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Blaine County  
Fiscal Year 2024  
External Organizations Budget Request

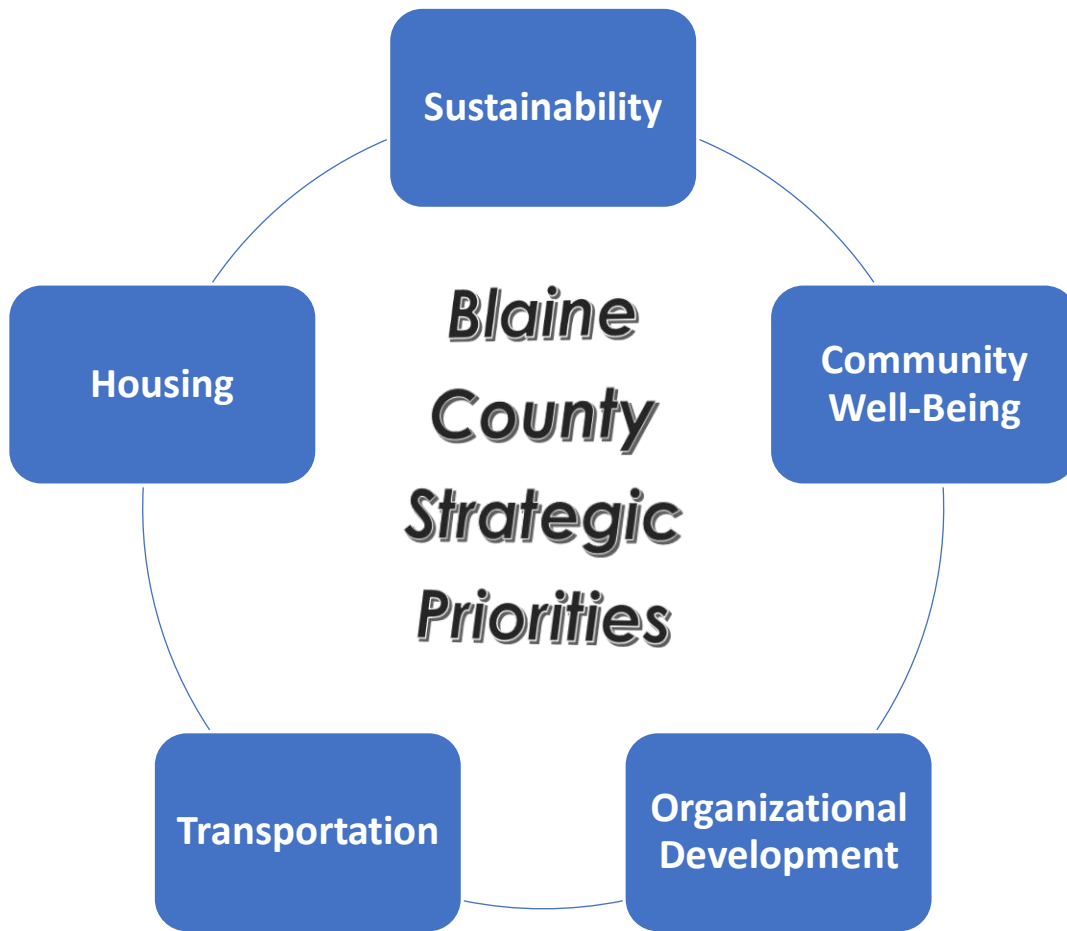
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Prepared by:  
Blaine County Administrator's Office  
May 1, 2023

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**FY24 Strategic Priorities**

Each budget request for FY24 should directly correlate to at least one of the FY24 Strategic Priorities. All funding requests and approvals will be weighed against how they align with the Strategic Priorities.



**General Information**

**Organization: The International Wildlife Coexistence Network/Wood River Wolf Project**

**Budget Contact Person: Suzanne Asha Stone**

**Organization Profile**

**Organization Mission**

*The International Wildlife Coexistence Network provides expert interdisciplinary assistance, training, collaboration, and shared research to enable communities around the globe to coexist with wildlife. The Wood River Wolf Project is IWCN’s primary demonstration study to test and implement nonlethal deterrents to protect livestock from native carnivore predation and minimize loss of native carnivores due to conflicts with livestock.*

**Operational Description**

*The IWCN is the fiscal agent for the Wood River Wolf Project, which operates solely within Blaine County. 2023 is the Project’s 16<sup>th</sup> year of providing nonlethal, proactive assistance to livestock producers to help them protect their animals from predation by wolves, bears, mountain lions, and coyotes. The Project hires and trains field personnel to provide nonlethal tools and methods to livestock producers in the Big Wood area on national Forest Service and BLM lands. Our Project’s success is unmatched across the region resulting on less than 5 sheep losses a year out of 20,000 – 25,000 grazed annual in this area and only two wolves killed due to livestock conflicts in the first 15 years of the Project. This is the lowest loss of sheep and wolves where these species overlap on mountainous public lands in Idaho. As a result, we reduce livestock predation and eliminate lethal control of wolves in the Project Area. Our seasonal field staff work with five sheep producers and their sheep herders who graze 8-10 bands of sheep on Forest Service lands. We provide training and equipment to the herders. Lights, noise, livestock guardian dogs, and human presence are the primary ways in which wolves are scared away from sheep.*

**Organizational Structure**

*Include a current organizational chart that highlights any new FTEs that were added the last FY and highlights in a different color any new FTEs being requested in the upcoming FY.*

There are no new positions for FY 2023, just a replacement of new field technicians.

	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>
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<b>WOOD RIVER WOLF PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS</b>	Suzanne Asha Stone, Co-Founder and Project Lead	Suzanne Asha Stone, Co-Founder and Project Lead
	Sarah Michael, Community Outreach Coordinator	Larry Schoen, Community Outreach Coordinator
	Logan Miller, Lead Field Technician	Maxwell McDaniel, Field Technician
	Lane Justice, Field Technician	Christina Contreras, Field Technician
	Mary Austin Crofts, Community Outreach coordinator	Allison Miller, web and newsletter support

## **FY23 Fiscal Year Review**

### **FY23 Performance Metrics**

*(Provide a bulleted list of at least 3 performance metrics - Note – going forward these should be reported on year-over-year as well as a history of this data)*

- Maintain low loss of sheep, wolves, and other native carnivores.
- Collect data on current predation loss rates to document the results of the Project’s deterrent strategies during the 2024 field season.
- Expand the number of community partners supporting and managing the Wood River Wolf Project through local outreach and community events.
- Use our website and social media outlets to reach more supporters. We strive to have a greater percentage of our operating funds come from non-institutional donors.
- Refine our development and fundraising plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Project. Apply for additional institutional grants and increase our effectiveness at individual donor solicitation.

### **FY23 Fiscal Year Highlights**

*(Provide a bulleted list of three to five highlights from FY23 – should tie directly to budget requests and approvals from current FY and how the budget approvals help(ed) your organization achieve your metrics)*

- Highlight 1: We collected data including locations of wolves killed and sheep or cattle killed by wolves adjacent to the Project Area from the USDA Wildlife Services and number of sheep present during the active WRWP project annual operations from USDA Forest Service. We are measuring the cost of nonlethal measures used and the cost of lethal control of wolves as part of a graduate study on these economic issues.

- Highlight 2: We helped educate and influence communities in Idaho and beyond on how to successfully implement nonlethal tools to prevent livestock depredation by providing presentations at the local library, NGO and neighborhood meetings, state, regional, national and international conferences including the national Wildlife Society Annual conference and the International Wildlife Coexistence Conference.
- Highlight 3: We have continued to enhance community support and awareness of ranching and conservation coexistence practices through personal contacts, newsletters, news articles, and local media engagement including Eye on Sun Valley and the Trailing of the Sheep festival.

### **FY23 Other Highlights**

*(Provide any other highlights and updates from FY23)*

- **Highlight 1:** Continue to use our progressive research to incorporate into messaging at high profile events, local community gatherings, the ranching community, pursue continued partnerships with Blaine County commissioners and the U.S. Forest Service.

### **FY24 Fiscal Year Budget Request Highlights**

#### **Requested Resources and Associated Costs**

*(Identify any significant budget requests and applicable information to support the requests. Explain how the requests will support increased performance of the above identified performance metrics.)*

- People; Facilities; Equipment; Programming Costs; Other Requested Resources
  - People/Programming Costs
  - The grant opportunity would help to fund our field technicians' compensation for the 2024 season which includes:
    - Collection and assessment of wolf data in the Blaine County region.
    - Partnerships with local ranching communities on successful nonlethal methods to prevent livestock depredation without lethal control of wildlife/wolves.
    - Educating local communities and leveraging global awareness platforms including the International Wildlife Coexistence Network to share the Project's success stories, methodologies, tools, and more who are experiencing conflict with wildlife.

- Identify which **Strategic Priority** this request will help support:
  - To promote the County's fiscal management objective of *using citizen and taxpayer resources efficiently and effectively*. By training herders and providing them with nonlethal tools, we are reducing the need for a full response team (up to five paid staff members in the early years of the Project). We have two paid staff working full time on a seasonal basis for the Project due to our more streamlined approach.

As noted above, support from Blaine County influences funding decisions made by foundations and federal agencies. It is an important sign of local support for the Project and helps the Steering Committee and Project staff fundraise more effectively. The Project goals also advance four of the County's public policy objectives:

- Respect the whole community and its diverse parts and interests.

The Blaine County based Wood River Wolf Project respects both the needs of ranchers, including the need to protect their livelihood, and the desire of many residents to protect wildlife.

- Enact policies and programs to conserve wildlife.

Successful deployment of nonlethal deterrents directly reduces wolf mortality. These nonlethal co-existence techniques address the concerns of residents that wildlife is ethically managed.

- Sustain the county's high quality of life.

Residents and tourists value the presence of wildlife as part of their experience in Blaine County.

- Promulgate appropriate inter-governmental cooperative action.

This Project promotes a collaborative, team approach to local wildlife issues and has been heralded nationally for its unique and effective problem-solving approach. It provides leadership reflecting the goals and values of the entire Blaine County community while respecting diverse interests and heritages. It helps sustain the quality of life by preserving both wildlife and agricultural interests. The Project partners include state, county, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, livestock producers, academic researchers, and wildlife enthusiasts.

### **Financial Perspective**

- Create an organization and organizational culture of fiscal stability which—
  - Uses citizen and taxpayer resources efficiently and effectively.
  - Ensures fiscal stability.
  - Considers fully the costs and benefits of each expense or cut.
  - Balances its budget.
  - Is prepared for unforeseen events not otherwise reflected in budget planning with sufficient contingency reserves.
  - Plans and prepares for capital improvements and repairs in order to maintain and protect county facilities for the future.
  - Promulgates appropriate inter-governmental cooperative action.
  - Employs accounting best practices.
  - Takes time to assess risk and incorporate risk management appropriately into its decision making.
  - Utilizes transparent and repeatable budget process.

### **Customer Perspective**

- Create an organization and organizational culture which—
  - Recognizes the federal and state constitutional and statutory environment.
  - Models excellent government, promulgates county performance standards, performance measurement and re-evaluation.
  - Plans, prepares and responds to economic, social and environmental change.

### **Learning and Growth Perspective**

- Create an organization and organizational culture that provides—
  - Leadership reflecting the goals and values of the entire Blaine County community.
  - Is unified in its sense of purpose.
  - Exhibits good morale.
  - Promotes a collaborative, team approach to issues and problem solving.
  - Maintains a strong ethical foundation.
  - Engages in excellent intra- and inter-departmental communication.
  - Provides a desirable, responsive work environment.

- Optimizes employee training and improvement opportunities.
- Strives for consistency.
- Sets clear employee performance and evaluation standards and upholds them.
- Strives to exceed expectations.
- Is equipped, trained and very well prepared to protect public safety and health.

**Public Policy Perspective**

- Create an organization and organizational culture which—
  - Respects the whole community and its diverse parts and interests.
  - Honors the county’s heritage.
  - Is mindful of its own legacy, enacts policies and programs to:
    - Serve all socio-economic groups,
    - Sustain the county’s high quality of life,
    - Conserve our natural environment, including wildlife and significant, varied natural resources,
    - Enhance public health, safety and welfare,
    - Promote economic vitality,
  - Participants in improving Idaho’s constitutional and statutory environment when its warranted.

**FY24 Fiscal Year Anticipated Highlights**

**FY24 Anticipated Projects, Performance and Highlights**

*(Provide a bulleted list of at least 3 anticipated highlights based upon budget requests or anticipated projects.)*

- Maintain low sheep predation and increase the types of nonlethal deterrents that we utilize in the field to determine their efficacy and best manner of deployment, as we have done in the past.
- Engender greater acceptance of proactive, nonlethal deterrents by ranchers and distribute equipment to most/all of the sheep bands in the Project Area.
- Exceed the number of outreach engagements in Blaine County, in Idaho, in the American West (such as Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and California) that are



struggling to define their stance and evolve their regulations re wolf management, including co-existence in general and nonlethal control, and internationally.