

## Intellectual Merit Criterion

### Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Very Good

### Explanation to Applicant

This is an excellent student who has distinguished herself in many ways during her undergraduate career. Her academic record and extracurricular activities were all outstanding and will prepare her well for a career in science.

Her personal essay is very thoughtful and reflective and explains her pathway to the present. She indicates good involvement in teaching-related and outreach activities, and seems to understand the need for this type of "broader impacts" activity.

She has had considerable involvement with a number of different research projects, and was able to complete a BS honors thesis and presented a poster at a scientific meeting. Given the extensive involvement with research, I was hoping for more in the way of tangible products like presentations at professional meetings and/or publications.

The proposal was very well written. Good background information to set up the problem, followed up with several specific objectives and hypotheses. The proposal also included good explanations of the potential scientific merit of this work.

## Broader Impacts Criterion

### Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Good

### Explanation to Applicant

The applicant did a very nice job of explaining the importance of her work to the broader scientific community. Although she did have some involvement with teaching and outreach activities as an undergrad, her plans to continue this in the current proposal were not as well developed as they could have been.

## Intellectual Merit Criterion

### Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Excellent

### Explanation to Applicant

The applicant has an outstanding academic record. Her background in anthropology will be quite useful in the proposed project. The applicant's background in field research in North American pikas and with wolves has given her the research expertise needed in this project. The applicant appears to have the connections needed to carry out the research in China. She has provided a research plan with more than adequate specifics. She has extensive experience working with others as well as independently, and she has had experience communicating research findings.

## Broader Impacts Criterion

### Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Good

### Explanation to Applicant

The applicant specifically addresses how her research will benefit members of the indigenous society where her project will take place. It is unclear how this work will integrate research and education. The applicant also needs to show how this project will encourage underrepresented groups to participate in science. As she has a good background in showing others the effects of human impacts on the environment, I believe this can be improved in the future.