



Grant In Aid (GIA) Form

**Project Title:** Temple Peak Disease Assessment, Collaring, and Reconnaissance

**Project Type:** Monitoring and Research

Waterhole/Transplant/Habitat/Research/Education/Other (Explain)

**Affiliate:** Wyoming Game and Fish Department and USFWS/WRR

Outfitter Organization/BLM/Game & Fish/Forest Service/Other (Explain)

**Location of Project:** Wyoming - Temple Peak Herd Unit - Southern Wind River Mountains  
State/Territory/Area

**Description Of Project:**

Bighorn sheep were native to the southern Wind River Mountains. Accounts by early Europeans indicate bighorn sheep were widely distributed and abundant. However, by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, very few bighorn sheep remained in the southern Winds. By the early 1970s it is believed the only remaining bighorn sheep in the southern Winds occurred only west of the Continental Divide and there were no sheep in the current Temple Peak herd unit. From 1960 to 1987, 188 Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep were transplanted into the Temple Peak herd unit. 88 bighorn sheep were released into adjacent habitats on the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR) in 1988 and 1993. Today, about 20 bighorn sheep remain in the Temple Peak herd unit and 40 bighorn sheep remain in those adjacent areas on the WRIR. In 2016, 14 sheep were collared (2 in the Temple Peak herd unit and 12 on the WRR). The information from these collared sheep will help clarify the currently occupied habitat of the Temple Peak Sheep herd and those sheep on the WRIR.

We have 4 collars purchased with WY-WSF grant funds in 2015 we were not able to deploy in the North Fork Canyon due to logistical concerns and constraints and 1 additional collar from a mortality of the Devil's Canyon/Ferris transplant. It is our intent to deploy these 5 collars in 2016/17 on sheep on the WRR or if possible in the North Fork Canyon or Wolf Point on the Little Popo Agie if sheep can be located there. In addition to collar deployment, flights in known bighorn sheep habitat at high elevation in the Mount Chavanaugh and Wolf Point areas to document presence/absence in these areas would be beneficial to assess sheep status and to perhaps facilitate collar deployment in these areas.

**Problem to be Solved:**

The disease status and habitats and migration routes/corridors used by the remaining bighorn sheep in this herd unit are unknown. Before future efforts to transplant additional or new bighorn sheep in this herd unit are considered, we must know this information to develop a road map of steps needed to ensure the success of any potential re-introduction project.

**Describe How You Propose Solving Problem:**

Using helicopter capture we will radio collar 5 bighorn sheep – on the WRR (likely in the South Fork of the Little Wind River and the St. Lawrence Basin area) or in the North Fork Canyon of the Popo Agie River or the Wolf Point area on the Little Popo Agie River. All sheep captured will be diseased tested per WGFD techniques and protocol. Since Temple Peak bighorns cross jurisdictional boundaries, coordination with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes is essential. Approval from the Tribes for access to reservation lands has been obtained with assistance from the Lander US Fish and Wildlife Service Office. Coordination and cooperation with Tribal Fish and Game and the Lander FWS will continue for the duration of this study. Reconnaissance flights will be conducted in late-summer in the Mount Chavanaugh (summer range) area in winter in the Wolf Point area (winter-yearlong range).

**BIOGRAPHY OF APPLICANT**

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Are you a current member of WY-WSF?  Yes  No



	Cost to be funded by WY-WSF Grant	Cost to be funded by other cooperators
Equipment.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Services.....	\$ <u>10,950</u>	\$ _____
<b>Permanent, full time salaries will not be considered</b>		
<small>(Native Range helicopter capture and reconnaissance flights with Sky Aviation)</small>		
Publishing.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Monitoring.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
Supplies.....	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Please itemize then total</b>		
<small>(Handheld receiver)</small>		
Other (Specify).....	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Totals</b>	\$ <u>10,950</u>	\$ _____

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING FINANCIAL AID OR SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT (Include any pending amounts applied for.):**

WGFD –Trapping, monitoring and project administration  
USFWS/WRR –Trapping, access and monitoring

**ENDORSEMENT: I hereby agree to abide by the stated requirements of a WY-WSF grant. I also understand all WY-WSF funding stipulations and will provide all necessary reports if I receive a grant from WY-WSF.**

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Title WGFD-Lander Region-Wildlife Mngt. Coord. Date 4/18/16

**MEDIA CONTACTS:** Please list one or more media sources in your area that we may contact with details of your project:

- 1) Wyoming Wildlife Magazine
- 2) Local Newspapers – Lander, Riverton
- 3) WGFD website
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_