



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Biodiversity
Institute

Novel Outreach & Education Grants

Announced April 27, 2021

The Biodiversity Institute seeks proposals for exceptionally innovative approaches to science outreach, engagement and education, because successful conservation of biological diversity requires the support of an informed and actively engaged public.

We seek to fund proposals that may be **deployed virtually** and are **closely tied to places and communities in Wyoming**, especially those beyond Laramie. Proposals must include a description of how the project is connected to place, and how the project will engage the local community.

Maximum amount of the award is \$10,000 for one year. We anticipate funding several proposals.

The Novel Outreach Grant Program supports projects that:

- communicate and advocate the need for scientific knowledge of how biodiversity is generated, maintained and restored, and impacts ecosystem services and human well-being,
- connect Wyoming communities to, and are based on, on-going UW research,
- use novel, risky, and potentially high impact approaches to reach a non-scientific audience.

Successful projects will:

- closely tie outreach and education to UW-led biodiversity research and conservation,
- be interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary, incorporating best practices from relevant disciplines,
- likely to reach and impact audiences that are either underrepresented in STEM or are neutral or hostile to biodiversity research and conservation,
- include a compelling assessment of proposed outreach and education goals,
- be likely to become part of future grant proposals to any outside funding, with clear logic and a plan for such potential inclusion.

Eligibility:

- Grants are available for teams that include UW faculty, students, academic professionals and staff. At least one UW member must be actively involved in biodiversity research. Teams may include off-campus collaborators.
- Undergraduate or graduate student applicants must be enrolled and in good standing at the University of Wyoming at the time the award is made.
- Applications led by students must identify a UW faculty sponsor/advisor who has active status and is readily available to provide guidance to the student.

Award Details:

- Grants are for one year, beginning July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2022.
- Funding may be used for research, production, assessment and installation expenses (professional services, supplies, travel to work sites, materials, permitting, etc.)
- If justified, students may include summer stipend. Faculty salaries are not acceptable expenditures. Use of funds for conference travel is not encouraged, but may be considered in some cases with compelling justification.
- Awardees are required to conduct a novel and innovative public presentation of their work, which must include a strong virtual component and occur in at least one Wyoming community outside of Laramie. A detailed description of this presentation, its place(s) and timing should be included in the proposal under deliverables. Presentations that successfully integrate different mediums and tools (e.g. video, hands-on interactions, virtual reality) and their assessment are preferred.
- We encourage the submission of blogs, video clips, and other materials that describe the creative process, which can be used in the Biodiversity Institute's website and social media.

Proposal Requirements:

- The proposal must follow the format provided at [wyomingbiodiversity.org/novel outreach grants](http://wyomingbiodiversity.org/novel_outreach_grants), and must be submitted as a single pdf file to biodiversity@uwyo.edu.
- Proposals must be limited to five pages of text including the budget justification and use the format described below.
- In the case of student applicants, a letter of recommendation from a faculty sponsor indicating that a) the student is in good standing, and b) the faculty member is willing and able to provide guidance as well as any resources required to fulfill the project. The letter must come directly from the sponsor and should be submitted to biodiversity@uwyo.edu.

Proposal format:

- **Proposal title:**
- **Author(s) name & affiliation:**
- **Email address and Phone of Principle Investigator:**
- **Requested amount:**
- **Objective of the project:**
- **Background and rationale:**
- **Methods, timeline and deliverables:**
- **Assessment objectives and methods:**
- **Itemized budget:** including any leveraged funds (leveraged funds are not required).
- Images that convey the project and its novelty are encouraged and should be included in the five page proposal. Links to portfolios or other materials are welcome and are not included in the page limits.

Proposal review:

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of Biodiversity Institute Staff, UW faculty that have not submitted a proposal, and a member of the Wyoming public with a strong interest in biodiversity research, outreach and communication. Committee members will rank proposals using a rubric constructed from the bullets of this Request For Proposals.

Deadline for submission:

Applications must be received by 5:00 pm MST May 21, 2021. Receipt of proposals will be acknowledged by email. Decisions will be made and notification delivered by June 18, 2021.

Questions are encouraged and may be addressed to the Biodiversity Institute, biodiversity@uwo.edu.