



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Wildlife Heritage Account Project Proposal Form

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Person Submitting Proposal/Project Manager: Mike Cox

Organization/Agency: Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)

Date: February 21, 2019

Address: 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste 120 **City:** Reno

State: NV **Zip Code:** 89511

Cell: _____ **Phone:** 775-688-1556

Email: mcox@ndow.org **Fax:** _____

NDOW Monitor (if the project would be managed by someone other than a NDOW employee):

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Bighorn Sheep Capture, Transplant and Monitoring Program

State Fiscal Year(s) Wildlife Heritage Account Funds are Needed: FY2020

Project Location: Statewide

Amount of Funds Requested from Heritage Account: \$110,000

Is a Project Map Attached? Yes No

(a map must include the project title, map scale, date map was created, and a north arrow)

Purpose of the Project:

Conduct 3 California Bighorn augmentations; complete test and removal project to recover a bighorn herd devastated by a pneumonia event; monitoring bighorn herds to collect critical data on herd health, pathogen profiles and level of risk to disease transmission to support NDOW's statewide disease surveillance and west-wide Disease Management Venture; assist with updating and documenting occupied habitat, home ranges, dispersal activities, and connectivity among herds to support public land decisions including military expansions; help to initiate an educational outreach program for school kids on bighorn sheep ecology, and support ongoing research.



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Detailed Description of Project (include any development plans such as vegetation removal, planting, seeding, or installation of structures; also include the schedule for obtaining any necessary permits, completing NEPA compliance, etc.):

Conduct California Bighorn augmentations to the South and North ends of McGee Mountain and to Negro Creek of Granite Range involving approximately 60 bighorn sheep, primarily ewes. Source stock to be used for these translocations includes: Sheep Creek Range, Jackson Mountains, Black Rock and possibly the Pine Forest Range. Pre-sampling for source herds would occur in the fall and captures for translocations would occur anytime from late fall through February 2020. Approximately 50 animals would be collared to monitor survival and home range establishment.

Follow through on the Snowstorm Mountain's California Bighorn Test and Removal Experiment to recover a herd from its 2011 disease event and chronic poor lamb survival. Two summers of positive lamb recruitment has been documented. This coming year, rams will be captured to confirm their pathogen status and lamb production and recruitment throughout the spring and summer will be documented. If information from these efforts is positive, an augmentation to recover the herd will be planned for late 2020.

NDOW is nearing its statewide completion of disease surveillance in all bighorn herds that was initiated in 2011. That effort also supports the WAFWA's Adaptive West Wide Wild Sheep Disease Management Venture (DMV) involving enhance monitoring of key herds exposed to *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* but with varied herd responses involving 1) no detected affect, 2) documented diseased event and recovery, and 3) prolonged poor lamb recruitment. This work allows for comparison and contrast of attributes of poor and good bighorn herd performance and help identify causative factors of why some herds respond differently to pathogen exposure. Animals will be captured, and standard pathogen sampling conducted. Samples will be tested at appropriate diagnostic labs and test results incorporated into statewide database. The following herds have yet to be sampled for pathogens: Jackson Mountains, Virginia Mountains, Virginia Range, Desert Range, Las Vegas Range, and Newberry Mountains.

Hope is to initiate an educational bighorn ecology outreach program for school kids in the Virginia Range. The project involves collaborating with the primary landowner, Blockchains, and Ryan Brock, the Wild Sheep Foundation's youth education coordinator. Capture and collaring animals for student to monitor both in the classroom and during field tours to learn and gain greater appreciation for our state animal.

The program also involves continued monitoring of past collars deployed statewide involving over 100 GPS collars on bighorn sheep that require monthly satellite data transmission costs or periodic aerial telemetry.

How Would this Project Help with "the protection, propagation, restoration, transplantation, introduction and management of any game fish, game mammal, game bird or fur-bearing mammal in this State; or the management and control of predatory wildlife in this State"? (See NRS 501.3575)

It is directly involved with the propagation, restoration, transplantation, and introduction of game mammals to the state of Nevada.



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Legal Description of the Property on Which the Proposed Project is to be Located (must include the property address, access roads, township, range and section):

The project involves multiple big game herds distributed widely across the state of Nevada on various public and private land jurisdictions.

How Does this Project Meet the Objectives of the Wildlife Heritage Program? (See NRS 501.3575)

It is directly involved with the propagation, restoration, transplanted, and introduction of game mammals to the state of Nevada.

Legal Description of the Property on Which the Proposed Project is to be Located (must include the property address, access roads, township, range and section):

The project involves multiple big game herds distributed widely across the state of Nevada on various public and private land jurisdictions.

Does this Project Have Additional Funding Sources Other than Your Wildlife Heritage Account Request? Yes No

Does this Project Involve Habitat Restoration and Improvement of a Long-term or Permanent Nature? Yes No

Please Describe in Detail the Reason Why You Need Wildlife Heritage Account Funding to Fund this Project:

A sizeable part of the annual donations that support the Heritage Trust Account come from the sale and auction of bighorn sheep tags that are the direct result of the highly successful Nevada bighorn sheep restoration program. From the tremendous growth of the transplant herds, comes a huge responsibility to actively manage these herds. Just like the purchase of a large tract of land for long-term conservation and wildlife values, you must conduct annual operating and maintenance.

There is too much of a sportsmen’s investment in past bighorn restoration projects to not continue to oversee responsible herd expansion and growth, better understand resource needs of the herds, minimize potential conflicts on public and private lands and lessen the probability of severe herd declines. This program has always been highly dependent on proceeds of special big game tags before and after the

creation of the Heritage Trust Account. It only makes sense that the very same dollar that is generated from the success of the bighorn restoration program be used to maintain it.

By understanding bighorn sheep herd disease transmission processes, herd responses to diseases, and evaluate management alternatives to protect and restore herds to sustainable levels, NDOW can better advocate with local and federal land management agencies appropriate land conservation and protection for the long-term survival of these herds. Consumptive and nonconsumptive use of bighorn sheep will



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

increase, benefiting not only the general public and sportsmen but local rural communities adjacent to these bighorn herds.

Project Duration: one year two years three years more

Estimated Start Date: July 1, 2019

Estimated End: June 30, 2020

PROJECT FUNDING

The funding breakdown below should cover the total funding needs of the project. While projects may be extended beyond the fiscal year for which money was awarded, such an extension must be due to unusual circumstances and be approved by the Wildlife Commission (see NAC 501.340). (Double click on the table to activate the embedded spreadsheet.)

1. Amount of Wildlife Heritage Account Cash Requested	\$ 110,000.00
2. Other Cash Funding Sources for this Project	
a. Various bighorn and wildlife conservation NGOs	\$ 55,000.00
b. BLM - Black Rock Field Office	\$ 21,000.00
c. NDOW's Federal Game Management Grant	\$ 40,000.00
d.	
e. Total Other Cash Funding Sources (lines a - d)	\$ 116,000.00
3. Donations or In-kind Services for this Project	
a. Volunteer Time and Travel	\$ 16,000.00
b. Equipment	
c. Materials	
d.	
e.	
f.	
g.	
h. Total Donations /In-kind Services (lines a - g)	\$ 16,000.00
4. Total Project Funding	\$ 242,000.00



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

PROJECT COSTS

The cost breakdown below should cover the total costs of the project you are seeking funding for. NOTE: THE HERITAGE ACCOUNT CANNOT BE USED TO PAY INDIRECT COSTS. (Double click on the table to activate the embedded spreadsheet.)

	Heritage Costs	All Other Costs
1. Land Acquisition		
2. Travel (NDOW travel costs can't be included)		
a. Per diem		\$ 5,000.00
b. Mileage		\$ 5,000.00
c. Total Travel Costs (lines a & b)	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
3. Equipment Items		
a.		
b.		
c.		
d. Total Equipment Costs (line a - c)	\$ -	\$ -
4. Materials		
a. GPS collars	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
b. Basecamp supplies, trailer maintenance, pathogen testing, fixed-wing flights	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
c. Satellite Data Transmission Costs	\$ 5,000.00	
d.		\$ -
e. Total Material Costs (lines a - d)	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 31,000.00
5. Miscellaneous Costs including Contractor Costs (if you will be using a contractor, include their name and list the specific services they will be providing)		
a. Quicksilver Air big game capture services	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
b. Volunteer labor at captures		\$ 6,000.00
c. NDOW Personnel Costs		\$ 40,000.00
d.		
e. Total Miscellaneous Costs (lines a - d)	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 91,000.00
6. Total Heritage Costs Only (add lines 1, 2c, 3d, 4e, and 5e)	\$ 110,000.00	
7. Total All Other Costs (add lines 1, 2c, 3d, 4e, and 5e)		\$ 132,000.00
8. Total Project Costs (add lines 6 & 7)	\$ 242,000.00	
(Note: total project funding from previous table must match total project costs)		



BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Are there going to be any Ongoing Costs for this Project? Yes No

Satellite Data Transmission Costs for GPS collars

If There will be Ongoing Costs Associated with this Project, is there an Anticipated Funding Source for These Costs? Yes No

Will submit another Heritage Project Proposal in FY2021 and garner support from NGOs

Do You Anticipate Needing Additional Wildlife Heritage Account Funds Beyond the Upcoming Fiscal Year? If So, Please Describe What Your Funding Requirements will be and for What Purposes (As noted above, extensions beyond the first fiscal year must be due to unusual circumstances and approved by the Wildlife Commission.):

A similar amount to what was requested this year will be requested next fiscal year.

How Will You Give Credit to the Wildlife Heritage Account and Other Funding Sources?

Press Releases, Facebook, NDOW publications, podcasts

Authorizing Signature: 

Review Date: 3-14-19