 The Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties	<b>S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund</b> <b>Grant Evaluation Form</b>
<b>Grant Period: February, 2012- January 31, 2013</b>	<b>February 15, 2013</b>

Organization: Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery

Contact Name: Jill Dreves

Title: Executive Director

Phone Number: 303-258-0495

Grant Period: February, 2012-January 31, 2013

Award Amount: \$30,000

Grant Number: 2012014

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.
  - 1) **To provide high quality, educational and affordable opportunities for youth to connect with and to understand the natural world in their own backyard when school is not in session.**  
 Wild Bear Center has had a very successful year and thanks the S.L. Gimbel Foundation for contributing to this success! Wild Bear Center served: 3,074 children through 307 programs provided throughout the year: after school, on days off from school and during the summer. Currently, 65% of participants in Wild Bear Center's after school are low income (Federally Identified Free and Reduced Lunch participants) and receive a scholarship to attend Wild Bear's after school programs. This number continues to grow and Wild Bear Center is very proud of its ability to provide so many disadvantaged families with this support.

Wild Bear Center's summer enrollment continues to grow and we continue to receive great feedback through our parent evaluations. Programs focus on Nederbugs (for children entering Kindergarten), Mountain Rangers (6-7 year olds who are the stewards of Mud Lake), and Wild Naturalists (for 8-10 year olds, heading out to local trailheads to study the mountain ecosystems). We are thrilled to have returning staff each year who bring outstanding experience to the programs.

**2) To continue to offer teen workshops year round:**

Wild Bear Center provided 34 programs to 226 teens this year with the support of the S.L. Gimbel Foundation. During the school year, Wild Bear Center was able to achieve the "Teen Water Science" program in collaboration with Chinook West Alternative High School where students met 1-2 times/week to take water samples from Middle Boulder Creek, meet with scientists to test samples and sent data to the River Watch team through the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Students also met with local watershed scientists to learn about the watershed and also created posters and displays for the public to learn about this very important topic. During the summer months, teens participated in weekly Fly Fishing workshops with professional fly fishing guides, weekly clay workshops where they replicas of local wildflowers, birds, etc and weekly Primitive Skills workshops where they studied survival skills.

- 3) **To continue to expand and develop free and fee-based workshops for adults and families in the new space in downtown Nederland.** Wild Bear Center provided 72 programs and served 1,090 people through it's Adult and Family Workshop Series. These programs included weekly "Bear Cubs" parent/child workshops held at Mud

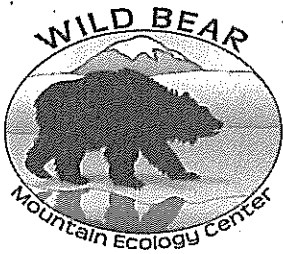
Lake as well as evening and weekend programs such as "Weather and Climate", "Mountain Grasshoppers", Snowshoe tours (4), Wild Herbal Walks and more. Wild Bear Center also held two very successful events, Enchanted Forest and Wild Earth Day where a total of 1,800 people of all ages from throughout the region visited Wild Bear for a full day of educational programming.

4)

- **What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?**

Wild Bear experienced a challenge with developing Teen group during the school year because of scheduling challenges with Nederland Middle Senior High School. As for most public schools their school day is organized through 45 minute blocks. This made it too challenging to pull students out of class to test the creek and to meet with scientists, etc. It took us some time to research other possible groups, including the Watershed School (a private school in Boulder) as well as the local Teen's Inc's Chinook West Alternative High School. We solved the challenge by collaborating with Chinook West and enjoyed a small group of teens who engaged in high-level water science. What an amazing applied learning experience and this small group really benefitted from the program with such personalized attention with the project!

- **Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.**  
We really saw a lot of growth in our youth programs as well as with our Adult and Family workshop series. We also are very happy with the increased participation of low income families in our programs.
- **Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.** Funds secured through the S.L. Gimbel Foundation have truly assisted Wild Bear Center in its growth and development as a nature center in downtown Nederland. Wild Bear Center was housed at Nederland Elementary School prior to opening the Center downtown and now is the only non-profit nature center in Boulder County. Wild Bear has been able to offer more scholarships as well as many free or nominal fee based adult and family workshops building a solid constituency for the vision of the nature center.
- **Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.**
  - 1) We are so proud of the development of our after school program and its increase in numbers. Every Monday children engage in hands-on science experiments about weather, food, water, etc. Tuesdays are "Community Day" where the children participate in a "Do One Thing (D.O.T.)" program. They are D.O.T. agents where they have interviewed businesses and individuals in the community about recycling, energy, etc. and have worked to educate the public about how we can have less impact on the earth. On Wednesdays Wild Bears are engaged in art/science integration where they created beautiful "banner" coverings for the recycling bins at the post office and are currently working with a local water color artist for 3 consecutive Wednesdays to paint nature art. Every Thursday is Clay day where they create beautiful works of art such as the "Owl" project where they learned about Owls and then created beautiful Owls to hang at home. And every Friday is Mountain Rangers where the Wild Bears study various seasonal changes in the mountains. It's no wonder that our numbers are growing with the visibility of being downtown and all of the children so engaged in the community in such positive activities when school is not in session.
  - 2) Last summer's programs for children were absolutely outstanding and this is largely due to the support of the S.L. Gimbel Foundation. Nederbugs (for ages 5-6 entering Kindergarten) enjoyed every day with a returning staff member with over 25 years' experience working with this age group. She also is a volunteer naturalist with Boulder County Parks and Open Space and really contributes so much to the positive experiences of the Nederbugs during the summer. They are engaged in studies about beavers, bugs, plants, water, etc and all topics are integrated with art and literature. The Mountain Rangers (for ages 6-7) head up to Mud Lake Open Space (where Wild



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Founded in 1995, Wild Bear is a tax exempt nonprofit offering year round, hands on educational programs to people of all ages in order to foster a lifelong appreciation of the environment and to promote an environmentally aware, responsible and ecologically sound community.

[www.wildbear.org](http://www.wildbear.org)

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February 13, 2012

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Board of Trustees  
c/o Celia Cudiamat, Vice President of Grant Programs  
3700 Sixth Street, Suite 200  
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear honorable Trustees,

Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery wishes to thank you for your generous support. With your support, Wild Bear has seen a steady increase in all of its environmental education programs serving thousands of people of all ages through hundreds of programs throughout the year.

Please find our 2012-13 grant evaluation form (emailed 2/13/13) as well as two brochures highlighting our successful public programming. Your support has made a wonderful difference, especially for disadvantaged families in our community.

Thank you again and please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jill Dreves, Executive Director  
Wild Bear Center for Nature Discovery