

COCEEC Fall 2007 Grant Application

Name of Group (and the sponsoring COCEEC Participant group if different): The Glacier Institute.

Contact Information:

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The Glacier Institute

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Amount Requested: \$750.00 for educational trunk materials and staff funding

Would you be able to receive partial funding? Yes

1. Describe the program or project for which this funding would be used and how it promotes understanding and/ or conservation within the Crown of the Continent ecosystem.

The Glacier Institute, a private non-profit organization, serves adults and children as an educational leader in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem through field-based learning experiences, requests funding to further implement and develop our outreach program, launched fall 2007, to Missoula and Flathead Valley schools. The outreach program, led by the Institute's Big Creek Outdoor Education Center's Program Director and staff, takes Big Creek programming into schools that do not have the opportunity to participate in Big Creek's Discovery School, either due to financial constraints or transportation issues. The program provides middle school science classes with a choice of two 1 1/2 hour programs, either "Bears & You" or "Crown of the Continent" power point programs that also include hands-on activities for students and a program evaluation for instructors. The outreach program is free to participating schools and provides students with an understanding of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem. To date, the program has entered classrooms the Flathead Valley, including Ruder Elementary and 5th grade classrooms in Missoula and has received excellent reviews. The classroom presentations meet current Montana content standards in science.

We are requesting \$750.00 in project funding to purchase materials to create a "Crown of the Continent" educational trunk to enhance the existing power point program as well as to help fund staff to implement and present the program. The funds will also allow for staff to create hands-on activities related to the "Crown of the Continent" digital program that will be made available on-line for educators.

The project will promote understanding and conservation within the Crown of the Continent ecosystem because both classroom presentations are focused on the ecology, history, biodiversity and culture importance of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem.

Also, it is the Glacier Institute's mission to emphasize field based learning experiences, the Institute provides an objective and science-based understanding of the area's ecology and it's interaction with people. Through this non-advocacy approach to outdoor education, participants can be better prepared to make informed and constructive decisions, which impact this and other ecosystems.

2. January-March 2008: Creation of "Crown of the Continent" educational trunk and classroom activities

March-June/September- December 2008: Classroom presentations to schools in Missoula and the Flathead Valley but not limited to other schools throughout Montana.

3. The program and trunk would be available for use by the Flathead Community of Resource Educators (CORE) active members, including Glacier National Park, Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center, Flathead National Forest, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and many other organizations that want to utilize our educational programs.

4. his project, in conjunction with the many field-based programs offered by the Glacier Institute, will help promote learning in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem to middle schools students in Northwest Montana. The outreach project will involve students, teachers, and other educational agencies in enhancing classroom curriculum. Also, the creation of the Crown of the Continent education trunk will enhance the existing educational trunks available through Flathead CORE. The outreach program encourages collaboration between Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park, as these two agencies are the classrooms for the Glacier Institute and our students, in addition to being educational partners with the Institute.

5. The current outreach program was funded by a grant through Qwest Foundation at \$9,900 and the funding lasts until December 31, 2007. Our hope is continue outreach by reapplying to the Qwest Foundation for funding in 2008. We have begun the grant application process with Qwest to continue funds for 2008.