

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Pullman, Washington 99164-6630
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
 (or Location of Position if Type III): 3003 ADBF, ADRU-ARS-USDA-PWA, 3005 ADBF, Washington State University, Pullman WA 99164-6630
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: Moderate Priority High Priority Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

Type I Shortage: Private Practice
 Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area
 Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

May cover

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other: _____

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
 Employer: ARS-USDA-PWA Position Title: Veterinary Medical Officer

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: Infectious diseases of livestock,

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objective of the veterinarian filling this position will be to find research based solutions to infectious disease transmission between livestock and wildlife. Specifically, this position will work toward solutions for the domestic-bighorn sheep infectious disease interface problem. Infectious diseases at the livestock – wildlife interface are a major issue in terms of livestock production and grazing in the United States. The recent and ongoing discussions and decisions concerning grazing on public lands will have everlasting impact on the economies of farmers and the production of affordable food for human consumption.

There is a marked shortage of DVMs with research (PhD) training in infectious diseases of livestock and wildlife. These are training requirements needed by the veterinarian filling this position. Also relevant is the rural location of this position in Pullman, WA, allowing for the veterinarian filling this position to have access to a research facility while being within regional proximity to the public livestock grazing lands being impacted by the domestic – bighorn sheep interface issue.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The veterinarian in this position will work directly with local and regional stakeholders to assure research based, common sense solutions are found to mitigate the loss of livestock grazing lands due to infectious disease transmission issues between livestock and wildlife, specifically domestic and bighorn sheep; thus protecting the well-being of livestock producers. The veterinarian must be able to perform, evaluate and interpret peer-reviewed research and communicate the findings to stockholders and livestock producers.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

We have sought to recruit a veterinarian trained in infectious disease research with specialization in domestic - wildlife interface through many avenues. Our last search resulted in multiple inquires and interviews with little final interest and/or qualifications. A major concern is the ability of the veterinarian to pay back student loans that were acquired during veterinary medical training and continued to accumulate interest during PhD training. The financial sacrifice that made by the veterinarian to obtain additional training in research (PhD) is high, therefore limiting the number of qualified candidates for this position.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

The risk of this veterinarian position not being secured lies in further loss of livestock public grazing lands in the west without scientific based, logical solutions identified. Livestock public grazing land allotment permits continue to be removed each year due to litigation and resource management decisions that are based on preliminary risk assessment models, anecdotal field reports, and incomplete experimental data that imply domestic sheep to be a primary risk to the health of bighorn sheep populations. The restrictions have already resulted in economically devastating consequences to the sheep industry in the western United States. It is estimated that 48% of domestic sheep in the United States spend time on public lands. The economic impact of 48% the United States' sheep production is estimated at \$1.3 billion dollars annually, including farm gate and additional supported meat and textile economic activity.

Further risk of not securing a veterinarian for this position lies in the environmental impact imposed by a population-limiting pneumonic disease phenomenon that threatens bighorn sheep populations in the western United States. While tremendous resources have been utilized over the last 5 decades to protect and maintain wild bighorn sheep populations in the western United States and additional resources have been spent on 3 decades of research, population-limiting pneumonia in bighorn sheep still remains incompletely understood.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

Box containing a percentage symbol (%).

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

- Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week
Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week
Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

- By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.
By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Don Knowles, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Title: Research Leader

Organization: Agricultural Research Service

Email: Don.Knowles@ars.usda.gov or dknowles@vetmed.wsu.edu

Telephone Number: 509-335-6022 or 509-595-2072 (Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGF, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Information Collection Approval No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013