus hit Wyoming, and now we are looking not only to an unquestionably slow summer visitation season, but we are also unable to engage with the same numbers of special event participants in our special programs (which can be found at [bighorn.org/programs-events](http://bighorn.org/programs-events)). Therefore, we are taking steps now to plan for and adapt our special events and programs in 2020 to accommodate social distancing measures while still providing one-of-a-kind education programs designed for learners of all ages, and in particular youth. For example, while we still have planned our June "Wildlife Wednesday" Museum Day programs, our alternative strategy to in-person meetings with youth is to provide one-on-one or small group/family activities and outings wherein we can still reach our audience but keep all participants, staff and volunteers safe. Program themes and concepts will still apply (i.e. Shoshone Sheep Eater Indians) but we will work to have smaller groups or individuals rather than the typically large groups. Additionally, while we are currently still pursuing hosting Camp Bighorn for youth ages 9-12 years old at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp August 2-6, 2020, we are developing contingency plans including shortening the camp, changing it from an overnight residential program to day-only programs, and the possibility of bringing "Camp Bighorn" to youth in different regional and statewide communities on a smaller group level, rather than hosting 25 kids plus up to 30 adult chaperones at the camp itself. This planning is ongoing and changing daily, but we are aware of both the need and desire to continue Camp Bighorn and to do so in a responsible and safe manner for all participants, staff and volunteers. Finally, it is important to mention that we anticipate seeing far less physical visitation to the National Bighorn Sheep Center this year than in any year prior, which impacts our operational income in very significant ways. While we have applied for the PPP loan, this will only suffice in a short-term manner, without the normal admissions and gift shop sales we typically see skyrocket during the summer tourist season. We are prepared to weather this challenging time, but it is imperative that we continue to offer programs that meet our mission to education people about bighorn sheep and the conservation of wildlife and wild lands. Our work, supported with our ongoing partnership with the WY WSF, National WSF and other partners like Teton Science Schools for Camp Bighorn and many others, will ensure that we continue to keep our mission and education programs alive and thriving now and in the future. Many of the program changes and developments we have had to and will continue to make over the past several months will continue to benefit us down the road, so we are looking at this entire situation as an opportunity to expand and grow, while being vigilant to our mission, donors and financial obligations.

Project Problem: NBSC is well aware of the many challenges and limitations of our current coronavirus-induced situation, namely financial strains, low (currently no) admissions to the Center itself, challenges of changing and adapting education programs to online formats, etc. We are also problem-solvers and we are approaching this challenge with optimism and putting forward strong plans for how to adapt our education program for K-12 students, our 2020 special events and Camp Bighorn in early August. From the examples mentioned in the description of this project to our ongoing work and efforts to ensure safety of visitors, staff and volunteers who make these programs possible, NBSC Board and Staff are taking seriously the obligations to our donors, members, partners and the public. While challenging, we know that the changes we make now to how we operate the Center, our education programs, and Camp Bighorn will better enable us to not only run these programs as well and as safe as possible this summer and fall, but we will also take these lessons and ideas with us long into the future. Once we have more clear direction on our next steps, we are looking to bring on an Education Assistant to help Karen Sullivan, our Education Manager, with all of our Education programs, namely Camp Bighorn in August, as our normal staffing will be limited at this time. We are also seeking extra travel and technological

funding as we anticipate bringing our programs to people more this year, both in person and virtually. Finally, we are asking for support for our partnership with the Teton Science Schools (TSS) for additional instructional support for our Camp Bighorn program in early August. We have been working with TSS for over a year on Camp Bighorn program development, and this partnership will be very important to making Camp Bighorn 2020 a success.

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, and this year, despite COVID19, our mission is still strong. In addition to the physical exhibits and offerings at the National Bighorn Sheep Center, NBSC offers over 20 special events and programs targeting a variety of ages, backgrounds and demographics throughout the year. 2020 is no different, in that we have scheduled over 20 special education and outreach events. However, we are adapting these programs to be able to offer them safely to all participants and to protect our staff and volunteers. These programs are central to our joint NBSC-WY WSF-National WSF outreach efforts, and we are looking forward to continuing to adapt them and enhance them during this time. We will continue to look at all 2020 special event and programs with an eye towards participant, staff and volunteer safety while ensuring that we meet this shared mission to education people, and in particular, the next generation, about bighorn sheep.

### Biography Of Applicant:

Name: Sara Domek-National Bighorn Sheep Center

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Current Member: Yes

### Cost To Be Funded

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Equipment.....1,000.....  | \$1,000  |
| Services.....10,000 (including Teton Science School requested services for Camp Bighorn-see attachment).....  | \$25,000 |
| Publishing.....1,000.....   | \$6,000  |
| Monitoring.....1,000.....   | \$2,000  |
| Supplies.....5,000 for Camp Bighorn (specifically water bottles for camp participants, first aid and safety equipment updates in materials).....                                      | \$5,000  |
| Other.....2,000 (specific request from WY WSF chapter for sponsorship of Camp Bighorn youth-through NBSC scholarship application program, \$500/kid, so 4 kids at \$2,000 total)..... | \$10,000 |
| Totals \$.....  | \$49,000 |

### Other Organizations:

Organization 1: Wyoming Community Foundation-NBSC was awarded \$10,000 in March 2020 for these programs

Organization 2: The Opportunity Shop-NBSC was awarded \$2,000 in April 2020 for these programs and COVID19 preparedness actions

Organization 3: Never Sweat Recreation Board (Dubois, WY)-pending \$7,518 request for summer 2020 and Camp Bighorn programs

Organization 4: TAD (Tourism Asset Dollars) Grant application-pending \$5,000 for marketing and publishing work (applications on a rolling basis through 2020)

### Media Contacts:

Media 1: Dubois Frontier

Media 2: Casper Star Tribune

Media 3: Riverton Ranger/Lander Journal

Media 4: WyoFile

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### 3 attachments



**2020 events 1 pager.pdf**

1034K



**Camp Bighorn Schedule 2020.docx**

21K



**TSS-National Bighorn Sheep Center Proposal summer 2020.pdf**

131K

