

BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

A call for proposals for research funding by the University of Wyoming Biodiversity institute

June 2017

The University of Wyoming's Biodiversity Institute (BI) fosters the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of biological diversity through research, education, and outreach. The success of the BI depends on close collaboration with units and faculty in the University of Wyoming. This solicitation is to fund University of Wyoming research to advance the core mission of the BI.

Proposals submitted for consideration under this solicitation must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Scientific investigation of the components, patterns, processes, or trends in the biological diversity of the Rocky Mountain region. This region is defined broadly as New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Arizona, and potentially encompasses portions of adjacent states.
- 2) Demonstrated relevance to conservation policy and land management in the Rocky Mountain Region, and a clear plan to engage such entities.
- 3) An innovative broader impacts and educational component.

Beyond these requirements, this solicitation places no constraint on the taxa, system, elements, or processes investigated by proposed projects.

Investigators wishing to inquire about the suitability of potential projects are encouraged to email a brief summary and contact information to Gary Beauvais (Beauvais@uwyo.edu) and Brian Barber (bbarber4@uwyo.edu).

Eligibility: All faculty and academic professional staff at the University of Wyoming are eligible as PI's for this competition. Proposals are expected to be submitted by project PIs or co-PIs. An individual may appear as PI, co-PI, or other senior personnel on only one proposal in response to this solicitation. If an individual is listed as PI, co-PI, or senior personnel on more than one proposal to this solicitation, all proposals in excess of the limit for any person will be returned without review in the reverse order received

Submission Deadline and Notification: Deliver full proposals via email to Dr. Brian Barber at bbarber4@uwyo.edu by 5 p.m. SMT, 20 July 2017. Notification of awards is expected by 15 September 2017.

Duration of Funded Projects: Funds will be available by October 2017 and must be expended by October 2019.

Estimated Amounts and Number of Awards: Awards are contingent on availability of funds and the quality of proposals. We anticipate 1-3 awards of \$25,000 - \$100,000 each.

Proposal Processing and Review: Proposals that meet the requirements set forth in this solicitation will be reviewed by a committee of two to five people from outside of the University of Wyoming who are recognized experts in the ecology and conservation of Rocky Mountain biota. The review committee will provide a description of the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal, and generally bin them into high-, medium-, and low-quality categories. BI faculty and staff will consider the reviewer's input, how the proposals align with the mission of the BI, and then make the final decision on awards.

Proposal Preparation and Format: All proposals are expected to include the following sections and content. All sections except *Special Information and Supplementary Documentation* and *Letters of Collaboration* should use font no smaller than Times 11 and 1" page margins.

Title: Title should begin with "Biodiversity Research: " followed by a substantive phrase.

Personnel: Clearly list the project PI or co-PIs, and Senior Personnel.

Project Summary: 1 page max. A standard brief outline or abstract.

Project Description: 3 pages max. Clearly present: the components, patterns, or processes of biological diversity to be investigated; the geography over which the work will be conducted; the primary research question to be addressed; the methods to be employed in the investigation; and the anticipated scientific outcomes and deliverables of the work (e.g., publications, specimen collections, graduate degrees, on-line database and tools).

Relevance to Management and Policy in the Rockies: 1 page max. Explain how the proposed project will inform priority questions and issues faced by resource managers and policy-makers. Ideally, proposals will reference research priorities and information gaps identified by authoritative third parties such as species working groups, conservation teams, or agency task forces.

Broader Impacts: 1 page max. Identify how the project will increase understanding of biodiversity, its conservation, or how it will foster its appreciation. An innovative broader impacts and educational component is required. It is strongly advised that submitters engage BI staff and faculty in discussions of the Broader Impacts section prior to submission.

Biographical Sketches: 2 pages maximum, each. Biographical sketches following the standard NSF format for all PIs or co-PIs and Senior Personnel.

Budget and Budget Justification: 1 page maximum. The committee will only consider proposals with clear, complete, well-justified, and itemized budgets. Budget tables are acceptable if each line or line-group is accompanied by a justification statement, or if the table as a whole is accompanied by a separate justification narrative that addresses each budget category. The Budget must include funds for the proposed Broader Impacts portion of the project. Matching funds are not required but are encouraged - please include the sources, total amount, and intended use of all matching funds, if applicable.

Special Information and Supplementary Documentation: Optional section; length as needed. Provide any necessary and applicable information such as letters of commitment from agencies, collecting permits, environmental impact statements, vertebrate animal care certificate, or MOUs with existing physical or digital collections.

Letters of Collaboration: Optional section; length as needed. Include letters of collaboration from individuals or organizations that will play an integral role in the proposed project. Such letters are strongly encouraged for projects involving multiple investigators from within and outside of the University of Wyoming.