



Wild Sheep Foundation Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Program

[June 27, 2017]

INTRODUCTION

Formally established in 1977, the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) is a non-profit conservation organization with over 6,800 members, around the globe. WSF operates as a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, under a July 1-June 30 fiscal year. WSF is dedicated to promoting and enhancing populations of wild sheep and their habitats throughout North America, and internationally. Since inception, WSF and our network of Chapters and Affiliates have raised and invested more than \$115 million for conservation and management of wild sheep. As specified in our Mission Statement <http://wildsheepfoundation.org/Page.php/cp/Mission%20&%20History>, WSF's objectives are to:

- Enhance wild sheep populations and their habitats;
- Promote scientific wildlife management;
- Educate the public and youth on sustainable use and the conservation benefits of hunting;
- Promote the interests of the hunter and all stakeholders.

WSF GIA funding decisions will be driven by our North American Conservation Vision 2020 (*NA CV2020*) <http://wildsheepfoundation.org/Page.php/cp/Conservation%20Strateg>; GIA applicants are directed to closely review the *NA CV2020* document, to ensure project proposals address one or more of the listed priority goals for thinhorn sheep and/or bighorn sheep. Failure to identify which *NA CV2020* priority goal(s) will be addressed will greatly reduce likelihood of WSF funding.

WSF Thinhorn Sheep Goals by 2020 (please review *NA CV2020*, to understand detailed goals)

1. Thinhorn Sheep Management Plans
2. Effective Separation Strategies
3. 2017 Thinhorn Sheep Summit II
4. Inclusion of the NW Territories in the WAFWA Wild Sheep Working Group
5. Public Outreach
6. Access for Management of Thinhorn Sheep

WSF Bighorn Sheep Goals by 2020 (please review *NA CV2020*, to understand detailed goals)

1. Bighorn Sheep Management Plans
2. Effective Separation Strategies
3. Applied Disease Research
4. Agency Leadership Education
5. Public Outreach
6. Domestic Sheep Industry Partnership
7. WAFWA Disease Management Venture Support
8. Risk Assessment
9. Access for Management of Bighorn Sheep
10. BLM Feral Horse & Burro Appropriate Management Levels
11. Population Management/Ewe Harvest
12. Hunting Opportunity
13. Youth Outreach
14. 2018 Bighorn Sheep Summit I
15. Mexico Desert Bighorn Sheep Management
16. Inclusion of 6 States in Mexico + SEMARNAT in the WAFWA Wild Sheep Working Group

GRANT REVIEW PROCESS/TIMELINE

In addition to our Conservation Staff, WSF utilizes the collective expertise of a panel of wildlife professionals who volunteer as our Professional Resource Advisory Board (PRAB). PRAB members provide scientific, wildlife and habitat management, land use, and other specialized expertise to assist the WSF Board with policy and GIA funding decisions.

GIA applications must be submitted electronically (**between July 1-August 15 each year**) via a write-protected WORD form available on our website <http://wildsheepfoundation.org/Page.php/cp/Grant-In-Aid%20Funding>. Following review by WSF Conservation Staff and WSF's PRAB, the WSF Board makes funding decisions by late October; successful GIA applicants are notified each year by early-November. Following notification, a Grant Funding/Operating Agreement will be sent to grant recipients; this signed agreement must be promptly returned. Unsuccessful applicants may resubmit their proposals for consideration during the next annual funding cycle, but must submit a new GIA application. WSF rarely acts as the sole funding source for projects; we prefer to receive proposals that reflect cooperator and partner matching funds, especially in jurisdictions where WSF helps raise funds via auction tags. Additional consideration will be given to proposals submitted by WSF members.

WSF GIA Policies/Requirements (please review closely)

To be considered, funding proposals must address one or more of the WSF objectives stated above and one or more of the goals identified in the *NA CV2020* document, also stated above. WSF does not fund programs/projects that repeat past research. Applicants should review the literature to make certain their \$ requests are relevant to current knowledge of wild sheep. **Proposals that have been well-coordinated with, and developed collaboratively between, WSF Chapters & Affiliates and applicants (e.g., state/provincial/ territorial/tribal agencies, universities, consultants, individuals, organizations, etc.) are strongly encouraged.**

Grantees receiving funds from WSF must comply with the requirements listed below. Failure to do so will result in revocation of any WSF funds not expended, and the applicant will be considered ineligible for future WSF grants. Proposals will be found ineligible if the applicant has current or past performance issue(s) (e.g., violated terms of a WSF Grant Agreement within previous 5 years).

1. WSF does not typically fund salaries/fringe benefits to agency project personnel. WSF does not typically act as sole purchaser of fee-title lands. WSF does not typically fund large-capital (> \$5,000) equipment expenditures.
2. WSF grant funds cannot be used for general administrative overhead or indirect costs of any kind. Administrative, overhead, indirect, or costs incurred prior to completion/execution of a WSF Grant Agreement may be shown as match or donation, if substantiated with proper documentation. Matching dollars and/or in-kind labor are not required, but are considered favorably during proposal review and evaluation.
3. To maximize effectiveness of WSF \$, where applicable, proposals eligible for Pittman-Robertson 3:1 match should explain how P-R funds will be pursued or have been obtained.
4. WSF prefers to pay program/project expenditures from invoice(s) forwarded directly from vendors or indirectly via the Grantee.
5. Approved grants will be made available upon completion/execution of a WSF Grant Agreement. The WSF Grant Agreement will specify milestones (e.g., defined scope of work; WSF \$ commitment;

schedule for payment(s) of WSF \$; date for progress and/or completion report(s) and other deliverables [see #7, below] to be provided to WSF). If progress/completion reports and accompanying materials are not received within 60 days of identified milestone deadlines, the balance of awarded WSF funds may be forfeited by Grantee, at the discretion of WSF. WSF reserves the right to perform evaluations or inspections, prior to release of final payment.

6. WSF grant monies must be used within 12 months of completion/execution of a WSF Grant Agreement. If approved funds are not expended within that 12-month period, an extension request must be submitted to, and approved by, WSF. If an extension request is not received, that project may be considered cancelled at the discretion of WSF, and no additional WSF funds will be issued. Multi-year funding requests may be submitted, but will require special consideration to obligate multi-year commitment of WSF funds.
7. The following shall be sent to WSF within 60 days following project completion:
 - a. an electronic progress or completion report (≤ 4 pages in length)
 - b. an itemized list of expenses that account for total WSF funding
 - c. ≥ 6 high-quality digital photos showing project highlights, including a brief narrative for each picture
 - d. WSF specifically requests quality video footage of field projects (e.g., prescribed burns, wild sheep transplants, waterhole developments, etc)
8. If WSF funds are awarded, Grantee shall publicly acknowledge WSF participation. If a project involves signage (e.g., property acquisition, public access development, habitat enhancement, water development, etc.), or if project-related publications are produced, WSF shall be acknowledged for our financial support. An electronic copy of any article, thesis, dissertation, or other report acknowledging financial support of the project by WSF shall be provided to WSF.
9. If a GIA application is approved by WSF, before a WSF Grant Agreement is completed/executed, at least one applicant must be a member in good standing of WSF.

For further information on the WSF Grant-In-Aid program, please contact:

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