Biodiversity Science and Conservation at The University of Wyoming
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PROGRAM SOLICITATION BI 15-1

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. SMT): September 22, 2015

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTSGeneral Information Program Title: **Biodiversity Research and Conservation Grants**

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 mission of the BI is dependent on its close collaboration with units and faculty in the University of Wyoming. This first call for faculty proposals aims to catalyze excellence in biodiversity research. We take a broad view of biodiversity research, and include all levels of analysis (genetic, phylogenetic, functional, and ecological) and encompass all taxa. Although the BI's focus is on Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain region, it aims to have a global reach. Hence our call for proposals does not have a regional constraint. Our first call for proposals will have two major, broad research themes/questions that we believe can help to inform major concerns of both global and regional importance. These themes are:

1) What is the effect of geographical/spatial variation on biological diversity? This theme includes the historical forces that generated geographic variation, the processes that sustain it currently, and the consequences of spatial variation in human impacts across landscapes.

and

2) How does the distribution and quantity of water (an increasingly scarce resource) affect biodiversity, processes that generate and maintain biodiversity, and what are the consequences of human freshwater use for biodiversity? This theme will link the institute with our expertise in the biological and physical sciences at the University of Wyoming.

Categories of funding grants include (but are not restricted to):

- Seed money for especially novel creative or risky projects that have the potential to provide exceptional pay-back.

- Seed money for novel projects that have the potential of receiving external funding if supported by the preliminary data leveraged by a BI grant.

- Complement funding that will serve to enhance in a qualitative, rather than incremental, fashion an already existing project.

- Outreach projects that are compatible with the BI's mission and vision. Although all funded projects will require the implementation of strong broader impacts, we will consider projects in which the emphasis from research to outreach and education varies. Some projects will be primarily about research, whereas others might emphasize outreach/education as their main foci.

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Investigators wishing to inquire about the suitability of potential projects for this call for proposals are encouraged to email a brief summary and contact information to Carlos Martinez del Rio (cmdelrio@uwyo.edu) AND Brian Barber (bbarber4@uwyo.edu).

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Estimated Number of Awards: Awards are contingent on availability of funds and the quality of proposals. Anticipated Funding Amount: $150,000/this call for proposals. We envision, a single proposal for up to $50,000, and several others for up to $25,000.

Eligibility InformationWho May Submit Proposals: All faculty and academic professional staff at the University of Wyoming.

Who May Serve as PI: There are no restrictions or limits.

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI: An individual may appear as Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, or other senior personnel on only one proposal per semester cycle submitted 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.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions*Full Proposals:* Full Proposals submitted via email to bbarber4@uwyo.edu*Budgetary Information and Matching Funds Requirements:* Inclusion of matching funds is not required but encouraged.Due Dates Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. Mountain Time): September 22, 2015.

Proposal Title:

Titles of proposals submitted to the Biodiversity Grants Program should begin with "Biodiversity Research: .... " followed by the substantive title.

Project Summary:

The one-page Project Summary must separately address Intellectual Merit, and Broader Impacts.

Project Description:

Max 5 pages, Font size cannot be smaller than Times 11, and page margins must be 1" on all sides. Proposals that do not satisfy these requirements will be returned. For all proposals, the project description must include details about why the work represents an innovative approach to biodiversity research, outreach or education. This section must identify about how the work will increase understanding of biodiversity, its conservation, or how it will foster its appreciation. We encourage PI's to consult with BI staff to design broader impacts. Broader impacts that promote the Institute's Educational/Outreach goals will be evaluated favorably.

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Biographical Sketches (up to two pages each): Biographical sketches following the standard NSF format, should be submitted for all PIs, co-PIs, and Senior Personnel.

Budget and Budget Justification: The committee will only consider a complete and well-justified itemized budget. Please thoroughly justify each category of your budget. For example Senior Personnel Salary/Wages/Benefits, Equipment, Travel, Expendables, Workshops, Student Stipends etc. Please include the sources and total of matching funds when applicable. There is no required format for the budget. Please include a 15% overhead.

Special Information and Supplementary Documentation: Provide information such as letters of collaboration, foreign counterpart agency letters of commitment, collecting permits, environmental impact statement, and other items. Include letters of commitment and other materials (such as the vertebrate animal care certificate, if applicable, or Memoranda of Understanding with existing collections for maintenance and archiving of voucher specimens and digitized images).

Letters of Collaboration: This section may include letters of collaboration from individuals or organizations that will play an integral role in the proposed project (e.g., individuals or organizations who will provide materials, data, or analytical capabilities). We strongly encourage collaborative projects with researchers within and outside of the University of Wyoming.

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BI PROPOSAL PROCESSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Proposals received must meet BI requirements for review. All proposals will be reviewed by two to five people outside the University of Wyoming either as ad hoc reviewers, panelists, or both, who are experts in the particular fields represented by the proposal. Proposers are invited to suggest names of persons they believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal and/or persons they would prefer not review the proposal. These suggestions may serve as one source in the reviewer selection process. *PIs need to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts of interest with the PIs*. Reviewers will be asked for a brief statement of conflict of interest. BI faculty and staff will not have a vote in the selection process.

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Merit Review Principles and Criteria

All BI projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance biodiversity science. In addition, BI projects, should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals, i.e., the application or dissemination of discoveries to advance public knowledge or welfare. These "Broader Impacts" may be accomplished through activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. The project activities may be based on previously established and/or innovative methods and approaches, but in either case must be well justified. Meaningful assessment and evaluation of BI funded projects should be based on appropriate metrics, keeping in mind the likely correlation between the effect of broader impacts and the resources provided to implement projects. PIs are expected to be accountable for carrying out the activities described in the funded project. Thus, individual projects should include clearly stated goals and timeline, specific descriptions of the activities that the PI intends to do, and a plan in place to document the outputs of those activities.

When evaluating BI proposals, reviewers will be asked to consider 1) what the proposers want to do, 2) why they want to do it, 3) how they plan to do it, 4) how they will know if they succeed, and 5) what benefits could accrue if the project is successful. These issues apply both to the technical aspects of the proposal and the way in which the project may make broader contributions. Reviewers will be asked to evaluate all proposals against two criteria: **Intellectual Merit**: The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge, and **Broader Impacts**: The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes. The following elements should be considered in the review for both criteria: 1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding (Intellectual Merit); and b. What is the potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)? 2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts? 3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success? 4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities? 5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Finally, reviewers will be asked to consider favorably proposals that have obtained or are seeking matching funds.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATIONNotification of the Award: Notification of the award will be made to the submitting PI by BI staff. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided to the Principal Investigator.

Reporting Requirements: Annual and final reports of projects awarded by the BI should describe activities of the entire effort. As a condition of funding, any digitized data and/or digital media (e.g., images, audio files) of voucher material from this project must be made available. All data will be made publicly available pending a blackout period determined collaboratively by the BI and PIs/For all, the Principal Investigator must submit an annual project report to the BI at least 30 days after to the end of the current budget period. Failure to provide the required annual or final project reports, or the project outcomes report, will eliminate the possibility of any future funding by the BI. Annual reports must provide information on accomplishments, project participants (individual and organizational), publications, and other specific products and impacts of the project. The BI will provide a template for the submission of reports. Submission of the report constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete. The project outcomes report also must be prepared and submitted. This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the public, of the nature and outcomes of the project. This report will be posted on the BI website exactly as it is submitted by the PI. In addition to the annual report the PI/s must work with the BI to generate brief updates (summaries and photos) of their progress throughout the terms of the grant. These updates will be disseminated on BI web and social media outlets.

Grant Dates: Grants are for one year and should begin between 1 November 2015 – 1 November 2016