All Proposals Received for Conservation & Recreation Fund

The table below summarizes all 65 proposals received and each full proposal is included in this packet.

Recommend?	Proposal #	Project Title	Lead Organization	Funding Amount Requested
Fund	3	Western pond turtle distribution in Yamhill County using community science volunteers.	Northwest Ecological Research Institute	$ 10,000.00
Fund	13	People of Color Outdoor and iUrban Teen Connect in Nature	People of Color Outdoors	$ 10,000.00
Fund	17	Wallowa Wolverine and Forest Carnivore Project	Oregon Wildlife Foundation	$ 9,996.00
Fund	38	Community Science for Conservation: Engaging Oregonians in the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas	The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation	$ 9,987.00
Fund	43	Exploring Nature in Lents	ROSE Community Development	$ 5,000.00
Fund	53	Beaver Survey and Restoration: Central Coast Estuaries	The Wetlands Conservancy	$ 10,000.00
Fund	61	BIPOC Conservation Strategy	Wild Diversity	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	31	Harney Soil and Water Conservation District Fence Markers and Escape Ramps for Wildlife	Harney Soil and Watershed Conservation District	$ 8,850.00
Contingent Approval	56	Club Aves: multilingual birding and nature club	Verde	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	59	Engaging Outdoor Recreationists in the Conservation of Oregonâ€™s Native Freshwater Turtles	Western Oregon University	$ 9,971.00
Contingent Approval	16	Ski for Life - Youth Winter Program COVID Adapted	Oregon Adaptive Sports	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	62	Adventure Wednesdays! Outdoor Leadership Club	Adventures Without Limits	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	28	OUTDOOR LEADERS YOUTH CAMP(s)	EUVALCREE	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	2	Upper Klamath Basin Juvenile Chinook Salmon Release Study	Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife - Klamath District Office	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	20	Youth Involvement in Forest Restoration Monitoring	Wallowa Resources	$ 9,200.00

Contingent Approval	60	Wildlife Habitat Modeling with Community Science and Data in the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains Forest Partners	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	8	Sandy River Salmon Habitat Restoration & Community Amphibian Surveys	Sandy River Watershed Council	$ 7,500.00
Contingent Approval	5	Oregon Marine Reserves Assessment	Oregon Community Foundation	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	22	Owens Farm Healthy Outdoors For All- Universally Accessible Trail Partnership	Greenbelt Land Trust	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	7	Soda Mountain Trails Project	Siskiyou Mountain Club	$ 8,500.00
Contingent Approval	19	Habitat Restoration on the South Fork Crooked River	Oregon Natural Desert Association	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	65	Making Connections: Keeping Wildlife Wild: Wildife Migration Curriculum for K – 12 Students	Discover Your Forest	$ 8,260.00
Contingent Approval	35	Tidal Wetland Mapping and Tide Gate Replacement in Southwestern Oregon â€œA tool for Evaluating Lowland Habitat and Tidal Infrastructureâ€□	Coos Watershed Association	$ 9,500.00
Contingent Approval	42	Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Study of Invasive Ringed Crayfish and their Impact on Native Signal Crayfish, Steelhead and Salmon	Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Council	$ 3,350.00
Contingent Approval	32	Holton Creek RNA	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC)	$ 5,000.00
Contingent Approval	26	Starr Aspen Project	National Wild Turkey Federation	$ 9,598.21
Contingent Approval	25	Plover Patrol Program: Western Snowy Plover monitoring on the North Coast	Portland Audubon	$ 8,821.00
Contingent Approval	10	Oceanscape Network Virtual Exploration & Conservation Education	Oregon Coast Aquarium	$ 10,000.00
Contingent Approval	52	Inspiring Personal Stewardship: Educating Wild & Scenic Rogue River Recreators about Bears	The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Rogue Riverkeeper	$ 6,000.00
-	1	Monitoring Greater Sandhill Crane Movements, Home Ranges and	Friends of Ladd Marsh	$ 6,000.00

		Habitat Use in Northeastern Oregon.		
-	4	Osprey Nest Camera Replacement â€“ Broadway Park	Necanicum Watershed Council	$ 2,851.00
-	6	"I am a steward."	NW Guides and Anglers Fisheries Restoration Initiative 501 (c) 3; Mr. Bob Rees, P.O. Box 3208, Clackamas, OR 97015, 503-812-9036	$ 7,500.00
-	9	Urban Wildlife Marsh Enhancement	Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc.	$ 5,990.00
-	11	Leading with Equity in Guided River Recreation	Tualatin Riverkeepers	$ 10,000.00
-	12	South Santiam Stream Temperature Monitoring	South Santiam Watershed Council	$ 2,576.00
-	14	Powers Northwestern Pond Turtle Habitat Restoration Project	Coquille Watershed Association	$ 9,998.00
-	15	Northwestern Pond Turtle (NWPT) Life History and Habitat Study in Mosier, OR	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	$ 10,000.00
-	18	Survey for Presence of Occupied Beaver Habitat in Oregon	Grande Ronde Model Watershed	$ 7,700.00
-	21	Exploring foredune restoration strategies with native plants to guide management practices on the Oregon coast	Oregon State University	$ 10,000.00
-	23	Curriculum Development and Outreach for the Brown Folks Fishing Lab: A fly fishing fellowship at the intersection of racial and environmental justice	Willamette Partnership	$ 10,000.00
-	24	Mussel Mania - Protecting and Educating People about long-lived Freshwater Mussels	Willamette Riverkeeper	$ 8,500.00
-	27	Arch Cape Forest Acquisition	Arch Cape Water District	$ 10,000.00
-	29	Reroute Trail 3E to improve nesting sites, hydrology, and park user experience	Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah	$ 10,000.00
-	30	Haystack Rock Awareness Program Spanish Language DEI Initiative	Haystack Rock Awareness Program, City of Cannon Beach	$ 10,000.00

-	33	Recreating Responsibly: Bilingual Invasive Species Education for Willamette Valley State Parks	Luckiamute Watershed Council	$ 8,250.00
-	34	Finn Rock Boat Landing Enhancement Project	McKenzie River Trust	$ 10,000.00
-	36	Stewardship and Conservation Education at Camp Wilani	Camp Fire Wilani	$ 6,800.00
-	37	Open Trails, Happy Families (Senderos Abiertos, Familias Felices)	Hike it Baby	$ 9,650.00
-	39	Oregon Explorer Update â€“ Providing current distribution data	Portland State University	$ 9,926.00
-	40	Wetland Enhancement & Public Access Development at Rogue Valley Sewer Services Lagoon: Planning and Design Phase	Rogue Valley Sewer Services	$ 10,000.00
-	41	Laying the Foundation for Aquatic Restoration in Oak Creek, tributary to the Marys River	Marys River Watershed Council	$ 10,000.00
-	44	Rain gear for all: expanding access to high elevation recreation, conservation and education	The Crest	$ 8,950.00
-	45	Training Citizens for Shoreline Citizen Science	Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition	$ 6,650.00
-	46	Middle Fork Willamette "Watershed Rangers"	Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council	$ 5,900.00
-	47	Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve Virtual Field Trip Series	Cape Perpetua Collaborative (Fiscal Sponsor: Discover Your Northwest)	$ 7,500.00
-	48	Smoke Creek Wildlife Riparian Habitat Restoration	Oregon Hunters Association	$ 8,000.00
-	49	Students Stream, and Stewardship	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	$ 7,500.00
-	50	Grande Ronde Stream Restoration Youth & Community Based Reserach	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	$ 6,500.00
-	51	Phase 1: Tillamook Coast "Fish It, Dig It, Catch It" Equipment Library	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	$ 6,500.00
-	54	Long Tom Watershed Council Carp Festival	Long Tom Watershed Council	$ 9,947.00
-	55	Beaver Works Oregon - River Neighbors Initiative	Think Wild	$ 9,900.00

-	57	BIPOC Birding and Bilingual Paddling: Increasing Diversity in Outdoor Recreation in the Columbia Slough Watershed	Columbia Slough Watershed Council	$ 9,400.00
-	58	Angling Diversity: Transcreating Wildlife Recreation for the LatinX Community	Vive NW, fiscally sponsored by Oregon Wild	$ 10,000.00
-	63	How Do Sensitive Bird Populations Respond to Forest Restoration? Monitoring to Inform and Improve Forest Restoration Techniques in Oregonâ€™s Dry Forests	Northwest Avian Resources	$ 10,000.00
-	64	Conservation Birding, Education, and Outreach	Klamath Bird Observatory	$ 10,000.00

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Monitoring Greater Sandhill Crane Movements, Home Ranges and Habitat Use in Northeastern Oregon.

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Staff at the ODFW Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area began color marking pre-fledging Greater Sandhill Cranes (Antigone Canadensis tabida; hereafter, cranes) in 2007. Friends of Ladd Marsh (FOLM), in partnership with ODFW, and Texas Tech University began attaching Platform Transmitter Terminals (PTTs), also known as satellite transmitters, to cranes in 2015. The primary goal of the project is to investigate the wintering area(s) and population affiliation(s) of cranes nesting in northeastern Oregon in general, and the wildlife area in particular. Satellite telemetry also permits delineation of summer home ranges, nesting territories, nesting habitat and nest sites in addition to documentation of movements of sub-adult cranes. To date, we have attached PTTs to 17 cranes (15 adults and 2 hatch year colts) and color-marked over 50 cranes. Data from PTT-marked cranes have shown that sandhill cranes in northeastern Oregon are affiliated with 2 different wintering areas, the Central Valley Population (CVP), California and the Lower Colorado River Population (LCRVP), Arizona & California (Nowak et al. 2018 http://www.nacwg.org/cranes_sandhill_whooping_2018-11.html). We do not yet know what proportion of Ladd Marsh cranes is affiliated with the LCRVP. Preliminary information about summer home ranges of sandhill cranes in NE Oregon was presented at the 15th North American Crane Workshop in January 2020 and will be published in the proceedings of that workshop. Further, data from Ladd Marsh cranes has been included in an analysis of sandhill crane migration networks in the western U.S. (Donnelly et al. in press). In summer of 2020, 3 adult cranes nested on public and private land above 4,000 feet elevation creating new questions about suitable nesting habitat for the species in Oregon and the Intermountain West. The project is ongoing as we continue to investigate migration routes, wintering areas, home ranges, and habitat suitability for cranes breeding in Northeastern Oregon.

Primary Contact Person *

Steve Clements

Primary Contact Email Address *

sclement@eou.edu

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-786-5146

Lead Organization *

Friends of Ladd Marsh

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

27-1378999

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

La Grande

Project Location (County) *

Union

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 31 / 2024

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

6000

Total Project Cost *

33300

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Project Goals and Objectives:
Goal: Investigate to population affiliation(s) of greater sandhill cranes that breed in Northeastern Oregon and to assess summer home range size and fidelity as well as habitat use.

Objectives:
1. The primary objective of the project is to learn where greater sandhill cranes that nest on Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area and other northeastern Oregon sites overwinter. Given we have already learned that these cranes are from 2 wintering areas, what proportion of NE Oregon cranes affiliate with each population? More broadly, identification of population affiliations will help place this small breeding group in context with others in the Intermountain West by helping to define the relationships among those populations and it will add to a growing understanding of population delineations in western North America.
2. Monitoring of these birds will help locate important stopover sites during migrations south and north again to determine if conservation actions are needed to protect those sites.
3. Investigate and delineate summer home ranges of cranes in NE Oregon and identification of nesting territories of breeding cranes.
4. Investigate breeding habitat use by cranes in northeastern Oregon with a view toward contributing to understanding habitat suitability and availability in the Intermountain West.
5. Investigate post-fledging movement of hatch year cranes and exploratory movements of second year and later sub-adult cranes. This will also provide opportunities to monitor where birds hatched on Ladd Marsh settle to nest when they reach breeding age.
6. Document sandhill crane fidelity to migration routes, summer home ranges and wintering areas.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

We will capture as many greater sandhill cranes as possible during spring and summer 2021 – 2023. All captured cranes will be marked with a unique combination of color bands in addition to an aluminum federal band (USGS Bird Banding Laboratory). Select cranes will also be fitted with a GSM transmitter as long as transmitters are available. We will attach a transmitter to only one member of a clearly, or suspected, mated pair. If a pre-fledging colt that is offspring of a pair for which we have already acquired migration and wintering data, we will color band it but will not attach a transmitter unless there is an additional reason to do so since the colt will follow its parents south and utilize the same wintering area.

Measures of success include fitting 8 cranes with GSM transmitters and color banding others. Successful data retrieval from all cranes carrying transmitters will complete the success of this phase of the project. We will follow those cranes throughout the lives of the devices and analyze the data to achieve the above objectives.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Small numbers (about 25 pairs) of greater sandhill cranes (Antigone canadensis tabida) nest at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area (LMWA) in northeast Oregon. No documentation existed on the wintering locations of these greater sandhill cranes (hereafter cranes), and resource managers assumed the cranes nesting in
northeast Oregon were affiliated with the Central Valley Population (CVP; Littlefield and Thompson 1979, Pacific Flyway Council 1997). The geographic location of the LMWA is east of most known CVP nesting areas and northwest of known nesting areas for cranes in the Lower Colorado River Valley Population (LCRVP). Therefore, the LMWA cranes could be affiliated with either population, and winter in either the Central Valley of California or the Lower Colorado River Valley of southwest Arizona and southern California (Gary Ivey, International Crane Foundation, personal communication). Moreover, it is unclear how these cranes fit into the larger picture of crane population delineation and management in western North America.
Banding and telemetry studies of both CVP (Ivey et al. 2005, 2014) and LCRVP (Collins et al. 2015) cranes did not provide evidence linking LMWA nesting cranes with either population. In response to uncertainty regarding the population affiliation of LMWA cranes, the ODFW began marking pre-fledging crane colts with color bands in 2007. Our objectives were to identify the population affiliation as well as migration routes and stopover sites of cranes nesting on LMWA. As of 2015, we had received no resighting reports of banded cranes observed in winter, and we therefore began attaching platform transmitter terminals (PTTs) to leg bands on select captured cranes.
Since 2015, PTT data from cranes captured at LMWA has shed some light on the population affiliations of NE Oregon cranes as most wintered with the CVP but 2 cranes wintered with the LCRVP. The question remains: what proportion of NE Oregon cranes is affiliated with the LCRVP? Continued capture and marking of cranes at LMWA will help to answer that question.
LMWA staff have assumed the same pairs of cranes return to the same nesting territories each year and have attempted to map those territories in portion of the wildlife area (MC Nowak, pers. comm.). Telemetry data for cranes nesting on LMWA has begun to validate that assumption and is providing additional information about the summer home ranges of those pairs, beyond their defended territory. This information may quantify the importance of private land adjacent to protected public land for breeding cranes.
Further, telemetry data from 3 cranes in 2019 nesting in the forest, on both public and private land, above 4,000 feet plus an incidental discovery of another, unmarked crane doing the same has prompted questions about breeding habitat availability and suitability across NE Oregon.
For 2021 and future sandhill crane capture seasons, we will employ a relatively new technology which promises equivalent data quality to the PTTs previously fitted to cranes but with additional advantages including lower hardware costs and lower data retrieval costs. Transmitters utilizing GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) technology take advantage of digital cellular networks and have been used with good result by the ODFW gamebird program, sandhill crane researchers and others. GSM transmitter have the added advantage of no external antenna which, in the PTTs, can be a source of failure when the cranes pull on them and may remove them.
This project has been ongoing since 2007 and is projected to continue through at least 2023. The funding requested in this proposal is for 4 GSM transmitters to be applied to cranes in 2021 and/or 2022. The stated project cost is an estimate of costs for 2021 through 2023 for 8 transmitters, capture expenses, data retrieval charges and miscellaneous supplies such as bait.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The project addresses an Oregon Conservation Strategy species, greater sandhill crane, in a Conservation Opportunity Area, the Grande Ronde Valley (#159) and surrounding areas in the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. Sandhill cranes are dependent on wetlands, a Strategy habitat, for nesting and rearing young as well as for resting and foraging during migration. The program priority of "…improving habitat connectivity…" can only be met when critical habitat areas are identified. This project is working to identify important migration stopover sites to ensure protection of those sites and connectivity between them. Identification of previously unrecorded nesting areas will aid in conservation of sites with suitable nesting habitat close enough to foraging areas to minimize energy expenditure and facilitate successful breeding.
This project addresses the second conservation priority for "Science, research and monitoring…" of a Strategy species in order to "(e)stimate habitat area requirements relative to the quality of the habitat," listed as a data gap. We approach this question with analysis of summer home ranges sizes and fidelity. We will also investigate habitat availability and suitability in areas of NE Oregon, listed as limiting factors in the Conservation Strategy. Our analysis of nesting areas within LMWA and in surrounding areas will inform questions of habitat needs and the extent of such habitats in the region.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Funds requested from OCRF will be specifically used to purchase 4 GSM Satellite transmitters to be placed on greater sandhill cranes in spring and summer of 2021 and 2022. The units are currently priced at just under $1500 each. They are produced in Europe so the cost may change somewhat with differing exchange rates.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Partners in this phase of the project are:
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – provides staff time during capture; a variety of nets, blinds and small equipment used during capture; and bait to draw cranes to capture sites. LMWA Biologist M. Cathy Nowak is the project lead and organizes capture and transmitter deployment.
Texas Tech University – A partner in this project since 2015, Texas Tech Professor, Dr. Blake Grisham brings a team of 10-12 students to LMWA each spring to assist with capture of adult cranes. He provides all the travel funds to do so as well as nets and equipment. Dr. Grisham serves as team leader for rocket net use and trains ODFW staff in proper set up and deployment.
Friends of Ladd Marsh – Currently has funds on hand to purchase 4 GSM transmitters. If this proposal is successful, it will allow us to purchase 8 transmitters for 2021 and 2022.
Given this is an ongoing project, there have been a number of partners involved over time, helping to purchase PTTs and pay for data retrieval. These include the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society; Oregon Birding Association, Oregon Fund for Ornithology; The Norcross Wildlife Foundation; Oregon Wildlife; and the Wildhorse Foundation as well as individual donors to the Sandhill Crane Project fund of Friends of Ladd Marsh.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

March, 2021 – Rocket net capture of adult cranes and deployment of GSM transmitters. May – July, 2021 – investigation of nesting areas and nest sites based on telemetry data. June – July, 2021 – Attempt capture of pre-fledging crane colts. October, 2021 – Monitor telemetry data for migration patterns and arrival at wintering areas. March, 2022 – Rocket net capture of adult cranes and deployment of any GSM transmitters available. May – July, 2022 – investigation of nesting areas and nest sites based on telemetry data. June – July, 2022 – Attempt capture of pre-fledging crane colts. October, 2022 – Monitor telemetry data for migration patterns and arrival at wintering areas. March, 2023 – Rocket net capture of adult cranes and deployment of any GSM transmitters available. May – July, 2023 – investigation of nesting areas and nest sites based on telemetry data. June – July, 2023 – Attempt capture of pre-fledging crane colts. October, 2023 – Monitor telemetry data for migration patterns and arrival at wintering areas. Winter, 2023 – 2024 – Compilation of data and analysis of results.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Friends of Ladd Marsh has been instrumental in the success to date of the sandhill crane project. We have been successful in applying for several small grants to begin utilizing satellite transmitters(PTTs) beginning in 2015 and with ongoing project costs and organization. So, while the project is not complete, it has so far been successful.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Friends of Ladd Marsh co-sponsors, with ODFW, the Ladd Marsh Bird Festival every year. 2020 was slated to be the 15th year of the festival until it was cancelled due to the current pandemic. The festival is attended by 250 to 350 participants and includes birding stations, field trips and fun educational activities for youth. An average of 40 FOLM volunteers assist with the Bird Festival each year.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Upper Klamath Basin Juvenile Chinook Salmon Release Study

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Four dams on the mainstem Klamath River are expected to be removed in 2022-2023. Following Dam removal fish passage will be restored to the Upper Klamath Basin allowing Chinook Salmon to access hundreds of miles of habitat in Oregon that has been blocked for over 100 years. Historically, Chinook Salmon in the Oregon portion of the Klamath Basin were a significant part of the food source and culture of The Klamath Tribes in Oregon (TKT). ODFW is working with TKT to find the most appropriate strategy to repopulate historic Chinook Salmon habitat to harvestable levels following dam removal. Additionally, ODFW and The Klamath Tribes' Reintroduction Implementation Plan recommends that spring-run Chinook Salmon be actively reintroduced into tributaries above Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) due to the uncertainty of a source population immediately downstream of the dams that could naturally recolonize newly available habitat. The Reintroduction Implementation Plan recommends the use of juveniles from in-basin stocks to be released into suitable habitat above Upper Klamath Lake. A team of state (ODFW and CDFW), federal (NMFS/NOAA), and Tribal (TKT) biologists intend to learn how juvenile Chinook Salmon move through the Upper Basin during a hypothetical outmigration event. By releasing tagged fish in tributaries of UKL, the team hopes to use telemetry receivers in addition to existing (passive integrated transponder) PIT tag antenna arrays throughout the Basin to detect individuals. These data can provide insight regarding the timing of outmigration for various tributaries and may indicate if additional challenges to migration or survival exist. We are requesting funds to help pay for the costs of equipment and supplies to tag and detect released juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon. We intend to use telemetry (acoustic and/or radio) in addition to PIT technology to enhance the detection of tagged fish at key locations throughout the Upper Klamath Basin.

Primary Contact Person *

Mark Hereford

Primary Contact Email Address *

mark.e.hereford@state.or.us

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-883-5732

Lead Organization *

Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife - Klamath District Office

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Klamath Falls

Project Location (County) *

OR

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

09 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2022

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

70000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goal of this project is to PIT tag up to 10,000 juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon, of which, up to 200 will be tagged with telemetry tags (acoustic and/or radio). Fish will be released in tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake (Williamson River and Wood River). The source of the fish will be from spring-run Chinook Salmon collected at Trinity River Hatchery. ODFW has already obtained approval for the egg take request. Juveniles will be reared at Trinity River Hatchery or transferred at an ODFW hatchery for rearing up to the time of release.

The objectives of this project is to detect tagged fish at key locations throughout the Upper Klamath Basin. We plan on utilizing already in place PIT tag detection arrays operated by the US Geological Survey located on the Williamson River, Wood River, Link River Dam Ladder, and Link River (outlet of Upper Klamath Lake). Ideally, depending on funding, additional telemetry stations would be located at the outlets of the Williamson River, Wood River, Link River, and Klamath River. Data collected from detections will be analyzed to determine movement behavior, outmigration timing, and survival as fish migrate out of the Upper Klamath Basin. Results will help inform the best strategy to repopulate the Upper Klamath Basin with spring-run Chinook Salmon to harvestable levels following the removal of the Klamath River Dams, which have been absent for over 100 years.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The expected outcome of this project will be data associated with the movement behavior, outmigration timing, and survival of released juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon in the Upper Klamath Basin. Results will be published in a report and/or peer-reviewed article in a scientific journal. The results of this project will inform decisions on how to best move forward with repopulating the upper basin with spring-run Chinook Salmon. Following the removal of the four Klamath River Dams, uncertainties will still exist as to whether or not juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon can successfully outmigrate from tributaries of Upper Klamath Lake, through the lake itself, and through two dams that will remain in place (Link River Dam; outlet of Upper Klamath Lake, and Keno Dam; a dam on the Klamath River that regulates levels for irrigation diversions).

The success of this project will be measured by how well the results inform the following questions:

1. Following the release of juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon in tributaries of Upper Klamath Lake, what proportion of individuals successfully migrate through Upper Klamath Lake, through Link River Dam, and through Keno Dam.

2. If released juveniles do not successfully outmigrate through the Upper Klamath Basin, what impediments are preventing them from doing so, and can the impediments be rehabilitated through restoration actions?

3. What is the timing of outmigration from tributaries of Upper Klamath Lake, and what habitats are or are not being utilized by juveniles throughout the system?

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Background

Four dams on the mainstem Klamath River are expected to be removed during the summer of 2022. Volitional fish passage will be restored to the upper Klamath Basin (Upper Basin) by October 2022. Over 400 miles of historically available habitat will be recolonized by anadromous species for the first time in over 100 years following removal of the dams. Anadromous species such as Chinook salmon have never experienced the ecosystem dynamics that currently exist in the Upper Basin due to the large scale landscape changes that have occurred since they last inhabited the region. Resource managers will need to develop an understanding as to how anadromous salmon and trout will use this historical habitat when prioritizing restoration and other management actions there. Additionally, ODFW and The Klamath Tribes' Reintroduction Implementation Plan recommends that spring-run Chinook salmon be actively reintroduced into tributaries above Upper Klamath Lake due to the uncertainty of a source population immediately downstream of Iron Gate Dam that could naturally recolonize newly available habitat. The Reintroduction Implementation Plan recommends the use of hatchery-reared, pathogen screened juveniles from in-basin stocks to be released into suitable habitat above Upper Klamath Lake.

Goal

A team of state (ODFW and CDFW), federal (NMFS), and Tribal (Klamath Tribes of Oregon) biologists intend to learn how juvenile Chinook salmon may move through the Upper Basin during a hypothetical outmigration event, using methods consistent with ODFW and The Klamath Tribes' Reintroduction Implementation Plan as described in Phase 1. By out-planting groups of tagged fish in various tributaries, the team hopes to use existing PIT tag antenna arrays and telemetry (e.g., radio or acoustic) throughout the Basin to "recapture" individuals. Additional facilities (e.g., PIT tag antenna arrays, telemetry receivers) may be needed to fully assess outmigration. These data can provide insight regarding the timing of outmigration for various tributaries and may indicate if additional challenges to migration or survival exist in some locations (e.g., reach-specific survival). Ultimately, these data will help inform how to proceed to Phase 2 of the active reintroduction with the goal of repopulating habitat above Upper Klamath Lake with spring-run Chinook salmon and will help identify areas needing future habitat improvements.

Methods

1. Obtain appropriate number of fertilized spring-run Chinook salmon gametes from Trinity River Hatchery and transfer to ODFW's Klamath Hatchery or other appropriate facility for rearing.

2. Tag one-year-old juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon with PIT tags and a subsample of each release group with radio or acoustic tags. Exact tagging protocol to be determined over the next year with input from other organizations using similar methods so that detections of tagged fish can be maximized. Locations of receivers will be determined in a similar manner with existing infrastructure maximized to support this study.

3. Release groups of tagged fish will be released to each Upper Basin tributary location that is included in the study at a time that is presumed consistent with a natural outmigration event (e.g., March). Selected tributaries should provide year round rearing and suitable spawning habitat such as North Fork Sprague River, Williamson River, and Wood River sub-basins.

4. Capitalize on the existing downstream PIT tag antenna arrays and telemetry equipment to track movement of each release group of Chinook salmon (see attached map below) where possible, add new arrays and tracking sites for appropriate spatial coverage.

5. Review these data to examine temporal and spatial patterns of fish movement within and among the release groups and describe any detectable patterns in terms of movement and survival.

6. If fish are recaptured in hand, consider conducting fish health assessments.

7. Develop additional experiments, monitoring, and restoration objectives associated with recolonization that are guided by the results of this experiment.

Leveraging Existing Infrastructure and Labor

1. Existing PIT tag antenna arrays operating for other fisheries projects, are located in all major tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake as well as at the Link River fish ladder and downstream of Link River Dam. Three fixed telemetry receiving stations are located at the mouths of major tributaries and refugia areas of Upper Klamath Lake. This existing infrastructure along with some additional infrastructure will provide multiple opportunities to "recapture" tagged individuals from various release groups.

2. Agency and Tribal staff will participate as funds allow with some in-kind labor provided by collaborating biologists to transport, tag, and release the fish. Data will be downloaded from the antennas/receivers by their respective operators and provided to the team for analysis.

Additional Infrastructure Desired if Funding Allows

1. Depending on funding and interest, arrays may be added to provide additional data regarding movement and survival of fish in specific reaches of tributaries or through Klamath Lake, Lake Ewauna, and the mainstem Klamath River (see attached figure).

2. Add to existing arrays so that detection rates can be estimated.

3. Add fixed telemetry receivers on Link River and Klamath River at or below Keno Dam.

4. Additional PIT tag antenna arrays or receivers for telemetry on the mainstem Klamath River at Keno Dam and on North Fork Sprague River

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project addresses two of the Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities and is connected to many of the priorities identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (Strategy). This project aims to understand how reintroduced spring-run Chinook Salmon navigate the complexities of the Upper Klamath Basin habitat. Doing so, will allow fish managers, habitat restoration practitioners, and others to make decisions on how to best improve habitat and connectivity for the benefit of not only Chinook Salmon, but other Oregon Strategy Species such as Redband Trout, steelhead trout, and suckers and the overall ecosystem as a whole. This project will involve collecting data using a scientific approach to identify key limiting factors relating to aquatic habitat connectivity in the Upper Klamath Basin. The geographic scope of this project aligns with two of the Conservation Opportunity Areas identified in the Strategy, the Upper Klamath Lake Area and the Klamath River Canyon; and involves monitoring of fish movements through two Strategy Habitats (Flowing water and riparian habitats, and Natural Lakes). The Strategy identifies Barriers to Animal Movement as a Key Conservation Issue. The proposed project is directly tied to the removal of four dams on the Klamath River that have blocked fish passage to Oregon for over 100 years. The proposed project is the first step in ensuring a successful repopulation of Chinook Salmon in the Klamath Basin.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

We are requesting funds from the OCRF to help pay for the costs of telemetry and/or PIT tags that will be inserted into released juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon, and for telemetry receivers that will be placed at key locations throughout the Upper Klamath Basin for the purpose of detecting tagged fish.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Coordination, data collection/monitoring, study design, tagging, egg request, juvenile Chinook Salmon rearing, boots on the ground, data analysis, reporting

The Klamath Tribes
- Data collection/monitoring

NOAA Fisheries
- Study design, data analysis, reporting

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Collection and fertilization of Chinook Salmon, juvenile Chinook Salmon rearing

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Fall 2020, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) collects and spawns adult spring-run Chinook Salmon. Fall 2020 to Winter 2022, Juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon are hatched and reared at CDFW or ODFW facility. Winter 2022 to Spring 2022, Deploy and test telemetry receivers. Spring 2022, Juvenile Spring-run Chinook Salmon tagged and released in tributaries of Upper Klamath Lake (Williamson River, Wood River). Spring 2022 to Summer 2022, Monitor fish movements through Upper Klamath Basin. Summer 2022 to Winter 2023, Analyze data, present findings (presentations, reports, published articles).

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Staff at the Klamath ODFW District Office have led and completed multiple telemetry projects to assess fish movement. Most recently, staff completed a project, in which adult Redband Trout were tagged with telemetry tags to investigate their habitat use in Upper Klamath Lake and its tributaries. The results of this study indicate that adult Redband Trout are utilizing Upper Klamath Lake for forage when water temperatures are suitable and utilize the tributaries for spawning in the winter months and as cold-water refuge in the summer. The results of this study highlight the importance of cold water refuge for these lake fish in the summer, but also shows the importance of the lake habitat as a food source where they optimize their growth. Current and future habitat restoration efforts will be guided by the results of this study because tagged fish were documented in habitat that was previously not known to be important for these fish. This study demonstrates how the use of telemetry can inform management and restoration decisions, and has led us to conclude that telemetry is a viable tool to assess the movement and habitat use of tagged juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Staff at the Klamath ODFW District Office have led and completed a project to assess the movement of juvenile Redband Trout tagged with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags in tributaries of Upper Klamath Lake. Juvenile Redband Trout were caught in tributaries of Upper Klamath Lake and implanted with PIT tags and released. The question was, would tagged juveniles get detected at stationary PIT tag detection arrays already in place for the detection of adult ESA-listed suckers? The results of this study demonstrate that while the targeted species for detection at the stationary arrays were not juvenile salmonids, tagged juvenile Redband Trout were readily detected. This study concluded that PIT tag detection arrays, which are located throughout the Upper Klamath Basin for the purpose of monitoring ESA-listed suckers can also be utilized to detect juvenile salmonids. This presents a cost-saving tool for future studies investigating the movement and survival of PIT-tagged juvenile Chinook Salmon that can leverage monitoring infrastructure that is already on the landscape. Klamath ODFW District Staff are confident that the use of PIT tags coupled with telemetry monitoring will be more than efficient to answer questions associated with the proposed project of assessing movement and survival of released juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Western pond turtle distribution in Yamhill County using community science volunteers.

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

This project seeks to greatly amplify our understanding of the presence and distribution of an OCS Priority Species, A. marmorata, throughout Yamhill County. Yamhill County has the fewest documented reports of turtles in the Lower Willamette watershed, greatly impeding our conservation of this species in this area of its range. Using a combination of visual encounter surveys and hands on trapping, we will utilize community volunteers to document the turtle species composition at a minimum of 12 sites throughout the county (all sites will be on public property and access will be requested from land managers). Special focus will be placed on recruiting volunteers from historically underserved communities in order to increase education and stewardship of native turtles. Partnerships for this project include CTGR, the YCAP, and PCUCC. Current knowledge of the distribution of A. marmorata in Yamhill County is spotty at best. With only 30 records total of any turtles and 12 of those records listing the species as “unknown”, there is a genuine lack of data for the distribution of A. marmorata in Yamhill County (Map 1). Records for adjacent counties would suggest a relatively robust population of A. marmorata in the county, however, the lack a survey effort prevents our understanding of this species in this important area of its range in the Lower Willamette watershed. Habitat conversion, reduction in habitat connectivity, and overpopulation of non-native species have been shown to be major threats to this species. The data collected through this project will be utilized by local land managers to improve habitat and connectivity throughout the watershed. This project is aligned with the ODFW OCAMP project and will be working with that project to incorporate collected data into their occupancy model for this species.

Primary Contact Person *

Laura Guderyahn

Primary Contact Email Address *

lguderyahn@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

1-503-823-6736

Lead Organization *

Northwest Ecological Research Institute

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-0901125

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Yamhill

Project Location (County) *

Yamhill

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

22000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Our objectives are to:
1) improve our understanding of the distribution of A. marmorata throughout Yamhill County, an important area of their range in the Lower Willamette watershed
2) Elevate the conservation needs of this species throughout the Yamhill County community, with a special focus on providing education and stewardship opportunities to underserved communities.

The major goals of this project are are:
1) Form partnerships with key community groups and stakeholders such as the native community, teens of color and other underserved groups.
2) Conduct basking and trapping surveys at a minimum of 12 locations throughout Yamhill County and collect population dynamics data such as age and sex ratios, size and weight measurements, and nesting success.
3) Host a minimum of 6 community events throughout the County to provide education and stewardship opportunities for Yamhill County residents.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

This project will use the following outcomes to measure success:
- Community volunteer hours spent on the project (goal = 300hrs)
- A minimum of 4 successful partnerships with organizations serving at risk youth and communities of color
- # sites surveyed (VES and/or trapping) (goal = 12 VES and 6-10 trapping)
- # turtles captured by species (no goal, but estimate 200 turtles trapped, additional 300 seen in VES)
- Demographic data of turtles captured (size, weight, gravidity, etc.)

A final report summarizing our findings, management recommendations, and future survey needs will be assembled and provided to the ORCF leads by the end of the calendar year.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Once common from Baja California to Puget Sound, the small, long-lived northwestern pond turtle (Actinemys marmorata) is listed as endangered in Washington and threatened in Oregon. It has also been petitioned for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act (currently listed as a federal species of concern) and is a priority species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. A comprehensive survey to add to the minimal presence data A. marmorata in Yamhill County will allow for more effective and targeted conservation of this species, specifically related to habitat creation/restoration and connectivity between groups of individuals.

The Oregon Native Turtle Working Group - Upper and Lower Willamette Chapters, led by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, have been collecting and organizing historical and current turtle sighting reports for the Willamette watershed in Oregon for many years. This data is currently housed in a Geographic Information System shapefile and database. In reviewing the data (Map 1), Yamhill County exhibits the fewest turtle sighting reports for any county in the lower Willamette watershed. Only 30 reports have been collected for the entire county since 1900. Additionally, while 12 of the reports are for A. marmorata and 6 are for Oregon's other native turtle species, Chrysemys picta bellii, the other 12 reports list the species seen as "unknown". In reviewing the distribution data for A. marmorata in neighboring counties, Yamhill would be expected to host a robust population of A. marmorata, however, survey effort has simply not focused on this important section of this species' range.

Given the lack of survey effort, there has also been a lack of education and stewardship opportunities for the residents of Yamhill County to learn about and interact with this dynamic species. Conservation can only happen when the community recognizes the value and importance of protection. We hope to provide such opportunities by hosting community science events at local public parks and natural areas. Additionally, focusing outreach efforts on historically underserved communities will allow us to engage and communities that are often left out of conservation efforts.

In this post-COVID world, a list of precautions and criteria will be developed to ensure safe, socially distanced opportunities for the community to attend. While field trips for students are not possible right now, we are hoping that by providing science event opportunities around the county, students learning at home will have safe opportunities to interact with nature in a hands-on manner.

This project will be led by experienced turtle researchers but will also utilize trained volunteers of all ages from underserved communities, including teens and adults from the native community, teens experiencing houselessness, teens that identify as LGBTQ, and community members of color that live in Yamhill County. Our hope is to not only collect valuable data on this imperiled species, but to also increase stewardship, knowledge and enjoyment of the outdoors for all communities living in Yamhill County.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon’s outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The Oregon Conservation Strategy has identified A. marmorata as a strategy species. The limiting factors for this species throughout its range include:

- Conversion of habitat to industrial, residential and/or agricultural uses
- Invasion of invasive plants that degrade the required vegetation communities of important habitats
- Road mortality
- Predation by raccoons, fish and bullfrogs
- Competition from invasive turtle species

This project will help to fulfill data gaps identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy for this species, including:

- Gathering of basic life history information
- Describing population dynamics
- Improving understanding of hatchling ecology

The gathering of critical presence and population dynamics information will be used as evidence supporting the future conservation of this species. Additionally, the data will serve as the building blocks for understanding the effects of major threats on this species. This project also aligns with a larger state-wide effort, the Oregon Connectivity and Assessment Monitoring Project (OCAMP) which seeks to identify, map and conserve movement corridors for some of Oregon's most imperiled wildlife. A. marmorata a surrogate species targeted for this effort and the project described in this application will add to this larger effort by providing critical information on distribution, range and connectivity of this species.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Most of the funding for this project is intended for personnel expenses. The lead researcher will donate 200hrs of time to this project as in-kind, with the remaining estimated 120hrs being paid for by this grant. An assistant researcher will also be hired to help with trapping surveys as well as organizing community science events.

Additional funding is requested to cover minimal material costs. The majority of these costs will be donated, however, $1500 is requested to purchase 2 pairs of waders, 10 turtle traps, bait for turtle traps, as well as to offset education/recruitment material costs such as copying charges, posters and pamphlets.

Finally, NERI will act as fiscal sponsor for this project and will receive an overhead benefit of roughly 15% of the project costs to help manage the grant financials and reporting.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

o Northwest Ecological Research Institute – www.nweri.org
-NERI will act as the lead organization for this project. The lead researcher and assistants will be covered by the insurance of this organization. All fiscal interactions will be with NERI.
o Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR)
- Native turtles serve an important role in the culture and life style of our local native community. Inclusion of this important group of Yamhill County residents will allow native and non-native people alike to gain a better understanding of the 1,000's of years of history, story telling and Traditional Ecological Knowledge about this species. Events open only to the native community will allow a safe space for tribal members to share knowledge and celebrate this iconic species.
o Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP)
- YCAP serves those populations in the county suffering the most from historic economic, cultural and societal oppression. YCAP will be a major partner in connecting us to underserved communities and ensure that our relationship with them is beneficial, inclusive and respectful.
o Youth Program from the Parkrose Community United Church of Christ (YPCUCC) - https://www.parkroseucc.org/
- The YPCUCC is a long-time partner of the lead researcher on this project. This youth group hails from an economically and socially oppressed community and their leaders are always looking for ways to engage the youth in volunteer and educational opportunities around the region. These youth will serve as ambassadors and junior assistants at community outreach events.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January 2021 - hire assistant researcher(s); create and print outreach materials; Verify VES survey protocol with OCAMP leads; Outreach to community to form relationships and schedule events. April - October 2021: VES with community members at a minimum of 12 sites throughout the County; Trapping at 6-10 of most promising sites (based on community interest, habitat availability, and VES data). December 2021: Summarize and share data; final report to OCRF leads

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Map of Yamhill County: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17jKcUe2vWqeVds_W39zqtYGrK5iXRHcW/view?usp=sharing

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The purpose of the Northwest Ecological Research Institute (NERI) is to further knowledge of Pacific Northwest natural history through research, training, and dissemination of information. NERI has been conducting research on Pacific NW flora and fauna since 1985 (http://www.nweri.org/research/). For the last 2+ years, NERI has been training and leading surveyors at the Sandy River Delta in turtle visual encounter surveys and turtle nesting surveys. Working with the United States Forest Service under contract, NERI associates have become leaders in turtle survey techniques. Each year, associates train community members and lead them in documenting the presence of native turtle species as well as native turtle nesting at the Sandy River Delta. Several turtle habitat restoration projects have resulted from this monitoring effort.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

In additional to conducting scientific research that has lead to the protection and conservation of Pacific NW species, NERI also specializes in conducting education and outreach projects to various communities throughout the state. NERI associates have been assisting private landowners in the creation of restoration and management plans on key properties such as the Hayes property in the Coast Range, the Kee Ranch in John Day, the Knappa Project in Clatsop Co, and a new property on Ecola Ridge just outside Ecola State Park. For these projects, associates recruit community members to assist with survey, monitoring and restoration projects. Maintaining successful relationships with private landowners and partners is something NERI excels at.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Osprey Nest Camera Replacement – Broadway Park

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Public education is the cornerstone to accomplishing the mission of our watershed council. Our osprey nest camera has been a valuable vehicle for educating the public and raising awareness about the issues that impact not only osprey, but all birds and organisms in the watershed. The osprey nest camera has been an integral part of connecting viewers to the watershed since 2013. Our devoted viewers are part of a larger community that monitor and report all events in the nest – from the first egg to the last fledgling. Every year supporters tune in and eagerly await the arrival of the nesting pair at the end of March. They collectively rejoice in every triumph and mourn every loss throughout the season. In early September nest watchers stay glued to the feed until every bird has left the nest, wishing them luck and looking forward to their return the following year. Over the past winter, the camera was damaged and remains inoperable. It has been sorely missed this year as the pair returned to successfully raise two chicks to adulthood. The requested funds will pay to replace the camera this winter so that we will have an operable camera for the 2021 nesting season.

Primary Contact Person *

Angie Reseland

Primary Contact Email Address *

necanicumwatershed@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

5037171458

Lead Organization *

Necanicum Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-1235402

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Seaside

Project Location (County) *

OR

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 11 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

2851

Total Project Cost *

3746

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Partnership and public involvement are vital components of any successful program. The short term goal is the replacement of the inoperable osprey nest camera in Broadway Park that has been in operation since 2013. The long term goals for the project include increased education and awareness of the osprey nest camera and the Necanicum Watershed Council, engaged citizen scientists, and enhanced investment in the health of the watershed. An additional long term goal is to network with other osprey nest cameras in the region to build a data set of citizen science observations that can be used by a variety of consumers.

Additionally, we hope to increase citizen science participation in the watershed. Our camera is accessible to all and makes participation in citizen science an activity that can be done from the comfort and safety of home, independently, regardless of physical ability. It is a way to engage stakeholders and partners throughout the community to gather data that will have cumulative effects in the watershed and beyond.

• Key Project Actions

 Replace the damaged and inoperable osprey nest camera in Broadway Park – The camera has been in operation since 2013. The camera was damaged over the winter and isn't functioning.

 Two informational and outreach mailings – osprey flyers about the interconnectivity of osprey to the health of the watershed, habitat and food requirements, information about citizen science and our data gathering campaign will be distributed.

 Social media and email blasts – We will create a Friends of the Necanicum Watershed campaign that spotlights citizen science observations from the webcam by participants. All observations will be compiled into an end of season report. We will share submissions on social media, in our newsletters, in the reports, etc.

 Partner with other osprey cameras – We will build regional partnerships with other osprey nest cameras. We will collaborate to build a larger data set that will inform the public, researchers, and local and regional managers about the potential impacts of climate change, water issues, and habitat and forage availability.

 Partner with the Newspaper – 3-5 articles on the camera and data gathered by citizens within the watershed.

 Do progress updates in our newsletter – Do an "osprey corner" section in each quarterly newsletter.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Measurements of success will be monitored and evaluated by Necanicum Watershed Council. Components that will be evaluated include:

1) Have an operational nest camera up and running in time for the 2021 osprey nesting season. Success will be a functioning camera that is available to viewers by March 2021.

2) Increased community awareness of the role of osprey in the ecosystem and the anthropological impacts that effect their habitat and forage availability. Success will be determined by having 3-5 newspaper articles written about the osprey nest camera and our Friends of the Necanicum Watershed campaign over the course of the grant.

3) Increased community support of the Necanicum Watershed Council and our partners that are collaborating to help the watershed be a place that is heathy for people, birds, and fish. Success will be determined by a 30% increase in inquiries, Facebook engagement, and public participation in our board meetings and events.

4) The creation of a Friends of the Necanicum citizen science group that will watch the osprey nest camera and document observations. The goal will be at least fifteen to twenty participants in the group by the end of the grant. We will also be soliciting a donation for a participation prize at the end of the season. Success will be securing a great prize to help inspire participation in the group during this grant, as well as subsequent years.

5) At the end of the nesting season the NWC will compile all citizen science observations and pictures into a final report that will be shared with the community and made available for any researchers to use. Success will be a final report that will be summarized and presented in our annual report, to the county commissioners, and shared with the public in a variety of ways (Facebook, newsletter, etc.)

6) Data sharing with neighboring osprey nest cameras in the region. Success will be determined by partnering with at least one osprey camera during the course of this grant.

7) We will continue to run the nest camera, collect information and distribute outreach materials long after the grant is complete. We will provide presentations at local service organizations in the community to continue the momentum generated by this grant and keep the community engaged. Any outreach materials that are left after the grant is completed will be shared with partners and given out at presentations and tabling events until they are gone.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

This Project seeks to secure funding for the replacement of the recently inoperable osprey nest camera in Broadway Park, that has been in operation since 2013. The funding will be used to replace the damaged camera prior to the return of the osprey next March. We will also launch an outreach campaign that includes mailings, social media and email blasts, press releases to newspapers, and articles in our newsletter. Additionally, we will build regional partnerships with other osprey nest cameras. We will collaborate to build a larger data set that will inform the public, researchers, and local and regional managers about the potential impacts of climate change, water issues, and habitat and forage availability based on citizen science observations from our camera. Our viewers have been unofficially sharing observations and gathering data for years, but this will be the first time that we will begin to collect and share the data that we observe with the wider community.

At the end of the nesting season the NWC will compile all citizen science observations and pictures into a final report that will be shared with the community and made available for any researchers to use. Success will be a final report that will be summarized and presented in our annual report, to the county commissioners, and shared with the public in a variety of ways (Facebook, newsletter, etc.). It is our hope that we will inspire new members of the community to begin to engage with the recreation opportunities available in Oregon by tuning into our camera. It is an additional hope that they become so interested in what's happening at the nest that they share an observation or two that will be included in the larger database. In addition to having a working camera to view the osprey, we want to increase community awareness of the role of osprey in the ecosystem and the anthropological impacts that effect their habitat and forage availability.

Our camera is free, live 24/7, and accessible to all. It provides an opportunity for users to engage in an activity that can be done from the comfort and safety of home, whenever they like, independently, and regardless of age and physical ability. Not everyone is able to recreate in traditional ways. Our camera provides an easy way for anyone who is interested to participate in and enjoy nature. It is a high value, low risk recreational activity that is fun and interesting and connects viewers to the community and the watershed.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Our project directly connects to the conservation strategies mentioned above by increasing education and awareness of the osprey nest camera and the Necanicum Watershed Council, engaging citizen scientists, and enhancing investment in the health of the watershed. An additional long term goal is to network with other osprey nest cameras in the region to build a data set of citizen science observations that can be used by a variety of consumers.

Our camera is accessible to all and makes participation in citizen science an activity that can be done from the comfort and safety of home, independently, regardless of age or physical ability. It provides a nontraditional recreational opportunity for all who are interested. Schools have integrated the camera into their lessons and some of our most loyal viewers live in the assisted living facility across the river from the nest who watch the action on the screen as well as out their window.

Our camera is an entry point to engage with wildlife, ecology and citizen science. Past viewers have tracked when eggs were laid and hatched, what the osprey eat and when, when the chicks fledge and when the birds leave for the season. They have taken note of odd items such as plastic bags and twine that have been brought back to the nest, and tied the fish being eaten to the tides and fish runs. These observations have been amazing opportunities to educate the wider community about how their daily choices effect the osprey and other wildlife.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Axis P1448-LE Camera ($940)
Cat6 Outdoor Cable ($150)
POE Injector ($160)
Misc Materials for installation ($100)
Lift rental for removal of inoperable camera, installation of new camera, and adjustments ($600)
Printing Color outreach flyers (1 sided, @ $0.246 ea) – 1000 prints ($246)
Printing B & W outreach flyers (2 sided, @ $0.116 ea) 1000 prints ($116)
Stamps (400) and Envelopes (400) for one direct mailing ($280)
Indirect costs to manage grant (10%) ($259)
(Total requested $2,851)

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The Broadway Park osprey camera is 100% community supported, and is made possible through a partnership with the City of Seaside, Sunset Empire Parks & Recreation District and the Necanicum Watershed Council.

We have $895 in secured match committed to the project. The City of Seaside has committed match to include an educational outreach sheet of our choice in one of their water bill mailings (valued at $280). A volunteer has committed 10 hours of graphic design time to create the outreach sheets for this project (valued at $295). The Marketing & IT Manager at Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation district has committed 10 hours of his time to remove the inoperable camera, install the new camera, make any adjustments and get the feed up and running (valued at $320).

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

• Dec 2020/ Jan 2020 Volunteer graphic designer will create new outreach materials, Project manager will print outreach materials for distribution and for publication on Council website and Facebook, Project manager will order camera and associated parts and reserve the lift. • Dec 2020/ Jan 2020 Project manager will mail outreach materials to watershed residents in first mailing and distribute materials to partners • Dec 2020/June 2021 Project manager will partner with the local newspapers: the Seaside Signal, the Daily Astorian and the North Coast Citizen, to write articles and advertise that the new camera will be installed, that it has been installed, tell the story of the osprey nest, and engage citizens in citizen science activities with the camera. Project manager will create a Friends of the Necanicum Watershed campaign that spotlights submissions by participants relating to observations from the camera. People can submit pictures and observations and we will spotlight them in our social media, newsletter and website. All of these activities will be summarized in a final report each year. • Jan 2021/Feb 2021 Project manager will partner with Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation District and Arbor Care to remove the inoperable camera and replace it with the new camera. • Feb 2021/ Mar 2021 Project manager will deliver outreach letters to the City of Seaside to include with their water bill mailing. Outreach will specifically tie osprey to water quality and usage as well as include information about how to participate in citizen science data collection by viewing the newly installed camera. • Mar 2021/ June 2021 Project manager will make presentations to local service agencies and table at events such as farmers markets in the area to distribute outreach materials and answer questions • May 2021/ June 2021 Project manager and partner staff will collaborate to review project and complete project reporting.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

The osprey nest camera can be found at seasideosprey.org, there is also a link to the camera on the launch page of the watershed council at necanicumwatershed.org.

We appreciate any funding you can provide to help us replace the osprey camera, as our budget outlook and fundraising ability has been greatly reduced due to the Covid-19 situation and we cannot afford to replace it ourselves.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Arresting Policeman's Helmet in the Necanicum Watershed - The Necanicum Watershed Council (NWC) partnered with the North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC) to conduct a 3-year project from 2017 to 2020 to treat policeman's helmet (Impatiens glandulifera) in the Necanicum watershed. The project was funded by an $81,000 grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and a $5,000 grant from Oregon Wildlife Foundation (OWF). In 2017, we conducted a thorough outreach campaign to all river-fronting landowners of the Necanicum and its tributaries. We sent out informational flyers and magnets to over 2,000 NCLC supporters to further put the word out. We gained the support of important landowners with large and public lands on the Necanicum, such as Clatsop County Parks, the City of Seaside, ODFW, and Lewis and Clark Timberlands. Each year for the duration of the project, crews removed policeman's helmet on public and private lands in the Necanicum River corridor. Over three years, more than 7 river miles and 152 acres of policeman's helmet in total were treated. 35 different private and public landowners participated by allowing us access to survey and remove policeman's helmet from their properties, and 11 different landowners received native plants in that phase of the project, with 2,725 native trees and shrubs planted in the Necanicum riparian corridor, replacing areas of previously treated policeman's helmet.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Bergsvik Creek Large Wood projects - this project was completed on the upper and lower reach of Bergsvik Creek. Bergsvik Creek is a salmonid spawning/rearing tributary of the Upper Necanicum River that supports ESA listed Coho, Fall Chinook, Winter Steelhead, Cutthroat Trout and two species of Lamprey (Brook and Pacific). The stream was deficient in large woody debris (LWD), lacking adequate materials that are essential for habitat complexity, streambed gravel retention, and floodplain/hyporheic connectivity. The project hired a qualified contractor to construct 10 strategically located large woody debris structures over 0.65 mile reach of Upper Bergsvik Creek. On the lower reach, the project hired a qualified contractor to construct 9 strategically located large woody debris structures over 0.9 mile reach of Bergsvik Creek. The project was funded with two small grants from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for a total of $20,000. Project partners were Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Lewis and Clark Timberlands. The project has been very successful and salmon have been utilizing the newly created habitat for spawning and rearing.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Oregon Marine Reserves Assessment

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The State of Oregon began to consider the use of marine reserves (MR) as a conservation/management tool almost two decades ago. After years of discussion and deliberation at multiple levels, Senate Bill 1510 (2012) mandated the establishment, study and monitoring of five designated MRs and adjacent Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Per SB 1510, the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is required to submit a report to the Oregon Legislative Assembly in March 2023 regarding marine reserves implementation in Oregon. However, no funding was allocated for this process. The requested support will help ensure that the marine reserves assessment is completed in a rigorous, scientifically defensible manner using a transparent process, and delivered to the Oregon Legislative Assembly to inform them of the status of the marine reserves and assist them in determining any action regarding the marine reserves.

Primary Contact Person *

Laura Anderson

Primary Contact Email Address *

laura@localocean.net

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-961-2524

Lead Organization *

Oregon Community Foundation

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

237315673

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Newport

Project Location (County) *

Oregon

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

08 / 31 / 2022

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

155000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Five (5) marines reserves have been established within Oregon's territorial sea: Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua and Redfish Rocks. The state of Oregon has mandated an assessment of the marine reserves, to be delivered to the Legislative Assembly by March 2023, with the report including "an assessment of social, economic and environmental factors related to reserves and protected areas" as well as "recommendations for administrative actions and legislative proposals related to the reserves and protected areas." No funds were allocated for this assessment. The legislative bill that would have funded the assessment died in the last session due to the "walk out". Oregon Ocean Science Trust, along with our partners, have taken on the goal to complete this scientifically robust assessment of Oregon marine reserves on time.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The main deliverable is a scholarly review and assessment (also referred to as the Final Report) of the MR process and outcomes to date. The information presented in the comprehensive Final Report will help determine adaptive management strategies for Oregon's MR system going forward.

Specifically the Final Report should determine:

1) Were MRs and associated MPAs effectively designed and implemented to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in OPAC's 2008 Oregon Marine Reserve Policy Recommendations?;

2) Did ODFW successfully execute the legislative mandates set forth regarding MR implementation?; and

3) Recommendations for administrative actions and legislative proposals related to the reserves and protected areas.

Success will be measured by the professional and scientifically robust nature of timely report completion.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The STAC has been working diligently for over two years to develop a process by which the marine reserves assessment can be conducted. This process is articulated in the draft Request for Proposals, and is clearly defined, with robust evaluation criteria and established check-ins with STAC. The RFP process follows known protocols supporting similar research competitions, incorporating external peer review in the selection of the public university team.

The RFP has full detail of the project parameters and is available in DRAFT form here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E4848gUvurSrsJqvmk_jo1U0lb3p6OWkPfRewgQ3zfo/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs

OOST will coordinate efforts among all project partners.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
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- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

ODFW created five marine reserves to conserve marine habitats and biodiversity. They also serve as living laboratories where we can learn about Oregon's nearshore ocean environment and the effects that protections — no fishing and conservation — have over time on the marine environment. This research is helping inform how we can best manage our coastal waters into the future. The project is in direct alignment with the OCS in that is will result in a usable assessment of the current scientific tools and methodologies used in the monitoring marine reserves. The OCS states that investments in conservation should be strategic, effective and accountable. This assessment is essentially a scientific audit of a large scale investment by the State of Oregon.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Project funds will be used to support a Lead PI and coordinator (including OPE and indirect costs) and 6 external reviewers (including OPE and indirect costs). The total project cost is $155,000. OCRF funds will be combined with other funds to support the project in whole.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) is coordinating the many project partners. OOST has have a Fund set up with Oregon Community Foundation that will receive and distribute all funds.

The Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC)'s Statistical and Advisory Committee (STAC) will collaborate with OOST to select a 3rd party (likely the Institute for Natural Resources) to run the RFP process that for selecting an Oregon university to lead the assessment and selecting independent reviewers.

ODFW will provide the scientific synthesis document to the selected university for use by the independent evaluators.

The University will have ultimate responsibility for submitting a final report to STAC, and in turn STAC to the Oregon legislature.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Current- EOY 2020 Fundraising and planning. All funding committed by EOY (not necessarily received) . Winter 2020-21 RFP goes out to select the lead University/PI Spring 2021 University/Lead PI selected. First field work monitoring gap Mid- 2021 RFP out and six external reviewers selected Mid- 2022 External reviewers concludes. Final report consolidation and writing. Second field work monitoring gap Late 2022 Draft report complete and sent out for public comment. Mid 2023 Final report due to Oregon legislature

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

We need a small infusion of Oregon funds to demonstrate "buy in" for this assessment. To date almost all project funds are coming from California based foundations. While we are grateful for their support, we all want to see Oregon dollars in the pot. To this end, we have requested funds from all Oregon seafood commodity commissions and a couple other Oregon foundations. While we feel confident that strong firewalls are in place to ensure the assessment is not influenced by the sources of funding, we believe that having Oregon's own dollars in the project will help bring some equanimity to the public perception of outside funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The OOST was established by the Oregon Legislature in 2013 to increase knowledge and understanding of our ocean and coastal resources. If successful, this will be the first project of the OOST. Our fiscal partner, the Oregon Community Foundation is one of the largest in Oregon with $136.8 million in annual grants and scholarships. As one of their 3,474 partners- I am confident we will be successful in executing this project.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

"I am a steward."

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The proposal is a 30-second TV commercial to be ran over Christmas and New Year and through January 2021, with commercial air time purchased in Oregon, excluding Portland metro. Portland metro is currently being targeted with a newspaper campaign from Oregon Conservation and Recreation Committee. Both the newspaper and TV commercial (Public Service Announcement - PSA) compliment one another's message. The title of the 30-second TV commercial proposal is, "I am a steward." The script follows: Speaker 1: "I am a steward." Speaker 2: "I am a steward." Speaker 3: "I am a steward." Speaker 1: "As professional Northwest Guides and Anglers, we get YOU involved with Oregon's fish, wildlife, wild places and recreational opportunities." Speaker 2: "We inspire YOUR own personal stewardship of what Oregon conservation strategy means to YOU." Speaker 3: "Now matey, we want YOU to take the helm and become a steward too." Speaker 1: "Any activity YOU undertake to enjoy, appreciate or support..." Speaker 2: "...fish, wildlife and their habitiats..." Speaker 3: "...makes you a steward!" Speaker 1: "Contact Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife today." Speaker 2: "Tell them "I'm a steward!" Speaker 3: Request your free 365 day calendar of events." Speaker 1: "And Join us!" Speaker 2: "The Oregon Chapter of Northwest Guides and Anglers..." Speaker 3: "...because WE want to see YOU in the great outdoors." # # # BUDGET
The “I Am A Steward” television commercial and outdoor awareness campaign budget is approximately estimated as follows: $7500 = Total grant funds sought

Primary Contact Person *

Bianca DeMers

Primary Contact Email Address *

rbdemers@hotmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

1-541-999-1091

Lead Organization *

NW Guides and Anglers Fisheries Restoration Initiative 501 (c) 3; Mr. Bob Rees, P.O. Box 3208, Clackamas, OR 97015, 503-812-9036

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Florence

Project Location (County) *

Lane

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 11 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

02 / 14 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

7500

Total Project Cost *

7500

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goals and objectives of the OCRF Project is the content of the script. The title of the 30-second TV commercial proposal is, "I am a steward." The script follows:

Speaker 1: "I am a steward."
Speaker 2: "I am a steward."
Speaker 3: "I am a steward."

Speaker 1: "As professional Northwest Guides and Anglers, we get YOU involved with Oregon's fish, wildlife, wild places and recreational opportunities."
Speaker 2: "We inspire YOUR own personal stewardship of what Oregon conservation strategy means to YOU."
Speaker 3: "Now matey, we want YOU to take the helm and become a steward too."

Speaker 1: "Any activity YOU undertake to enjoy, appreciate or support..."
Speaker 2: "...fish, wildlife and their habitiats..."
Speaker 3: "...makes you a steward!"

Speaker 1: "Contact Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife today."
Speaker 2: "Tell them "I'm a steward!"
Speaker 3: Request your free 365 day calendar of events."

Speaker 1: "And Join us!"
Speaker 2: "The Oregon Chapter of Northwest Guides and Anglers..."
Speaker 3: "...because WE want to see YOU in the great outdoors."

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Public participation in Oregon and a sense of Oregon leadership.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

FROM: NW Guides and Anglers Fisheries Restoration Initiative 501 (c) 3; represented by
Mr. Bob Rees, P.O. Box 3208, Clackamas, OR 97015, 503-812-9036, brees@pacifier.com
AND
Project Captain: Bianca DeMers, 89403 View Drive, Florence, OR 97439, 541-999-1091, rbdemers@hotmail.com
Licensed by:
2010 – present Lloyd's Maritime Academy #106510-003: Surveyor of Power and Sail Vessels / Classification: Distinction
- AND -
(1980-2020 Retired) USCG Master Mariner 100 Tons Motor + Sail Vessels

The proposal is a 30-second TV commercial to be ran over Christmas and New Year and through January 2021, with commercial air time purchased in Oregon, excluding Portland metro. Portland metro is currently being targeted with a newspaper campaign from Oregon Conservation and Recreation Committee. Both the newspaper and TV commercial (Public Service Announcement - PSA) compliment one another's message.

The title of the 30-second TV commercial proposal is, "I am a steward." The script follows:

Speaker 1: "I am a steward."
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Speaker 3: "I am a steward."

Speaker 1: "As professional Northwest Guides and Anglers, we get YOU involved with Oregon's fish, wildlife, wild places and recreational opportunities."
Speaker 2: "We inspire YOUR own personal stewardship of what Oregon conservation strategy means to YOU."
Speaker 3: "Now matey, we want YOU to take the helm and become a steward too."

Speaker 1: "Any activity YOU undertake to enjoy, appreciate or support..."
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Speaker 1: "Contact Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife today."
Speaker 2: "Tell them "I'm a steward!"
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Speaker 1: "And Join us!"
Speaker 2: "The Oregon Chapter of Northwest Guides and Anglers..."
Speaker 3: "...because WE want to see YOU in the great outdoors."

# # #

BUDGET

The "I Am A Steward" television commercial and outdoor awareness campaign budget is approximately estimated as follows:

$7500 = Total grant funds sought

$1125 = 15% monitoring and administration of grant funds by host 501 (c) 3, NW Guides and Anglers Restoration Initiative
$ 375 = 5% monitoring and administration of grant funds by Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee
$2500 = Television air-time purchase (200 commercials reaching 4:1 households)
$1000 = 30-second commercial production
$2500 = Project Captain, Bianca DeMers

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This "push" program leads the viewer to "Inspire their own personal stewardship of what Oregon conservation strategy means to them."

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

BUDGET

The “I Am A Steward” television commercial and outdoor awareness campaign budget is approximately estimated as follows:

$7500 = Total grant funds sought

$1125 = 15% monitoring and administration of grant funds by host 501 (c) 3, NW Guides and Anglers Restoration Initiative
$ 375 = 5% monitoring and administration of grant funds by Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee
$2500 = Television air-time purchase (200 commercials reaching 4:1 households)
$1000 = 30-second commercial production
$2500 = Project Captain, Bianca DeMers

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

NW Guides and Anglers Fisheries Restoration Initiative 501 (c) 3 role is the portal for the program. They will supply "talent" for the TV commercial script.
AND
Project Captain: Bianca DeMers, 89403 View Drive, Florence, OR 97439, 541-999-1091, rbdemers@hotmail.com
Licensed by:
2010 – present Lloyd’s Maritime Academy #106510-003: Surveyor of Power and Sail Vessels / Classification: Distinction
- INCLUDING -
(1980-2020 Retired) USCG Master Mariner 100 Tons Motor + Sail Vessels
AND
FOX Media

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

This is a media push from 11 December 2020 through 14 February 2021.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. A full report of airtime and viewership will be produced for tracking and oversight after FOX media purchase.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Project Captain: Bianca DeMers, 89403 View Drive, Florence, OR 97439, 541-999-1091, rbdemers@hotmail.com
Seeing eye dog campaign resulted in dog awareness.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Project Captain: Bianca DeMers, 89403 View Drive, Florence, OR 97439, 541-999-1091, rbdemers@hotmail.com
Sea Scout training for license.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Soda Mountain Trails Project

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Maintain approximately 25 miles of trails in the Soda Mountain Wilderness, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Includes work on Lone Pilot, Pilot Rock, Boccard Point, and Pacific Crest Trails. Repair is needed on trails affected by the 2018 Klamathon Fire, as well as general maintenance.

Primary Contact Person *

Gabriel Howe, executive director

Primary Contact Email Address *

gabe@siskiyoumountainclub.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-708-2056

Lead Organization *

Siskiyou Mountain Club

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

27-3418419

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [x] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Klamath Falls/Ashland

Project Location (County) *

Oregon

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 15 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 15 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

8500

Total Project Cost *

15000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Presently, these trails are in mostly good shape, but significant gaps from fire damage exist. The goal is to reconnect these trails through repairing those trail sections.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

All trails will be in good shape, free of logs and debris, and be accessible and safe to the public.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

In 2018 the 38,000-acre Klamathon Fire burned through the Soda Mountain Wilderness, mostly leaving a low intensity burn scar throughout the area. But suppression tactics took a tool. Trails were used as contingency lines for the Klamathon Fire, bringing bulldozers and excavators in to develop what were primitive trails as industrial fire lines. Immediate remediation work was completed, but a longer term approach is needed when this type of event takes place.

Our staff and intern crews will work with volunteers and agency staff to go complete the repair work, and they will also perform general maintenance. They will remove downed logs, brush, and install retaining structures from native materials that reduce erosion.

In areas where fire lines redirected the flow of water, drainage features will be built. In other areas, where scars from bulldozers and other equipment is still evident, native debris will be scattered throughout to "re-wild" the most impacted sections.

This will leave a natural product that provides a better outdoor experiences, reduce erosion, and improve overall habitat.

These trails are popular among hikers, runners, equestrians, hunters, as well as cross country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts. We have a longstanding partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and are coordinating directly with their line staff to identify priorities and develops tactical work plans.

We often struggle to attract new enthusiasts because most of our community projects represent such a deep commitment. New volunteers have to travel days, backpack into remote project sites, and come with previous. This project represents an opportunity that takes less of a commitment from new volunteers, including those from minority and underrepresented communities we serve. New volunteers who can come out for a half day with little experience or background in this type of service will be engaged, and we'll use the Soda Mountain Wilderness Trail Project as a gateway drug to bring new people into backcountry trail stewardship.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Erosion from fire suppression activities can impact soil quality and overall ecology. Recovering natural slope and directing drainage will help improve habitat.

As we started to go through our own inclusivity and equity journey, we quickly learned that going out for two, three, or six days isn't a viable entry for underrepresented communities. This project will create low-fruit opportunities that are approachable by volunteers from underrepresented demographics. We can use this project as a gateway into more outdoor activities.

By restoring good access to this area, local wildlife enthusiasts will have another place to visit.

Through maintaining good trail networks, we concentrate impact on durable surfaces. Much of the Soda Mountain Wilderness is sensitive habitat, with soft soils supporting oak savannah. This will keep folks off of sensitive soils and on durable surfaces.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will be used to pay staff and interns who do the field work.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

We coordinate directly with the Medford District Bureau of Land Management to identify project details, ensure compliance, and develop work plans. We'll work with the Pacific Crest Trail Association on strategy to make sure we're not overlapping with plans already in place.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Trails will be scouted in March 2021. By May 2021, work will commence, and we expect to be finished by June 15, 2021.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Our track record in this area is unparalleled, and we have a reputation for sticking with areas we invest in. This won't be a one-and-done deal. We'll keep going back to keep these trails in good shape. We have long standing relationships with local units, including the Rogue River-Siskiyou, Klamath, Six Rivers, and Umpqua national forests, as well as the Medford Bureau of Land Management. We also have over 10 years of experience managing projects like this.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Kalmiopsis Wilderness Trail Rehab. We have brought over 100 miles of trails back to life that would have disappeared from the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Rogue Wolf Loop, Sky Lakes Wilderness. We restored about 15 miles of trails in this area to create an approximately 27-mile loop that had disappeared and was never going to open back up otherwise.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Sandy River Salmon Habitat Restoration & Community Amphibian Surveys

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

In 2021, the Sandy - Salmon Habitat Restoration Project will re-connect a historic floodplain through levee removal, while conserving an adjacent wetland. Sandy High School Biology students along with project neighbors will undertake wetlands delineation and an amphibian survey led by Herpetologist Chris Rombough.

Primary Contact Person *

Bill Weiler

Primary Contact Email Address *

bill@sandyriver.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

50365-3972

Lead Organization *

Sandy River Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-1294148

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Brightwood

Project Location (County) *

Clackamas

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

02 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 30 / 2026

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

7500

Total Project Cost *

450000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Goal 1: Implement Oregon Conservation Strategy recommendations for the Sandy - Bull Run Conservation Opportunity Area
Objective 1: Carry out amphibian surveys between March and September, 2021 on a Class A Wetland to ensure wetland protection and enhancement, as well as to guide our salmon habitat restoration project.
Goal 2: Plan and implement surveys with neighborhood volunteers and Sandy High School students.
Objective 2: Monitor amphibian species before, during and after Sandy – Salmon project.
Goal 3: Conduct a wetland delineation survey
Objective: 3: Determine extent of wetlands soils, water, and plants
Replant, restore 5 acres of wetland vegetation buffer post survey.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Overall project success: Placement of 5 large log jams, levee removal and replacement of the levee materials back into the Sandy River main-stem.

Identify amphibian species inhabiting wetlands and buffer area. Outcome is an amphibian survey report.

Wetland delineation: Outcome is a wetland delineations report and marking the wetland buffers.

Project outreach to neighbors, community members, governmental entities, local schools, and site fishers. We aim to reach 200 residents.

Wetland buffer and floodplain seedling planting success of 80% survival, measured by 5 years of maintenance and monitoring.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

In 2021, the Sandy Salmon Floodplain Re-connection Phase II will restore wild salmon habitat and enhance community resiliency in a priority Oregon basin for recovery of threatened Lower Columbia River wild salmon and steelhead that is vulnerable to climate change, increased flooding and erosion. Restoring the floodplain at the confluence of the Sandy and Salmon Rivers represents one of the largest and most potentially productive restoration opportunities in the Sandy River basin, identified as a top restoration priority in basin- and reach-scale plans by the inter-agency Sandy River Partners.

Resulting reconnected floodplain habitat will provide migratory and rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, addressing reach goals for limiting factors specified by restoration plans while quadrupling seasonal or permanent wetland acreage.

The Sandy - Salmon Amphibian Survey Project, an integral component of a larger salmon habitat restoration effort, brings together local high school biology students and neighbors under the tutelage of an outstanding herpetologist Chris Rombough to identify amphibian species within a Class A forested wetland located near Brightwood, Oregon. We strongly believe in community-based involvement with our projects in order to achieve local long-term support for our work.

The salmon habitat restoration project implements Oregon Conservation Strategy recommendations for the Bull Run - Sandy COA by allowing the main-stem Sandy to flow into an adjacent historic floodplain by removing a levee barrier and by adding fish and wildlife habitat in the form of 700 root wads and logs.

The forested wetland is the most important ecological feature within the project area. Amphibian surveys are currently unfunded.

Survey training covers not only the identification of adult and larval amphibians, but also data collection, and both logistic and administrative matters. Our surveys, based on US Fish & Wildlife Service protocols will include all populations of amphibians that might interact ecologically by occasional exchange of individuals. Our technique for conducting aquatic surveys will be to 1) use binoculars to scan for basking frogs, 2) slowly walk in the water or on the adjacent bank while visually searching for eggs, larvae, and adults, and 3) use a dip net to find and capture larvae and adults.

We are excited about introducing our floodplain restoration wetlands site to local neighbors and Sandy High School students (if Covid restrictions allow) to train them in the identification of adult and larval amphibians, but also data collection techniques and conservation.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
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- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
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- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Our project matches the Bull Run - Sandy River COA's recommended conservation actions:
1. Improving aquatic and terrestrial habitats for amphibians. Our project will increase water quantity and biological diversity at the wetland site. 2. Install large in-stream wood. We will be adding 700 root wads and logs to the Sandy River floodplain. 3. Maintain and enhance in-channel watershed functions, connection to riparian habitat. Our 2021 project will remove an old levee allowing Sandy River high flows to return to their historic floodplain providing hiding and rearing salmon habitat.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

$7,800 Total Funding Request:
$3,000 Chris Rombough survey lead
$2,000 SRWC project lead
$2,000 Wetland delineation
$300 Transportation to and from project site
$500 Game-Cams for project monitoring and identify wildlife utilizing the wetland

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Bureau of Land Management: Landowner and technical assistance; ODFW: Susan Barnes and Dave Stewart technical assistance; Sandy High School: volunteer surveyors; Portland Water Bureau: funding; OWEB: funding; Clackamas County; Donated logs and permitting.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Project planning began in September, 2019 with the creation of a project team. October, 2020: Hire Chris Rombough to lead amphibian surveys October,2020: Hire wetland delineation lead. March - September, 2020: Carry out amphibian surveys with students and local citizens. July - August: Salmon habitat restoration consutruction October 2020 - September 2025 Project monitoring and maintenance.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

www.sandyrivewatershedcouncil

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The 2019 Sandy-Salmon Floodplain Restoration Project reconnected 418-acres of floodplain along 1.2 miles of the main stem Sandy River near Brightwood, Oregon. Project partners placed total of 650 large logs in the construction of the two main engineered log jams, located at the upper and lower levee breeches, and an additional 300 logs were placed along excavated groundwater channels to increase stream bed complexity and provide bank stability. Levee removal and log jam construction led to 35,000 cubic yards of material removed along 720' of levee and from the breech locations. Although initial plans anticipated working in only two of three designed project areas in the first construction season, contractors successfully completed the entire project scope within 3 months. The results from the project will provide migratory and rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids and reduce the risk of flooding to surrounding homes and infrastructure.

Since project completion, 20,000 native trees and shrubs were planted within the project site as part of our monitoring and maintenance component.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

The Sandy River Delta Habitat Continuity Project successfully gathered a range of community partners to reestablish a rich diversity of locally derived native trees and shrubs on 100 untreated and treated acres at the Sandy River Delta. The project achieved its goals to connect fragmented habitat areas through the removal of invasive blackberry and scotch broom that have crept into the edges of the woods and open spaces between previously successful habitat restoration projects. In addition, plant establishment (maintenance) removed blackberry that grew in the edges of those open spaces. To date, planting success has been demonstrated through 80% plant survival.

Our primary project task was to connect previously restored Sandy River Delta habitat areas by eliminating edge rows of invasive plant species. Contract crews and community volunteers successfully replaced these weeds with native trees, shrubs and pollinator-friendly plants following invasive species removal at the 1,500-acre Sandy River Delta (USFS-SRD) located in Troutdale, Oregon.

More than 700 student and adult community volunteers improved site connectivity and ecological function at a US Forest Service site that is a hot spot for both biodiversity and outdoor recreation. Of those volunteer numbers, 366 were local elementary, middle, and high school youth. Volunteers and contract crews planted more than the predicted 45,000 native trees and shrubs by putting into the ground 54,406 plants.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Urban Wildlife Marsh Enhancement

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

For 27 years the non-profit Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc. [KWW] has developed, maintained and operated a public nature area in Klamath Falls adjacent to downtown. It offers three miles of walking/biking/bird watching trails beside wetlands and through existing and planted trees and shrubs. It sits immediately west of Lake Ewauna along both sides of Highway 97 on land owned by Oregon Dept. of Transportation and Klamath County, operated under a cooperative agreement. It includes interpretive panels, information leaflets and numbered posts keyed to plant identification info. This grant is requested to buy and install a solar powered water pump and plug a leaking, existing water control structure to enhance, improve, water level management in South Pond. These items will allow the KWW's largest pond, South Pond, 5.4 acres, to be changed from being too deep for optimum native plants and animals to more of a natural condition of sometimes low water levels, sometimes medium levels and sometimes full levels over the long term. Varying the water depths will increase the numbers and species of native vegetation. This improved habitat will increase the numbers and species of native life forms using it. These improved conditions will increase South Pond's recreational and educational values to groups and individual visitors.

Primary Contact Person *

Dave Potter

Primary Contact Email Address *

kpottermom@yahoo.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-205-3293

Lead Organization *

Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc.

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

94-3143814

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Klamath Falls

Project Location (County) *

Klamath

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 15 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 01 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

5990

Total Project Cost *

18590

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The primary project goal is to purchase, install and operate a solar powered submersible water pump. The objective is to mimic - by pumping out water - natural wetland water depth fluctuations of shallow levels, medium levels and full pool levels over several years. This will improve the amount and species of native vegetation such as bulrush, cattail, smartweed, sedge, duck potato [arrowhead], pond lilies [wocus], sago pond weed and others. This improved native wetland habitat will benefit many species including many Oregon Conservation Strategy species. Low to medium water levels, including mudflats, will increase numbers and species of shorebirds, including black-necked stilts. It will also increase cover vegetation [cattail, bulrush] toward the optimum of a 50:50 interspersion of open water and vegetation, Type 4 Wetland - rather than the present open water, Type 5 Wetland. Also improved will be shoreline food plants [smartweed, duck potato, sago pond weed.] It should also provide more wet soil egg laying habitat for Western Pond Turtles. The limited full pool time will provide habitat for diving ducks, white pelicans, kingfishers, Caspian and Forester terns and other species feeding on fish flowed in with Lake Ewauna water. All increased life forms will enhance public uses [bird watching, nature enjoyment, peace and quiet] as well as educational efforts [groups of elementary, high school and college students; community and other groups, individual nature explorers.]

The secondary, much smaller, goal is to plug [cement] an existing culvert attached to a leaking screw gate water control structure. Presently, water inflows [leaking] from flooded private land to the south keeps South Pond at higher than optimal levels much of the time

.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Improved South Pond water level management will produce these outcomes: [a] Increased numbers and species of native wetland plants - some listed above. [b] Increased amounts and species of food and cover plants will increase populations and diversity of native life forms from insects to herptiles to birds to mammals [Example: more cattails = more insects and muskrats = more mink, more food for larger critters and more loafing/nesting sites for waterfowl.] [c] Reducing the number of high water years will reduce the on-going shoreline dike erosion problems from wind driven waves. [d] To a small degree, water returned to Lake Ewauna - then to the Klamath River - will be of improved water quality due to nutrient and minerals uptake by pond plants. [e] Improved habitat = better wildlife = more bird watching and nature enjoyment from the many folks walking our trails. It will also enhance learning opportunities by all levels of school groups and other tour groups. One example is Klamath Falls' Migratory Bird Days - which features guided walks and interpreted mist netting and banding of song birds by the Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, Oregon. Measuring success will be done by retired biologists' observations of plant increases and species diversity over time.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

This project will improve native wetland habitat in South Pond, a 5.4 acre open water - Type 5 - wetland. It will allow water level reductions to manage South Pond toward a better wildlife wetland, a Type 4 Wetland, with about a 50:50 interspersion of open water and plants.

This pond is within the Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc. [KWW] nature area adjacent to downtown Klamath Falls. For 27 years, KWW, by agreement with Klamath County and the Oregon Dept. of Transportation who owns the land, has developed, maintained and managed this land without any tax payer funding. Grants, memberships [numbering less than 30] and donations of funds and labor operate it.

This project will fund the purchase and installation of a solar powered, submersible water pump and the plugging of a currently leaking screw gate water control structure. Pumping will allow the currently chronic high water levels to be lowered to mimic nature more closely. Water levels will, over years, be lowered to produce areas of mudflats and shallow water [shorebird habitat, increased establishment of native plants for wildlife food and cover.] Levels at times will be held at mid levels to allow emergent and shoreline native plants to grow strongly. Some fewer periods, water levels will be held at full pool to better flood back excessively thick vegetation as well as provide habitat for deep water using life forms.

Outcomes from this management plan are as listed above, in the "Outcomes" section.

Plugging the currently leaking culvert water control structure with cement will stop water inflows from neighboring private land to the south. These inflows cause South Pond to be higher than desirable for best wetland management results. The cement plug will be constructed so it can be broken out and removed if the need arises. While this plug is in place, water may still be flowed into South Pond from Lake Ewauna via a second screw gate structure.

Should fowl botulism occur - as it does in local national wildlife refuge wetlands - it will be minimized/stopped by over-flooding South Pond from Lake Ewauna, one of the few habitat scale ways to address fowl botulism. If over-flooding is not possible due to low Lake Ewauna water levels, this projects' solar powered pump will be used to remove all, or as much as possible, water from South Pond.

Lastly, studies have shown that water passing through wetland vegetation becomes higher quality. To a small degree, increasing the amount of wetland plants in this 5.4 acres will contribute to improved water quality in Lake Ewauna and flowing into the Klamath River.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Conservation: This project will improve an existing - usually over full - 5.4 acre wetland by providing a pump to better mimic nature by reducing the depth in some years. This will increase the amount and diversity of wetland food and cover plants and lead to an increased amount and diversity of life forms using the pond. Pumping down will also reduce wave driven erosion of wetland edge dikes. Increasing wetland plant populations will improve the water quality in these 5.4 acres and, ultimately, Lake Ewauna - to a small extent - which connects to the Klamath River.

This conservation effort is a collaboration of a 27 year old non-profit [Klamath Wingwatchers, Inc.], two landowning agencies [Klamath County & Oregon Dept. of Transportation] and two supporting agencies [Klamath Falls City Parks, Klamath Falls Tourism Board.]

Recreation: The project enhances trail side wetland habitat. Next to downtown Klamath Falls, the public trails are much used for bird watching, nature watching [Western pond turtles on logs, otters, beaver, muskrats] and enjoying peace and quiet [sitting benches, picnic tables.]

Educational materials include interpretive signs, a bird leaflet, general leaflet and numbered posts keyed to 30 plants in another leaflet. Our web site covers all basic information and includes a color video. Google "Klamath Wingwatchrs, Inc. - Klamath Basin Birding Trails."

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

RPS Solar pumps, Woodland, CA: Pro W500, controller & eight 100 watt solar panels [$3,599]; vandal resistant wooden mounting structure [$900]; trencher rental & transportation in/out [$305], small tractor scraper rent & transportation [$320]; 250 feet of two inch discharge pipe [$366], in water pump mounting frame [$200]; cement plug materials [$200]; unanticipated costs [$100.] Total: $5,990

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

None. [We plan to do all work by three Klamath Wingwatchers members one of which is a retired supervisory solar power installer.]

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

3/15/2021 start & done before 10/01/2021

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Oregon Conservation Strategy species benefited: Western pond turtle, white pelican, black-necked stilt, Caspian tern, Franklin gull. Also, lead US Fish & Wildlife Service [USFWS] Oregon Spotted Frog biologist wrote that the Oregon Spotted frog did use Lake Ewauna and improved habitat by solar pumping could be a good way for any possible future reintroduction.

Contributing biology experts: [a] Jeanne Spur, USFWS Biologist, frog lead biologist; [b] Ralph Opp, retired District Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, 30 years experience; [c] Dave Potter, retired Refuge and Wetland Complex Manager, GS-14, USFWS, 32 years wetlands experience; [d] Bill Wood, US Bureau of Reclamation, Civil Engineer Technician, water projects, 30 years; [e] Kevin Spencer, retired teacher, B.S. Forestry, regional bird expert.

Donated labor is valued at 120 hours @ $75/hr. for the supervisory installer which is what his time was valued at in 2012 when he retired. Two experienced laborers for 120 hours each @ $15/hr. Total donated labor for this project: $12,600.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Sky Lakes Medical Center Community Grant: $2,500 to repair and maintain the east side walking trail. Work included and accomplished: renting a small tractor to grade, fill depressions and flatten bumps, spot graveling, fabricate & install erosion control structures and large rocks; tune-up and service mowing equipment. All completed. Our east side trail is in the best condition in many years thanks to this grant.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Klamath County Tourism Grant: $1,925 for the reprinting of two informational brochures. "Guide to Wingwatchers Lake Ewauna Interpretive Trail" and "Turning a Swampy Area into a Wetland Nature Trail, a guide to 30 native pants on the trail."
All reprinting was accomplished. Brochures available at both KWW Trailhead kiosks, Discover Klamath visitor center, Running Y Resort, Migratory Bird Days celebration and the Winter Wings Festival - combine to disseminate lots of our brochures.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Oceanscape Network Virtual Exploration & Conservation Education

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is the only aquarium in Oregon accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), which has been maintained since 2001. Our onsite, online and outreach education programs typically reach more than 525,000 people per year. We are one of three wildlife rehabilitation facilities in the Pacific Northwest, and the only one in Oregon authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide specialized care to endangered marine life. More than a tourist destination, we play an important role in connecting people with the Pacific Ocean and inspiring them to protect its inhabitants. In January 2020, we relaunched our web-based distance-learning program Oceanscape Network. It was designed to connect preteens, teens and homeschooled students to science, nature and outdoor experiences using technology as the catalyst. More than 75,000 students and teachers explore oceanscape-aquarium.org to investigate the state's native species, submit sightings of wild animals, use GPS for high-tech navigation of nature areas. Oceanscape hosts a plethora of resources including live-stream videos tracking the rehabilitation and release of wildlife, links to topic-related content and blogs (such as climate change), virtual field exploration, grade-specific curriculum, suggested activities and ocean literacy guides for educators. Oceanscape Network features a video news magazine, Oceanscape Explorer, produced and hosted by our youth volunteer correspondents. These downloadable videos tackle conservation topics in greater detail, and aim to increase the engagement of online student and teacher users. The Aquarium seeks to build on Oceanscape's robust and diverse content, add new environmental partners, educate the public about Oregon's ecosystems and opportunities for outdoor exploration, bridge the digital divide in remote communities, and inspire stewardship of the natural world.

Primary Contact Person *

Molly Dumas

Primary Contact Email Address *

molly.dumas@aquarium.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541.283.1106

Lead Organization *

Oregon Coast Aquarium

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-0877807

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Newport

Project Location (County) *

Lincoln

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

02 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

24000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Overall from the Aquarium strategic plan for Oceanscape Network:
1. Engage audiences in conservation actions and/or provide tools.
2. Provide regional options for conservation action via Oceanscape Network

Objectives:
- Participants will learn about and document the surrounding Dunawi Creek wetland (part of the Mary's River watershed) and how inappropriate gardening techniques and pollution could impact this area, its wildlife and water quality.
- Participants will learn about ocean and climate friendly gardening by Youth Correspondents modeling and demonstrating in their feature plant zonation; testing soil composition; choosing ocean-friendly and climate-friendly plants; planting, maintaining and harvesting their crops.
- Participants will learn about sustainable forestry
- Participants will learn about turkeys as invasive species in Oregon

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Outcomes for above overall goal:
- Digital profiles of at least two regional and two national/international conservation topics online and provide tools to help users make a difference in these issues. (i.e.: ODFW, Ocean-friendly Gardening.)
- Increases traffic to Oceanscape; increased number of unique users; stated intent to use outdoor recreational materials and intent to engage in a new activity or an activity not regularly participated in; working with contract evaluator to create embedded evaluations. This was pilot tested in 2019 with our Season Tracker production. Through surveys, we will gauge participants' attitudes, content awareness, and intent to engage in an outdoor recreation activity.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Over the last several decades, environmental educators and conservation psychologists have recognized that as we become an increasingly urbanized country with regular use of electronic devices, youth are spending less time outdoors and are increasingly disconnected from nature. This has become such a concern as to be coined "nature deficient disorder." In response to the challenge, the Aquarium decided to use the technology as a catalyst for change, meeting youth where they are – online.

In 2014, the Aquarium launched Oceanscape Network (ON), an online digital platform targeting youth (13-21) and teachers. The mission of our Oceanscape Network is to engage youth and educators in nature, environmental science, conservation and outdoor exploration. Oceanscape is a free distance learning website developed by the Oregon Coast Aquarium - one of the country's top-rated aquariums. This distance learning program uses technology to connect an offsite audience to prestigious, reputable agencies and organizations, present-time scientists and researchers.

Our target audiences are 1) youth (ages 14-21), and 2) formal and informal middle/high school teachers. The goal of ON is to pique their curiosity and provide them the tools, resources, and motivation to safely explore the natural world around them. ON has robust sections with natural history content on ecosystems and species.

Additionally, ON provides resources on outdoor etiquette, outdoor safety, science tools, and handling emergencies. Youth navigate major Oregon landmarks and can learn how to use GPS to explore natural areas. An entire section is devoted to outdoor activities designed for a large variety of interests including beach combing, fossil hunting, fishing, crabbing, hiking, and many more.

ON has evolved based on participant feedback and needs. A new corps of Aquarium youth volunteer "Correspondents" was formed to create the content for ON as well as provide strategic direction on youth involvement. As a result, virtual explorations (VE), were also created, to allow youth to travel "virtually" around the world, and view cutting-edge scientific discovery with researchers and explorers representing a variety of disciplines.

The Oceanscape Network's Virtual Explorations uses technology to help teens and young adults experience real-life science as it's happening in the field. We partner with scientists, researchers and explorers from a variety of state, federal and international agencies who provide their expertise through daily blogs; live-streaming and downloadable videos; exclusive photos; downloadable items; and pre- and post-exploration activities for educators.

Partners, state, national, and regional, are key to the success of ON. For example, our most recent production was on Exploring Heceta Head with the Oregon Parks Department; Youth Correspondents tour the park with staff and highlight its features.

As part of the project, we will continue expanding on ON's work to engage youth with local and regional conservation and outdoor opportunities. We will create new VE features on the following:

- Hayden Island invasive plant mitigation program. (Oregon Conservation Strategy: waterway health for fish and native plants)
- Sustainable forestry with Starker Forests: Showing how the timber industry is preparing for climate change and restoring previously felled areas. (Oregon Conservation Strategy: climate change)
- Creating Climate- and Ocean-Friendly Gardens with Benton Master Gardeners Program (OSU) and Patricia Justusson. (Oregon Conservation Strategy: climate change)
- "Wandering Plastics" News Magazine: This in-depth feature on how plastics can move long distances in the water system. (Oregon Conservation Strategy: waterway health for fish)
- Invasive turkeys in Oregon: Working with the Greenbelt Land Trust, this segment is about how turkeys negatively impact native bird species. (Oregon Conservation Strategy: invasive species)

Each of these virtual explorations is at a different stage of development as outlined below.

A strategy for ON is to regularly repost resources to maintain engagement with the quality materials previously produced. This is especially important for the experience sections and outdoor resource packets as we broaden our reach to knew youth who may not be familiar with them. For instance, prior to the summer, we redirect our audience to materials on fishing or during whale migration to our whale watching packet.

Through Oceanscape's Virtual Exploration features, the site allows youth to travel "virtually" around the world, and view cutting-edge scientific discovery with researchers and explorers representing a variety of disciplines. It is the largest online marine and natural history education provider in the state of Oregon. Exclusive resources, activities and curriculum for teachers via Oceanscape's "Coast Connections" align with Next Gen Science Standards and NOAA's Ocean Literacy Principles.

Oceanscape can be navigated by region (N. Coast, Central Coast, S. Coast, Central, Eastern and Western Oregon) and ecosystem (Oregon Coast, Coastal Waters, Inland Oregon, Open Sea). Because the Aquarium owns and operates the website, we can add content for any of the Oregon Conservation strategies: ecoregions, habitats, key conservation issues (i.e: climate change, invasive species, land use, water quality), species (particularly those of greatest risk of endangerment). We post Information about each of these areas of interest from trust sources.

Oceanscape highlights historical landmarks, species preservation, and environmental areas of interest. In collaboration with OSU's Season Tracker Program, the Oceanscape shared interviews with OSU researchers, their efforts to track the impact of climate change throughout the state, and information on how students can volunteer.

Oceanscape has a section devoted to outdoor experiences, searchable by interest (i.e.: cycling, fishing, boating, diving, wildlife spotting). It not only provides guidance for outdoor exploration safety and etiquette, it's calendar highlights opportunities for science in action. Last year, the Aquarium conducted bioblitzes in the intertidal areas adjacent to three of Oregon's marine reserves in partnerships with ODFW. Oceanscape promoted the opportunity, and youth

correspondents filmed these citizen science projects, featuring volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Data collection helped determine impacts of the reserves as a wildlife management tool.

While schools were closed during the COVID pandemic, the Aquarium saw a dramatic increase in Oceanscape Network's unique visitors, even though we could not fund staff to update content on the site. As schools continue to be closed, and/or operate virtually, the Aquarium wishes to continue providing teachers with safe, reliable, science-based content.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Each year the number of youth that ON reaches with its messages increases. ON was specifically designed with the resources, content, and support needed to encourage youth to engage in outdoor recreational activities. ON provides resources on outdoor etiquette, outdoor safety, science tools, and handling emergencies. The features on outdoor activities model how youth their age engage in these activities, making it more motivating for them. ON has begun highlighting conservations issues related to water quality, climate change and invasive species, demonstrating the impact on ecosystems. ON is navigable by ecosystem and species, providing education materials on Oregon's ecology and wildlife.

Currently, there are more than 75,000 Oceanscape users – 19% from Oregon's rural communities. Oceanscape users learn safety tips and wildlife etiquette, and have access to digital science tools for their assignments.

Most of Oceanscape-aquarium.org is imbedded with Google Translate, converting content into 100 languages.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [x] Other: n/a

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

In 2020, the Oregon Coast Aquarium shut down for five months to mitigate the rapid spread of the Coronavirus, resulting in a loss of $6.4M in revenue and education program staff, including Oceanscape Network's program manager. To sustain the organization, the operation budget for FY 2020-21 has been reduced 20%, with Oceanscape management staff budgeted to return in spring 2021. This is contingent on successfully securing grant funds. OCRF grant will fund Oceanscape program expenses, including contracted staff and minimal transportation expenses to develop new online content during the summer 2021.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The Aquarium's Oceanscape Network hosts digital content from hikes to destinations to citizen science projects for The Lincoln County Interpretive Association - a collaboration of interpretive organizations and business on the Central Oregon Coast. These groups work together to educate the public about the Oregon Coast's natural history, conservation concerns, volunteer opportunities and more. LCIA includes: Marine Discovery Tours, OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon Coast Aquarium, OMSI's Camp Gray, Oregon State Parks and Recreation, Travel Oregon, Portland Audubon, Surfrider (Newport Chapter), U.S. BLM, Yaquina Head, U.S. Forest Service, Cape Perpetua and the U.S., WA & OR Fish and Wildlife Service. Oceanscape's Virtual Exploration partners also include DEEPEND, Schmidt Ocean Institute, University of Alaska and WhaleTimes, Inc.

Specific to this grant, our partners will be:
Hayden Island Invasive Plant Mitigation Program with ODFW and Ann Kreager: Kreager is a wildlife biologist who's in charge of the program on Hayden Island's Gail Atcherman Wildlife Area. She oversees the reclamation of the entire area (aquatic and terrestrial) and serves as the major "authority" for Oceanscape.

Starker Forests, Inc is engaged in sustainable forestry through replanting of harvested trees. ON interviewed Starker staff and a teen forestry student from Philomath High School. We filmed a replanting in February, and had planned filming a previous replanted site to show its progress over time.

Patricia Justusson is a certified Master Gardener through the Benton County/OSU Master Gardeners Program. She obtained the planting site - based loosely on the Surfrider ocean-friendly gardening standards - and arranged for the donation of the plants and soil.

ON interviewed Justusson, touring a nearby wetland to reinforce why "ocean friendly" planting is important to curb toxic runoff. Next, ON planned to cover the tending, harvesting and use of the produce (berries) to make foods (jams and jellies), as well as donating remaining produce to local food banks.

ON covered Greenbelt Land Trust's annual turkey census held at their Bald Farm location west of Corvallis. We interviewed GLT staff and volunteers about the effects of invasive birds on native species.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

- Film, edit and post series on Hayden Island invasive plant mitgation program beginning in Spring or Summer 2021 - Film, edit and create curriculum in late spring, then post "Wandering Plastics" 20-minute news magazine series late summer 2021. - Film, edit and post "Creating Climate - Ocean-Friendly Gardens" series with Benton County Master Gardeners Program (OSU) and Patricia Justusson. Spring 2021: film progress, tending fruit plants; Summer film using the fruit produce; and Fall film harvest and post entire series. - Film invasive turkeys in Oregon, asess content and film any necessary "b roll" footage in Summer and Fall, 2021. Edit and post online, winter 2021-2022. - Continue filming and interviewing Starker Forests on sustainable forestry with Starker Forests Fall/Winter 2021. Edit and post Spring 2022.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

https://www.oceanscape-aquarium.org/experience.html

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

One example is the Sandy Shores module (https://www.oceanscape-aquarium.org/coast-connections-sandy-shores.html) which explores the ecosystems and current environmental issues (such as erosion and invasive species) pertaining to Oregon's beaches. This module was developed to help elementary school students understand the human impacts on coastal ecosystems, and the steps they can take to restore and preserve them. It provides learning activities and authentic projects for student participation such as the dune restoration project, with guides for facilitating student group work, and links to more than a dozen research sites (i.e.: the U.S. Forest Service's Oregon Dunes Restoration webpage).

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Using Oceanscape's Virtual Exploration https://www.oceanscape-aquarium.org/virtual-explorations.html students can view environmental science with researchers and various experts from governmental, non-profit and private entities who are on the cutting-edge of scientific discovery. Users can search topics by key words or concepts, or via exploration categories: Explore By Ecosystem, Explore by Region, Explore Animal Species, and Explore Plant Species.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

From:	Molly Dumas
To:	Davia M Palmeri
Subject:	RE: OCRF Application Received
Date:	Thursday, October 22, 2020 11:20:15 AM
Attachments:	image001.png image003.png image002.png

Thanks Davia,
I reviewed the Google doc you sent, but noted the only info that does not match my submission is the project end date. It is supposed to be 9/30/2021, not 3/30/2021. Not sure how that changed. Are you able to correct this?

Best,

Molly Dumas
Director of Development
Oregon Coast Aquarium - *A Nonprofit Organization*
2820 SE Ferry Slip Rd / Newport, OR 97365
541.867.3474 x 1106 / 801.943.2492 (Cell)
www.aquarium.org | oceanscape-aquarium.org



"We create unique and engaging experiences that connect you to the Oregon coast and inspire ocean conservation."

From: Davia M Palmeri [mailto:Davia.M.Palmeri@state.or.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Molly Dumas <Molly.Dumas@aquarium.org>
Subject: OCRF Application Received

Good afternoon,

Thanks so much for your application for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund! This email is to confirm that the Department of Fish and Wildlife has received your materials. Your submission through the Google Form is attached. Your application is currently being reviewed for completeness. We will follow up with you if more information is needed.

The Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee will meet on Monday, October 26 to discuss the review process and commence review thereafter. The Committee will meet again on November 17 to discuss application scores and decide on their funding recommendations. Finally, the Committee's recommendations will be sent to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for their approval. These are all public meetings that you are welcome to attend. You can find more information about the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee here:
https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp

As a reminder, the Conservation & Recreation Fund is a new public-private partnership. More information about the fundraising campaign is available online here:

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Leading with Equity in Guided River Recreation

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Tualatin Riverkeepers strives to connect our community with the Tualatin River through guided River Experiences. While we advocate for water quality and river health, we also realize its inherent value in outdoor recreation and want to promote stewardship in recreation too. Currently these experiences are run by volunteers who are nearly all older, wealthy, and white; as tends to happen when you recruit those who have the time and resources to volunteer, particularly for an activity that requires equipment like a kayak, without leading with equity. Our volunteers are one spot where this is particularly important, noticeable, and relevant. Our goal with this project is to restructure our volunteer recruitment and training to create a safe and welcoming environment for all participants. This is often the first contact that people have with our organization, and demonstrating a lack in both racial diversity and lived experiences that differ from the typical outdoorsmen narrative that many white environmentalists share, instead creates an alienating space that is not productive to dismantling the dominant attitudes that are making our non-white community feel like natural spaces aren't for them. These factors all contribute to why we are placing a priority on taking the time to restructure how we recruit and retain our Tualatin Riverkeepers volunteers. Much of the funds requested in this proposal will go towards the foundational work of our staff to change the program from the bottom up. At this point we are still having to include planning as part of this process. But we ultimately know that a true overhaul of this program will include changing our volunteer prerequisites, changing what we require from volunteers in terms of cultural sensitivity and anti-racism training, and ultimately working with our community to increase retention in those groups that have cited the unwelcoming nature of our program.

Primary Contact Person *

Dana Schot

Primary Contact Email Address *

dana@tualatinriverkeepers.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-218-2580

Lead Organization *

Tualatin Riverkeepers

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

94-3184499

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Tualatin

Project Location (County) *

Washington

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

50000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The ultimate goal of this project is to change the internal structure around volunteer recruitment and organizational values at Tualatin Riverkeepers. We have already begun to dedicate time to internal learning amongst permanent staff members, but we also recognize the need for this change amongst our volunteers and in our training materials, execution, and expectations. This project will lay the groundwork for foundational change in our volunteer program from the bottom up, likely leading to a true and complete overhaul of our work with our volunteers, including managing volunteer prerequisites and standards, adapting our volunteer practices to meet culturally-specific needs of the communities that we recreate with, including and requiring anti-racism training, and ultimately working with our broader watershed community to increase support among groups that have previously felt underrepresented, tokenized, or unwelcome while working with us in the past. Even though we have valued representation and inclusion throughout our 30-year history, it is clear that we still have substantial work to do towards becoming a truly equitable organization. Our paddle volunteers represent one aspect where this is particularly important, noticeable, and relevant. Despite our open calls and professed inclusivity, it's clear that we are still recruiting and retaining volunteers from that same demographic. And if that is the case, then we must accept that it is our responsibility to change and do better by our community. In the past, we have put forth a fairly unstandardized program of volunteer management with substantial barriers to participation including but not limited to geographic location disparities, access to kayaks, and access to outdoor guiding education. We have already made small changes in an effort to begin to address these issues, such as now offering the use of our kayaks for volunteers who do not own their own. But the fact remains that this is not enough on its own, as our training opportunities and content still reflect outdated viewpoints with an air of exclusivity to outdoor recreation. Without a specific effort to focus on making this program accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to anyone who wishes to work with us, we will continue to see the same results. That is the objective we have in creating this project.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Through this project, we are hoping to create a more diverse group of Tualatin Riverkeepers volunteers, that not only reflect the values of the watershed that we live in, but are also representative of the many cultures, backgrounds, and experiences that we see in Washington County. This will be the first time that we have undertaken a dedicated effort to restructure this program, so we are expecting to measure success in a variety of ways that will not only meet our project goals, but in a way that will also provide learning opportunities for us to adapt to over time. We intend to measure success by three main criteria:

-Volunteers will demonstrate the ability to learn across cultures and support those with different cultural backgrounds or experiences than theirs while in leadership roles.
-New volunteer recruitment will increase from previous years, particularly amongst underrepresented groups in our watershed.
-Participants in volunteer-led programs will feel welcome and valued while taking part in our activities.

These objectives will be measured by a combination of evaluations by staff leading each volunteer training and observing the learning going on by volunteers, and by observing collected data on volunteer numbers over the course of our project year. We will also provide opportunities for active and safe feedback from participants that will help guide our ability to responsively adapt the program based on the actual response from the community we are engaging with.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Our mission at Tualatin Riverkeepers is to protect the Tualatin River watershed through building stewardship in a community that is dedicated to preserving and enjoying this great natural resource. One of the principles that we take strongly is that placed-based experiences create connection, and that connection will create drive and passion for keeping our river clean, healthy, and navigable for recreation. Guided paddle trips are one of the core aspects of a River Experience with Tualatin Riverkeepers. We are ultimately not an "outfitter" for recreational river trips, rather we are a mission-driven nonprofit that seeks to blend outdoor recreation and conservation to further our mission of creating a community dedicated to protecting and enjoying our watershed. We value the natural escape that our river provides those in our community and want to advocate for wildlife protections, water quality, and overall environmental health as much as we can, but we also realize its value in outdoor recreation. Whether that means getting on the river with us or simply getting out in a park to take care of your mental health, we want to be sure that we can promote taking advantage of this natural resource in a way that includes stewardship so that we can keep enjoying it for generations.

However, as a small nonprofit, our guided paddling trips are almost always staffed by volunteers. As a small conservation nonprofit, we were unsurprisingly founded by and largely for a specific white audience as so many mainstream environmental advocacy groups were. Although we value and know the necessity of diverse representation and inclusion, we also know that we have a lot of work to do amongst ourselves to begin to dismantle these structures and do our part to increase representation in the outdoors and within mainstream conservation today. Even so, our current field of paddle guiding volunteers is a noticeable blind spot where we are not backing up those values. Despite our open calls for volunteers and our professions of inclusivity, it's clear that we are still attracting and ultimately retaining volunteers from that same demographic: older, wealthy, and white. We also have many volunteers who represent a very narrow narrative of outdoor recreation and conservation that includes historical inaccuracies and attitudes that we have to be working to expose our community to the outdoors so that they can enjoy it, rather than understanding that our community is very aware of the outdoors, but does not feel welcome to enjoy it. This is an important distinction that has unfortunately led us to have a very homogenous and unwelcoming culture throughout our volunteer training and our volunteer-led programs.

To that point, we are proposing a dedicated project throughout next year to overhaul and restructure our volunteer training program. It is not enough to simply understand the roles that environmental justice, racism, climate change, and outdoor recreation all have in our work. We also must actively present opportunities for our whole community, which includes a wide variety in backgrounds, experiences, and cultures, to come together and work on environmental protections with us that help protect our access to outdoor recreation. Our volunteer trip leaders are often the first contact that people have with our organization and it is their responsibility to create a safe, welcoming environment for all of our participants and everyone in our greater watershed community. Unfortunately, while we continue to lack diversity in our volunteers, whether that be in the form of income diversity, racial diversity, or diversity in lived experiences, we will always inadvertently be providing a substandard experience that fails to be welcoming and inclusive, and likely fails to promote outdoor recreation as a means of stewardship since we are only reinforcing prior poor experiences that our participants are likely to have had.

This attitude and wrongful perception of our responsibility as a conservation organization is alienating and ultimately not productive to dismantling the dominant attitudes that are making certain members of our community feel othered and like natural spaces aren't for them. We have heard specific feedback in the past that our programs have felt unwelcoming, particularly to women and BIPOC who have felt tokenized or uncomfortable while participating in programs with us on the river. These factors all contribute to why we are placing a priority on taking the time to restructure our recruitment, training, and retention of all Tualatin Riverkeepers volunteers. This work is still partially in the planning stage, particularly while we experience challenges surrounding COVID-19 and the ability to hold programming at all. As such, most of the funding requested from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund will likely go towards providing compensation for the work it will take to fundamentally change the program from the bottom up by Tualatin Riverkeepers staff. In addition to planning, a true overhaul of this program will likely include changing our volunteer prerequisites, changing what we require from volunteers in terms of cultural sensitivity and anti-racism training, and ultimately working with our community to increase retention amongst those groups that have cited the unwelcoming nature of our program.

For a variety of reasons, including the simple fact that it should have been addressed already, we feel that it is absolutely imperative that we devote ourselves and our organization to making these changes now. Not only do we know that these changes are going to be necessary if any of us want to succeed in championing environmental stewardship and truly working toward creating a community that is invested in environmental justice, but it is also a simply a factor that will hinder our ability to do our work effectively and safely if it continues to go unchanged. For example, our lack of Spanish-speaking volunteers can create an environment where there are massive safety hazards during events we hold with our partners at Centro Cultural de Washington County that are designed to be culturally-specific particularly for our Latinx community. The probability of all our participating families speaking English fluently is not always high, and it isn't fair to expect any participant to translate in the event of an on-the-water emergency. We need to have diverse volunteers leading these trips so that we are prepared to handle that situation, in addition to all of the reasons given above. Ultimately, this is the only path forward, ethically and for the benefit of conservation practices within each of our communities. We know that this change has been a long time coming. Tualatin Riverkeepers exists at one of the intersections of conservation and recreation. We strive to fulfill our role in helping our community protect, restore, and enjoy this natural resource. We strive to promote active environmental stewardship in recreation as much as possible. This is truly the heart behind the concept of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, and our organization strongly reflects the interconnected ideals of this concept, as we try to promote responsible stewardship and recreation together as a cohesive value that many Oregonians all share, and should be something that everyone can participate in without feeling like they don't belong.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Tualatin Riverkeepers is not an outfitting organization for recreational guiding. We intentionally try to engage outdoor recreation opportunities with opportunities to learn about wildlife, natural history, and stewardship in all of our programs. This principle is woven through our advocacy strategies and our environmental education programs as well. Ultimately we are a conservation organization using outdoor recreation as a tool to instill environmental ethos in our community.

So while our work typically involves many aspects of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, such as land use planning as it pertains to protecting wetlands and wildlife habitat, or issues around water quantity and quality, as a member of the international Waterkeeper Alliance movement. However, this particular project has stronger ties to the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's recreation priorities, particularly in engaging a more diverse community of outdoor users and in wildlife-associated recreation since that is our main goal with this program: promoting stewardship through outdoor recreation, for everyone. We expect that by restructuring our River Experience volunteers, we will likely increase our ability to hold space for more diverse outdoor users to feel safe and welcome on our river-learning opportunities.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

This proposal is specifically requesting funding for staff time. This project is to restructure our training program for volunteers with Tualatin Riverkeepers, which will include writing an entirely updated curriculum with input from partners, the community, and/or training facilitators, who may also receive compensation for their time and expertise. Funds will also support staff evaluations of our proposed measures of success throughout the year as we implement the structural changes needed to improve the program. Particularly while we are still experiencing challenges due to COVID-19, much of this project will be responsive planning.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Centro Cultural de Washington County has been an active partner in our educational events and some culturally-specific events held together. We are planning to involve Centro in helping us guide our training curriculum, especially for these culturally-specific events where cultural sensitivity is required. We are also working with Centro to use facilities and locations where we can expand where we hold trainings to work toward removing locational barriers to attendance.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

This project will occur throughout the next full year, from January 2021 through December 2021. Early work will primarily be foundation building and planning, and provided that we can hold in-person volunteer training, those will likely be held February through March. Regardless of restrictions, we are planning to hold at least one prioritized training with Centro during this time period, specifically so that we include Spanish-speaking capacity in our volunteers prior to hosting any paddling events together in the future. Any in-person training opportunities will be done with all required health and safety guidelines followed.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Please feel free to visit the Tualatin Riverkeepers website (tualatinriverkeepers.org) for a comprehensive look at our organization and our programs.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

This summer, we held a similar project to restructure our entire summer camp program so that it could be attended online and at home due to concerns about hosting in-person programming while meeting safety standards of COVID-19. We usually hold week-long camps for students to learn about the Tualatin River watershed, but instead changed all curriculum to at home activities for students to do with their families and grown ups at home, or in their neighborhood. We did not have the capacity to provide students with materials, so this change involved reworking all activities to be able to be done successfully with little to no specialized materials, instead involving nature walks and prompts to use what they have on hand to be creative and still ultimately feel connected to nature. Some examples of at-home camp activities included scavenger hunts around the neighborhood, virtual paddling trips, and age-appropriate community science projects on sites like Zooniverse for students to actively participate in real science from home. While the program was not without its challenges, namely relying on Internet access to participate, we were able to provide the program for free and saw increased attendance compared to our regular in-person camps. We hope to take this opportunity to learn from the successes and challenges of this altered program to continue to create a more equitable and interactive experience in any format.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Tualatin Riverkeepers has held a specific paddling trip at least once a year that serves as a continuous project to unite values of conservation and stewardship with outdoor recreation through River Clean Up Paddles. Similar to a beach clean up or a litter pick up at a local park, this is our version of a public stewardship program that harnesses our unique ability as a water-based conservation organization to provide an opportunity for our members and our community to get on the water and simultaneously practice environmental stewardship. Tualatin Riverkeepers occupies a very similar niche to many other conservation and environmental organizations, especially in a state with a broad environmental ethos like Oregon. To differentiate ourselves and allow us to create a program that highlights our position and our ability to provide river recreation opportunities, we created our River Clean Up Paddles as a project to promote river stewardship specifically. During the paddle, participants remove trash and debris from the water and dispose of it properly upon returning to land. This not only makes our river cleaner, but it also reduces pollution to our river and others. Overall, this project is an example of our history of working to combine stewardship and recreation in a way that creates a community dedicated to protecting their natural resources, both for enjoyment and for better environmental health for all.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

South Santiam Stream Temperature Monitoring

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The South Santiam Watershed Council (SSWC) seeks to continue its stream temperature monitoring program in McDowell and Hamilton Creeks, two basins that are important for both migratory fish and overall watershed health in the South Santiam River. Several private landowners in these basins have undertaken voluntary measures to improve wildlife habitat, reduce non-native vegetation and increase critical shade to streams. We encourage these landowners to become further engaged in fish conservation by using in-stream data loggers from May to October to help the council monitor stream temperatures. Working collaboratively with these citizen scientists to monitor in-stream conditions is important for maintaining an existing multi-year dataset and understanding the effectiveness of our efforts to enhance riparian habitats throughout the watershed. The data will also be shared with our partners at Oregon Departments of Agriculture (ODA) and Environmental Quality (DEQ) to support their long-term stream temperature monitoring programs.

Primary Contact Person *

Mike Vernon

Primary Contact Email Address *

m.vernon.sswc@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-367-5564

Lead Organization *

South Santiam Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

91-1787357

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Sweet Home

Project Location (County) *

Linn

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

04 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

11 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

2576.00

Total Project Cost *

3356.00

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goals of this program are to track trends in stream temperature to better understand 1) how conditions in these two creeks are responding to climate change, 2) how streamside vegetation influences stream temperature, 3) the effectiveness of vegetation restoration projects to reduce water temperatures in the South Santiam watershed, and 4) encourage citizen scientists to become actively engaged in the SSWC's monitoring efforts. To achieve this, the SSWC will work with landowners to place temperature loggers at 8 stream locations (4 in Hamilton Creek and 4 in McDowell Creek) that have been regularly monitored for the last 4 years. We will collect additional data to augment stream temperature information, including stream flows in each creek 3 times during the monitoring period, and air temperature data from a nearby Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS). These data will then be paired with a GIS-based riparian vegetation assessment for stream reaches adjacent to monitoring sites. We will compile and share data with our partners at ODA and DEQ to be analyzed as part of their long-term stream temperature and vegetation study.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

We plan to collect 6 months of stream temperature data from each of the 8 monitoring locations. In November 2021, we will submit stream flow, air temperature, and vegetation assessment data to our agency partners for inclusion in their analysis. The Oregon Department of Agriculture produces a written report every 5 years that summarizes their findings. This critical information will then be used by the SSWC to inform changes to its restoration program and help identify new areas for future work.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Hamilton and McDowell Creeks are perennial tributaries of the South Santiam River. The confluence of both creeks with the mainstem is approximately 4 miles southwest of Lebanon, OR. Upper Willamette winter steelhead and spring Chinook use these tributaries as winter refuge and rearing habitat, and winter steelhead spawn in upper Hamilton Creek. Hamilton Creek is listed under section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act as exceeding water quality criteria for temperature.

Prior to 2015, riparian habitats along lower Hamilton and McDowell Creeks were dominated by Himalayan blackberry and other noxious weeds that provided little to no shade for the stream channel. Underneath the cover of blackberry, several sections of the bank had significant and persistent erosion. Noxious weeds prevented natural recruitment of native seedlings and the site had no chance of recovering without intervention. The exposed stream channel lacked shade and was susceptible to elevated temperatures. Limited terrestrial inputs reduced channel complexity and compromised the base of the food web that supports healthy salmonid populations.

Since 2015, SSWC worked with landowners on a variety of voluntary restoration projects that included removal of non-native plants and establishment of native vegetation. To date, the SSWC has successfully restored native vegetation along 3 stream miles across these two important tributaries. These activities have the potential to improve water quality by increasing shade, adding structural complexity that benefits wildlife species, and reducing sediment inputs by stabilizing stream banks. However, given the temporal scale of habitat restoration projects and trends in climate, tracking these conditions through time is critically important.

For the past 4 years, the SSWC has worked with ODA and DEQ to track stream conditions and riparian vegetation as part of their long-term stream temperature and vegetation study. Unfortunately, recent budget shortfalls due to the Covid-19 pandemic have caused temporary disruptions in our collaborative monitoring program. The ODFW ORCF funding presents an opportunity for us to continue monitoring in 2021 while we seek funding sources to maintain our program in the long-term.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
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- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The SSWC stream temperature monitoring project aligns with the Oregon Conservation Strategy in a number of ways, including enhancing key habitats (flowing water and riparian habitat) to benefit key species in the South Santiam basin (Spring Chinook and Winter Steelhead). The watershed council has been working since its start in 1995 to improve in-stream habitat for anadromous fish with log placement projects, culvert replacements and other enhancement activities as well as working with landowners to re-establish riparian vegetation that helps maintain cold, clean water. Monitoring long-term stream temperature trends will help the SSWC determine the effectiveness of past restoration efforts and will allow us to adapt future projects to changing conditions based on these results.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

- SSWC staff time (60 hours at $30/hour) - $1,800
- Travel reimbursement for field work (120 miles at $0.575/mile) - $69
- Pro V2 Hobo temperature loggers ($130/per x 2) - $260
- Contingency (10% of above costs ($2,129)) – $213
- Grant Administration (10% of total cost ($2,342)) - $234
- Total cost = $2,576.00

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Our partners on this project are the private landowners who voluntarily work with us to monitor stream temperature on their property. In addition, we will continue to submit monitoring data to The Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Quality as part of their long-term temperature monitoring effort.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

April 2021 – Check logger quality with controlled temperature trials May 2021 – Deploy temperatures loggers and stream flow estimation August 2021 – Mid season audit and stream flow estimation October 2021 – Retrieve loggers and stream flow estimation November 2021– Complete data entry, QAQC, and send data to ODA/DEQ

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The South Santiam Watershed Council has successfully participated in the ODA and DEQ stream monitoring program for the past 4 years. This included following protocols to calibrate and check field equipment, deploy loggers, complete temperature check audits, estimate stream flow, retrieve loggers, perform data quality reviews, and submit data in the requested format to agency partners. SSWC staff have a long track record of building relationships with landowners that undertake restoration projects and help with stream temperature monitoring. Through this program, we have consistently produced high quality data (as rated by DEQ) in a timely manner that contributes to the larger effort of monitoring stream conditions statewide.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Riparian re-vegetation projects in Hamilton and McDowell Creeks. The SSWC has identified areas of work, conducted outreach, and secured funding for a number of revegetation projects in the basins where we monitor stream temperatures. This includes securing and managing competitive grants for restoration funds, meeting reporting deadlines for projects, and often going above and beyond funder's timeframes to ensure the successful re-establishment of native riparian vegetation. At one recent site on Hamilton Creek, SSWC staff worked with a contracted crew to install more than 10,000 native trees and shrubs on 17 acres of riparian area along 1.3 miles of the creek. The site is currently in the maintenance phase with follow up plant establishment activities occurring at multiple times throughout the year.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

People of Color Outdoor and iUrban Teen Connect in Nature

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

People of Color Outdoors (POCO) is a Meetup group that has been connecting Black, Indigenous and People of Color with nature in a variety of ways for the past three years. POCO has hosted approximately 125 outings since 2017. POCO's fiscal sponsor is the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. POCO has approximately 1800 individual members between Meetup and Facebook. POCO's mission is to make outdoor activities accessible in a safe manner, to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). https://pdxpocoutdoors.com/ iUrban Teen is a non-profit STEM organization that brings together underrepresented teens and young adults for career exploration and mentoring. iUrban Teen has thousands of members, and has chapters in Oregon, Washington, Texas and California. https://iurbanteen.org/ POCO and iUrban Teen propose hosting an overnight camp on the coast for first time campers. The camp will be a three day, two night camp.

Primary Contact Person *

Pamela Slaughter

Primary Contact Email Address *

pam@pdxpocoutdoors.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-349-1061

Lead Organization *

People of Color Outdoors

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

03-0456181 (fiscal sponsor)

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Warrenton, OR

Project Location (County) *

Clatsop

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 11 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 13 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

10000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goals would be to: 1. Introduce BIPOC to the experience of overnight camping for the first time. 2. To introduce BIPOC to the experience of overnight camping in an environment where they feel not only tolerated, but welcome and truly cared about by people that look like them. 3. To make the experience of overnight camping a joyful experience. The experience will transform fear into excitement, and a love of nature and adventure. 4. Participants will be have the experience of having fun at camp, and will also receive education about the environment. 5. Participants will receive career guidance.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Much of the outcomes can't be measured in an objective manner. Many BIPOC have gone camping when they were younger, or a family member or friend did, and they experienced something traumatic. They shared that trauma with BIPOC friends and family, and though those friends and family members have only heard about it, they experience it vicariously.

The writer of this grant has experienced trauma caused by racial attacks in the outdoors firsthand, and vicariously.
https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/reclaiming-nature-people-color

It's not easy to overcome. A measure of success will be convincing people to take the risk and attend, to stay, to release their fears and anxiety and embrace the opportunity to experience nature in a healthy manner. Another measure of success will be whether we start to receive requests after the event, to go camping again. Better yet, we would count the event to be successful if members felt safe enough to go camping again, on their own.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

POCO and iUrban teen members will experience hiking, bird watching, canoeing, wildlife observation and photography. They will learn about the fish, crabs, birds and other wildlife in the area. They experience the joy of singing around the campfire, sharing culture and stories, and maybe even a dance or two. There will be arts and crafts, camp games and environmental education. Each day will offer structured events as well as free time to explore.

One of the structured events that will be offered after lunch both days will be education around environmental issues. Campers will learn about the impact that invasive species have on our local environment. They will learn about the need for green corridors so that animals can move freely and safely, and reproduce. They will learn about what they can do to help improve water quality. They will discuss ways to reverse climate change. After dinner both nights will be BIPOC professionals sharing about their career or business, and answering questions from the iUrban Teens. iUrban Teens don't often have an opportunity to see people that look like them in successful careers and when they do, they don't have access to them to ask questions in a beautiful, natural camp setting.

This event is designed to be a transformative experience for all participants. We want to foster a sense of responsibility to the students as well as the environment in the professionals that attend. All participants will leave with a sense that camping is for them, as well as for the greater population.

Participants will feel connected to nature, feel that they understand more about the environment and how to help protect it. Participants will develop a love of nature and a desire to go camping on their own.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
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- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This camping trip for first time campers will involve BIPOC of various ages, family members, and individuals. There will be an environmental educational component after lunch time. Some of the topics to be discussed will be the need for green corridors for animals, how and why we need to improve our water quality, what can be done to reverse and slow climate change, how invasive plants, animals, fish and birds affect our local ecosystems. Volunteer opportunities will be shared and encouraged, such as the Columbia Slough clean up days, invasive plant removal days, planting of native plants that will feed birds and host native insects, etc.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The camp rental, transportation to the camp and back to Portland, meals and snacks, stipend for speakers and planners, insurance, educational materials.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

iUrban Teen will help to market the activity and screen first time student campers and their families. iUrban Teen will also coordinate getting the students and their families prepared with proper gear for overnight camp, and organizing how to get students and families to transportation.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Covid-19 and the number of people. We want to provide up to 80 new campers with this experience.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Here are links to POCO and iUrban Teen, along with information about how and why POCO was started. https://pdxpocoutdoors.com/ https://iurbanteen.org/ https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/reclaiming-nature-people-color

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

On October 2, 3, and 4th of 2020, POCO hosted outings at Oxbow Park. The outings were sponsored by Metro. We spent the day at Oxbow Park each day. We started the outing with a land acknowledgement, recognizing the Indigenous people that were caretakers of the land, and then recognized the current caretakers of the land. Participants learned about Estella Ehlebe, a little-known Black woman whose efforts are largely responsible for the preservation of the ancient forest at Oxbow.

Participants were then led by Park Rangers through the ancient forest, where they learned about the flora, fauna, birds, mammals and Indigenous people of the Oxbow Park area.

After the hike, participants returned to the shelter and enjoyed individual lunch boxes before the learning about the geology of the Sandy River and Oxbow Park from Paul Edison-Lahm, past president of the Oregon Geological Society. After the geological presentation, participants returned to the shelter and enjoyed a discussion. They were still there enjoying the discussion long after the event ended.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

On September 29, 2020, POCO hosted a canoeing event for beginning canoers. Staff from the Columbia Slough Watershed Council provided safety and paddle instruction, lifejackets, canoes and paddles. Participants paddled the Columbia Slough, Buffalo and Whitaker Sloughs. Participants learned about levees, warm water fish, pollution issues, water quality issues, invasive species, and toxic fish as they paddled. POCO offers this event regularly. At first, participants were afraid and would only venture out in canoes that were connected. Since covid-19, paddlers have been going out in single canoes in spite of the fear. POCO members ask to go canoeing frequently now that they feel confident, and often go on their own and with public groups. We even have a couple of members who have joined dragonboat or paddle teams. https://youtu.be/BAb2h5mGuAc

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Project Information

Project Title *

Powers Northwestern Pond Turtle Habitat Restoration Project

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The northwestern pond turtle is one of two species of freshwater turtles that is native to the state of Oregon. For over 30 years, biologists have monitored populations to better understand the cumulative impacts of habitat lost, predation/competition, and road mortality on the persistence of the species. Northwestern pond turtles are a sensitive-critical species in Oregon, in part due to ongoing declines in abundance, adult survival, and juvenile recruitment throughout the state. A common active management strategy to enhance turtle populations is to improve or restore basking habitat for turtles in areas where development has altered habitat quality. Pond turtles need to bask in order to regulate body temperature (associated with critical processes including immune response and metabolism). In urban environments, northwestern pond turtles may have fewer opportunities for basking due to frequent disturbance from recreational activity; they may also avoid terrestrial basking due to increased human activity adjacent to aquatic habitat sites. Low basking site availability creates additional challenges by forcing turtles to concentrate near a small number of available basking sites, increasing visibility (and vulnerability) to predators. By increase basking site availability, biologists can significantly improve habitat conditions, often with minimal materials costs. Here, we propose a habitat improvement project to increase basking site availability at two ponds (~25 acres) that are part of an important turtle metapopulation near the town of Powers, Oregon. Proposed project actions are to augment basking habitat by installing an additional 400 ft2 of natural basking surface. We anticipate that these habitat improvements will increase the survival of turtles at both ponds; added benefits include additional wildlife viewing and public outreach opportunities at the Powers County Park pond site.

Primary Contact Person *

Cyndi Park

Primary Contact Email Address *

cpark@coquillewatershed.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

918-720-7116

Lead Organization *

Coquille Watershed Association

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-1171301

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Powers

Project Location (County) *

Coos

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 19 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9998

Total Project Cost *

36566

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Northwestern pond turtles are a Sensitive-Critical Strategy Species in Oregon. The primary goal of our project is to implement conservation actions (as identified for this species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy) to support the species' recovery by restoring habitat for a locally significant population of turtles. To this aim, our specific project objective is to increase basking site availability at two pond sites which will allow for increased viability of northwestern pond turtles within the Coquille Watershed.

Our project also creates an opportunity to address two goals associated with wildlife recreation at the Powers County Park pond site. The first goal is to enhance park visitor awareness of, and appreciation for northwestern pond turtles. We will address this goal by increasing wildlife viewing opportunities at the park, which is used heavily for recreation with excellent trails for user access to the pond. By installing basking structures, we will increase turtle surface activity in locations that are visible to park users, increasing opportunities for users to observe turtles.

Our second recreation goal is to provide educational materials on western pond turtle habitat needs. The Powers County Park pond site is frequently used for recreation and it is likely that this negatively affects local turtle populations. Basking site improvements are an important way to mitigate some of the threats to the local population; however, education and outreach are equally important as a strategy to minimize additional threats to local populations. By installing site signage to communicate turtle life-history information and common threats to persistence, we can better inform local users of important turtle sites to avoid, and increase awareness of how vulnerable turtles are to disturbance.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Success will be measured by the amount of additional basking habitat provided. Our goal is to add 400ft of basking area. The following metrics will also be used to measure project outcomes during incidental monitoring from March through September: number of turtles at project site; number of turtles using new basking structures; number of park user turtle observations submitted.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The project area encompasses regionally important habitat for northwestern pond turtles. In general, northwestern pond turtles are uncommon in the Coast Range Ecoregion relative to other ecoregions in Western Oregon; within the Coquille Watershed, the largest population of pond turtles is within 4 miles of the town of Powers, Oregon.

The first project site is owned by Coos County, and consists of a 20+ acre pond at Powers County Park, north end of town and west of the South Fork of the Coquille River. There are many conservation challenges for northern western pond turtles at the Powers County Park project site. The area receives significant recreational pressure with year-round access to RV (40 sites with hookups), cabin (3 cabins), and tent camping (70 campsites) on the north and west ends of the project pond. There is also a large day use area on the north side of the pond for multi-purpose recreation. Research shows that increased human activity can shorten basking periods making it significantly harder for turtles to meet their thermal needs. Additionally, the project site pond is stocked with trout, bass, catfish and crappie, which may result in predation of, or competition with resident pond turtles. Fishing pressure to include non-motorized boats and shoreline fishing access likely creates additive hazards (bycatch, disturbance).

The second project site is an old mill pond south of the town and adjacent to Mill Creek. The site is east of the South Fork of the Coquille River, and owned by the City of Powers. The site is not used recreationally, and provides additional foraging and basking habitat for turtles within the focal area.

Recent site visits to ponds within the project area have documented a lack of adequate basking structures to support life-history needs of the current turtle population. The goal of this project is to improve basking habitat at both project sites by installing anchored basking logs in suitable habitat within the ponds.

The Coquille Watershed Association (CoqWA) recently implemented a fish passage and instream restoration project at Baker Creek, 3 miles from the project site, and has a number of large logs leftover and available for use. To implement the proposed project, the CoqWA will hire a contractor to mobilize a log loader or excavator and log hauling truck to the Baker Creek project site and and transport the logs from their current location at Baker Creek to the Powers County Park. These logs vary is size, with some of them being as large as 40" in diameter and too big for the use of a self-loader. Logs will be unloaded with a log loader into the pond from existing access roads. To place each log in the desired location and within ~20 yards of the shoreline, staff from ODFW will move each log into place with the help of 1-2 non-inflatable boats. Log placements will require 2 or more anchors per log, constructed of galvanized wire wrapped around the log circumference, and attached with a swivel to a cinder block with a wire-lead that is long enough to allow for movement of the log as water level varies through the season, but not so long to allow the log to drift onto the shore-line. There will be a variety of log placements designs implemented to provide cover and basking for turtles at different life-stages. While some placements will consist of a single large log, others will be three small logs, banded together and anchored at different heights as to provide easy access for hatchling to juvenille turtles. Log placements will be installed near known or potential nesting habitat. These methods have been determined based on successful projects implemented by ODFW in other regions. Local ODFW biologists who organize the annual "Free Fishing Day" at the Powers County Park and are familiar with the angling areas will be assisting with the log placements. This will allow us to choose locations where the turtles will be less disturbed and anglers will not be impacted.

After logs have been placed, we will work with the Powers County Park to design and place an outreach sign to include a turtle observation log and drop box so that park users can submit turtle observations. A local Powers resident has volunteered to collect data and refill forms throughout the year.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Our project implements conservation actions as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy for a Sensitive-Critical Strategy Species, the northwestern pond turtle, by placing large wood in off-channel habitat. Our project also addresses recreational goals by the following actions: providing public awareness of, and appreciation for northwestern pond turtles; providing educational materials; and engaging the public through citizen science.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will be used to transport and anchor basking logs at each project site; to print and install project signage; and for project permitting fees, administration and indirect costs. Grant match from Coquille Watershed Association includes cash match through an OWEB Small Grant and in-kind match through project logs. Grant match from ODFW includes project monitoring costs, design for project signs, and technical assistance.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Coquille Watershed Association
Project manager. Includes acquiring permits, stakeholder coordination, grant administration, implementation, contracting, and reporting

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Technical assistance. Includes assistance with coordination, planning, implementation, and development of education and outreach materials

Coos County
Landowner (Pond 1), project maintenance

City of Powers, Oregon
Landowner (Pond 2), project maintenance

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

October 2020 • Submit and receive OWEB Small Grant • Submit OCRF application November 2020 • Submit all necessary permits December 2020 • Notice of award for OCRF funding • Contract log loader/hauler January 2021 • Acquire permits February-May 2021 Move and anchor logs June-December 2021 Monitoring

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

https://www.coquillewatershed.org/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The donated logs for the Powers Northwestern Turtle Habitat Restoration Project were originally acquired for the nearby Baker Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project. A 12' X 250' culvert perched approximately 18' above the stream bed and a 25' Denil fish ladder, were removed from Baker Creek due to both impacting fish passage for salmonids and Pacific lamprey. In 2019, the culvert, over 40,000 cubic yards of overburdened fill, and the fish ladder were removed from Baker Creek. Before construction began, a team consisting of CoqWA, ODFW, and BLM employees led a fish salvage effort that resulting in saving 232 fish. A 20' wide pilot channel with a 6% grade was constructed to restore natural hydrologic connection. Natural recruitment of woody debris occurred after the first winter and additional wood placements were done in the summer of 2020 to further promote instream complexity. The removal of the culvert and placement of log structures has restored 1.69 miles of stream, allowed for natural gravel export processes, and improved water quality in the South Fork Coquille River.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

CoqWA, in partnership with private timber and the BLM, are addressing lack on instream diversity in the Twelvemile Creek Basin, a major tributary to the Middle Fork Coquille River. CoqWA performed a full basin assessment, which included prioritizing restoration actions through analysis of ODFW AQI surveys and 42 miles of road assessments to identify sediment abatement actions. While restoration actions are ongoing, CoqWA successfully completed instream habitat enhancement of Dice Creek through the placement of large wood debris structures using the line pulling method. This method works much like a yarder used in forest management applications with cable, blocks and tackle. The contractor pulled logs into position and made fine adjustments to the logs by deflecting the cable through blocks off of other standing trees. This process uses trees onsite with minimum damage to the riparian area. Using funds from OWEB, 10 large woody debris structures were placed with over 80 first-growth hazard trees that were donated from the BLM from the Horse Prairie fire.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Northwestern Pond Turtle (NWPT) Life History and Habitat Study in Mosier, OR

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

This project builds upon an ongoing, multi-year northwestern pond turtle (NWPT) monitoring project in Mosier, OR to fill an existing data gap on areas of utilization across the terrestrial habitat and engage members of the community to help collect this data. Through our previous work marking turtles in their aquatic habitat in this area, we have been able to estimate population sizes and collect demographic data on NWPT within a network of ponds, primarily on private land. From past monitoring efforts, we know that NWPT are moving between the network of ponds we are surveying; however, we are lacking data on terrestrial habitats used for overwintering and nesting. Little is known locally and statewide on portion of this species lifecycle that takes place on land or how the turtles move between ponds. Money from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund will be used to purchase GPS and VHF transmitter equipment that will enable us to identify and conserve safe movement corridors between aquatic and terrestrial habitat and to gather basic life history information on the timing of nesting, overwintering, and movement between ponds. This will help to inform and prioritize habitat enhancements on private land both locally and statewide. Additionally, because the pond sites exist primarily on private land, the existing project has been particularly effective in engaging the Mosier community. We would like to continue this engagement by inviting students to help with VHF monitoring through formalized partnerships with the Mosier school and high school in the Dalles. Furthermore, landowners engaged through the current project have taken a special interest in NWPT and are eager to help with the current study through assisting with surveys or restoring the pond habitat for NWPT. Understanding how NWPT use upland habitats will help us capitalize on and provide funding opportunities for private landowners to enhance these areas (e.g., NRCS financial and technical funding).

Primary Contact Person *

Kaly Adkins

Primary Contact Email Address *

kalysta.i.adkins@state.or.us

Primary Contact Phone number *

5419934628

Lead Organization *

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

*Mosier

Project Location (County) *

OR

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

05 / 19 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

05 / 19 / 2022

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

21700.00

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

This project addresses the following objectives: to identify and conserve NWPT movement corridors between aquatic and terrestrial habitat; to gather basic life history information on the timing of nesting, overwintering, and dispersal; to protect adjacent upland habitat; and to establish priority areas for enhancement. We will collect the information to meet these objectives using GPS and VHF transmitters. This information can be used to better understand and conserve not only the Mosier NWPT population, but also NWPT populations statewide. With the receipt of this money, we can formalize relationships with the Mosier community school, as well as, the high school in the Dalles to engage student volunteers. With information on movement corridors between ponds, we can inform additional landowners on the importance of their property for NWPT conservation and work to create a program to provide technical and financial assistance through the NRCS to enhance upland habitats.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

From this project we expect to identify and enhance safe movement corridors between aquatic and terrestrial habitat; to gather basic life history information on the timing of nesting, overwintering, and dispersal; to protect adjacent upland habitat; and to establish priority areas for habitat enhancement. This will be done by placing GPS or VHF transmitters on 24 turtles (approximately 10% of the estimated population) while they are in their aquatic habitat and tracking their movements within their terrestrial habitat. Once the transmitters are affixed to the turtles, we will engage members of the community (e.g., landowners, students) to help us track the turtles and collect location data throughout nesting, overwintering and dispersal life stages. Locally we will use this data to engage new landowners and inform areas to restore and enhance upland habitat. Additionally, this data will be disseminated statewide throughout a project report and presentations.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The northwestern pond turtle (NWPT) is a conservation strategy species with a population center in the East Cascades ecoregion in Mosier, OR. This population has been monitored by ODFW using various methods since 2009. The current survey methodology includes using passive integrated transponder tags to uniquely mark turtles upon capture in ephemeral ponds between May-July each year. Since 2018 we have been able to mark 175 unique turtles and estimate population sizes at 10 ponds (added two new ponds in 2020), as well as collect demographic data. From past monitoring efforts, we know that NWPT are moving between the network of ponds we are surveying, but we are lacking data on this dispersal period. Although the current project fills information gaps on abundance and population dynamics over time, we are still missing the necessary information to reach important conservation goals outlined in OCS that are largely based around management of terrestrial habitat. We are proposing to use money from this grant to purchase transmitter equipment that will build upon our current survey methodology and enable us to identify and protect safe movement corridors between aquatic and terrestrial habitat, to gather basic life history information, to protect adjacent upland habitat, and to establish priority areas for enhancement. Specifically, we will place 10 VHF radio transmitters on turtles in two ponds to pick up fine-scale terrestrial movement information for the ponds that we have the most robust population estimates for . We will also use these transmitters to locate overwintering and nesting areas and complete nest surveys at these sites. Additionally, we will use GPS transmitters to passively track terrestrial movements, as well as locate nesting and overwintering locations at one pond.
Due to its location within the Columbia River Gorge, a recreation hot-spot within the state, this population is vulnerable to fragmentation due to residential and recreational development pressures. With the information that this grant could help us collect, we can ensure that if recreation is expanded, conservation efforts can focus on the terrestrial habitats NWPT need. By protecting and enhancing these areas, NWPT will continue to be able to access terrestrial corridors within the Mosier area crucial to conserve its population.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project meets priorities for conservation and engaging Oregonians. It also has multiple connections to the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS). First, this project meets priorities for conservation and responsible recreation by addressing the need to identify and protect safe movement corridors between aquatic and terrestrial habitat, gathering basic life history information relating to terrestrial habitats, protecting adjacent upland habitat, and establishing priority areas for protection and management. These are all called out as goals for the species management within OCS. Second, the northwestern pond turtle is a strategy species in the OCS and have been identified as a top 5 priority species by the conservation program within the East Cascades ecoregion. From information on movement corridors between ponds collected in this project, we can inform additional landowners on the importance of their property for NWPT conservation and provide technical and monetary assistance through the NRCS if applicable. Finally, the existing project in Mosier provides a successful example of engaging private landowners in conservation, by providing opportunity for engagement at their ponds and with students who are interested in biology, this will be enhanced with work done in this project. We will engage students from nearby communities through a more formalized agreement to help with much of the on-the-ground work throughout the year.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF money will be spent on necessary equipment to mark and monitor animals to allow staff to collect data on movements via VHF and GPS technology. Specifically, the costs will total $10,000 for VHF transmitters for approximately 20 turtles ($4,000), 4 GPS transmitters to mount on turtles ($4,400), GPS programming and base station ($1,100), and epoxy and plaster to mount ($500). This project will need a dedicated employee to work with volunteers and to run the transmitters and traps. Their salary will be an additional expense that is not included in our ask from OCRF.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The U.S. Forest Service has voiced its support of this project and will collaborate for conservation actions and surveys on the pond on Forest Service ground that is surveyed. We will also partner with schools in Mosier and The Dalles to engage students in educational opportunities.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Turtles will be captured in May 2021 and a transmitter attached to their shell, prior to dispersal to nest sites. Based on our past success trapping and marking turtles, we expect to finish trapping within May 2021. With the help of local landowners and students, we will collect dispersal data early June through July, when we have noticed the density of turtles decreasing in ephemeral ponds, and believe that nesting is taking place. The GPS units will also give us timing of movement to overwintering habitat, which will then trigger another tracking effort for the VHF transmitters. This can be repeated multiple years at multiple locations where pit tagged turtles exist to better understand and protect movement corridors.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Northwest Pond Turtle (NWPT) monitoring project in Mosier: NWPT in Mosier have been monitored by ODFW since 2018 in ephemeral ponds between May-July each year. We have been able to capture and mark 175 unique turtles and estimate population sizes at 10 ponds, as well as collect demographic data. From our analysis, we have been able to provide statistically valid abundance estimates to conclude that the NWPT population in Mosier has remained stable throughout our study period. Locally, understanding the demographic structure provides clues to potential causes of declines and will allow us to be proactive in suggesting conservation efforts if these declines are observed. Additionally, distribution-wide, adding to the body of knowledge on NWPT is particularly important because very few estimates of demographic parameters exist for NWPT. This project has also proved to be a very successful method to engage private landowners in wildlife conservation. 90% of the ponds we survey are on private land. Once engaged, many landowners volunteer to help with surveys or habitat restoration. Private landowners are also willing to allow us to bring students to their properties to help survey. We have been able to bring out students ranging from preschool to high school ages. We have been able to create individualized portfolios for the landowners at each pond to give the landowners a snapshot of our capture success, abundance estimates, and suggestions for habitat restoration.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Rocky Mountain elk collaring on private land in Mid-Columbia District: In response to an increasing elk population in the Upper Hood River Valley, as well as an increase in damage complaints from private landowners in that area, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) collared 11 Rocky Mountain elk on private lands within the project area. The project was supported by RMEF, landowners within the study area, and a local archery club. Private landowners and RMEF purchased 5 collars each and the archery club purchased 1 collar. Nine of the collars were deployed during the fall and winter of 2017 and 2018 and two were deployed during late winter 2019. To date, four of the collars continue to collect data, with an anticipated completion of the project in December 2020. Goals of the project included analysis of general movement patterns around the upper Hood River valley, including home ranges and movement patterns, and determination of essential use corridors, security areas, seasonal use of orchards, and habitat enhancement areas for elk using the project area. Although we are still collecting data, we have been able to begun analyze data and meet our project goals.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Ski for Life - Youth Winter Program COVID Adapted

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The OAS Ski For Life program provides opportunities for youth and young adults with disabilities to participate in healthy outdoor adaptive winter sport activities at no cost. OAS will be providing individualized alpine skiing, snowboarding, cross country skiing and snowshoeing experiences through the duration of the 2020/21 winter season.

Primary Contact Person *

Kadee Mardula

Primary Contact Email Address *

kadee@oregonadaptivesports.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

(541)639-4470

Lead Organization *

Oregon Adaptive Sports

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

26-0076749

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Bend, Sisters

Project Location (County) *

Deschutes

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 21 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 28 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

28000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goal of this program is to serve local youth and young adult athletes in winter recreation. OAS recognizes the impact that providing recreation to athletes with disabilities and the impact to their families/caregivers. In this pandemic era, our local youth are more restricted and have fewer resources than ever before. To assist in their access to recreation and mental health, OAS aims to serve 50 unique youth/young adults with disabilities through 100 experiences at Mt. Bachelor and Hoodoo.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

OAS will serve 50 unique youth/young adults with disabilities.
On average, youth will participate in at least 3 different outings/experiences.
At least 80% of youth will report that this program was essential to their ability to remain active during the winter months.
At least 80% of youth will report an enhancement to confidence, self-esteem, and/or independence as a result of participation in the program.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The OAS Ski For Life program provides opportunities for youth and young adults with disabilities to participate in healthy outdoor adaptive winter sport activities. OAS will be providing individualized alpine skiing and snowboarding and cross country skiing and snowshoeing experiences for youth and young adults with disabilities throughout the duration of the 2020/2021 winter season. Where in previous years OAS was able to coordinate groups from several local schools/institutions, OAS will be working to reach youth individually this winter, or in pre arranged small groups. Communication via educators who work with students with disabilities will be critical to reaching these youth and providing access to outdoor activity during this time of remote learning.

This funding will allow OAS to continue to serve low-income youth and young adults with disabilities through ongoing outdoor adaptive sports activities. OAS will be providing cross country skiing, snowshoeing, alpine skiing, and snowboarding lessons during the winter of 2020/2021. This grant allows OAS to subsidize the cost of the program, allowing youth to participate free of charge. OAS is seeking additional funding from this program currently. OAS anticipates receiving an additional $18,000 in grant support to cover a portion of the estimated total program cost of $28,000. Any balance of expense will be funded through unrestricted donations.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
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- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This grant allows OAS to subsidize the cost of the program, allowing young Oregonians with disabilities to participate free of charge to access the outdoors expanding the diversity of Oregon's outdoor users. Winter recreation - skiing, snowboarding, nordic skiing and snowshoeing - has many barriers including ticket and equipment cost, instruction, transportation, and available support. The Ski for Life program removes barriers to outdoor recreation for youth who experience disability.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

This grant allows OAS to subsidize the cost of the program, allowing youth to participate free of charge. The funding covers lift tickets, athlete transportation to the mountain, instructor/coach fees, equipment, and program supplies.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Sisters School District, Bend/La Pine School District, Redmond School District, High Desert Education District- Provides outreach and logistics with school groups in the Life Skills classes.
Bend Parks and Recreation, City of Eugene Parks and Recreation - Partnership to determine the best way to reach and serve this youth population during the ongoing pandemic.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

November 2020: Winter Operations plan with COVID precautions finalized. December-March 2020: Alpine and nordic lessons offered to athletes with disabilities, including a focus on youth and young adults. April 2020: Final reports on athletes served.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

www.oregonadaptivesports.org

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Oregon Adaptive Sports has hosted local school groups through the Ski for Life program for the last decade. This program has evolved to serve 7 schools in the Bend/La Pine, High Desert Education and Sisters School Districts focusing on students in Life Skills classes experiencing outdoor recreation. Last year alone, OAS facilitated 284 experiences to 86 unique students in Alpine skiing, snowboarding, and nordic skiing. Many of these students have continued their love of outdoor recreation through skiing on their own after graduation or maintained lessons with OAS through instruction or the buddy program.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Traveling OASIS travels to areas throughout Oregon to assist in breaking barriers to access for outdoor recreation. Being the leading adaptive ski organization in the state of Oregon, we want to expand our reach through empowering other organizations to serve athletes with disabilities. In January 2020, Traveling OASIS traveled to Mt. Ashland to train the Mt. Ashland Resort ski school staff on instructing adaptive ski/snowboard lessons. Five instructors on the training team and administration trained 8 individuals at Mt. Ashland on the basics of instructing adaptive lessons, shared our knowledge of running an adaptive program and hosted an open house for 7 athletes with disabilities to have a day sliding on the snow. Their program continues to serve adaptive athletes in Southern Oregon.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Wallowa Wolverine and Forest Carnivore Project

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Wallowa Wolverine and Forest Carnivore Project is monitoring the persistence of wolverines throughout the Wallowa Range using runpole monitoring and winter tracking to garner new insights on the status and conservation needs of wolverines in Oregon. With additional support from OCRF, the project will pilot monitoring of marten in partnership with Wallowa Whitman National Forest wildlife biologists and gather photo and genetic information on Rocky Mountain red fox to assist ongoing studies of this rare native Oregon subspecies.

Primary Contact Person *

Scott Shively

Primary Contact Email Address *

scottcshively@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

(509) 833-0099

Lead Organization *

Oregon Wildlife Foundation

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-0797904

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Enterprise

Project Location (County) *

Wallowa County

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 15 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

08 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9996

Total Project Cost *

36742

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goal of our project is to monitor wolverine population dynamics in Northeast Oregon and to provide land managers with better tools necessary for the stewardship of wolverines in this region. Our primary objectives are to:

1. Monitor the persistence of wolverines in the Wallowa Mountain ecosystem, using proven non-invasive detection methods that identify the presence and reproductive status of individual wolverines by photos and DNA.

While wolverine research efforts in 2011 alluded to the presence of a small wolverine population established in the Wallowa Range, monitoring in successive years indicates that only a single resident male has occupied this area since the conclusion of the original study. We aim to document wolverine population dynamics and presence trends within this study area through a network of camera monitoring stations.

2. Provide land managers with detection data to inform forest management plans promoting wolverine recovery.

Our work is carried out in close collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

3. Document presence of sympatric carnivore species.

To increase the impact of our research presence in remote ecosystems, we are coordinating our monitoring efforts with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to document Pacific marten and Rocky Mountain red fox presence. Incorporating detection methods for multiple species can shed light into the dynamics of rare carnivores on their shared landscape, and contribute to the establishment of effective monitoring plans for additional species of conservation concern.

4. Provide educational outreach materials through a variety of mediums that promote the interest of community members and students in conservation.

We actively pursue opportunities to share our project findings with the local and regional community, provide community scientists and recreationists with science tools to document rare carnivores, promote the development of young professionals, and engage students from a diversity of age groups and backgrounds.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The 2020/2021 season of this project will be considered successful if the following criteria are met:

1) Planned monitoring stations are deployed, accessible stations are serviced, and all stations effectively collect data on species presence for the duration of the monitoring season. This will provide us confidence on the minimum number of wolverines present in the study area.
2) Impactful educational programs outlined in the “Project Narrative” are delivered and outreach materials are produced and distributed.
3) Secondary snow-tracking objectives are carried out as opportunities arise; ie. tracking fine-scale movements of wolverine and scat collection for future diet analysis.
4) Additional camera stations are deployed in forest treatment areas and potential dispersal corridors.
5) Comprehensive progress and final reports are successfully produced and distributed to project partners and made publicly available.
6) The project is positioned to continue wolverine monitoring efforts in successive years.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Wallowa Wolverine Project is monitoring the persistence of wolverines throughout the Wallowa Range using runpole monitoring and winter tracking to garner new insights on the status and conservation needs of wolverines in Oregon. The wolverine is a medium-sized carnivore that lives in low population densities and maintains large home ranges to sustain life at relatively unproductive, high elevation habitats (Inman et al. 2012b). Wolverine populations in the lower 48 states were largely extirpated by the early 1900's through indiscriminate predator control, fur-trapping, and habitat loss. Following the alleviation of these pressures, wolverines have naturally recolonized much of their historical range in Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Wyoming. The wolverine is listed as threatened in the state of Oregon and is an Oregon Conservation Strategy species. The wolverine was petitioned for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2010, citing the projected impacts of climate warming on critical wolverine denning habitat. After a litigous decision-making process spanning 10 years, the US Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew its proposal to list wolverines in October 2020. While wolverines are slowly recolonizing unoccupied habitat in the US Western states, contemporary environmental changes may put the long-term viability of these populations at risk (Aubry et al. 2007, Copeland et al. 2010). Additionally, wolverine dispersal movement is challenged by human development and the constriction of snowy habitats caused by climate change. This raises concern for the persistence of small and isolated wolverine populations, like that of the Wallowa Range in Northeast Oregon.
Prior wolverine research in the Wallowa Range by project advisor, Dr. Audrey Magoun, provided the first documentation of wolverine presence in Northeast Oregon in recorded history, through the detection of three individual wolverines on remote cameras in 2011. While this study alluded to the presence of a reproductive population established in the area, limited monitoring (1-3 cameras) in successive years determined that only one of those individuals, a male nicknamed Stormy, maintained a residence in the Wallowa Range. No additional wolverines have been detected since 2011, but Stormy has been reliably documented in spring months for nearly a decade. Wolverines are difficult to detect without implementing proven wolverine detection methods, such as runpole monitoring systems described in Magoun et al. (2011). Over the 2019/2020 season, we initiated surveys to reevaluate wolverine presence in the Wallowa Range, targeting high-elevation habitat not previously surveyed. Our effort is a continuation of Dr. Magoun's prior monitoring. During the pilot year, we verified the continued presence of the single male wolverine and gained new insights on the extent of his territory. It is imperative to continue monitoring the Wallowa Range for the persistence of wolverines, as this is the only region in the state where wolverines are currently known to occur. Consistent camera monitoring efforts have the capacity to better understand dispersal dynamics of wolverines from nearby populations into this critical linking habitat, and to help land managers to continually reevaluate the conservation needs of wolverines in Northeast Oregon.
In October 2020, we began redeploying 12 runpole monitoring sites across the 500sq kilometer Eagle Cap Wilderness and surrounding forestland in the Wallowa Range. Six of the monitoring stations will be deployed in the fall and not checked until early summer. The remaining stations will be serviced 2-3 times throughout the winter to change camera batteries and cards and reapply bait and scent lures, which increases the effectiveness of a site in detecting wolverine. Additionally, we are piloting snow-tracking informed by remote cell cameras that deliver real-time detection data through email alerts to document fine-scale movements of wolverine in the Wallowas. These methods will promote opportunities to follow fresh tracks and provide a means of collecting winter scats for future diet analysis, documenting hunting and scavenging behavior, and understanding important landscape features and travel routes to wolverine movement in this region.
To increase the impacts of our winter-monitoring efforts, we are collaborating with several of our partners to incorporate multi-species detection methods into our monitoring plan. This allows us to contribute supplemental data on the occupancy of other carnivore species of interest, while expanding camera coverage across the study area. During the 2020/2021 season, we are partnering with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to pilot marten monitoring in forest treatment areas. Our field assistance will help forest managers establish a framework for tracking marten population response within a 10-year forest treatment plan. Additionally, we plan to gather photo and genetic information on Rocky Mountain red fox to assist ongoing studies of this rare subspecies native to Northeast Oregon.
While wolverines provide little viewing opportunity to the general public, there is an infectious excitement around wolverine conservation in the Northwest. We aim to use the Wallowa Wolverine Project as a tool that garners excitement for science and conservation at a regional scale. We have outlined the following educational outlets we are pursuing to engage the community and provide a diversity of audiences with science learning tools.
1) Greater Oregon STEM provides 4th-6th graders exposure into various careers in STEM and information on navigating the pathways into those careers. We are partnering with GOSTEM to develop a lesson plan that gives students a glimpse into the career of a "Research Project Leader", incorporating math problems from data we have collected and a virtual field trip to a wolverine monitoring station.
2) Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants is an organization that bridges the gap between classrooms and scientists by bringing meaningful, experiential learning into classrooms through live presentations and virtual field trips. They have hosted over 2,000 live events and connected hundreds of students to scientists and explorers in over 80 countries. We are collaborating on a series of educational presentations that will be livestreamed to approximately 200 students across 6-7 classrooms per presentation during the 2020/2021 winter.
3) To support the development of young scientists, we will recruit a rotation of early-career wildlife professionals as volunteer field assistants for mid-winter carnivore monitoring efforts. We will provide them with training on field techniques in non-invasive monitoring, genetic sample collection, and tracking of rare carnivores.
4) We plan to develop an informational poster for the Wallowalogy Natural History Discover Center in Joseph, OR, focused on using non-invasive techniques to detect wolverines.
5) Wallowa Alpine Huts operate a system of backcountry huts that provide remote skiing experiences in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, the heart of the Wallowa's wolverine habitat, to visitors from around the region. We will create materials for display at the huts that provides backcountry winter recreationists with science tools on how to recognize, document, and report wolverine sign. Information gained from these reports will inform our monitoring efforts while providing natural history enrichment to the backcountry hut experience.
6) We will present a live webcast and Q&A session on project progress through the Oregon Wildlife Foundation.
7) We will present a live webcast and Q&A session on our recent project findings through Oregon Wild, a state-based conservation organization that works to protect wildlands, wildlife and waters.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Firstly, the Wallowa Wolverine and Forest Carnivore Project advances conservation priorities by implementing research that will have direct management implications for two species; the wolverine and marten. Our project aims to understand wolverine population dynamics in the Wallowas through long-term camera monitoring. We will also shed light on seasonal habitat requirements through the seasonal detection data we collect, as well as the collection of winter scat samples for future diet analysis. Our partnership with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest as they develop a marten monitoring plan will help assess regional trends in marten populations over a 10-year forest management plan. Secondly, our project invests in the development of community scientists by creating training materials in recognizing and documenting rare carnivore sign and recruiting local volunteers in our field efforts. Additionally, we pursue virtual field learning experiences for students from diverse backgrounds to promote the incorporation of wildlife conservation in STEM curriculums.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

1) $5950 - 34 days @ $175/day. Supports project leaders to a) conduct critical mid-winter fieldwork (20 days), b) carry out educational activities (10 days), and c) process select data throughout the winter (4 days)
2) $2,000 - 4 Reconyx Hyperfire 2 motion-cameras with cable locks.
These cameras allow expansion of our efforts to investigate potential dispersal corridors, follow-up on track or sighting reports, and deploy add. monitoring stations during virtual field trips.
3) $1,425 - Mileage reimbursement
Supports mileage reimbursements for winter field operations by crew and volunteers at $0.57 per mile.
4) $421 - Equipment and hardware
Supplies including AA lithium batteries, SD cards, misc. hardware and bait/scent lure supplies
5) $200 - Educational materials

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - provides support to field operations through personnel time, stock-packing, the use of a trailer and snowmobiles, and loaned cameras.
Wallowa Whitman National Forest - provides support to field operations through personnel time and loaned cameras. We are assisting in the Forest's development of marten monitoring initiatives.
TLP Media - Partnership to produce impactful media on wolverine conservation in Oregon.
Wolverine Discovery Foundation - Provided financial support and camera equipment during the 2019/2020 pilot season.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

The goals of our project revolve around the long-term research of wolverine population dynamics in Northeast Oregon. Milestones for the 2020/2021 season are as follows: - The deployment of 12 runpole monitoring stations (October through November) - Mid-winter services of 5-6 accessible monitoring stations 2-3 times throughout the winter, where scent and bait lure are reapplied and camera data is downloaded (January through May) - The deployment of additional camera stations in forest treatment areas targeting multiple carnivores of conservation interest: wolverine, Pacific marten, and Rocky Mountain red fox (January through April 2021) - Weekly instagram posts and monthly blog updates through the season - Mid-season progress report (March/April 2021) - Retrieval of camera data in early summer (June to July 2021) - Yearly report summarizing the 2020/2021 season's results (August 2021) - Production and dissemination of educational materials and presentations throughout the season.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

In 2019 we began a partnership with TLP Media to produce a 20-minute, high-quality conservation film following the fieldwork of our pilot season conducting wolverine monitoring in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. The film is currently in production and set to be released in Spring 2021, primarily for distribution in schools. https://tlpmediafilms.com/our-work/
Wallowawolverineproject.blogspot.com - We are building our social media presence through a blog website, where reports and project media are distributed
Instagram account - @wallowawolverineproject

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

South Cascades Wolverine Project:
Project leaders Scott Shively and Kayla Dreher collaborated with the Cascades Carnivore Project, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and Mount Rainier National Park to help establish the South Cascade Wolverine Project, which documents wolverine recolonization in the South Cascades Ecosystem of Washington using non-invasive field techniques. Over five years, Scott and Kayla coordinated and personally executed a monitoring program that documented multiple incidents of wolverine reproduction in this study area, providing the first records of wolverine presence and reproduction in Washington's South Cascades in over 100 years. In 2018, they incorporated remote camera monitoring with winter tracking in core habitat to locate a reproductive den and document kit survival. This is only the third wolverine reproductive den to be located in the state of Washington, and the only den site in the lower 48 states that has been located without the use of methods (GPS/radio collars) that require the capture and immobilization of animals. Our team is driven by a passion for utilizing non-invasive techniques to further the understanding of wolverine recovery in fragmented landscapes.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Wallowa Wolverine Project Pilot Season:
With support from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation, ODFW, USFS, and advisement from Dr. Audrey Magoun, we conducted wolverine monitoring efforts in the Wallowa Range of Northeast Oregon. Beginning in October 2019, we deployed 13 remote camera monitoring stations distributed throughout the Eagle Cap Wilderness and surrounding forestland. We serviced 8 stations 1-3 times during the winter and spring months to refresh bait and scent lure at monitoring sites and download camera data. Wolverine were photographed at 7 of 14 stations and detected on 28 separate days. All wolverine detected were conclusively identified as Stormy, an adult male that was first photographed in the Wallowas in 2011. Stormy was detected at least once during every month of our operational period, approximately 42 weeks from October 2019-July 2020. We collected 20+ hair samples from Stormy, which are being stored for relevance to future research projects. We did not detect additional wolverines through this effort and concluded that it is unlikely any other wolverines occupied the Wallowa mountains during the study period. This study provided a current assessment of wolverine distribution in the Wallowa Mountains as well as detailed information on Stormy's space use at high-elevations in the Eagle Cap. The field work for this project was accomplished over 51 field days and involved 450 miles of hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Survey for Presence of Occupied Beaver Habitat in Oregon

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

American beavers (Castor canadensis) are a native resident of North American streams and lakes that are known to modify the streams in which they live by building extensive dam systems. These dam systems modify the geomorphology, stream flow characteristics, vegetation, fish, and wildlife of affected riparian areas. Most of these changes are beneficial to fish and wildlife habitat, and can also be beneficial to livestock and wildlife forage production, as well as for controlling or moderating floods and wildfires. There is no comprehensive information on where beavers currently occur in Oregon. This project proposes to document current beaver distribution in Oregon by use of both community science, and coordination with existing stream survey work by various agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This information can then be used to: direct where further studies of beaver habitat could be most effective; determine where beaver management (e.g. translocation of animals trapped to reduce damage, trapping regulation changes, etc.) might take place; or to decide where habitat manipulation is needed to increase beaver populations.

Primary Contact Person *

Dr. Michael C. Hansen

Primary Contact Email Address *

mhansen97846@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

5413988225

Lead Organization *

Grande Ronde Model Watershed

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

47-0909658

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [x] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [x] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [x] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Joseph

Project Location (County) *

Wallowa

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 04 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

7700

Total Project Cost *

15700

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

To modify and maintain for 1 year an existing NE Oregon project within the iNaturalist community science platform to document presence of beavers in streams and waterways throughout Oregon,

To encourage use of this program by existing natural resource agency survey crews, partner NGOs, and the general public, and

To train observers in how to recognize what beaver sign looks like and how to document it.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

This project will produce a report and GIS map detailing where beavers are currently present in Oregon, where existing beaver dams occur, habitat features adjacent to beaver observations, and where additional surveys are needed. Additionally, cooperating agency and NGO representatives will be able to download all data for their areas of interest into a file format that can be imported into their local GIS applications. Current cooperating organizations include: Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Greater Hells Canyon Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Forest Service. These data have been shared with and are now in use by ODFW's Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Platform Development

iNaturalist is a community science data collection platform developed and sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society. During this past year, in cooperation with staff from Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Greater Hells Canyon Council, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, I created an iNaturalist Project for beaver surveys in northeast Oregon (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQFtxshipBM&feature=youtu.be). This project proposes to modify that existing iNaturalist project to allow individual community members and existing natural resource agency personnel to collect data on the presence of beavers along streams and waterways throughout Oregon. Because beavers are largely crepuscular or nocturnal and actual sightings are infrequent, their presence will be determined primarily by sign left along stream beds and banks including: dams, cut shrub/tree stems, peeled twigs, scent posts of mud and castor, tracks, and trails in streamside vegetation. Data to be collected at each site include: type of sign, location, a photo of the sign, age of sign, dam height, pool size, streambed substrate, stream bank substrate, food species present, adjacent disturbance, and agency of observer. Maintenance of the project will include verifying each observation and communicating with observers and local curators when additional information is required.

Promotion and Training

This project will be most effective with active promotion, outreach, and training of interested community members and agency personnel. Promotion of the project to individuals, community groups, and agency survey crews will be done by social media, cooperator newsletters and publications, newspapers, phone, and presentations at community forums. Wherever possible, a local representative of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or a local watershed council will be used to curate and verify observations from their local area. Because many of the signs that beavers leave along streams are not obvious and could easily be missed by untrained observers, we will produce a training video that details what observers should look for and how to recognize it. Additional training in determining what beaver sign looks like will be performed for community groups or agencies, as requested. As matching funds, staff from Greater Hells Canyon Council and Grande Ronde Model Watershed have committed time to help with this promotion and training.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Our project is primarily designed to monitor the presence of beavers throughout the state of Oregon. While beavers are not listed as a strategy species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, their presence directly enhances habitat for a number of strategy fish species, including most of the salmonids, and their dams enhance the value to wildlife of the flowing water and riparian strategy habitats.

In order to accomplish the monitoring of beaver we will actively be training and encouraging community science observers and existing agency survey crews in how to survey for beavers, and this is a form of wildlife-associated recreation.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [x] Other: American Beaver

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The requested funds will be used for staff time and travel to: modify and maintain beaver presence data collection project using iNaturalist; promote, train, and coordinate survey observers/crews; and analyze data and produce final report.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Grande Ronde Model Watershed - Staff from the GRMW will actively participate in the promotion of the project and aid in coordinating local representatives from other watershed councils to act as curators of the data from their areas.

Greater Hells Canyon Council _ Staff from the GHCC will also actively participate in the promotion of the project and assist the project with production of a training video that will teach observers how to recognize what beaver sign looks like.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January 31, 2021 - Complete project modifications. April 30, 2021 - Complete training video. March-August 2021 - Promote and train observers. December 31, 2021 - Complete final report and maps.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

It should be noted that staff of various Oregon agencies and NGOs have expressed a keen interest in knowing where beavers currently live and thrive, and are supportive of this survey effort. The wetland and fisheries restoration potential, climate resilience effects, and fire refugia potential of habitat modifications by beavers is well understood by local land and fisheries managers. What is not well understood is the current distribution and population status of this species in our state.

While this online application process does not allow the attachment of PDF files containing letters of recommendation, I will email such letters from the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Greater Hells Canyon Council, and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest upon request.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Limber Jim Creek Restoration Project

The Limber Jim Creek Restoration Project is located on Limber Jim and South Fork Limber Jim Creek, tributaries to the Grande Ronde River. The project is located on approximately 3.1 miles of Limber Jim Creek (approximately RM .5 – 3.6), and within the first river mile of South Fork Limber Jim Creek. Limber Jim Creek is spawning and rearing habitat for Snake River Basin Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout and redband trout. Historic timber harvest and grazing, roading and mining reduced the future recruitment of large wood and the amount/types of riparian vegetation. These combined impacts also changed pool/riffle ratios, residual pool depth, habitat complexity, and floodplain function. The stream within the project area, no longer has livestock grazing within the project area. There are existing mining claims with little activity and dispersed recreation camping areas. Three culverts on South Fork, North Fork and mainstem Limber Jim Creeks do not adequately pass fish at all life stages (two of these culverts will be replaced under a different project and one will removed to meet fish passage needs). Sill logs were placed in the late 1980s/early 1990s to improve pool habitat. There are three big game exclosures on mainstem Limber Jim Creek that are partially down. Closed stream bottom roads exist on mainstem Limber Jim and tributaries. Riparian vegetation primarily consists of sedges, rushes, lodgepole pine and alder.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Beaver Creek Dam Fish Passage and Streamflow Restoration

During the 1915 construction of the dam for the La Grande Reservoir, fish passage was not a consideration. Installation of the dam and associated diversion structures created five barriers that inhibit access for aquatic species, namely Mid-Columbia steelhead and spring Chinook salmon, to approximately 12 miles of protected watershed. These facilities are located on USFS property; however, the City of La Grande owns and operates the facilities. The goal of this project is to remove fish passage barriers at five diversion structures, open approximately 12 miles of native habitat to aquatic species, and augment in-stream flows, while continuing to protect the City of La Grande's drinking water source. The project will be completed in three phases: Phase I will address fish passage and screening on the main intake and upper diversions and fish passage at the dam; Phase II will address the two small intakes located on Cove and West Beaver Creeks; and Phase III will address fish screening at each intake. The work areas are shown on Figures 2A through 2E.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Habitat Restoration on the South Fork Crooked River

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The South Fork Crooked River is located 45 miles southeast of Prineville. It is a tributary of the Crooked River within the Deschutes River watershed. Riparian habitat and water quality were severely degraded by historic overgrazing and the extirpation of beaver in the early 1800's. As a result, deciduous woody riparian vegetation is absent from landscapes where it was formerly abundant and diverse, water temperatures frequently exceed critical thresholds for native fish (including resident redband trout), overall wildlife habitat quality is negligible, and the recreational values of the surrounding landscape are substantially diminished. To address these issues, ONDA is implementing a long-term collaborative strategy to re-establish riparian habitat on 10 miles of the South Fork Crooked River on public and private lands. This strategy involves seeking conservation land designations, conservation easements and public lands management improvements, coupled with active restoration focusing specifically on the targeted establishment of habitat capable of supporting three multigenerational beaver colonies. Habitat and hydrological conditions beaver create and maintain have been documented to address all of the habitat and water quality impairments listed above. Work began in 2015 and already includes successes including the planting of approximately 20,000 riparian plants, removal of 20 acres of riparian juniper, the exclusion of grazing from 4.75 stream-miles on private lands, improving grazing management on 5.25 stream-miles on public lands, and strategic land purchases. Collaborative work with the BLM, USFWS, NRCS, private land owners, Oregon Desert Land Trust, Oregon State University and hundreds of volunteers has been key to achieving these goals. The proposed planting work described in this application helps complete the intensive, dense planting of nine acres of habitat.

Primary Contact Person *

Jefferson Jacobs

Primary Contact Email Address *

jjacobs@onda.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-330-2638 x313

Lead Organization *

Oregon Natural Desert Association

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

94-3098621

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Paulina

Project Location (County) *

Crook

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 04 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

39700

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The proposed planting work contributes to a larger strategy aimed at long-term, resilient riparian habitat improvements on 10 contiguous miles of eastern Oregon's South Fork Crooked River. The goal of the planting portion of that strategy is to facilitate habitat improvements that allow transient beaver to become long-term resident beaver within the core of the 10-mile strategy reach. Enabling the long-term presence of beavers in this core area will provide them with a "safe base of operations" from which to expand out to the adjacent river miles. These adjacent river miles are where ONDA's collaborative conservation strategies are improving land management enough to tip the balance in favor of conditions conducive to allow for the independent restoration of riparian habitat by beaver. This collaborative, biome centered approach to restoration allows for high investment restoration on 2.5 miles of river to result in meaningful long-lasting improvements on 10 miles of river.

The objective of the proposed planting work described in this grant application is to plant 4,200 cottonwood and willows in 0.7 acres of exclosures in the spring of 2021. Achieving this objective brings the cumulative restoration planting strategy goal of nine acres to 85% of completion. Once the remaining 1.3 acres of willows and cottonwoods are planted, all of the exclosure fences will remain in place for at least five years. This provides sufficient time to ensure that the vegetation is sufficiently established to sustain beaver browse and to have grown to large enough stature to provide a meaningful volume, diversity and size distribution for the diverse food and construction needs of beaver.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Our project outcomes are simple, straight-forward and involve proven techniques refined specifically on-site over the past five years: resulting in increased likelihood of success and efficiency. The proposed work will result in the successful planting of 4,200 cottonwoods and willows and construction of 0.7 acres of protective riparian exclosures. Because we will plant in areas that have been determined through extensive field-work and experience to have the best conditions and we will be using specialized "deep-planting" techniques, ONDA expects to achieve survival rates of our plantings to average in the 85-90% range. In the short-term, achieving these survival metrics will the best measure of success. Additionally, longer-term plant survival rates and the ability of plants to expand and support beaver after 5+ years of establishment are targeted gauges of project success.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

ONDA's South Fork Crooked River restoration strategy relies on the combined benefits of multiple conservation and restoration tools and the collaborative effort of multiple partners to enable synergistic benefits that expand beyond restoration site boundaries to achieve watershed-wide improvements.

The overall strategy uses tools such as conservation easements on private lands, public lands designations (such as Wild and Scenic River and Wilderness), and targeted improvements to public lands management to create beneficial conditions surrounding a small area of targeted, intensive riparian habitat restoration. Furthermore, this riparian habitat restoration specifically focuses on the re-establishment of riparian habitat of sufficient quality and quantity to support three beaver colonies. While beaver habitat alone is of benefit to the environment, such habitat, occupied, modified and maintained by multi-generational colonies of beaver is the benchmark for climate resiliency and the pinnacle of ecological potential and productivity in this area.

The strategy involved is specifically designed to have each action expand the beneficial impact of other actions. Restoration plantings alone would not have a significant impact beyond the immediate boundaries of the planted areas. However, restoration plantings in the support of beaver managed riverscapes offer an opportunity for local impacts powerful enough to expand beyond the immediate restoration reach. When conservation of adjacent lands is successful, conditions on those stretches of river will allow the benefits of beaver-focused restoration to expand and beavers themselves to expand their territories. Collaboration with managers and agencies who share in the success of the restoration and have influence in watersheds and landscapes beyond the project area will lead to positive benefits in landscapes well beyond the geography of this project. This magnification of benefits approach is a strategy that will allow for timely restoration of habitats, create ecological resilience and support extant beaver populations before changing climate or other conditions makes recovery untenable.

The ten miles of the South Fork Crooked River encompassed by ONDA's long-term strategy for beaver-based restoration are strategically chosen for their likelihood of achieving long-lasting, resilient, meaningful, biomic restoration goals. Active restoration work is situated within a 4.25 river mile section of conservation easement-protected private land where grazing has been completely excluded. The landowner is committed to enabling conservation actions that bring significant habitat improvements to his property with the specific intent of these conservation benefits spreading to adjacent public lands. The stream miles occurring on adjacent public lands are contained within the South Fork Crooked Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the South Fork Crooked Wilderness Study Area, and the proposed South Fork Crooked Wild and Scenic River: all which offer opportunities and processes for collaborative improvements to management. The private property is also the site of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's efforts to actively re-establish a self-sustaining redband trout population. The project focal area falls within the Oregon Conservation Strategy's (OCS) South Fork Crooked Conservation Opportunity Area, with planned objectives directly benefiting two OCS Strategic habitats and at least 11 of the 26 "Strategy Species" listed for the Area as well as all of the OCS Key Conservation Issues.

The South Fork Crooked region is specifically mentioned in Hudson's Bay Company Trapper journals as an area particularly rich in beavers and has historically hosted substantial runs of anadromous fish which supported Native American populations in the region. These two anecdotes, substantial anadromous fish runs and beaver populations large enough to attract sustained extirpation campaigns, indicate recent riparian conditions with a significantly higher ecological potential than the current degraded conditions. These previous conditions would have had to include substantial perennial flows of cold water, complex and diverse instream habitat, and widespread, diverse and extensive woody riparian habitat. Currently the ten-mile focus area of the South Fork Crooked contains virtually no riparian woody vegetation, is reduced to a simplified single-channel morphology, and water temperatures can frequently exceed critical temperature limits for native fish. While this watershed is highly degraded, it is not highly developed. The majority of the degraded condition is the result of the loss of vegetation, not from the construction of permanent infrastructure. Because of this, the current degraded state can be regarded as temporary, and reversible. However, the significant magnitude and duration of degradation has left this section of river unable to heal itself through passive restoration as evidenced by the failure of over a decade of passive restoration on ONDA's project partner's private land.

Therefore, to jump-start the recovery of the area's riparian habitat, active restoration is required to re-establish missing ecological components above a critical threshold. After five years of observation, research and extensive test plantings, ONDA's project plan has prioritized two missing critical ecological components: (1) substantial woody riparian vegetation habitats sufficient to support wildlife; and (2) multi-generational beaver colonies and their ecosystem engineering activities. ONDA's restoration focus within the wider conservation strategy consists of actively planting the missing acreage of appropriate high-quality riparian vegetation needed to allow currently transient beavers to establish long-term beaver colonies. Promoting the natural actions of beaver in their keystone species role will support achievement of the overarching strategy goals and maintain the long-term resilience of habit in the project area.

Specifically, this project will complete planting in one of three proposed beaver habitat areas in the un-grazed stream area. Each beaver habitat area consists of a separate 0.75 mile steam reach containing three or more acres of exclosures, intensively planted with deciduous woody vegetation at densities of 6,000 stems/acre. Within this beaver habitat area, one acre of intensive planting has already been completed. Funding has been secured for the planting and fencing of 1.3 of the remaining two acres. This proposal will fund fencing and planting of the final 0.7 acres and completing the first of the three, three-acre beaver habitat areas. Requested funds will be used to plant 4,200 willows and cottonwoods and construct 3,000 feet of exclosure fencing. To maximize the impact of funds and engage the public in stewarding their natural resources, volunteers will harvest and plant willow and cottonwood cuttings and construct the exclosure fences. ONDA's volunteer-based restoration program is a proven, effective, and award-winning resource.

Furthermore, this project builds upon prior progress made by excluding cattle grazing from 4.25 miles of riparian habitat on private lands, leveraging restoration successes to improve grazing practices on the remaining 5.75 miles of stream, and planting approximately 20,000 individual riparian plants in un-grazed stream sections.

In summary, ONDA will use a cascade of multiplicative strategic steps to leverage smaller actions into larger benefits impacting 10 miles of riparian habitat in an area widely recognized as a priority, high opportunity area. We will use proven techniques, refined over the past five years specifically in concert with the site's unique qualities, and build on a suite of strategic goals.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project directly advances many OCRF priorities and clearly connects to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. The project occurs in the OCRF South Fork Crooked COA, directly benefitting 11 Strategy Species and 2 Strategy Habitats. These benefits include increasing water quality, aquatic habitat, forb growth and prey-species habitat. The proposed work will also benefit all 7 of the OCRF Key Conservation Issues. Local impacts of climate change will be mitigated by the beneficial actions of beaver which attenuate flooding and increase dry season water residence time reducing or eliminating the impacts of droughts. Beaver habitat lowers water temperatures (benefitting native fish over invasive species), reduces dissolved nitrogen and other contaminants, and supports a broader total area of shaded riparian habitat more resistant to many terrestrial invasives. Beaver habitat provides critical corridors to support animal movement and migration as well as firebreaks and refugia during wildfires.

By connecting a robust, science-based, and Oregon Conservation Strategy-grounded collaborative habitat restoration project plan with direct public participation and opportunities to share this story to tens of thousands of ONDA supporters, this project advances the vision of Oregon as a place where native fish and wildlife thrive in healthy habitats and Oregonians embrace opportunities to steward the state's wild places.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will enable activities associated with the planting of 0.7 acres of beaver habitat in conjunction with a larger strategy to plant nine acres impacting 10 river miles. ONDA staff implement the project plan and will recruit and supervise ONDA volunteers in winter harvest of nearly 5,000 willow and cottonwood cuttings from the USFS/BLM nursery in Clarno, Oregon. ONDA staff will then supervise and support ONDA volunteers in planting the cuttings and the construction of protective exclosure fences during the spring of 2021. Specifically, OCRF funds will contribute to staff hours, transportation costs and the purchase of exclosure fencing materials.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Partners in ONDA's overarching restoration strategy to improve riparian habitat on the South Fork Crooked River include:

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: funding for planting, exclosure fences, juniper removal, and staff time
- USFWS: funding for plantings
- Private Landowner: provided 3.5 miles of conservation easement-protected riparian area for restoration work and extensive volunteer hours and mechanized assistance
- Oregon Desert Land Trust: provided 0.75 miles of conserved riparian area for restoration work
- BLM: collaborated on implementing improved grazing management and opportunities for additional cattle exclusion on adjacent public lands and the planting exclosure sites
- Oregon State University: assisted in the construction and maintenance of beaver dam analogues which have maintained instream water levels and soil moisture near planting exclosures

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

February 2021: Partner communications and volunteer recruitment March 2021: Harvesting and storing willow and cottonwood cuttings April 2021: Installation of plantings and construction of exclosure fencing

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Building Beaver Dams in the news: https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/building-dams-to-help-beavers-return/article_60c3749c-2b56-5c6b-854c-0083c4b11334.html

ONDA's Guest lecture about beaver restoration for Oregon Master Naturalist Speaker Series: https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_zmhwaqpi

ONDA High Desert Academy presentation about beaver's role in the ecosystem: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yx5OU897N5A&feature=youtu.be

Photos of previous planting work on South Fork Crooked: https://www.flickr.com/photos/oregonnaturaldesert/sets/72157674597174938/

Department of State Lands Board Award: https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Board/Pages/Land-Board-Award-Recognitions.aspx

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

As outlined in a collaborative agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, ONDA and our volunteers have been the driving force behind riparian and uplands restoration at Pine Creek Conservation Area (PCCA) for a decade. ONDA has contributed tens of thousands of volunteer hours and secured funding to expand restoration work at the site. ONDA's vision, effective operations and staff and volunteer resources were critical to the success of this conservation work given that the 35,000-acre area had only one employee to manage all operations.

The PCCA project has accomplished:

- Mapping, dismantling and removal of nearly 100 miles of obsolete backcountry barbed-wire fence
- The recovery of 13 miles of severely degraded designated steelhead habitat by installing dozens of beaver dam analogues and planting tens of thousands hardwood trees
- Removal of over 100 acres of juniper from riparian areas
- Resulting riparian restoration gains enabled the return of beaver colonies at several locations and ensuing beaver-initiated, dramatic morphological stream changes

ONDA's efforts were recognized by a Wildlife Society Award in 2018 and contributed to a Governor's Award for "Volunteer Program of the Year" in 2011.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

ONDA has been engaged in the riparian restoration of Hay Creek at Cottonwood Canyon State Park since 2018. This project is ongoing with completion scheduled for the summer of 2021. Under the supervision of ONDA staff, more than 120 volunteers have donated several thousand hours of labor to accomplish the goals of establishing sufficient habitat to support beaver on Hay Creek. Project accomplishments include the construction of 21 beaver dam analogues, the construction of more than 100 exclosure fences and the planting of several thousand riparian potted plants in challenging terrain. ONDA obtained project funding and permits and led project design, planning and implementation. In recognition of this project's ongoing successes, ONDA received the 2020 Oregon Department of State Lands Board Catalyst Award.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Youth Involvement in Forest Restoration Monitoring

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Wallowa Resources and partners propose to use OCRF funding to engage rural youth in monitoring the impacts of USFS forest restoration on Oregon Conservation Strategy species and habitats in Northeastern Oregon. The goals of the proposed project are (1) to increase engagement of underserved youth in conservation science as part of a rural workforce development program; (2) to increase understanding of the impacts of forest restoration treatments on forest structure, composition, and fuel loads; and (3) and to use this learning to inform adaptive management decisions affecting Oregon Conservation Strategy species and habitats. Wallowa Resources' paid youth intern program, HAWK, will be expanded and extended to allow interns to collect forest stand structure and fuel loading monitoring data on ponderosa pine woodland restoration projects. Interns will learn about forest ecology and data collection while gaining fieldwork, teamwork and presentations skills. The data collected will be summarized and presented to the community as well as used by the USFS and the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative to inform future restoration actions.

Primary Contact Person *

Jean Jancaitis

Primary Contact Email Address *

jean@wallowaresources.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-221-5179

Lead Organization *

Wallowa Resources

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

541-221-5179

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Enterprise

Project Location (County) *

Oregon

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 29 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9200

Total Project Cost *

28400

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goals and objectives of the proposed project are:
- Goal 1 - Increase engagement of underserved youth in conservation science as part of a rural workforce development program
  -->Objective - Increase the number of paid internships available to Wallowa County high school juniors and seniors from three to six and increase the length of the internships from six to nine weeks
- Goal 2 - Increase understanding of the impacts of forest restoration treatments on forest structure, composition, and fuel loads
  -->Objective - Provide classes and training to six Wallowa County high school juniors and seniors on forest ecology, forest management, and forest stand structure and composition data collection
  -->Objective - Interns present findings to Northern Blues forest Collaborative and Wallowa County community
- Goal 3 - Use the data collected to inform adaptive management decisions affecting Oregon Conservation Strategy species and habitats
  -->Objective - Provide forest stand structure data to the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative for interpretation and use in adaptive management decision-making

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

In Wallowa County, the education system faces significant challenges from reduced funding caused by numerous social and economic factors. Wallowa County public schools have lost many educational programs, particularly in the arts and sciences. The Wallowa County Education Service District found that local youth are provided only 40% of the course offerings as students in Metro Portland, a problem compounded by the reduction of school hours to a four-day week. Local students face challenges at home as well. The county is in the lowest quartile of average annual income in Oregon and 14% of residents live under the poverty line. This is evidenced by the fact that 55% of the student body receives free/reduced price lunches.

Recognizing the disadvantages many local youth face, Wallowa Resources works to provide additional support through our after-school enrichment and workforce training programs in science and natural resource management.

The Goals of the Youth Stewardship Program are to:
1. Increase science literacy and achievement in Wallowa County's youth
2. Develop an understanding of the interconnections between human and ecological communities
3. Promote a sense of place and stewardship in the county's youth
4. Educate the next generation of land stewards and community leaders

We are constantly monitoring our success to improve program quality and effectiveness. For all programs, we use the Youth Program Quality Assessment Tool through Weikart Association with before and after program assessments. For this project we will also consider additional success metrics:
- The successful deployment of a nine-week paid internship program for high school juniors and seniors to explore natural resource careers and engage in hands-on environmental stewardship. This includes hiring three to six local students to engage them in forest restoration monitoring. Outcomes will be measured by the number of students employed and the number of forest stand structure plots completed by the students.
- Assessment of additional learning benchmarks on forest ecology, functioning in a professional environment, and teamwork. These are measured through before and after skills and knowledge assessments.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Motivation. Historically, frequent low-intensity wildfire shaped the ecosystems of mid-elevation landscapes in Eastern Oregon into a mix of low-density, old-growth ponderosa pine stands with fire-adapted understories dominated by grasses and forbs. However, management practices of the past century of wildfire suppression, selective logging, road building, and overgrazing severely altered the extent, structure, and composition of ponderosa pine woodlands throughout the Blue Mountains of Northeastern Oregon. Less fire-adapted tree and shrub species became more dominant over time, forming dense understories and putting these woodlands at risk of uncharacteristically large and intense wildfires, disease outbreaks, invasion by annual grasses, and drought stress.

Climate models project that summers will become warmer and drier in Eastern Oregon, increasing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and drought, exacerbating habitat degradation if no action is taken. However, ponderosa pine woodlands are well-adapted to fire and drought, making the habitat type much more likely to be resilient in the face of the predicted climate changes. Restoring ponderosa pine woodlands will also increase the resilience of many Oregon Conservation Strategy Species, especially specialist species like the Flammulated Owl, Lewis's and White-headed Woodpeckers, and Pallid Bat.

Background. Land managers including the United State Forest Service (USFS) have recognized the need to restore ponderosa pine woodlands using tools such as non-commercial thinning and prescribed burning, and are starting to apply these tools more broadly across the landscape. In doing so, they make the assumption that these interventions will shift existing mid-elevation forests back towards their historic structure and composition, which will make these forests more resistant and resilient to uncharacteristic disturbances, improve wildlife habitat connectivity, and increase water quality and quantity in the streams draining these forests. However, there are also potential risks of conducting treatments, including increased soil compaction and erosion and increased invasion of noxious weeds and annual grasses through road building or through the treatments themselves. Thus, effectively restoring ponderosa pine woodlands requires adaptive management to test these assumptions and assess the risks, including monitoring the impacts of restoration treatments on wildlife, forest, and stream habitat.

Study Area. The USFS's Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project (LJCRP) provides an excellent opportunity to monitor the impacts of mid-elevation forest restoration on wildlife and habitat condition in order to adaptively manage these landscapes in the future. The LJCRP is the result of a decade-long collaborative, consensus-based effort by the USFS, the Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC), and the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (NBFC), including Wallowa Resources (WR), to restore ecosystem health and resilience across the 98,000 acres of ponderosa pine woodlands, mixed conifer forests, canyon scablands, grasslands, and riparian areas and streams in the Lower Joseph Creek Watershed of Northeastern Oregon. The LJCRP area provides habitat for many Oregon Conservation Strategy Species including gray wolf, American marten, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, pileated, white-headed, and Lewis's woodpeckers, Townsend's big-eared and spotted bats, fringed myotis, Rocky Mountain tailed and Columbian spotted frogs, summer steelhead, and redband trout. The diverse landscape of the LJCRP area is also directly adjacent to and upstream of the Precious Lands Wildlife Area, which is owned by the Nez Perce Tribe and managed for wildlife values. Tribal ancestors stewarded the land and wildlife of the LJCRP area since time immemorial, and tribal members currently access the area to continue traditional practices and exercise their treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather in usual and accustomed places.

The primary purpose of the LJCRP is to "restore, maintain, and enhance forest resiliency to natural disturbances," and therefore the management actions focus on silvicultural treatments: thinning and mechanical fuels treatment across approximately 17,000 acres and prescribed burning on up to 90,000 acres. To conduct these treatments, the USFS will also construct 12.6 mi of temporary roads, reconstruct or maintain 82.6 mi of roads, and close 12 mi of roads (ROD, 2017). The final EIS acknowledges three key assumptions about the impacts of these activities on fish and wildlife:
1 - "Wildlife habitat would improve as a result of road closures."
2 - "Water quality and fish habitat would improve as a result of silvicultural treatments and road closures."
3 - "Silvicultural treatments would improve wildlife habitat for some species, and reduce habitat for others."

Proposed Project Overview. WR and partners propose to engage diverse, rural youth in testing these assumptions by expanding an existing youth program as part of a multi-party monitoring strategy. The HAWK (High school Apprenticeship Work) Program is a six-week paid internship program for juniors and seniors to explore natural resource careers and engage in hands-on environmental stewardship. For this project, Wallowa Resources will offer the HAWK program to an additional two to three students and all interns a three to four week extension to the traditional program. This additional time will be spent assisting with forest restoration monitoring of the LJCRP.

The Wallowa County NRAC and the NBFC are currently working with the USFS to develop the monitoring protocols for the LJCRP multi-party monitoring strategy. Once completed, USFS staff, professional contractors, and the HAWK interns will use the protocols to monitor the impacts of the restoration treatments on wildlife habitat, forest structure and composition, fuel loads, and other ecosystem conditions over the next 5-10 years. Given the proximity to the Precious Lands Wildlife Area, we plan to coordinate monitoring efforts and youth engagement of the Nez Perce Tribe. At a minimum, the below questions will be addressed using the associated metrics and measurements. The protocols for these questions and metrics were already field-tested with high school students over the summers of 2019 and 2020.

The youth monitoring work funded by the OCRF grant will serve as a pilot program for subsequent years of LJCRP monitoring, with the plan to extend the program to additional public and private forest restoration projects in the future.

Questions:
1. Do treatments shift tree densities towards the Natural Range of Variation (as defined in the project EA)?
-Indicator/Metric - % of change in canopy cover; Basal area
-Measurement - Prism plots for determining basal area; Densiometer readings of canopy cover
2. How do treatments shift forest species composition? Do treatments accomplish an increase in ponderosa pine as described in the project EIS?
-Indicator/Metric - % change in species composition; seedling density (# trees/ac)
-Measurement - Fixed photo points; Prism plots for determining basal area by species; Regeneration sub-plots
3. How do treatments impact regeneration of native trees, shrubs, and understory species (upland & riparian)?

-Indicator/Metric - % understory vegetation composition (e.g., by lifeform); species density (# of seedlings/acre)
-Measurement - Fixed photo points; Shrub, forb, grass, tree cover estimates in 1m2 quadrats; Regeneration (1/100th acre) subplot
4. How does snag retention change through time as a result of treatments?
-Indicator/Metric - Basal area (L/D) by species
-Measurement - Prism plots for determining basal area
5. How do surface fuels change with treatments? Do treatments improve opportunities to manage fire at characteristic frequencies and severities?
-Indicator/Metric - 1, 10, 100, 1000-hr fuel loads
-Measurement - Photo load estimates in 1/10th acre plot

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Priority 1 - The primary goal of the LJCRP is restoring ponderosa pine woodlands, an OCS habitat, to a more resilient condition. Woodlands in the LJCRP are typical for the region in that fire suppression and past logging activities have resulted in overly-dense stands of shade-tolerant conifers. The LJCRP follows the OSC recommendations for ponderosa pine woodland restoration. Strategies deployed include fuel reduction, thinning, prescribed fire, retention of large trees and invasive species removal. Restoring these woodlands will increase the resilience of many OCS Species, especially specialists like the Flammulated Owl, Lewis's and White-headed Woodpeckers, and Pallid Bat.

Priority 2 - The monitoring data collected on the LJCRP will be used by the USFS and the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (NBFC) to inform adaptive management practices across the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests. The NBFC is a group of public and private stakeholders from the community that are tasked with providing recommendations to the USFS on future management actions. The student interns will present their findings to the USFS, the NBFC and the general public.

Priority 5 - The proposed project will educate and engage diverse, rural youth in monitoring the impacts of forest restoration treatments within the Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project (LJCRP) on the ecology of Northeast Oregon forests, including their wildlife habitat, forest structure and composition, and fuel loads.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will go directly to supporting the wages of the crew leadership and the youth interns themselves. Match funding from other grant sources will supply the remaining support necessary to offer the internships, including partnership coordination, partner participation in training and field work, transportation, insurance, field equipment, and data analysis.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

--Kerry Kemp, Forest Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy - train youth leaders and youth in forest data collection protocols
--Katy Nesbitt, Natural Resources Director for Wallowa County - coordinate Multi-party Monitoring effort with the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
--Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (representation from ODF, ODFW, Union County, Wallowa County, Western Environmental Law Center, USFS, private citizens and the timber industry) - Provide input into and assist with the Multi-party Monitoring effort.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

2020-2021 Project Timeline: -- October 2020 to January 2021, Partnership coordination, curriculum development, logistical planning --January 2021 to March 2021, Crew lead recruitment --May 2021 to June 2021, Recruitment of local and tribal youth interns --Mid-June 2021 to the end of July 2021, Traditional HAWK internship programming --End of July 2021 to the end of August 2021, Forest monitoring plot data collection --Early September 2021, Student intern presentations to the community and the Northern Blue Forest Collaborative

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

More information on the USFS's Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project page: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5445293

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

WR's Youth Stewardship Education Program (YSEP) serves K-12 students in Wallowa County and has been connecting Wallowa County youth to the outdoors, sciences, and Oregon's natural and cultural history for over 20 years. The programming provides hands-on, experiential opportunities for local youth to learn and experience an interdisciplinary approach.

Youth start participating in outdoor school, then Friday Science Adventures, summer backpacking and other outdoor programs, and finally a paid summer internship. In 2019, 562 youth participated in programs, with 72 instruction days and 550.5 instructional hours. In 2020, we were able to adapt many of these programs into COVID-safe activities, delivering hundreds of take-home science kits and numerous on-line learning experiences.

Our YSEP program, and WR generally, was built on the premise of collaboration. We could not do the work that we do in our small, rural community without the help of partners. We partner with Building Healthy Families, a community non-profit supporting children and families, the Josephy Center and Fishtrap, two creative arts based non-profits. Beyond this, we collaborate with many other organizations to bring in expert perspectives. These include the county Watermaster, the USFS, the Soil Water and Conservation District, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Collaborating with community partners is necessary to do the work we do and is why we have been so successful in delivering educational programming.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

The High School Apprentice Work Program (HAWK) has been running since 2014. Each year, three local students participate in the six-week summer program. Students spend time in the field interspersed with classroom lecture on broad topics including natural resource management, basic ecological principles, forest ecology, and range management. They are exposed to different topics through guided discussions on selected readings that are related to the field day experiences they have. The field experiences are accompanied by professionals in the discipline to expand their exposure to natural resources professions. One constant component of the HAWK internships is that they are taught local plant identification, field techniques and data collection practices. At the conclusion of the program, students present their work and findings in a public community forum.

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Google Forms



State of Oregon
WALLOWA COUNTY
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
101 S. River Street #301
Enterprise, Oregon 97828

541-426-4543 ext#1130
Fax: 541-426-0582
Email: commissioners@co.wallowa.or.us

COMMISSIONER, JOHN HILLOCK
COMMISSIONER, TODD NASH
COMMISSIONER, SUSAN ROBERTS

October 19, 2020

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Conservation &
Recreation Advisory Committee
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee Members,

Re: Conservation & Recreation Fund for Youth Involvement in Forest Restoration Grant Proposal.

The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners supports Wallowa Resources' grant application to the Conservation & Recreation Fund. We see this proposal, if funded, as a way to rebuild a forest-based work force sorely lacking in northeastern Oregon.

For almost 30 years our timber economy has been in decline; the last saw log mill closed in 2006. Since the early 1990s forestry jobs have dried up, fewer college students pursued forestry degrees, and now there is a great lack of knowledge and skill to manage timber.

Youth Involvement in Forest Restoration Monitoring would not only help train the next generation of foresters, but help the U.S. Forest Service Wallowa Mountains Office to fulfill its monitoring requirements on the Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project. This project, on the north zone of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, was specifically designed to use "thinning and mechanical fuel treatments to encourage landscape resilience, including large tree structure, understory plant diversity, forage productivity, characteristic fire and insect and pathogen disturbances, natural forest patterns, and provide income and opportunities for local communities to experience natural resource-dependent lifestyles."

The county's Natural Resource Advisory Committee's multiparty monitoring steering committee is meeting regularly to map out protocols for monitoring various aspects of the project, including what regulatory agencies such as National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request as well as areas where the project pushes the boundaries of typical eastside forest treatments. If funded, the Youth Involvement in Forest Restoration Monitoring project would be a starting place for putting together a workforce to address the needs lined out in the EIS and by the multiparty steering committee.

This project would help rebuild our forestry workforce, one that has been decimated - leaving only four logging operations in the county and one mill that processes small material for post and poles and firewood. U.S. Forest Service jobs have dwindled to a fraction of their levels in the

1990s, as well. The end result has been the closure of local small businesses, mainly retail shops and restaurants, and the drastic reduction of children in our schools.

Schools were also hard hit when federal funds from timber harvest dwindled and funding for rural schools from the Secure Rural Schools Act were phased out? Meanwhile recessions of the last 20 years have hampered recovery in rural towns leading to the loss of programs in Wallowa County public schools, particularly in the arts and sciences. The Wallowa County Education Service District found that Wallowa County youth are only offered 40 percent of the course offerings students in Metro Portland receive, a problem expounded by the reduction of school hours to a four-day week with no classes offered on Fridays.

The overall economy of Wallowa County struggles to compete on a statewide level. When compared to Oregon as a whole, per capita income in Wallowa County is 17 percent lower, the poverty rate is 7 percent higher and 18 percent of residents have college degrees vs. a 30 percent average for all Oregonians. To help our youth with career-connected learning and support our local forest based industry, we urge you to support Wallowa Resources' proposal for Youth Monitoring in Forest Restoration Monitoring.

Sincerely,

Susan Roberts
Commissioner

Todd Nash
Commissioner

John Hillock
Commissioner

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214-2537

tel 503 802-8100
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nature.org/oregon

20 Oct. 2020

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Conservation &
Recreation Advisory Committee
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee Members,

I am happy to write a letter in support of Wallowa Resources grant application to the Conservation & Recreation Fund. Wallowa Resources' *Youth Engagement in Forest Restoration Monitoring* project extends a successful pilot program that I helped facilitate in partnership with Baker Resources, Baker Technical Institute and the US Forest Service in Baker County. This pilot program developed youth-appropriate monitoring protocols that provided the US Forest Service with meaningful data on the impacts of forest restoration activities.

Wallowa Resources' project will similarly engage local youth to monitor forest stand structure and fuels in the Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project on US Forest Service land in northern Wallowa County. This project is designed to encourage landscape resilience through thinning and mechanical treatments that promote natural forest patterns, large tree structure, and understory plant diversity while decreasing the impacts of uncharacteristic fire, insect and pathogen disturbances. These treatments are prescribed by the Oregon Conservation Strategy for the habitats that will be treated, largely Ponderosa Pine Woodlands.

The monitoring protocol requires students to learn basic forest mensuration methods, including taking tree diameters, identifying tree species, measuring and calculating tree heights and height to live crown, as well as measuring and calculating large downed woody debris fuel loads, determining tree selection for variable radius plots, taking compass bearings and navigating with a GPS unit. Not only are these skills and techniques widely applied in natural resource professions, but they require students to utilize basic and applied math, science, and reasoning skills and can provide the stepping-stones for a career in science and natural resources, if desired. Participation in these types of projects also allows local students to learn about and engage in public land management in the areas where they live or are raised, helping them to become interested public citizens.

The benefits of this proposed project extend beyond the individual students' learning and training opportunities. Multi-party monitoring is an important element of creating and maintaining social license with the various partners and organizations that have an interest in federal land management, and it can inform how and if the US Forest Service completes future treatments (e.g., commercial and precommercial thinning and prescribed fire). The plots that the Wallowa Resources interns establish as part of this project prior to the initial commercial thinning will be revisited potentially up to three or four more times after subsequent treatments to assess effectiveness of the treatments in creating and maintaining the desired restoration and fuels reduction outcomes. Thus, these students will lay the ground-work for a multi-year effort that could inform how treatments are designed and implemented across the larger Blue Mountains landscape.

As an ecologist for an organization invested in seeing science-based restoration effectively implemented on the ground, I genuinely appreciate Wallowa Resources' initiative in developing this proposal to support the expansion of our successful student-led monitoring program into Wallowa County and am excited to work with Wallowa Resources to successfully adapt and implement the monitoring protocol we have developed in Baker County on the southern half of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Kerry Kemp, Ph.D.
Forest Ecologist
The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
kerry.kemp@tnc.org

NORTHERN BLUES
Forest Collaborative

NBFC Steering Committee:

Paul Anderes
(*Union County Commissioner*)

Mike Billman
(*Oregon Dept. of Forestry*)

Nils Christoffersen
(*Wallowa Resources*)

Pam Hardy
(*Western Environmental Law Center*)

Kerry Kemp
(*The Nature Conservancy*)

Katy Nesbitt
(*Wallowa County NRAC*)

Lindsay Warness
(*Woodgrain*)

Steering Committee Advisors:

Bill Gamble
(*USFS, Wallowa-Whitman NF*)

Brian Goff
(*USFS, Umatilla NF*)

Jeff Costello
(*Facilitator*)

Date: October 20, 2020

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear, Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee Members:

The Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (NBFC) works to improve the ecological resilience of our forests, the sustainability of our local economies, and the social fabric of our rural communities. We are a forum for informed and civil conversations among a diverse group of stakeholders regarding public stewardship and management of the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. We believe that by incorporating a wide diversity of interested voices into a respectful, constructive conversation we can increase the ecological health of the forest, the economic opportunity in our region, and the social harmony in our community.

The NBFC has been working with the US Forest Service and Wallowa County's Natural Resource Advisory Committee on the Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project, in Wallowa County, since 2012. This project covers 15,750 acres of active treatments, with 5,400 acres of thinning largely younger trees, 31 acres of meadow restoration to be accomplished by removing encroaching trees, and plans for 90,000 acres of prescribed burning to reduce fuel accumulations that have the potential to decrease the forest's resilience in the face of disturbances such as fire, insects/disease, and climate change.

Finding capacity for monitoring restoration projects has been a constant challenge for the US Forest Service and an ongoing priority for the NBFC. A central tenet of our core values underscores our commitment to shared learning. Therefore, we enthusiastically support Wallowa Resources' project to actively engage youth in the monitoring of forest restoration projects on our national forests – in particular, the Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project. Not only will this project provide youth with valuable experience-based learning through hands-on exposure to science and land management, but it will also provide critical restoration data to help us adaptively manage our local forests. If funded, this program will present to our area young people a very rare opportunity for paid internships in a unique scientific and technical field.

Please feel to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration of this vital project.

Sincerely,

Jeff Costello, *Facilitator*
Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
401 NE 1st Street, Suite "A", Enterprise, OR 97828
Voice: (541) 426-8053 Ext. #30
Cell: (510) 390-2121
jeff@wallowaresources.org

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Exploring foredune restoration strategies with native plants to guide management practices on the Oregon coast

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The proposed project is to perform a pilot study using native Oregon beach dune vegetation (instead of invasive species) for restoration practices along the Oregon coast. The pilot project is being performed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) in collaboration with Oregon State University (OSU). The established practice for dune stabilization along the Oregon coast dates back over 100 years, and uses invasive grasses (mainly European Beach Grass). European Beach Grass grows so densely that it effectively squeezes Snowy Plover populations (endangered bird) and native vegetation species out of the ecosystem, limiting eco-diversity. OPRD is the permitting party for dune restoration and stabilization in Oregon for both ocean views projects as well as habitat restoration projects. OPRD has the goal to encourage the use of native vegetation instead of use of European Beach Grass for future projects. The pilot project will work on a 200 m x 20 m section of a graded dune in Nehalem Beach State Park, the pilot is not a large land area, but will have a significant impact on future restoration projects. We will test 8 treatments of various mixes of dune vegetation to understand how to optimally encourage native ecodiversity in a dune system that has been dominated by invasive species for decades. The goal of the pilot project is to lead to a new way of managing the Oregon coastal dune system by encouraging and even requiring the use of native vegetation in Oregon dune management planting practice in the future. By incorporating native species now, we will be able to re-gain ecodiversity of the Oregon dunes over time. These learnings will be communicated broadly through the Oregon Dune Management Booklet. The creation of the Booklet will be in collaboration with community members, Oregon planners, Oregon coastal managers, the Oregon Coastal Management Program, Oregon State Parks, USFWS, the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Oregon TNC…

Primary Contact Person *

Meagan Wengrove

Primary Contact Email Address *

meagan.wengrove@oregonstate.edu

Primary Contact Phone number *

3038957077

Lead Organization *

Oregon State University

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-6022772

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Corvallis

Project Location (County) *

OR

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

255000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

OPRD and OSU would like to reach out to OCRF because our project was impacted by the COVID-19 economic setback. OPRD had budget to fund the pilot restoration campaign, but due to COVID-19, no longer can support the pilot component monetarily, although they are still actively engaged as partners. To complete the pilot project, we are looking for a total contribution of $25,000. We are reaching out to OCRF for $10,000 of the needed budget and we are working to accumulate funds from many different sources including other foundations and federal agencies. OSU was funded by Oregon Sea Grant to preform the research, monitoring, and synthesis components of this project. The funds from OCRF will be used to hire a set of contractors for dune planting costs at the restoration site at Nehalem Spit, Oregon. Oregon Sea Grant will be funding ($230,000) all of the research aspects of the proposed work and for creating an Oregon Dune Management Booklet that can disseminate knowledge (https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/research/current-research). The $230,000 includes graduate student pay and tuition, supplies and instruments for monitoring, funds for the dune booklet, and costs for university overhead.
The project for the OCRF portion of the conservation project are to hire contractors and plant the pilot project site at Nehalem Spit with both native and invasive dune vegetation. The Oregon SeaGrant portion of the project goals are to monitor the pilot project area and quantify the influence of native vegetation on dune stabilization, with the goal to help the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department have quantifiable support for encouraging or requiring native Oregon dune vegetation to be incorporated into the management strategy in the future. The overarching project goals are to:
1. Quantify the ecomorphodynamic feedback mechanisms that control foredune stability by means of sand trapping capacity of vegetation in the context of best management practice strategies with respect to vegetation species diversity.
2. Quantify the geomorphic evolution of managed Oregon foredunes using field surveys and numerical modeling.
3. Engage with coastal management agencies (e.g., Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), Oregon's Coastal Management Program (OCMP)) and local city and county planners to develop an Oregon Dune Management Booklet.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The OPRD and OCMP have been looking to quantify how well beachgrasses, especially native plants, can trap sand and therefore stabilize foredunes under dune management practices in both FMBHs and HRAs. Our proposed research is centered on addressing the needs of our management partners, while advancing our applied scientific understanding of how coastal dunes evolve in the context of dune management practices. We propose a combination of manipulative experiments, monitoring, modeling, and creating of an Oregon Dune Management Booklet. It is highly likely that the pilot project will be successful and lead to requirements at the Oregon state level for incorporating native vegetation in to dune planting and restoration practices. The OPRD is the manager of the Oregon coastal dunes as set forth by Oregon's Habitat Conservation Planning document. Trevor Taylor, who is the Oregon Stewardship Manager for OPRD, has been advocating for this type of pilot project for several years. The management applications for the proposed work were co-developed with the OPRD, and are an explicit interest of the management agency. OPRD would like to develop management practices that consciously incorporate native flora in both graded dunes for views and in habitat restoration areas. Because many of Oregon's foredunes are vegetated by invasive species, our agency is looking to: 1) develop a mix of native dune species that will be successful for restoring foredune natural habitat including attracting the Western snowy plover, and 2) develop a mix of native dune species that will be successful for stabilizing sand in foredunes near coastal roads, homes, and businesses to avoid sand inundation scenarios. While OPRD is currently in a budget crunch due to COVID-19, they still have four staff working with us to make sure the pilot project is a success. Additionally, since they are a regulator for the Oregon coastal dunes, they have the capacity to change Oregon state management requirements. Oregon's conservation mindset, and state employees that advocate for ecodiversity further ensure that into the future, learnings from this pilot project will be incorporated into future restoration.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Humans have increasingly engrained themselves to be a part of dune ecosystems, shifting natural coastal processes to include the human dimension. Coastal infrastructure, shoreline hardening, and recreational activities all influence the way our beaches and dunes evolve (Lithgow et al. 2014). Coastal managers must contend with balancing natural processes with the safety, needs, and well-being of coastal communities. The Oregon coast consists predominantly of unmanaged foredunes occupied by invasive beachgrasses, with a smaller fraction of foredunes heavily managed for human benefits near population centers on the north and central coasts of Oregon, and reclaimed foredunes for native species in unpopulated regions in the north and south coasts of Oregon. The geomorphological (the relationship between the physical features and geological structure of an area) and ecological evolution of unmanaged foredunes populated by invasive beachgrasses is reasonably well understood (e.g., Hacker et al. 2012, Zarnetske et al. 2015, Ruggiero et al. 2018, Cohn et al. 2019 a,b, Biel et al. 2019). However, the evolution of managed and reclaimed foredunes is largely unstudied (Lithgow et al. 2013). In Oregon, there is an expressed need for this specific knowledge of best practices for Oregon coastal dune management. Coastal counties in the north and central coasts are predicted to see an 8% population increase by 2040, and managers want to be prepared for maintaining human interests as well as ecological benefits in Oregon foredunes. In the words of our management partners, Oregon Stewardship Manager Trevor Taylor, Ocean Shores Permit Coordinator Jay Sennewald (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department [OPRD]) and Oregon Coastal Shores Specialist Meg Reed (Oregon's Coastal Management Program [OCMP]), "we need up to date knowledge of best management practices for foredune stabilization" and "we need unbiased and non-governance affiliated information on foredune best management practices to guide Oregon coastal residence when making private dune management decisions."

Managed foredunes refer to foredunes that are managed for human benefit (FMHB). FMHBs are graded and replanted with (mainly invasive) beachgrasses to improve viewsheds for homes and business and to increase capacity for home and business accessibility. Reclaimed foredunes, or habitat reclamation areas (HRAs), refer to foredune systems where all invasive beachgrasses are typically removed. HRA management practices include deeply grading the dunes or using herbicides to remove all invasive species, grasses are not replanted so that native flora and fauna can take advantage of the highly dynamic sandy landscape. The evolution of and best practices for implementing managed and reclaimed foredunes is highly important to the wellbeing of both coastal cities (FMHBs) and coastal native species (HRAs).

At present, the most up to date resource for foredune management planning in Oregon is the 30-year-old Oregon Dune Management Planning document (Oregon DLCD, 1989), which is a guide that county planners can use to form their own dune management plans. The document is in fact older than most of the cumulative knowledge about Oregon foredune evolution antecedent to our proposed research project. Our proposed project is built on a platform of existing knowledge collected within the past 10 years that has documented how unmanaged foredunes in the Pacific Northwest evolved to their present form (see Ruggiero et al. 2018 for review of a present knowledge). There are no existing studies that document how the influence of dune vegetation and geomorphology on each other change as a function of plant growth and corresponding foredune evolution in the context of dune management practice (e.g., plant species) on the Pacific coast. We have designed an experimental plan to explore foredune evolution in the context of management practices and within the context of Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 18. We will use an integrative approach of observations, manipulative experiments, and numerical modeling to understand how dune management practices influence foredune geomorphology and work with coastal managers to develop best practices for managed Oregon foredunes. Throughout the project, we will engage our stakeholder networks in the design of management scenarios that best represent their needs.

Manipulation Plan: Our research will manipulate a field site at Nehalem Bay State Park in partnership with OPRD with experiments to quantify how different dune plants trap sand in the context of dune management scenarios. At Nehalem Bay State Park field manipulations will be done with a mix of native plants and some invasive plants to understand the dynamics between the species in the context of the present state of the Oregon coastal dunes. OPRD is keen to partner with us at OSU to develop a native planting protocol that, if effective, could become the new standard for FMBH sties. The graded foredune will be planted from its toe (seaward side) to its crest to its heel (shoreward side) with each planting treatment in 15 m alongshore distances. There will be a bare control dune section, and the subsequent treatments will vary the planting mix of species. A subset of plants will be set aside to make initial morphological and biomass measurements that can be compared to final measurements. The experiment will inform guidance on best practices for replanting beachgrasses in Oregon FMHBs and near Oregon HRAs. The experiments will inform us of the feedback mechanisms between wind, sand, and vegetation evolution in the context of dune management practice from the time plants are planted to full grown, which will improve process based models that are used to predict coastal evolution in management contexts.

Monitoring Plan: Monitoring will include intensive field surveys during windy conditions approximately four times per year for a week at a time to understand the effects of seasonality on the ability of the vegetation to trap sand. Each planted strip will be instrumented with wind anemometers used to measure the wind velocity and direction, instruments to measure sediment mobility, and camera and lidar instruments to measure changes in dune morphology. Monitoring will stretch for a period of 3 years. We are currently in the final stages of acquiring a Biological Opinion from the USFWS for our monitoring plan. The assessment is likely to be 'Not likely to adversely affect', we are working with our federal nexus at this stage.

Oregon Dune Management Booklet: In partnership with OPRD and OCMP as part of this project we will develop an Oregon Dune Management Booklet to coach stakeholders through the dune management process. There are six Oregon communities that currently have chronic foredune management problems, each with increasing populations (expected 8% by 2040). Each of the six communities have foredune management plans that require them to plant graded dunes with invasive beachgrasses. Dune grading is done to eliminate sand inundation and for ocean views. The Oregon Dune Management Booklet will focus on best practices for replanting foredunes. OPRD wants to understand if there is a mix of native plants that could do an equally effective job at stabilizing foredunes compared to the invasive, and residents of Oregon are also passionate about keeping Oregon wild, which includes promoting native plants. The booklet will provide results from our experiments showing the effectiveness of planting with alternative native plants instead of the invasive grasses. The booklet will also have information about how dunes grow and change naturally and under management scenarios as well as tools and tips that communities can use to monitor their dune evolution and health of the replanted beachgrasses. The booklet will be modeled after a project supported by the North Carolina Sea Grant program and the New Jersey Sea Grant consortium.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The goal of the pilot project is to lead to a new way of managing the Oregon coastal dune system by encouraging and even requiring the use of native vegetation in Oregon dune management planting practice in the future. By incorporating native species now, we will be able to re-gain ecodiversity of the Oregon dunes over time. OCRF prioritizes conservation, our project is using research and the scientific method to directly find ways we can incorporate conservation into regions of the coast most used by humans. These learnings will be communicated broadly through the Oregon Dune Management Booklet. The booklet will engage community members who interact with the dunes the most to promote the use of species native to Oregon. Additionally, as part of the project OSU is working with OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry) to communicate how native and invasive plants change our dune ecosystem. Our project addresses three key aspects of the Oregon Conservation Strategy: 1) promotion of native species, 2) provide Oregonians with information relevant to the use of native species on coastal dunes, creation of better habitat, and permitting so that they can take action, 3) balance of human use and recreation in the Oregon nearshore coastal dunes (highlighted as an Oregon Conservation opportunity area and strategy habitat). Finally, we commit to monitoring the site for 3 years to document change.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

DIRECT COSTS: We request $10,000 to hire Green Ridge Resources for dune planting services at the restoration site at Nehalem Spit, Oregon. This is based on a cost of $250 per hour for 40 hours based on past experience.

INDIRECT COSTS: Indirect costs are not included per a signed F&A waiver at Oregon State University.

Institutional/Signing Authority:
Acting for: Tuba Ozkan-Haller, Associate Vice President for Research Admin & Development
Office for Sponsored Research and Award Administration
Oregon State University
312 Kerr Administration Bldg.
Corvallis, OR 97331-2140
Telephone: 541-737-4933
Email: sponsored.programs@oregonstate.edu

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The Oregon State University (R1 research and educational institution) team includes three faculty and graduate students. Meagan Wengrove is an Assistant Professor in coastal engineering, Sally Hacker is a Professor in coastal ecologist and has been working in the Oregon dunes for 20 years, and Peter Ruggiero is a Professor in geomorphology and has been working in the Oregon dunes for 15 years.

Other Direct: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (manager of Oregon coastal dune system – Trevor Taylor key contact), Oregon Coastal Management Program (resource for Oregon coastal planning Meg Reed key contact). During the project period (2021-2023) the project will be managed by Oregon State University and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. After the tenure of the project, the pilot site will go back to being part of the Nehalem Spit Habitat Restoration Area for snowy plovers and will be continued to be managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department as per Habitat Conservation Plan.

Indirect: As part of our award we will be organizing an Oregon Dunes workshop that will incorporate those who work in dune politics and conservation along the Oregon coast, this workshop will additionally include DOGAMI, TNC, Siuslaw National Forest, the Oregon coastal planners, Tribes, community members, and others who we come in contact with along the way. We would be happy to invite OCRF and the Oregon Conservation Strategy to our workshop if members are interested.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Planting of dune will occur in late January/early February of 2021. Intensive sediment transport monitoring will occur between February 2021 and February 2023, with follow up surveys continuing through February 2024.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

The Oregon Dune Management Booklet will be modeled after a project supported by the North Carolina Sea Grant program (ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncseagrant_docs/products/2000s/dune_book.pdf) and the New Jersey Sea Grant consortium (njseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Dune-Manual-Pgs-compressed.pdf), which were very successful.

References to project Narrative (references with information on past projects completed by project team in the Oregon coastal dunes region are **):

**Biel R.G., S.D. Hacker, and P. Ruggiero. 2019. Elucidating coastal foredune ecomorphodynamics in the US Pacific Northwest via Bayesian networks. Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. In Press.
**Cohn, N., Hoonhout, B.M., Goldstein, E.B., De Vries, S., Moore, L.J., Durán Vinent, O. and Ruggiero, P., 2019a. Exploring marine and aeolian controls on coastal foredune growth using a coupled numerical model. Journal of Marine Science and Engineering, 7(1), p.13.
**Cohn, N., Ruggiero, P., García-Medina, G., Anderson, D., Serafin, K.A. and Biel, R., 2019b. Environmental and morphologic controls on wave-induced dune response. Geomorphology, 329, pp.108-128.
**Hacker, S.D., Zarnetske, P., Seabloom, E., Ruggiero, P., Mull, J., Gerrity, S. and Jones, C., 2012. Subtle differences in two non-native congeneric beach grasses significantly affect their colonization, spread, and impact. Oikos, 121(1), pp.138-148.
Hesp, P.A., Dong, Y., Cheng, H. and Booth, J.L., 2019. Wind flow and sedimentation in artificial vegetation: Field and wind tunnel experiments. Geomorphology, 337, pp.165-182.
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**Ruggiero, P., Hacker, S., Seabloom, E. and Zarnetske, P., 2018. The role of vegetation in determining dune morphology, exposure to sea-level rise, and storm-induced coastal hazards: a US Pacific Northwest perspective. In Barrier Dynamics and Response to Changing Climate (pp. 337-361). Springer, Cham.
**Zarnetske, P.L., Hacker, S.D., Seabloom, E.W., Ruggiero, P., Killian, J.R., Maddux, T.B. and Cox, D., 2012. Biophysical feedback mediates effects of invasive grasses on coastal dune shape. Ecology, 93(6), pp.1439-1450.
**Zarnetske, P.L., Ruggiero, P., Seabloom, E.W. and Hacker, S.D., 2015. Coastal foredune evolution: the relative influence of vegetation and sand supply in the US Pacific Northwest. Journal of the royal society interface, 12(106), p.20150017.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Coastal sand dunes provide critical ecosystem services, including storm protection, recreational use, and promotion of biodiversity. In regions with high wave energy, such as Oregon, dune systems are especially important in preventing inundation and flooding of coastal communities. In some instances, however, natural processes of dune building can lead to an overabundance of sand causing recurring problems such as excess sand buildup around homes and businesses that require costly management solutions. Pacific City, Oregon is one such region that is experiencing issues associated with excess sand. For decades, this site has experienced sand accretion and sand inundation around beachfront homes that prompted the development of the 1998 Pacific City Foredune Management Plan. This management plan primarily utilizes dune grading and beach grass planting as methods for mitigating this issue. In spring 2019, homeowners were granted a Foredune Grading. As one of the conditions established for the permit, researchers from Oregon State University monitored the beach and dune evolution within Pacific City at a monthly time scale from August 2018 to February 2019. The specific objectives of the Kiwanda Shores Dune Stabilization Monitoring Plan were to 1) Document the beach and dune changes before and after the grading took place; 2) Document the time evolution of the beach grass plantings; and 3) Compare and contrast recently managed and unmanaged units within Pacific City.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

This project led by Sally Hacker worked to quantify the relationship between ocean productivity, marine wrack subsidies, and dune ecosystem function at multiple sites, including restored and reference locations, along the Oregon and Washington coasts. We found that marine wrack subsides to beaches and dunes vary depending on proximity to source habitat, ocean productivity, and beach geomorphology (Reimer et al. 2018). We have also found that marine derived nutrients are utilized by beachgrasses especially at the toe of the dune, that nutrients have substantial effects on beachgrass growth, and this growth likely influences sand capture. We have engaged with our project-relevant coastal organizations (i.e., Our Tillamook County Coastal Futures Project and the Grays Harbor County Coastal Futures Project) and state and federal agencies. The Grays Harbor County Coastal Futures Project is ongoing and we still have data and insights to contribute. In addition, our work has provided valuable information to US Fisheries and Wildlife Service and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department with regard to the habitat and food resources of the listed endangered Western snowy plover. As part of this project and others, we have presented at town halls in many communities along the coast, teaching members about beachgrass and its influence on dune growth and change.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Owens Farm Healthy Outdoors For All- Universally Accessible Trail Partnership

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Greenbelt Land Trust, in partnership with Samaritan Health Services, Benton County Health Department, Benton County Natural Areas & Parks, Willamette Partnership, and the City of Corvallis Parks & Recreation, is collaborating on an innovative cross-sector vision for a thriving natural landscape that supports the mental and physical health and wellbeing of members of our community through universal access to nature. We believe that all members of our community, regardless of age, health, mobility, and socioeconomic status deserve ready access to the natural world. We also believe that any access into our high-value natural areas should be well planned to minimize negative impacts to sensitive habitats. The focus of this planning effort is to envision and design a network of universal access trails at the Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland properties, a 600-acre conservation area that includes land owned by Greenbelt, Samaritan, City of Corvallis and Benton County. Owens Farm in Corvallis, is the site of this partnership between habitat conservation; historic preservation; health; and local governments to plan, design, and build universal access trails on this culturally and environmentally-significant property. The property includes a diverse mix of strategy habitats such as oak woodland and savanna, wetland, and upland prairies, creeks, and riparian forests as well as farmland and historic buildings. Funding from OCRF provides the opportunity to engage in community engagement, focusing on populations experiencing disparities in access to the outdoors. We plan to conduct authentic community engagement that includes holding listening sessions with those in the community experiencing disparities in access to the outdoors and hear about their lived experiences and barriers to accessing nature and build a shared vision for the trail. Community feedback will be used to make final refinements to the Conceptual Trail Plan as the shared vision for the trail.

Primary Contact Person *

Claire Fiegener

Primary Contact Email Address *

claire@greenbeltlandtrust.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-752-9609

Lead Organization *

Greenbelt Land Trust

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

94-3113836

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Corvallis

Project Location (County) *

Benton

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

09 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

42690

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Greenbelt and partners are collaborating on an innovative cross-sector vision for a thriving natural landscape that supports the mental and physical health and wellbeing of members of our community through universal access to nature. All members of our community, regardless of age, health, mobility, and socioeconomic status deserve ready access to the natural world. We also believe that any access into our high-value natural areas should be well planned to minimize negative impacts to sensitive habitats. The focus of this planning effort is to envision and design a network of universal access trails at the Owens Farm property.

This Owens Farm Trail Partnership has been collaborating on creating a shared vision framework establishing the key goals for the partnership and trail concepts.

Project and partnership goals include:
- Establish trails and regional trail connections to connect people to nature and strengthen social connections
- Increase safe outdoor access for all to improve community physical and mental health
- Reduce barriers to the outdoors including social, economic and cultural barriers
- Activate programming for outdoor events, education and therapeutic opportunities
- Focused habitat management on enhancement of strategy habitats and collaborate management opportunities across ownership and regionally

There are 2 phases of this trail planning effort. We are applying for funding to support Phase 2.

Phase 1 Objectives (underway):
- Develop a draft Universal Access Conceptual Trail Plan for the larger, multi-owner Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland Properties. Tasks include conducting site analysis and working with project partners to develop conceptual trail alignments including control points, gateways, anchors, access points and linear estimates for the trail system.

Phase 2 Objectives (proposed):
- Develop a strategy for authentic community outreach and engagement, focusing on populations experiencing disparities in access to the outdoors
- Develop site information materials to share with community for informed engagement
- Conduct authentic community engagement that includes holding listening sessions with those in the community experiencing disparities in access to the outdoors and hear about their lived experiences and barriers to accessing nature, ask what outdoor fun looks like to them, and build a shared vision for the trail
- Make final refinements to the Conceptual Trail Plan that incorporates community feedback

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Project Outcomes & Measurements of Success:

Creation of a conceptual trail plan and authentic stakeholder engagement will provide the following outcomes and success measures:

- The Owens Farm Trail Partnership coming to a common understanding of the location of the region trail corridor that crosses four ownerships and that addresses land use, habitat, and physical constraints across the landscape
- The Owens Farm Trail Partnership collectively building a case statement for the trail through the development of the conceptual trail plan
- Authentic stakeholder engagement will build a wider network of stakeholders and partners in the project
- Stakeholder and partnership development will provide vital feedback for developing a shared vision for an access for all universally accessible trail system that is focused on improving health outcomes and wellbeing of the community
- Partners will elevate community voices experiencing disparities in access to nature by incorporating feedback into the planning process and by laying out specific goals for inclusive trail design, trail signage, public transportation to the property, trail safety, and other aspects
- Critical strategy habitats and species (including listed species) will be protected and enhanced through careful trail planning that aligns with habitat management plans/goals
- Trail plan refinement will include refinement of construction details and costs estimates developed in Phase 1 will allow the partnership to raise the necessary funds to continue the momentum and begin build-out of the proposed trail system

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Greenbelt Land Trust, in partnership with Samaritan Health Services (a regional health care provider), Benton County Health Department, Benton County Natural Areas & Parks, Willamette Partnership and the City of Corvallis Parks & Recreation, is collaborating on an innovative cross-sector vision for a natural landscape that is accessible to all, supporting the diversity of needs for mental and physical health and wellbeing, while protecting unique native species and habitats.

Owens Farm in Corvallis, Oregon, a nearly 600 acre conservation area is the site of this long-term partnership between habitat conservation; historic preservation; health; and local governments to plan, design, and build universal access trails on this culturally and environmentally-significant property. Trails will connect a parcel owned by Samaritan Health Services with natural areas owned and managed by the City of Corvallis, Benton County, and Greenbelt Land Trust. The property includes a diverse mix of strategy habitats such as oak woodland and savanna, wetland, and upland native prairies (grasslands), creeks, and riparian forests as well as farmland and historic buildings.

Greenbelt Land Trust permanently conserved its portion of the Owens Farm in 2002 with a significant public fundraising campaign, a grant from the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and with the support of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board through their acquisition grant program. Since 2002, Greenbelt Land Trust has restored and enhanced these critical habitats to build a resilient landscape that supports a diverse mix of rare and listed species within the Jackson-Frazier watershed. Oregon Conservation Strategy species and listed species found on the greater Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland property include: the Northern Red-legged Frog, Acorn Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Oregon Vesper Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Grey Squirrel, Kincaid's lupine (Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii), Bradshaw's lomatium (Lomatium brasdshawii), and Nelson's checkermallow (Sidalcea nelsoniana). The Greenbelt Land Trust, City of Corvallis and Benton County have used Owens Farm as a focal point to partner on regional habitat enhancement efforts in the watershed.

Not everyone in our community currently has the ability to access our amazing natural areas and parks. This project provides a unique opportunity to engage our community in critical conversations about diversity, equity, and barriers to accessing the outdoors — serving as a template for effective, holistic, cross-sector collaborations for generations to come.

Stanford University research shows "quantifiable evidence that walking in nature could lead to a lower risk of depression" as well as strong correlations between limited access to nature and increased rates of anxiety and mood disorders [Jordan, R. (2015, June 30). Stanford researchers find mental health prescription: Nature. Retrieved from news.stanford.edu/2015/06/30/hiking-mental-health-063015/]. Additionally, studies show that nearly 50% of Americans get less than the minimum recommended amount of physical activity needed to maintain physical health and avoid many chronic diseases. Parks and public green spaces provide observable benefits for the mental and physical health and well-being of the community. In Benton County, only 1 in 3 adults get the recommended amount of exercise. Rates of physical activity are lower among Hispanics, Latino, Asians, and Pacific Islanders. Among Oregonians with a disability, the rate is 1 in 6.

The presence of parks and natural areas may not be the only factor ensuring a healthier community. It is becoming increasingly evident that other factors, such as a lack of walkability and bike-ability, limited transit services, social and cultural barriers, and a lack of on-site infrastructure in natural and open spaces inhibit access. Removing these barriers is important for encouraging more people to become active outdoors. There is also recognition that many parks and natural areas have been designed primarily for the benefit of people who are more mobile and comfortable in an outdoor or natural setting. Often times the groups experiencing disparities in access to the outdoors are those experiencing significant health inequities.

In 2017, Greenbelt Land Trust and the Benton County Health Department initiated an effort under guidance of the Oregon Health and Outdoors Action Framework to develop the Owens Farm Partnership composed of landowners associated with Owens Farm. The vision for the Partnership was to create an opportunity to develop a universal access trail network on Owens Farm that would benefit all of the community in collaboration with the City of Corvallis, Benton County, Greenbelt Land Trust and an adjacent regional medical provider, Samaritan Health Services. This trail system will increase the accessibility of nature to all people in our community by supporting the diversity of needs for mental and physical health and wellbeing, while addressing the issues of traditional social and cultural barriers to accessing the outdoors. An important objective for the Partnership is the ability to use the experience of developing this trail network as a community-wide template that can be applied to other open spaces and natural areas across the region.

The Owens Farm Partners are currently in Phase 1 of trail planning for this site and are actively working to develop an initial draft of the Conceptual Trail Plan. The next phase of this effort will include a community engagement effort that will focus on envisioning the innovative all-access Owens Farm and Jackson Frazier Wetland trail system.

This grant request for the Owens Farm Partnership is to help fund the Phase 2 community outreach effort that will build upon and refine the draft Conceptual Universal Access Plan developed in Phase 1. The community engagement process will utilize a focus group approach that includes representation from diverse sectors of the community, focusing on populations experiencing disparities in access to the outdoors, on the design of the proposed universal access trail network on Owens Farm. The community input will inform the goals and objectives for the Phase 1 - Conceptual Universal Access Trail Plan.

Completing Phase 2 of this project will inform the partnership on steps needed to move into detailed trail, partnership, and community engagement planning and implementation as well as fundraising needs for on-the-ground implementation of the trail plan.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Permanent conservation and habitat restoration of the habitats on the property has occurred through strong cross-ownership partnerships to build a resilient landscape of high-quality strategy habitats that support a suite of strategy and rare/listed species. This grant is requesting funds to plan for developing a human and community connection to the land through an innovative cross-sector partnership to develop a universal access trail.

A major goal of the Partnership is to promote safe, outdoor access for all by reducing barriers to the outdoors, increasing trails and access opportunities, and activating programming for outdoor events, educational and therapeutic opportunities. The goal is to create a new trail system that could connect into a large regional trail network that is designed with the community to be inclusive, inviting, and safe for all community members. Specifically, the community will be part of the planning process and their input incorporated into the Trail Plan.

Informational materials will be developed to share information about the property to build a shared vision for trails with stakeholders. This input will inform our planning efforts in how future educational materials, trail informational and interpretive signage and programming should be designed.

A common theme throughout the project will also include being responsible stewards of the land and encouraging trail users to continue to protect the natural feature on the landscape.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will specifically be used to develop the following:
1. $2,000 -Development of stakeholder engagement informational materials (visioning framework, trail visioning illustrations, large reproductions of property/project maps)
2. $4,500 – Plan and implement stakeholder engagement. This includes individual and/or small group site visits to property in a Covid safe manner, virtual tours options, and small group virtual engagement to listen and elicit feedback opportunities through interactive map activities
3. $3,500 – Create feedback loop to make necessary refinements to Conceptual Trail Plan and Framework from stakeholder input. Could include refinements to trail loop and trail interpretive signage opportunities information in conceptual trail plan.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Greenbelt Land Trust – The Conservation Director is leading the partnership facilitation, organizing, visioning and fundraising and the organization owns/manages a portion of the greater Owens Farm property. Greenbelt is also providing additional funds for the project and is providing staff time to lead the partnership.

Samaritan Health Services – The Vice President of Communications, Marketing & Community Health Promotion is a member of the partnership and the organization owns/manages a portion of the greater Owens Farm property. This organization is providing leadership in developing the partnership and project vision and outcomes, is providing additional funding for the project and is providing staff time to provide shared leadership of the partnership.

Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department-The Natural Areas and Parks Director and Natural Resources Coordinator are members of the partnership and the Department owns/manages the Jackson Frazier Wetland. This department is providing leadership in developing the partnership and project vision and outcomes, is providing additional funding for the project and is providing staff time to provide shared leadership of the partnership.

City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department – The Parks and Recreation Director, Parks Division Manager and the Parks Operations Specialist are members of the partnership and the Department owns/manages a portion of the greater Owens Farm property. This department is providing leadership in developing the partnership and project vision and outcomes, is providing additional funding for the project and is providing staff time to provide shared leadership of the partnership.

Benton County Health Department- The Healthy Communities Division Manager, the Equity & Inclusion Policy Specialist and the Policy Specialist are members of the partnership. This department is providing leadership in developing the partnership and project vision and outcomes, is providing additional funding for the project by providing staff time to provide shared leadership of the partnership. This partner provides a DEI lens to all the work of the partnership and will help in leading the community engagement of this project.

Willamette Partnership – The Community Resilience & Innovation Partner and Health and Outdoors Partner are members of the partnership. This group provides guidance on health policy and innovation and the Owens Farm Partnership framework was developed from Willamette Partnership's 'An Oregon Action Framework for Health and the Outdoors' publication.

Jeff Krueger Environments LLC –Principal Organizational Lead (Jeff Krueger)-Greenbelt has contracted with Jeff Krueger to work with the Partners to develop Conceptual Trail Plan for the Owens Farm Property. Jeff Krueger is a registered landscape architect in the state of Oregon and has over twenty five years of experience providing planning, design, and project coordination for local governments and non-profit organizations in the Willamette Valley. Jeff has extensive planning and design experience in the areas of natural resources, parks and open space, land use, and bicycle and pedestrian trails/facilities and is an adjunct instructor for the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Oregon.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Phase 1 Objectives (underway): Develop a draft Universal Access Conceptual Trail Plan for the property -began in July 2020 - Plan is expected to be completed by December 2020. Phase 2 Objectives (proposed): 1. Develop a strategy for outreach and engagement -January 2021-March 2021. 2. Develop site information materials to share with stakeholders - January 2021-March 2021. 3. Conduct community engagement - April 2021 – July 2021. 4. Make final refinements to the Conceptual Trail Plan that incorporates stakeholder feedback - August 2021-September 2021.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Supplemental documentation provided to odfw.ocrf@state.or.us:
- Owens Farm Map
- Owens Farm Vision Framework
- Several Artistic Renderings of Trail Vision using photo images from property

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The Greenbelt Land Trust was the lead on creating the Willamette Valley Oak & Prairie Cooperative (WVOPC), and its Conservation Director is currently serving on the Steering Committee. The WVOPC is a partnership with a long-term vision to conserve and maintain prairie and oak habitats within the Willamette Valley through a regionally-focused, collaborative, and sustainable program. Greenbelt was the lead in receiving over $113,000 in grants (and ~ $25,000 in match) from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, City of Eugene and the Land Trust Alliance to fund the partnership developing a Valley wide Strategic Action Plan (SAP) (completed in January 2020).

This SAP describes the WVOPC's aspirations over the long term (30 years) and will be a catalyst for partners to coordinate work required to achieve ecological goals in the valley. These interconnected habitats will be capable of supporting native plants, pollinators, and wildlife that is resilient in the face of climate change, land use changes, and invasive species. The SAP was developed through a collaborative process that involved getting input from over 40 stakeholders through multiple engagement working sessions. The WVOPC also developed a Business Plan for oak & prairie conservation in the Willamette Valley.

The partnership received additional OWEB funding to hire a WVOPC Coordinator who will work to help the partnership move into implementation of the SAP and fundraising.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

The Confluence, a visionary collaborative of 6 environmental conservation organizations, launched to explore innovative solutions to sharing physical office space, grow collaborative programming, and deepen mission impact throughout our communities.

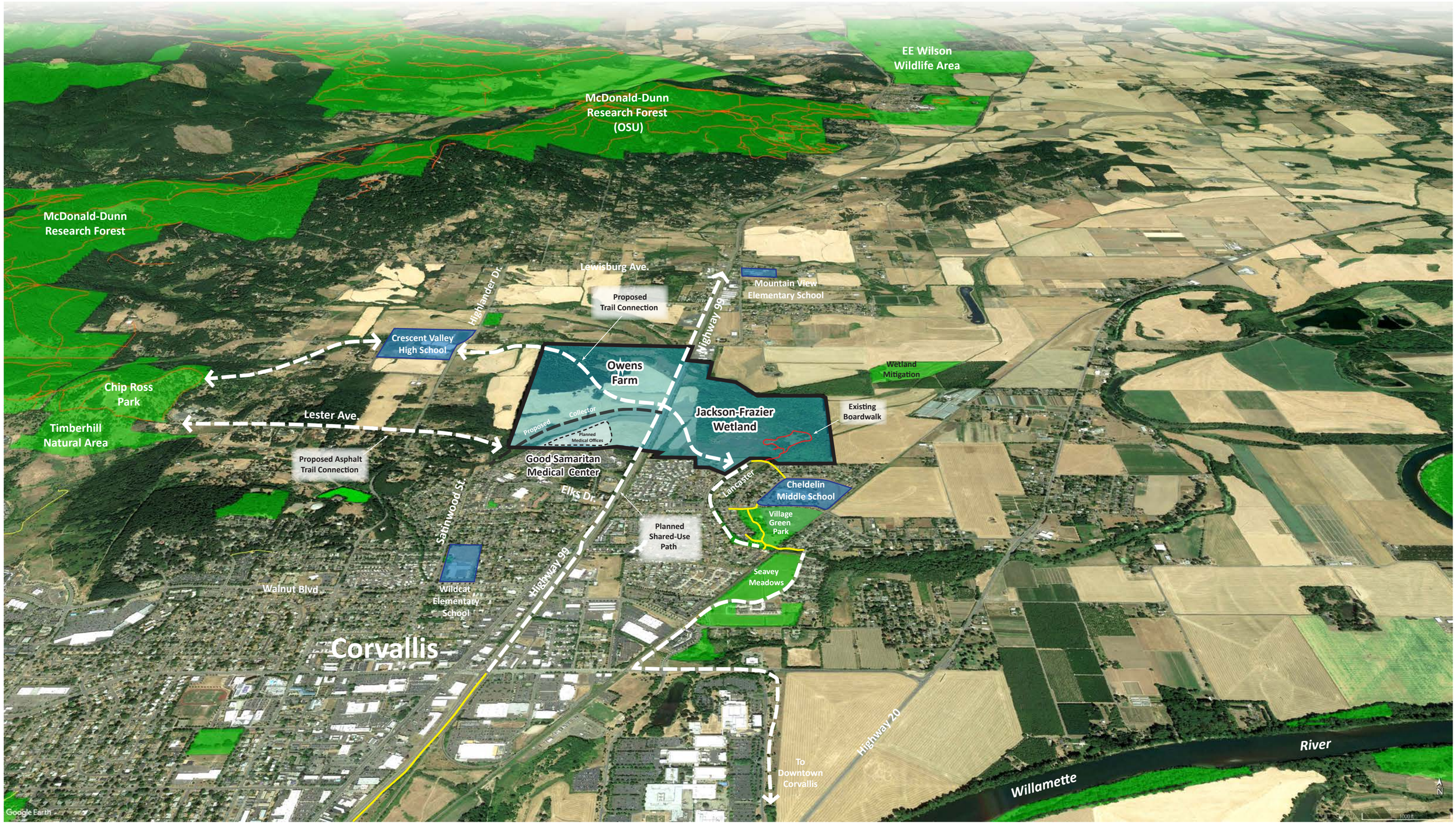
Greenbelt Land Trust has led the collaborative steadily towards the establishment of a co-location office space in Corvallis, and has conducted extensive internal readiness assessments, feasibility study, and community outreach. Partners are currently under contract with a builder, and the construction of The Confluence Center has begun, with an anticipated occupancy date of Summer, 2022. Greenbelt's Conservation Director serves on the Steering, Architect and the DEI Committees. Greenbelt has also been a key partner by bringing in approximately $315,000 to move this project forward with funding by OWEB, Meyer Memorial Trust and the Land Trust Alliance.

Partners include: Benton Soil & Water Conservation District, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development, Corvallis Environmental Center, Greenbelt Land Trust, Institute for Applied Ecology, and Marys River Watershed Council.

We believe that by co-locating, leveraging our shared resources, and working together to carry out our missions, our work will lead to more inclusion of the community of the mid-Valley actively protecting the lands, rivers and wildlife, thereby improving environmental conservation and the social fabric within our community and the natural world.

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Google Forms



Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland

Context Perspective - Looking North

Legend

- Owens J-F Wetland Site Boundary
- Public and Conserved Lands
- Future Regional Trail/Path Connections*
- Existing Soft-Surfaced Trails
- Existing Hard-Surfaced Paths

* *Future regional trail/path connections shown are reflective of facilities proposed in local Transportation System Plans and the Corvallis Parks and Recreation Master Plan (locations are approximate).*

N
W E
S

Prepared by Jeff Krueger
October 2020

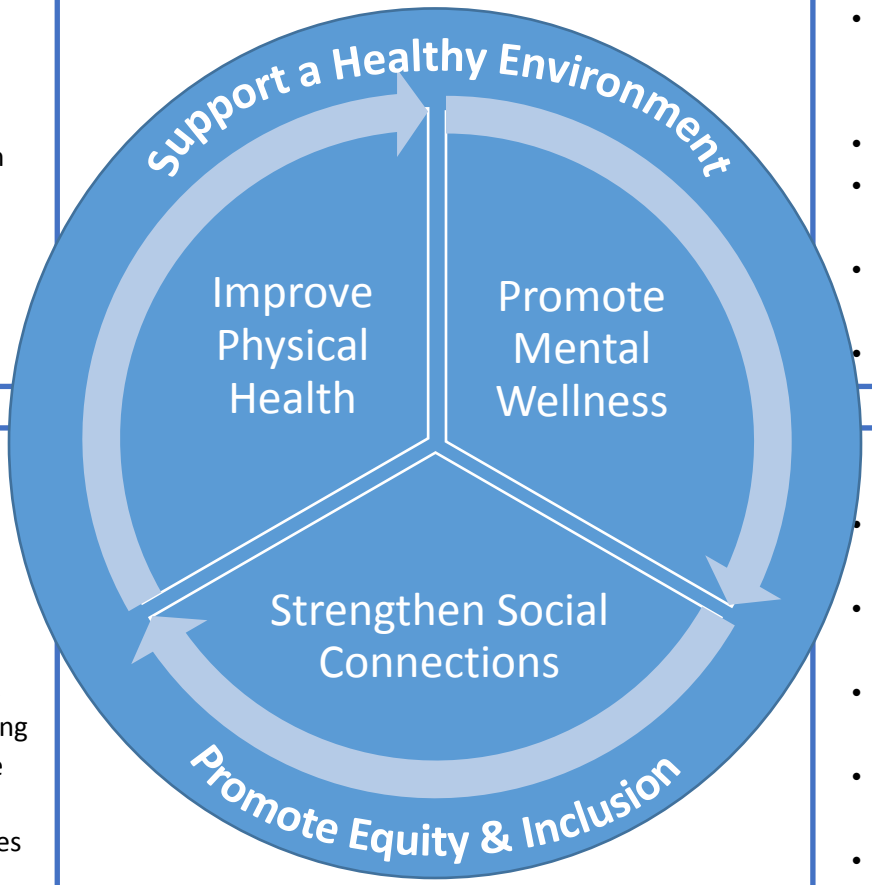
Framework for Promoting Trail Connectivity at Owens Farm and Adjoining Properties and Neighborhoods

Cross-sector partners advancing holistic, collaborative planning to promote "healthy people in a healthy environment."

Increase Parks, Trails, Trees

- Focus land management on collaborative opportunities
- Conserve and restore current natural areas and green space
- Protect and sustain native habitats such as Oregon white oak
- Connect trail system to neighborhoods
- Optimize shared services on natural areas

Safe, Outdoor Access for All



Reduce Barriers to Outdoors

- Create sufficient car and bike parking
- Develop on-site universal infrastructure such as bathrooms, benches, and meeting spaces
- Identify and develop Safe Routes to Parks
- Address Hwy 99 speed, lack of turn lane, and lack of sidewalk
- Improve transportation to park for specific populations
- Mitigate agricultural pesticide use

Increase Access to Outdoors

- Engage diverse communities to design universal trails and access points
- Use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Develop bilingual and culturally specific park guides, maps, kiosks, and wayfinding
- Focus on group experiences and on-site learning
- Offer a range of natural area experiences
- Implement City's Owens Farm Master Plan and other Related Plans

Activate Programming

- Foster conservation, historic, and cultural preservation and programming
- Organize school field trips, hands on learning, and Rx Outdoors
- Develop robust volunteer naturalist programs
- Sponsor community-led, culturally-tailored group outings
- Provide therapeutic gardens, nature therapy, and walking meditation

Stakeholders: Samaritan Health Services (SHS), City of Corvallis, Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton County, Employees and Patients of SHS, Lewisburg Residents, Surrounding Neighborhoods, Mobile Home Community, Businesses along HWY 99, Crescent Valley High School, Cheldelin Middle School, Wilson Elementary School, Users of McDonald Forest/Jackson Frazier Wetland, OSU Research Forests, Historic Preservation/Education Stewards, Tribal and Other Cultural Groups, Oregon Department of Transportation, Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub, Access Benton County, The ARC, Benton County Developmental Diversity

Framework adapted from Willamette Partnership's *An Oregon Action Framework for Health and the Outdoors*, Version 1.0, November 10, 2015.

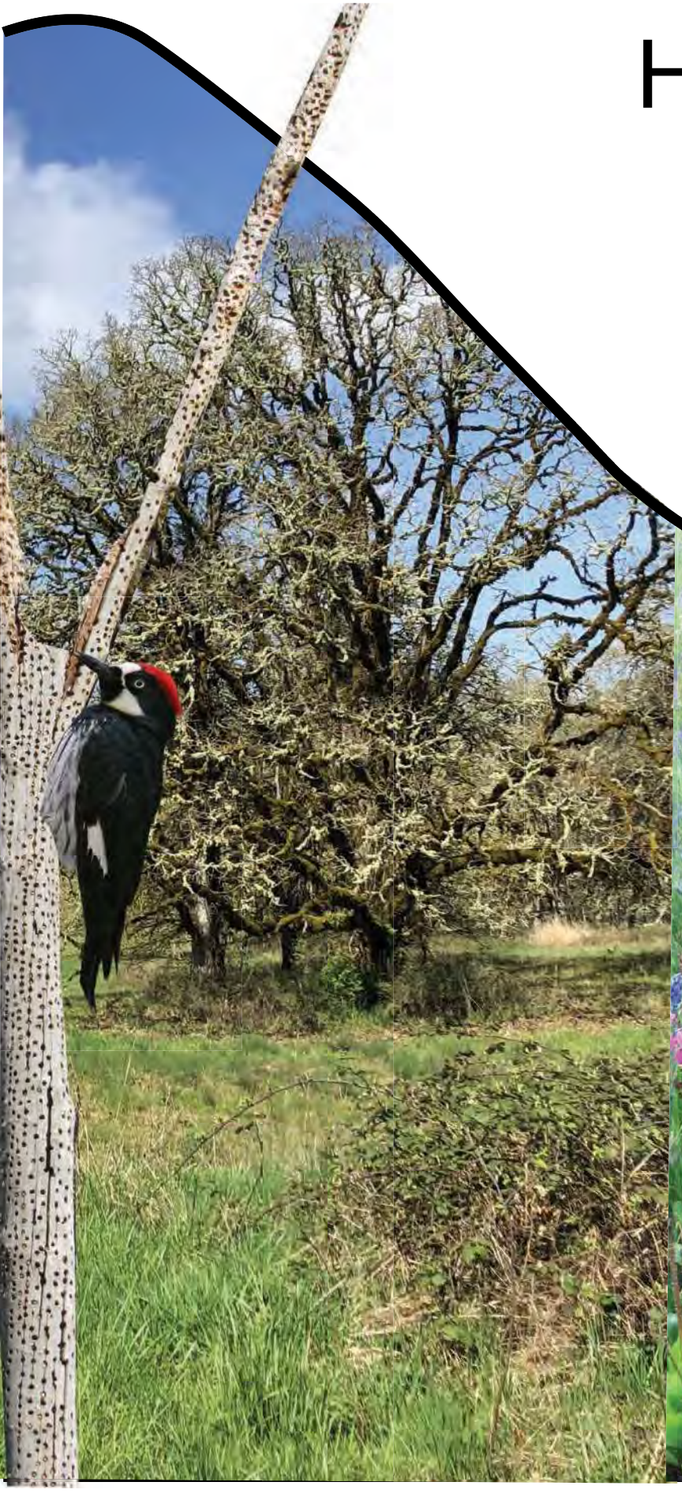
Final Draft 02.15.19

Rendering of Universal Access Trail and “Educational Eddy” in Savanna



HABITAT TRAIL

The habitat loop trail guides visitors through the 6 different habitat types that exist on the knotts owens property. The presence of this diversity makes this property unique to the Corvallis region.



OAK SAVANNA



UPLAND PRAIRIE

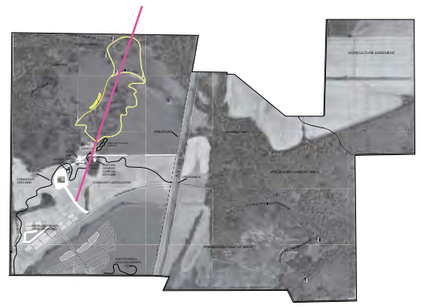


WETLAND PRAIRIE

OAK SAVANNA

ASH WOODLAND

OAK FOREST

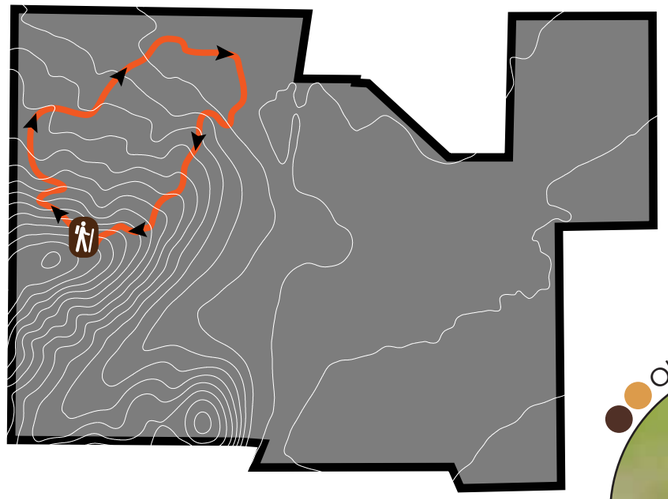


1”=150’

Rendering of Universal Access Boardwalk and “Eddy” in Wetland Prairie



Experiencing Ecological Diversity at Owen's Farm

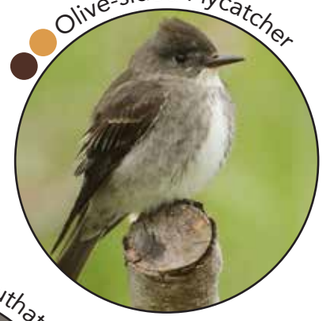



Vesper's Chipping Sparrow


Oregon White Oak


Nelson's Checkermallow

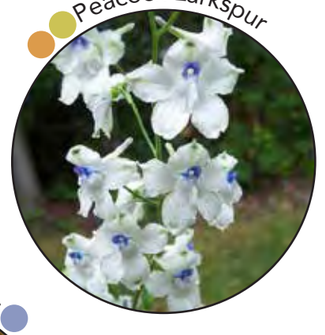

Fender's Blue Butterfly


Olive-sided Flycatcher

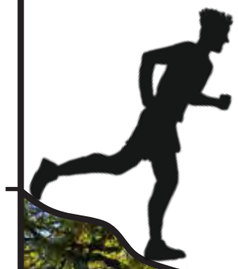

Willow Flycatcher


Bradshaw's Lomatium


Kincaid's Lupine


Peacock Larkspur


Common Camas




White-breasted Nuthatch


Acorn Woodpecker

Howelia

Taylor's Checkerspot



Oak Woodland Gathering Place

Oak Woodland, restored through thinning out conifers and invasives, offers habitat and food sources to many distinct organisms. This gathering place provides group settings that emphasize the form and distribution of the Oregon white oaks native to the site. Benches, ADA-accessible platforms and an art installation lead visitors off the main trail to experience being surrounded by mature Oregon oaks.



Acorn Woodpecker



Tactile Art Installation:

Acorns from the Oregon white oak are an important food source for Acorn Woodpeckers. These birds store the acorns away in trees, called “granary trees” for later use. Many of these trees can be found at Owens Farm.

To add a tactile experience that is also unique to the place, granary tree specimens can be created by drilling holes in a log and then sealing with a lacquer. Visitors can then touch this texture as they pass through the Oak woodland and think of the special bird that lives there.



OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Curriculum Development and Outreach for the Brown Folks Fishing Lab: A fly fishing fellowship at the intersection of racial and environmental justice

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Brown Folks Fishing Lab (Lab) is a fellowship program for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) anglers who wish to use fishing as a gateway to engage their communities in environmental justice. Through education and leadership development, the Lab is designed to support anglers of any level in advancing their knowledge and skill in fishing, local ecology, wilderness first aid, storytelling, and community organizing. Anglers will be provided one-on-one support, workshops, gear, resources, and networking opportunities in order to cultivate a diverse network of anglers who can lead at the intersection of equity, community, and environmentalism. Brown Folks Fishing will host workshops at Blue Lake and Oxbow Park in the Portland Metro area. In addition to receiving training and education, Lab participants must propose a project that uses fishing as a medium to engage their community in environmentalism. Participants will share their journey via the Brown Folks Fishing Instagram platform. The 2021 Lab in Oregon will serve as a proof of concept that can be replicated in other regions where Brown Folks Fishing is active. Brown Folks Fishing and the Oregon Health and Outdoors Initiative, a program arm of the Willamette Partnership, will use OCRF funding for curriculum development, outreach, and workshop costs. The Lab's hands-on instruction and integrated workshops will be divided into four modules: (1) Angling and Ecosystem, (2) Justice and Environment, (3) Equity and Stewardship, and (4) Community and Impact. We will weave concepts of BIPOC health and wellbeing throughout the Lab. The Brown Folks Fishing Lab will build a strong foundation to engage with and support BIPOC anglers in Oregon and beyond.

Primary Contact Person *

Lynny Brown

Primary Contact Email Address *

lynny@willamettepartnership.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

240-285-2074

Lead Organization *

Willamette Partnership

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

33-1103430

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Portland, Gresham, Fairview

Project Location (County) *

Multnomah County

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 04 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

09 / 30 / 2020

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

20000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Our goal is to support Brown Folks Fishing with curriculum development, outreach, and workshop costs. One of the barriers that BIPOC anglers experience is a lack of culturally-responsive fly fishing instruction that provides welcoming and inclusive spaces for communities of color. The Oregon Health and Outdoors Initiative will partner with Brown Folks Fishing to develop a hands-on curriculum that is tailored to BIPOC anglers and works within a community-oriented and racial justice framework.

Objective 1: The Oregon Health and Outdoors Initiative will work with a Brown Folks Fishing Ambassador to organize workshops and instruction for the Lab that fall within four modules:

Angling and Ecosystem: develop angling skills through an in-depth understanding of fish and their ecosystem. Fellows will learn about fish behavior through the seasons, river and stream ecology, habitat, and how to read water. Techniques and approaches will be based on these fundamental understandings. Fellows will develop both conventional and fly fishing skills.
Justice and Environment: focuses on the intersection of identity, race, and environmental justice. By developing a foundation of knowledge around how socio-environmental forces interact, Fellows can better connect the impacts of environmental degradation and disaster on their own communities. Through this module, Fellows will develop advocacy skills.
Equity and Stewardship: examines environmental stewardship through an equity lens to guide fellows toward reimagining conservation to include a community and justice-centered focus. Through this module, Fellows will be introduced to a variety of BIPOC environmentalists as well as community-based environmental movements.
Community and Impact: Fellows will workshop their projects through this module and will receive mentorship and guidance from an array of community organizers, leaders, and impact producers. This module will also support the cultivation of storytelling skills and techniques.

Objective 2: The Oregon Health and Outdoors will weave concepts of health and wellbeing throughout the Lab, either through discussion or print resources.

Objective 3: Funds will pay for some of the workshop costs that include stipend to leaders, instructors, and guides, certification costs, parking permits, food, and printed materials.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The first outcome is to develop the hands-on curriculum itself, in close partnership with Brown Folks Fishing. Measures of success will be if the curriculum 1) is done in partnership with a paid Brown Folks Fishing ambassador who will be contracted by the Willamette Partnership; and 2) covers all four learning modules.

The second outcome is to weave health and wellbeing throughout the Lab through discussions, panels, or printed resources. Success will be measured by 1) creation of at least one printed educational resource; 2) use of at least one reading related to health and wellbeing in connection to fishing, racial equity, and environmental justice; and 3) at least one discussion centered on health and wellbeing.

The third outcome is to pay for workshop costs and materials. Success will be measured by 1) connecting with and paying workshop leaders, instructors and guides; 2) minimizing or eliminating costs for Fellows, including certification costs, parking, transportation, and food and 3) paying for printed materials, resources, and gear not donated by brands.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Brown Folks Fishing Lab is a fellowship program for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) anglers who wish to use fishing as a gateway to engaging their communities in environmental justice. The Lab provides anglers with one-on-one support, workshops, gear and resources, and networking opportunities. It is designed to support anglers of any level in advancing their knowledge and skill in fishing, environmental justice, storytelling, and community organizing. The Lab will cultivate a diverse network of anglers who can lead at the intersection of equity, community, and environmentalism.
While we intend to host workshops at Blue Lake and Oxbow Park, the primary focus of the content will be on the ecology of Oxbow.
With other collaborators such as Orvis and Patagonia in providing some necessary equipment, we are aiming to establish a BIPOC centered approach to fly fishing instruction through a fellowship which will train members of the community to become community-minded fly fishing instructors. The fellowship will require JEDI-informed (justice, equity, diversity, inclusion) environmental volunteering projects as a part of their training. Workshops/seminars beyond casting instruction will cover: Fishing Fundamentals, Conservation & Community, River Ecology, Wilderness First Aid, and one workshop specifically focused on Oxbow Park.
Applicants must propose a project that uses fishing as a medium to engage their community in environmentalism. Proposals should also detail how the applicant will share their journey via the BFF Instagram platform.
Lab programming will develop participants into storytellers who can inspire their communities to action through their own journey. The program will be divided into four modules:
Angling and Ecosystem: develop angling skills through an in-depth understanding of fish and their ecosystem. Fellows will learn about fish behavior through the seasons, river and stream ecology, habitat, and how to read water. Techniques and approaches will be based on these fundamental understandings. Fellows will develop both conventional and fly fishing skills.
Justice and Environment: focuses on the intersection of identity, race, and environmental justice. By developing a foundation of knowledge around how socio-environmental forces interact, Fellows can better connect the impacts of environmental degradation and disaster on their own communities. Through this module, Fellows will develop advocacy skills.
Equity and Stewardship: examines environmental stewardship through an equity lens to guide fellows toward reimagining conservation to include a community and justice-centered focus. Through this module, Fellows will be introduced to a variety of BIPOC environmentalists as well as community-based environmental movements.
Community and Impact: Fellows will workshop their projects through this module and will receive mentorship and guidance from an array of community organizers, leaders, and impact producers. This module will also support the cultivation of storytelling skills and techniques.
The project will help remove barriers BIPOC community members experience when trying to find and engage in fly fishing instruction. One significant barrier is the economic hurdles that must be crossed to become a certified instructor. There are also barriers to receiving instruction in spaces that are welcoming and inclusive, from instructors who use a racial equity approach. The overarching goal is to start to change how fly fishing is accessed by communities of color and approach that education from a JEDI-informed conservation and community-centered perspective.
At Brown Folks Fishing, our work seeks to reimagine fishing as a gateway to conservation. We reimagine because the framework of conservation as it exists is deeply rooted in white supremacy, erasure, and colonialism. These same forces create a form of gatekeeping that presents significant barriers to BIPOC who are both in and new to the sport. We owe this ethos to the Black and Indigenous environmentalists who have made this road by walking it, by shouting the impossibility of tackling climate without tackling racism and inequality.
BIPOC communities bear the greatest impacts of climate disasters, natural or anthropogenic. Power plants and refineries that cause poor air quality are disproportionately located in predominantly Black, Brown, and Indigenous neighborhoods. Lack of access to clean drinking water continues to disproportionately impact BIPOC communities, whose neighborhoods have historically been overlooked and excluded from investments in adequate water and wastewater infrastructure. All the while, study after study shows that Black and Brown communities are more concerned than white people about climate change. Simultaneously, Indigenous people are often not even included in studies, erasing them from the narrative completely. The crisis of racism is deeply intertwined with the climate crisis, and the solutions to both should be as well — the Lab is one such solution.

This proposal meets many Recreation Priorities. The Oregon Health and Outdoors Initiative aims to improve health and the environment for all Oregonians by increasing access to and engagement with nature among communities experiencing inequities. We believe that the Brown Folks Fishing Lab is an exciting community-centered approach to environmental justice, leadership, and accessing the outdoors. By collaborating with Brown Folks Fishing, we support the educational planning and implementation for the Lab so that they can continue to train and inspire many cohorts of future leaders across the country.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The Lab directly meets Recreation Priorities 1 and 2 because it focuses on reexamining how communities of color access fishing. It will expand and engage the number of BIPOC Oregonians interested in fly fishing and environmentalism by offering an alternative avenue to the otherwise overwhelmingly white fishing space. Black, Indigenous, and people of color are a growing demographic in sport fishing. Yet, it is clear with a glance at all levels of the sport fishing industry — everywhere from boards, staff, marketing, communications — that BIPOC are grossly underrepresented. Sport fishing isn't alone in its struggle. According to the last several Outdoor Recreation reports, all non-white groups have either stagnated or declined in participation in fly fishing. This comes at a moment when fly fishing is enjoying a resurgence in popularity.

This project directly meets Recreation Priority 3 by investing in educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation that the Lab offers Fellows. The Oregon Health and Outdoors will co-develop curriculum for the Lab, helping to build a strong foundation for future iterations. OCRF funds not only seed more opportunities to uplift BIPOC anglers, but also support BIPOC solutions to environmental justice issues.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Willamette Partnership - $3,000: Oregon Health and Outdoors will follow the lead of Brown Folks Fishing in curriculum development and outreach and will offer technical support, outreach, planning, communications, and administration of contracts and funds. This cost covers 49 hours of program management, 7 hours of financial administration, 7 hours of program coordination, and indirect costs.

Brown Folks Fishing Ambassador and Workshop Leaders: $5,000: Oregon Health and Outdoors will subcontract with a Brown Folks Fishing Ambassador who will help with curriculum development and program planning, around $3000. We will provide stipends to workshop leaders, averaging around $250 with an estimate of $2000. Brown Folks Fishing asked for flexibility between stipends to workshop leader and stipend to the Brown Folks Fishing Lab Ambassador to best meet community needs.

Workshop Materials - $2,000: Printed materials, resources, gear not donated by brands; Parking, transportation, and food.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Brown Folks Fishing
Brown Folks Fishing Ambassadors are experienced anglers with extensive skills and knowledge about fishing in the Pacific Northwest and in particular, on the Sandy River in Oxbow Park. At least one ambassador will serve as a program manager and will work with the Oregon Health and Outdoors Initiative to develop curriculum and conduct outreach. They are visionaries in fishing who will bring their expertise to the Lab and be the lead decision-makers on the project.
Brown Folks Fishing is a community-based organization that is by and for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) anglers. We cultivate community for BIPOC in fishing and its industry. BFF is a space to build together and a movement to expand access. We do our work through storytelling, grassroots organizing, events, and community-building. Brown Folks Fishing is fiscally sponsored by the Oregon Wildlife Foundation and also has relationships with brands, guides, and organizations (such as Orvis, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, etc) throughout the fishing industry, offering a unique set of potential collaborators to the program.

Willamette Partnership
Lynny Brown is a program manager and facilitator with the Willamette Partnership who understands how to build joy, belonging, and joint action whether in a virtual or in-person environment. She will work closely with Brown Folks Fishing to support their Lab curriculum development and outreach. The Willamette Partnership will support program administration, contracts, and workshop costs.
At Willamette Partnership, we believe that when nature thrives, so do people! We find conservation solutions that work for people and nature through smarter infrastructure, working lands conservation, and community resilience. The Oregon Health and Outdoors Initiative is one of our projects that provides technical assistance to community partners working to advance equity in the outdoors. We know that time outdoors can improve health, but not everyone has access to safe, welcoming natural places.

Metro
Metro works with communities, businesses and residents in the Portland metropolitan area to chart a wise course for the future while protecting the things we love about this place. Brown Folks Fishing is applying for the Parks & Nature Partnership Innovation Fund to partner with Metro's Parks Operation, Volunteer Services, and Natural Resources staff. As the site of two fishing clinic locations, Oxbow Park and Blue Lake, Metro is an important partner who will use their learnings to improve equity practices.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Fall 2020: 1) Interested individuals will apply directly with Brown Folks Fishing via an online portal.; and 2) The BFF ambassador team will review the applications and select the first round of fellows (4-6 per cycle). Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of leadership potential, ability to convey a coherent vision for environmental progress, and their ability to reach diverse constituencies and work across backgrounds. January - March 2021: 1) Oregon Health and Outdoors will create a sub-contract for a Brown Folks Fishing Ambassador to work as a program manager; 2) With funding secured, Oregon Health and Outdoors will work with Brown Folks Fishing to develop the curriculum framework. This includes timeline, workshop descriptions, educational resources, and communications; and 3) Brown Folks Fishing and Oregon Health and Outdoors will identify potential workshop leaders, prioritizing BIPOC. After consulting with Brown Folks Fishing, Oregon Health and Outdoors will help with outreach and networking support. May - August 2021: 1) Lab will be conducted in the Summer of 2021. Lab will be implemented with current Covid precautions per CDC and OHA guidelines; and 2) Oregon Health and Outdoors Initiative will support Brown Folks Fishing in implementing Lab curriculum which includes hands-on instruction and integrated workshops.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

BFF Lab: https://www.brownfolksfishing.com/bfflab/
BFF Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/brownfolksfishing/
Oregon Health and Outdoors Initiative: https://www.healthandoutdoors.org/
Willamette Partnership: https://willamettepartnership.org/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Adaptive Camping

People of all abilities should be empowered to access nature. That's why we work with community partners to address access barriers for people with disabilities around the state. In 2016, we partnered with Adaptive Sports Northwest to provide a hand-cycling program around a race track in North Portland. And in 2018, we helped facilitate a collaborative that included Oregon Parks & Recreation, Adventures Without Limits, and Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection to put together a camping weekend for Oregonians in wheelchairs, along with their partners and families.

Although the pandemic prevented us from holding in person events in 2020, we continued our collaboration with AWL and Oregon SCI by developing two accessibility resources: an Accessibility Toolkit for Land Managers and an Accessible Outdoor Travel Guide.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Green Infrastructure: Greener Parks for Health Resources

Natural features like trees, bioswales, green roofs, and rain gardens can increase green space in urban areas while also providing helpful environmental services, supporting and sometimes even replacing traditional water management infrastructure. We've worked with the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange and the National Recreation & Park Association on a variety of green infrastructure-related projects, targeted toward helping communities center health and equity in their approach to infrastructure development.

Willamette Partnership teamed up with the National Recreation and Park Association, Sean Watts Consulting, Blue Stocking Strategy, and Greenprint Partners to develop the Greener Parks for Health resources. This suite of resources offers a variety of research-informed messages, tools, and policy solutions to help park and recreation professionals communicate about, advocate for, and institutionalize green infrastructure in parks to improve community well-being, especially in communities facing environmental, health, economic, and social injustices.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Mussel Mania - Protecting and Educating People about long-lived Freshwater Mussels

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

This project will provide opportunities for people to learn about long-lived freshwater mussels in the Willamette River system. This will consist of canoe trips, as well as other opportunities to see and learn about mussels.

Primary Contact Person *

Travis Williams

Primary Contact Email Address *

travis@willametteriverkeeper.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-890-1683

Lead Organization *

Willamette Riverkeeper

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-1212629

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Eugene/Springfield/Corvallis/Salem

Project Location (County) *

Lane/Benton/Marion/Yamhill

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

04 / 01 / 21

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 01 / 21

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

8500

Total Project Cost *

14000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Our goals for this project include: a) Engaging people with freshwater mussels to learn about their biology, habitat, and lifespan. b) Their direct connection to their habitat, and c) Helping people understand their relationship with area fish species.

This project will open up the door the the world of freshwater mussels by enabling people to learn about them, and even see them up close in their riverine environment. Given that the Western Pearlshell can live to be over 100 years old int he right conditions, this and related species provide new insight on the need to protect and improve water quality and habitat throughout the Willamette River system, but all of the river systems in the State of Oregon.

Willamette Riverkeeper has conducted pioneering research on freshwater mussels in the Willamette system over the last five years, and our expertise and broadening understanding of mussels can provide valuable perspective for the general public, policy makers and more.

We will: 1) Make mussels understandable to the general public, 2) Engage people with a passion to protect these species and the environments that nurture them, and 3) Seek to engage people directly with these amazing creatures through various trips in the Willamette Basin, especially underserved communities in the rural part of the Willamette Valley.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Outcomes include: a) A broadened understanding of freshwater mussels by the general public, b) A broadened understanding with recreation along the Willamette and other rivers and the interplay of recreation and increasing a long-term conservation ethic. c) Getting people in the rural Willamette Valley on the river to learn about freshwater mussels.

We will measure success by the degree to which we engage people with freshwater mussels and their riverine habitats.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Mussel Mania is a basic effort to increase knowledge about freshwater mussels. Our work in the Willamette Basin over the past few years has broadened understanding of these species, yet even so, we can do more.

WR will conduct several canoe trips along the Willamette River, and will engage people with mussel beds, mussel habitats, and the overall river. WR will also engage people by meeting at the river's edge in different towns along the Willamette. We are also working to provide opportunities to those who do not always have such opportunities, whether they live outside of Dayton, OR, or Keizer, OR.

WR has a unique ability to get people on the water, and we've gotten thousands of people in canoes and kayaks on the river to see it and experience. With over three dozen canoes at our disposal, we have the experience and the equipment to enable people to travel the river safely, and to engage the public in learning about the river. This project is in keeping with our years of work, but places a great emphasis on freshwater mussels. To a person, most people have never seen freshwater mussels, and know very little about them - even though their may be many hundreds of them within a few miles of their residence.

WR will:

a) Provide 9 canoe and kayak trips along the Willamette River to learn about riverine ecology, and freshwater mussels. This will also key in on the Willamette Water Trail, and what it offers to the general public.
b) In these trips we will highlight what healthy rivers need, and what people can do to improve water quality and protect habitat.
c) For those not wishing to canoe or kayak, WR will host three discussions about freshwater mussels where the public can attend and learn about them.
d) WR will also provide a couple of talks at the river's edge where we can engage people with freshwater mussels.

All in all this project is direct, efficient, and can open up a world to the general public. Given the long-life of some of these species, especially Western Pearlshells, a level of instant respect is felt by many people about these filter feeders.

Background:
Generally, Western Pearlshell mussels are not well described in the Willamette River system, with varied accounts in relation to their presence and distribution. In 2002 Willamette Riverkeeper discovered a massive mussel bed at Norwood Island, about 20 miles downstream from Eugene. Since that time this species has been of keen interest to WR. Six years ago, WR purchased the island and began to investigate the species in earnest. We believe this mussel bed is one of the oldest in the Willamette system, and may well be the largest. In the summer of 2017, WR conducted a major study on over a mile of the side channel at Norwood where the beds are located. The study revealed that this beautiful mass of up to 40,000 mussels, with some specimens over 80 years old, is not reproducing.

Also in 2017 WR staff and volunteers snorkeled and scoped over 100 miles of the river from Eugene to Salem to document where, and if, mussel beds exist. We documented 12 distinct beds, from very large to quite modest sized beds. This work provided an abundance of information that informed our work in 2018. We discovered a massive assemblage of mussels in the City of Eugene, and identified this as our next research site.

In August of 2018, WR conducted a formal assessment of the Eugene mussel beds. This study, completed with the help of volunteers and staff, concluded that the assemblage in Eugene was viable, meaning that they are reproducing to some degree. While we do not think the population is in great shape, it was a better result than the beds at Norwood. Further, we estimate a population of over 100,000 Western Pearlshell Mussels in about a 500 meter stretch of river. We also documented the first live Western Ridged Mussel in about a 70-mile span of river.
WR spent another week studying a massive collection of mussels in 2019 below Dexter Dam on the Middle Fork Willamette, yielding another key report that documents this unusual collection of mussels.

Willamette Riverkeeper believes it is imperative that we continue to heighten the understanding of this amazing native species in the Willamette and throughout Oregon, and that we take clear actions and institute policies to better protect them. One of our key takeaways is the need to further improve populations of wild, native fish.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project is really a nice combination of recreation, science, and riverine ecology. With a focus on learning about mussels and generating increased support for their protection, along with paddling the Willamette Water Trail, participants will be imbued with both recreation and conservation. The nexus is simple, but clear. In this way, the above priorities are directly addressed in more than one way, from gaining knowledge and experience about on-water recreations, to seeing and learning about key habitat for freshwater mussels directly - this project brings a lot in this respect.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

We will use OCRF Funds to fund our outings along the river. This includes our staff time leading trips and discussions with the public in Eugene, Corvallis, Salem, and other towns along the Willamette.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

n/a

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

For this project, conducting our trips and making progress provides a basic but easily measurable milestone.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

The links below just provide a bit of a sense of the work we've done in the past 5 years on this issue.

https://www.opb.org/television/programs/oregon-field-guide/article/freshwater-mussels-of-the-willamette/

https://www.registerguard.com/news/20180804/putting-muscle-into-mussels

https://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/environmentalists-studying-willamette-river-mussel-populations/article_b3aa2279-e54e-5426-9d9c-25ecd8bf1e9b.html

https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2017/11/study_key_freshwater_mussel_no.html

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

WR purchased Norwood Island and initiated a study of freshwater mussel beds along the Norwood side channel. This study concluded that of the thousands of mussels that were identified along this channel, reproduction was not occurring. This study provides key insight into the plight of freshwater mussels in the Willamette River system. This study was useful as our efforts went forward over the next three years - providing a key foundation for understanding other collections of mussels in the Willamette River system.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

WR conducted a summer long effort to get people on the Willamette River to see it and explore it in 2019. Over the course of the summer we were able to get over 1300 people along the river to see it up close. Some of the trips and efforts focused on field work, and in one case helped to conduct work at our Norwood Island site. In our experience, when people are able to get close to a natural wonder like the Willamette, they develop an affinity for it. In our work we try to make the barriers to participation very low - so that a broad range of people who have an interest can take part. From focusing on underserved communities, to small rural towns, the goal is the same. We plan to make our trips and effort available to all - and did a lot in this vein in 2019.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Plover Patrol Program: Western Snowy Plover monitoring on the North Coast

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Pacific Coast population of the Snowy Plover is an Oregon Conservation Strategy species and is listed as Threatened by ODFW and the USFWS. Snowy Plovers historically occurred on dunes / beaches along the Oregon Coast, but by the early 1990s the population had dwindled to fewer than 50 breeding birds. Intensive management has led to population growth, and today there are over 500 breeding birds in Oregon. Snowy Plovers have recolonized some north coast sites that had been unoccupied for over 40 years. This species is on the road to recovery, but maintenance of the population depends on monitoring and adaptive management. The Plover Patrol Program was initiated by OPRD and in partnership with Portland Audubon since 2018 with the aim of bolstering Snowy Plover recovery efforts on the north coast. Plover Patrol provides an enhanced breeding bird monitoring and outreach program utilizing community scientist volunteers. As dictated by the Beach Bill, OPRD is responsible for recreational management of Oregon's ocean shore while also conserving Snowy Plovers. In this proposal we are requesting funds to include a new partner in Plover Patrol: Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC), part of the Institute for Natural Resources. Due to COVID-19 related budget cuts, OPRD capacity has been severely reduced. Support from ORBIC will enable the necessary ESA-mandated training and seasonal check-ins with Portland Audubon's Volunteer Coordinator (as OPRD had done in the past). Once the Volunteer Coordinator is trained under the ESA sub-permit, the Coordinator can then legally train new community science volunteers. Without this support, this program will be in jeopardy since critical support from ORBIC is necessary to successfully execute the overall project. The long-term goal of this project is to bring back stable nesting populations of Snowy Plovers to all 4 north coast Snowy Plover Management Areas and meet the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) goals in Oregon.

Primary Contact Person *

Joe Liebezeit

Primary Contact Email Address *

jliebezeit@audubonportland.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

5033296026

Lead Organization *

Portland Audubon

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Audubon EIN: 93-6026088

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Four Snowy Plover Management Areas (SPMAs) on the North Coast (Netarts Spit, Sitka Sedge - South Sand Lake, Nehalem State Park, Clatsop Spit) and nearby communities including Netarts, Tillamook, Nehalem, Astoria, Warrenton.

Project Location (County) *

Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

11 / 01 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

8821

Total Project Cost *

32071

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goals of this project are 1) for all 4 North Coast Snowy Plover Management Areas to successfully support nesting populations of plovers and meet the HCP goals in Oregon and 2) build awareness and foster support among members of the public of plover conservation efforts through community engagement, particularly in communities near SPMAs.
Specific Objectives include:
Plover Patrol Monitoring Program: In partnership with OPRD and ORBIC, Portland Audubon proposes to continue the Snowy Plover population monitoring program on the North Coast. ORBIC has been conducting Snowy Plover monitoring along the central and south coast since 1990, and employs biologists who are recognized experts in plover biology and conservation. With support from ORBIC in 2021 we would have the expertise and capacity to train the seasonally employed Audubon Volunteer Coordinator. This will enable the Plover Patrol program to continue and add important capacity to find, track, and monitor breeding success. The Volunteer Coordinator would be responsible for recruiting and coordinating volunteers, training volunteers in coordination with ORBIC, OPRD, and Audubon staff, conducting monitoring efforts, and other related duties. Volunteers would learn standardized survey protocols to minimize risk of take to breeding plovers, identify the Snowy Plover compared to other shorebirds, identify signs of potential predators, locate and monitor plover nests, resight color-banded birds, assess habitat conditions, and enter data using the Survey123 app developed by OPRD. Plover breeding surveys would be conducted at 4 designated SPMAs (Netarts, Nehalem Bay, Sitka Sedge, and Clatsop Spit) during the course of the breeding season (15 March-Sept).
Outreach & partnerships: In addition to overseeing community scientists, Portland Audubon will conduct targeted outreach to a wider network of coastal constituents to raise awareness and appreciation of plover conservation efforts. This will include: volunteer outreach to the public during site visits to discuss plover conservation efforts and how to minimize plover disturbance, conduct at least 5 interpretive walks led by Portland Audubon to active plover nesting locations to educate members of the public about plover conservation, at least 1 public presentation and volunteer appreciation event, and coordination with coastal partners to collaborate and promote outreach events.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

1) ORBIC, as a new Plover Patrol partner, adds a critical component to lead the field training of Portland Audubon's Volunteer Coordinator site visit check-ins. This would also provide a connection to ORBIC's plover work on the central and south coast.
2) Provide comprehensive monitoring coverage of North Coast Snowy Plover Management Areas (SPMAs) to document plover breeding success (occupied sites) and presence/absence of plovers. Collect information on habitat characteristics, predator assemblage, and human use that will inform timely and effective management of SPMAs by OPRD.
3) Build on the existing volunteer base by recruiting up to 10-20 new volunteers.
4) High volunteer retention (providing swag, volunteer appreciation event, and project updates during the season).
5) Engage with over 300 coastal residents on plover conservation efforts via outreach. Engage with thousands of people via Portland Audubon social media posts.
6) Educate, raise awareness and support of plover conservation in focused in coastal communities near North Coast plover SPMAs in partnership with Audubon Society of Lincoln City, Friends of Netarts Bay, Friends of Cape Falcon.

Together, by providing monitoring data which improves plover habitat management and increasing public awareness and appreciation, this program will directly contribute to the recovery of Western Snowy Plover populations in the North Coast, and indirectly support recovery region wide.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Western Snowy Plover was listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1993. In Oregon, this species historically bred at a minimum of 21 locations on the Coast but by 2003 Western Snowy Plover were only nesting at seven sites and none on the North Coast. Currently, population recovery efforts for this species have shown strong signs of success with a population estimate of 50 in 1990 improving to at least 502 resident plovers counted in 2019. Most of the recovery has occurred on the central and south coasts where management has been targeted.
As dictated by the Beach Bill, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is responsible for recreational management of Oregon's ocean shore while also conserving Western Snowy Plovers. However, OPRD has had limited capacity to monitor the North Coast SPMAs and has worked with community scientists to provide monitoring. In order for Oregon to meet Western Snowy Plover recovery goals as outlined in the HCP, North Coast sites need to be adequately monitored to assess plover usage and breeding success to facilitate adaptive management. Additional capacity to increase monitoring helps OPRD to achieve this goal.
Over the past two years, Portland Audubon's partnership with OPRD on the Plover Patrol Program has been very successful. We have increased recruiting and training of volunteers to help provide comprehensive monitoring of the North Coast SPMAs. We also initiated community outreach efforts through interpretive walks and other events to raise the profile of plovers and need for protection to the greater coastal community. Most importantly, the birds are showing real signs of recovery with plovers successfully nesting at Clatsop Spit for the first time in decades and overall numbers of birds using some of the SPMAs increasing dramatically.
However, a new challenge has arisen this year. Due to COVID-19 related budget cuts, OPRD capacity has been severely reduced. This has included the loss of the agency's biologist who led important aspects of Plover Patrol including the mandatory trainings required for all Plover Patrol surveyors since the Western Snowy Plover is a listed species. We have reached out to Oregon Biodiversity Information Center - Natural Resources Institute (ORBIC) and they are very interested in becoming a new Plover Patrol partner. ORBIC leads plover monitoring on the central and south coasts and has the experience to provide the necessary ESA-mandated training and seasonal check-ins with Portland Audubon's volunteer coordinator (as OPRD had done in the past). Our request to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund would provide this support and enable Plover Patrol to continue.

Project Objectives for 2021:
1) Statewide Program Consistency: Successfully include ORBIC as a new Plover Patrol partner to train volunteers and ensure consistent collection and coordination of population monitoring data across the state.
2) Plover Patrol Monitoring Program: In partnership with OPRD, and ORBIC, Portland Audubon proposes to continue the successful Western Snowy Plover population monitoring program on the North Coast. With support from ORBIC in 2021 we would have the expertise and capacity to train the seasonally employed Portland Audubon Volunteer Coordinator/Field Biologist. This will enable the plover patrol program to continue and add important capacity to find, track, and monitor breeding success of Western Snowy Plovers. The Volunteer Coordinator would be responsible for recruiting and coordinating volunteers, training volunteers in coordination with ORBIC and OPRD, conducting monitoring efforts, and other related duties. Volunteers would learn appropriate survey protocols to minimize risk of take to breeding plovers, identify the Western Snowy Plover compared to other shorebirds, identify signs of potential predators, locate and monitor plover nests, resight color-banded birds, assess habitat conditions, and enter data using the Survey123 app developed by OPRD.
Plover breeding surveys would be conducted at four designated Western Snowy Plover Management areas as well as at sites off SPMAs where active plover nests are discovered or there is a history of plover use:
Three SPMAs will be considered "occupied" sites since they have had nesting plovers in recent years (Nehalem Bay, Sitka Sedge, and Clatsop Spit). These three sites will be monitored intensively during the course of the breeding season (15 March-Sept). Monitoring would be targeted weekly at these sites but effort would be dependent on availability of volunteers and the Volunteer Coordinator.
One "unoccupied" SPMA (Netarts Spit) that has viable plover breeding habitat would be monitored twice per month (15 March – 15 July) depending on availability of volunteers and the Volunteer Coordinator.
3) Nest predator assessment: Provide community science assistance using trail cameras (already purchased by OPRD) to assess predator identification and relative abundances at the three SPMAs with nesting plovers (and potentially at all SPMAs). This would include assisting with camera placement, maintenance, and potentially data capture and review.
4) Outreach & partnerships: In addition to recruiting and organizing volunteer community scientists to help with plover monitoring, Portland Audubon will conduct targeted outreach to reach a wider network of coastal constituents to raise awareness and appreciation of plover conservation efforts. This will involve:
Volunteer outreach to the public opportunistically during site visits for surveys. This will include discussing plover conservation efforts and other coastal conservation concerns with the public and recruiting new volunteers and supporters.
At least five "Plover interpretive walks" led by Portland Audubon, OPRD, and/or experienced volunteers to active plover nesting locations. Walks will be discreet with limited participants (12 participants max / trip) to minimize disturbance to nesting plovers.
A volunteer appreciation and presentation event at the end of the season to thank volunteers and inform public on Western Snowy Plover conservation efforts and also provide an opportunity for folks to learn about other coastal conservation initiatives and opportunities led by Portland Audubon.
Existing and new partnerships: Coordination with Audubon Society of Lincoln City on Snowy Plover on interpretive walks and volunteer recruitment. This may entail presentation to local school(s), and facilitating/leading school trips to SPMAs. We plan to coordinate with Friends of Netarts Bay on at least one interpretive walk and to work with Friends of Cape Falcon on project promotion, volunteer recruitment. We will continue to explore other partnerships.

Project targets of success in 2021
1) ORBIC, as a new Plover Patrol partner, adds a critical component to lead the field training of Audubon's Volunteer Coordinator site visit check-ins. This would also provide a connection to ORBIC's plover work on the central and south coast and ensure a coordinated data collection approach across the state.
2) Provide comprehensive monitoring coverage of North Coast SPMAs to document plover breeding success (occupied sites) and presence/absence of plovers. Collect information on habitat characteristics, predator assemblage, and human use that will inform timely and effective management of SPMAs by OPRD.
3) Build on the existing volunteer base by recruiting up to 10-20 new volunteers.
4) High volunteer retention (providing swag, volunteer appreciation event, and project updates during the season).
5) Engage with >300 coastal residents on plover conservation efforts via outreach. Engage with thousands of people via Portland Audubon social media posts.

6) Educate, raise awareness and support of plover conservation in focused in coastal communities near North Coast plover SPMAs in partnership with Audubon Society of Lincoln City, Friends of Netarts Bay, Friends of Cape Falcon.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The work described in this project would directly address the goal of the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) which is to "maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and reversing declines in these resources where possible". The Western Snowy Plover is identified as a Strategy Species in the Nearshore Strategy of the OCS and the habitat this species depends on (coastal dunes) is a Strategy Habitat in the OCS.

As described in previous sections of this application, the proposed work would clearly address the four priorities we selected in the previous question, specifically:

Community scientists would be recruited and trained to conduct surveys of the western snowy plover (an OCS strategy species) to provide critical monitoring / science data to OPRD, ensuring that the bird and its habitat (coastal dunes) can be effectively managed to help this population recover on the north coast. Activities of the community scientists in the field and of Portland Audubon-organized events would introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation (bird watching, wildlife viewing, and natural history), while at the same time create awareness and education to the public regarding responsible recreation to minimize impacts to plovers on their nesting grounds.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds would specifically support staff time and travel for ORBIC providing 2 days of hiring assistance by the ORBIC Director and two weeks of Snowy Plover Biologist's time to train the Portland Audubon Volunteer Coordinator at ORBIC's Florence site as well as ORBIC biologist site visits to North Coast SPMA sites. Additional funds would support Portland Audubon staff in hiring the Volunteer Coordinator and travel support for the Volunteer Coordinator. A breakdown of the budget is as follows:

Salaries/wages/fringe benefits ORBIC: $4,444
Travel expense ORBIC: $1,160
Indirect cost ORBIC (26%): $1,457
Salaries/wages/fringe benefits Portland Audubon: $850
Lodging / fuel Portland Audubon Volunteer coordinator (Florence training): $750
Indirect cost Portland Audubon (10%): $160
TOTAL: $8,821

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) – hold ESA permit and are mandated by the state to manage Oregon beaches and the Western Snowy Plover HCP. OPRD staff will oversee aspects of volunteer trainings, outreach, and support of the Portland Audubon Volunteer Coordinator. Data collected by volunteers will be submitted to OPRD via an existing on-line platform

Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC) - part of the Institute for Natural Resources – New partner (with support requested in this proposal from OCRF) would enable ORBIC to take the lead in training Portland Audubon's Volunteer Coordinator as ORBIC holds an ESA permit, has the expertise on plover biology and an experienced biologist in Florence that can provide the trainings. This will fill a role formerly held by OPRD who no longer have a biologist on staff.

Friends of Netarts Bay – Partner and co-promote with Portland Audubon on an interpretive walk at /near the Netarts SPMA

Friends of Cape Falcon – Promote interpretive walks at Nehalem, Sitka Sedge, Clatsop SPMAs

Audubon Society of Lincoln City – Promote interpretive walks at Nehalem, Sitka Sedge SPMAs

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Jan-Feb 2021: hiring process to secure Portland Audubon Volunteer Coordinator March: ORBIC training of Volunteer Coordinator (week long at ORBIC site in Florence); recruit volunteers, plover surveys begin for Volunteer Coordinator April: Volunteer Coordinator with Portland Audubon and OPRD staff support conduct 2 trainings for volunteer. Can do virtual trainings if necessary due to COVID-19, plover surveys with community scientist volunteers begin May – Plover surveys, promotion for interpretive walks, ORBIC site visits to North Coast SPMAs June – Plover surveys, initiate interpretive walks July – Plover surveys, continue interpretive walks August – plover surveys, continue interpretive walks Sept – plover surveys finish, begin survey wrap up Oct – ensure all data to OPRD, annual report and infographic, volunteer appreciation event and in-person presentation (COVID-19 depending)

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Portland Audubon's Plover Patrol webpage contains background, links to survey instructions, trainings, annual summary report, etc.: https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/snowy-plover-patrol/

COVID-19 considerations: We were able to pull off Plover Patrol in 2020 although, during the initial "Stay Home Stay Safe" order by Gov. Brown, all State Parks were closed so we were unable to train volunteers or conduct surveys until that order was lifted at the end of May. We were able to adjust our activities accordingly and achieved most deliverables (adjusted for social distancing) from June onward. We will, of course, likely need to navigate Plover Patrol in 2021 through COVID-19 again but if parks remain open and the situation does not revert to what it was like in March-May 2020 we should be able to achieve objectives described in this proposal.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project
Since 2015 Portland Audubon has led a coast-wide Black Oystercatcher monitoring program in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many coastal partners. This project has relied largely on community scientists (between 60-80 volunteers per year) to collect abundance data at 75 survey routes and monitor more than 30 nests per year. In 2020, we published a peer-reviewed study documenting the Oregon population of this species oystercatcher spatial distribution on the coast, and its use of habitats adjacent to the marine reserves. Information from this project has also been included in DLCD's rocky habitat inventory web mapping tool and U.S. Fish and Wildlife's seabird catalog to help with management decisions. Many of the volunteers involved have been incredible ambassadors for sites they monitor conducting outreach to the public to minimize disturbance of oystercatcher nests and working with agencies to establish signage in key places. For more information visit our Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project webpage which includes links to survey protocol, on-line data form, reports, publications, recorded video trainings, etc.: https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/black-oystercatcher/

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Avian response to habitat restoration at Fernhill Wetlands
Since 2015 Portland Audubon has led a project in partnership with Clean Water Services to conduct bird community monitoring to document response to a massive habitat restoration project converting a wastewater treatment plant to a natural treatment system at Fernhill Wetlands. Over 50 community scientists have contributed to this project using eBird. We have documented changes in bird community that are informing Clean Water Services management of the site. We have also communicated our results in public and scientific venues to showcase a site where green infrastructure has successfully been used to help treat wastewater. We have also held educational outreach events including public bird walks and also partnered with POC-led groups including Adelantes Mujeres on educational STEM events at this site. For more information visit our webpage on this project: https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/fernhill-wetlands-and-pcc-rock-creek-bird-surveys/
Also a recent article on the project in eBird: https://ebird.org/pnw/about/wastewater-for-wetlands-community-scientists-use-ebird-to-help-portland-audubon-document-bird-responses-to-habitat-enhancement-at-fernhill-wetlands-oregon

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Starr Aspen Project

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Starr Aspen project includes aspen, meadow and stream restoration through conifer removal and placement of the woody material into streams and meadows. Removal of conifers will create more space for aspen regeneration and expansion of the stand and allow more water resources for aspen and other hardwoods in the riparian areas. Maintaining healthy aspen stands provide a wide range of forage, roosting, denning, rearing, and calving areas for a variety of wildlife. Woodpeckers are well known for using mature and declining aspen trees for nests, and black bears, mule deer and elk forage and use aspen stands for cover and protection to young. Removal of conifers within the riparian areas and adding the resulting woody material to streams will restore the eroded channels and increase water retention of soils and restore the floodplains. Restoring both aspen and the riparian areas will increase forage in the riparian areas and surrounding meadows and provide a unique area of biodiversity. In addition, road closures will also occur to reduce human disturbances caused by motorized use of specific roads to provide more secure areas for elk, deer and many wildlife that use these unique hardwood and riparian habitats.

Primary Contact Person *

Kevin Vella

Primary Contact Email Address *

kvella@nwtf.net

Primary Contact Phone number *

707-478-7777

Lead Organization *

National Wild Turkey Federation

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

57-0564993

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Bear Valley

Project Location (County) *

Grant County

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9598.21

Total Project Cost *

284140.97

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goals of this project include aspen, meadow and stream restoration through conifer removal and placement of the woody material into streams and meadows. Removal of conifers will create more space for aspen regeneration and expansion of the stand and allow more water resources for aspen and other hardwoods in the riparian areas. Maintaining healthy aspen stands provide a wide range of forage, roosting, denning, rearing, and calving areas for a variety of wildlife. Woodpeckers are well known for using mature and declining aspen trees for nests, and black bears, mule deer and elk forage and use aspen stands for cover and protection to young. Removal of conifers within the riparian areas and adding the resulting woody material to streams will restore the eroded channels and increase water retention of soils and restore the floodplains. Restoring both aspen and the riparian areas will increase forage in the riparian areas and surrounding meadows and provide a unique area of biodiversity. In addition, road closures will also occur to reduce human disturbances caused by motorized use of specific roads to provide more secure areas for elk, deer and many wildlife that use these unique hardwood and riparian habitats.

Objectives to reach these goals include:

- The National Wild Turkey Federation has partnered with the Malheur National forest to implement this project through a Master Stewardship Agreement, the agreement was signed in September of 2019 and implementation is beginning fall of 2020. Several smaller grants were secured from 2018 to 2019 including two NWTF grants (totaling $4,000), ODFW Upland Game Bird grants (totaling $6,000) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Grant ($5,000) and a Collaborative Forest Restoration Program grant ($16,000).
- Specific restoration objectives included in the stewardship agreement are:
  - Commercial conifer removal in 6 aspen stands totaling 93 acres through a timber sale. Estimated timber volume is 840 million board feet (MBF). The value of the timber and grant funding would be used to cover:
  - Noncommercial conifer felling into streams and meadows for riparian restoration.
  - Noncommercial conifer felling within aspen stands for aspen restoration (~ 30 acres)
  - Large woody debris would be redistributed and added to a few stream segments and meadows to promote water retention/soil to allow hardwoods to thrive over conifers.
  - Wildlife-friendly fence construction around select aspen stands to reduce cattle grazing.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Expected outcomes would include aspen stands that have open growing conditions (with very few to no conifer competing), and vigorous suckering with little to no browse and/or a healthy mid-story. Streams would be restored and have a variety of small and large woody material providing improved fish habitat within the channel with the absence of incised channels. Adjacent wet meadows would be restored and show signs of moisture throughout the year and improved forage and browse species including native grasses and shrub species, with more shrubs becoming established along riparian areas. We have an aspen inventory form and protocol to evaluate and monitor the existing condition of an aspen stand's health and condition and have established a photo-monitoring program in this area as well. The inventory form includes an evaluation of the density of conifer and how much they are overtopping and outcompeting aspen; it estimates the health of the aspen at three stages including new growth/suckers, mid-story and adults/canopy. The initial monitoring of existing conditions prior to treatment and establishment of many photo-points was completed in 2019. Plans are in place to return post-treatment for several years to conduct repeated surveys of the aspen inventory monitoring and photos. After treatment, we will also assess needs and locations for fencing protect aspen suckers from the heavy browse that often occurs in this area. Success would be considered when a high majority of the aspen stand that have been treated are in "good condition" (measured through the inventory forms). Riparian and wet meadow restoration and improving the floodplain connectivity will increase moisture in the soil during the drier and warmer summer months, which in turn will help increase water availability for native flora. This will increase hardwood shrub densities and grasses, therefore, providing a higher quality forage for many wildlife species, especially the many elk and mule deer that use this area. Riparian restoration will also increase habitat for fish. Success of the riparian and wet meadow restoration will be measured through several repeated visits to visually monitor outcomes and through the photo-monitoring discussed earlier. Success would include an increase in the amount of quaking aspen, water birch, alders, chokecherry, willows, and dogwood; greater amount of small and large woody material present in streams, increase fish abundance, including redband trout.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Starr Aspen project is located in Bear Valley, on the southern edge of the Blue Mountains, within the Malheur National Forest. This project falls within a Forest Service priority watershed (Headwaters Silvies River), one of the top 12 in the region for aspen habitat. The Oregon Conservation Strategy lists aspen woodlands as especially important in the Blue Mountains ecoregions due to concerns over loss of aspen habitat and lack of aspen regeneration.
Of the approximately 17,500-acre Starr Aspen project planning area, approximately 16,100 acres (92 percent) are forested. Of these forested acres, approximately 840 acres (5 percent) are aspen, spread across 230 stands. In this area, there is a lower percentage of aspen stands than historical conditions, and aspen are generally a declining hardwood species across a conifer dominated forest. Overstory conifers are currently shading aspen and reducing the amount of regeneration of aspen. Many of the meadows become drier in the later summer and a few of the streams have channels that have been degraded. There is currently a low density of large woody debris in most of the drainages in the project planning area, especially in stream reaches with lower gradients near the valley bottom where they converge with the Silvies River. Additionally, fish passage barriers exist that prevent adult and juvenile redband trout, as well as other native fish, from reaching thermal refugia along Camp and Windfall creeks.
In September of 2019, a stewardship agreement was established between the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Malheur National Forest to implement the first phase of the Starr Aspen Project. This initial phase 1 includes a smaller portion near the western edge of the larger Starr Aspen Project Planning area and would occur over three to five years. This portion includes around 130 total acres of aspen restoration, and around 11 miles of stream restoration at the same time using conifer material felled for aspen restoration. Subsequent phases may occur within the Starr Aspen Project Planning area after this first initial phase is completed. Modification of the agreement may occur to continue implementing the larger Starr Aspen area.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project directly improves aspen woodlands through aspen restoration. Aspen is listed in the Oregon Conservation strategy as one of the few deciduous trees in Oregon and as especially important in the Blue Mountains, where this project is located. The Conservation strategy notes the concern about the loss of aspen habitats and the lack of aspen regeneration. The Oregon conservation overview states the many benefits that aspen provide to wildlife including: structure for nest sites and hiding cover; high invertebrate prey diversity and densities; birds in both migration and breeding seasons; and fawning and calving habitat, hiding cover, and forage for mule deer and elk. This project will be restoring aspen through recommended approaches of the Oregon's strategies including mechanical removal of conifer that are encroaching aspen and the recommended approach of use of temporary fences to limit cattle grazing and ungulate browsing that are occurring across this project area. This was completed during an earlier planning process of the Starr Project's NEPA analysis back in 2011, when an integrated team including a wildlife biologist, silviculturist, fisheries biologist and hydrologist all worked to map out and propose an integrated approach to restoring aspen, the streams and wet meadows to ensure the most successful outcomes of the treatments across a larger landscape area.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds are requested to fund noncommercial conifer felling along streams and meadows. This portion of the project will greatly benefit all aspects of the wildlife habitat restoration in that the conifers being felled are currently encroaching aspen stands that are found along the streams throughout this project area. The funds will be directly used to:
1) Fell conifers currently encroaching aspen and felled directionally into the stream that is flowing through the aspen stand.
2) Fell conifers and move the small and large material into several portions of the stream where incised channels are currently resulting in loss of water storage and movement of water out of the riparian area.

Budget
Tree Felling – 655 trees @ $11/tree = $7,205.00
Compliance Monitoring Contractor = 10 days @ $100/day = $1,000.00
NWTF Federally Approved Indirect Rate @16.98% = $1,393.21
Project Total = $9,598.21

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The National Wild Turkey federation (NWTF) and the Malheur National Forest partnered through a Master Stewardship Agreement, that was jointly developed. The Stewardship Agreement allows the NWTF to hire and conduct work on National Forest lands. Thus, NWTF will be administering the project's work and overseeing the contractors.
The Malheur National Forest completed the NEPA planning and analysis and developed the original project's treatment prescriptions and developed the agreement and financial plan through collaboration with NWTF. The Blue Mountain Elk Initiative and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supported and contributed to the project through a $5000 grant to fund a portion of the noncommercial aspen restoration.
The local Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, wildlife division, fully supports the project and is willing to assist with funding of fencing supplies when needed after the initial treatments are completed and fencing design and locations are finalized.
A local citizen that lives adjacent to the Starr planning area has come forward and expressed strong interest and passion for supporting this project. She volunteered to help initiate and complete the first phase of the aspen photo and inventory monitoring in 2018. Then in 2019 returned as a small private contractor to continue monitoring specifically for this project and an adjacent aspen restoration project. She has expressed strong commitment and is willing to continue monitoring in the Starr project over time.
The local forest collaborative, the Blue Mountain Forest Partners, has also expressed interest and support for this project through participation and oversight of many public field trips and meetings during the analysis stage. Aspen is one of the collaborative's habitats of interest due to its unique and important benefit to wildlife. They have worked with the Malheur National Forest to develop an Aspen Zones of Agreement, that outlines restoration goals and objectives for all aspen stands across the forest (all which align with this proposal).
In addition, Trent Seager, a scientist at Sustainable Northwest, has expressed interest and support for aspen restoration on the Malheur National Forest through his efforts working with both the Forest and the Collaborative. Trent has provided much ongoing professional advice and guidance when working with aspen due to his experience conducting aspen research on the Malheur National Forest. In 2019, he came to the Malheur to present a workshop on aspen restoration and management techniques, designed to help new staff with aspen restoration.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

October 2020 - award contract of 26 acres of noncommercial aspen restoration; majority of funding through Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation grant. April & May 2021 - package and award timber sale contract to commercially remove aspen in 95 acres, including the noncommercial service items requested in this grant proposal. June-2021 - timber sale/noncommercial work to begin and complete by end of 2021. June – July 2022- begin first post-year treatment of aspen inventory and photo monitoring, assess suckering responses and prioritize fencing constructions and plans August-October-2022 install a few fences in priority stands June-July 2023 – 2nd year photo monitoring and inventory, assess stands for fencing needs, plan fencing for later this summer and fall.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Performance Links:

Trestle Forest Health Project - https://www.nwtfcalifornia.com/trestle-forest-health-project/

Knoxville Water for Wildlife Project - https://www.nwtfcalifornia.com/nwtf-dollars-at-work-knoxville-water-for-wildlife/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The Trestle Forest Health Project - In May of 2018, the National Wild Turkey Federation was awarded a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in the amount of $487,000 for the Trestle Forest Health Project. The goal of the project being to thin 270 acres of Eldorado National Forest lands around the community of Grizzly Flats, CA. Prior to beginning the project, the overall health of the ecosystem within the area was at an all-time low. Tree densities were so high that the area was at SEVERE risk of catastrophic wildfire, insect/disease outbreak, and served very little benefit to wildlife that inhabits the area. The NWTF teamed up with the Eldorado National Forest, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and Green Tree Services to come up with a plan to restore health in these forest stands. Work began in September where trees throughout the project area with a diameter of less than 10 inches were felled, cut up into sections, stacked, and piled. These piles would eventually be burned at a later date when the forest and air quality conditions allowed for it. Work was completed in November 2018, and the desired conditions of the project were met. The health of these forest stands will now be much more resistant to high intensity wildfire, insect and disease risk, and can now support renewed growth of grasses, forbs, and shrubs – which are crucial to providing high quality habitat for wild turkeys and other wildlife.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Knoxville Water for Wildlife Project – In 2017 the National Wild Turkey Federation was awarded a grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of $17,000 for the Knoxville Water for Wildlife Project on Knoxville Wildlife Area in Napa County, CA. Due to Knoxville Wildlife Area's location in the upper reaches of a watershed and its rugged mountainous terrain, high quality habitat becomes fragmented due to the scarcity of water for approximately 3 months of the year on average (August – October). Average daily temperatures during this period at Knoxville typically range between a high of 90F-100F. This severe reduction in a limiting resource (water) handicaps upland game bird populations, and highly limits their range expansion into otherwise very suitable habitat. Due to the importance of this required resource to upland game birds on Knoxville Wildlife Area, National Wild Turkey Federation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife identified two core areas that were severely water-limiting. Utilizing the grant funds from CDFW, the National Wild Turkey Federation purchased two 1,000 gallon rainwater catchment guzzlers, and contracted out to Todd Pfyl Excavation for installation. Both guzzlers were installed in May of 2018, and the project was completed.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Arch Cape Forest Acquisition

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Arch Cape Water District (a local government district) seeks funding for FEE TITLE ACQUISITION of 1,470 acres of hemlock-cedar-fir forestland that provides the sole source of the Arch Cape community's drinking water and forms the iconic viewshed for several of Oregon's most popular beaches. Located just 5 miles south of the popular resort town of Cannon Beach, tourists driving along Pacific Coast Scenic Byway, Highway 101, pass through Arch Cape on their way towards Oswald West State Park, which had 1.2 million day-use visits in 2019. Rising from sea level to nearly 3,000 feet within two miles, the Project includes rock formations geologically uplifted from the ancient bed of the Columbia River that today serve as habitat refugia for globally rare plants endemic to the Phase 2 tract and adjacent acreage. In tandem with the regional land trust North Coast Land Conservancy's $10M campaign to acquire the adjacent peaks across 2,879 acres by 2021, the completion of the two projects will build on the conservation of three nearby state parks, a municipal forest reserve, and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, creating a 32-square-mile habitat corridor in the Pacific Flyway by 2023.

Primary Contact Person *

Phil Chick

Primary Contact Email Address *

philchickacutil@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-739-2348

Lead Organization *

Arch Cape Water District

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Contact for ID

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Arch Cape

Project Location (County) *

Clatsop

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 21 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2023

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

5500000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Our vision is to provide clean, safe, and affordable drinking water to Arch Cape residents and visitors, through the creation of a working community-owned forest to sustain the rich character and beauty of Oregon's coastal rainforest for generations. The Arch Cape Water District seeks to raise the remaining 25% match required by the USFS Forest Legacy Grant program, which has to-date committed $3,500,000 towards the 2023 acquisition of the property.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Through 2021, the community will convene an advisory committee composed of local residents and commission a forest management plan written by a professional consulting forester. For the purposes of this grant, success will be measured as the completion of that multi-resource management plan by the end of 2021.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Located on Oregon's north coast, the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District has secured an option to purchase 1,521 acres of timberland for the creation of a community forest and protected watershed. This project was inspired by the North Coast Land Conservancy's Rainforest Reserve campaign, which seeks to conserve the neighboring 3,500 acres of timberland adjacent to Oswald West State Park. These "two projects, one vision" demonstrate an innovative partnership for local government and private stewardship to work side-by-side while accomplishing different objectives. Ongoing management will include a program of sustainable, ecological forestry.

The Arch Cape Forest will be owned in fee simple by a local unit of government. The Water District board is made up of elected representatives from among local residents. In 2017 the Water District Board, facilitated by Sustainable Northwest, began developing a vision and goals for a community forest and to explore forest management objectives. After two years of community-wide discussions, the Water District formed a Finance Committee to advise on project due diligence. A Fundraising Committee was formed in 2020. The Water District is joined by its sister organization, the Sanitary District, in matters relating to downstream water quality.

The Water District plans to acquire 1,521 acres by 2023. Adjacent to both Oswald West State Park, Hug Point State Park and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, the forest also has great cultural and scenic value. The appeal of securing local ownership of this unique property is in the future benefits that community forestry can offer; including clean water, stabilized water rates, and conservation and recreation opportunities. Research has shown that maintaining at least 70% forest canopy cover supports good water quality and decreases the risk of erosion and sedimentation. Older forests also allow for more streamflow in summer months, when tourism demand is highest.

The property has miles of gravel roads and could provide recreational opportunities for coastal hikers and mountain bikers. A recreation plan is forthcoming. A forest management plan is under development. Much of the forest was harvested and replanted between 2000 and 2015, limiting revenue prospects in the short term. Maintaining water quality and healthy riparian areas in Shark Creek and Asbury Creek are a top priority. The long-term goal is for a rotation age of 60-80 years to deliver timber revenues of between $300,000 and $500,000 every five years from 2040 onwards. Annual operating expenses of $28,000 are estimated for road maintenance and Forest Stewardship Council Certification. Net income will first go towards acquisition costs and stewardship and then into the Water District capital fund. Future management decisions will be informed by a consulting forester and community advisory committee.

The Arch Cape Water District, along with partners at the Oregon Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service, is currently working on land acquisition due diligence. If successful, the community will receive $1M in federal funding, which was awarded in 2020. An additional $2.5 million federal grant was competitively ranked and is likely to be awarded in 2021.

The project currently seeks to raise additional funds so that the ownership of the property will be net revenue neutral to the ratepayers of the Water District and so that ecologically sensitive areas can be taken out of any future timber harvest plan.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The property has over ten miles of gravel roads that could in the future be part of a trail access network from the Oregon Coast trail and highway 101 to Oswald West State Park through the Arch Cape Forest.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF Funds will count towards the 25% match required for the acquisition grant from the USFS and be spent in 2021 towards the development of a multi-resource management plan.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

North Coast Land Conservancy (neighbor and advisor), Sustainable Northwest (project coordinator)

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

An advisory committee was charted in October 2020, an RFP for appraisers is scheduled to go out in November 2020, a forest management plan will be developed from March to July 2021

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

This is a visionary project and every source of support can help cross the finish line https://www.archcapeforest.org/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Over the past three years, the Water District has partnered with the current land owner, EFMI Investments and Advisory, to fund and implement a road decommission near Asbury Creek and a culvert removal near Shark Creek.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

The Water District has also completed a timber inventory and a long range financial plan for the property

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

OUTDOOR LEADERS YOUTH CAMP(s)

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

In partnership with Friends of Owyhee, EUVALCREE will provide two-week long Outdoor Education and Leadership camps to 50 youth in 9-12 grades. In addition, EUVALCREE will work with 10 youth on curriculum and program development and will meet bi-monthly for a total of 12 meetings. EUVALCREE will incorporate its leadership development curriculum with outdoor education and stewardship program and experience from Friends of Owyhee to create a culturally specific, linguistically appropriate and youth centric curriculum that maximizes youth engagement and stewardship.

Primary Contact Person *

Gustavo Morales

Primary Contact Email Address *

gustavo@euvalcree.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

5418893189

Lead Organization *

EUVALCREE

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

46-2224467

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [x] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Ontario

Project Location (County) *

Malheur

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

08 / 01 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

60000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Goal 1: This program will provide youth with practical skills for outdoor life, develop stewardship and leadership capacity for the natural environment and natural resources.
Goal 2: Advocates from respective environmental and outdoor agencies and organization will inform youth to environmental issues and opportunities in the areas of natural resource management, conservation, working lands, climate, place making, transportation, air, and water quality.
Goal 3: Develop stewardship opportunities for youth to continue to practice and engage in outdoor recreation and leadership.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Outcome 1: Participants will have learned basic and fundamental mental component in Outdoor Education and Stewardship including but not be limited to:
Natural Sciences,
Geology,
Native species, plants and animals,
Ethno botany and plant use,
Wilderness survival,
ODFW Fishing/Trapping/Tracking/Hunting,
Maintained habitat

Outcome 2: Develop a culturally specific and linguistically appropriate curriculum for engaging minority populations to engage in the outdoor recreation.

Outcome 3: Develop and begin to facilitate the process of youth advocates for outdoor and environmental stewardship.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Project Timeline

August-December: Program and Curriculum Development
January-April: Training Planning and Preparation
May-June: Implementation of Programs/Camps

During the Program and Curriculum Development, EUVALCREE will be working with 10 youth to inform the design, program, and curriculum. The youth will be meeting bi-monthly with the program development team to inform and recommending additions, changes, and concepts to the program design. This will allow us to create a relevant and practical outdoor education and leadership development curriculum that reduces the barriers and provides a positive learning environment.
Outdoor Education and Stewardship will include but not be limited to Natural Sciences, geology, native plants and animals, ethno botany and plant uses, wilderness survival, ODFW Fishing/Trapping/Tracking/Hunting, maintained habitat, and other state agencies that support and preserve outdoor life and environment.
This program will provide youth with practical skills for outdoor life, develop stewardship and leadership capacity for the natural environment and natural resources. In addition, advocates from respective environmental and outdoor agencies and organization will inform youth to environmental issues and opportunities in the areas of natural resource management, conservation, working lands, climate, place making, transportation, air, and water quality.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

As part of the learning community we would like to evaluate strategic differences in engaging rural and urban youth, diverse populations, and past experiences in outdoor education.

Being able to compare core curriculum components would be a great benefit to share concepts and approach for future programming.

As an organization developing capacity, EUVALCREE will be able to take a pragmatic approach to creating a curriculum that facilitates practical and relevant programmatic components while developing core and innate practices in diverse populations of students with limited exposure to the outdoors.

EUVALCREE's leadership and diverse engagement experience combined with the education and professional development support of our partners, Friends of Owyhee, we believe will be able to create a opportunity that move youth from exposure to outdoors to long-term practice and stewardship.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Funds will be used for the following:
Delivery Preparation 2,500.00
Leadership Delivery 4,000.00
Wrap-Up & Documentation 1,000.00
Program Supplies & Materials 1,000.00
Counselor Stipends 1,000.00
Chaperone Travel 500.00
Total: 10,000

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Friends of the Owyhee

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

August-December: Program and Curriculum Development January-April: Training Planning and Preparation May-June: Implementation of Programs/Camps

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

EUVALCREE
Since 2017, EUVALCREE has trained 254 community youth leaders in the concept of leadership, appreciative inquiry, working in groups, project development, PRES model, project impact analysis, stakeholder analysis, stakeholder communication, project management and implementation, action team development, principles of fundraising, resource development, budgets, project planning, social identity, characteristics of leadership, community leadership, catalytic leadership, stages of group development, communication theory, barriers in a personal communications, strategies, active listening, communication self-assessment tool, sources of conflict, types of conflict, conflict cycle, and conflict management.
EUVALCREE seeks to expand the leadership program and integrate Outdoor Education and Stewardship in partnership with Friends of Owyhee.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Friends of Owyhee
As an organization who promotes conservation, stewardess, and outdoor recreation in the region, they have led 49 outdoor trips since their inception in 2015 with a host of regional scientists and local leaders.
In 2018, they began their focus on youth education, forming partnerships with organizations such as the Boys and Girls club to provide children more access to public lands. We have led geology and geography minded reading programs in the local library and local community center in addition to specific youth programs.
In 2020, we added a longtime volunteer and noted local youth educator and geologist on staff to head our youth programming.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Reroute Trail 3E to improve nesting sites, hydrology, and park user experience

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Since 2011, the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah ("Friends"), through its Trails Committee, have improved over six miles of trails in the Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA). These improvements have greatly enhanced the quality of park visitors' experience, protected valuable habitat, and reduced trail maintenance needs. The Friends, supported by the expertise and energy of our Trails Committee volunteers, are eager to continue this legacy of success. The work will be accomplished by the Friends Trails Committee, Friends Stewardship Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), Friends staff and volunteers, and selected contractors. Selected contractors may include staff from Lane County Public Works, as well as local Conservation Youth Corps Crews. (The exact mixture of these entities will depend on the amount of the final award). Deliverables include: Construct three new segments of Trail 3, totaling approximately 4,650 linear ft. of trail. Improve 750 linear ft. of Trail 56. Decommission 4,500 linear ft. of official and unofficial trails associated with Trail 3E by removing culverts, foot bridges, gravel, and other infrastructure installed in support of the existing trail. Restore surface water hydrology and native vegetation associated with Conservation Target habitats within the Buckbrush Creek Management Unit and Meadowlark South Management Unit. Restoration of surface water hydrology will enhance at least three acres (and, as much as ten acres) of wet prairie impaired through installation of culverts associated with the trail and trailside ditching. Restoration of one acre of wet prairie within the existing trail alignment will be decommissioned through implementation of the project.

Primary Contact Person *

Janelle McCoy

Primary Contact Email Address *

jmccoy@bufordpark.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-344-8350 x5

Lead Organization *

Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-1129647

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Eugene

Project Location (County) *

Lane

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 21 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 31 / 2023

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

95500

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

- Provide improved nesting sites for birds by rerouting trail.
- Provide park users a better experience through rerouting trail under tree canopy for weather protection and improved gravel grade for equestrian use.
- Construct three new Trail 3 segments, approximately 4,650 linear ft.
- Improve 750 linear ft. of Trail 56.
- Decommission 4,500 linear ft. of official and unofficial trails associated with Trail 3E by removing culverts, footbridges, gravel, and other infrastructure installed in the existing trail.
- Restore surface water hydrology and native vegetation associated with Conservation Target habitats within the Buckbrush Creek Management Unit and Meadowlark South Management Unit.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The Friends and Lane County Parks Division regularly engage the general public and park visitors to provide updates regarding park management priorities, to solicit them for input regarding changes in park practices or rules, and to measure success or needed improvements to those changes.

We utilize informational signage (physical and through a virtual app), social media, web-based surveys, public meetings, public tours as a means to engage and inform the public and park visitors. For example, recent efforts to engage the community regarding Trail 3E occurred in conjunction with the development of the Habitat Management Plan, a one-year-long process that concluded in December 2018. This Fall, we will host site tours of the project area to provide additional information. Tours will continue over the arc of project implementation, gathering feedback from park users and stakeholders. In addition, we will feature the project in our eNews, Rookery (print) Newsletter, and post to Friends social media platforms.

Data from car counters suggests 450,000 annual visits to HBRA by approximately 50,000 unique visitors. HBRA, Lane County's largest and most visited park, and its twenty-five trail miles are a key resource cherished by Eugene - Springfield residents and surrounding communities. Success would be measured by diluted this visitorship across the Park, as opposed to only a few trails. By providing an alternative on the East side of the Park, which includes an improved trail experience for equestrians and pedestrians, as well as a canopy as shelter from weather, will encourage more usage and less stress on other parts of the Park. In that, the reroute accommodates the needed habitat for nesting birds and ensures a more diverse fauna will continue to populate our restoration efforts.

Yearly, the Friends staff and volunteers engage in bird counts and will measure our efforts through those counts, as well as additional car counters to watch visitorship patterns change.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah actively restore and maintain 2,000 acres of natural habitat and more than 17 trail miles inside Buford Park and nearly 12 sq. miles in the Greater Mount Pisgah Area.

Our Habitat Zones range west from Turtle Flats at the Coast and Middle Forks Willamette Confluence; south to Sorenson Parcel, located in near the Hwy. 58 bridge spanning the Coast Fork; east to Buford Park's Eastern Uplands; and north to The Nature Conservancy's Willamette Confluence Preserve, where we assist with floodplain restoration and invasive species management.

Our trail construction and maintenance enables our community connection to natural areas for recreation and well-being.

At times, we collaborate with the broader community to offer our decades-long scientific expertise to land and riparian restoration and prescribed burns, such as Long Tom, Coast Fork, and McKenzie Watersheds. Our Native Plant Nursery supplies seed and plant materials throughout the Willamette Valley, particularly in recent wildfire-affected areas.

Each year Buford Park receives close to half a million visits with as many as 50,000 unique visitors. Most visitors reside in Lane County within ten miles of the Park and are reflective of those demographics. For visitors to our area, Buford Park is also an attractive outlet for recreation and to witness habitat restoration.

Our volunteers remain core to our mission, logging more than 12,000 hours last year or 7 FTE. This year, since COVID began to impact our community, we have experienced a doubling in visits to the Park during spring and a 15% increase during the summer. It was clear how much our community needed the Park to ground themselves, exercise within a natural, green space to socially distance, and have an outlet for families learning and working from home.

In the last nine years, the Friends and its Trails Committee, have improved over six miles of trails within the Park. These improvements have greatly enhanced the quality of park visitors' experience, protected valuable habitat, and reduced trail maintenance. The Friends, supported by the expertise and energy of our Trails Committee volunteers, are eager to continue this legacy of success.

Through this grant and others, the Friends seek to construct approximately 4,650 linear ft. in new segments for Trail 3. Due to Trail 56's proximity and intersection, this will also lead us to improve 750 linear ft. there. Thus, a total of 4,500 linear ft. of official and unofficial trails will be decommissioned. This will include removing culverts, footbridges, gravel, and other infrastructure. With better runoff disbursement, surface water in a wetland area will be greatly improved, affecting between three and ten acres.

To date, the Friends have been engaged in project planning and design phases and will be poised to begin installation this Fall. The project will last through the Spring of 2023. Any grants we receive during 2021 and 2022, will offset staff expenses that would otherwise be underwritten by general operating dollars.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Restoration of surface water hydrology will enhance at least three acres (and as much as ten acres) of wet prairie impaired through installation of culverts associated with the trail and trailside ditching. Restoration of one acre of wet prairie within the existing trail alignment will be decommissioned through project implementation, thus allowing for nesting birds in this area less disruption.

Construction of the new trail will directly benefit all park users. Trail 3 East supports both equestrians as well as hikers. The development of an all-weather trail surface in the relocated trail alignment will keep feet dry and out of the mud. The improved trail bed will protect the hooves of horses from the sharp edges of large angular rock that can damage hooves and/or undermine their shoes. Wider sections of trail located along set intervals will afford places for hikers to step out of the way for equestrians while minimizing trampling to native vegetation.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Oher funds pending do not cover staff expenses associated with project implementation. If we cannot cover the costs associated with our staff, then these costs will need to be covered by operating and unrestricted dollars at a time in which they are needed otherwise. An award from OCFR would help us underwrite the costs of our stewardship staff on this project.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The work will be accomplished by the Friends Trails Committee, Friends Stewardship Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), Friends staff and volunteers, and selected contractors. Selected contractors may include staff from Lane County Public Works, as well as local Conservation Youth Corps Crews. Availability of Public Works staff is also dependent on other work scheduled throughout the Parks Division, as well as negotiations with their Union President.

The Friends have worked with youth conservation corps members associated with Looking Glass Riverfront School, Northwest Youth Corps, and the Serbu Youth Crew amongst other youth crews associated with several local high schools for the past twenty years.

Northwest Youth Corps worked with (former) Lane County Parks Department staff to construct the current trail, part of which will be decommissioned. As such, we will contract with one or more of our youth corps crew partners (depending upon availability) to assist with implementation. Assignments for youth crews may include placement of, clearing, and removal of vegetation along the new corridor; placement of gravel; obliteration of the existing trail, and other planting activities.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

The Friends Trails Committee began planning in earnest for this project during the summer of 2019. Their focus at the time was to identify and evaluate a preferred alignment for each of the three trail segments. Committee members consulted with the members of the Friends Stewardship Technical Advisory Committee for advice on trail alignment informed by site visits that focused on survey for native vegetation and wildlife as well as observation of site hydrology and soils. The trail plan reflects the work of this collaboration amongst the Friends Committees. The alignment of Segment 1 and Segment 2 is set and ready for construction beginning with salvage and transplant of native plant materials occurring within the future trail bed this Fall. A preferred alignment of Segment 3 is reflected in the trail design. However, the Stewardship Technical Advisory Committee will continue to visit and document site conditions and provide feedback to the Trails Committee through Fall 2021. Furthermore, fuels reduction treatments scheduled for Spring 2021 to Summer 2023 will inform vistas and other features we will seek to highlight in this region of the park.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Turtle Flats Restoration
After an initial focus on vegetation removal, 2017 and 2018 saw the planting of 55,000 bare-root trees and shrubs, 20,000 of emergent plugs, and 9,000 additional live stakes of willow and dogwood. Northwest Youth Corps, Oregon Woods, and Walama Restoration Proiect were contracted to complement staff and volunteers. Immediate effects included connected channels and floodplain, lower water temperatures and more basking by western pond side turtles.

Our greatest expenses after labor were materials. Construction of a bridge, shorelines and pond banks alone were the majority. The shoreline repairs, with a reference and acknowledgement of restoring turtle habitat, required specialized assistance.

In 2019, we continued our prior plantings through irrigation, pruning, and placing mulch. In addition, we managed and suppressed invasive vegetation throughout the site. Methods included manual removal (pulling), application of herbicide (spraying) and thermal treatments (flaming), and dead-heading (cutting and removing flowers and fruits) target vegetation. We also completed additional grading in two ponds--implemented last fall and winter, specifically for juvenile turtles. The pond edges were sculpted, small islands created, the slopes protected with geo-textile erosion control fabric then planted with willow stakes and emergent wetland plants. We also continued community engagement through invited tours, classes, volunteer work parties, and photography.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Native Plant Nursery Renovations

The Native Plant Nursery remains core to our habitat restoration efforts by providing plant materials to the entire Willamette Valley (pop. 3M). Nursery renovations, completed in 2020, have played a key role supplying seed, materials and expertise to McKenzie areas devastated by this year's wildfires. For example, we've been able to provide BPA 500 lbs. of blue wild rye, hundreds of lbs. to McKenzie River Trust and EWEB of blue wild rye and oat grass, as well as the Center for Applied Ecology. More requests are emerging as we speak. Thus our carefully propagated Buford Park seed harvests will restore forests at risk of significant erosion and mudslides, as well as seeding these areas with plant and seed materials able to handle drier hot weather and future wildfire. Renovations to the Native Plant Nursery included replacing the greenhouse sheeting (14 years overdue); adding raised beds to mitigate small mammal interference with seedlings and to accommodate volunteers with physical differences; moving and adding a seed cooler; and improving the seed cleaning space to provided desired humidity for cleaning.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Haystack Rock Awareness Program Spanish Language DEI Initiative

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) is a marine education and stewardship program run by the city of Cannon Beach. A team of staff and volunteers work to "protect through education, the intertidal and bird ecology of the Marine Garden and Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge at Haystack Rock". One of the values of HRAP is that all people deserve to enjoy nature and be able to learn about the wonders of the Haystack Rock ecosystem. HRAP has recently begun undergoing Strategic Planning on updating vision, values, and initiatives specifically for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) to promote more culturally sustaining practices. One of the first enterprises in this new plan is the Spanish Language DEI Initiative; the goal of the Spanish Language DEI Initiative is to expand HRAP's education and stewardship materials to include Spanish translations, hire bilingual interpreters, and train staff to promote culturally sustaining education. The initial phase of the project involves ensuring that HRAP brochures, field trip activities, signage, and website will be available in both English and Spanish. To launch these new materials, HRAP will be organizing an outreach campaign to the Hispanic and Latinx communities on the Oregon Coast and in the Portland Metro Area. This digital and in-print campaign will inform the public of the newly translated educational materials and encourage members of the Hispanic and Latinx community to participate in HRAP's programs, apply for upcoming job openings, become an HRAP volunteer, and participate in discussions on how HRAP can work towards becoming a more unified and inclusive community. This initiative will increase the accessibility of HRAP's programs and allow more people to participate in marine education and stewardship.

Primary Contact Person *

Kelli Ennis

Primary Contact Email Address *

ennis@ci.cannon-beach.or.us

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-436-8060

Lead Organization *

Haystack Rock Awareness Program, City of Cannon Beach

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Cannon Beach

Project Location (County) *

Clatsop

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 04 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

15000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goal of this Spanish Language DEI Initiative is to increase the accessibility of HRAP's education and stewardship for Spanish speaking visitors and community members at Haystack Rock and Cannon Beach. The educational materials that HRAP currently offers are expansive; however, they are only available in English. HRAP would like to have brochures, signs, and their website, offered in many languages, but given that Spanish is the second most spoken language in Oregon, translating materials into Spanish is the priority. By breaking down language barriers, HRAP would be a more inclusive environment, and would be promoting better outdoor equity. In addition to offering educational materials to Spanish-speaking Haystack Rock visitors, HRAP would like to hire bilingual staff members and recruit community volunteers from more diverse backgrounds. Engaging members of the Hispanic and Latinx community in stewardship work would help HRAP begin to be a more inclusionary space that truly exists to serve all people.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The first step of success is completion of translated materials followed by distribution to all relevant partners and community resources; however, we want to ensure that the Spanish Language DEI Initiative does more to improve inclusion than simple translations. We will be partnering with regional and local organizations who specialize in DEI and Social Justice in Education to determine if we are following measures, plans, and trainings that make sense for the community members we are attempting to reach. One of the long-term measures of success will come from a third-party DEI audit of the program which will become a regular annual or biannual review to ensure that the program is committed to inclusive practices that reflect and serve the community at large.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Since its modest beginning in 1985, the Haystack Rock Awareness Program (HRAP) has educated and inspired over one million adults and children to learn about the natural resources at Haystack Rock and other places on our earth. HRAP's mission is to "protect through education, the intertidal and bird ecology of the Marine Garden and Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge at Haystack Rock." To accomplish this mission, HRAP has an extensive education program for children and adults that includes field trips, summer camps, events, and a staff of rocky shores interpreters.

Highly knowledgeable staff and volunteers are on the beach seasonally at low tide and are available to answer visitor questions and share their knowledge about this amazing onshore island and other marine related topics. Conservation education focuses on the Coast Range and Nearshore Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) Ecoregions, which includes offshore islands, subtidal, intertidal, beach, estuary, headlands, and forest ecosystems. Educational signage, interactive educational tables, and interpreters to discuss information about seabirds, raptors, intertidal invertebrates, fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, geology, oceanography, climate change, and how people interact with and affect the marine ecosystem. Staff also provide free informational brochures that cover a variety of topics including Oregon Marine Reserves, community science opportunities, and conservation efforts for species of concern in the region. Haystack rock is home to several species listed in the OCS, including tufted puffin, black oystercatchers, ochre sea stars, California mussels, razor clams, and Dungeness crabs among many others. To protect these species, Rocky Shores Interpreters inform the public of State and Federal regulations and encourage visitors to respect wildlife by walking on the sand, not collecting animals or shells, and staying out of the seabird nesting refuge. Continually monitoring the site, staff members rope off areas where black oystercatchers are nesting and place informational signs near groups of ochre sea stars explaining the history and effects of sea-star wasting-densovirus (Parvoviradae). Multi-year tufted puffin and ochre sea star monitoring projects provide data about the populations of these species at Haystack Rock. Reaching beyond the scope of Haystack Rock, HRAP also provides educational material on the brown pelican, American white pelican, eelgrass, sea palm, and bull kelp, and other species listed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy that live in the surrounding region. The onsite work that HRAP conducts helps the public understand and appreciate the significance that tidepool and marine birds have in the ecosystem and encourages people to practice stewardship in their own lives.

HRAP has been providing free educational programs that integrate observation, investigation, and exploration for 15 years. HRAP partners with local schools to organize science field trips to Haystack Rock in the spring and fall every year. Virtual field trips are offered for schools unable to visit in person. During the summer, when school is not in session, HRAP offers a low-cost day camp for children ages 3-12. Both programs help students practice 21st century learning by observing, inquiring, investigating, and conducting research about the tidepool and sea stack ecosystems. When schools closed in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HRAP converted its field trip curriculum to an online format. Education and Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Habecker, created an hour and twenty-minute YouTube video that guides the viewer on a complete tour of Haystack Rock's intertidal zone. Inspired by this new online format, HRAP is currently expanding its online material to include a full curriculum of educational videos that will be accessible and free to everyone. Stewardship projects, like the Citizen Science Marine Debris Mural Program that ran from 2018 to 2019, taught adults and children about human-made debris like plastics that litter oceans and beaches. Participants were offered the opportunity to be part of a beach cleanup and then take the debris that they collected and turn them into educational murals. Each of these educational programs are designed to be a fun, interactive way to foster a sense of awareness about coastal and ocean ecosystems.

Although these educational programs and materials are heavily utilized by Cannon Beach visitors and residents, they are primarily offered in English. Only 3 out of the 45+ HRAP brochures have a Spanish translation available. Other key resources, like the Haystack Rock Awareness Program website, provides information about all of the education programs, visitor information, and how to volunteer, and is also only viewable in English. The lack of Spanish materials creates a language barrier within HRAP. Across the state of Oregon, Spanish is the second most spoken language after English, and a total of 9.2% of the population above the age of 5 speaks Spanish at home. Visitor surveys collected in August 2020 show that 25% of the visitors to Haystack Rock are from the Portland metro area. According to surveys conducted by the City of Portland, the Portland Metro Area has nearly 40,000 people above the age of 5 speak Spanish at home. This data shows that if HRAP educational materials were offered in a second language, Spanish would be the most utilized.

To increase the accessibility of Haystack Rock Awareness Program's educational materials and to encourage the inclusion of the Spanish speaking community into Haystack Rock stewardship, HRAP is proposing to translate all educational materials into Spanish and launch a Hispanic and Latinx outreach campaign. To accomplish this, HRAP will contract a translator to catalogue brochures, signage, educational materials, the HRAP website, and create duplicate versions of these materials in Spanish. This hired contractor will be given a digital copy of all written materials and would create a duplicate copy of each document with Spanish text. The video materials such as the pre-recorded virtual field trip, would have Spanish closed captions written and added to the film and later voiced over by a bilingual staff member. The HRAP website would have each of its pages translated with an option to display the entire website in either English or Spanish. After all new materials are produced, physical copies of brochures, signs, and education programming will be printed and displayed next to the English copies. The digital component of this outreach campaign will include social media posts, emailing local organizations that HRAP has historically collaborated with, and including information in the HRAP weekly newsletter. Physical signs will be placed near educational materials stating they are now available in Spanish. When staff positions open, the job listing will highlight that priority is given to Spanish speakers.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program currently promotes goals of the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) by educating the public about Coastal Range and Nearshore ecoregions and the organisms within those areas. Oregon Conservation Strategy lists a "limited awareness of nearshore ecosystems" and "increased recreation use" as limiting factors for nearshore and coast range conservation (Nearshore). By providing education for the public, HRAP is filling gaps in public knowledge, and mitigating the impact that increased recreational use is causing in the region. The Spanish Language DEI Initiative will further contribute to the OCS by expanding the number of people who can learn about organisms of concern, conservation strategies, and how to be an environmental steward, from HRAP's programs.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Funds from the OCRF will be used specifically for translation contractors and costs associated with printing and distribution of new materials.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

HRAP's closest partner is Friends of Haystack Rock (FOHR) who work closely with HRAP, provide fiscal support, and share similar a mission. FOHR is also undergoing updates to become more inclusive and the DEI efforts will be a joint undertaking since many materials are shared by both organizations.
Consejo Hispano is a regional non-profit dedicated to serving the local Hispanic communities. This organization will be HRAP's primary partner in community outreach and ensuring that we are adhering to practices that better integrate and serve the local Hispanic and Latinx community members. Consejo Hispano will be our major regional contact for materials distribution and advice.
Seaside School District and US Fisheries and Wildlife are two other partners who HRAP will be working with to distribute materials through and assist in outreach efforts for volunteers and hiring opportunities.
Translation contractors not yet identified, will be the services HRAP will hire to begin translations. We would like to prioritize local services and will be following recommendations from Consejo Hispano when possible.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

November 2020: contact partners and update on the program initiative, identify collaborators and groups prioritized for outreach. December 2020: collect bids for contractor services January 2020: begin translations and hiring process February 2020: print translations, launch updated webpage, hire seasonal staff, and undergo DEI education trainings for staff and volunteers March 2020: begin outreach campaign to identified partners, identify third-party DEI auditing group.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

HRAP Webpage: https://www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/hrap and HRAP facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Haystackrockawarenessprogram/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Citizen Science Marine Debris Murals
"Every site is a world site" says Lisa Harbecker, HRAP's Volunteer and education Coordinator. Harbecker designs education programs with the philosophy that if a person becomes a steward of Haystack Rock, they can take their stewardship skills and apply them to all natural places that they interact with. From 2018 to 2019, HRAP ran a Citizen Science Marine Debris Mural program where participants collected garbage from local beaches and used the trash that they found to create murals. During the project, 15 classes took field trips to the beach and collected 3,500 pounds of trash. This project provided an opportunity to discuss marine environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, and threatened species with the 971 students and adults that took part in the art creation. Once the art pieces were created, they were donated to local organizations such as the Audubon Society and Tillamook Estuary Partnership, where they could be displayed and continue to facilitate marine debris discussions.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Virtual Field Trips
Starting in 2018, HRAP has offered Virtual Field Trips to classrooms across the US. The idea was initially sparked when a former HRAP staff member wanted to teach her students in Minnesota about marine ecosystems. HRAP staff took a tablet with them to Haystack Rock and guided students on a screen through the tidepools as if they were visiting in person. This gave children an opportunity to see and experience ocean life that they would not normally have accessible. In 2020, with the outbreak of COVID-19, HRAP has increased the number of virtual field trips. This program can be offered year-round and provides a safe, easy alternative to in-person field trips. To date, 202 students from across the country have participated in HRAP's virtual field trip program. Two more virtual trips are scheduled to take place in the remainder of the 2020 season and an extensive new online curriculum program is currently being organized and recorded to create a free online library of educational videos.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Harney Soil and Water Conservation District Fence Markers and Escape Ramps for Wildlife

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Harney Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) intends to contract with locally based Crane High School and a local welding shop to manufacture fence markers and trough escape ramps. If funded SWCD will have inventory available to sell to landowners as restoration projects are being developed and will reduce the overall time to complete the projects. The SWCD will then cost share with the landowners a portion of the current manufactured value as an incentive-based program to ensure the success of the wildlife programs in Harney County. The cost share funds will be reinvested in the inventory of fencing markers and escape ramps, to maintain the program over time.

Primary Contact Person *

Jason Kesilng

Primary Contact Email Address *

jason.m.kesling@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-891-9878

Lead Organization *

Harney Soil and Watershed Conservation District

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [x] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Burns

Project Location (County) *

Oregon (OR)

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 02 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

05 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

8850

Total Project Cost *

258438

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

During field survey, the SWCD has identified fence markers and escape ramps as an area of concern that slows the completion of conservation projects within the Sage Grouse program. By the SWCD having a readily available inventory of both fence markers and wildlife ramps for landowners, these conservation measures will get implemented timelier and will provide an immediate benefit to wildlife.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Baseline (what we know): It has been identified through field surveys that a missing component of conservation measures as a piece of the Candidate Conservation Assurance Agreement that Fence marking for Sage Grouse Collision and excape ramps in troughs is an area left slowing the completion of projects or forgotten.
Goal: HSWCD Intends to work with each landowner involved in SG and Wildlife programs within the Harney County area to have designated markers and trough ramps in place in all properties to protect species of concern.
Target: 100% participation in the program
Metrics: The system we use to measure the participation in this program currently is the Candidate Conservation Assurance Agreement data collection system. We will work with partner programs such as NRCS and other partner agency to assure the success of data collection while this program is in place.

Success: The SWCD will measure the success of the program by how many of the fence markers and/or the escape ramps are installed on a yearly basis. Success can be measured by the amount of inventory the SWCD maintains through time on a year to year basis. Success can also be measured based on the fence collision risk in each area where the fence markers are installed. When we are developing sage grouse plans on private properties, we use the fence collision risk model to identify where it is important to install anti-strike markers. Trough ramps are placed in all troughs on a property and will benefit multiple species.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Animals such as raptors, ducks and grouse may not be able to see a wire fence until it's too late. Collisions are especially likely to occur at dawn or dusk, when light is dim. Collisions not only harm wildlife, but also can lead to higher costs of fence repair, time spent searching for escaped livestock and lead to grazing impacts on sensitive areas such as riparian areas. Building highly visible fences will help animals see them from a distance and navigate more easily. A Utah study concluded that 18% of documented mortalities to sage-grouse were from fence strikes. (Danvir 2002). The overall mortality rate for this population was 53%, making the relative risk of a sage-grouse hitting an unmarked fence at 9.54%. In 2011-2013, Stevens published 3 papers examining the relative risk of hitting fences and identifying key factors present in the habitat that would make a fence "high risk", these factors led to the development of a lek based model taking into account distance from leks, slope, roughness and other factors, Stevens concluded that if high risk fences were marked with anti-strike markers or reflectors it would reduce mortalities by 83%, which would reduce overall fence strike mortality rate down to 1.62%.

Many types of wildlife, such as bats, neotropical birds, deer, elk, pronghorn, rodents, rabbits, squirrels and insects, use livestock troughs for drinking water. Unfortunately, these species often find themselves unable to escape when they fall in while attempting to drink or bathe. The use of wildlife escape ramps benefits wildlife and livestock by maintaining clean water. Wildlife and livestock with consistent access to clean drinking water have been shown to be healthier and gain more weight. Some frequently used escape features can be tragically ineffective. Floating sticks, logs or planks often are placed in tanks to provide a life raft for wildlife. Unfortunately, these structures are unstable and slippery, and animals that manage to climb onto floating debris may still become stranded in the center of the trough. Piles of loose rocks are another common solution, but these structures are unstable and decrease water storage capacity. Bumping by livestock or freeze-thaw patterns in the winter can shift the rocks and cause them to fall over. An effective escape ramp should touch the edge of the trough and be strongly secured so it will not collapse or come loose. All ramps purchased by the SWCD will be manufactured to NRCS specification for each water trough design features (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_041023.pdf)

Between 2016-2019 SWCD and partners have installed a total of 15.8 miles of fence markers within "high-risk" collision areas and 64 escape ramps within cattle troughs. During 2020 field season 3 projects were incomplete because of missing escape ramps within the troughs and one fence marking project due to waiting for markers.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The program priority focus is sage grouse conservation, however just by nature of placement of fence markers and escape ramps will benefit multiple other species. Some species identified are: bats, neotropical birds, deer, elk, pronghorn, rodents, rabbits, squirrels and insects.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The SWCD proposes to purchase 21,000 white and black fence markers at $0.24 per unit, totaling $5,040. The SWCD will also purchase 3 types of escape ramps for 3 different types of troughs. Small ramps (square troughs), 12 ft. tire trough ramps and 13 ft. tire trough ramps. Small ramps are $30 per ramp, 12 f.t are $67 and 13 ft. are $80. We will purchase 20 smalls, 30 12ft, and 15 13ft ramps for the price of $3,810. Total overall budget request is $8,850.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Landowners, Crane High School, Oregon Department of State Lands, USFWS and NRCS

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Once funding is secured SWCD staff will contact Crane High School and a local welding shop to start the manufacturing. It is expected to take 2-3 months from the time SWCD request the manufacturing to begin until the completion of the finish products. Estimated timeline would be start in January 2021 and completed grant by April 2021. The timeline ending would coincide with the start of the SWCD field season. It is expected for this to be startup money for this program and after the initial year the program will sustain itself.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

This is a very small portion of an overall large conservation effort undertaken by multiple agencies and private landowners. There is currently $242,950 to develop inventory/develop site specific plans and monitor the implementation of those plans. The SWCD will charge the landowner at a 75% of cost rate, which will add an additional $6,638 to the cost of the program. These funds will help sustain the inventory for future installation, however it is anticipated that demand for fence markers and escape ramps will decrease over time as the SWCD sage grouse program matures.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Harney SWCD and the CCAA Steering Committee developed their CCAA as a collaborative effort among many agencies and private landowners. The Harney CCAA was signed and finalized in 2014. Since its establishment, the SWCD has been developing landowner agreements to conserve sage grouse habitat on private property. One of our largest accomplishments in sage grouse conservation has been our Focused Investment Partnership project funded by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, The Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse.
The Oregon Model to Protect Sage-grouse, All Counties (Focused Investment Initiative), focus area is located within Crook, Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties and totals more than 745,401 acres. All acres are located solely within identified sage-grouse Core Area habitat as defined in the ODFW Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon. Since 2015, Harney SWCD has accomplished many conservation measures which benefit sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate species. In the first phase of our grant agreement 4,510 acres of juniper treatments were completed, reducing habitat fragmentation and predation. Annual grasses were sprayed for a total of 2,569 acres within our FIP focus area over the two-year period of the grant in an effort to restore sagebrush ecosystems. Livestock watering facilities were retrofitted with wildlife escape ramps, and a minimum of 4 miles of fence was marked with anti-strike markers.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Drewsey Water Quality and Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration Project. The project was spurred by an Oregon Department of Agriculture determination of areas of concern within the watershed. The focus area was identified as a Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) by ODA. The project not only will relieve grazing pressure in the riparian areas, by providing cattle and wildlife watering areas in the uplands, it will also reduce habitat fragmentation and predation through cutting of juniper. The project includes the development of 3 solar pump systems and 1 gravity fed spring development. Juniper will be cleared around one of the springs and will tie in to an old cut to expand sagebrush habitat.
Monitoring is a large part of our efforts and will track effectiveness and success of our conservation efforts. Positive results have already been experienced through the increase of desired vegetation, reduction of annual grasses and the expansion of contiguous sage-grouse habitat.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Holton Creek RNA

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Initiate management activities to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health for the 421-acre Holton Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) managed by the BLM as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Participation, education and outreach to local communities will be incorporated as a key element of this project. Identified as an Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitat for the Klamath Mountains ecoregion, the Holton Creek RNA is a singular example of low elevation, late successional mixed conifer forest. Located within the eastern portion of Klamath Mountain ecoregion and west of the recent Almeda fire near Talent and Phoenix Oregon, this area is currently part of the larger 28,000-acre West Bear Initiative (with multiple partners including NGO's, Federal and State) to reduce wildfire risk to habitat and communities. This 421-acre project is an opportunity to inform and guide restoration to reduce fire risk and improve forest health (resilience) in this important forest community. Activities include inventory and recommendations for restoration on 421 acres, and basic layout and technical assistance for 25 acres, setting the stage for treatment through the larger West Bear Project. Recommendations will be developed in consultation with the BLM and partners from a variety of organizations including The Nature Conservancy, KSWild and the Native Plant Society. Outcomes will be landscape resiliency across all ownerships, resilient habitat for late successional species and connectivity among habitats supporting a diversity of wildlife species. Engagement and outreach activities include intern(s) involved in inventory, field trips and a short science briefing about the habitat values of the Holton Creek RNA. Outcomes include community recognition and placing a value of this habitat, recognition of the need for active ecosystem restoration and management and hands on experience with ecological-based forest management.

Primary Contact Person *

Terry Fairbanks

Primary Contact Email Address *

tfairbanks@sofrc.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-292-4498

Lead Organization *

Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC)

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

56-2431473

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [x] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Talent

Project Location (County) *

Jackson

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 15 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

5000.00

Total Project Cost *

13950

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Goal 1: Evaluation of the 421-acre Holton Creek RNA refugia for protection and habitat conservation from a landscape scale perspective within the Bear Creek Initiative, leads to active protection and management, reducing threats from wildfire and reduced threats from forest health issues.

- Provide a 5-10-page written assessment of the vegetation of the Holton Creek RNA that includes an evaluation of the current condition, needed protection and potential management activities.
- Assess 3 scenarios for treatment priorities: 1) treatments adjacent to the RNA, 2) ridge line treatments within the RNA or 3) treatments within the lower elevations of the RNA.
- Determine appropriate treatments such as mechanical thinning and prescribed fire.

Goal 2: Engagement and outreach about the Holton Creek RNA creates recognition, appreciation and understanding of the value of conservation and habitat protection within forested landscapes close to communities.

- Include 1-2 intern(s) in field inventory, data collection and preliminary reports about the condition of the RNA.
- Provide 1-2 field trips with partners and interested organizations to contribute ideas and to provide feedback to initial observations and recommendations.
- Develop a 2-page science briefing for local landowners and residents of local communities about the habitat values of the Holton Creek RNA.

Goal 3: Agreement on recommendations through partnership with BLM and other organizations leads to areas identified for potential restoration activities which are mapped and laid out for treatment.

- Federal lands within and adjacent to the Holton Creek RNA recommended for restoration are referred to the BLM for internal evaluation.
- Private lands identified for restoration activities are prioritized for the top 25 acres.
- Landowners are contacted, and technical assistance and layout tasks are implemented on 25 acres.
- Secure funding for additional layout and for treatment implementation.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The outcomes and measures of success include the following:

1. Evaluation of the Holton Creek RNA within the landscape setting of the West Bear Initiative determines the risks, threats and potential restoration needs of the RNA.
a. Written report clearly and accurately describes the condition, needs and threats from wildfire and forest health issues such as disease, drought and insects.
b. Accurate inventory provides detailed information for conclusions, recommendations and assessment.
c. Specific areas are identified for potential restoration and mapped.

2. Engagement and outreach lead to increased support for habitat protection and an understanding of the need for active restoration.
a. Interns serve as ambassadors for appropriate management of important habitat through participation in gathering data.
b. Partners work together to analyze and take into account the need for protection of this rare refugia and agree on recommendations.
c. A briefing is written and provided to the local community through field trips and other public events.

3. Areas identified for potential restoration treatment are evaluated and included in the larger West Bear Initiative.
a. Private lands critical to protecting the perimeter of the Holton Creek RNA are identified and landowners are successfully recruited for participation in the project for a minimum of 25 acres.
b. BLM participates in developing the recommendations and determines potential next steps (this could include additional surveys, analysis and proposed treatments analyzed through NEPA).
c. Successful recruitment of private landowners leads to technical assistance and layout in anticipation of treatments for a minimum of 25 acres.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Context:
The Holton Creek RNA is one of the few, if only remaining low elevation late successional old growth forests in the eastern Klamath Mountains ecoregion. Now referred to as the Holton Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) by the Bureau of Land Management, this jewel of a watershed was historically visited by frequent, low severity fire leaving large old growth trees intact but reducing the fine and ladder fuels in the understory. No management plan has been developed for this area; therefore, the threat of wildfire, drought, insect and disease activity has not been addressed. There is an opportunity to provide both protection and restoration by conducting an inventory, evaluation and prioritization of sites for treatment and then implementing the necessary design and layout activities. Treatment in identified high priority areas is expected to be funded through the larger West Bear Project with private or federal funding.
Typically, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or Research Natural Areas (RNA) are identified as examples of representative intact ecosystems by the BLM or Forest Service on federal managed lands and when funding permits, an analysis and management plan is written to provide background and guidance for management. Unfortunately, this area has not been analyzed and with the extreme threat of wildfire, drought, insect and disease (forest health concerns), there is an immediate need and opportunity to provide guidance and restoration to this important habitat.

The Holton Creek RNA/ACEC covers 421 acres with approximately 100 acres of BLM lands adjacent to the RNA boundary. The remaining lands surrounding the RNA are private lands.

The goal of the West Bear All-Lands Restoration Project (WBARP) is to implement strategic forest health and wildfire reduction treatments adjacent to communities and critical assets across a contiguous landscape of 28,000 acres. The Holton Creek RNA lies within the highest priority of the three watersheds identified for treatment. The WBARP is a confluence of several large grants: a secured privately funded grant ($2 million) grant administered by Sustainable Northwest, a secured federal FEMA grant ($350,000) awarded to Lomakatsi Restoration Project and a potential large USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service grant ($3.5 million) that is being submitted in November. Here are the activities from this project:
- Engage with affected homeowners and landowners to develop, implement, and monitor wildfire mitigation plans and implement forest health restoration treatments.
- Implement shovel ready and environmentally sound wildfire risk reduction projects on public and private forestlands to protect homes and critical infrastructure and reduce the impacts of smoke to vulnerable populations.
- Enhance forest resiliency and ecological function by implementing treatments that improve tree survival in the face of fire and drought, support the preservation of unique ecosystems such as conifer and oak woodlands, and create structures needed for wildlife habitat. The dry forests and oak woodlands of the Strategy area are crucial for capturing precipitation and filtering it before delivery to streams and local aquifers. Conditions of the forest also interact with streamside riparian functions and the delivery of both coarse wood and pulses of sediment for aquatic habitat. The Bear Creek watershed supports salmonid species of considerable conservation significance, including federally listed species.
- Coordinate broad stakeholder engagement, secure public support, and advocate for increased public and private investments in forest health and resiliency, wildfire risk reduction, and community protection and preparedness in southwest Oregon.

Holton Creek RNA Project Details:

Inventory, Assessment and Evaluation
- Inventory vegetation conditions within the Holton Creek ACEC to assess density, species diversity and condition using standard vegetation inventory techniques
- Assemble data and determine areas of concern and areas needing protection
- Work with partners to assess the need and priority for treatments
- Create a short report documenting the analysis and recommendations

This initial phase of the project will occur between January 15 and March 15, 2021. The inventory, analysis and evaluation will be conducted by Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) in consultation with the Rogue Forest Partners (RFP) which include: The Nature Conservancy (TNC), USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lomakatsi Restoration Project LRP), Klamath Bird Observatory, USDI Fish and Wildlife Partners Program, USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and OSU Southern Oregon Extension and Research Center (SOREC).

Engagement and Outreach
- Recruit and engage an intern(s) from Southern Oregon University to participate in the inventory of the Holton Creek RNA
- Offer at a minimum one field trip to the site to local Phoenix, Talent an Ashland community members to discuss the evaluation and recommendations
- Create a short briefing paper in English and Spanish describing the Holton Creek RNA
- Work with Rogue Forest Partners who are engaged in the West Bear Project to identify areas outside of the RNA that can protect the values of the RNA through private land treatments

This phase of the project will occur between March and June of 2021. It will become part of the larger West Bear project and this is when discussion about the potential for treatments on private land that would protect the RNA will be evaluated. There is an expectation that the West Bear Project is ongoing and will have already initially evaluated the RNA as part of the larger landscape resiliency.

Technical Assistance and Layout
- Map areas identified for treatment both outside and within the Holton Creek RNA
- Identify landowners adjacent to the RNA who are interested in treatments on their property
- Provide technical assistance through a treatment plan and layout, to a minimum of 25 acres of private landowners
- Work with BLM to initiate NEPA coverage, surveys and treatment plans for identified areas within the RNA in need of treatment

This phase of the project will occur between July and October of 2021. Expectations are that private land treatments could start at the beginning of the fall wet season. BLM will need to conduct surveys for botany and wildlife. NEPA documentation will need to be scheduled. Ideally, surveys could begin when

initial identification of treatment areas are recommended, and treatments could occur within two years.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Late successional mixed conifer forests are a Strategic Habitat for the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) in the eastern portion of the Klamath Mountains. As the OCS notes the risks to late successional forests in the Klamath Mountains are especially acute because of the disruption of fire regimes and large fires that have extensively damaged important late successional species habitats. Wildlife such as ringtail cat, fisher and Oregon slender salamander all depend on this refugia type habitat. The impacts of fire suppression and recent large uncharacteristic fires have led the National Fire Plan to recommend active management techniques for achieving forest landscape resiliency. These techniques need to be ecologically sound and implemented and monitored in a manner that retains habitat values. The work of the Rogue Forest Partners relies on evolving science and adds to the science research and monitoring directly related to the recommendations in the OCS. See the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Management Strategy (Metlen 2017).

Education materials and opportunities related to ecology and wildlife conservation through recreational activities are also part of this project through the inclusion of student interns, field trips and briefing material in two languages.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Total Funding for the Holton Creek Project includes:

OCRF funds: $5,000. inventory, analysis, engagement
- Inventory: 30 plots @ $35/plot = $1050
- Intern: 1 @ $525
- Analysis: 40 hours @ $1,800
- Engagement: 25 hours @ $1,125
- Indirect: @ 10% = $500

MATCH
Sustainable NW funds (Match): $5,000—inventory, analysis, engagement, layout and technical assistance
- Layout and Technical Assistance for 25 acres @ $200/acre = $5,000

Lomakatsi Restoration Project (Match) Inventory design and assistance = $2,000

SOFRC (In-kind Match):
- Engagement & Analysis: 30 hours @$65/hour -=$1950

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Sustainable Northwest who will be responsible for funding the layout and technical assistance as well as administration of the overall West Bear All-Lands Initiative. They would be the source of implementation funding for the identified treatments on private lands
Lomakatsi Restoration Project will be contracted to install inventory plots, provide the actual layout and technical assistance and participate in engagement
Rogue Forest Partners is a participant in the West Bear All-Lands project and will be available to participate in the analysis and developing recommendations as well as engagement activities
USDI Bureau of Land Management Medford District is the manager of the Holton Creek RNA/ACEC and will be a participant in the analysis and recommendations, will be the recipient of the inventory and will potentially secure funding for wildlife, botany and archeology surveys in the RNA as well as provide NEPA analysis for any proposed treatments within the RNA.
The Nature Conservancy is a member of the Rogue Forest Partners has an historic role in this RNA as they wrote the original recommendation for Holton Creek to become a RNA in 1990. They are available for consultation and engagement.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Inventory, Assessment and Evaluation: January 15 to March 2021 Engagement and Outreach: March through June 2021 Technical Assistance and Layout: July through October 2021

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative: SOFRC is currently coordinating the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI). This is a six million-dollar, six-year Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Focused Investment Project. The project involves implementation of 6,160 acres of forest restoration on both federal and private lands in six project areas around the Rogue Basin. The largest of the project areas is the Upper Applegate Watershed where a community endorsed plan calls for oak and pine enhancement, variable density thinning, prescribed fire and legacy tree thinning. The current status of the project is that prescriptions for treatment are written, the units have been laid out and 433 acres are ready to be treated when the weather permits. Another project in this initiative (Shan Apple) is located in the Illinois Valley where 200 acres are ready to be treated.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

In 2019, SOFRC hosted the Integrated Land Management Forum and Workshop with 250 participants. The leadership forum was designed to bring together staff, elected leaders in federal, tribal, state, county and local government to share their views on integrating fire and land management. The All Lands Workshop provided a more technical venue to share emerging approaches for robust collaborative land management and to serve as a launch for the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative. A key outcome was the collaborative development of Potential wildfire Operational Delineations (PODs). This exercise began drawing anticipated wildfire control lines, collaboratively mapping a proactive approach to planning and implementing treatments in the right places and informing wildfire fire responses with data and understanding developed before fires start.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Recreating Responsibly: Bilingual Invasive Species Education for Willamette Valley State Parks

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Public education about invasive species is a priority for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). This project will develop and install four boot brush stations including interpretive signage at two Oregon State Park properties. Together, Willamette Mission State Park and Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) encompass 2,225 acres and represent the two largest intact floodplain forests in the Willamette Valley ecoregion. They are sites of ongoing, large-scale restoration, including the control of invasive species and the planting of native vegetation within 800 acres of these priority conservation areas. Project partners will design and install bilingual (English and Spanish) signage with boot brush stations at key trailheads. The signs will educate visitors about the role they play as vectors of invasive weeds and as stewards of Oregon's treasured natural resources. The signage will encourage visitors to use the stations upon entering and exiting trails to remove seeds and debris from boots and clothing. Project publicity, including a ribbon-cutting event, will enhance the reach of the educational message. The signs will be based on PlayCleanGo messaging, format, and guidance with review and feedback from regional partners and experts. PlayCleanGo materials are provided by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) and encouraged by the Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program staff. Based on evaluation of this pilot program, partners envision the installation of additional stations at priority areas within the Luckiamute watershed and across the region, further expanding public awareness of responsible recreation and the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species. Partners include OPRD, Willamette Riverkeeper, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on behalf of the Benton Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), Marion SWCD, Western Skies Ranch, and the Mid-Willamette CWMA.

Primary Contact Person *

Kristen Larson

Primary Contact Email Address *

director@luckiamutelwc.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-837-0237

Lead Organization *

Luckiamute Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

45-2177036

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Albany and Gervais

Project Location (County) *

Benton, Marion, and Polk counties

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

8250

Total Project Cost *

12930

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Project goal: Educate recreational visitors to Oregon's public spaces about the impacts of invasive species and the role each person can play in reducing the spread of invasive species through the use of boot brush stations.

Project objectives:
1) Install four boot brush stations at two Oregon state parks with bilingual (English and Spanish) educational signage by November 2021.
2) Increase the reach of the public education beyond the physical boot brush stations by publicizing installation of the stations through websites, social media, and press releases.

The project goal and objectives fit within the OCRF Committee's priority of educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation for kids and adults in multiple languages. The project will educate the public about tangible actions recreational visitors can take through the signage at the boot brush stations and the publicity that will surround the "ribbon cutting" of the stations. Together, Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) and Willamette Mission State Park welcome almost 300,000 visitors annually. Recreational audiences include hikers, bird-watchers, hunters, anglers, disc golfers, and others. The stations will be located at strategic locations within the parks to ensure maximum contact as visitors enter and exit trails.

The Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) has identified invasive species as a Key Conservation Issue across the state and in the Willamette Valley ecoregion. One of the most important actions identified by the OCS to mitigate this risk is to educate the public about their role in protecting Oregon's landscapes from invasive species, noting that people can greatly reduce the accidental introduction or spread of these harmful organisms if they know what precautions to take. This project not only addresses the need to raise awareness of the impacts of invasive species and the pathways to their spread, it also aims to empower individuals to do their part to protect valuable floodplain forest habitat and significant restoration investments from the impacts of harmful invaders.

Expanded publicity about the installations will result in widening the reach of the education message about the impacts of invasive species, the role people play in spreading or introducing them to new places, and how each individual can take steps to prevent spreading invasive species.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

In the short-term, and within the time frame of the grant program, success will be determined by completing a design process that is approved by all partners and producing and installing the four boot brush stations with associated bilingual, educational signage.

Partners will also track the earned media and social media hits that will publicize the project and expand its reach to the general public beyond the physical stations.

Longer term, post-grant success will be determined by evaluating three questions:
1) Are the stations being used by park visitors? Park rangers will observe and engage visitors at trailheads to see if they are stopping to read and use the stations. The LWC will work over the project period to secure a partner such as Western Oregon University or Oregon State University to conduct a visitor survey of station use and report on any identified barriers to use or opportunities for improvement (target summer 2022).
2) Are the stations effectively trapping weeds? This will be evident after the first growing season when rangers can observe which weeds sprout in the catchment area of the stations. Priority weeds not currently present in the area, i.e. garlic mustard, will be reported to the appropriate channels. Rangers will control weeds at the stations with chemical and / or mechanical methods.
3) Are the stations relatively easy for park staff to maintain? The proposed project is a pilot project – installing four stations at two properties. Based on the experience of OPRD staff who are responsible for monitoring and maintaining the stations, partners will assess if the designs are effective and the stations are easy to maintain. Once staff and park visitors have experience with the stations, partners will make any necessary design modifications and will promote a larger scale installation of stations across priority areas through alternate funding sources. OPRD has committed to replacing the boot brushes as needed (approximately annually) and the gravel in the base of the station as needed, approximately every 2-3 years depending on use.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The project will result in the design, production, and installation of four boot brush stations at two Oregon State Parks properties by the end of 2021. Additionally, partners will promote the project widely to increase the reach of the educational messaging in the region. The primary audience for the stations is recreational users at the two sites, Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) and Willamette Mission State Park. Between the two sites, the parks attract almost 300,000 visitors annually for hiking, bird-watching, dog-walking, biking, hunting (LSNA), and disc golf (Willamette Mission). Additionally, Willamette Mission State Park and Luckiamute State Natural Area are priority conservation sites, encompassing the two largest intact floodplain forests in the Willamette Valley. Each park is the site of extensive ongoing large-scale restoration efforts, including the removal of invasive species and the replanting of native vegetation within 800 acres. Existing interpretive panels at LSNA and Willamette Mission describe the ongoing efforts that are protecting and restoring the health of the parks' vitally important ecosystems. Interpretive signage associated with the boot brush stations will go further by educating visitors about the role they play in protecting Oregon's beautiful natural areas from invasive weeds.

To ensure that this proactive message reaches a greater number of the parks' recreational users, the boot brush station signage will be in both Spanish and English. Bilingual signage is an essential part of project partners' strategy to reach the broadest possible number of park visitors, and it also helps to address the need for more inclusivity in conservation messaging. Key findings by OPRD's 2017 Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey show that 97.1% of the state-wide Latino population participates in outdoor recreation, with 73.3% participating in hikes along local trails. Despite these findings, the Latino population was identified by OPRD as an underserved demographic group from an outdoor recreation perspective. The state's Outdoor Recreation Plan recommends taking action towards better serving the outdoor recreation needs of Oregon's Latino population.

Through expanded publicity via various media outlets, the project will reach the general public through newspapers, list-servs, newsletters, and social media, widening the reach of the educational message.

In order to accomplish the project, activities (during the grant period) will include:

- Luckiamute Watershed Council will join the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) to gain access to the PlayCleanGo boot brush station signage templates, graphics, customization, and messaging.
- A project kickoff meeting with partners.
- The LWC Outreach Coordinator will lead the project through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's interpretive signage approval process. This is a three-step process in which first a Vision is reviewed and approved, then a Concept, and then the final Design. Luckiamute Watershed Council staff will lead the adaptation of the PlayCleanGo materials to the specific sites, audiences, and target weeds, oversee translation of the text, coordinate with OPRD staff for input and approval, and seek feedback from other partners and regional experts at appropriate stages in the design process.
- Finalize designs and station locations.
- Coordinate with OPRD staff for cultural resource considerations prior to ground disturbance for station installation.
- Coordinate with OPRD staff for station hardware and procurement of materials.
- Produce the sign panels; procure all necessary installation materials.
- Plan and promote a ribbon cutting ceremony to increase interest and visibility of the installations. Develop and distribute press releases, social media posts, email blasts, and follow-up with media contacts.
- Installation and final media push.

After the end of the grant period, future efforts will include monitoring the boot brush stations to observe what invasive species emerge within the catchment area, reporting incidences of new invasive species as needed, and controlling all weeds at the stations. OPRD is committed to regular monitoring and maintenance of the stations including cleaning and changing brushes regularly and, per recommendations, removing and replacing the gravel at least every 2-3 years. This timeline will depend on usage and need.

Project partners will work during the project to establish a partnership with a local university (e.g. Western Oregon University or Oregon State University) to evaluate visitor usage of the stations. This user survey would be conducted post-grant, in summer 2022. OPRD staff will assess ease of maintenance. Based on these evaluations, partners will modify the stations as needed to increase their effectiveness at removing and containing plant seeds and debris and attracting visitor usage. Results of these evaluations will also be shared with partners and other local park jurisdictions, with the intent to develop wider distribution of boot brush stations across OPRD-managed land and other popular outdoor recreation sites. As recreational visitors encounter these stations more frequently and see the same look and message, the stations will be more effective at attracting attention and encouraging usage. Visitors will grow accustomed to using them when entering and exiting sites and they will increasingly recognize that each Oregonian shares responsibility for protecting our valued public spaces from invasive species.

The Committee's priorities and the OCS call for protecting important floodplain habitat in the Willamette Valley ecoregion and educating the public about the threat of invasive species and how to play a role in stewarding Oregon's natural resources. This project addresses all three of these actions, and can serve as a pilot project for a larger scale installation of boot brush stations across priority outdoor recreation areas across the region.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The bilingual signage and strategic locations of the stations will provide educational materials about responsible recreation for kids and adults. Furthermore, these educational stations will complement significant investments in habitat restoration from state, federal, and private funders at two high priority conservation areas, one of the key strategies from OCS's Conservation Toolbox.

The Oregon Conservation Strategy identifies the introduction and spread of invasive species as a key conservation issue threatening Oregon's native fish and wildlife, their habitats, and the state's economy and as a limiting factor for the Willamette Valley ecoregion specifically. The OCS also calls for protecting and restoring floodplain function in the Willamette Valley ecoregion. This project creates accessible, bilingual educational signage that helps visitors to LSNA and Willamette Mission understand the threat of invasive species to outdoor recreation areas, and their role in helping to mitigate this threat. By providing the opportunity to take a specific action to help prevent the spread of invasive species, it empowers individuals to take ownership of the stewardship of their favorite outdoor recreation areas. In addition, including both Spanish and English messaging on the signs helps address the need for more inclusivity in conservation discourse, and will increase the number of park visitors that gain understanding about their role in preventing the spread of invasive species.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Requested funds will support the LWC's membership to NAISMA, giving partners access to PlayCleanGo invasive species signage templates and in-house design team, as well as the most up-to-date design templates for an effective boot brush station. Project funds will be used to procure the materials needed for station installation, and the services of a sign production company to fabricate durable sign panels for the stations. Project design and coordination costs for the LWC Outreach Coordinator will be covered by OCRF funding, as well as the planning and implementation of the "ribbon cutting" event, outreach and publicity associated with the project. Project funding will also support partner coordination and communications, staff oversight, budget management, and project reporting by the LWC Executive Director. Partner contributions will support panel production and installation and review of sign design and text.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD): Owns and manages the sites. OPRD staff will provide in-kind support in reviewing and approving sign and station designs and locations, cultural resource surveys and compliance before and during station installation, installation of the stations, control and reporting (if appropriate) of weeds sprouting at stations, and maintenance of the stations.

Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC): Applicant and project manager. LWC staff will coordinate among partners, lead design of signage and stations, conduct outreach including web site, press releases, and social media presence, and ensure project completion and reporting.

Willamette Riverkeeper: Willamette Riverkeeper is managing restoration efforts at Willamette Mission State Park. Marci Krass, Project Manager, will coordinate with partners, review the sign messaging, target weeds, and provide input on station locations at Willamette Mission.

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (on behalf of the Benton Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)): Cash match and review of signage.

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District: Cash match. The LWC will submit to MSWCD's Conservation Learning and Education Resources (CLEAR) grant program for cash match to support panel production for the signs. Marion SWCD will notify the status of the grant before the end of 2020.

Mid-Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area: Sign review.

Western Skies Ranch: Cash Match.

North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA): Use of PlayCleanGo design and graphics (with paid membership), assistance from in-house graphic design team.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

1) LWC joins NAISMA and gains access to PlayCleanGo materials and in-house graphic design team (1/2021 - 1/2021); 2) Project kickoff meeting (1/2021 - 1/2021); 3) Develop Vision and get OPRD approval (1/2021 - 2/2021); 4) Develop Concept, solicit partner input, and get OPRD approval (2/2021 - 3/2021); 5) Develop final panel and station designs, solicit partner input, and get OPRD approval (4/2021 - 6/2021); 6) Procure station materials (5/2021 - 6/2021); 7) Sign panel production (7/2021 - 8/2021); 8) Station installation (9/2021 - 10/2021); 9) Ribbon cutting and media blast (10/2021 - 11/2021); 10) Wrap-up and reporting (11/2021 - 12/2021).

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Luckiamute State Natural Area website: https://stateparks.oregon.gov/index.cfm?do=park.profile&parkId=192

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Willamette Mission website: https://stateparks.oregon.gov/index.cfm?do=park.profile&parkId=99

PlayCleanGo website: https://www.playcleango.org/outdoor-boot-brush-educational-signage

"Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: Responding to Demographic and Societal Change," 2019 – 2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Documents/SCORP-2019-2023-Final.pdf

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The LWC partnered with OPRD to develop three interpretive signs at LSNA that were installed in spring 2016. The LWC Outreach Coordinator, the same staff-person who will lead this project, worked with OPRD staff through the agency's process to successfully install the signs along the North Tract Trail Loop. Sign panels highlight the wetlands and Willamette floodplain habitats at LSNA, the mature "gallery" forest, and the active restoration work that surrounds the trail. This project is a direct example of how LWC staff were able to navigate the process, develop and finalize materials, and bring the project to completion through installation with OPRD staff and volunteers. The proposed project is anticipated to be simpler because the PlayCleanGo templates will provide a starting place to work from and the basic layout of the signs will be similar across all four signs – with the highlighted weeds customized for each site.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

The LWC has completed 275 acres of riparian revegetation at LSNA, has another 20 acres in preparation to be planted in early 2021, and was just awarded funding for another 60 acres at the center of the North Tract Trail Loop. Revegetation efforts have been remarkably successful at LSNA due to ideal site conditions, a strong partnership with OPRD, funder investments, and excellent project management from the LWC Project Managers. In addition, the LWC PM and OPRD staff are surveying the gallery forest for priority weeds and controlling target weeds in the forest to protect the precious resource that exists at the confluence of the Luckiamute, Santiam, and Willamette rivers. As a result, floodplain forest habitat in the Willamette Valley ecoregion is being protected, enhanced, and expanded upon through these restoration efforts. The proposed boot brush stations will play an important role in educating the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors about tangible actions they can take to protect the mature and establishing floodplain forests in our state parks.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Finn Rock Boat Landing Enhancement Project

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The McKenzie River Trust will increase accessibility, provide important safety upgrades, and improve functionality at the Finn Rock Reach Boat Landing. Creating parking spaces and graded trails that are ADA compliant will open up the boat landing to new users. We will upgrade parking to facilitate safe and adequate parking for both single cars and boat trailers. The project will create nine trailer spots and 21 single vehicle spots. Implementing a traffic flow design that maximizes safety and user efficiency, and installation (and re-location) of wooden barrier fencing and basalt column pieces will delineate safety areas for gathering, staging, and safety briefing by guided fishing and rafting outfitters, and to help pedestrian flow. The project will also create a central arrival/interpretive zone. This will entail re-locating the kiosk to a new landing in front of the existing vault toilet. The project will be primarily funded, if successful, by the Recreational Trails Program (OPRD). Secondary funding will be provided by McKenzie River Trust private donations. MRT will also use Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) stewardship funds, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Stewardship funds, in-kind MRT staff time, and community volunteers to install native plant landscaping and bio-swales.

Primary Contact Person *

Christer LaBrecque

Primary Contact Email Address *

christer@mckenzieriver.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

(541) 206-5633

Lead Organization *

McKenzie River Trust

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-1029808

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Blue River

Project Location (County) *

Lane County

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 01 / 2017

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

04 / 14 / 2023

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

357000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

This project will improve the accessibility of the McKenzie River for all community members. Designed to support the needs of adaptive recreation groups such as the City of Eugene's Adaptive Recreation Program who regularly engage community members with mobility differences through whitewater rafting adventures that launch from the Finn Rock Landing, this project addresses gaps in accessibility to the river for multiple user groups.

A central goal of the project is improving access for all community members that supports the local economy. With increased access to fishing, boating, rafting, and kayaking, local businesses will see economic benefits in alignment with the McKenzie Year-Round Tourism Action Plan, (Stephen Dobrinich and Aniko Drlik-Muehleck, Hatfield Fellows with Lane County Community and Economic Development). This plan seeks to clarify, prioritize, and build on ideas and recommendations that emerged from the Visitor Readiness Report, the Rural Tourism Studio, and the ongoing work of the Tourism Committee. It synthesizes information from these three sources, and input gathered through 15 stakeholder interviews, to recommend a set of actions that are manageable for volunteers. This action plan is intended to guide the Tourism Committee's efforts over the next five years as they work to grow tourism in the McKenzie and extend the tourism season beyond its peak in the summer.

The Finn Rock Landing Enhancement project delivers on this planning work and makes real the vision that "outdoor recreation amenities for all four seasons are well-planned and robust. In addition to world-class river-recreation opportunities, visitors enjoy a network of wilderness trails, interconnected overnight options, and a unique selection of road cycling and mountain biking routes. Investments in recreation infrastructure provide a nurturing environment for businesses to develop guided tours, rentals, shuttle businesses and the like. Travelers are relieved to find restrooms, safe parking and visitor-friendly directional signage at key locations when they arrive." The plan states that Finn Rock Boat Landing is slated to have a toilet by 2036 and an improved boat ramp (no date given). The installation of vault toilets in 2018 accelerated the timeline listed in the plan, and the funding of this OCRF grant would accelerate the McKenzie River vision and increased landing accessibility by the 2023 busy season.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

In addition to the project's alignment with a broad community planning project, results from a recent recreational economic impact analysis showed that the combined recreational users of the McKenzie River Trail and the McKenzie River from May through September add $5.1 million in recreation tourism dollars per year to Lane County (Lindberg and Hall, 2014). The McKenzie has an active recreational fishery which supports local guides and businesses. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) estimated fishing effort for trout at 90,000 – 120,000 angler hours per year during 2009-2010 in the middle and upper McKenzie. In 2012, EWEB funded a watershed valuation in the McKenzie to gain a better understanding of the economic value that is provided to society with a healthy watershed. Results show that McKenzie watershed ecosystems provide at least $248 million in benefits to the regional economy each year (Earth Economics, 2012).

One only has to visit the boat landings throughout the McKenzie River corridor on a sunny day to see the need for upgraded and additional facilities. There are many launch sites with virtually no amenities and even fewer with ADA accessible parking, restrooms, and river access.

With Lane Transit District bus service serving the McKenzie River corridor, a safe and accessible site right off of the bus line in the Middle McKenzie offers access to the river for community members throughout the McKenzie Basin, Eugene, and Springfield. Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: Responding to Demographic and Societal Change (OPRD, 2019) specifically calls out the public's desire for more public access to Oregon's waterways. Though access is currently available to the public, improvements to the landing would create a safer and more user-friendly experience, enhancing the destination appeal of the area and increasing the ways this area can serve the public at large.

Improvements to this pubic-use water-trail site directly support the local economy and expands site capacity. The Universally Accessible site design will improve the site's ability to support adaptive recreation opportunities on the middle-McKenzie river. This project supports the local economy, community health and well-being, and contributes to a more equitable outdoor experience for Oregonians and those who visit our state.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Finn Rock Landing Enhancement Project aims to significantly improve user accessibility, experience, and safety at the boat landing, increasing the types of groups the area can serve and creating a welcoming experience for the many existing users.

In 2017, McKenzie River Trust conducted a user survey of 200 people at the Finn Rock Boat Landing. Through this survey, participants highlighted the need for improved parking, restrooms, and traffic flow, as well as gathering areas and increased trails/footpaths to access the riverbank.

The primary use of the boat landing is for launching paddle craft or drift boats for fishing. Many people also visit the landing to bank fish, or wade into the nearby shallows, a rare condition in this section of the river. The area also supports local guides and outfitters as well as education programs from the nearby McKenzie School, and local residents take advantage of the adjacent footpath past huckleberry lane, through what used to be a historical logging camp, which housed loggers and their families while working for the Rosboro Lumber Company, to walk their dogs, bird watch, or simply connect with nature. The rich history of logging in the McKenzie valley is highlighted on the informational kiosk on one of the interpretive panels.

There are several types of landings and launches throughout the McKenzie River Corridor, but Finn Rock is situated at the upriver end of a particularly popular run, that includes the famous Brown's Hole and Marten Rapids. McKenzie River Guides Association members use this landing heavily, along with other rafting outfitters from across the state. Improving the site will directly support positive visitor experiences, including those with local guides, shuttle services, and outfitters. This investment goes beyond on-the-ground work, and trickles through the local economy that relies heavily on seasonal recreation in the area.

The City of Eugene Recreation Department's River House Outdoor Center also launches most of their river trips from this site. As active advocates of this project, they are particularly excited about the possibility of increasing adaptive/accessible rafting opportunities as a part of their Adaptive Recreation program. Creating accessible paths, parking locations, and restrooms is a high priority that is addressed in the design. Currently, there is no safe gradient for adaptive recreation users to safely move from the parking spots at the restroom to the river so current users need assistance to be able to safely launch at the site. Our new design facilitates safe access to the river for this user group and the many others who benefit from well graded paths.

Another positive impact will be improved safety for the entire site. Currently, there are few parking spaces and no official trailer parking spaces, so many users park across the river in an ODOT-owned pull-out. This requires extra crossings of an adjacent single lane bridge and includes off-trail foot traffic that has caused significant erosion. Survey data and community feedback also indicates that there are conflicts between vehicles, trailers, and pedestrians. The new site design includes footpaths with designated crossing for pedestrians.

Finn Rock Reach has been a focus of public support since MRT purchased it in 2016. MRT's McKenzie Homewaters Campaign, funded the purchase of the property as well as funding habitat restoration efforts, and long-term stewardship of this publicly accessible site. More than 400 individuals and businesses contributed to the Homewaters Campaign, highlighting the level of community trust and support that exists for this project. A well-recognized member of the conservation and restoration community, McKenzie River Trust just celebrated its 30th year conserving Oregon's lands and rivers and is now working to deepen our mission through facilitating public access opportunities for more Oregonians.

MRT has secured significant public support for enhancements to the Boat Landing through listening sessions and informational interviews with members of local upriver communities including McKenzie Bridge, Rainbow, Blue River, Vida, Leaburg, and Walterville. We've established a Friends of Finn Rock Reach volunteer group that works seasonally to maintain and restore the Finn Rock Reach property including the boat landing and adjacent nature trail. Working to ensure that the boat landing serves social, environmental and economic needs, we have also built a strong partnership with the McKenzie River Guides Association who have been active since 1931, and who were heavily involved in the design phase of the boat landing.

McKenzie River Trust has contracted Lane County Parks to carry out weekly maintenance of the site, which includes restroom cleaning, litter collection, and reporting of other issues that might arise on the site. (Lane County Parks highlighted this partnership in their December 2018 Parks & Open Space Master Plan).

McKenzie River Trust has also invested in building a Friends group for the Finn Rock Reach area. This group meets monthly to conduct site maintenance including habitat protection work, road maintenance at the landing, and addressing ongoing issues with trash, especially during peak summer months. Individual members also provide additional weekly site inspections and trash pick-up trips during peak use months.

The McKenzie School, in partnership with the McKenzie Watershed Council, has also partnered with McKenzie River Trust to assist with ongoing vegetation management at the Finn Rock Reach property as a part of the watershed councils Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration, and Stewardship (WATERS) Program that connects youth to environmental science through real-world learning opportunities around watershed health and environmental stewardship.

Some of Finn Rock Landing's most regular users, the McKenzie River Guides Association, a formal group of 62 professional fishing and rafting guides, have been engaged as active supporters and advocates for keeping the landing open and improving conditions on-the-ground. Guides Association members assist regularly in the upkeep of the area and are quick to report any violations on-site, working with McKenzie River Trust to resolve challenges and protect the habitat and community values that the Finn Rock Landing offers.

McKenzie River Trust is committed to building a more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just organization. We believe that people need nature in their lives, they are healthier, happier, and more resilient when they have access to and help care for the places that have shaped and defined their communities.

Our approach to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) has been to begin within and work outward. From 2017-2020 McKenzie River Trust leadership participated in intensive JEDI training with the Center for Diversity and the Environment. In the fall of 2019, in support of strategic planning efforts, a small subset of staff and management team members convened to form a DEI team for the organization.

The Finn Rock Boat Landing Enhancement Project is aligned with this effort to better serve all community members. Implementing Universal Access design principles, we are acknowledging that the outdoors are for everybody and so we're investing our resources accordingly. By engaging people through listening sessions, surveys, ongoing volunteer projects, and Friends Group meetings, we included many diverse voices in the decision-making process around making enhancements to the site and have created a design that responds appropriately to those most immediately impacted by our actions.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The project will expand the number and diversity of boat landing users while protecting the property's conservation values. As noted in the project narrative, the property implements Universal Access design principles to ensure that the boat landing functions for Oregonians of all abilities. It creates ADA compliant parking spaces, and graded trails to the water that are accessible and safely out of the flow of traffic.

The purchase of Finn Rock Reach itself was partially funded by the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP), which is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The WWMP is competitive, with projects needing to demonstrate that Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats are present and will persist into the future. As a condition of the program, MRT granted the BPA a conservation easement on the property, and both ODFW and BPA approved the property's land management plan, which included the boat landing enhancement plan. As part of this approval process, MRT had to demonstrate that the enhancements would not negatively impact the fish and wildlife habitat that is abundant on the property.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

McKenzie River Trust is requesting $10,000 of the $357,000 project from OCRF. OCRF funds will be used for services necessary for the project's completion. Approximately $6,000 will be spent for the installation of the educational kiosks near the central gathering area. An additional $4000 will be used for materials. Specifically, the funding will provide handrails and timber fence that help define pedestrian and parking areas, which are necessary for the safety of the project area.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Partner organizations for this project are many. They include:

- City of Eugene Recreation Department & Outdoor Program River House
- Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)
- Friends of Finn Rock Volunteer Group (FoFR)
- Lane County Parks
- McKenzie Flyfishers
- McKenzie River Guides Association (MRGA)
- McKenzie School
- McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC)
- Northwest Youth Corps (NYC)
- Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB)
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)
- US Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- Willamalane Parks & Recreation District

Financial or other in-kind support has been generously given by: Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), Friends of Finn Rock Volunteer Group (FoFR), McKenzie River Guides Association (MRGA), McKenzie School, McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC), Northwest Youth Corps (NYC), Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). These partners have been involved – and will continue to be involved – in the project in various ways. For example, Northwest Youth Corps has been both a contractor and a donor of in-kind services to the site. MRT has long-partnered with NYC to help train and educate local youth. At Finn Rock Landing, the youth crews were both paid to help with infrastructure, trails, fuels reduction, invasive species removal, and garbage, but were also allowed to camp on site to train crew leaders, provide chainsaw and trails training. This type of collaboration between non-profits is something MRT is proud to be a part of and has every intention of continuing into the future. Hopefully, with the fully recognized vision of the renovated Finn Rock Landing as an anchor point for activities like this one.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Winter 2016 Planning for enhancements began June 2017 Recreational Trails Program (OPRD) grant submitted for initial enhancements including kiosk installation, gate replacement, barrier fencing and basalt columns Summer 2017 MRT partners with ODFW to plan the installation of the double-stall vault toilet (structure and engineering funded by ODFW) Fall 2017 RTP grant awarded to MRT Fall 2017 Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning hired to assist with Phase II Boat Landing design Winter 2017-18 Installation of vault toilet, kiosk, gates, etc. Spring 2018 MRT hires SeaReach to design and fabricate interpretive and entrance signage Winter 2018-19 Final Phase II proposed design complete Fall 2019 Interpretive and entrance signs installed Winter 2019-20 MRT eveluation of project goals, budget, project readiness / importance June 2020 RTP grant application submitted for Phase II to OPRD for funding Summer 2020 Holiday Farm Fire affects entire community – Finn Rock Landing infrastructure spared; most other landings on McKenzie 100% destroyed October 2020 *OCRF grant application submitted* Winter 2020 Hire contractor to develop construction drawings and submit permits Fall 2019 – Spring 2022 Fundraising to achieve appx. $50,000 match Fall/Winter 2021-22 Hire construction company to build Phase II enhancements Spring 2022 Finalize construction drawings and obtain all necessary permits Fall 2022 Construction begins Spring 2023 Construction completed

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Another event that is significant to this project is the tragedy of the Holiday Farm Fire, which burned over 175,000 acres and hundreds of homes and structures throughout the scenic McKenzie River corridor and surrounding forests. While the devastation to the forests is great, the devastation to the communities and people of the McKenzie River Valley is so much more impactful. The community of Blue River, which is just a couple of miles upriver from Finn Rock, was virtually destroyed in the fire. Many individuals who we know well lost their homes and businesses in the fire. Many of these people have also been regular visitors and volunteers on MRT lands. MRT was, and is still, an important mediator for many of these community members to connect with resources and other types of aid. We hope to continue to play a significant role as part of the upriver community in the rebuilding of these communities. We feel that Finn Rock Landing can play a role in this recovery. While minor when compared to the rebuilding of a town, the Boat Landing is a place for gathering, it's a place for the community to connect to the river again, it's a place that the community can bring tourism back to the river and dollars back to the communities. We hope that the enhancements to Finn Rock Landing can play a role in the rebuilding of the McKenzie River Valley community.

https://mckenzieriver.org/frr-enchancements/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

MRT completed the Coburg Aggregate Reclamation Project (CARP) in 2015 at the confluence of the McKenzie and the Willamette Rivers. The project drew many stakeholders together to evaluate and restore a former gravel mining pit site within the floodplain of this biologically significant confluence area of the two major rivers in the Upper Willamette. The project focused on reconnecting the gravel ponds to their historical floodplain and enabling fish passage, winter high water refugia, and enhancing and restoring habitat for many native species, including, but not limited to Chinook salmon, native trout, Oregon chub, western pond turtle, and lamprey.

This groundbreaking project has served as an early model in our region for ways in which hydrologically disconnected and biologically disrupted areas can be restored. There are many gravel pits adjacent to the Willamette and other rivers. These mostly abandoned pits have huge restoration potential. They also post many logistical and permitting challenges. CARP overcame these challenges and is now a biologically diverse and thriving habitat.

MRT is now seeking out new and innovative ways to move the science of restoration forward with Stage-8 floodplain restoration along the floodplain of the mainstem McKenzie River at Finn Rock Reach. This project builds on the pioneering restoration techniques the Trust has become known for by pursuing the ways in which science can be applied to maximize restoration potential.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

In 2014 there was a vision of restoration and protection for a 277 acre property on both shores of the McKenzie from the Quartz Creek Bridge and Finn Rock Boat Landing upstream almost all the way to federally protected forest lands. The vision became reality in 2016 when MRT acquired and protected in perpetuity this land. A Conservation Easement was secured around 18 months later that laid out the conservation values that were to be forever protected. Not only was there a vision of protection, but also a vision for restoration.

As the drinking water for the City of Eugene comes from the McKenzie, there was and continues to be significant interest in protecting this watershed, both for human beings reliant on clean, clear drinking water, but also for the fish and native species who rely upon it for survival. The interconnectedness of this landscape was recognized by MRT and other partners and friends and a movement began to protect Finn Rock. With the financial support of Eugene Water & Electric Board secured, MRT completed a capital campaign - "Homewaters" – that raised more than $4.6 million to help achieve this vision of protecting, connecting, and restoring the land.

With this initial 277 acres, MRT has only since gained momentum in the community, especially now, after the devastating Holiday Farm Fire, to continue to seek out opportunities to protect and restore this watershed on which we all depend.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

From: Christer LaBrecque
To: Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee
Subject: Re: OCRF application quick question
Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 1:14:26 PM
Attachments: image003.png
RTP_FRR_Boat Landing Enhancments 2020.pdf

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finnrockreachboatlaunch.mp4

Thanks for your help. I was able to successfully submit!

I'd like to share a powerpoint presentation which we think really describes the project and shows some nice visual aids, especially with a project that has had so much go into the planning to date.

In addition, here is a link to a video we made to accompany the presentation.

Thanks very much. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help or anything else I can provide to answer any remaining questions about the project.

Kindly,

On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM Christer LaBrecque <christer@mckenzieriver.org> wrote:

> Hello - I'm having trouble submitting the online application because, though I've made sure the answers meet the requirements for answer length, I'm getting an error message stating that "Your response is too large. Try shortening some answers." Please advise how to proceed so that I can submit in a timely manner.
>
> Thank you much,
>
> On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 9:45 AM Christer LaBrecque <christer@mckenzieriver.org> wrote:
>
> > Great! Thank you.
> >
> > I plan to submit within the hour and I'll send both a link to our website as well as a pdf with documents to this email address.
> >
> > Kindly,
> >
> > On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 9:13 AM Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee <ODFW.OCRF@state.or.us> wrote:
> >
> > > Sharing a google drive link would be appropriate. You could also send an email to this address with pdf documents.
> > >
> > > Davia M. Palmeri
> > >
> > > Conservation Policy Coordinator
> > >
> > > m.971-719-1192

Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Tidal Wetland Mapping and Tide Gate Replacement in Southwestern Oregon “A tool for Evaluating Lowland Habitat and Tidal Infrastructure”

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Along the Oregon Coast, tide gates have significantly altered estuarine and stream. Wetland and estuarine restoration including tide gate replacements are identified as top priority restoration actions for the Oregon Coast in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, state and federal conservation plans and are a priority for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and watershed councils. Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) and Coquille Watershed Association (CoqWA) recently completed tide gate inventories which identified over 275 tide gates in the two basins. Using the inventories, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) optimized tide gates based on those that, if replaced, will provide the most ecological benefit for the monetary investment. The need to replace tide gates in the Coos and Coquille estuaries is significant. With the optimization tool and inventory as foundations, local conservation organizations are collaborating to encourage landowners to voluntarily participate in wetland restoration projects. This proposal seeks to procure an RTK GPS so essential elevation data can be collected in order to implement and monitor current and future tide gate and wetland restoration projects. Elevation data are key to developing engineered project designs that improve habitat quality and connectivity while adhering to permitting requirements. This tool will also benefit planning, design, monitoring and adaptive management of the other restoration work CoosWA and partner organizations do throughout the SW Oregon coastal region. CoosWA is currently planning and implementing an estimated 5 million dollars’ worth of tide gate replacement and wetland projects, and CoqWA and Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) estimate an additional 5 million dollars’ of similar projects. This equipment will provide much greater accuracy and efficiency than current tools and produce cost savings for critical conservation work in SW Oregon now and into the future.

Primary Contact Person *

Haley Lutz

Primary Contact Email Address *

hlutz@cooswatershed.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-888-5922

Lead Organization *

Coos Watershed Association

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-11462207

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Coos Bay

Project Location (County) *

Coos

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9500

Total Project Cost *

26832

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goal of this project is to procure Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) GPS survey equipment that will provide trained CoosWA staff with the resources needed to evaluate tidal landscapes and produce high resolution elevation surveys. These surveys are instrumental in producing highly accurate data to inform restoration projects that provide ecological uplift of critical tidal habitats throughout SW Oregon.
The four primary objectives for this project are: 1) provide RTK survey resources as a tool for the natural resources community and restoration practitioners where it is lacking but in demand in Coastal Southwestern Oregon 2) perform pre-project surveys to assist in the design and development of tidal restoration projects, 3) conduct post project surveys that monitor restoration project effectiveness, and 4) establish and maintain a network of elevation benchmarks throughout the Coos and Coquille Watersheds that facilitates monitoring and resulting adaptive management.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

This equipment will drastically improve our ability to conduct highly accurate (2 cm resolution) elevation surveys for restoration projects in the SW Oregon region. This tool will allow us to evaluate invert elevations of (tide gated) culverts, perform tidal inundation mapping (validating LIDAR datasets), generate spatial models of thalwag and channel cross-sections, develop preliminary capacity and hydraulic analyses for culvert sizing assessment, and perform pre/post project monitoring for adaptive management of adjustable tide gates. Elevation metrics are foundational for project development and critical for garnering landowner support for voluntary stewardship.
Once the RTK equipment is obtained Project Managers and field crews will hit the ground using this equipment to survey tidal project sites for existing CoosWA projects. Additionally, regional Project Managers have recently submitted several grants that if funded, will allow us to evaluate several key tidal focal areas in the Coos and Coquille Watersheds. At a minimum, within the first year of purchase the equipment will be used to plan, implement and monitor 6 CoosWA restoration projects and 6 regional partner projects.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Over the last 100 years the construction and subsequent deterioration of tide gates and levees have altered elevations and water flow in tidal lowland areas. Legacy tide gated culverts are now generally undersized for the hydrologic capacity of upstream areas that drain through them today which can block fish access to critical habitat and degrades existing habitat quality. This project utilizes advancements in best practices and technical tools to ultimately improve scoping and planning for tide gate removal and replacement projects.
Fundamentally, the tidal zone is characterized by interactive environmental dynamics that generate high diversity of habitat types for aquatic species across the estuary-stream ecotone. Elevation is the foundational metric by which the tidal zone and various habitats are characterized. Specifically, the invert elevation of flow conveyance structures such as (tide gated) culverts and associated stream thalwag elevations largely dictate replacement project designs and can only be captured at site specific scales referenced to local (tidal) conditions. The advancement of remote sensed and ground control survey technology now makes tools such as RTK GPS accessible to restoration practitioners, producing extremely accurate project site data that facilitates development and engineering of project designs.
Although lowland and tidal area LiDAR data is generally more accurate than upland forested areas, these often decade old datasets still contain known inaccuracies. Blackberry and grasses often mask true elevations in critical project areas such as levees and pasture terraces where relatively small inaccuracies can compound error and confound project goals. Establishing ground control elevations for landowner resources and infrastructure; LiDAR calibration for vegetation cover; and collecting linear stream thalwag and riparian cross section data for hydrologic and hydraulic modeling can all be accomplished extremely efficiently with RTK GPS tools and relatively basic GIS capacity.
On January 16, 2020 with the support of TNC, CoosWA hosted Ryan Kilgren of Tetra Tech to provide a RTK GPS seminar and demonstration for local and regional restoration practitioners. CoosWA invited over 20 people from organizations across the region including 2 SWCDs, 4 WCs, South Slough National Estuary Research Reserve (SSNERR), Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians(CTCLUSI). There was significant interest and good attendance as 17 people participated in the training for the day. There was thoughtful discussion and interest in developing this resource in the region, particularly for project scoping and planning. Connections to monitoring efforts including water level and aerial imagery were highlighted as related restoration tools that greatly inform tidal projects. This project seeks to leverage this investment and active partnerships to bring this tool to the south coast to improve on the ground restoration and monitoring.
This projects goal is to significantly advance regional restoration practitioner capacity to acquire and develop these elevation data. Establishing baseline references for projects is a best practice that benefits all aspects of tidal restoration including shared transparent communication among partners and stakeholders. By acquiring this capacity Coos Watershed Association will share and leverage the benefits this project delivers with local and regional partners.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project builds local and regional capacity to collect elevation data critical for planning and implementing highly functional tide gate and associated wetland restoration projects (Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) priority). Coast wide, restoration of tidal influence across the estuary-stream ecotone improves habitat quality, diversity, and connectivity for OCS priority aquatic species including: ESA listed coho, spring Chinook, Steelhead, Pacific Lamprey, Western Brook Lamprey and Coastal Cutthroat Trout. RTK GPS is an essential tool for restoration planning, monitoring and assessment and can provide accurate datum reference for related aerial and bathymetric remote sensed spatial data. Spatial elevation datasets and associated map products are accessible and relevant to a wide stakeholder constituency including landowners and engineers.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Funds from the Oregon Conservation and Recovery Program combined with existing funds from TNC and the CoosWA will be used to purchase the following used RTK GPS equipment: Trimble Dual R10 GNSS RTK Receiver Kit, TSC3 Data Collector, and 2.4ghz radio $23,995. Other survey equipment (survey rods, batteries, chargers, bipod legs, hotspot, etc.) $1,997 and Trimble post processing software $840.

This equipment will be used acquire and manage accurate position (X, Y) and elevation (Z) in real-time. We will use this equipment in the SW region to set benchmarks for tidal restoration/enhancement projects, map pre-project topography that can be used for project designs, and to show post-project results. These data will be used in final reports for all projects completed.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Coquille Watershed Association (CoqWA), neighboring WC that requires elevation surveys for tidal projects
Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD), local organization that can utilize elevation surveys
Confederated Tribes of the Coos Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, local tribe that utilizes elevation surveys Coquille Tribe, local tribe that utilizes elevation surveys
Tidal Drainage Districts and private landowners, require elevation surveys around tidal infrastructure
The Nature Conservancy, elevation surveys provide metrics that enhance optimization models
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, interest in expediting tidal project planning, implementation and monitoring
Wild Salmon Center, elevation surveys add accuracy to habitat models and restoration planning
NOAA Restoration Center, elevation surveys reduce uncertainty in project permitting and effectiveness
Coos County Road Department, set and validate calibrate tidal benchmarks in relation to public infrastructure.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January, 2020 - RTK Training January – March, 2020 – Demo of RTK survey equipment throughout Coos and Coquille basins June, 2020 - Finalize RTK training report and submit to TNC July-October, 2020 – Coordinate with TNC and Develop and Submit OCR application January, 2021- Purchase RTK equipment January 2021 – December, 2021- Survey 6 projects in each Coos and Coquille basins

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Please visit our YouTube Channel for more information about the East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Reconnection project:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAzhm6gVUPJ_1WAOzk7bKCw

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

In 1958, part of the East Fork Millicoma River was cut off and straightened through a bypass chute, and a historic 0.6 mile oxbow channel was stranded for nearly 60 years. The chute increased streamflow velocities that significantly impeded adult salmon passage and truncated all juvenile passage through the chute limiting access to 16 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat upstream.
In 2013, the Coos Watershed Association evaluated the passage problem, evaluated alternatives, and proposed a project design to restore connection to this lost section of river. We used survey equipment to map the entire historic channel and the bypass chute that was blasted in 1958. We collected over 3,300 location and elevation points. This survey was of paramount importance to the project designs and eventual success of the project and used hydraulic modelling to evaluate water velocities in the bypass and historic channels.
In 2016, we implemented this 1.9-million-dollar project. The final designs were to build two bridges with a span of over 150 feet, plug the bypass chute with over 60,000 cubic yard of fill from under the new bridges, and divert the water under the new bridges and back in to the historic channel. Today, we are continuing to monitor the physical and biological conditions at this project. This project would benefit from an RTK GPS when surveying the post project results of reconnection of the historic oxbow.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

The narrow agricultural valley of Ross Slough has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices, resulting in stream channelization and undersized stream crossings. This tidally connected tributary supports fall chinook, coho, winter steelhead, and resident and sea-run cutthroat trout. This restoration project involved two landowners and included three major components: 1) creating nearly 2 miles of new remeandered channel, 2) 2 fish passage crossings, and 3) nearly 15 acres of wetland and riparian planting. Historic aerial photographs and digital elevation models were used to approximate the original location of most of the historic stream channel before the stream was ditched. These new channels increased the 1 mile stream to nearly 2 miles of stream that opened access to fish passage and reconnected the entire floodplain at flood-flows. 15 acres of riparian and wetland areas where enclosed for habitat in the project site. 5,500 native plants and shrubs were planted in a 10.6 acre riparian buffer along the stream, and native wetland plant seed was spread in a 4.6 acre wetland easement. Three bridges replaced three undersized culverts to create improved fish passage. The overall project cost was $810,302.
The original project designs were designed using LiDAR topographic data. This project could have benefited from a RTK GPS by providing more accurate elevation data, and during project implementation of the stream channels and floodplain drainage.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Stewardship and Conservation Education at Camp Wilani

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Camp Fire Wilani has been connecting youth to the outdoors since 1958. The organization's science-based outdoor school program served over 600 students last year from all over Oregon.The program location in Veneta, Oregon is an exceptional space for education. The 219 acre property is a mix of healthy mixed coniferous forest that has not been harvested, and many acres of former timberland that has been replanted, but is a thick Douglas fir monoculture. The property contains the spring for Wilson Creek which feeds the Long Tom River Watershed. There is also a large pond with an active beaver dam and western pond turtles. It is a great place to learn and explore. The organization is fortunate to be hosting two rounds of Americorps NCCC teams in the fall and spring of 2020-2021. The teams will be working primarily in the monoculture replant engaging in thinning, fuels mitigation, invasive removal, interpretive trail development, and native plant reintroduction. Camp Fire Wilani seeks to capitalize on this opportunity to expose young people to this work. The experiential program provides opportunities for historical understanding of the human dimensions of resource use, observation of Americorps NCCC projects, direct engagement with work on the ground, and understanding of place-based ecology. The two-day program will be offered at extremely low cost ($20) with generous financial aid available to assure that every interested young person can participate, and will serve youth between ten and seventeen years of age. The program will be offered weekly in March - May of 2021.

Primary Contact Person *

Elissa Kobrin

Primary Contact Email Address *

ekobrin@wilanicouncil.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

5412528177

Lead Organization *

Camp Fire Wilani

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-0480213

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Veneta

Project Location (County) *

OR

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

11 / 16 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 04 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

6800

Total Project Cost *

17400

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Project goals include: broadening participant's understanding of their own connection to healthy ecosystems, cultivating volunteerism around stewardship and conservation, inspiring curiosity about the natural world, helping participants develop an appreciation of the work required to build and maintain trails, promoting volunteerism around stewardship and conservation, encouraging understanding of natural resource management, reaching a wide audience including underserved youth, and providing productive physical outdoor experiences.

Objectives include: Providing an opportunity for participants to observe, work with, and connect to Americorps NCCC volunteers; teaching youth practical skills connected to stewardship and conservation and giving them an opportunity to apply them, offering a placed-based ecology and stewardship curriculum, making the program accessible to any child who wishes to participate, inform youth about the human dimensions of resource management and encouraging critical thinking and discourse through planned activities, introducing youth to both native and invasive species and helping them identify and describe both types and their effect on the ecosystem.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Two-day session outcomes: 80% of participants will be able to list three characteristic of a healthy ecosystem. 65% of participants will be able to define the term "monoculture" and describe three related ecological impacts. 75% of participants will be able to compare and contrasted a monoculture and an unharvested mixed forest. 25% of participant will actively seek out stewardship and conservation volunteer opportunities. 85% of participants will be able to identify at least three native species of flora. 85% of participants will be able to identify at least three invasive species of flora. 70% of participants will be able to accurately describe how beavers affect the landscape. 75% of participants will be able to define "watershed" and accurately identify the watershed they are working within. 50% of participants will be able to identify three local organizations with whom they could engage in conservation and stewardship volunteerism.

Outcomes and efficacy will be measured with an identical pre and post-program knowledge assessments, in the field post lesson assessment, and participant program evaluation.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Camp Fire Wilani is a youth development organization that empowers young people through progressive outdoor education, summer camp, adventure, leadership, and volunteer-led club programming. Founded in 1958, Camp Fire Wilani serves Lane, Marion, Benton, Polk, Douglas, Coos, Josephine, Jackson, Curry, and Lincoln counties.

The organization's summer camp facility, Camp Wilani, has been providing transformative residential and day camp experiences to children since 1960 at its location in Veneta, Oregon.The opportunity provided by the site itself is multifaceted. The central core of camp (11 acres) is a lush and diverse Pacific Northwestern Coast Range ecosystem. It contains a wide variety of native flora and fauna and is home to the western pond turtle, nesting great blue herons, rough skinned newts and many other species of wildlife. The external 185 acres of the property was logged in 1990 and replanted as a Douglas fir monoculture in 1992. The obvious dichotomy between the logged area and the undisturbed area provides limitless opportunities to compare and contrast a mature mixed ecosystem with a harvested and replanted monoculture. The timber rights on the external acreage have been reclaimed and the location is now reserved for restoration with no further harvest. The property contains the spring for Wilson Creek which feeds the Long Tom River Watershed.There is also a large pond with an active beaver dam. It is a great place to learn and explore.

Camp Fire Wilani is no stranger to teaching youth in the outdoors. The organization's science-based outdoor school program served 648 students from all over Oregon last year alone. CEO, Elissa Kobrin has a Master of Education (M.Ed.) from Western Washington University and has developed curricula for programs all over the Western United States. Programs are based on the BEETLES model from the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley. At a national level, Camp Fire Wilani has many resources that make it a leader in youth program providers. Camp Fire National partners with the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, The Search Institute, and Praesidium to stay on the cutting edge of program assessment, fostering positive developmental relationships, and assuring a safe environment for our students. Council leaders attend multiple trainings per year facilitated by these partners.

The organization is fortunate to be hosting two rounds of Americorps NCCC teams in the fall and spring of 2020-2021. The teams will be working primarily in the monoculture replant engaging in thinning, fuels mitigation, invasive removal, interpretive trail development, and native plant reintroduction. Camp Fire Wilani seeks to capitalize on this opportunity to expose young people to this work. The experiential program provides opportunities for historical understanding of the human dimensions of resource use, observation of Americorps NCCC projects, direct engagement with work on the ground, and understanding of place-based ecology.

This fall, Kobrin will be sponsoring her third Americorps NCCC team, and is comprehensively familiar with the work and capability of the teams. Having observed them in action, Kobrin and her leadership team at Camp Fire Wilani see an excellent opportunity to connect youth to these motivated, hard-working, enthusiastic young people, many of whom are in college or college bound. Funding from OCRF will help Camp Fire Wilani finalize the curriculum, hire and train facilitators, perform outreach to youth, provide scholarships for participants, assist in keeping a visual and written record of the program, and program evaluations.

The connection to OCRF key issues is multifold: The program will educate youth in stewardship and conservation practices. It will connect youth to their own impact on the environment. The program will educate youth about invasive species, their impact, and ways to mitigate their presence. Youth will be inspired to recreate and participate in conservation actives in their own natural areas. Participants will see first-hand a private land owner choosing to do restoration and conservation work on their property. Youth will be exposed to future opportunities and potential career paths involving stewardship and conservation. The program materials will be offered in Spanish and English with staff people who are fluent in Spanish. Youth will get the chance to canoe, hike, and learn outdoor preparedness so they can be successful in future outdoor recreation activities.

The two-day program will be offered at extremely low cost ($25) with generous financial aid available to assure that every interested young person can participate, and will serve youth between ten and seventeen years of age. The logic behind having a fee at all is based on the skin-in-the-game principal wherein participants are more likely to show up to a program that they paid for or were sponsored to attend.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The curriculum addresses climate change and interactively involves you in critical, science based discussions around the collective impact of human beings on global shifts and the impacts of these shifts. It also invites the development of strategies of reduce the human impact of climate change.

The very nature of the program site invites discussion of the impacts of natural resource use. The area was once a thriving mixed coniferous ecosystem, then 90% of the land served as a tree farm for 25 years. Now protected in perpetuity, the monoculture replant of Douglas fir allows for practical examination of how logging and monoculture affect the ecosystem how to rebuild a healthy and robust forest.

The formerly logged areas of the program site allow for extensive discussion and study of the impacts of invasive species One of the primary functions of the Americorps NCCC team will be invasive plant removal.

Situated the Long Tom Watershed, our program site provides the perfect compliment to our curriculum around watersheds, erosion, water quality monitoring, the impact of water quality and quantity of native fish, and more. Our curriculum includes the use of water testing kits to determine, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and other measurable factors.

The privately-owned site is a key example of private landowners choosing to adopt restoration and stewardship practices. Youth will get to see elements of this process in action and actively participate in select activities.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will support curriculum finalization, staff training, payroll for facilitating staff, scholarships for participants, program visual and written recording, and program evaluation.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Americorps NCCC: Blue Team 7 and the Spring team will provide work on the ground and direct mentorship to program participants.

Ecotone Projects, LLC: provides access to the site and facilities, houses Americorps NCCC members, participates in ongoing restoration and stewardship.

Long Tom Watershed Council: Direct participant education and project consultation.

Oregon Department of Forestry: Direct participant education, project consultation.

Gray Family Foundation: Funding partner

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

October 29th - December 19th, 2020: Americorps NCCC fall team breaks ground on phase one of trail, invasive removal, and monoculture thinning. January 15th, 2021: Curriculum complete. January 30th, 2021: Staff recruitment begins. February 15th, 2021: Youth participant recruitment begins. March 1st, 2021: Staff training on new curriculum. March 15th, 2021: Americorps NCCC team 2 arrives. March 19th, 2021: Program Commences May 19th, 2021: On-the-Ground program complete. May 20th - June 1st, 2021: Aggregation of program feedback, program evaluation, preparation of OCRF grant reporting.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Learn more about us: https://wilanicouncil.org/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Camp Fire Wilani launched its inaugural Outdoor School program in the spring of 2019. The organization received a $25,000 grant from the Gray Family Foundation for the purpose of initiating the program. Camp Fire Wilani attended the week-long BEETLES training at Camp Cascade in Lyons, Oregon and build a brand new place-based curriculum using the BEETLES model. New staff were recruited, hired, and trained. Schools were successfully recruited. The program served 3 schools and 169 students.Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and all schools participating in the inaugural season booked to return the following year.

https://wilanicouncil.org/outdoor-school/

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Camp Fire Wilani began the “Stuff the Box” event in November of 2018. Camp Fire youth solicited empty shoeboxes and supplies for community members experiencing homelessness. The community was then invited to the Camp Fire Offices for a wrap and stuff party. Over 60 community volunteers showed up to stuff boxes. KEZI and other new outlets covered the event live. Hundreds of stuffed shoeboxes were delivered to local nonprofits that assist unhoused community members. This has become a very successful annual event.

https://wilanicouncil.org/operation-shoebox/

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Open Trails, Happy Families (Senderos Abiertos, Familias Felices)

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Hike it Baby is a national nonprofit organization working to nurture the connection between parents and children with nature to help them reap the benefits of taking those first steps outside. We know that not every family feels welcome in nature. The project, Open Trails, Happy Families (Senderos Abiertos, Familias Felices), is an actionable step in both understanding the barriers in getting outside for specific Oregon communities and developing the resources needed to help eliminate barriers for these communities. Through the OCRF grant, Hike it Baby will partner with The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge to collect data from key communities in the demographic footprint of the refuge, (Washington, Yamhill, and Multnomah counties,) who have barriers to outdoor exploration and recreation, focusing specifically on families who identify as Latino and/or are of Spanish-speaking origin. We will listen to and learn about what these communities are currently experiencing— growing our understanding of their current relationship to nature and the outdoors as well as any barriers they may face such as communication, transportation or any other barriers limiting their ability to go outside. We will activate our existing tools and network to build a tangible roadmap to help support these communities and their relationship in nature for generations to come. This roadmap will focus on both creating materials to inspire families to get outside and learn about their public land and serving to guide Hike it Baby's hikes hosts, ambassadors, and community members, who may not be Spanish speakers but are interested in supporting other community members in experiencing nature.

Primary Contact Person *

Kayla Klein

Primary Contact Email Address *

kklein@hikeitbaby.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

757-969-7444

Lead Organization *

Hike it Baby

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

81-0969124

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Sherwood and Portland Metro Area

Project Location (County) *

Washington, Yamhill, and Multnomah counties

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9650.00

Total Project Cost *

10000.00

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

People take care of the things they love. We believe that if we can support and empower families in their outdoor recreation, ultimately we can help them build a legacy of conservation as a positive experience and foster a lifelong love of nature.
Our goal is to help Latino families feel welcome and supported to get outside in Oregon's green spaces around their community by listening to their unique needs.

Actively Listen and Learn: One objective for this project is to listen and learn from Latino families so we can support them in meaningful ways to foster a love for nature from birth. It's important we do not make assumptions. We want to learn from the Latino communities of Yamhill, Washington, and Multnomah counties, considering each person, family, and neighborhood may have different identifying and outlying qualities. Through the OCRF grant, we will be able to offer customized support that is meaningful and successfully inspires action.

Encourage Action: We will work to provide a culturally responsive, practical, and feasible way to support a relationship with nature. Encouraging families to take action in conserving and protecting the environment so generations to come can also have the opportunity to experience nature and support their families in getting outside. While we recognize many of these families may already have a relationship with nature or have knowledge about climate change, the goal is to meet families where they are and help them take their next steps. The program will help identify and plan specific actions families can take in reversing climate change, such as encouraging elected officials to conserve natural resources.

Creating a Legacy: As parents, we have the responsibility and honor of impacting the next generation. We are in a constant state of learning and adapting as our children develop and the habits formed during this time will be carried forward to the next generation. Think about things you may do because your grandparents did them with your parents. Our goal is to inspire a legacy of environmentally friendly behavior passed on from one generation to the next through the program we have called Open Trails, Happy Families (Senderos Abiertos, Familias Felices). Our hope is one of the tiny babies who has been impacted by the project will someday hold their own baby and teach them about the subtle wonders of the local ecosystems and create a deep love for the Earth.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

We will review the outcomes and measure the success of Open Trails, Happy Families (Senderos Abiertos, Familias Felices) by:

Learning from the communities where they are: Native Spanish speakers from the community will be hired to collaborate on the discovery questionnaire, which will be developed in the dialect that better represents the singularities of this specific community. Simultaneously, we will make contact with trusted community members to identify 5 families with whom we will interview. We hope to learn more about their community's dynamics and what barriers are keeping them from engaging with their public lands, what they need when it comes to taking that first step outside.

Create an activity booklet & supportive content for families: As a result of the findings, we will design accessible, culturally responsive materials for families which we will distribute through our partners, including Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in our research-identified Latino-dense communities around Yamhill, Washington, and Multnomah counties.

Create a video and training materials to support future community outreach across Oregon: We will produce a training video aimed at Hike Hosts, green space administrators and, support staff with an overview of best practices for fostering partnerships and engagement with Latino families.

Inspiration and encouragement through representative story-telling: As a byproduct of this process, we hope to identify at least one family that is excited about the information and tools and follow them on their journey. Our goal is to share their story throughout Hike it Baby's extensive social media reach and beyond, to inspire other Latino families across our North American network.

Measures of success: Throughout this project, we will measure participation, evaluate both quantitative and qualitative responses in the collaboration and design phase, then compare them to surveys circulated with the materials to families who engage with the program. Our goal is to reach a minimum of 250 Latino families during the project and over time, provide a 2% increase in Latino visitors on the ground at the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge. A minimum of 500 activity books will be printed and made available for distribution.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

This project is personal for Jessica Carrillo Alatorre, Hike it Baby's Executive Director.

In her blog found here (https://hikeitbaby.com/blog/tulatin-nature-refuge-jessica/), Jessica, who lives with her husband and two young daughters just 15 minutes away from the refuge, tells us the story of how without their visit, her daughters may not have realized how important nature is in their own lives. And she, as a mother, may not have experienced these teaching moments with her children.

In addition to Jessica's personal connection to Open Trails, Happy Families (Senderos Abiertos, Familias Felicitas), this project is an important step in moving forward the Hike it Baby mission to create opportunities and remove barriers to access so families with babies and young children can take their first steps outside. As an organization, we believe all families have the right to connect with nature, benefit from spending time outdoors, and be inspired to a lifelong love of nature. We know there are substantial barriers for many families inhibiting them from enjoying the outdoors and receiving the support to make the Earth better for the next generation. Hike it Baby believes it takes just one voice and listening ear to start the conversation in any community. We believe if we listen, we can support all families in getting outside so they can experience the benefits of nature, and teach their children to love, and protect it now and for generations to come. We know that to make these conversations meaningful, we need to avoid making assumptions and instead partner with the Latino community. This way we can understand what communities are already doing and listen to what communities need so we can provide each community tailored support in taking action for a more sustainable future.

This project will focus on the parent/child relationship, and how they can build and motivate each other in taking steps outside and build a relationship focused on a love for their community and the green spaces available to them. In our experience, this time in a family's life cycle (when children are young) is ideal because many parents are looking to teach lasting behaviors and are flexible in their willingness to learn, grow, and adapt to help create a better, healthier life for their children. Many children have a natural inclination for learning and caring, and can be our biggest motivators.

Yamhill, Multnomah, and Washington counties have a diverse population, with around 12-15% Latino families, including 5% of these families with limited English understanding. This population has grown considerably over the last twenty years and its growth is projected to continue throughout Oregon for years to come. Through this project, we will focus on learning and addressing more about these specific communities' barriers in getting outside, how they experience nature, and how they teach their children to love and experience nature.

Additionally, we will partner with the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (TRNWR), an Urban Refuge designed to preserve and protect nature, while also allowing people to explore and connect with their local environment. The TRNWR offers accessible trails and a variety of habitats including wetlands, oak savannas, and river watershed, offering visitors the opportunity to experience a range of Oregon's natural beauty and see wildlife in their natural ecosystems. We know many families seek out this refuge for its beauty and conservation efforts in supporting wildlife habitats for the Tualatin River watershed. Currently, about 2 percent of visitors identify themselves as Hispanic, while the current makeup of Hispanic families in the Washington, Yamhill, and Multnomah counties area represents around 12 to 15 percent of the population. We hope that the connection with this local outdoor space will encourage more families, specifically Latino families, to connect with nature. We see this project as an opportunity to not only listen and learn from these communities but also to guide these families to places like Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge where they can connect, learn and take action in their journeys to preserve the environment.

Hike it Baby is an organization with the potential to reach communities across Oregon and throughout North America. It is our hope that this project will allow us to build a framework for community outreach. It gives us the ability to customize our support response and tailor our resources and materials to the needs of the individual populations within the communities that we serve. By partnering with public land managers, spending time listening to and building relationships with community members, and focusing on actions, we aim to directly impact a broader audience while normalizing the outdoors. We see this as an opportunity to provide support to public land managers, support staff, and our own volunteers who wish to be leaders and engage within their own communities by giving them guidance and actionable steps to foster this type of active listening and relationship building in their communities. We will continue to raise funds and seek partnerships so we can impact the 7 additional communities within Oregon where we already have existing Hike it Baby communities or that public land managers could work with us to implement similar projects in their locations. Regardless, we will have a tangible framework that can be shared to help public land partners and our volunteers engage Latino communities.

Our hope is that each family that dedicates their time to this project, and each family that uses the resources created for their community will feel supported in their learning about nature, will be excited about their next hike, and will raise tiny humans that want to explore and care for nature with their loved ones.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Since its grassroots start nearly seven years ago, Hike it Baby's priority has always been to foster a love of nature between parents and their children while building community outside. Because of this, we believe we touch on a broad spectrum of the objectives of the Oregon Conservation Strategy both in the recreation and conservation fields, specifically in the areas of outreach, education, and engagement.

Beyond furthering the connection between nature and the Latino communities of Yamhill, Multnomah, and Washington counties, our goal is to support and encourage these families to welcome even more of their friends and families outside to enjoy the benefits of spending time outdoors and provide relevant tools in making the path to nature easy, accessible and they feel supported in their experiences outside.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [x] Other: Introduces families to all taxa

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Hike it Baby intends to use OCRF grant funds to hire native Spanish-speaking community members to help lead the research, interviews, and data collection methodology in Yamhill, Multnomah, and Washington counties.
We will also create a Bilingual training video that focuses on community partnership building, impact, and real-world, practical tips and actions the community can take to spend more time outside and protect the environment.

$1,300 Community Research Ambassadors (Native Speakers)
$600 - Transcreation Facilitator + Video Lead (Native Spokesperson)
$1,800 - Video Production (Pre-Production, Recording, Post)
$2,400 - Compensation to family participants (target 5 families)
$650 - Travel assistance
$400 - Compensation for featured family (Journey into the outdoors social Feature)
$500 - Design of the written material
$2,000 - Staff time to develop & support the project

Total: $9,650

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge holds a unique space in Oregon as an urban green space rooted in preserving and protecting nature in a way that also allows people to explore and connect with that nature. It has accessible trails and a variety of habitats including wetlands, oak savannahs, and river watershed, allowing visitors to experience a range of Oregon's natural beauty and see wildlife in their natural ecosystems. Other benefits include a bus stop, US Fish and Wildlife Service staff onsite, a focus on education, Latino engagement initiatives, and a history of working with Hike it Baby. We will be using TRNWR to engage Latino families, print and give out materials, and support families in getting outside in the Portland area.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January 2021- Make connections with local communities, provide an initial questionnaire to seek out Latino families that express barriers to getting outside in their local community. March 2021- Connect with 5 families to further research the community barriers, learn what the community needs in terms of resources. May 2021- Video and Workbook production July 2021- Resources Available online and at Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge. End Survey issued. October 2021: Results read and program outcome report presented.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Hike it Baby Website- www.hikeitbaby.com, Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge Website- https://www.fws.gov/refuge/tualatin_river/, Hike it Baby Portland Community- https://www.facebook.com/groups/hikeitbaby, Hike it Baby Yamhill Community- https://www.facebook.com/groups/hikeitbabyyamhillcounty/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Hike it Baby local Communities- Hike it Baby is unique in our ability to connect with families across North America. With over 300 active communities we know that each supports many families in their efforts and ability to get outside, foster a love and understanding of nature for their children and nature. Each community has a representative (Ambassador(s)) that leads their Hike it Baby community in connecting with both the local community and the outdoors. Our 400 Ambassadors participate in an ongoing training and support program that helps them lead and grow their community, engage families to get outside, and encourage families to join or host hike events. In 2019 Ambassadors inspired 1,925 hike hosts to lead an average of 1,200 hikes per month and engaged with 270,000 families across our 360 Facebook groups. We consider our communities resources, connections, and support bases for our Hike it Baby families.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

In 2019, through the financial support of REI's Force of Nature grant, we launched the Littlest Hiker project with the goal of introducing mothers and their children to the outdoors who traditionally face barriers to getting outside and enjoying a sense of community in nature. The program supported Branch Ambassadors in five U.S. cities in their journey in forming relationships with local groups serving underprivileged populations. While we still have a long way to go in helping all mothers and children to feel comfortable and confident in the outdoors, through the REI Force of Nature grant we were able to reach 1,500 adults, half of which were women, and 750 children, 350 of which were young girls. Many of the families we connected with had little to no experience in the outdoors.
With the grant, we initiated five Littlest Hikers pilot programs across the US in Portland OR, Colorado Springs CO, Harrisburg PA, Lexington KY, and Madison WI. In these cities Hike it Baby collaborated with 22 local organizations such as the YWCA and TESSA, an organization that empowers victims of partner violence, connected with seven donation partners, and held events that drew 10 to 1,500 adult attendees.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Community Science for Conservation: Engaging Oregonians in the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Pollinators, and primarily bees, are essential to the reproduction of more than 85% of the world's flowering plants, which in turn produce the fruits and seeds that feed songbirds and other wildlife. Despite the ecological importance of bees, many face extinction risk. Oregon lists both Franklin's bumble bee and the western bumble bee as Strategy Species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and lists several more bumble bees as Data Gap Species. In order to effectively recover populations of these bees, we need to fill gaps in knowledge of their distributions, habitat associations, and life histories. To address this need, we will enlist Oregonians statewide in the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas (www.pnwbumblebeeatlas.org), a community science project aimed at tracking bumble bees and making data available for conservation purposes. We will recruit volunteers in eight of the nine ecoregions identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy to participate in the project. In addition, we will provide two workshops for volunteer community scientists in regions that participation is needed to fill survey gaps and where Strategy Species have historically occurred – one in southern Oregon and one in eastern Oregon. We plan to engage at least 150 volunteers who will collect photographic vouchers of at least 2,000 bumble bees, and make the resulting data available for conservation and recovery planning of imperiled bumble bee species.

Primary Contact Person *

Sarina Jepsen

Primary Contact Email Address *

Sarina.Jepsen@xerces.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

971-244-3727

Lead Organization *

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

51-0175253

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [x] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [x] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [x] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

This project will engage Oregonians statewide.

Project Location (County) *

This project will occur in all of Oregon's counties.

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9987

Total Project Cost *

56000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

We aim to engage Oregonians statewide in a community science project to complete a statewide bumble bee survey in which at least 150 volunteers will submit photographs of 2,000 bumble from eight of the nine ecoregions in the state. The bumble bee records submitted will include observations of species listed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and will fill identified data gaps for these species. This project will also provide wildlife watching and outdoor recreational opportunities for Oregonians of all ages throughout the state as volunteers learn to identify native bumble bees and conduct surveys in different habitats.

To achieve these goals, we have identified the following objectives:

1. We will provide two training workshops to 30 people each (60 people total) in southern and eastern Oregon, where participation in the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas has been lower in the past, in order to recruit participants from that region. At least one of the workshops will be recorded and made available online to other volunteers.

2. We will engage at least 150 volunteers throughout the state to contribute to this community science project, provide support to these volunteers, coordinate surveys and data submission, and manage the data they collect.

3. Through the workshops, additional online content, and social media, we will provide a basic introduction to bumble bees, their identification, and conservation, which will make a novel type of wildlife-watching more accessible to Oregonians statewide.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

We will consider this project successful when:

- We reach 60 people in training workshops in southern and eastern Oregon.
- 150 volunteer community scientists from eight of Oregon's nine ecoregions complete bumble bee surveys and contribute high quality bumble bee data to the project.
- 2,000 new bumble bee records (photo-vouchers) are submitted to the Oregon component of the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas, including records of at least one Strategy and at least two Data Gap species.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Pollinators, and primarily bees, are essential to the reproduction of more than 85% of the world's flowering plants, which in turn produce the fruits and seeds that feed songbirds and other wildlife. Despite the ecological importance of bees, the conservation status of most native bee species remain poorly understood. Bumble bees are perhaps one exception, with about one-quarter of the North American fauna facing extinction risk. Oregon lists both Franklin's and the western bumble bees as Strategy Species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and lists four more bumble bees as Data Gap Species. Franklin's bumble bee was recently proposed to be listed as an Endangered Species, and both the western bumble bee and Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (a Data Gap Species) are under consideration for ESA protection.

While the conservation status of our bumble bees is known, major knowledge gaps exist that limit the ability to manage for and effectively recover the most imperiled species. Specifically, we lack a thorough understanding of these species' current distributions, life histories, and habitat associations. To begin to fill this knowledge gap in Oregon and neighboring states, the Xerces Society has partnered with Oregon State University, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the US Forest Service, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management on the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas (www.pnwbumblebeeatlas.org). Over the past three years, we have engaged more than 500 Oregonians to contribute valuable information on the distribution of Oregon's bumble bee fauna, including new records for strategy species. Yet, large tracts of Oregon remain that have not been well surveyed and have a high potential of hosting Strategy and Data Gap Species, especially in parts of the state with lower human population density.

Now we seek funding to continue and expand this successful project in 2021. We plan to engage Oregonians statewide in bumble bee watching and conduct targeted outreach in the eastern and southern parts of the state. In these regions, additional engagement is needed to fill information gaps. We will provide two Bumble Bee Atlas training workshops for community scientists – one in southern Oregon and one in eastern Oregon – to directly reach 60 people and ultimately help us to engage at least 150 people in the project. We will make online training materials available to recruit and support volunteers statewide. We aim to collect at least 2,000 new bumble bee records, including records of Oregon Conservation Strategy and Data Gap Species, from eight of the nine ecoregions identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

Each of the two training workshops will last one full day and be led by a Xerces Society conservation biologist with experience in bumble bee monitoring and knowledge of the regional bumble bee fauna. If the coronavirus situation allows, we will aim to include 30 people in each of the two workshops. There will be an indoor component of each training that will last approximately 3-4 hours and will include information about the atlas project and bumble bee biology, distribution, conservation status, survey methods, and identification. This will be followed by a visit to bumble bee habitat to practice survey methods, field identification skills, and best practices for photographing bumble bees for identification. Recordings of the workshops will be available online to train project volunteers that join after the workshops are hosted.

If the coronavirus situation in 2021 does not allow us to conduct in-person workshops, we will host online webinars. To provide experiential learning opportunities for interested community scientists we will also conduct smaller, outdoor, in-person field days that fully comply with local and state regulations. We were able to engage our target number of volunteers by shifting to this model in 2020.

To spread survey effort throughout the state, we divided Oregon into 50 km x 50 km grid cells. Volunteers are asked to adopt a grid cell and conduct at least two bumble bee surveys during the season when local bumble bees are most active. During the survey, volunteers will photograph any bumble bees observed, then submit that data online. Photo vouchers are uploaded to www.BumbleBeeWatch.org. Through this online platform, submitted bumble bee observations are verified by a bumble bee expert, resulting in a high quality bumble bee species occurrence database that is publicly available. In addition to collecting bumble bee species distribution information, volunteers will also collect host plant information for visiting bumble bees, and characterize the adjacent habitat (ecoregion, surrounding plant community, elevation, potential threats, etc.).

Xerces staff will facilitate the adoption and survey of grid cells; coordinate data collection and submission; train and provide support to volunteers via phone calls, emails, and social media engagement; identify all bumble bee observations to the lowest taxonomic level possible from submitted photo records; and manage and analyze the data. We have already developed the protocols that volunteers will use to conduct this survey, which are available in the resources section of the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas website: www.pnwbumblebeeatlas.org/.

Volunteers will survey for bumble bees on accessible public lands, as well as private lands where community scientists obtain permission. In our past experience, volunteers often adopt the grid cell where they live, and conduct surveys on their own property or nearby land where they are able to obtain access permission.

We will coordinate directly with our partners to recruit volunteers through each of our existing networks. In addition, we will reach out to local chapters of Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, the Native Plant Society, existing Bumble Bee Watch volunteers, and others to advertise the project. We will actively solicit new volunteers from under-surveyed ecoregions in eastern Oregon, to adopt grid cells and collect data on Oregon' bumble bees.

The bumble bee species distribution, plant association, and habitat use data that is collected for each species as part of this atlas project will inform management and recovery of Oregon's Strategy and Data Gap bumble bee species, as well as provide recreational opportunities for the public to watch and photograph wildlife (bumble bees) throughout Oregon, including rural areas. All data collected as part of this project will be shared with ODFW.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The Oregon Conservation strategy highlights the importance of pollinators and identifies two bumble bees as Strategy Species: Franklin's bumble bee and the western bumble bee and four bumble bees as Data Gap Species, which lack basic information that would be needed to include them as Strategy Species. At least three Strategy or Data Gap species are likely to occur in each terrestrial ecoregion in the state. Since Franklin's bumble bee has not been seen since 2006, targeted surveys and habitat protection if the species is found are listed as conservation actions for that species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Oregon's two Strategy bumble bees species require "surveys throughout Oregon at historical and potentially-occupied sites" to address data gaps.

A statewide bumble bee survey, largely conducted using community science, will directly advance the highest priority set for each bumble bee species identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy while engaging Oregonians in the conservation process. The information that volunteer community scientists collect will fill gaps in species' distribution and habitat use throughout the state. In addition, a new recreational opportunity – bumble bee watching – will become accessible to Oregonians throughout the state.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will support Xerces Society staff time to manage a statewide bumble bee survey in 2021 and costs for a Xerces staff member to travel to and from workshop locations in southern and eastern Oregon.

Specific activities include:

- Recruiting volunteers
- Facilitating the adoption and survey of grid cells by volunteers
- Coordinating data collection and submission
- Training volunteers through two short courses in southern and eastern Oregon
- Providing support to volunteers statewide via phone calls, emails, and engagement on social media platforms
- Identifying all bumble bee species from photo-records submitted
- Managing all data submitted
- Analyzing data

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation will serve as the lead organization. We will work in partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recruit Oregonians to participate in this project. In addition, we will partner with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management who have provided additional funding for this project.

Additional partners of the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas include:
Oregon State University, Oregon Department of Agriculture, The Oregon Bee Project, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

1. Provide two in-person trainings to Bumble Bee Atlas participants during the peak bumble bee field season – April-July 2021 2. Facilitate grid cell adoption by community scientists in eight ecoregions, coordinate data collection, manage volunteers – March-October 2021 3. Identify bumble bee specimens in all records submitted, manage, and analyze data – May-December 2021

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

The Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas: https://www.pnwbumblebeeatlas.org/
Bumble Bee Watch: https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Since the late 1990s, the Xerces Society has managed the annual Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count (www.westernmonarchcount.org), a community science program that engages more than one hundred volunteers each fall in tracking the status of the western monarch butterfly population by counting the number of monarch butterflies at overwintering sites in California. Every year, during a designated three-week period centered on Thanksgiving, volunteers in California count the butterflies and assess the condition of their habitat.

The data collected through this project have provided a barometer of the western monarch population's status. These data have highlighted a decline of >99% in the western monarch population since the 1980s and have been used by the Fish and Wildlife Service and other researchers to evaluate the population's viability and extinction risk.

Each year, we recruit and train volunteers to visit and collect data at now more than two hundred sites covering over five hundred miles of coastal California habitat. Xerces staff members coordinate the overall effort, provide web-based and in-person training and assistance to volunteers, manage and analyze the data collected, report and communicate the results to stakeholders and the public, share data with state and federal agencies, and make all non-sensitive data publicly available.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

In 2018, the Xerces Society published Conserving the Gems of Our Waters: Best Management Practices for Protecting Native Western Freshwater Mussels During Aquatic and Riparian Restoration, Construction, and Land Management Projects and Activities (available at: xerces.org/conserving-the-gems-of-our-waters/). This document covers project planning and implementation, surveying for mussels, and performing salvages and relocations at restoration sites. We reached 600 people by making this guidance available on our website and distributing the guide to relevant individuals and email listservs.

To share this information, we conducted outreach to river restoration practitioners through 11 presentations on mussel conservation at conferences and other outreach events, reaching over 300 people from multiple federal, state, county, and local agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Washington state conservation districts, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Bonneville Power Administration, among others.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Oregon Explorer Update – Providing current distribution data

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Educators, neighborhood groups, and watershed councils often seek spatially explicit, comprehensive wildlife species lists for their area of interest. This information has been available on Oregon Wildlife Explorer, but the lists are static and have not been updated in over 10 years. We are proposing to link the county/basin/watershed list generation tool in Oregon Explorer to Institute for Natural Resources' (INR) Biotics database. The new lists will be created on the fly and will be continually updated as new distribution information is added to Biotics, ensuring users have accurate information. This will be part of a larger Wildlife Explorer overhaul. Updating the list generation tool will require two steps: linking list generation to Biotics using code modified from the Oregon Biodiversity Explorer, and updating species distribution data in Biotics.

Primary Contact Person *

Eleanor Gaines

Primary Contact Email Address *

eleanor.gaines@pdx.edu

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-725-9952

Lead Organization *

Portland State University

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

36-4776757

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [x] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [x] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [x] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Project will take place in Portland but will address species statewide; information will be available to users statewide.

Project Location (County) *

Project will take place in Multnomah County, but will address species statewide

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9926

Total Project Cost *

9926

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The Institute for Natural Resources (INR) wants to help Oregonians better understand the natural diversity in their communities, because the desire to conserve biodiversity begins with understanding. Biodiversity pertains to all wildlife, not just those that are listed or of conservation concern. To make biodiversity information available to Oregonians, INR maintains the Wildlife Explorer web tool, part of the Oregon Explorer Natural Resources Digital Library (a joint partnership between Oregon State University Libraries and Press and INR). As part of Wildlife Explorer, we provide comprehensive lists of wildlife species that can be expected in a particular area. These lists are often used by K-12 students and educators, watershed councils, and neighborhood groups, but the lists are static and therefore out of date (10+ years old). We propose to improve Oregonians' access to species distribution information by updating the information and linking the web portal to live data from INR's Biotics data system. This will serve two purposes: 1) it will allow users to develop a more complete understanding of wildlife that occurs in their area of interest, and 2) it will ensure that the species lists are updated continually to represent the most recent information. We will improve access to the updated information by partnering with Oregon State University Libraries, Center for Geography Education in Oregon, and the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Updating the Wildlife Explorer will make comprehensive species lists, based on county, ecoregion, or watershed, readily available to all Oregonians. Our primary users are the K-12 education community, so we will ensure they are aware of the data by partnering with Oregon State University Libraries, Center for Geography Education in Oregon, and the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program. We expect the site update will increase use of Wildlife Explorer and will ensure that users have current information. We anticipate over 500 monthly users per month after the update.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Educators, watershed councils, the citizen scientists often need spatially explicit wildlife species lists for their area of interest. INR is Oregon's centralized source for natural resource information. We have long-standing, comprehensive experience working with both rare and common species across all taxa. INR was established by the Oregon Legislature in 2001 through the Oregon Sustainability Act as a cooperative enterprise of Oregon's public universities, tasked to link the science-based knowledge and expertise of universities and other research entities with natural resource decision making in Oregon and region-wide. INR works with a variety of state and federal agency, non-profit, and private partners to develop and distribute biodiversity information across Oregon and the western United States.
To make biodiversity information available to all Oregonians, INR maintains the Wildlife Explorer web tool, part of the Oregon Explorer Natural Resources Digital Library. As part of Wildlife Explorer, we provide comprehensive lists of wildlife species that can be expected in a particular area. These lists are often used by K-12 students and educators, watershed councils, and neighborhood groups, but the lists are static and therefore out of date (10+ years old). We propose to improve Oregonians' access to species distribution information by updating the data and linking the web portal to live information from INR's Biotics data system. This will serve two purposes: 1) it will allow users to develop a more complete understanding of wildlife that occurs in their area of interest, and 2) it will ensure that the species lists are updated continually to represent the most recent information. Wildlife Explorer fills a unique niche, making wildlife distribution information available statewide. ODFW's Compass mapping tool focuses on Conservation Strategy species, and USFWS's IPaC tool provides distribution information for federally listed species, but neither provide comprehensive wildlife species lists. In addition to species lists, Wildlife Explorer also provides current and historic distribution maps, and links to NatureServe Explorer 2.0 with species status, threats and trend information across North America.

In partnership with NatureServe, INR maintains Oregon's Biotics database. Biotics includes regularly updated status and distribution information for all Oregon taxa. The current distribution lists in Wildlife Explorer are static lists developed over 10 years ago. Funds from the OCRF will allow us to quality control county, ecoregion, and watershed distribution information in Biotics, and then modify Wildlife Explorer to pull distribution information from Biotics instead of from static lists. We will use code similar to that developed for the Biodiversity Map Viewer to pull distribution lists from Biotics. User search results will be formatted like the current Wildlife Explorer sites and will be downloadable to multiple file formats. Each species in the output list will have a link to a species page where users can learn more about a species' biology and statewide distribution. We will work with students at Portland State and Oregon State Universities to quality control distribution information in Biotics, giving future natural resource professionals real world experience, while providing great value for OCRF. Distribution information in Biotics incorporates observation data, reviewed species distribution models, professional input, literature and database review.

Although the information on Wildlife Explorer is available to all, our target audience is the K-12 education community. As education has moved online during the Covid-19 pandemic, availability of high-quality conservation education materials online is vital for students to learn about and appreciate their natural environment. We will ensure access to the revised website by partnering with education content providers including Oregon State University Libraries, Center for Geography Education in Oregon, and the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program. We will further improve access by posting a video tutorial on the website, showing users what is available and how to reach it.

This project will complement and be informed by a species range review tool that will be available to wildlife professionals via secure log-in, allowing them to provide INR fine-scale feedback on species distributions, enhancing our ability to provide the best available information on species status and distribution in Oregon.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project advances conservation by updating and improving wildlife distribution information available to Oregonians statewide. It advances recreation by providing access to educational resources for students to learn about wildlife species in their local area.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

We will use the OCRF funds to hire students to update and quality control Biotics distribution data for wildlife species, and to update the Wildlife Explorer code that generates the species lists by place.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Institute for Natural Resources will hire students from OSU and PSU to quality control and update distribution information in Biotics.
Oregon State University Libraries will develop code to pull lists from Biotics.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

We anticipate starting work on this project in January 2021. Working part-time, and with training and supervision from INR staff, students will quality control Biotics data from January to May, 2021. INR staff will update the Wildlife Explorer code that develops the distribution lists between March and May, 2021. The updated site will be available in June, and we will spend the summer publicizing it on partner websites, with the expectation that it will be ready for educators in Fall 2021.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

In partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry, INR develop the Biodiversity Map Viewer in 2018 to provide regularly-updated species distribution, status, and abundance information to project planners. This tool has received over 2100 views since inception.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

INR developed the SageCon Partnership Development Siting Tool in cooperation with ODFW and other state and federal partners to steer development away from, and mitigate impacts to, priority sage-grouse habitat. This tool provides project planners and land managers with quick and easily interpreted information on a proposed project's potential impact to sage-grouse, relative mitigation possibilities, and local contact information for next steps. The development siting tool has had 2300 views since inception in 2018.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Wetland Enhancement & Public Access Development at Rogue Valley Sewer Services Lagoon: Planning and Design Phase

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVSS) is seeking to enhance mudflat habitat for shorebirds and improve public access at its south sewage lagoon located on Kirtland Rd. in Jackson County. The south sewage lagoon has been identified as a birding hotspot for migrating shore birds in the county as there are no similar habitats in the region. Anecdotal information from area birders have indicated up to 17 different shore bird species have been observed at the lagoons over the years. RVSS' sewage treatment needs have changed over time and currently the majority of this sewage lagoon is no longer needed for sanitary sewage management and is no longer optimal as bird habitat. RVSS is seeking to redesign the lagoon to optimize and improve the 13.7 acres for mudflat wetland habitat and to provide for public access and usage. In the Klamath region, many low-elevation wetlands have been impacted or lost thus, the enhancement of RVSS' wetland would be a valuable habitat contribution to the region. RVSS is seeking funds to contract a consultant to develop a habitat plan and public use and access designs to include water and vegetation management plans. This project is supported by several local habitat enhancement and bird organizations and guided by an Advisory Committee which includes members of the local birding community who will participate in the review of proposals and selection of the consultant. RVSS has extensive experience with complicated project implementation and management and has committed to extensive in-kind contributions to accomplish this project.

Primary Contact Person *

Jennie Morgan, Stormwater Program Manager

Primary Contact Email Address *

jmorgan@rvss.us

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-779-4144

Lead Organization *

Rogue Valley Sewer Services

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-0561014

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [x] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

White City, OR

Project Location (County) *

Jackson

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 15 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

15000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

RVSS' goal is to redevelop an unused sewage lagoon for mudflat wetland habitat and an accompanying recreation site and to maintain and manage the site to enhance bird habitat and accessibility to the public. Over the years, RVSS' regional sewage lagoons have provided an ecological benefit to water birds and a recreational benefit to bird watchers, but as the management of the lagoons has changed, water has not been maintained in the lagoons and their ecological benefit has decreased. Though the site has been popular with area birders for decades, it was never designed for public access and use has been limited. As the lagoons are no longer used for their intended purpose, RVSS has committed to the goals of redeveloping the site to provide a benefit for the ecologic systems of the Klamath Mountains and the Pacific Flyway as well as provide an opportunity for outdoor recreation and engagement.

Our specific project objectives are to contract a consultant to develop a site and habitat plan, water and vegetation management plan, public use design. To accomplish this, RVSS has established an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the Rogue River Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Watchable Wildlife (a local non-profit seeking to establish wildlife watching opportunities), and Rogue Valley Audubon Society to oversee plan development.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The expected outcome at the completion of the planning and design phase is that RVSS will have the information required to construct the mudflat wetland habitat and develop recreational access. Success will be measured by RVSS' ability to utilize the plan to begin excavation, water management, planting, and development of the recreational amenities including trails, parking, and signage. RVSS has established relationships and developed partnerships to implement this project and several organizations have committed to assist with contributions. Upon completion of the management plan, success criteria outlined in the plan will be used to quantify bird usage prior to initiation of construction, the results of which will be compared to surveys completed after construction, providing a quantitative measure of the project impact.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

This project has the following elements:

Site Design: The project will require the development of a grading plan that enhances mudflat habitat, includes deeper pool areas and island habitat(s), and creates a substantial amount of edge habitat. The primary focus and largest element of the site will be a mudflat habitat for use during spring migration. Ideally, the site design will also include elements that will encourage breeding.
Included as part of Site Design will be:

- Narrative report describing the habitat elements
- Site plan showing habitat areas and square footage of each
- Grading plans for construction
- Profile view of each habitat area showing desired water depth throughout the year

Water Management Plan: The development of a water management plan will require research on appropriate hydrology to maintain mudflat habitat for the spring migration and possibly other times of year. The plan will detail when water should be added and the depth of water needed in different habitat areas to meet the seasonal needs of wildlife and to control and manage terrestrial and aquatic plant growth to achieve the desired outcomes.

Vegetation Management Plan: The development of a vegetation management plan will require research to consider forage, nesting, and cover needs of desired wildlife. Plant community functions and values will be described as well as identifying specific species that should be established within each community. The vegetation plan needs to show the location, hydrology, and square footage for each plant community, and, as much as possible, the plan should take into account any existing desirable vegetation and the long-term control of undesirable vegetation.

Public Use Plan: A plan and a site layout will outline the usage of the site by the public for wildlife viewing including visitor parking, trails, wildlife viewing stands/blinds, and location of educational/informational signage. The trails and access to waterways will be designed in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat. Determinations regarding ADA compliance and accessibility will be detailed for the site and all written materials and signage will be provided in Spanish to increase the recreational opportunity for underserved populations. Enhancement of the site will provide an opportunity for field science, research, and monitoring which can include community science activities coordinated by local partners and organizations. Science activities at this location could directly relate to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as the enhancement of this site involves the implementation of numerous recommendations found in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

Establishment of Project Success Criteria: The habitat plan will entail identifying metrics that should be monitored to determine the success of the project. A specific protocol and details for carrying it out will accompany each metric reference. Least sandpiper (Calidris minutilla) is a frequent visitor and user of mudflat habitat and is suggested as a possible indicator species. Greater yellow legs (Tringa melanoleuca) may be a suitable indicator species for deeper areas.

Collaboration with the Advisory Committee: A high degree of collaboration between the contractor, RVSS staff, and the Advisory Committee and partner organizations will be required to achieve the desired management plan.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Wetlands are identified as a Strategy Habitat throughout Oregon in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as well as in the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion in particular. This project intends to create a mudflat wetland, which is a specific wetland habitat that is very rare in Jackson County, but needed for migrating shorebirds.

This project advances program priorities as it will:
- support responsible outdoor recreational opportunities
- provide opportunities to engage and expand the number of outdoor users
- introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- create trails and access to waterways designed in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat

The project has several connections to the Oregon Conservation Strategy:
- The project is located in the North Medford Area Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, within important valley bottom habitat in the Rogue Watershed with the goal of improving a wetland.
- The project improves and enhances wetland habitat, a specified strategic habitat throughout Oregon as well as in this COA.
- Due to its close proximity to three Oregon Important Bird Areas and seven Protected Areas as described in the Conservation Strategy, the habitat restoration planned will improve habitat connectivity, thus implementing recommendations in the Conservation Strategy.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The OCRF funds being requested will be used to contract a consultant to develop the habitat design and management plan and recreational access plan that will include a site design, water management plan, vegetation management plan, and a public use plan as well as establishment of project success criteria.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

- Watchable Wildlife/Mace Foundation: will be considering a funding contribution
- Rogue Valley Audubon Society: contributing volunteer time for technical assistance and surveying
- Rogue River Watershed Council: planning to contribute funding and technical assistance

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

● Distribute RFP: January 15, 2021 ● Review bids: February 15, 2021 ● Accept bids: February 20, 2021 ● Initial Project Planning Team Meeting: February 28, 2021 ● Submission of Proposal by Contractor: March 15, 2021 ● Submission of project design and plan: October 1, 2021 ● Final billing by Contractor: November 15, 2021

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Colver Park Swale:
RVSS is responsible for sanitary sewer and stormwater management in parts of Jackson County and works collaboratively with local jurisdictions, non-profits, and state agencies to solve problems and meet shared objectives. In 2019, RVSS worked with the City of Phoenix to design and build a stormwater facility that protected water quality, improved drainage, and create habitat for insects and birds at the site. The project entailed designing and installing a stormwater drainage system that took stormwater from the parking lot, where it pooled in wet weather, to a stormwater swale that was constructed in a large turf area that was in excess of the park's need for playing fields. RVSS' engineer and stormwater manager designed the facility and provided project management and the RVSS construction crew built the facility. Tasks that were required to implement this project included: plan design (including surveying, infiltration tests, calculations, and grading plan), budgeting, planting design, stakeholder communications, and volunteer management. Results achieved from this project include the elimination of the drainage problem and stormwater pollution from the site and the addition of a habitat amenity to a large turf area where none existed previously. This project was successfully completed and RVSS' is in the final stages of completing a bi-lingual interpretive sign for the site that will add an educational component to the facility.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Bear Creek Bank Stabilization:
In 2016, a winter storm severely eroded a stream bank exposing a sewer main line, instigating RVSS to initiate a stream bank restoration project. This project is one example of RVSS' experience in implementing and carrying out complex on-the-ground projects. The project required hiring a consultant who specialized in in-stream design and construction to develop the project plan and obtain required state and federal permits. Once the plan was developed and the permits obtained, RVSS issued the bid, oversaw the work which included earth-moving, log installation for bank stabilization, irrigation installation, and planting. RVSS conducted the required water quality monitoring during construction and the required long-term vegetation monitoring and maintenance. Besides serving the purpose of protecting threatened infrastructure, this project had the added benefit of improving and restoring riparian habitat and increasing streamside shade to reduce heating of stream water. The project was accepted as successful and complete by the overseeing agencies in 2020.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Laying the Foundation for Aquatic Restoration in Oak Creek, tributary to the Marys River

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Laying the Foundation for Aquatic Restoration in Oak Creek, tributary to Marys River, builds upon a broad-based collaboration of stakeholders convened to enhance and steward the Oak Cr watershed. With its proximity to Corvallis and Oregon State University, Oak Cr serves as both the University's backyard laboratory and is a central destination for recreation on the multi-use paths connected throughout City Parks, Greenbelt Land Trust, OSU and Starker Forest holdings. Oak Cr has a history of occupation from the Kalapuya peoples who managed the land with fire, maintaining open prairies and oak savanna to settlement through the Donation Land Claim Act which brought more intensive farming and ranching, to the formation of a Land Grant University with its focus on agriculture and forestry, to the current mixed use, including timber, rural residential, agriculture, conservation and park lands, housing developments and the urban OSU campus. These developments have had harmful impacts on Oak Cr, constraining it by infrastructure and farming practices which has caused the stream system to become simplified, channelized and incised in many locations, with little opportunity for floodplain connection and water retention. This project will help Marys River Watershed Council and partners to gather baseline data on current conditions and to identify key reaches that are conducive to beaver-centric restoration. Encouraging beaver colonization will improve stream complexity and floodplain connection, creating habitat for many aquatic and terrestrial species, improving water quality by reducing sedimentation and retaining water for slow release over the warm summer months, and reducing flooding events downstream. Highlighting this project through mediums being developed by the Oak Cr Stakeholders Collaboration will engage the entire community in recreational and educational opportunities, building upon the central recreational role the Oak Cr watershed already plays.

Primary Contact Person *

Holly Dye Purpura, Executive Director

Primary Contact Email Address *

holly@mrwc.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-758-7597

Lead Organization *

Marys River Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-1314764

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Corvallis

Project Location (County) *

Benton

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

24000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goals of this project are twofold: to lay the foundation to improve the health and function of the Oak Creek aquatic system by developing baseline data to support targeted habitat restoration projects and to engage the community in these restoration efforts within the context of the already central place that Oak Creek plays in community recreation.

This project will help to achieve the following objectives to support this goal:
1) Train Marys River Watershed staff, an intern and volunteers to conduct the ODFW Aquatic Habitat Inventory (Intermediate Level) stream surveys
2) Recruit a paid intern to assist with the project. Our hope is to encourage applicants that are persons of color
3) Conduct AHI surveys in the Oak Creek watershed, with a goal of completing at least 1 stream kilometer on the OSU Animal & Rangeland Science and Research Forest lands (total number of kilometers surveyed dependent upon additional funding, with more kilometers surveyed to include public, conservation and private lands
4) Analyze the data collected in the AHI surveys and use data gathered to begin developing beaver-centric restoration projects in support of improving floodplain function, water quality and quantity, and habitat for native aquatic species, particularly coastal cutthroat trout
5) Conduct landowner outreach to recruit participation in these restoration projects
6) Conduct community outreach to engage the Corvallis community in these research and restoration efforts through such means as videography, interactive story maps, web content development and digital media engagement

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

MRWC expects the following outcomes (and measures of success) as a result of this project:
1) Conduct habitat inventory surveys (stream reaches will be GPS'd to quantify distance surveyed; goal is to complete at least 1 kilometer with actual number dependent upon additional funding)
2) MRWC staff and a paid intern will work to analyze data collected with the help of Derek Godwin, faculty member in the department of Biological and Ecological Engineering and OSU Extension (all data will be accurately recorded and analyzed using the ODFW AHI protocols)
3) Using data gathered, identify restoration priority stream reaches and begin to lay the groundwork for project development and outreach to landowner(s); (beaver-centric priority stream reaches will be identified by their favorability for beaver colonization and projects could include placement of woody debris such as stream logs and/or beaver dam analogs for beaver to build winter stable dams on and riparian planting to provide beaver forage and construction materials)
4) Leverage OCRF funds through resource development to line up matching funding to further expand survey efforts and begin restoration project development based on data gathered
5) Complete at least one community outreach product in both English and Spanish (the project will be featured in a bilingual outreach to the community via channels being established in the Oak Creek Stakeholders Collaboration; the particular material will be decided upon by the group)

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

This project grows out of a collaboration of stakeholders in the Oak Creek watershed, which is a tributary of the Marys River. The stakeholder collaboration is coordinated by Marys River Watershed Council (MRWC) and includes representatives from Oregon State University (College Research Forests, Animal & Rangeland Science, Biological and Ecological Engineering, Extension Service, Institute for Natural Resources, OregonFlora and Campus Facilities and Infrastructure), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Benton County, Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District, City of Corvallis Public Works and Parks & Recreation, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Starker Forests, Greenbelt Land Trust, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team, Corvallis Audubon Society, Conservation Biology Institute (DataBasin), Oak Creek Valley Community fire preparedness group, and numerous private landowners.

Oak Creek flows from its timbered headwaters through rural residential, farming, conservation and natural areas into the Corvallis urban center, entering the Marys River just below the Oregon State University (OSU) campus. The diversity of habitats and stakeholders, along with the many miles of publicly accessible multi-use trails makes it a central and complex watershed in the larger community, and achieving improved health and function of the aquatic system requires a broad-based participation and support. The process to engage stakeholders was funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in November, 2018 with the intent to steward and enhance the Oak Creek watershed. This group formed five working groups: Strategic Coordination, Land Use Policy & Planning, Watershed Management, Knowledge Clearinghouse and Community Engagement. Over the course of a year, these working groups have met to identify priority actions to achieve this larger goal.

One of the priorities identified by the Watershed Management Group is to develop solid baseline data on the condition of Oak Creek and its major tributaries. Historic human land use activities and infrastructure have impacted the stream's function by limiting floodplain connection, reducing riparian cover, removing sources of large woody debris contributions, thus limiting stream complexity and causing incision and channelization. The Watershed Management Group has chosen improving the aquatic system health as a top restoration priority, in order to benefit the native coastal cutthroat trout and other aquatic organisms. It is agreed that an important factor in achieving this goal is to encourage beaver dam building where possible. Developing a comprehensive habitat condition inventory is an important tool in understanding those locations where beaver have the best opportunity to develop complexes, including understanding where potential conflicts with beaver are minimal.

Interestingly, OSU owns 41% of the landmass in the watershed and has conducted extensive localized research in Oak Creek for decades. While some excellent, seminal research that is being used to this day has been produced by these studies, there has not been a more systematic survey of the stream habitat conducted. MRWC proposes to use the OCRF funds to begin undertaking these surveys, starting by targeting reaches in the Animal & Rangeland Science and College Research Forests ownerships, working with representatives from these departments that are engaged in the Stakeholders Collaboration. MRWC will also work to leverage these funds by seeking matching funds and collaboration with more OSU faculty and their students; we have already discussed the project with Department of Fisheries and Wildlife faculty, who are enthusiastic about the collaboration. Over time, our intention is to expand the surveys to non-OSU held properties.

To gain this data, MRWC proposes to work with ODFW Salmon & Trout Enhancement Biologist Karen Hans to provide training in the Intermediate Level Aquatic Habitat Inventory protocols for MRWC staff, an intern working with the Council and OSU student volunteers. Habitat inventories will be conducted during low water flows, beginning with the OSU dairy reach prior to installation of the seasonal irrigation dam which generally goes in mid-May. We have chosen the Animal & Rangeland Science reaches because they compliment water quality research currently being conducted on these properties by Derek Godwin.

The survey will also help to inform the development of alternatives to two fish passage barriers on Oak Creek. The dairy irrigation dam blocks migration for cold water refugia during the warm summer months and impacts water quality due to the solar-exposed reservoir at the dam. A research weir in the College Research Forests is a year-round barrier. Both of these fish passage barriers are part of an OWEB Technical Assistance grant MRWC holds to develop preliminary alternative designs to provide passage. The habitat inventories will provide important data with which to develop these alternative designs.

This proposed first phase of beaver habitat identification, if awarded, would be the first step in another pending opportunity for a larger beaver initiative. MRWC is one of three watershed councils, along with the Luckiamute and North Santiam, that applied for OWEB funding (pending) for both Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement grants. The technical assistance grant will work alongside Utah State University to apply the Beaver Assessment Restoration Tool (BRAT) model to these three watersheds to remotely assess beaver habitat restoration opportunities, and paired with this grant, will help with ground truthing. The OWEB Stakeholders Engagement grant will work alongside this effort to develop understanding of and deployment of methods to minimize human-beaver conflicts. If awarded, this OWEB funding will provide additional baseline data gathering and on-the-ground verification of the Oak Creek watershed's beaver habitats within the scope of the larger Marys River.

Using the habitat inventory data, MRWC hopes to identify at least one stream reach that is appropriate for a beaver-centric restoration project and to begin the resource development to fund outreach to the landowner and development of the project. This project, located on a publicly accessible and widely travelled OSU property, will be an excellent opportunity to build awareness, encourage responsible recreation, and engage the community in what they can do to encourage beaver activity as stream restoration partners. Community outreach to encourage equitable recreation and restoration was identified by the Oak Creek Stakeholders Collaboration as another desired outcome of the initiative, and the effort proposed here would further build upon this momentum. The collaboration is working to develop means of engaging the community about the history, conditions today and plans for the future of the Oak Creek watershed, which will be highlighted through an Oak Creek Network Landing Page on the Oregon Explorer platform and via a web page on the Marys River Watershed Council website, along with social media postings. A series of videos focused on various aspects of the Oak Creek watershed is also being coordinated by collaboration partner Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Water Action Team, and will provide an excellent vehicle for educating the community about the history and culture of the watershed, as well as research, assessment and restoration projects that seek to improve the understanding, health and function of the watershed. MRWC plans to develop at least one community outreach product for highlighting this project and distributing through the means currently under development with the collaboration. We also intend that our community engagement efforts seek to reach all members of our community and will therefore provide materials in both Spanish and English.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project supports the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities for both conservation and recreation. It engages the community to obtain important research data needed to support habitat restoration within the Oak Creek aquatic system. This is directly related to the Oregon Conservation Strategy in a number of ways. It addresses the Strategy Habitats of Flowing Water, Riparian Habitats and Wetlands and the Key Conservation Issue of the Disruption of Disturbance Regimes. This project will provide the foundation needed to identify key locations for improving floodplain connectivity and channel complexity within Oak Creek by encouraging beaver dam building activities. Increased presence of beaver dams will retain water higher in the system, releasing it slowly over the summer months. This will have a positive water quality impact by helping to lower summer water temperatures and reducing sedimentation, as well as provide additional winter rearing habitat for aquatic organisms, including a Strategy Species - coastal cutthroat trout, the top aquatic predator in Oak Creek.

This project will also engage the community by providing educational materials about riparian conservation and restoration in multiple languages, building upon the existing recreation and encouraging additional recreation, engagement, and learning within Oak Creek to increase public understanding and awareness of the many ecosystem benefits of beaver.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will be used for MRWC staff time to be trained in, conduct and analyze Aquatic Habitat Inventory surveys; coordinate with an intern and student volunteers, OSU faculty, ODFW staff and landowners; fiscal oversight and management of the project; and resource development to procure matching funds for extending the reaches surveyed, landowner outreach and restoration project development. They will also be used to cover a stipend for the intern; development of community engagement materials such as videography, interactive story map and web content development, or digital media engagement; field and tech supplies for conducting the surveys; and mileage reimbursement. These funds will also be used to obtain an ODFW Scientific Take Permit to provide for handling of aquatic organisms as needed; no organisms will be removed from the system.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Derek Godwin, Extension Watershed Management and Department of Biological and Ecological Engineering faculty, Oregon State University. Derek will work with MRWC and his students to conduct and analyze the data from the Aquatic Habitat Inventory surveys

Karen Hans, ODFW Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program - Karen will provide the AHI training

Oak Creek Stakeholders, per the list of collaborating organizations given in the project narrative, including Alex Farrand, Assistant District Fish Biologist, ODFW South Willamette Watershed District

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

OCRF award - January, 2021 Development of habitat survey plan - February-March, 2021 Recruitment of student volunteers and Council intern - February-March, 2021 Aquatic Habitat Inventory training - April, 2021 Aquatic Habitat Inventory surveys - May-August, 2021 Analysis of AHI data - September-October, 2021 Identification of initial targeted restoration reach - October-November, 2021 Resource development for extending surveys and/or restoration project development - ongoing throughout project Final reporting on OCRF grant - November-December, 2021

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

As mentioned earlier, this project is an outgrowth of the Oak Creek Stakeholders Collaboration, which has been underway for a year and in which many organizations, agencies and municipalities are participating. The need for the habitat surveys proposed in this project to provide baseline data was identified through the work of this collaboration. That context has laid a solid foundation for this project to be successful, with an identified next step to increase understanding of habitat conditions through an assessment to identify strategic areas of opportunity for on-the-ground restoration efforts.

The DataBasin mapping platform hosted by Conservation Biology Institute is serving this effort as well, by centralizing numerous data sets that are enabling our collaboration to identify key habitats geospatially and overlay those maps with planned zoning, development and transportation maps so as to concentrate our initial efforts on high priority habitats that are threatened because of these development plans. This information will help to inform the habitat inventory surveys proposed here and together they will give our collaboration the data needed to make recommendations to the City of Corvallis and Benton County regarding managing planned development to preserve and protect critical habitats.

The greater Corvallis community is already regularly engaged in Oak Creek because of the popular recreational use of the extensive trails system through OSU and Greenbelt Land Trust properties and City of Corvallis natural areas. Many community members also are engaged through restoration efforts (planting and plant establishment activities) and in education programs which were regularly held in the watershed until COVID-19 prevented in-person field trips. This, along with the history of University research in the watershed means that Oak Creek holds a central place in the community. Highlighting projects such as this will have broad resonance and exposure within the community and offer an opportunity for community education of watershed health and function priorities that doesn't exist elsewhere.

Marys River WC has a well established practice of working closely with community partners, local school teachers, and area agencies and municipalities to build community awareness of the Marys River and engage in direct, hands-on classroom and field environmental education opportunities. In 2019, Marys River WC reached 1697 residents of Benton County, including 916 youth, as part of our education and community outreach programming. This presence in the community and the variety of means for engagement being developed by the Collaboration provide the foundation for robust community engagement in the Oak Creek watershed.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Marys River WC has been one of seven “Model Watershed” councils as part of the Willamette River Initiative led by Meyer Memorial Trust. As a result of MMT’s support over the past decade, by 2019, MRWC had developed relationships with over 1200 private and public landowners, resulting in the implementation of a range of restoration projects, including 1) planting 179 acres of streamside land with trees, shrubs, and other plants, 2) removing 52 barriers to fish passage, 3) restoring more than 20 miles of fish habitat using large wood, boulder weirs, and off-channel alcove reconnections, 4) controlling invasive species annually over 18 stream miles, and 5) planting more than 72,400 seedlings and bulbs to restore prairie habitat for the endangered Fender's blue and Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

MRWC was awarded a Technical Assistance grant from OWEB for $49,930 to conduct an assessment in the Upper and Mid-Marys sub-watersheds. In 2017-18, the Council worked with a contractor to identify prioritized reaches for restoration to encourage beaver colonization and to benefit cutthroat trout using the LiDAR-based NetMap software, refined for combined beaver and cutthroat habitat attributes. This process identified a ranked prioritization of over twenty stream reaches in these watersheds. The top 11 were chosen for field verification, and the Council project manager and our contract fish biologist walked these creeks to assess the accuracy of the modeling and to develop in-stream and riparian restoration projects. From this effort, four priority projects were developed and three of those have been awarded for funding, with implementation planned for summer 2021. The restoration projects include four fish passage barrier removals, installation of 14 large woody debris structures and 4 beaver dam analogues, construction of 2 off-channel alcoves and ~½ acre riparian planting. Two primary sources, an OWEB grant for $205,153 and USFS Stewardship grant for $95,916 are funding this on-the-ground restoration.

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Google Forms

Department of Biological & Ecological Engineering
Oregon State University
116 Gilmore Hall
Corvallis, Oregon, 97331

P 541-737-2041 | **F** 541-737-2082
bee.oregonstate.edu

October 19, 2020

Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive
Salem, Oregon 97302

RE: Marys River Watershed Council's proposal: Laying the Foundation for Aquatic Restoration in Oak Creek, tributary to the Marys River

Dear Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the Marys River Watershed Council's OCRF proposal, *Laying the Foundation for Aquatic Restoration in Oak Creek*. I am an Extension Watershed Management faculty member in the Department of Biological and Ecological Engineering at Oregon State University, and I am currently conducting research in the Oak Creek watershed. This, combined with my participation as a partner in MRWC's Oak Creek Stakeholder Collaboration, means that I have a particular interest in developing projects to improve the health and function of Oak Creek.

I have worked for OSU's Extension Service for 26 years in positions that support community-based education and outreach on topics related to socio-economic and environmental concerns. This proposal seeks to address salmonid habitat loss and degradation by focusing on beaver-targeted restoration and complementary human-wildlife-stream interactions. The habitat inventory analysis effort MRWC is proposing will produce important data that prioritize stream reaches best suited for beaver-targeted restoration, while minimizing human-wildlife-water management conflicts.

As an Extension faculty member working on watershed enhancement projects in urban, agriculture and forested landscapes, I have witnessed many positive aspects beaver and their habitat provide to stream and riparian ecosystems. I believe that beaver are a keystone species for healthy stream ecosystems and fish and wildlife habitat. This effort will enable our partnership to identify priority reaches where beaver dam building activity will enable more floodplain connection and retention of water higher in the system for longer into the year, delivering more water during summer, low-flow periods. This will provide positive impacts to water quality, aquatic habitat and stream system complexity. I have become aware of the lack of comprehensive habitat inventory surveys while conducting research of riparian areas and stream reaches managed by OSU's Animal & Rangeland Science Department. Conducting these surveys will provide essential information to making informed targeted beaver-centric restoration location decisions and provide a baseline for future work. It will also provide additional data to complement the water quality data and analysis I have been compiling in my own research.

In support of the project, I will participate in the training, help conduct habitat surveys and recruit students from water and environmental related programs to participate. In addition, I will help analyze the data, provide assistance in identifying potential restoration areas and land

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Family and Community Health, 4-H Youth, Forestry & Natural Resources, Extension Sea Grant, Open Campus, and Outdoor School programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

management modifications, and promote OSU implementation of high-priority activities on agriculture lands in the Oak Creek watershed. I commit to providing a portion of the time I will invest in these projects as a match contribution. My current salary and ope hourly rate is $75.86. I will provide a minimum of 60 hours to the project, for a total of $4,551.60.

Thank you for your time invested in reviewing this proposal. Please contact me with any questions about my participation in this project.

Sincerely,



Derek Godwin
Extension Watershed Management
Phone: 503-510-7582
Email: derek.godwin@oregonstate.edu

OAK CREEK WATERSHED

STARKER FORESTS
ROADS ARE GATED
ACCESS FOR RECREATION
REQUIRES PERMIT

MCDONALD FOREST
ROADS ARE GATED AND
CLOSED TO PRIVATE TRAFFIC

McCULLOUGH PEAK

LEWISBURG SADDLE

STARKER FORESTS

MCDONALD FOREST

DIMPLE HILL

CHIP ROSS PARK

AUDUBON HESTHAVN

SHEEP FARM

(OAK WOODLAND)

HORSE FARM

POULTRY FARM

AGRICULTURE

DAIRY FARM

COVERED BRIDGE

SWINE CENTER

CAMPUS

BENTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

BALD HILL FARM

BALD HILL NATURAL AREA

FITTON GREEN NATURAL AREA

WITHAM HILL NATURAL AREA

MLK PARK

Blakesley Creek
Baker Creek
Oak Creek
Alder Creek
Skunk Creek
Mulkey Creek
Dunawi Creek
Lamprey Creek
Marys River

ROCK PIT LOOP
UPROUTETRAIL 49
EXTENDO TRAIL 47
PATTERSON RD/600
BEAUTIFUL TRAIL
DAN'S TRAIL
HOMESTEAD TRAIL 21
PULL OFF
NETTLETON RD
CARDWELL HILL TRAIL
NW CARDWELL HILL DR
NW CHINOOK DR
NW MITCHELL DR
NW GRANDVIEW DR
NW CHAPARRAL DR
NW WYNOOCHEE DR
NW RIDGEWOOD DR
NW RIDGEWOOD PL
NW PANORAMA DR
MULKEY RIDGE TRAIL
COUNTY CONNECTOR
DOG RUN TRAIL
BALD HILL MULTI-USE PATH
NORTH SUMMIT
OAKSAVANNA TRAIL
WEST SUMMIT
SUMMIT ROAD
EAST SUMMIT
NW OAK CREEK DR
NW WALNUT BLVD
NW PONDEROSA AVE
NW SKILLINGS DR
NW TANAGER DR
NW DEER RUN ST
NW ROYAL OAKS DR
NW 29TH ST
NW WALNUT BLVD
NW CIRCLE BLVD
NW WITHAM HILL DR
NW 35TH ST
NW 30TH ST
NW 26TH ST
NW HARRISON BLVD
SW CAMPUS WAY
CAMPUS WAY BIKE PATH
SW JEFFERSON WAY
SW WESTERN BLVD
SW MORRIS AVE
SW PHILOMATH BLVD/HWY 20/HWY 34
SW 53RD ST
PORTLAND & WESTERN RR

Legend

- Oak Creek Basin
- Trails
- Starker Forests Inc.
- Greenbelt Land Trust
- Audubon Society - Hesthavn
- City of Corvallis
- Benton County
- Oregon State University

This product is for informational purposes
and may not have been prepared for,
or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

Users of this information should review
or consult the primary data and information
sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

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MARYS RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Study of Invasive Ringed Crayfish and their Impact on Native Signal Crayfish, Steelhead and Salmon

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Place crayfish traps, monitor and report the distribution and impact of the ringed crayfish in our tributaries. We will accomplish this project by placing five traps each in three different tributaries; Evans Creek in Rogue River, Foots Creek in Gold Hill and Sardine Creek in Gold Hill. Our traps will be monitored several times a day from mid May through the end of June and again in September through mid October. Our findings will be reported to the ODFW and shared with our surrounding watersheds. Our watershed will work with an advisor biologist, Ryan Battleson for specific direction in the field.

Primary Contact Person *

Niki Murphy

Primary Contact Email Address *

secretary@votrwc.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-582-8258

Lead Organization *

Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

83-4537039

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Rogue River and Gold Hill

Project Location (County) *

Jackson

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

05 / 10 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 25 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

3350

Total Project Cost *

3350

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

To confirm and determine the distribution and effect invasive crayfish are having on our native fish, crayfish, amphibians and plants as well as overall safe fish passage. To engage community volunteers by training and then supervising their participation in the project using both English and Spanish language. Trained and supervised community volunteers will monitor the baited traps several times a day and document the number of invasive crayfish caught along with any food items they may bring into the trap. The number and distribution of invasive crayfish will be measured against native crayfish (caught and released) we anticipate also being caught (or not at all) in the traps. Placement of the baited traps will be in five different locations in the same area of each of the three streams to accurately gauge the ratio of non-native to native crayfish and to capture a true representation of the stream area threatened by invasive crayfish versus a single trap which would provide a limited amount of information. Our field reports properly recorded by trained volunteers will include photographic evidence of species monitored in the baited traps as well as water temperature readings, stream flow observations, weather and shoreline conditions as they also impact the distribution of the invasive species. The cumulative reports for May and June then September to October will be issued to the ODFW promptly for further review by biologists and for possible consideration of specific distribution locations needing mitigating measures. Invasive crayfish threaten native fish, crayfish, amphibians and plants by eating them directly or by competing for food and shelter. If the invasive species are established the damage can be extensive and is costly to remove them. Our project focus is to accurately report the possibility of an active invasive species threat in our watershed and if found, determine with the ODFW how best to proceed to protect our native species and stream health. With the project information submitted to our surrounding watersheds and by involving our trained community volunteers we are creating educational awareness in the beauty, recreation and nature of our watershed and it's fish and streams. In using trained and supervised volunteers for the project we are empowering them with knowledge about our native fish, the importance of fish passage, native species and how they are so important to our recreation and continued stream health.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The two complete reports, one each issued at the end of the two monitoring periods, will contain the accurate reporting of any invasive species crayfish and the percentage in volume of their numbers comparative to anticipated native species (caught and released) in the same area. This will accurately calculate the level of distribution of invasive against native. Those numbers along with other information collected such as plant life in the water in the monitoring areas, amphibians seen or not, other observable fish or anything else monitored in the baited traps will describe an area either impacted or not by the invasive species. The success of our project will be presenting findings to the ODFW that validate a need for mitigating the invasive crayfish in these locations or determining that at this time our native fish passage, salmon eggs, plants and amphibians are not under threat. A second impact of success is the sharing of information about responsible recreation, community science and expanding that understanding with use of a second language (Spanish) during our training of volunteers and in the field by watershed board members and field supervisors. Our success will be in demonstrating in both English and Spanish the importance of balance in the eco system and how an invasive species can and does disrupt a variety of native life leading to a degradation of the native species and ultimately recreation, health and use of our streams and rivers. A reply and opinion of our summary report will be requested of the ODFW and our watershed will look to the ODFW for next steps if a threat is confirmed and mitigating action is determined necessary.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Determine with field investigation and advice from our advisory biologist Ryan Battleson, the best locations at our three creekside properties to place the baited traps. Advertise to the community on our website and in the local newspapers the opportunity to participate in the project and request community volunteers sign up for training using both English and Spanish wording. Purchase fifteen crayfish traps, and weekly purchase of necessary bait for those traps. Watershed Board members receive any instruction or training requested by the ODFW for acceptable practices and procedures in the field. Watershed Board members then train community volunteers in the same practices and procedures using English and Spanish language. Confirm with our advising biologist the locations best suited at each project location for trap placement, place the baited traps on three different private creek front land locations with cooperating stakeholders for two time periods, Mid-May through the end of June 2021 and early September through late October 2021. Trained volunteers and watershed board supervisors and sub-watershed supervisors monitor the traps multiple times as day seven days a week for the duration of both time periods keeping the traps baited as necessary and in the water 24 hours a day. Volunteers and supervisors will maintain volunteer time logs and document all field findings following ODFW field procedures and practices including keeping chart notes, written observations and field readings. Take photographs of the creek locations, trap placement and all species caught in the traps both invasive and native (caught and released). Use a two level system of species confirmation with supervisors and photographic comparison; sample photo against field example. Confirmation by supervisor will be required and any other form of confirmation requested by the ODFW and/or our advising biologist. Include in the daily monitoring observations about all species observed health, abundance or lack of plants and food in the project locations. Weekly collection of the field reports and photographs by supervisors will be sent to our project coordinator and then to our Board Secretary for compilation and decimation to our advisory biologist who will advise us as necessary including to maintain trap locations, move trap locations and/or to add items to our reports in our observations and measurements. At the end of our first phase in monitoring (the end of June) we will compile a complete report including final field reports numbers of species, photographs of additional note (all previous photographs will have been previously submitted), advisory reports received (if any) by advising biologist, samples (if applicable), receipts for all expenses and time logs of volunteers and watershed board members and submit to our advisory biologist. After his review and approval we will submit our report to our surrounding watersheds for their consideration as well as post the report and it's finding on our website for community review and interest. For phase two (September into October) we will repeat all of the above. At the end of phase two our watershed project should have the ability to state by use of the information gathered and evidence whether or not there is a threat to our native species. Also at the end of both phases each of our community volunteers can accurately describe healthy native species in our streams, native plant life, the importance of safe fish passage and therefore become a better ambassador for our environment and recreational use of it.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

What is under the water is often the least seen and understood. Our project advances the understanding of native species, the need for safe fish passage, what a threat by invasive species can and does do to native species, amphibians, plants and invasive competition for food and shelter. By actively engaging trained volunteers in the streams and having them participate in real observation of the cause and effect of an invasive species, the outcome is a more engaged public equipped with a better understanding of our recreational responsibilities (don't buy or bring invasive species here), using two languages opens the door for additional community participation and education, discussion and use of our streams for the project demonstrates what is in the stream and how we can best use, recreate and preserve it. The best way for us to share the above is to get our volunteers to the stream and show them.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [x] Other: native crayfish, food and shelter in our watershed steams

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

$925 15-traps + $475 bait +$250 fuel + $1200 advertisement + $500 insurance

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

As a new watershed we are not currently partnered with any organization. However, we have been in communication with other watersheds who have shared their experience and offered an open door for advice on future projects. We are looking to partner with our surrounding watersheds on future projects and have had them attend our monthly meetings. We are very appreciative for their attendance and look forward to future projects together. Our board of directors feels this project is very manageable for us and is great way to demonstrate to our community the commitment we feel to our local waterways and watershed as a whole.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

If approved, January meeting with advising biologist, Feb - March confirmation of stream locations, March and April advertisement to the community, April trap purchases and ODFW training

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

We have a newly formed Facebook page; Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Council, we also have a website under revision; www/votrwc.org which we plan to have finished by the end of November this year

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Council, Board of Directors was stood up earlier this year. This project will be our first project as a newly formed watershed. We are prepared to move forward with it if awarded the grant.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Exploring Nature in Lents

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

This project aims to increase the exposure and awareness of natural areas in and around Lents for young people and teach them about sustainability, conservation and potential environmental field careers . It will connect youth from the Lents Youth Initiative, a program of ROSE Community Development that live in Lents and surrounding neighborhoods. The program focuses on youth of color, and low-income.

Primary Contact Person *

Ana Meza

Primary Contact Email Address *

ana@rosecdc.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

5038601824

Lead Organization *

ROSE Community Development

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

94-3144895

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Portland

Project Location (County) *

Multnomah

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 15 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

09 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

5000

Total Project Cost *

80000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The Lents Youth Initiative has been providing an annual training of about 40 hours to 30 youth each spring. These trainings were led by ROSE Community Development. With COVID19 restrictions, it was difficult to continue our training as usual, since it was done in large groups and by one single staff person. With this project we plan to change the way we teach young people about environmental justice and social justice. The different partner organizations will come together and choose a section to teach the students. The group of students will be split up and training done outside so that we can maintain social distancing guidelines. After completing the training, the youth will have an opportunity to apply for a paid summer internship with one of the partner organizations that led the trainings. During the internships, the youth will be able to further their knowledge and experience about natural areas and caring for them.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

We will conduct a pre-post survey to assess their level of understanding and knowledge about social and environmental justice, and importance of taking care of our watersheds and environment. We will also measure our success by the number of youth engaged, hours contributed to their summer internships, and number of plants and trees taken care of. We also want to see educational materials translated to at least 3 languages other than English.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Lents Youth Initiative is a program that ROSE Community Development created in 2015. However, after 5 years of leading the training component, we want to expand to include our summer internship partner organizations. Through this grant it will allow us to entirely revamp our Youth Empowerment Series training that happens April-May every year.
Each organization has their own environmental and conservation project they are working on. By bringing them together, we can ensure that youth have a full understanding of how different environments interact with each other and why they're all important to take care of them.
Many youth are also not aware of the natural areas that exist within their neighborhood such as Leach Botanical Garden and the Foster Flood Plain. These are areas that are easily accessible to everyone, yet many people don't know about them. Through this project we will increase their awareness of them, further encouraging natural recreation activities in their own neighborhood.

The way this project will work is that LYI will do outreach to ROSE affordable housing, and local schools such as David Douglas High School, Franklin High School, and alternative schools. We aim to recruit 40 youth to participate. Then each partner organization will decide on what type of workshop to provide, based on what their organization does. For example, Portland Parks and Recreation can do a workshop about caring for plants, and doing clean up around the Springwater trail. Green Lents can do a workshop around pollinators, and show them where various pollinator habitats exist around Lents. Johnson Creek Watershed Council can talk about the importance of our watersheds, how plants impact the invertebrates in the creek, and other ways to take care of them. Leach can do a nature workshop and connect health with nature.

After youth complete the training they'll be eligible to apply for a paid summer internship with the partner organizations. Each partner organization will have specific work that relates to their organization, and will vary depending on COVID situation by June 2021. This year the youth focused a lot on taking care of the plants and trees, since Portland Parks and Recreation had limited budget to continue caring for them. At Green Lents they also learned about pollinators and created some outreach materials.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

These are environmentally focused organizations. By teaching the youth about all these aspects, they will have an opportunity to consider these as a career. They will also know about the importance of their local environment and encourage family and friends to also take care of their environment.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The $5,000 requested funds will be split:
$3,500 for staff support (ROSE and partner organizations)
$500 for food/snacks
$1000 for educational supplies and equipment

Total costs are:
Staff time: $50,000
Youth Stipends: $25,000
Program Supplies: $2,500
Food and Snacks: $1,500
Mileage/Transportation: $1000

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Green Lents- Green Lents is a nonprofit organization that cultivates a thriving, resilient and environmentally just neighborhood through engagement, education and collective action. They have led great projects such as a community tool library, the Lents Green Ring, Malden Court Community Orchard, Pollinator Habitat projects, and the Lents Strong Housing Team. They share the Lents neighborhood focus and have been a partner since 2015.
Leach Botanical Garden: Leach is a great organization and features an amazing 16 acre botanical garden. Many youth visit the garden in their elementary school days. They offer lots of cool events such as bioblitz and nature workshops. They have hosted LYI interns in the past and connect Lents, Johnson Creek Watershed, and are a Portland Parks and Recreation property. This makes them the ideal partner to host and bring us all together physically in their space.
Portland Parks and Recreation: LYI has partnered with their Johnson Creek Watershed stewardship coordinator to host interns over the summer. They are able to lead plantings at Lents Park, provide tools for taking care of natural areas and overall bring stewardship and land management into the mix.
Johnson Creek Watershed Council: JCWC leads an annual clean up event. LYI has partnered with them in the past. Our youth are able to learn about the importance of our waterways, how it relates to plants, animals, and other ecosystems.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January-March 2021: Conduct outreach/recruitment of new youth members April-May 2021: Outdoor Youth Empowerment Series Training: May 2021: Internship application, interviews and placement June 2021: Begin Internships June-September: Do internships, activities outside, coordinate collective projects

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

LYI, PP&R, Green Lents and Leach Botanical Gardens have collaborated together for many years. Since 2015 they have hosted youth interns and encouraged disenfranchised populations to engage more with nature and the outdoors. We encourage you to look at our previous work by visiting our website. https://rosecdc.org/community/lents-youth-initiative/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Rain gear for all: expanding access to high elevation recreation, conservation and education

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Crest provides programs at Willow-Witt Ranch, located at 5000 feet elevation, in the expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The property is at the crest of three watersheds which was the inspiration for our name, which stands for Conservation, Reciprocity, Education, Stewardship, and Trust. The land is home to over 100 acres of wetlands and wet meadows, mixed conifer forests, oak woodlands and a pond containing the highest known elevation breeding population of the Western Pond Turtle. The property was grazed by cattle for 150 years before restoration efforts began. Grazing caused severe soil degradation, extensive erosion, and lowered the water table significantly in the wetland areas. We have been restoring and caring for these habitats for over 30 years in concert with the community, especially youth. We would like to continue this work by including more people to help with restoration. We facilitate restoration through our service learning, school programs and volunteer work parties. Restoration practices include removing invasive species, planting native wetland species, infilling eroded channels, and building habitat piles. The ideal seasons for restoration work, fall and spring, often have inclement weather. Programs in the past have demonstrated that many students, particularly from lower income families, do not have the proper cold weather gear to comfortably participate in service learning opportunities. We are confident that if we can provide the proper equipment, participation will grow and we will engage more diverse groups in restoration efforts and wildlife centered recreation. Low-income communities, and families in particular, need a connection to nature more than ever, especially considering the devastating impacts of recent fires and the COVID-19 pandemic. Hands-on opportunities to improve their watershed and spend quality time in nature provide a strong foundation for a true connection to the land, which is The Crest's ultimate goal.

Primary Contact Person *

Suzanne Willow, Interim Executive Director

Primary Contact Email Address *

exec@thecrestatwillowwitt.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-890-1998

Lead Organization *

The Crest

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

82-2665900

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [x] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Ashland

Project Location (County) *

Jackson

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 15 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 15 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

8950

Total Project Cost *

10710

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The Crest's primary goals are to bolster restoration efforts in our wetland, improve low-income community access to nature, and increase the Rogue Valley community's connection to the land around them. Increasing the number of restoration projects in the wetlands, an Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitat, would benefit our Western Pond turtle population as well as myriad of other birds, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. Our education and volunteer programs aim to increase environmental literacy and a connection to the land in the Rogue Valley, particularly for students and marginalized communities. Our programs focus on the reciprocal relationship between humans and all aspects of nature around us. By providing high-quality cold weather gear at no cost to low-income community members, we hope to improve their access to positive experiences in nature. While helping with habitat restoration, land and people are connected when everyone is warm, dry and comfortable, regardless of the weather.

In the next three months, The Crest intends to purchase 30 sets of high-quality rain and cold weather gear for low-income students, classes and volunteers to use during service learning and volunteer programs. Following this purchase, we intend to increase the number of wetland restoration service learning programs and volunteer work parties hosted by The Crest in fall, spring and winter by 100% in the next two years.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The purchase of 30 sets of high-quality protective rain gear is expected to increase the number of programs scheduled during the fall, winter and spring seasons. Access to appropriate protective equipment will remove a significant barrier to environmental education for low-income students and significantly increase enjoyment and satisfaction with education and volunteer programs at The Crest.

The Crest has consistently hosted between 2 and 4 service learning programs or volunteer work parties every year during the early fall and late spring. The Crest will consider this project a success if we increase the number of programs and work parties by 100% in the next two years, hosting between 4 and 8 events during the off-season. In addition to increasing the number of programs, we aim to expand our projects into the later months: earlier in the spring, later in the fall, and into the winter.

Purchasing this gear is part of The Crest's larger effort to engage low-income families and communities of color, the people often left behind in the environmental movement. However, their participation is essential to the success and sustainability of our program and of the land. Many of the schools we serve are Title I schools, qualifying for federal funds to support low-income students in reaching their academic goals. In the Rogue Valley, 60% of Ashland schools, 30% of Medford schools, 40% of Central Point schools, and 50% of Phoenix-Talent schools qualify as Title I schoolwide or targeted assistance schools.

In the past few years, we have observed that most if not all students participating in service learning programs lack sufficient rain gear. Providing rain gear at no cost will increase enjoyment of the experience and foster a stronger connection to the Earth. Expanding the number of programs we offer, made possible by the funds requested, will increase the number of opportunities for low-income students to participate in restoration and environmental education. Satisfaction and enjoyment of our programs will be assessed in a post-evaluation process for each education and volunteer program. It will include specific questions pertaining to the rain gear and its benefits.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The funds requested will support a larger project of expanding wetland restoration efforts through service learning and volunteer work parties with The Crest. The Crest has a vision for sharing the land with all people, regardless of their class or background. We recognize that not everyone has the same tools, clothing, or knowledge to fully participate in hands-on restoration. We strive to accommodate all of our visitors and believe this project will help us further that goal. The OCRF grant funds would directly support this goal by purchasing enough cold weather gear to provide to students and volunteers at no cost.

The wetland and surrounding area at Willow-Witt Ranch was heavily grazed by cattle for over 150 years. This left a legacy of eroded waterways, disturbed habitat and struggling native plant communities. As habitat loss, climate change and destructive land use continues to impact the entire ecosystem, there is an urgent need to protect the amazing natural resources at Willow-Witt Ranch. Wetland restoration benefits many of the diverse flora and fauna that inhabit and depend on the wetlands. Our wetland hosts the highest altitude breeding population of the Western Pond Turtle, an Oregon Conservation Strategy species. Many amphibians, insects, birds, and mammals rely on the wetlands for habitat, protection and food. Native plants such as sedges, rushes, willows and grasses now thrive in our regenerating wetland.

In relation to the Oregon Conservation Strategy, our restoration efforts focus on the invasive species limiting factor. We focus on mechanically removing invasive species by hand and using revegetation planting to control erosion and create a healthy plant community more resistant to invasion in the future.

Our school programs focus on the resources and history at Willow-Witt Ranch: forest management and diversity, wetland flora and fauna, sustainable farming, local food systems and Native American lifeways. We are a new Outdoor School site for Oregon school children, looking towards hosting many school programs in the future, starting in the spring of 2021. School trips to Willow-Witt Ranch in 2019 reached over 750 students. Past service learning projects have involved invasive species removal, erosion control, habitat piles, and native plantings. Students ages 7 to 22 helped complete these projects. When possible, we encourage school groups to visit multiple times to strengthen their connection to the land and the watershed. Our goal is to continue and improve upon these restoration efforts by doubling the amount of school groups we host every year. We recognize that in the short term we may be limited by the number of students able to participate due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The amazing ecosystem at Willow-Witt Ranch should be shared with all people, regardless of access to expensive winter gear, and in all seasons, despite cold and rainy conditions most of the year. Willow-Witt Ranch is located at 5,000 feet elevation, receiving consistently harsher weather than residential areas in the Rogue Valley. Offering high-quality protective rain gear at no cost to participants will allow volunteers and students to engage with the ecosystems of Willow-Witt Ranch more frequently and with greater enjoyment. It will also allow The Crest to offer a more diverse seasonal range of wetland restoration opportunities to a wider community of people. Currently, The Crest's educational season is limited from mid-May to mid-June and mid-August until the end of September. The warm clothing purchased with the grant funds could significantly expand the educational and recreation season into spring, fall and winter. Access to appropriate, and often expensive, outdoor gear is a fundamental equity issue in environmental education. Children who can afford necessary and proper protection should not be the only ones who get to enjoy and participate in outdoor programs and activities.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The Crest is within the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument, a key element in a major connectivity corridor. Oregon Conservation Strategy Species present include: Western Pond Turtles, Great Grey Owls, Sandhill Cranes, Acorn and Pileated Woodpeckers, Western Bumble Bees, Drooping Bullrush, and Yellow Rails. The Strategy Habitats present include: wetlands, oak woodlands, riparian areas, late successional mixed conifer forest, ponderosa pine woodlands and sagebrush. Our community service focuses on restoration in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) protected wetland: removing invasive species, armoring eroded channels, and planting native species to support pollinators and disrupt erosion.
Waterproof clothing for school groups and volunteers will expand the number and diversity of people able to enjoy and engage with the outdoors. Financial barriers affect access to warm clothing and, therefore, natural spaces. These funds will allow The Crest to expand programming and volunteer work, benefiting the entire ecosystem.
All recreation here is wildlife-centered recreation: hiking, volunteering, learning, and camping while emphasizing our connection to the land and wildlife. The Crest incorporates bird watching, plant and insect identification, and sustainable land management into every experience. Providing cold weather gear to visitors will also support wildlife-centered recreational activities such as bird walks, BioBlitz events and visiting the Wetland Interpretive Trail.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF grant funds will support the purchase of a class set (30) of insulated rubber boots, waterproof rain jackets, waterproof rain bibs, and cotton knit beanie hats. Funds will also be used to purchase two metal storage lockers to properly store the gear, preventing wear from weather, dirt and rodents, and ensuring the quality of the gear for years to come.

The equipment will be chosen in consideration of COVID-19 precautions. All gear will be easily washable to sterilize the equipment between users. Durability is a high priority as this equipment will be used for years to come. We will continue stewardship of this land in perpetuity and don't expect the need for equipment to diminish.

For a detailed budget, see the document link in the Other Information section.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The Crest is based at Willow-Witt Ranch, a sustainable farm and local business. For over 35 years the owners have set in motion a legacy of conservation that is being carried on by The Crest. Willow-Witt Ranch will partner with The Crest to provide storage space, tools and spaces for events.

Kids Unlimited Academy (KUA) is a local public charter school that The Crest has collaborated with in the past. The student population is 95% economically disadvantaged, 33% migrant students and 51% English Language Learners (ELL). KUA has participated in service learning programs at The Crest in the past and are currently partnering with The Crest to host Farm Fridays, a monthly program to bring students to the farm for learning and exploration. The cold-weather equipment provided by this grant will greatly benefit these students.

The Crest partners with many local public school teachers who bring their classes up for field trips every year. These classes range K-12. Classes 2nd grade and older participate in service learning projects.

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) has provided funding for restoration projects in the past, including the recently completed Wetland Interpretive Trail. Their staff provide technical assistance for various projects. Volunteers often complete these restoration projects and we expect JSWCD to be involved in future wetland restoration.

As part of the SOU Biology Department, Dr. Michael Parker studies the breeding population of Western Pond Turtles that reside on the property. He plays a key role in providing technical assistance regarding the aquatic habitats, species and restoration on the Ranch.

The Crest is a site partner for the SOU Master of Science and Environmental Education Program that operates their Fall in The Field Outdoor School on the property. Masters students frequently collaborate with The Crest to host classes open to the community on topics ranging from snow science to bats.

The Bureau of Land Management Medford District manages the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in which The Crest resides. Charles Scheltz is the Ecologist for the monument and conducts research on the property.

Oregon State University Extension Service Master Naturalist Program holds field classes on the property. Volunteers from this course have worked with us in the past.

OSU Small Farms Program provides technical assistance to the agricultural aspects of stewarding the land.

Small Woodlands Services, Marty Main has been our forest manager for over 30 years. He provides technical assistance for forest management as well as forest education classes.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Before the grant is awarded, Crest staff will identify rain and cold weather gear items to purchase and seek discounts and donations. Staff will purchase the items if grant funds are awarded. Regardless of the grant outcome, we will plan a number of service learning programs and volunteer work parties for the upcoming spring and the following fall and winter. We will collaborate with local schools, low-income communities and communities of color to market and schedule appropriate educational programs and volunteer events, including Farm Fridays, an Alternative Spring Break and Wetland Warrior weekend work parties. With the help of the rain gear, The Crest will host more programs and work parties in the fall, winter and spring, particularly serving those with diverse class and racial backgrounds. After coordination and planning, students and community members will engage fully and happily with wetland restoration while staying warm and dry.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Detailed budget document: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14p2DHQX0XepdFJMtcQeJH1zuMm7GaGEaqywhy0sVyzQ/edit?usp=sharing;
The Crest Board Vote in Support of Grant: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G63ZscOhQjxZtEsei9zrQqJXN7kko-oAx7G-zmhKxSg/edit?usp=sharing;
The Crest website: https://thecrestatwillowwitt.org;
Willow-Witt Ranch website: www.willowwittranch.com;

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Schwemm Foundation
Amount funded: $5400
Funds awarded to support Western Pond Turtle research in the pond, building a blind for observation without disturbing the turtles, constructing basking platforms for the turtles, and removing invasive Yellow Flag Iris from the pond. Dr. Michael Parker from the SOU Biology Dept and graduate students are conducting the ongoing research. The research will track turtle behavior in a high elevation winter environment using radio telemetry. There is little information on the subject due to the unusual high elevation of the breeding population. The platforms and blind were constructed and installed in the spring of 2020. There have been initial efforts to remove the invasive Yellow Flag Iris, but repeat management will be necessary for full eradication.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
Initial amount funded and completed: $1589
Second year funding: $5400
Funds supported the construction of a Wetland Interpretive Trail along the edge of a wetland meadow at Willow-Witt Ranch. The trail consists of 10 numbered stops corresponding to an informational pamphlet about the wetland. Trail construction and improvement was completed with help from the local Boys and Girls Club.

Phase two, funded but not yet completed, will involve three large illustrated interpretive signs about the wetlands, placed along the trail. The signs will explain the ecological function of wetlands, springs and the Western Pond Turtle population. These are currently being designed by a local educator and artist.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Training Citizens for Shoreline Citizen Science

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Training will be provided to volunteers in six citizen science projects that survey the Oregon coast, with special emphasis given to the state's five marine reserve areas.

Primary Contact Person *

Phillip Johnson

Primary Contact Email Address *

phillip@oregonshores.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-754-9303

Lead Organization *

Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-0952202

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Astoria

Project Location (County) *

Clatsop

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

6650

Total Project Cost *

13300

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The primary goal is to strengthen and extend five citizen science projects monitoring the Oregon shoreline, organized by the CoastWatch volunteer program of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition. A secondary goal is to focus these citizen science projects with particular effectiveness on the shoreline bordering the state's five marine reserves. An underlying goal is to engage more Oregonians with shoreline resources and their protection, and provide public education about coastal science and natural history.

The five projects are: marine debris survey; sea star observational logs; beachgrass survey; participation in the Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network; and the King Tides Project (through which volunteer photographers document the extent of the year's highest tides to reveal current vulnerabilities and preview the potential impacts of sea level rise).

Objectives are to increase volunteer participation in these citizen science projects; improve the consistency and accuracy of their results; report these results back to coastal communities, particularly those in the vicinity of marine reserves; gather information relevant both to resource managers and the public with regard to Oregon's marine reserves; and, in the course of training prospective volunteers, provide education about coastal resources to a broader public through the availability of webinars and (pandemic safety considerations permitting) public education events.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The general outcome sought is active participation in the five citizen science projects: both more volunteers engaged, and more consistent and accurate results. Subtler and less measurable outcomes would be broader public knowledge about the resources being monitored, and a stronger connection between the public (and especially coastal communities) and the marine reserves.

Specific outcomes:
Training webinars for all five citizen science projects
Background educational webinars on the underlying subject matter for all projects
Combined viewership of webinars (both during original presentation, and subsequently as available on CoastWatch YouTube channel): 500.
Volunteer training field trips for all projects for north, central, and south coast locations (if coronavirus safety restrictions prevent this throughout the grant year, then more limited field trips with social distancing for key volunteer leaders will be substituted)
Marine debris survey: Volunteer teams established on five additional sites (over and above three existing ones), consistent monthly results meeting standard protocols by the end of the grant period.
Sea star survey: Regular observation logs for at least 10 sites, including for the nearest feasible location for each of the marine reserves.
Marine Mammal Stranding Network: All CoastWatchers and many members of the public well aware of reporting procedure for beached marine mammals; consistent reports for beached mammals throughout the coastal region.
Beachgrass survey: At least 15 volunteers actively assisting OSU scientists in tracking hybrid beachgrass populations throughout central and north coastal areas.
King Tides Project: At least 150 volunteer photographers producing at least 450 documenting highest reach of year's highest tides.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

This project builds on the existing CoastWatch Program, through which more than 1,550 volunteers have adopted one-mile segments of the Oregon shoreline, monitoring them for a variety of phenomena, both natural changes and human impacts. (More than one person can adopt a mile.) In addition to gathering reports by "mile adopters" on their individual miles, CoastWatch organizes a total of eight more specialized citizen science projects, five of which would be supported through this proposal. Volunteers for these projects need not be CoastWatchers (in some cases, for instance, an entire school will engage in a project), and those CoastWatch mile adopters who participate don't necessarily do so on their miles.

The project proposed here, then, doesn't involve anything entirely new, but rather expands CoastWatch's capacity to recruit and train volunteers so as to cover more of the coast through the citizen science surveys and obtain higher-quality observations from the volunteers.

There is no escaping the fact that volunteer recruitment, training, and follow-up is personnel-intensive. The costs here are almost entirely to support an increase in the CoastWatch volunteer coordinator's available time by .1 FTE ($4,900). It should be stressed that this staff person is currently part-time; this project would increase her available hours and thus CoastWatch's capacity; this would not simply fund her existing salary and personnel expenses. The remainder of the budget is primarily for her increase in travel ($600—the real cost of travel for this project would be considerably greater, but we can piggyback much of her travel on other work she will be doing); printed materials ($250) and facility rental ($400—to be used on actual facilities if it is possible to hold public events within the grant year, otherwise to help cover the costs of producing and hosting Zoom webinars); plus 10% administration ($500). Note: The costs cited above represent the funds being requested here. They will be matched from other sources. The volunteer coordinator, for instance, will actually devote .2 FTE to this work.

The project design is simple. Training webinars will be produced for each of five citizen science projects. (We have hastily put together informal webinars on various citizen science projects since the pandemic closed off in-person trainings, but for this project we will develop much better-produced webinars that will stand alone for the long-term as online training resources.) Likewise, background educational webinars will be produced that provide scientific information about the focus of each citizen science project, and explain how the information being gathered will benefit scientists and resource managers (for example, a webinar on rocky intertidal ecology supporting the sea star monitoring project). These webinars, too, will be available online; information about their availability will be widely disseminated.

The volunteer coordinator will lead in-person training sessions for each project (some training sessions may cover multiple citizen science projects), at least one each for the north, central, and south coasts, at locations near the marine reserves. If pandemic precautions are eased, these will include a public educational presentation, followed by a field trip for prospective volunteers. This may not prove possible within the grant year. In this case, the coordinator will instead lead more limited field trips for a few volunteer project leaders in each region, using appropriate social distancing. If this comes to pass, we will also do additional online webinar presentations in lieu of the public events.

There is no rigid timeline for this project, but the intention is to produce the training webinars within the first half of the year, to allow plenty of time for their use in attracting and training volunteers, and for the volunteer coordinator to then follow up with volunteers to assess the quality of their observations and keep them on track for regular monitoring. By the final quarter of the year, if not earlier, the results for each project should show in the consistency and quality of reports from volunteers. The schedule for the field sessions will depend somewhat on the course of the coronavirus; if it appears that public events may be possible later in the year, we will delay for that purpose, whereas if it is clear that public gatherings will be unlikely throughout the year, then these will be done as soon as possible after the training webinars are available. The public education webinars will be spread evenly through the year, about one every two months.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The entire focus of this project is on citizen involvement in community science, and specifically on monitoring, one key strategy in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Some of the information gathered will directly serve research efforts (for example, contributions to the Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network, the MARINe sea star monitoring survey, the hybrid beachgrass survey conducted by scientists at Oregon State University). More generally, participation in the citizen science projects, and the public education efforts supporting this, will increase public understanding of coastal resources and vigilance over these resources, particularly the marine reserve areas. This monitoring will include habitats of some species of special concern within the Oregon Conservation Strategy, including species of mussels, sea stars, and sea urchins.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

As noted above, the funds sought are 50% of the project. All costs would be evenly divided between OCRF and matching sources. Again, as noted above, this would break down as $4,900 in personnel costs for an increase in the part-time hours of the CoastWatch volunteer coordinator; $600 toward travel for the project; $250 for printed materials; $400 for facility rental and/or online webinar costs; $500 for administration.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

We work with many other organizations, who co-sponsor events and in some cases adopt miles of their own. These include the Haystack Rock Awareness Program, Shoreline Education for Awareness, Audubon chapters, and "Friends of" groups for each of the marine reserves. CoastWatch will have the sole leadership for this project.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

As noted above under the narrative, the timeline is not rigid. Training webinars will be accomplished within the first half of the project year; public education webinars will be dispersed evenly throughout the year; field trips for training purposes will take place after the training webinars are available; public events are probably not going to be possible until the fall, if at all. By the final quarter of the project year, results in the form of greater participation levels, consistency, and quality of reports should be visible, and the volunteer coordinator will be doing follow-up to address shortcomings.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

https://oregonshores.org/coastwatch

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

As noted, the project currently proposed builds on the existing CoastWatch Program. This is the only program in the nation through which the citizens of a state have adopted its entire shoreline. CoastWatch was founded more than 25 years ago, and during that span thousands of Oregonians (and not a few regular visitors resident in other states) have participated. There are currently more than 1,550 CoastWatch volunteers. (Anyone familiar with volunteer programs will understand that not all of these are diligently following through on their commitment to regularly monitor their adopted mile, but many hundreds are.) The program is stable and long-running, and can be expected to continue indefinitely into the future. Every year CoastWatchers produce many hundreds of reports, over the years many thousands; all since 2006 are publicly available through the website. CoastWatch also organizes special citizen science projects, including the five which are the subject of this proposal. These projects produce results that vary in quantity and quality. The Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network and the scientists working on the beachgrass survey have been very pleased with the contributions made by our volunteers, for instance, whereas we recently abandoned one protocol and are just beginning to train on another where the sea star survey is concerned.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

For the past 10 years, CoastWatch has collaborated with the Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators to produce the annual Sharing the Coast Conference (held at different locations up and down the coast each year). This has been a valued source of information and networking over the years for hundreds of CoastWatch volunteers, on one hand, and the educators and docents who belong to NAME, on the other. Presentations and field trips at this annual, two-day event have deepened the skills of CoastWatch observers, and enriched the knowledge of those who teach about the shoreline (often the same people, since many teachers and interpreters are also CoastWatch mile adopters). The conferences have always been successfully organized and received consistently enthusiastic feedback from participants. We just missed holding the 11th annual event in March, falling afoul of the coronavirus-induced shutdown by a couple of weeks. The conference will be resumed once pandemic restrictions allow.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Middle Fork Willamette "Watershed Rangers"

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Middlefork Willamette Watershed Council is proud to bring the “Watershed Ranger” program to our local watershed community. This program, similar to the National Park Junior Ranger program, will provide area specific environmental education materials and activities, free for children and families living in our watershed community. These activities will act as a guide that will help get local families out into our watershed and educate them about their local environment, helping to create a new generation of environmental stewards.

Primary Contact Person *

Cora Bordley

Primary Contact Email Address *

Cora@middleforkwillamette.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

4848447334

Lead Organization *

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

26-0813058

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Lowell

Project Location (County) *

Lane

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

5900

Total Project Cost *

5900

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

This project aims to make the outdoors more accessible to underserved and minoritized populations by developing accessible child-friendly, self-guided environmental education programming and activities, we are calling “Watershed Rangers”– similar to that of the National Park Service Junior Ranger program – that can be accessed and downloaded for free by families in the community. Additionally, with OCRF funds, grant materials will be translated into Spanish so they are accessible to the Spanish speaking community. OCRF funds will also be used to print and distribute materials to local community centers, schools, and libraries to ensure those who lack access to the internet, or home printing can access the materials. Through the distribution of these materials we will educate the community on their local environment, and empower new environmental stewards from traditionally underrepresented groups. We aim to provide these materials to at least 100 participating families, reaching approximately 300 students, from diverse demographics living within our watershed community by the end of June 2021. Additionally, we intend to solicit feedback from program users so we can continually improve on the program and better fit community needs, especially during these changing times.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The program goal is to empower local families and children to access their public lands, and learn about the environment they live in. This will help to create environmental stewards in previously unreached demographics. Stewards that we hope will feel empowered to engage in the restoration and stewardship of their public lands in the future. The number of individuals accessing the downloadable materials from our website, and receiving physical materials will measure success. Additionally, all of the materials will solicit feedback from the community so we can continue to improve on the program, and tailor it to community needs. Community feedback, and future engagement with the watershed council will also help to measure program success.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

With the help of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council would like to help connect people with their local ecology and public lands by developing a virtual and remotely available “Watershed Rangers” program - accessible environmental education materials that can be accessed for free by families in our community. The Watershed Council has co-created and administered the Watershed Rangers program for over a decade, however it is designed to be administered in traditional and outdoor classrooms in an in-school setting. During COVID-19, we need to adapt our program to meet current community need. Students and parents are in remote learning/work environments from their homes, and families are spending more time together. The COVID-19 modified Watershed Rangers program will allow families to access outdoor spaces safely with each other, while creating a guide so families can learn together and meaningfully and safely connect to outdoor spaces.

Many community members feel as though they cannot access natural spaces due to a lack of transportation. This program would also provide an easy to understand guide of parks, public lands, and natural spaces accessible by public transit in eastern Lane County, so all families feel as though they are able to access and recreate on their public lands.

This program would provide a safe and accessible way to get low income families, who are disproportionately people of color, outside in their communities and involved in Oregon outdoor recreation where they are traditionally underrepresented. Hands on educational opportunities outside of school are incredibly important. Children that get involved in outdoor activities from a young age are more likely to continue to pursue outdoor recreation opportunities through childhood and into adulthood. Additionally, low cost accessible activities are of critical importance to families during times of economic recession, like we are in now. We aim to develop materials that families can use during these uncertain times, within the safety of their own quarantine teams.

Outdoor recreation activities, like hiking, fishing, and camping are often taught by parents to children. Those who weren’t exposed to these activities often feel unable to engage their own children in these activities due to a lack of experience. These materials would provide a structured guide to help those who lack confidence or expertise introduce their children to Oregon’s natural resources and ecology.

By engaging families with their local environment we are also helping to build a community of diverse land stewards. By understanding their local ecosystems and ecology, people have a better understanding of why they should care about issues of conservation, responsible recreation, and restoration. When children are taught to be environmental stewards, they not only influence the behavior and patterns of their parents, who will vote and act accordingly, but will also grow up with an environmental mindset that will influence their behavior for the rest of their lives.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Low income urban communities, communities of color, and other underserved demographics are often unfairly denied access to public lands due to lack to knowledge, resources, and transportation. By providing accessible educational resources and user-friendly guides to public transportation, we will empower these communities to take advantage of their public lands and open spaces. Additionally, by engaging these communities we are building a new generation of environmental stewards, from communities traditionally underrepresented in conservation and stewardship activities.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funds will be used to pay for staff time to work with partner agencies and develop user-friendly, consumer-appropriate virtual content, to translate materials to provide accessibility to the Spanish speaking community, and for appropriate design in order to make the materials visually and culturally appealing. Additionally, OCRF funds will be used to pay for printing and mailing so materials can be distributed to those who lack access to printing, internet, or are otherwise unable to access materials from our website.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Lane Transit District
Forest Service
Army Corps of Engineers
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Twin Rivers Charter School
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Oakridge School District
Lowell School District
Pleasant Hill School District
Springfield School District

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Because of the sheer amount of existing educational materials that we already have access to, the program materials will be able to be developed quickly, by modifying existing curriculums and educational guides. Additional time will be required for translation of materials into Spanish, and to format to a virtual platform. For our timeline we envision January - March 2021 for material conversion, translation, marketing and distribution. March - June 2021 is the period where we aim to get 100 families, and gather their feedback. By the end of June 2021 we hope to have gathered appropriate feedback from our users, and update the program accordingly, improving it to better fit the needs of our users and community members.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Though our Discover Your Watershed program, we have actively brought together exploration, education, and volunteering to community members of all ages through a variety of events and activities. We often pair Discover Your Watershed activities with planned, active, or completed habitat restoration projects. These include our “Fermenting Ideas” Science Pub-inspired presentations that engage the community in learning topics relevant to watershed history, culture, and stewardship in a casual atmosphere; restoration project tours on foot, by boat, and by bike; as well as volunteer events such as western pond turtle habitat improvement, planting native trees at our Love Your Middle Fork day, or our ever-popular “fish rescue” where participants net and re-locate aquatic species out of harm’s way at active floodplain restoration sites. These events have attracted hundreds residents of all ages, including families. COVID-19 makes these types of events more difficult. In doing our part to reduce the spread, we want to engage COVID-19 safe family bubbles and take this opportunity to target underrepresented populations to provide healthy outlets to families, as well as to increase diversity within the environmental movement.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Through our Watershed Rangers and Stewards program, we have engaged teachers and youth grades 3-12 in place based, environmental education, using outdoor classrooms to explore STEAM topics while meeting Next Generation Science Standards. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we regularly engaged 600+ students, teachers, partners, volunteers, and parents each year through multiple field and classroom lessons throughout the school year.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve Virtual Field Trip Series

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Many folks to the Cape Perpetua area just pass through on the busy highway, maybe stopping for a picture at an overlook. Others who stay to enjoy the sites and natural beauty are unaware of the marine ecosystem they are witnessing and unfortunately, this can put visitors at risk of injury to themselves and to marine wildlife. Many visitors don't realize how their actions can disturb wildlife. For example, a visitor might see a harbor seal pup and think it is in danger when it is not or when tidepooling they may not realize the amount of life that lives in the intertidal zone and walk on fragile areas. This poses a challenge and responsibility for scientists and community members to communicate the importance to people who have not experienced the nearshore for themselves. Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and Oregon Coast Visitors Association have identified a need to educate visitors on recreating responsibly as it has been well documented that visitors can have negative impacts on wildlife. The solution for this dilemma is promotional content that conveys the purpose and benefits of caring for our nearshore marine ecosystem for future generations. This is a project of the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve Collaborative to develop 5 short videos, creating a virtual field trip series with a stewardship mindset. We will work with a variety of our Collaborative partners, experts, business owners and locals including them in the videos to educate and share stories. Each video will include the following components: 1) cultural history; 2) ecological significance; 3) one or more nearshore strategy species; 4) land-sea connection; and 5) recreation opportunities emphasizing safety for both humans and animals, including citizen science opportunities.

Primary Contact Person *

Tara DuBois

Primary Contact Email Address *

capeperpetuacommunications@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-828-7473

Lead Organization *

Cape Perpetua Collaborative (Fiscal Sponsor: Discover Your Northwest)

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Fiscal sponsor, Discover Your Northwest EIN: 91-0921955

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

This project will focus on areas adjacent to the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve & Protected areas on the central coast of Oregon, spanning between Yachats and Florence. Each of the 5 videos will focus on a specific location, including: 1) 804 Trail/Oregon Coast Trail in Yachts, Oregon; 2) Cape Perpetua Day Use Area/Stone Shelter; 3) Strawberry Hill; 4) Heceta Head/Sea Lion Caves; and 5) Intertidal Zone.

Project Location (County) *

Lincoln and Lane Counties

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

11 / 01 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

7500

Total Project Cost *

18500

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goal of this project is to develop 5 short videos to foster conservation and collaboration, increase awareness of recreating responsibly with invitations to join in ongoing citizen science projects, encouraging stewardship from the land to the sea in and around Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve and Protected Areas, connecting stories to strategy species and bringing alive the cultural and historical significance of the focus areas.

Specific Objectives include:
1) Move forward the goal of fostering conservation and collaboration for scientific exchange, management, awareness, and stewardship from the land to the sea in and around the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve and Protected Areas.

2) Engage with Collaborative partners to participate in the filming of the 5 short videos. Partners would include, but not limited to PISCO, Portland Audubon, Surfrider Foundation, Tribal representatives, scientists and researchers from OSU, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Marine Program and local businesses.

3) Invite media coverage and conduct outreach to share the 5 videos through several media outlets, including sending out a press release highlighting the virtual field-trip series, posting on the Cape Perpetua Collaborative website, YouTube/Facebook accounts, promote through our newsletter and Collaborative partners, reaching the public, decision makers and educators for possible integration into their virtual teaching. We will also add these 5 short videos to our Hospitality Packet provided to lodging and recreational businesses.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The virtual field trip series will result in the following achieved outcomes:

- Visitor Knowledge: Educate visitors on the significance of special areas and strategy species within the Cape Perpetua region, accelerating the pace at which Oregonians are made aware of, appreciate, understand and support the natural and cultural values.

- Visitor Experience: Connect the visitor to place, improving the visitor destination experience; provide visitor orientation, such as safety and education messaging; work to change negative visitor behaviors and experiences.

- Environmental/Natural/Historic Resource Preservation: Reduce negative environmental impacts by people; promote conservation messaging and stewardship actions.

How will success be measured?
Impacts and merits of the project will be measured through both on-the-ground recreational impacts to target species and habitats and safety of users and wildlife as well as through the number of project partners, communication pathways and individual user views of the videos. Project partners such as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department conduct ongoing and periodic surveys with strong indicators around each of the primary outcomes (Visitor Knowledge, Visitor Experience, Resource Preservation). Over the long term, project partners will be evaluating baseline indicators for these existing surveys and comparing those into the future beyond the project period to fully realize empirical data of project success. For the immediate project period however, through collaboration with the Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA), we will establish measures for recreational and tourism impacts informed by OCVA's Strategic Advisory Group, a body of state and federal agencies that helps to inform OCVA on tourism impacts and resource management issues. Other NGO and agency project partners will convene early in the project to refine shared goals and milestones for these measures. Further, we will seek the expert knowledge of front-line park and management staff to document anecdotal evidence of the project's impacts and refine accordingly throughout the project period. Other measures of project success will focus on more formal communication and audience metrics including but not limited to: number of project partners and digital platforms, number of individual views, number of trainings, social media engagement, etc.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Through a comprehensive visitor intercept survey, the Cape Perpetua Collaborative has learned that visitors who are not from Oregon are less aware of the local gems. Oregon Residents who visit, and return again and again, seek new opportunities to connect with the area. And while the Yachats Chamber of Commerce does a great job of directing visitors to new spots, visitor's seeking outside adventures are unable to find the assistance they may need during their outside experience. We want to encourage visitors to appreciate the significance around them and become stewards.

This project will focus on the development of 5 short videos, creating a virtual field trip series highlighting the following locations: 804 Trail/Oregon Coast Trail in Yachats, Oregon, Cape Perpetua Day Use Area/Stone Shelter, Strawberry Hill, Heceta Head/Sea Lion Caves and the intertidal zone. For each video/location we will include the following components: cultural and historical significance, ecological highlights, one or more strategy species, land-sea connection and recreational opportunities.

Project Objectives for 2021:

VIDEO 1: 804 Trail/Oregon Coast Trail in Yachats, Oregon
- Cultural: History of the 804 (previously native footpath, main road through Yachats, private property, local trail for all)
- Ecological: Cape Perpetua Marine Protected Area adjacent to trail
- Strategy species: Black oystercatcher, ochre sea star, dungeness crab
- Land-Sea: Connection between local communities and the natural environment
- Recreation: Hiking 804 and links to other local trails, tidepooling, agates, citizen science opportunity to participate in summer sea star surveys

VIDEO 2: Cape Perpetua Day Use Area / Stone Shelter
- Cultural: Amanda Story & Civilian Conservation Corps
- Ecological: Heceta Banks, upwelling, Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve & Marine Protected Area
- Strategy species: Gray whales, rockfish, Chinook/Coho salmon
- Land-Sea: Coastal rainforest (ocean feeds forest and vice versa), connectivity
- Recreation: Land-based whale watching, wildlife viewing and hiking

VIDEO 3: Strawberry Hill
- Cultural: Siletz territory, part of Neptune system, ocean out further when natives inhabited the area
- Ecological: Harbor seal haul out, Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve, PISCO long-standing research, bio-indicators intro
- Strategy species: Pacific harbor seal, brown pelican, gray whales
- Land-Sea: Adjacent to two wilderness areas
- Recreation: Tidepooling, agate hunting, wildlife viewing

VIDEO 4: Heceta Head / Sea Lion Caves
- Cultural: History of the Heceta Head Lighthouse
- Ecological: largest sea cave in North America, nesting birds, Cape Perpetua Marine Protected Area and Important Bird Area
- Strategy species: Stellar sea lions, California sea lions, marbled murrelet, peregrine falcon, pacific herring
- Land-Sea: lighthouse shining light giving baring to sailors
- Recreation: hiking, beach day, lighthouse tours, experiencing largest sea cave in north America, share opportunity to participate in seabird colony nest monitoring of cormorants & Marbled Murrelet surveys during the summer

VIDEO 5: Exploring Tidepools, The Intertidal Zone
- Cultural: History of nearshore and intertidal zone has been used from First Nations to today
- Ecological: Most biologically diverse intertidal area in Pacific northwest, sea star wasting disease
- Strategy species: Ochre sea star, California mussels, purple sea urchin
- Land-Sea: Intertidal zone offers connection between the land and sea
- Recreation: Safe and responsible tidepooling, tread lightly, watch your step, the tidepools are an explosion of life, pet etiquette, share opportunity to get involved in sea star surveys during summer low tide series and marine debris surveys

Project Targets of Success in 2021

Visitor Knowledge:
- 50% of visitor awareness of marine reserve, protected areas and strategy species.
- 95% compliance of rules and regulations impacting strategy species and target habitat.
- 75% of visitors are informed of recreational and wildlife safety prior to visitation.

Visitor Experience:
- Destination managers report significant increases in visitor orientation and satisfaction through annual surveys.
- Emergency responders and wildlife managers report increased visitor safety through annual metrics and reporting.

Environmental/Natural/Historic Resource Preservation:
- 25% growth in individuals engaged in partner stewardship programs and volunteer actions.
- Decrease in visitor / wildlife disturbance interactions as reported by natural resource agency partners in addition to anecdotal reporting from resource and recreational managers on the ground.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The work described in this proposal would directly address the goal of the Oregon Conservation Strategy which is to "improve engagement of the public in wildlife watching, hunting and fishing opportunities and improving educational outreach and engagement of the public." As noted previously in this proposal, we will develop 5 short videos with each including the following components to engage mindful recreation on Oregon's central coast: 1) cultural history; 2) ecological significance; 3) one or more nearshore strategy species; 4) land-sea connection; and 5) recreation opportunities emphasizing safety for both humans and animals, including citizen science opportunities.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Total project cost: $18,500 ($11,000 already secured from City of Yachats, Oregon Community Foundation, Lazar Foundation, Oregon Coast Visitors Association and Oregon Surfrider Foundation)

$7,500 requested OCRF funds would assist in supporting coordinator time and the development of 2 of the 5 short videos.

A breakdown of the budget is as follows:
Development of 2 short videos: $6,000
Coordinator time: $1,500
TOTAL: $7,500

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

We would engage with Collaborative partners to participate in the filming of the 5 short videos through on camera interviews highlighting the focus points for each video: cultural, ecological, strategy species, land-sea connection and recreational opportunities. Partners would include Portland Audubon, Surfrider Foundation, Tribal representatives, scientists and researchers from OSU, Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and local businesses.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

November 2020 – August 2021: Coordinate with partners and film crew to schedule filming time, interviews and locations. November 2020: Develop first video in preparation for 8th Annual Cape Perpetua Land-Sea Symposium January – August 2021: Develop remaining 4 videos in the series. August 2021 – October 2021 and beyond: Outreach and promote the virtual fieldtrip series.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve Ambassador Program

The Cape Perpetua Collaborative launched the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve Ambassador Program at Smelt Sands State Park in Yachats, Oregon last summer. Volunteers were on hand to answer questions, promote safety and tide pool etiquette as well as enhance awareness of local resources and history, bringing alive the richness of Yachats, a small coastal town adjacent to the Cape Perpetua Marine Protected Area.

The Cape Perpetua Collaborative trained 6 active volunteers for the Ambassador Program who dedicated 82.5 hours to connect with folks in a meaningful way. They engaged with 1087 people during the weekends, July - September, 67% of which were from Oregon, 9% from Washington, 5% from California and others from a spattering of states.

The highlights of conversations between the volunteers and visitors included questions around tidepooling, educators grabbing information to share with their students on the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve, Amanda Trail and First Nations History, old family stories, chatting with valley folks who were escaping the smoke and canine friends appreciated the dog treats. The volunteers handed out self-guided activities such as a tidepool scavenger hunt and coloring sheet as well as stickers for visitors to take a memento home.

Our partners who helped make this program possible include Oregon State Parks, Overleaf Lodge, City of Yachats, View the Future and the American Cetacean Society – Oregon Chapter.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Cape Perpetua Visitor Intercept Survey

To better serve the visitors to Cape Perpetua and the communities surrounding the reserve, the Cape Perpetua Collaborative worked with Surfrider Foundation and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to lead a two-year effort to better understand Cape Perpetua visitors.

The survey was distributed for two years from November 2017 through November 2019 at five sites near Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve. Survey distribution followed a visitor intercept method and was randomized by time of day, day of the week, and sampling site order. The survey instrument was designed for comparability with previous surveys along the Oregon coast.

A total of 919 surveys were completed, 8% of which were coastal residents, 33% non-coastal Oregon residents, and 59% non-Oregon residents. Survey respondents were analyzed as a whole and also dis-aggregated into coastal residents, non-coastal Oregon residents, and non-Oregon residents for analyses.

Through this two-year intercept survey of Cape Perpetua visitors, we were able to capture the first comprehensive understanding of Cape Perpetua visitors' marine reserve awareness, demographics, trip characteristics and opinions.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Smoke Creek Wildlife Riparian Habitat Restoration

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The following proposal is submitted by Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) on behalf of Oregon's wildlife, and specifically, Oregon's declining mule deer population. This project, titled "Smoke Creek Wildlife Riparian Habitat Restoration," is an ongoing project aimed at protecting and restoring riparian habitat. This area is located on Ecotrust Forest Management (EFM) land just southwest of Fort Rock, and Northeast of Chemult, and lies between U.S. Hwy 97 and OR Route 31. The proposed project is to construct approximately 1 mile of wildlife and cultural resource friendly buck and pole fence around the riparian zone of influence of Smoke Creek (T26S R12E Sec 26) on EFM's Fort Rock property.

Primary Contact Person *

Mary Jo Hedrick, State OHA Secretary

Primary Contact Email Address *

wildbio59@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-576-4006

Lead Organization *

Oregon Hunters Association

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-0834195

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [x] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Silver Lake

Project Location (County) *

Lake County

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

/ /

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

/ /

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

8000

Total Project Cost *

90000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The goal of the Smoke Creek project is to improve wildlife forage quality and quantity, nesting and fawning habitats and water availability through meadow, aspen and riparian restoration, enhancement, and protection.
Objective 1: Improve or maintain deciduous vegetation quality and quantity and improve nesting and fawning habitats by removing encroaching juniper and conifers that have expanded into meadow, aspen and riparian habitats.
Objective 2: Improve or maintain deciduous vegetation quality and quantity and improve nesting and fawning habitats by fencing meadow, aspen and riparian habitats.
Objective 3: Improve water availability and quality by protecting spring and riparian habitats with wildlife and cultural friendly buck and pole fencing.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Approximately 1 mile of wildlife and cultural friendly buck and pole fence will have been constructed around upper Smoke Creek. Livestock will have been excluded from the riparian zone of influence. Riparian deciduous vegetation quality and quantity will improve. Water quality will improve, and water availability may increase. Photo plots will be placed within the fenced area to monitor vegetation response.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Flowing streams and rivers are a key feature of the Oregon landscape. Flowing water habitat also includes springs, seeps, and intermittent streams. Riparian zones are the dynamic interface between land and flowing water. The plant assemblages and communities in riparian zones help buffer inputs and the cycling of nutrients. The vegetative composition and structure of riparian zones is a function of elevation, stream gradient, floodplain width, and disturbance events such as flooding. Riparian vegetation is comprised mostly of deciduous trees and shrubs, such as alders, aspen, cottonwood, willows. Conifers, such as pines, firs, and spruce, dominate some riparian zones at higher elevations. Riparian shrublands may include willows, red osier dogwood, western birch, hawthorn, alder, and chokecherry. Riparian meadows are dominated by grasses, sedges, and rushes. Riparian habitats provide food, cover, and breeding sites for many fish and wildlife species throughout the year. A landscape-scale analysis of south-central female mule deer summer habitat use was conducted by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and this study found intensity of use by mule deer peaked closer to intermittent and perennial streams. Although water is an important resource, stream vegetation associations likely provide higher quality, quantity, and diversity than surrounding areas.
EFM acquired the 25,680-acre Fort Rock industrial timberland property in December 2018. The property is within the Fort Rock Wildlife Management Unit and includes mule deer summer and winter range habitats and contains an ODFW-identified mule deer migration corridor. The property is located within the Cabin Lake/Silver Lake road closure area to protect winter mule deer from disturbance and reduce negative impacts to mule deer winter range habitat. The property was intensively managed timberland and it has undergone numerous commercial tree removal and chipping operations. The property is located within and grazed in common by 150 -175 cow/calf pairs annually July 1 to September 30 within the Fremont Winema National Forest Mowich pasture (79,450 acres) in the McCarty Allotment. The previous landowner permitted sheep grazing on the property, but because there is no fence between the Mowich pasture, and the property, trespass cattle use continues. EFM has continued sheep grazing with reduced numbers (1000 ewes/lambs) from mid-May through end of August. A new fence along the Mowich pasture boundary has reduced but not eliminated trespass cattle use.
On EFM's property, two springs, Smoke and Mush flow year-round with associated low flow creeks. Two other springs, Road and Pothole flows have declined with little to no surface water. Livestock grazing and conifer encroachment has decreased native deciduous tree and shrub cover as well as grass and forb abundance. Overall diversity within the springs and creek riparian zones has decreased and this area is in need of further restoration.
EFM has partnered with OHA and ODFW through the mule deer initiative program to remove encroaching conifers, which promotes deciduous vegetation within the spring and creek riparian areas. To date, this habitat enhancement project has removed encroaching conifers on 20 acres and fenced 2 miles around Smoke Creek, Mush, Road and Pothole springs with wildlife and cultural friendly buck and pole materials. OHA provided 530 volunteer hours to build the fence at pothole spring. Ongoing removal of encroaching conifers on 10 acres and 1.5 miles of wildlife and cultural friendly buck and pole fence is under construction along lower Smoke Creek. OHA is providing funding ($15.000.00) and volunteer labor 500 volunteer hours to construct a portion of the fence on lower Smoke Creek. The funds being requested from the OCRF would be used to purchase a portion of the buck and pole fencing material toward the construction of approximately 1 mile of buck and pole fence along upper Smoke Creek, which will connect Smoke Creek Spring and lower Smoke Creek fences. The addition of the upper Smoke Creek fence will provide riparian habitat protection from the spring source to 2.5 miles downstream along the watered portion of Smoke Creek.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

EFM's Fort Rock Property falls within two ecoregions the Northern Basin and Range and the East Cascades.
The project is directly connected to the Oregon Conservation Strategy by addressing key conservation issues: Water Quality and Quantity through forage enhancement and habitat protection in a riparian area.
The proposed project is designed to protect and enhance aspen woodlands, ponderosa pine woodlands, flowing water and riparian strategy habitats.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF contributions, if approved, will be used to purchase fencing materials that will be used to fence upper Smoke Creek.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Ecotrust Forest Management Landowner: Coordination with partners. Project implementation and monitoring.
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife: Funding through the Mule Deer Initiative. Biological and GIS technical support.
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Funding through small grants. Project photo monitoring.
Partners for Fish and Wildlife: Funding.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

The current project to remove encroaching conifers and fence lower Smoke Creek is fully funded and under implementation. Contracted thinning and fencing will be done by the end of October. OHA volunteer construction of a portion of the fencing will be done late Spring 2021. This OCRF funding request is to fence upper Smoke Creek. Funding for this project is pending on funding cycles. EFM will be requesting funding from ODFW through the Mule Deer Initiative in Spring 2021. OWEB and Partners for Fish and Wildlife funding will be applied for as funding cycles and funds become available.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

OHA annually puts $300,000 per year, and 30,000 volunteer hours toward wildlife habitat projects across the state of Oregon.
In 2019, OHA led a buck and pole fencing project aimed at restoring a meadow by excluding livestock from Pothole Spring, on United States Forest Service (USFS) land, west of OR Route 31 and north of Wastina Butte. This meadow remained accessible to native wildlife, and forage quality will now improve over time, which will further benefit many species. OHA assembled a large group of volunteers and partnered with other groups such as the Oregon youth Challenge Program Cadets to complete the project. Five hundred volunteer hours went into this project so this spring and surrounding meadow will provide resources for Oregon's wildlife, and enjoyment of many generations for recreation.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

OHA played a leadership role in 2019's large-scale habitat enhancement multi-project effort in the Ochoco National Forest. Participating organizations included, OHA, NWTF, RMEF, BHA, Pheasants Forever, USFS, TRCP, USFS and ODFW. Titled, All Hands, All Brands, for our Public Lands. OHA coordinated with Monty Gregg, USFS, Ochoco Wildlife biologist, who originally proposed the themed-event, at OHA's 2018 Summit. Projects included, aspen stand exclusion-fencing. Fencing around Aspen stands, and meadows is critical-habitat for wildlife. Volunteers split into three different teams, for work in three different locations. The work is important because Aspen stands across the west are not regenerating due to impacts from domestic cattle and wildlife, and are a critical component to a vibrant and healthy habitat for all wildlife.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Students Stream, and Stewardship

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Students, Streams, and Stewardship addresses the overwhelming need to connect our community members and local youth to the natural world, enhance environmental literacy among students, and increase community involvement in hands-on stewardship and conservation projects that empower students with a sense of civic responsibility. Student recruitment will be focused on the underserved students of our area to educate these underserved communities about our public lands and how to recreate responsibly. This project has the unique ability to connect students with current projects in long-term monitoring and large-scale restoration that is already being funded at the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council. Funding requested for this project will directly support our education programs to connect these students to the natural world and promote outside learning in hands-on science, outdoor exploration, writing, and art. Now, more than ever, it is critically important to create opportunities to connect youth to the natural world.

Primary Contact Person *

Kolleen Miller

Primary Contact Email Address *

kmiller@restorethedeschutes.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

(541) 390-3665

Lead Organization *

Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

91-1757262

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Bend

Project Location (County) *

Deschutes

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 04 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

7500

Total Project Cost *

31700

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

With our Student Stewardship Projects we plan to work with 1000 elementary and middle school students from underserved schools in Central Oregon. We will coordinate multiple high-quality field days for students to participate in streamside stewardship and educational activities and hands-on riparian restoration projects. With over 75% in secured funding and collaborative partnerships, we are well positioned to begin implementing place-based stewardship activities in the 2020 calendar year. Our Student Stewardship Projects will accomplish the following:
• Engage 1000 students in stream studies to help them learn about fish habitat conditions, riparian ecology, water chemistry, and fish biology.
• Teach students about the biological and chemical conditions in and around Whychus Creek and the Deschutes River.
• Utilize proven teaching strategies to guide students through the scientific method to develop hypotheses and conduct tests about stream health.
• Guide students to develop a sense of place through spending time outside along Whychus Creek and the Deschutes River.
• Evoke a sense of stewardship and hands-on skills in riprarian restoration for Whychus Creek and the Deschutes River.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Short-term outcomes: Through their participation in the project, participants:
- Will be able to describe conditions necessary for stream health.
- Will be able to describe specific riparian and instream conditions for Whychus Creek or the Deschutes River.
- Will be able to describe the ways in which humans can either contribute to or detract from stream health.
- Will be able to list three components of riparian restoration.
- Will have the skills and awareness to participate in a riparian restoration project.

Medium-term outcomes: Through their participation in the project and from one week to six months following participation in project, 75% of participants:
- Will have revisited their stewardship site to monitor project success.
- Will have volunteered at least one day to conduct additional project maintenance at their stewardship project site (i.e., plant watering, weed pulling)
- Will understand the importance of watershed stewardship and they will be empowered to participate in additional future restoration projects.

Long-term outcomes: Within two years after the project, 75% of participants:
- Will have made a positive impact on riparian habitat conditions
- Will have influenced at least one peer to modify their daily activities to better support riparian health
- Will have an informed sense of ownership and long-term commitment to ongoing watershed stewardship.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Students, Streams, and Stewardship

Program Description

Students, Streams, and Stewardship will create meaningful regional conservation education opportunities for underserved students in Central Oregon. By participating in Students, Streams, and Stewardship, students will acquire valuable watershed knowledge and will develop an increased sense of environmental awareness and an empowered sense of stewardship. Students, Streams, and Stewardship is designed to guide students to develop informed environmental literacy and all program activities are aligned with the priority learning strands of the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan (OELP). State and regional research has determined that education for environmental literacy helps students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to understand complex environmental issues. Providing underserved students and students with special needs with quality opportunities to directly experience their watershed through empowering hands-on conservation activities can improve students' overall academic performance, self-confidence, how they interact in recreation spaces, stewardship responsibility, and sense of connection to the natural world.

Upon receipt of funding, we will use support from OCRF to coordinate program delivery for 1,000 local students from underserved schools in Bend and La Pine. Students, Streams, and Stewardship will provide streamside learning activities in art, science, and writing that will guide students to develop regional watershed knowledge and gain new stewardship skills. Students will discover macroinvertebrates, create streamside art, learn about water use and conservation, gain knowledge about the Oregon spotted frog and critical habitat needs, and develop an inspired sense of place through outdoor exploration and discovery. Specifically, our learning activities are designed to guide students to examine current local watershed issues of concern, learn about native fish and wildlife habitat, understand the role that water plays in Central Oregon, and become familiar with local organizations involved in restoration, conservation, and watershed management. Students will also have to opportunity to participate in riparian plantings at our restoration sites and be a part of something that will benefit themselves and their community for many years to come. Our goal is that these activities will instill a sense of stewardship in our young participants so that they will be motivated to help take care of our wild places when they recreate in and educate others about them.

Inclusion Strategy

In order to ensure that our programs are inclusive and effective for all students, we have partnered with the Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN). All of our educators have attended hands-on trainings with CODSN in order to ensure that our program activities are accessible for students with a wide range of learning styles, physical mobility, and cognitive development. We have built the relationships necessary to coordinate educational field trips with teachers and students from underserved, Title I, and rural schools. We are targeting these schools as many of their students have not previously had opportunities to participate in positive, hands-on environmental education projects such as Students, Streams, and Stewardship. With high numbers of at-risk youth, students from these underserved schools will benefit greatly from the type of experiential education activities that Students, Streams, and Stewardship will coordinate. By coordinating Students, Streams, and Stewardship with these schools we will:

- Engage youth in active and informative conservation and stewardship activities,
- Provide teachers and students from underserved schools with hands-on opportunities to develop valuable confidence and enthusiasm for participating in conservation education activities outside,
- Work with CODSN and Life Skills teachers throughout Central Oregon to coordinate effective educational program delivery strategies for students with special needs,
- Work closely with our partners, including the Children's Forest of Central Oregon, to participate in Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity trainings to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students,
- Help teachers and students accomplish Oregon Department of Education state standards and common curriculum goals through regionally relevant, hands-on conservation education,
- Embed watershed content and curricular materials into future lesson plans, thereby reaching students for years to come and maximizing our educational impact, and
- Empower students with all levels of skills and abilities to develop the knowledge, and confidence to become future leaders in natural resource conservation.

Conclusion

By utilizing proven hands-on education strategies, Students, Streams, and Stewardship makes education more tangible, meaningful, and empowering for students. The knowledge and skills that participating students will gain from Students, Streams, and Stewardship is connected to the streams and landscape around their home. Research has shown that the type of hands-on education embedded in Students, Streams, and Stewardship not only increases students' enthusiasm for learning but also improves graduation rates and prepares students for college or a successful transition to the workplace. Students, Streams, and Stewardship will provide a long-term asset to students as well as to the community members within Bend, Sisters, and La Pine. In addition to enhancing educational opportunities for underserved students, Students, Streams, and Stewardship will help improve watershed health for the benefit of the whole community by increasing civic responsibility for stream stewardship and watershed protection into the future.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Our projects are large-scale, on the ground stream restoration. We combine this with bringing students to these sites to actively participate in these projects. We also hope to focus on underserved communities to engage and expand the number of diverse user in these areas. We hoe that by bringing these students to these sites and having them participate in active restoration they will feel ownership over these public lands. We have a lot of curriculum we work off of but for every project we create materials specifically designed for that area. This project will bring new materials, data sheets, and science project created specifically for the place and audience.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Funds will directly support the Education Director and Education Coordinator salaries as well as travel and minimal supply costs. These funds will also help to purchase riparian plants for restoration plantings with students. In the event that over the course of this project we are limited to only virtual learning platforms and no in-person field trips, this funding will help support the creation of virtual programs that mimic our field experiences that will be led live while connecting virtually with teachers and their class.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

U.S. Forest Service- Restoration project partner when projects fall on Forest Service land,

Bend Park and Recreation District- Land owner and restoration project design collaborator.

Children's Forest of Central Oregon- Education partner that helps connect our programs to different educator groups throughout Central Oregon.

Deschutes Land Trust- Property owner and restoration project partner for projects that fall on their properties.

Central Oregon Disability Support Network- Education and training of staff.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Winter 2020-2021- Project Activities: Identify project locations, track education guidelines, create specific curriculum based on virtual, distance learning needs. Description: By connecting with our Restoration Project Manager we will identify the projects that most need help and would be the most conducive to involving students in. We will purchase plants based on these decisions. In the event that students are still distance learning, we will create virtual programs and modify our curriculum. Spring 2021- Project Activities: We will work with teachers and partners to schedule field activities and stewardship projects. We will coordinate our field activities appropriately. Description: We will conduct project coordination with established partners and schools, focusing on schools and students with a higher need. We will conduct stewardship projects and hands on activities with students. Summer 2021- Project Activities: We will create new partnerships and summer program planning. Description: We will create partnerships with community groups working directly with underserved populations. By utilizing these new partnerships, we will build upon our plan for our summer educational program. We will implement our plans for summer educational program and measure our programmatic outcomes and effectiveness. Fall 2021- Project Activities: We will work with teachers in Bend, La Pine, and Sisters as well as and new partners to schedule and carryout stewardship projects. Description: Using our newly gained partnerships, we will schedule field activities, focusing on giving priority to underserved communities. Winter 2021-2022 Project Activities: We will continue coordinating with partners from the Deschutes National Forest, the Deschutes Land Trust, the Children's of Central Oregon, and Bend Park and Recreation District. We will continue working with these partners to ensure that we continue to create inclusive programming. Description: Utilizing the knowledge of our partners, we will go through our curriculum with a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens to ensure that all students can learn and engage effectively. We will also use lessons learned from the previous summer to strengthen and build our summer programming. We will evaluate the program and debrief successes and failures with our program partners and teachers

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

In 2019 we successfully lead and organized an event called The Watershed Summit: Students Speak. This event engaged 160 students from around Central Oregon to share their conservation-based projects with students from other grades, schools, and locations. We had grade schoolers as young as third grade and as old as seniors in high school sharing their watershed projects to their peers. Some of these groups we coordinated and led year-long projects with. For example, we led a watershed science project with 30 3rd graders that started with in class presentations and culminated with a watershed art project. This group participated in hands-on science based field trips and one stewardship planting field day at the end of the year. The students then shared their experiences at our watershed summit through a video and skit that they created.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

In 2018 our education department lead a school year long project with a group of 20 High School Juniors from Sisters High School. The purpose of this project was to deepen each students sense of place and stewardship through streamside, nature inspired, art projects. These students met 3 times a week for 5 weeks with our staff at different sections on Whychus Creek. This project titled “Our place on the creek” utilized the easy access to Whychus creek from the High School by having the students bike to the site everyday. These students were inspired by the creek and the nature around them to create art pieces with a variety of mediums. Students created everything from printmaking pieces, watercolor, batiks, to song and poem writing. The art was then shared at a gallery presentation with middle school students

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Grande Ronde Stream Restoration Youth & Community Based Reserach

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Grande Ronde Model Watershed is requesting funds to further youth and community engagement tied to stream and ecological restoration in the Grande Ronde River subbasin. NE Oregon has seen an immense amount of restoration over the past decade, but none of the restoration partners have staff dedicated to community education, nor will the funders pay for such a position. Education is a critical missing piece of the restoration puzzle and Grande Ronde Model Watershed is acting as the catalyst in this situation, trying to build a youth and community research program that once established, a portion can be maintained by local high schools, with assitance from partners that have committed to helping. These funds would provide Pat Edwards, a Portland State University professor with decades of experience in taking students to rivers to sample macroinvertebrates, with enough money to make 3 trips to the Grande Ronde in 2021 to work with two pilot high schools, La Grande and Cove High Schools, and their science teachers. He would mentor them in the classroom and the field, teaching them how to collect macroinvertebrate data on local streams. It would also give the three teachers that have agreed to be partners in this project a small stipend to provide them with an incentive to work with their administrators and parents to get permission for a field trip and the logistics involved with such a trip. COVID-19 has restricted most field trips, but rural communities such as these have flexibility as long as extra planning is in place for safety precautions. Some funds would go a local environment education expert to maintain the communication, trip planning, school engagement, field trip preparation, participation and outreach to other high schools. Lastly, some funds would be for buses to take the students out to field sites.

Primary Contact Person *

Kayla Morinaga

Primary Contact Email Address *

kayla@grmw.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-663-0570

Lead Organization *

Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

47-0909658

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

La Grande

Project Location (County) *

Oregon

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2020

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

6500

Total Project Cost *

14100

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The overall goals and objectives of this youth and community engagement project are to further local investigation into watershed health, stream restoration and help build a sense of pride in becoming responsible stewards of the land. Other more specific are to:
1) Engage with local high school science students and provide career connected learning opportunities for their students by introducing them to the topics or watershed science, stream restoration, fisheries biology, wildlife biology, ecology, hydrology, geomorphology, engineering, archaeology, geospatial information systems (GIS), unmanned aerial systems (UAS), environmental coordination, construction, policy, and natural resource conservation.
2) Provide more opportunities for students to learn outside of the classroom.
3) Within 5 years we would like each high school in the Grande Ronde basin to take on monitoring macroinvertebrates in a stream near their school, in particular a stream that has had restoration performed on it in the past or is planned to be restored in the future, and track changes over time. With these funds we'd be focusing on two high schools only, La Grande and Cove High Schools, as our pilot program since we have science teachers at each school that are eager and willing to take this on with our help.
4) Provide long term reliable macroinvertebrate data at consistent locations. The data collected is done so with a scientifically proven method, published in the journal PLOS ONE, by our project partner Pat Edwards, titled, "The Value of Long-Term Stream Invertebrate Data Collected by Citizen Scientists,"
5) The data collected will be used by classes for the own analysis and interpretation with new data collected at least once per school year, but the GRMW will house their data on their website as well, where it is publicly available, along with links to Pat Edwards resources from Portland State University, field guides, data sheets, and reports. If ODFW would like the data to be stored elsewhere we would be happy to comply.
6) Instill a sense of stewardship in natural systems and students gaining a sense of urgency and importance in preserving nature in its wild and natural ways under a changing climate.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Success will be determined by hosting Pat Edwards for three trips to the Grande Ronde River subbasin in 2021, working between the two high schools we are in partnership with. We'd like for the science teachers and administrators to conclude that the effort is worthwhile and they'd like to continue sampling macroinvertebrates with their classes each year into the future with the assistance of volunteers. For us restoration practitioners involved, we would like to expose students to careers that they had not previously considered or known about and potentially steer them in a direction of furthering their education and finding a career in a related field of study. We also hope that these students go home and tell their parents about their experience and spark conversations about restoration, fish, invertebrates, water, etc. These conversations are an important piece of outreach that we cannot always effectively do, especially since the need for stream restoration is arising in areas nearer towns. We are experiencing high mortality rates in juvenile salmon smolts in the Grande Ronde Valley and an uptick in high intensity flooding in the winter and spring months over the past decade in the same footprint, so action seems unavoidable, even if it is just levee setbacks or floodplain easements. Success is the wide distribution of a positive experience from these students, staff and volunteers involved to people throughout our rural communities.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Grande Ronde Model Watershed program coordinates stream restoration activities on public and private lands throughout the Grande Ronde basin in northeastern Oregon. This basin is home to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Snake River Chinook Salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and native lamprey, regionally sensitive Columbia spotted frogs and freshwater mussels. The Upper Grande Ronde River spring/summer Chinook salmon population is rated as being at high risk and non-viable in its current state. The population's high-risk rating is partially attributable to reduced spawner distribution, with less than half of the historical major spawning areas occupied. More than 50% of the historical habitat for this population is considered highly degraded. The Upper Grande Ronde River population has the poorest abundance/productivity status of all populations in the Grande Ronde/Imnaha Rivers Major Population Group and in the Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (NWFSC 2015). The GRMW implementation partners have completed hundreds of projects, increasing habitat access many miles of streams and enhancing floodplain function and water storage and healthy riparian vegetation. From 2015 through 2019 the program has paid out over $18,000,000 in funds for restoration projects and design, largely from Bonneville Power Administration and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, for improving fish habitat for the ESA listed species above, which in turn benefits the entire ecosystem. With many of these funds going to projects on National Forest land the local community is often skeptical of restoration when it comes to private lands, especially lands that could potentially affect them in some way, and oftentimes they view it as having negative effects. The GRMW program partnered with the US Forest Service Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and was successful in obtaining a Youth and Community Engagement Grant and provided $7,600 to purchase enough field equipment for a classroom, and for a trip to the Grande Ronde Basin for a professor from Portland State University, Pat Edwards, to come teach us his successful macroinvertebrate sampling protocol he has been using with students for over 20 years. He provides all of his time as an in-kind contribution so we just have to pay for his travel. The one trip that Pat made to the Grande Ronde in 2020 was in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and we were restricted from gathering large groups of people for trainings so this trip did not meet the full intent of the trip since local educators could not attend. The Forest Service grant has covered all of the gear we need and we are now seeking additional funds to implement the project even better than initially intended.

Aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling was chosen for the intent of this grant because they are bioindicators, meaning the species present in a system indicate water quality of the area. For instance, some macroinvertebrates are pollution intolerant so they are not detected in areas of poor water quality (high chemical or pollution content, high water temperature, low dissolved oxygen in the water, etc.), but you will find them in areas of good water quality. The most sensitive species are mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies, so when these species are present you know the system is functioning adequately. As this community research program grows and more segments of stream are restored and others get the chance to start functions as intended after a restoration kick start, the macroinvertebrate should improve therefore indicating an improvement in water quality.

In a changing climatic situation and with two imperiled fish species in the upper Grande Ronde, Endangered Species Act listed Snake River Chinook salmon and steelhead, it is more important than ever to get youth intimately engaged in the importance of healthy river systems and maintaining two fish species that have been coming back "home" to this basin for thousands of years. These students are our next generation of land stewards and we hope to provide the opportunity for every high school student in the Grande Ronde basin to touch foot in one of these streams eventually, and that is the first step, while also providing them with career connected STEM learning opportunities. We need to foster a sense of connection to the land and water and desire to preserve anadromous fish returns for all of time and we have to start locally.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The streams of the Blue Mountains ecoregion have been adversely affected by historic logging, splash dams, mining, railroad construction, road construction overgrazing, fire suppression and forests out of their historic range of variability, and land use change, and overallocated water, mainly for agricultural use. The project we have proposed for community based research fits into the Water Quality and Quantity Key Conservation Issue, Goal 1: Maintain or restore quality in surface and groundwater to support a healthy ecosystem, support aquatic life, and provide fish and wildlife habitat, in particular Action 1.4. Monitor structural, compositional, and functional parameter of aquatic habitats for changes in water quality. This project is intended to collect useful data for students and teachers to analyze, but also for restoration practitioners and researchers to use to better understand the macroinvertebrate assemblage and change over time since very few organization have the funds to collect this data locally, which will indicate an increase and decrease in water quality over time.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [x] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

These funds would provide Pat Edwards, a Portland State University professor, with enough money to make 3 trips to the Grande Ronde in 2021 to work with two pilot high schools, La Grande and Cove High Schools, and their science teachers. He would mentor them in the classroom and the field, teaching them how to collect macroinvertebrate data on local streams. It would also give the three teachers that have agreed to be partners in this project a stipend to provide them with an incentive to work with their administrators and parents to get permission for a field trip and the logistics involved with such a trip which is more difficult with COVID-19. Some funds would go a local environment education expert to maintain the communication, trip planning, school engagement, field trip preparation, participation and outreach to other high schools and some funds would be for buses trips.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Project partners are:
Portland State University – providing salary for Pat Edwards to mentor high schools, natural resource practitioners and volunteers on his sampling methodology as well as time for trips to the La Grande area.
La Grande High School – providing staff the opportunity to work with us on the pilot project as well as flexibility to work in field trips during the COVID-19 pandemic in a safe manner
Cove High School - providing staff the opportunity to work with us on the pilot project as well as flexibility to work in field trips during the COVID-19 pandemic in a safe manner
US Forest Service – providing the outdoor classroom for most of these restoration projects as well as staff time to help with classes in the field
US Fish and Wildlife Service – providing staff time for helping with classes in the field
Greater Oregon STEM – providing a link between GRMW and schools/teachers throughout the Grande Ronde basin and support in the way of outreach and staff assistance if needed
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – providing staff time for helping with classes in the field

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

The project is due to start when the snow melts from the higher elevation sites we'd like to visit and flows decrease to a safe level for students to get in the creek only up to their knees. We'd like to have one visit with Pat to either of the two school in the 2020/21 school year and take students in the field. The other two trips from Pat would be in the fall of the 2021/22 school year, in hopes that COVID-19 infection rates have decreased to a level that it is easier to have students travel on a bus to a field site. The Cove High School students would have the opportunity to walk to a local stream if a bus trip is not feasible. Grande Ronde Model Watershed would have the data in hand and posted on our website in a publicly accessible place by the end of 2021.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Please visit our website for more information on our program and some photos of recent project areas: https://grmw.org/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Beaver Creek Dam Fish Passage Project (https://grmw.org/data/project/479/) - This project sponsored by the GRMW program opened up 12 miles of stream to anadromous fish upstream of a tall concrete barrier that was put in place in 1915 to maintain the La Grande Reservoir, a backup water source for the city of La Grande. The new structure provides the reservoir to function as originally intended and a steelhead redd was found by ODFW staff upstream of the old barrier the season following construction, which was a pleasant surprise for all.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Bird Track Springs Restoration Project on the upper Grande Ronde River (https://www.lagrandeobserver.com/news/restoration-taking-place-near-bird-track-springs/article_8ee853e9-754f-515b-b243-e7100eec2716.html and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-unfIwPIWU) - This project was sponsored by the GRMW program and it enhanced fish habitat on 1.9 miles of stream on public and the neighboring private piece of land. Numerous side channels, were created and the main channel was moved to what is thought to be its more natural flow pattern, lots of wood was added and deep pools were dug. Immediately following the 2 year construction window recreationalists starting fishing the restored segment of stream and caught fish in numbers and size that they never had before, indicating that the habitat was sufficient for the fish to feel safe in and grow.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Phase 1: Tillamook Coast "Fish It, Dig It, Catch It" Equipment Library

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Phase 1 of the Tillamook Coast “Fish it, Dig it, Catch it” Equipment Library project focuses on introducing and providing recreational and educational opportunities for those who have historically experienced barriers to participating in outdoor recreation. Barriers may include lack of knowledge and/or financial barriers in obtaining the necessary equipment needed for activities such as crabbing, clamming and/or fishing. To address these barriers the project will provide kits of fishing, clamming, and crabbing equipment available for free check-out through the Garibaldi Library Branch and available to any member of the community who has a Tillamook County Library card. Our goal is to increase and diversify fishing, crabbing and clamming opportunities and participation in outdoor recreation along the Tillamook Coast.

Primary Contact Person *

Alix Lee

Primary Contact Email Address *

alix@tbnep.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-322-2222

Lead Organization *

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

02-0584357

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [x] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Garibaldi

Project Location (County) *

Tillamook

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

6500

Total Project Cost *

8000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Goal 1: Increase the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users who participate in recreational fishing, clamming, and crabbing along the Tillamook Coast.

Objectives: Reduce financial barriers by providing the necessary equipment free through library checkout project.

Goal 2: Introduce Oregonians on the Tillamook Coast to recreational fishing, crabbing, and clamming.

Objectives: Inform and communicate opportunities and equipment available to the community; Instill awareness and appreciation of recreational opportunities through educational material.

Goal 3: Promote Recreational Opportunities on the Tillamook Coast

Objectives: Engage with partners to market and promote recreational fishing, clamming, and crabbing opportunities, equipment check-out and educational material; Promote through our partners social media, TEP's partnerships with the school districts, newsletters and local newspaper; Utilize existing social media platforms to share information and build relationships with the public.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

We expect this project to result in:
- An increased awareness of recreational opportunities on the Tillamook Coast for local community members; and
- An increase in fishing participation amongst local community members.

We plan to evaluate the project by:
- Collecting and analyzing participants' surveys pertaining to their overall experience;
- Collecting and analyzing social media data to determine reach/engagement impacts;
- Surveying library personnel to determine project effectiveness and improvement opportunities; and
- Reviewing check-out logs to obtain exact number of times equipment was checked out.

In order to measure the success of the project, we would expect to see a consistent number of check-outs as well as an increase in the amount of use from the start of the project. We would develop and implement surveys to track the public's opinions, attitudes and participation related to their experience using the equipment provided by this project.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP), with the assistance of the Tillamook County Library - Garibaldi Branch, will lead the project that will provide fishing, clamming and crabbing kits, as well as, educational and informational brochures for use by the local community in Tillamook County with a valid library card. The process will be very similar to checking out a book, but instead it will be equipment. The library already has the checkout system in place which makes for an easy and immediate implementation and startup of this project.

The primary goal of the proposed project is providing outdoor recreational and educational opportunities to those who have experienced the inability to previously participate due to a financial barrier in obtaining the necessary equipment needed for activities such as crabbing, clamming and/or fishing. Our secondary goal is to increase and diversify fishing, crabbing and clamming opportunities and participation along the Tillamook Coast by making information and equipment more easily accessible to the general public.

Access to equipment and information has been noted as one significant barrier for new participants. The Tillamook Coast is ripe with opportunities to participate in fishing, crabbing and clamming recreation, especially here in Garibaldi, the only piece missing for community members is access to equipment. Tillamook County has held a steady percentage level of 15-20 of the population falling below the poverty level for the last 5 years. The current estimate for 2020 is approximately 19.7 percent. This project would allow access to almost one-fourth of our entire community that otherwise would not be able to participate.

The project intends to provide 10 equipment kits for each activity - crabbing, clamming, and fishing - readily available to the general public for checkout through the Garibaldi Library. There will be 10 individual units per kit per activity: for example, ten rod/reels, ten crab rings, ten clam guns and shovels, etc. We can include an itemized budget with this application for more exact information. To encourage use of the loaner equipment by all ages we will also have available for checkout 5 practice casting game kits for the younger children that include fake plastic fish. In addition, we have also included in the budget a handful of adaptive fishing equipment items for those with disabilities who may not have the financial means to afford such equipment. These items will also be available for checkout through the library.

The close proximity of the Garibaldi library branch to the Port of Garibaldi and other local areas for use of the equipment make this project capable of great success, the Port of Garibaldi itself has 3 fishing/crabbing piers where users can recreate within walking distance of the library. One of which will be fully ADA accessible upon it's remodel completion in early 2021. They also have easy access down to the clamming beds near the Historic U.S. Coast Guard Boathouse pier on 12th Street. Nearby in Rockaway Beach, Lake Lytle offers excellent trout fishing opportunities from the dock or by boat.

We anticipate the amount of times the equipment is checked out from the Library to increase steadily throughout the year and jump significantly during high season. We also anticipate seeing an increase in use as the word gets out in the community through social media marketing campaigns, as well as, other marketing outlets with the help of our partners. This project will be successful through the joint efforts of not only TEP and the Library but the City of Garibaldi and the Port of Garibaldi who will both donate time for marketing and project management and implementation.

The Port of Garibaldi will also provide the educational and information brochures at their onsite information booth.
All equipment training for our partners and volunteers will be scheduled with Amanda Boyles who is our local ODFW Angler Education Coordinator after the grant is approved. Partners will work together for equipment upkeep, check-out processes, cleaning, and replenishing of broken/misplaced equipment and consumable materials such as sinkers, bait, terminal tackle, informative handouts, etc.

All information, handouts, and supplemental materials have been provided by Amanda Boyles and we will receive continual updates when available. These materials will answer the popular 'where-to/how-to' questions that encourage participation in recreational fishing and shellfishing activities.

If this pilot project goes well and proves to be successful, we would like to expand the project to Phase 2 which would include having kits available at all Tillamook County Libraries for additional opportunities for localized use throughout the County. Upon success of Phase 1, we would apply for additional grant money to fund Phase 2 of this project.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Our project advances the above priorities of both "opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation" and "opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users" by providing an opportunity to equip families with the tools and knowledge they need to enjoy a day, and up to two weeks, of fishing, clamming or crabbing in our cherished waterways. Many families do not own their own equipment but want to get out in the local community and enjoy nature and our beautiful Tillamook Coast. Providing equipment with no fee attached will appeal to community members from diverse backgrounds and of all ages throughout the community because the financial barrier will be eliminated.

The project also introduces and encourages families who may not have had access to equipment to spend more time outdoors together especially during times where there are not many acceptable activities for families to participate in due to COVID-19. Providing these resources will enhance the lives of our fellow community members. Also, by engaging the entire family, we hope to inspire the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts, and foster a passion for outdoor recreation, and cultivate an appreciation and love of nature that will last a lifetime.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Project partners are requesting $6,500 in funding from OCRF which will be used to purchase clamming, crabbing and trout fishing gear to create "kits" available for loan from the Garibaldi Branch of the Tillamook County Library. Ten kits for each category will be available for checkout. OCRF funding will be used to purchase the following equipment:

Clamming:
Clam Gun (5)
Clam Shovel (10)
Clam bag (10)
Buckets (30)

Crabbing:
Crab Ring (10)
Crab Accessory Kits with rope, crab buoy, line weight with snap, mesh bait bag, crab gauge, 4-way harness kit (10)
Extra Crab Gauges (200)
Extra Lock Snaps (100)

Trout Fishing:
Practice Casting Rods and Fish (5)
Tackle Box (10)
Fishing tackle including monofilament line, spinners, hooks, split shot, bobbers, and PowerBait (enough for 10 kits plus extras for replacement)
Adaptive fishing Equipment including rod holders, crank hand device, and TY-ALL

Funding from OCRF will also be used to purchase two large cabinets to store gear when not in use.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Our main partner will be the Garibaldi branch of the Tillamook County Library system working with Bill Landau, the Manager of Branches. The Garibaldi branch will host all the equipment, their staff will donate time to create and utilize a check-in/out system that also will track the overall use, and provide educational material to the users. They will facilitate users signing a liability waiver and filling out a survey to track demographics and overall experience.

Port of Garibaldi Manager, Mike Saidon, committed to an in-kind contribution from the Port of Garibaldi. They will purchase 5 locally sourced clam guns and donate them to the library for this project. They will also help with marketing and provide brochures in their onsite information booth.

ODFW Angler Education Coordinator Amanda Boyles has committed to providing 10 fishing poles and informational maps/ brochures (including pdf versions for future printing) of clamming maps for Tillamook Bay and Netarts Bay, How to crab, How to clean and keep your catch, and Trout and Salmon fishing informational sheets.

TEP and the City of Garibaldi will donate their time for both marketing and project implementation/management as well as printing future materials as necessary.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

1/1/21 – Begin purchasing equipment and gather/print informational supplies for distribution to the Library and the Port of Garibaldi. 2/1/21 - Partners begin marketing the equipment check-out opportunity through social media, websites, school districts, newsletter and newspaper. 3/1/21 - Begin check-out service from the library. Begin progress tracking and survey collection. 6/30/21 – Provide mid-progress report. 12/31/21 – Provide final report.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Explore Nature represents a collaboration of seven non-profit organizations working together to provide meaningful, nature-based events that highlight the work to conserve Tillamook County's natural resources and preserve natural resource based industries.

The partnership includes TEP; Friends of Netarts Bay – Watershed, Estuary, Beach and Sea; Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve; Lower Nehalem Watershed Council; Lower Nehalem Community Trust; Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council; and North Coast Land Conservancy.

Explore Nature events include guided hikes, walks, paddles, and stewardship activities that are designed for visitors and local community members. We believe that if we share our passion for this area, we can inspire people to love and protect it as well. Our goal is to encourage a stewardship mindset so that when someone is living in, working in or visiting Tillamook County, they will have positive interactions with our natural areas and less impact on the environment. Explore Nature has grown from 16 events in 2016 to over 60 events per year in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Since 2016, TEP Partnership has managed the shared grants and contracts for the Explore Nature program. Funding has included, Travel Oregon Forever Funds, Tillamook County Cultural Coalition and yearly grants from Visit Tillamook Coast. TEP manages the contracts for joint marketing, branding, social media management and event photography for the program.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

The Tillamook County STEM Partnership is a collaborative effort between organizations throughout Tillamook County who provide & promote hands-on, inquiry-based science programs. The Partnership includes Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Tillamook School District #9, Friends of Netarts Bay WEBS, Tillamook Bay Community College, Oregon State University Open Campus, & Garibaldi Cultural Heritage Initiative. Together we are working to advance education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

The vision of the Tillamook County STEM Partnership is that all students in Tillamook County will have equal access to high-quality programs in the field & classroom that promote real-world problem solving. TEP has been convening the Tillamook County STEM Partnership since 2019 to help expand program participation & increase the capacity of the partner organizations. Currently the Partnership provides two county-wide field trips, offers programs for all TSD#9 K-8 students, & has begun expanding programs to include Neah-Kah-Nie & Nestucca Valley School Districts' students.

Tillamook County STEM Partnership offers programs that help students make connections to the world around them through hands-on experiences. Currently the partnership is working on a suite of virtual field trip packages and activities to provide place-based programming for students during distance learning.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Inspiring Personal Stewardship: Educating Wild & Scenic Rogue River Recreators about Bears

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Located in Curry and Josephine Counties, the 84-mile Wild & Scenic section of the Rogue River is jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Drawing thousands of recreators annually from across the U.S. and abroad, especially during peak season (May to October), the river offers ample recreational activities including rafting, backpacking and hiking. As the river is surrounded by pristine wilderness, wildlife viewing opportunities abound, particularly the chance to observe black bears. While viewing black bears from a distance is a sought-after experience, irresponsible recreation due to lack of recreator education has led to an increase in negative human black bear interactions. The source of these conflicts is largely human provided attractants such as food, garbage and other scented items, made available to bears by recreators who lack knowledge about bears and their role in keeping them from gaining access to attractants. These attractants have drawn bears onto boats, into campsites and other areas where recreators frequent, increasing the likelihood of food conditioning and habituating bears to humans and consequently the risk of harm to humans. This project aims to fill that void in education in three ways: 1) by offering informational brochures to recreators at the Rand Ranger Station, 2) by posting signage at Rogue River National Recreation Trail trail heads, campsites and boat ramps and 3) through targeted social media and online advertisements. The brochures, signage and advertisements will be written in Spanish and English to reach a broader audience. Educating recreators about how to behave and reduce attractants in bear country will not only inspire personal stewardship, but will also help to conserve bears for future generations as well as reduce the burden on Oregon's wildlife agency of having to respond to human-bear conflicts.

Primary Contact Person *

Kelly Peterson

Primary Contact Email Address *

kpeterson@humanesociety.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-869-0422

Lead Organization *

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Rogue Riverkeeper

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

53-0225390 (HSUS) 93-1246139 (Rogue Riverkeeper)

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

n/a

Project Location (County) *

Jackson and Curry

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

04 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

6000

Total Project Cost *

9000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

This project has three main goals, the first of which is to foster human-bear coexistence. At present, recreators can submit a form reporting conflicts with bears to the USFS. The objective of this first goal is to reduce the number of reported conflicts driven by human behavior.

The second goal is to encourage responsible recreation and inspire personal stewardship of the Wild and Scenic river corridor and its wildlife. The objective is to increase recreator knowledge of bear ecology and how to behave in a manner that prevents conflicts with bears as well as what steps they must take to reduce attractants.

The third and final goal is to reduce barriers to recreating safely along the Wild & Scenic Rogue River by making the educational information about bears in the brochures, at the trailheads and in social media advertisements available in English and Spanish.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

This project will have three main outcomes: 1) a reduction in the number of human-bear conflicts driven by human behavior, 2) greater knowledge among recreators of bear ecology and how to behave responsibly around bears and 3) a more accessible, safer recreational experience.

The first outcome will be measured by comparing the bear conflict reports from this season (May-October 2020) in which there is reportedly little to no education about bears available, with the reports from next season (May-October 2021) when the brochures will be distributed and the signs and social media advertisements will be in place. The number of reports of conflict driven by human behavior will be compared.

The second outcome will be a greater knowledge among recreators of bear ecology and how to recreate responsibly. This will be evaluated by the number of brochures distributed at the Rand Ranger Station during the 2021 season (May-October), as well as the number of signs at access points to the Wild and Scenic Rogue River corridor and in areas where humans tend to congregate, including trail heads, boat ramps, and campsites within the Wild & Scenic Lower Rogue River.

The third and final objective will be measured by the number of languages the informational brochure, signs and advertisements will be translated into. The goal is for the content to be made available in two languages, English and Spanish, the two most prevalent languages spoken in Curry and Josephine Counties.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Rogue River in Southern Oregon was one of the original eight rivers named in the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. It has two Congressionally-designated National Wild and Scenic sections-the Wild & Scenic Upper Rogue River and the Wild & Scenic Lower Rogue River. The Lower Rogue River flows 84 miles from Grants Pass to Gold Beach, roughly speaking. The eastern section of this portion is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) while the western section is managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The two agencies operate from an area management plan established in 1972.

The combination of epic beauty, remote wilderness, and exciting rapids makes the river a popular destination for rafters and kayakers alike, from across the U.S. as well as across the globe. Tens of thousands of visitors float the river each year. Permitted outfitters and guides run trips down the river, while others seek permits from the BLM, an especially competitive process during peak season (May-October). Permits are picked up at the Rand Ranger Station, just south of the Grave Creek boat ramp where most rafters and kayakers begin their adventure. An additional attraction to the area is the roughly 40-mile Rogue River Trail which parallels the river. Hikers can access the trail at three trailheads. Both hikers and floaters have the option of staying in the handful of remote lodges or camping at designated and dispersed campsites along the river. The Wild & Scenic Lower Rogue River boasts ample wildlife viewing opportunities, from river otters to black-tailed deer to bald eagles. Black bears also inhabit the area and are a popular attraction.

There is a long history of human-black bear conflicts along the Rogue, typically resulting from humans not properly securing attractants. Issues include bears climbing onto boats to access attractants such as human food that has been left out, as well as coming into campsites to access food and garbage that is not stored properly. Lethal management of bears was proposed this season to address these kinds of conflicts, but there was significant opposition from the public, and research shows that nonselective removal of bears, such as with a hunting season, does not reduce conflicts. Instead, increasing public education and preventing conflicts from occurring in the first place is a more effective, publicly accepted, and easier way to solve the issue.

Reports from the field indicate that there is a lack of education about bears being provided to recreators, both on the river and trails, leading to irresponsible recreation. Human-bear conflicts can be prevented by increasing outreach and education to recreators about bear ecology and how to behave in a manner that keeps bears from becoming habituated to humans and food conditioned to human-use areas. For example, recreators can store food and garbage in bear-proof containers, remove any scented items from their rafts and kayaks, and not leave any food or scented items in their tent during the night. Recreators must also know the proper response and actions to take if and when they do come into contact with a bear.

Overall, recreators must have a better understanding for the extent and seriousness of bear conflicts in the area as well as the role they must play in order to prevent them. This project aims to fill that educational gap by posting signs in areas of the river where humans congregate most, including trail heads and boat ramps. It also aims to provide floaters with information when they check-in for their permits at the Rand Ranger Station, and hikers and others through social media advertisements, about bear ecology and how to recreate responsibly. The brochures, signs and advertisements will be available in both English and Spanish, reducing barriers to recreating in the area for Spanish speakers.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project aims to educate, engage, and inspire recreators of the Wild & Scenic Rogue River. It will advance the above priorities by introducing Oregonians to bear ecology and behavior through educational materials made available in both Spanish and English.

The Rogue River, including sections of the Wild & Scenic portion, is Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) #093 of the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS). The OCS also includes flowing water and riparian habitats as a "strategy habitat." Conserving and protecting the Lower Rogue River bears from preventable conflicts with humans directly support the goals of the OCS as bears play a critical role in a thriving ecosystem. Their behavior also benefits a wide range of other wildlife, including Rogue River Chinook and Coho salmon, two OCS strategy species.

Protecting black bears from habituation to humans is important to retain the integrity of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River's "Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV's)" as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. As stated in the Act, "The Act requires that the managing agency protect and enhance the ORVs, which are a river's scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values that are rare, unique, or exemplary on a regional or national scale."

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Funding will go towards three phases of the project, the first of which is creating the content for the brochure, signs and social media ads. This will largely be driven by staff at the Lead Organizations, but all partners will be encouraged to contribute to content development. Special attention will be paid to crafting effective messaging targeting human behavior change. The content will be translated into Spanish. The second phase will include designing the brochures, signs and social media ads which the Lead Organizations will create (in consultation with ODFW, USFS, and BLM). The third and final phase will involve posting the social media ads, as well as production and shipping of brochures and signs, placing them in designated areas, and maintaining signs throughout the peak season.
Spanish translation (500 words x 30 cents per word)= $150, 20,000 brochures= $2,500, 55 8.5 x 11 signs= $2,350, targeted social media ads during peak season= $1,000, staff time= $3,000. Total= $9000

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Establishing and maintaining relationships is a hallmark of the work of the HSUS. As an example, we are currently partnering with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State Police on a wildlife training for law enforcement in the state of Oregon, to be held in November 2020.

For this project, we have worked, and will continue to work, closely with Rogue Riverkeeper, Cascadia Wildlands, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Our non-governmental partners provide a local perspective and connections and will contribute to content creation. The U.S. Forest Service will provide the bear conflict report forms to the Lead Organization for evaluation, and the BLM will distribute the brochures at their Rand Ranger Station. We will need to establish a partnership with an individual or group able to translate the brochures into Spanish.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

There are four major milestones towards completing the project and achieving the results: 1) the content is approved by all partners and translated into Spanish, 2) the brochures, signs and social media advertisements have been designed, 3) the brochures and signs have been produced and 4) all materials have been shipped and reached their destinations and social media advertisements have been posted. The project will start in January of 2021 and conclude before peak recreational season in May.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Other water-based recreational areas have had to address human-bear conflicts, many of which have had great success at preventing conflicts by educating recreators. Superior National Forest staff at the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota rely heavily on Leave No Trace messaging to keep recreators from leaving messy camps which can habituate bears to human food. If a bear has been seen at a campsite, they immediately post notification of such a sighting to encourage recreators to be on their most bear-wise behavior. Similar educational efforts could have equally great success along the Rogue River at preventing human-bear conflicts.

Here is an example of a brochure (https://wildsafebc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Blackbear-02-28-2018-min.pdf) and signage (http://www.bearsmart.com/managing-communities/education/materials-strategies/) we would emulate.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

In November 2019, the HSUS designed, facilitated and presented at a public workshop in Bend, OR focused on coexisting with Oregon's native wildlife with a focus on cougars and black bears. During the workshop, presenters discussed the ecology of these species as well as how to prevent conflict with them, including when out recreating and around their homes. More than 100 members of the public attended the workshop.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

In 2019 Rogue Riverkeeper helped expand Wild & Scenic protections for 140 miles of tributary streams of the Wild & Scenic Rogue River. Through outreach and advocacy efforts we hosted multiple events, generated hundreds of comments, and coordinated with 10 local businesses to support and ultimately successfully pass federal legislation. In coalition with local and regional partners more than 140 miles of tributaries to the Rogue River were designated as Wild & Scenic under the Oregon Wild lands Act. These designations are crucial to the protection of cold, clear water which enhance the health of vitality of the Rogue River, its wildlife and surrounding environment.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Beaver Survey and Restoration: Central Coast Estuaries

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

This project directly aligns with The Wetlands Conservancy's strategic goals that support our mission of partnering with communities across our state in conserving, enhancing and restoring the physical and ecological values of Oregon's greatest wetlands for current and future generations. ⧫To be experts and advocates for healthy wetlands. ⧫Community engagement with a goal of collaborative community conservation through relationships with diverse community partners in Oregon's Greatest Wetlands/Estuaries. This is a pilot project that refines and tests a process developed by The Wetlands Conservancy to identify and survey beaver habitats in key coastal estuaries with local partners and volunteer teams of community scientists. Indirectly, the project will impact the health of significant estuaries on the central coast, home to over 400 members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and 14,500 residents of Newport/Walport and thousands of visitors/year. Diverse wetland habitats created by beavers are vital to salmon, lamprey, and countless other species. Currently, beaver presence is largely unknown in Oregon's coastal regions. Understanding the location of active beaver populations allows land stewards to select best conservation and restoration techniques. The Wetlands Conservancy will work collaboratively with key regional partners - including the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, OR Department of Fish & Wildlife, MidCoast Watershed Council, and USFS - to review, discuss protocols, and develop a survey process for local implementation in three targeted estuaries: Siletz and Salmon Rivers, and Yaquina Bay. The Wetlands Conservancy will convene partners, train crew leaders and volunteers and will summarize and share results. Surveys are done during low-flow seasons, but planning and training will happen year-round. The Wetlands Conservancy will present results and next steps to community and partners, and discuss potential restoration projects.

Primary Contact Person *

Pat Kaczmarek

Primary Contact Email Address *

patkaczmarek@wetlandsconservancy.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503.227.0778 x4

Lead Organization *

The Wetlands Conservancy

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Federal ID 93-0797197

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Newport – Walport region

Project Location (County) *

Lincoln County

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000.00

Total Project Cost *

60945.00

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Currently, beaver presence is largely unknown in Oregon's coastal regions. Understanding the location of beaver populations will allow land managers to select best conservation and restoration techniques. The project will engage community members and local Tribes, and will introduce new audiences to the complexity and value of Oregon's wetlands and the value of beaver activities to improve habitat..

Goals:
Currently, beaver presence is largely unknown in Oregon's coastal regions. Understanding the location of beaver populations will allow land managers to select best conservation and restoration techniques. The project will engage community members and local Tribes, and will introduce new audiences to the complexity and value of Oregon's wetlands and the value of beaver activities to improve habitat..

Goals:
Understand beaver presence and absence in 3 watersheds of Lincoln County.
Improve understanding of restoration opportunities in Lincoln County.
Increase local knowledge of the value of beavers in climate action and community health.
Engage the community in direct conservation activities in their local watershed.

Objectives:
Convene local partners to discuss process, uses and benefits of The Wetlands Conservancy's beaver surveys.
Deliver beaver survey training for both public and agency personnel in Lincoln County (in-person if safe, otherwise through an online video platform), and offer ongoing education and volunteer opportunities.
Plan and perform beaver surveys, collect data, prepare and share reports.
Complete restoration work to increase habitat value in Lincoln County.
Understand beaver presence and absence in 3 watersheds of Lincoln County.
Improve understanding of restoration opportunities in Lincoln County.
Increase local knowledge of the value of beavers in climate action and community health.
Engage the community in direct conservation activities in their local watershed.

Objectives:
Convene local partners to discuss process, uses and benefits of The Wetlands Conservancy's beaver surveys.
Deliver beaver survey training for both public and agency personnel in Lincoln County (in-person if safe, otherwise through an online video platform), and offer ongoing education and volunteer opportunities.
Plan and perform beaver surveys, collect data, prepare and share reports.
Complete restoration work to increase habitat value in Lincoln County.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Evaluation of project:
We will evaluate the project by analyzing and summarizing records and notes from our correspondences, and by surveying participants who attended the meetings and trainings. Data will be collected and kept in an online shared database, free to be used by all of our partners. Staff will check in with partners every two months to discuss progress and outline any changes or assistance necessary to complete the project. A final report will be written, highlighting outcomes and next steps.
Qualitative Outcomes:
Increased capacity for beaver restoration collaboration among local organizations and agencies, including utilizing community scientists trained through this program.
Increased understanding of beaver presence and absence within focus basins, allowing land managers to make more effective management decisions.
Increase public perception of the value of beavers and their habitat, changing actions with local residents.

Quantitative Outcomes:
Acres and stream miles surveyed for beavers.
Number of residents, organizations and agencies participating in beaver surveys.
Acres with beaver-focused restoration completed.
Data gathered, summarized and shared with local agencies and partners

Currently there is a significant data gap in the understanding of the benefits beaver presence offer and their distribution in Oregon's coastal estuaries. Research out of Washington State by Hood et.al (Hood, W. G. 2012. Beaver in Tidal Marshes: Dam Effects on Low-Tide Channel Pools and Fish Use of Estuarine Habitat. Wetlands 32:401-410) clearly indicates the value of estuarine habitat created by beavers is a significant benefit to salmon recovery. Currently, beaver presence is largely unknown in Oregon's coastal regions. This project will methodically increase understanding of current coastal beaver populations and in turn provide data for the creation of management and restoration plans.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Beaver Survey and Restoration: Central Coast Estuaries project will build on The Wetlands Conservancy's current beaver monitoring protocol and adapt it to estuarine habitat in Salmon River estuary as well as USFWS/Siletz estuary and the Lower Yaquina Bay. Understanding the location of active beaver populations will allow land managers to select best conservation and restoration techniques. Outcomes will then be able to be shared with federal and state agencies as well as coastal tribal nations, watershed council and community members.

In addition, this project addresses goals and objectives of the Oregon Conservation Strategy , the Governor's 100- Year Water Vision and ODFW's mission statement. Our project addresses all seven Key Conservation Issues in the Oregon Conservation Strategy plus four Strategy Habitats and the habitat needs of 82/294 strategy species. All four goals of the updated Governor's 100-Year Water Vision are addressed: Health (clean water for all who live in Oregon), Economy (sustainable and clean water to support local economic vitality), Environment (adequate cool, clean water to sustain Oregon's ecosystems for healthy fish and wildlife) and Safety (water supplies and flood protection systems for Oregon's communities). The completion of these surveys will begin the process of bringing ODFW policy related to management of beavers on these federally managed public lands into compliance with best available science.

This project will serve the people of Lincoln County, with the major focus areas being the Siletz River, the Salmon River, and the Yaquina Bay estuary. We will be convening at least 7 local agencies and organizations to plan the project with the intent to continue and further the beaver survey range into more areas in Lincoln County and the Oregon coast. Our outreach and volunteer opportunities will be free and open to all residents and will include at least one indoor training in a public place if safe, otherwise through an online video platform. Training will include beaver ecology, history, and current beaver natural history. Participants may then survey for beavers while out on their own anywhere in the county, or they may join local organizations in targeted surveys.

Rearing habitat is a key limiting factor to delisting Oregon Coast coho salmon and beaver ponds have been identified as a key source of rearing habitat. Beavers also create beaver bank lodges which are used as summer rearing habitat for juvenile coho and other salmonid species.

Beaver ponds also capture and store carbon as dead vegetation is submerged under water. This natural process of carbon capture and store related to wetlands, wet meadows and ponds directly addresses climate change and is currently an underutilized climate change response strategy.

Understanding beaver ecology in Oregon is vital to understanding the potential solutions to environmental and climate issues that threaten Oregonians' health. Beavers build and maintain habitat that increases diversity and abundance of native species, improves water quality, mitigates floods and stream flows, and increases groundwater levels. This project will work to increase our understanding of how beavers are working in Lincoln County, and it will also help us focus on restoration and conservation around beavers.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Our project will utilize existing knowledge and practices to create a database specific to three coastal estuary locations. That data will then guide restoration efforts by Tribal youth crew volunteers later in the timeline.
Bringing together agencies and community scientists to track beaver dam locations on the coast will include areas that provide rearing habitat for endangered fish species, mitigate flooding and the impacts of sea level rise, as well as offering improved habitat for wildlife and first foods production.
Bringing with coastal communities and Tribes together to build a basic database of beaver activity will introduce new audiences to the complexity and value of Oregon's wetlands.
Staff-led beaver surveys connect knowledgeable wetland managers with local community members. Staff can point out animal tracks, beaver and otter slides, and identify many bird species to further knowledge and appreciation.
Planning efforts with local partners consider priority locations for survey work and risks of habitat disruption by recreational users. Training prepares community scientists for wetland exploration, personal safety and the protection of natural areas.
Volunteers attend training on wetland habitats and survey protocols and materials are made available to encourage more community science survey projects around the state.
Wetlands restoration can benefit recreational opportunities for birders, photographers, hunters, fishermen and other curious nature explorers.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The Wetlands Conservancy is planning to utilize OCRF funds for portions of the project that will take place later in the project timeline. The primary objective for use of these funds will be used for the planning and performing of the beaver surveys and the collection of data. It will also include the time and efforts to review the data and prepare reports. Outreach efforts to share the information and reports with the community, partners and other organizations who would benefit from the information would also be funded either in part, or entirely through the OCRF funds.

Those quantitative outcomes would include the acres and stream miles surveyed for beavers, the number of residents, organizations and agencies participating in beaver surveys, as well as the acres with beaver-focused restoration completed.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Spirit Mountain Community Fund – funding sponsor
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – funding sponsor and tribal youth crew volunteers
Midcoast Watershed Council – community partner, connection to local volunteers
The Wetlands Conservancy Volunteers – trained community scientist who can assist with newly recruited community scientists
Columbia Sportswear – in-kind donor of outdoor gear

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Start Date: 1/1/2021 End Date: 12/31/2021 Project activities & milestones: Winter 2021: plan and prepare survey locations, key staff, and public education/training plan beaver restoration projects for tribal youth restoration crew Spring/Summer 2021: train partner staff on survey protocol deliver volunteer training to 100 community members create report outlining project success, opportunities, and next steps Summer 2021 survey locations with local volunteers supervised by TWC staff implement beaver restoration projects with tribal youth restoration crew Fall compile and analyze data prepare and share reports project complete, prepare for next steps with partners

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

https://wetlandsconservancy.org/community-science-education/
https://wetlandsconservancy.org/central-coast/
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257797003_Beaver_in_Tidal_Marshes_Dam_Effects_on_Low-Tide_Channel_Pools_and_Fish_Use_of_Estuarine_Habitat

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Community Engagement and Wildlife Surveys
The Wetlands Conservancy worked with Clean Water Services, Metro, Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation and the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge, to design a community science program to record beaver dam locations using trained volunteers. We developed methods that use either paper datasheets and maps, or an app to record beaver dam locations and characteristics. The 2019-2020 Beaver Project trained 130 volunteers about the role beavers play in the local ecosystem as well as the methods, safety, and protocol for conducting beaver surveys.
We revised our datasheet and protocols for approval by Clean Water Services and the USGS.
Our staff and trained volunteer community scientists conducted 20 surveys in August-October of 2019. The surveys took place on 8 Wetlands Conservancy properties, and 12 additional surveys on properties chosen by partner organizations.
Survey data was logged using Anecdata App, either in the field or by manually adding survey results through the website and sent to CWS Anecdata, and USGS. Beaver dam maps were created that were shared at beaver training and outreach events, focused on change over time.
The surveys were followed up with partner meetings to improve and build regional beaver monitoring programs.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Beaver and Amphibian Relationships and Response to Enhancements
The Wetlands Conservancy received a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to kick off invertebrate and beaver surveys. The grant spanned five years (2014-2019), and evaluated the response of beaver, amphibians and macroinvertebrates to restoration activities in four urban wetland preserves.
This grant provided the groundwork for the additional citizen scientist surveys that we have engaged in with other partners, and will inform the work of this proposal to expand beaver surveys to the Oregon Coast Range. Surveys were conducted annually to track changes over time in response to enhancements, restoration or natural climatic variations. Volunteer restoration and enhancement projects were conducted on four of The Wetland Conservancy's urban preserves. Restoration projects included invasive species removal, installing woody debris and planting natives to improve habitat for wildlife.
The work produced recommended best management practices for improving amphibian, beaver, macroinvertebrate and wildlife habitat in wetlands. The recommendations were distributed to partner agencies and shared with community scientist volunteer groups.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Long Tom Watershed Council Carp Festival

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Long Tom Watershed Council Carp Festival will raise awareness about stewardship of our urban and rural waters and increase participation in outdoor recreation by promoting the underutilized carp recreational fishery in streams in the Eugene metro area. These streams include the Long Tom River, Amazon Creek, and the Willamette River. We will host a series of webinars leading up to and during a carp fishing tournament in June, 2021. The webinars leading up to the fishing tournament will feature how-to lessons from experts in conventional and fly angling tactics for carp and the ecology of our urban streams and the impacts that carp have on them. We will also show the short film “Carpe Diem” which humorously tells the tale of one angler’s affinity for carp, and more importantly, his connection to his urban watershed in Los Angeles. While locally scorned as a “trash” fish, carp are recognized in other parts of the world as a delicious food fish. To promote the pursuit and harvest of carp, we will host a webinar with filleting and cooking demonstrations from a nationally-renowned invasive species chef and local chefs from the Eugene area. During the one week fishing tournament window we will have people post photos of their catch on social media and have a photo contest with a variety of categories such as largest fish, smallest fish, ugliest fish, and most scenic location where a carp was caught. We have secured sponsorships and prizes from the Caddis Fly Angling Shop and Ninkasi Brewing Company. OCS goals will be met by removing introduced carp from waters that provide habitat for strategy species including upper Willamette spring Chinook salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, Oregon chub, western pond turtle, and northern red-legged frog and by increasing awareness of the impacts of invasive species. The Carp Fest will also help diversify Oregon’s outdoors by promoting the carp fishery within Latinx and Asian communities that already fish for carp.

Primary Contact Person *

Jed Kaul

Primary Contact Email Address *

jkaul@longtom.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-654-8965, ext. 102

Lead Organization *

Long Tom Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

20-8049325

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Eugene-Springfield Metro Area and outlying areas

Project Location (County) *

Lane

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 15 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

09 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9947

Total Project Cost *

15101

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The four goals of the project are: 1) Promote and expand an underutilized, easily accessed carp fishery in the urban and rural streams in the Long Tom Watershed Council's service area, 2) Diversify participation in and increase recreation access for under-represented communities in recreational fishing in Oregon, 3) Help conserve habitat for important native fish, reptile and amphibian species listed in the OCS, and 4) Promote watershed awareness through education during this event.
The six objectives of the project are: 1) Host two webinars leading up to the fishing event - a kick-off webinar talking about the ecology of our local streams and the history of carp and their effects on ecology, and another webinar on conventional and fly angling techniques for carp, 2) Spread the word via written and digital formats about the event at local fishing shops, through online fishing forums, on social media, and at other community bulletin boards in the Eugene area, 3) Connect with people from Latinx and Asian communities who fish for carp and translate written and digital event materials as needed, 4) Stage a weeklong, digitally-based carp fishing contest that kicks off on free fishing weekend in June, 2021, 5) Host a webinar during the fishing contest featuring renowned invasive species chef Phillip Parola from Baton Rouge, Louisiana and other local chefs sharing tips for filleting carp, a cooking demonstration, and ideas for smoking carp, and 6) Create a map of carp fishing spots on public lands in the Eugene metro area and distribute it at local conventional and fly angling shops to promote carp angling after our event is over.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

The expected outcomes of the project will be increased participation in the carp fishery around the Eugene area, increased numbers of new anglers, more participation in fishing from diverse communities, increased awareness of our urban streams and their ecology, and reduced populations of carp that negatively impact habitat for native fish like coastal cutthroat trout and spring Chinook salmon. Success will be measured by the number of participants in the webinars, fishing contest, and by the number of views of the social media pages associated with the event. These metrics will be reported to the OCRF program as requested or in final reports for the project.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Long Tom Watershed Council Carp Festival will raise awareness about stewardship of our urban and rural waters, educate the community about the impacts of invasive species and urbanization on our waterways, and increase participation in outdoor recreation by promoting the underutilized carp recreational fishery in the urban and rural sections of streams in the Eugene metro area (population 475,000).

We will host two webinars leading up to and during the carp fishing event that will be held in early June, 2021. Two webinars leading up to the fishing tournament will feature how-to lessons from experts in conventional and fly angling tactics for carp and the ecology of our urban streams and the impacts that carp and urbanization have on them. We have connected with John Bartlett, also known as John Montana, who is the foremost carp fly angler in the Willamette Valley and based in Portland. He has agreed to lead our webinar on fly angling tactics for carp. We have started to reach out to leading conventional carp anglers and will choose one of them to lead our webinar on conventional tactics for carp. We will also show the short film “Carpe Diem” which humorously tells the tale of one carp angler’s affinity for carp, and more importantly, his connection to his urban watershed, the Los Angeles River. The makers of the film have graciously agreed to let us show the film and may participate in the webinar. LTWC and ODFW fish biologists will lead the portion of the webinar on the ecology and history of carp in Oregon.

We will promote the tournament and webinars throughout the Eugene metro area in a variety of ways. We have existing relationships with the Caddis Fly shop, the premier fly shop in the Eugene area. They have agreed to play a major role in the promotion and development of the event by spreading the word on their digital platforms and by posting flyers in the shop. We will also post flyers in the other fishing shops around Eugene. We will work with Caddis Fly to develop a map of publicly accessible carp fishing spots in our service area. This will be distributed to contest entrants and then be shared at the Caddis Fly shop following the competition to promote carp fishing even after our event takes place.

We plan to work with the Downtown Languages Center to translate project outreach materials and website information into Spanish, Chinese languages such as Mandarin, and Korean to reach members of those communities that fish for carp. We will work with Downtown Languages to determine good places to post flyers to reach those communities effectively.

We will work with the Caddis Fly shop and other advisors that are familiar with organizing fishing tournaments to finalize our tournament rules, but we anticipate that we will utilize a mostly digital format, as opposed to hosting a large in-person gathering, in light of COVID-19 regulations. We will use a format similar to that used by Orvis in their 2015 “Carpocalypse” carp fishing event. The fishing tournament window will be nine days, starting on the Saturday of free fishing weekend and running through the next Sunday. By incorporating free fishing weekend our event will be accessible to new anglers and people lacking the financial resources to purchase a fishing license. People who sign up for the tournament will be provided a logo or decal customized for the event shortly before the tournament starts. They will be required to display it in the pictures of carp they catch to prove they caught the fish during the event. We will make all participants agree to follow all ODFW regulations when they sign up for the event. While bowfishing and snagging are allowed methods of take for carp, we will not promote them due to the sometimes wasteful nature of these take methods. Instances of waste will only set back the image of carp fishing and risk the reputation of LTWC, ODFW, and other partner organizations. We will further develop categories for photo entries once funded, but we anticipate having divisions for largest fish (conventional gear, fly gear, and snoopy rod divisions), overall smallest fish, overall ugliest fish, overall largest non-carp fish caught, and overall most scenic fish photo. Largest fish and smallest fish entries will be required to be photographed on a clearly legible measuring tape with units in inches. Contest entry photos will be posted to Instagram with hashtags for the event, LTWC, MyODFW, oregonisalive, and the main contest sponsors Caddis Fly Shop and Ninkasi Brewing Company. Photo contest entries will be judged by a panel of representatives from partner organizations and online voting will be open to the public as well. Winners of the different categories will be awarded generous prizes offered by Caddis Fly and Ninkasi. Both of these initial sponsors have offered significant prizes, including fly rods, reels, and fly collections designed for carp, gift cards, and beer (only for adults of drinking age, of course). We will also recruit additional sponsors that will provide conventional angling gear as prizes, and other items. We will distribute prizes to the winners of the categories using COVID-19 protocols following the tournament.

If COVID-19 conditions allow, we will staff a booth at Kirk Park (located on the Long Tom River just downstream of Fern Ridge Dam) the first Saturday of the fishing tournament window. This would allow us to provide additional education to fishers and sign up additional participants. Kirk Park is one of the most popular angling locations in the Long Tom Watershed, especially for carp.

While locally scorned as a “trash” fish, carp are recognized in other many parts of the United States and around the world as a delicious food fish. To promote the pursuit and harvest of this unheralded, misunderstood, food fish we will host a webinar with cooking demonstrations from nationally-renowned invasive species chef Phillipe Parola from Baton Rouge, Louisiana as well as local chefs from the Eugene area. This webinar will be hosted during the fishing tournament window or right after. Chef Phillipe has appeared on River Monsters with Jeremy Monroe and other television and internet programs about cooking and invasive species (see https://www.chefphilippe.com/). During the webinar our participating chefs will share filleting, cooking, and smoking recipes.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The project will address the OCRF conservation priority by reducing the population of common carp in waters that provide habitat for a number of OCS species, including coastal cutthroat trout, upper Willamette spring Chinook salmon, Oregon chub, western pond turtle, and northern red-legged frog. Carp have negative impacts on habitat for these species through competition for food resources and from increased water turbidity and disrupted aquatic vegetation from their feeding activity. The project will address the OCRF recreation priority by increasing the number and diversity of outdoor users by expanding participation in an underutilized fishery that is very accessible, in geographical location and in cost of participation, to the Eugene metro area, which is home to 375,000 residents. There is often inequitable access to recreation in Oregon with economic, information, and discriminatory barriers limiting opportunities to many non-white and lower income residents. Fly fishing, for example, often carries a perception as "high culture;" gear is often expensive, and anglers often travel far. This project is attempting to broaden fishing opportunities to a more diverse population by presenting a "trash" fish as the target of both fun and education. It also presents more equitable access by encouraging a diversity of angling options that can be reached on foot or by bike. A diverse community will be reached out to by providing event materials in Spanish, Chinese, and Korean.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The $9,947 in requested OCRF funds will be used for LTWC staff time to manage the project ($5,390), speaker fees for the webinars ($1,100), language translation fees ($600), LTWC logowear to be used as prizes for the contest ($300), printing fees for event decals and promotional posters ($250), mileage reimbursement for LTWC staff ($200), and overhead costs for the project ($2,107). LTWC project management activities will include: grant agreement development with the OCRF program, partner communications, webinar curriculum development with speakers, web registration form development, written material development and distribution, social media management, webinar hosting, event booth staffing (if COVID-19 situation allows), event participant communications, prize distribution, and communications and reporting to the OCRF program. LTWC is a non-profit and has a federally negotiated indirect cost rate of 26.88%, which was used to calculate the requested overhead costs.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

The Caddis Fly angling shop in Eugene will promote the event through their social media and blog and through word of mouth at their shop. The shop will also provide a number of prizes for the winners of the photo categories, such as carp-focused fly collections, fly lines, and fly rods and reels.
Ninkasi Brewing Company in Eugene will promote the event through their social media and website and be a principal corporate sponsor for the event. They will provide prizes for contest winners and also are contributing $500 to the Long Tom Watershed Council to help administer the project. The executive chef that leads their restaurant, The Better Living Room, will participate in the carp filleting, cooking, and smoking demonstration webinar. We are coordinating with other local chefs to participate in the cooking demonstration as well.
Nationally-renowned invasive species chef Phillipe Parola from Baton Rouge, Louisiana will lead the carp filleting, cooking, and smoking webinar.
Sam Gigliotti, the star of the short film “Carpe Diem: an Urban Fishing Odyssey”, will allow us to show his film and may participate in one of the webinars leading up to the fishing contest.
John Bartlett, also known as John Montana, is the foremost carp fly angler in the Willamette valley and will lead the fly fishing tactics webinar. We are in the process of getting to know a few conventional carp anglers in the Eugene area and will work with one of them to lead the conventional tactics webinar.
In order to broaden community participation and reach diverse audiences, we also plan to work with Downtown Languages, located in Springfield, to translate event outreach materials, website information, and official rules into Spanish, Korean, and Chinese.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January-March 2021- Project planning, finalize grant agreement with ODFW, finalize partner roles. April-May 2021- Develop agenda and finalize curriculum for webinars. Late May- Early June 2021- Host kick off webinar (stream ecology, carp history) and angling tactics webinar (fly and conventional tactics, show the film Carpe Diem: an Urban Fishing Odyssey). June 5-13, 2021 (assuming June 5-6 will be ODFW free fishing weekend)- Fishing contest open period; host Carp filleting, cooking, and smoking demonstration webinar. June 14-20, 2021- Announce and share contest winning photos. Distribute prizes.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

See our website at www.longtom.org. See video of John Montana carp fishing on the Columbia at https://www.theflyfishjournal.com/exclusive/the-big-c/.
See chef Phillipe's website at www.chefphilippe.com.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

LTWC has extensive experience planning and delivering events such as our big Annual Celebration, which regularly attracts at least 75-100 attendees. Last year was our most successful celebration to date, with over 150 people in attendance. The event featured three Indigenous speakers, including a Kalapuyan elder and her daughter and an enthno-historian and anthropologist of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The celebration also featured the recognition of outstanding partners, volunteers, and community members, who were all awarded gift baskets that included donated in-kind items from a number of local companies. Our Annual Celebrations are an opportunity to engage a range of perspectives and stakeholders and broaden watershed awareness and further community engagement toward our mission goals. These events also illustrate our experience and familiarity with executing complex logistics for dozens of people at one time, including managing registration and sign-in and meals. Last year's event was even "zero-waste" with no waste produced beyond compost.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

In 2015, LTWC wrapped up its final year of the Cutthroat Trout Migration Study - where volunteers were responsible for collecting 100% of the data. This culminated the end of a 5-year project tracking the seasonal movements of cutthroat trout in our watershed. The study was funded by ODFW's Restoration and Enhancement Program. LTWC again was the lead on organizing complex logistics, including volunteer training, scheduling, and oversight for 20+ people at a time. Teams of volunteers were trained to perform minor surgery by anaesthetizing and inserting a small RFID tag into the abdominal cavity of trout captured in traps. In the years that have followed the project, there have been tremendous developments emerging from the data -- including revelations about trout growth spurts and lifespans. However, by far the greatest achievement of this study has been the sustained community interest in both the Long Tom Watershed and its fish. This study has been the topic of several subsequent community meetings and innumerable casual conversations with curious community members. This project has been a tremendous ambassador for the watershed and has helped to lend to increased awareness of watershed issues, the council's work, and people coming from different walks of life have literally been able to come together over a shared affinity for trout. We could see a similar result happening as a result of the Carp Festival.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Beaver Works Oregon - River Neighbors Initiative

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Think Wild will use requested funds from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to expand the Beaver Works Oregon River Neighbors initiative in 2021. Beaver Works Oregon is a program of Think Wild dedicated to increasing success of the keystone beaver on the high desert landscape. The River Neighbors Initiative project proactively engages Central Oregon's general public in fun, accessible activities designed to deepen understanding and appreciation of riverine ecology. Program curricula center around the significance of beaver (Castor canadensis) as a keystone species that creates and maintains productive riparian habitat for the benefit of Oregon's most beloved fish and wildlife species. The fundamental goals of the initiative are to strengthen and expand existing community values of environmental stewardship and to empower the general public to contribute meaningfully to conservation initiatives at a tangible, local scale. River Neighbors comprises three interactive outreach and engagement programs: guided river walks, a trail camera loan program, and wildlife monitoring and stewardship opportunities through neighborhood based "Riverhoods". Having successfully piloted the initiative in summer and fall of 2020 with a specific target audience of urban landowners and families living along the Deschutes River, Beaver Works plans to scale up its impact in 2021 to increase participation among school groups, rural communities, and new Central Oregon residents. The River Neighbors Initiative is a timely, impactful vehicle for community involvement in beaver conservation, which in turn supports the broad conservation of Oregon's fish, wildlife, wetlands, and riparian habitats. Program activities are in close alignment with the vision of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund to support robust conservation projects that inspire the general public's stewardship of Oregon's fish, wildlife, wild places, and recreational opportunities.

Primary Contact Person *

Sally Compton

Primary Contact Email Address *

sally@thinkwildco.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

541-933-5437

Lead Organization *

Think Wild

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

46-2360867

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [x] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Bend

Project Location (County) *

Deschutes and Crook County

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9900

Total Project Cost *

16000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

The fundamental goals of the Initiative are to strengthen and expand existing community values of environmental stewardship, and to empower the general public to contribute meaningfully to conservation initiatives at a tangible, local scale.

Through a variety of offerings designed to meet Central Oregon residents at different points on the continuum of conservation involvement, the River Neighbors project seeks to move residents along the continuum toward increased understanding, caring, action, and overall involvement with Think Wild programming.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES (January-December 2021):
-Expand demographic and geographic reach of River Neighbors Initiative to include rural communities in Crook and Jefferson counties;
-Increase participation from school groups and new Central Oregon residents in Deschutes County;
-Inspire meaningful actions by connecting individuals to local initiatives through the Beaver Works program and partner organizations that protect the Deschutes River Basin's native wildlife and steward its river habitat;
-Overall increase in engagement throughout Think Wild programming including email/newsletter signups, social media engagement, event attendance, volunteering, and grassroots fundraising.

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE (2021 and beyond):
-Support increased success of beaver on the high desert landscape, in order to in-turn benefit riparian and wetland strategy habitats as defined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW, 2016);
-Support and encourage beaver-dam building activity (Disruption of Disturbance Regimes, Action 2.6) as described in the Oregon Conservation Strategy Key Conservation Initiatives (ODFW, 2016);
-Inform and influence day-to-day choices around individual, small-scale wildlife management decisions on private property and while recreating;
-Grow landowner willingness to adapt infrastructure to coexist with beaver and other wildlife rather than manage or control wildlife as pests;
-Deepen community-wide understanding of Castor canadensis as a keystone species to build a culture of protecting and supporting beaver existence on the landscape and prevent lethal extraction;
-Continue to broaden and strengthen the network of partnerships among conservation organizations in Central Oregon.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Successful implementation of the proposed project will support the following measurable outcomes in 2021:

RIVER WALKS
-Maintain a 90% average attendance for 12 River Walks, to reach approximately 110 individuals (COVID limited to groups of 10).
-River Walks target audience will be 70% new to the Deschutes River Basin within the past year, 25% K-12 youth, and 15% from rural communities in Crook and Jefferson Counties. (These demographics are not mutually exclusive).
-Set a goal for 1 in 10 River Walk attendees to take an additional step to get involved with other activity areas of River Neighbors or the Think Wild programs.

TRAIL CAMERA LOAN PROGRAM
Beaver Works will maintain 8 to 10 trail camera loans at a time, each loan for a 2 week duration with an expected total participants. Participants will compete in a yearlong wildlife video contest with prizes donated by business and organizations totaling $500.

RIVERHOOD MONITORING AND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES
The Riverhoods evolve organically as locations where beavers are actively established, and there's local neighborhood interest to monitor and steward a site or 'river reach'. Success in 2021 would be:
- 3 to 4 active Riverhood sites (Likely: Tumalo, Ochoco Creek and Whychus)
- 3 to 5 school teachers/classes participating in a Riverhoods monitoring site
- 20 to 30 volunteer Riverhood stewards help to build beaver-based "Riverhoods" through hands-on stewardship work (tree plantings, fencing, litter cleanups and more), trail camera monitoring or local neighborhoods and community engagement (ex. Tumalo site).

INCREASED INTEREST IN BEAVER COEXISTENCE
As a result of the proposed project, Beaver Works expects to work with 3 to 5 homeowners considering lethal removal of beaver on their property, who instead implement infrastructure adaptations and coexistence solutions.

INCREASED ORGANIZATION-WIDE PARTICIPATION
The River Neighbors Initiative will encourage increased participation across all Think Wild's programs. Measurable outcomes include: 1) a doubling of social media following and engagement, 2) increased attendance at Think Wild general events, 3) 50% increase in attendance for Beaver Works film events and presentations, 4) a 100% increase in newsletter email signups.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The River Neighbors Initiative is comprised of three different activity areas for Central Oregon residents to get outside to explore, learn and share findings with others in support of nature and wildlife along the Deschutes River Basin.

The project builds on learnings from its summer and fall 2020 roll-out, which included the following activities:
-A postcard mailing to 650 members of the public who live along the Deschutes River (between LaPine and Redmond), in order to encourage more holistic land stewardship and solutions for coexisting with beavers;
-Provided four 'River Walks' in the Old Mill District to families new to Central Oregon;
-The 'genesis' of the first "Riverhood" site just north of Bend, along the Deschutes, referred to as the "Tumalo Site". Activities included: 1) organized local neighbors and volunteers to plant and fence 32 native cottonwood starts, 2) exclosure fencing of mature trees, 3) educational signage of an active beaver wildlife corridor were posted, 4) Monitoring by trail camera documented beaver, muskrat, otters, raccoons, wood ducks and more all active around beaver dams and lodges.

Building on this success, River Neighbors Initiative activities in 2021 will include:

RIVER WALKS
Hour-long guided walks along river sections with a focus on history, river ecology and habitat, and special emphasis on beavers as a keystone species for healthy watersheds. Guides are trained in river and wildlife ecology of the Deschutes and its tributaries. To enhance the experience – when wildlife may not be present to view - props provide interactive engagement for attendees and include a taxidermied beaver, beaver castoreum, beaver chewed sticks and audio recordings of beaver vocalizations. These outdoor walks are conducted with social distancing practices and mask-wearing requirements pursuant to state and county COVID-19 protocols.

TRAIL CAMERA LOAN PROGRAM
Residents and groups living along the Deschutes and its tributaries can borrow infrared trail cameras to learn more about the wildlife they may not see during the day. This program also funnels into an annual backyard wildlife photo contest open to all types of cameras with prizes just for entering. Technical support is made readily available to reduce barriers to entry, via DIY videos and documentation, and phone support. Trail cameras will be loaned out for a 2 to 3 week period on a first-come-first serve basis to Oregon residents or by reservation for a school or other group organizations. Additionally, wildlife identification and information is offered by Think Wild staff in alignment with ODFW's Living with Wildlife guidelines. The program emphasizes responsible, ethical trail camera use to minimize disruption of wildlife and habitat.

MONITORING AND STEWARDSHIP OF "RIVERHOODS" SITES
Think Wild staff and volunteers have identified a growing list of riparian wildlife corridors in Central Oregon that would benefit from ongoing, community-based stewardship and including native tree plantings, vegetation exclusion fencing and beaver colony monitoring through a cohort of River Neighbors organized Trail Camera volunteers, and working with public and private partners wherever possible.

Overall outreach and promotion for River Neighbors will be implemented via social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Meetup, Twitter), event listings in local media and news sources, postcard mailings, tabling at events, targeted email campaigns, relationship building with schools (K-12), parks and recreation organizations, and other public and private organizations that are also supporting kids, families, and new residents.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Providing the River Neighbors educational programming and outreach to river residents and citizens who recreate along the river will squarely advance Oregon Recreation and Conservation Fund priorities of introducing Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation in the areas of Recreation and Conservation.

Outcomes of the Initiative will benefit both riparian habitats and wetlands - both Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitats that beaver populations encourage in the Deschutes River Basin, and longer-term, positively serve to address a key Conservation Issue of Disruption of Disturbance Regimes.

A long term success goal of the River Neighbors Initiative, would be for more beaver success and beaver ponding in the Deschutes River Basin. A 2017 review of the Oregon Conservation Strategy document suggests that more beaver ponds could benefit eleven of the sixty two birds, two of the five reptiles, seventeen of the eighteen amphibians, and twenty of the thirty fish species listed for special treatment (pages 320–349).

While much of the current conservation education in Central Oregon focuses on terrestrial animals, birds, and fish for recreation – there is no program that directly considers the riverine flora and fauna, and the ecology of how these work all together to benefit all life within the Deschutes River Basin.

We're excited that the River Neighbors Initiative serves this need.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The requested $9,900 from Oregon Recreation and Conservation Fund will provide funds allocated to the following: River Walks in Deschutes and Crook County, $1,675; Riverhoods Wildlife Monitoring and Stewardship, $2,400; Trail Camera Loan Program, $3,344; and Promotion and Outreach for the River Neighbors Initiative over 8 months, $2,500.

We estimate another $6,150+ of in-kind or donated funding will be provided to the project by volunteers, and partner organizations.

Think Wild is confident a generous contribution from the Oregon Recreation and Conservation Fund will ensure successful implementation of the project.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Coalition for the Deschutes has confirmed participation with the River Neighbors Initiative in providing approximately 25 hours of donated time toward outreach and promotion of activities, and collaboration and support in crafting the “river neighbors” narrative.

Additional partnerships we have not formally secured, but anticipate strong interest – based on existing collaborations in Think Wild programming – include:
-Crooked River Watershed Council
-City of Prineville, Crook County Parks & Recreation
-Prineville High School
-Cascades Academy

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

School outreach Trail Cam program - January/February; Ramp up promotion/outreach - February/March;Partner relationships for monitoring - March - October; Develop Crook County River Walk - May 2020; Riverhoods fencing and plantings - March - June; Riverhoods trail camera monitoring - April - October; River Walks commence - May - November

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Riverhood example in collaboration with Deschutes County facilities management department: www.beaverworks.org/tumalosite1

The existing River Neighbors Initiative launched summer and fall 2020, and will be adapted in 2021 given learnings from the pilot: https://beaverworks.org/river-neighbors-in-central-oregon/

Think Wild - Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Center:
https://www.thinkwildco.org/wildlife-hospital/

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

An example of a Riverhood in the making is a half-mile section of the Deschutes River just north of Bend, Oregon (Tumalo) where beavers began building a dam off a back channel in a county wildlife corridor during winter/spring of 2020. Corey Heath of Oregon Department of Wildlife’s Bend District contacted Think Wild in early April 2020 as property owners in the area complained about beavers chewing down trees in “their” community park.

Through the Beaver Works Oregon program, Think Wild partnered with the Deschutes County and the adjoining property owner, who’s trees were also chewed, to implement tree protection with cage fencing, wildlife monitoring with trail cameras to understand better the beaver activity.

It was discovered by the trail cameras that 2 beavers repaired the dam after kids breached it. Beavers remained active until lower water levels in May.

In June, Beaver Works Oregon planted and fenced 32 native cottonwood starts, and posted educational signage of an active beaver wildlife corridor noting the benefits for increased habitat diversity. Regular on-site wildlife monitoring continues as does neighborhood outreach, with staff providing ongoing advice, information and tree protection services to this community. To date we know of no beaver conflicts in this Riverhood despite continued beaver presence.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Last fall, Think Wild finished the renovation of the new 1,500 sq ft. state-of-the-art wildlife hospital on our 4-acre property, which is the only facility of its kind in Central Oregon. Transformed from a worn-down residential structure after securing a zoning change through the County, the hospital contains a triage and surgical center, ICU and X-Ray diagnostic capabilities. Through community outreach and fundraising, Think Wild secured over $200,000 in donated medical and technology equipment from regional veterinary clinics and businesses.

In addition to active construction on the wildlife hospital, Think Wild staff completed the planning, permitting, and seed capital fundraising of $183,000, and are in the process of constructing almost 10,000 sq. ft. of outdoor wildlife rehabilitation and conditioning enclosures. With the hospital fully outfitted, and phase one construction of of outdoor enclosures complete, Think Wild opened for animal care this past Spring and has already treated over 100 animals and responded to over 1,000 wildlife hotline calls. Once the facility is complete, Think Wild expects to provide the best quality wildlife veterinary care in the region with capacity to treat 1,000 native animals each year with a release rate of 50% or greater.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Club Aves: multilingual birding and nature club

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Club Aves inspires low-income youth and youth of color to explore the outdoors and learn about birds, nature, and conservation in their own neighborhood and in greenspaces around the Portland Metro area. Part of Verde's environmental education programming, Club Aves works with elementary and middle school age youth from Hacienda CDC's Expresiones after-school program, helping break down barriers to accessing the outdoors. Now, more than ever, it is important for youth to have safe outdoor recreation opportunities. We are currently adapting all of our environmental education programs to meet the health and safety requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this proposal Club Aves will provide youth with opportunities for safe outdoor recreation. Verde staff will guide walking neighborhood nature field trips. To encourage independent family activities, we will provide multilingual (English, Spanish, and Somali) outdoor access kits including curriculum and activities that families can adapt for their neighborhood park or greenspace. Finally, we will organize a paddle trip and community nature day.

Primary Contact Person *

Anna Gordon

Primary Contact Email Address *

annagordon@verdenw.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503.290.8570

Lead Organization *

Verde

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

20-3685723

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Portland

Project Location (County) *

Multnomah

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

11 / 01 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 15 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

25000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Increase the engagement of low-income youth and youth of color in the Cully neighborhood in environmental education and activities that give them access to natural spaces.
Provide accessible and culturally specific programming for Latinx, Somali, and other youth and their families
Provide safe, fun, and engaging outdoor activities for youth that provide a break from virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Expected Outcomes
50 elementary and middle school youth from Hacienda CDC's Expresiones program are engaged in nature education.
10+ youth who have not yet participated in Club Aves are recruited to participate in the program.
30+ parents/guardians are engaged through multilingual curriculum and excursion kits.
16 walking field trips are conducted in Spring of 2021.
60 excursion kits are distributed to families in Spring of 2021.
2-5 summer excursions are planned for Expresiones youth in 2021.
80% of youth share what they enjoyed, what they learned, and what they would like to see in the program next year.
Measuring Success
Track attendance for each trip and activity.
Track parent engagement and kit distribution.
Administer a short survey to participants in June 2021 to hear about their experiences and suggestions for improving the program for next year.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Club Aves is a multilingual Verde program that engages low-income youth of color from Northeast Portland's Cully neighborhood in nature education and opportunities to access greenspaces, explore birding, and learn about plants and the natural world. Club Aves was started in 2013 by Verde staff who partnered with Hacienda CDC to take Latinx, Somali, and other youth on nature outings. We also have strong partnerships in the environmental education field, including Metro, Audubon, and US Fish and Wildlife, who host field trips and provide information about the area being visited. Verde has two environmental educators on staff who develop a culturally responsive curriculum, organize and lead the program, and maintain strong relationships with Hacienda program coordinators and Hacienda youth and families.

The Latinx community and communities of color have been hit very hard by COVID-19. For example, as of October 14th, Cully had a per capita infection rate of 125.3 per 10,000 while rates in Portland's west side and inner southeast neighborhoods ranged from 39.7 to 52 per 10,000. In this environment, programs like Club Aves that provide outdoor activities are more important than ever. We recognize that remote learning will be the reality into the foreseeable future. Being able to provide safe activities to learn outside of the virtual classroom is essential for emotional and physical well-being. Many families tell us that their children are struggling with remote learning while, at the same time, parents are struggling to juggle work, deal with economic pressures, and help their children with schoolwork. Our program will provide a safe way for youth and families to get outside and enjoy the emotional and physical benefits of experiencing nature.

Club Aves has historically been a field trip program, where youth from four of Hacienda CDC's after-school program sites come together for monthly excursions to natural spaces around the Portland Metro area. To comply with COVID-19 safety protocols, we are pivoting our model to focus on destinations that we can walk to with youth while following COVID-19 safety protocols, including small group size, hand sanitizer, masks, and social distancing.

Starting in the Spring of 2021, we plan to deliver four of the new "walking field trips" at each of the four Hacienda after-school program sites--one field trip per month, per site, for four months (a total of 16 trips). These field trips will be small group walking trips to parks and natural areas within walking distance of each after-school site in North and Northeast Portland. Potential sites include Smith and Bybee Wetlands, Whitaker Ponds, Cully Park, and Khunamokwst Park. At the end of the four-trip curriculum, students will create a mixed media collage art project where they can share their own narratives about how they experience the outdoors and nature.

Trip 1: Nature Photography Walk. At each after-school program site, 12 students meet with Verde staff to walk to parks in the neighborhood where they practice their nature photography skills with cameras provided by Verde. During the photo lessons they will also learn about botany, entomology, and animal ID skills. Photos taken at the local parks can be later used in their end-of-program collage project.

Trip 2: Bird/animal Observation Skills. At each after-school program site, 12 students meet with Verde staff to walk to parks in the neighborhood where they practice their binocular skills and then practice drawing what they see. The drawings can later be used in their end-of-program collage project.

Trip 3: Plant and Insect Observation. At each after-school program site, 12 students meet with Verde staff to walk to parks in the neighborhood where they observe and practice identifying plants and insects by referring to field guides. Students will then choose which plants are of most interest and practice sketching and tracing them. The sketches can later be used in their end-of-program collage project.

Trip 4: Creating an Outdoor Story Collage. At each after-school program site, 12 students meet with Verde staff to walk to parks in the neighborhood where they create their own outdoor story collages using the art they collected from the first three trips. They can add their collage to an outdoor art gallery and then walk through the gallery with parents, guardians, other family, and friends.

Activity Kits. For independent family nature excursions, we will distribute multilingual activity kits to 60 families. The kits will include information about local multilingual resources, hiking trail guides, scavenger hunt booklets, outdoor art activities, a disposable camera, a poncho, and a gift card to help with transportation or other costs associated with the family excursion.

Summer Events. We plan to host between 2 and 5 Club Aves summer events, including our yearly Community Paddle Day. We have partnered with Columbia Slough Watershed Council for this event in the past. Last Spring, we had plans to work with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership to take youth on a canoe excursion but it was cancelled due to COVID-19.

We will plan a redesigned paddle day that complies with COVID-19 health and safety requirements; for example, organizing smaller groups and using PPE. We also want to plan a Community Nature Day, where youth and their families can come out to a natural area and enjoy the summer weather with activities and other resources provided by Club Aves.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Through Club Aves we provide access to new wildlife recreation experiences that help youth expand their horizons.
Club Aves provides access to birding, nature, and the outdoors for low-income youth, youth of color, and their families, by providing resources including multilingual educational materials, access to transportation, and walking field trips to learn in the outdoors, outside of school time. Our partners at Hacienda CDC have expressed that since the switch to remote learning students are just not getting outside like they used to and that outdoor programs are very much needed to help youth get outdoors in nature.
We also introduce youth to outdoor recreation opportunities through our Community Paddle Day. This event usually attracts the largest youth and parent turnout every year. For some of our youth, this is their only chance to try paddling. Many have told us that this was their first time being in a boat and that they would love to have that experience again!

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

Transportation gift cards ($600). A huge barrier has been access to transportation, since we can no longer use a large school bus that holds all of the students. To address this barrier, we want to provide gift cards for youth and families for transportation (gas or TriMet passes).
Program excursion materials ($1,500). Art supplies for collages, field guides, polaroid camera, disposable cameras, cost to develop photos/buy polaroid film.
Translation costs ($500).
COVID Safety PPE ($200). Masks, gloves, hand sanitizer.
Snacks (individually wrapped) ($500).
Activity Kits ($2,000). Multilanguage activity kits for independent family excursions.
Verde Staff time to support activities ($4,700). Recruit youth, communicate with Hacienda, develop materials and kits, plan trips, work with partner organizations, program tracking and evaluation.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Hacienda CDC. We recruit students enrolled in their Expresiones after-school program.
Metro. Has been a sponsor and community partner for previous trips.
Audubon Society of Portland. Community partner for previous trips. Will provide resources and support.
US Fish and Wildlife Service. Community partner for previous trips. Will help provide materials for trips and kits.
Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Partner for our Community Paddling Trip.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Winter/Spring 2021. Work with Hacienda CDC and their four program coordinators to start planning dates for each activity for each site. Develop and translate program materials. Mid-spring 2021. Begin implementing walking field trip activities with all four after-school program sites. Multilingual outdoor activity kits are ready to distribute to families. June 2021. Walking field trip activities are complete and youth fill out a short program evaluation survey. Early/mid-Summer 2021. Implement Community Paddle Day and Community Nature Day events. Late Summer 2021. Evaluate COVID safety guidelines and precautions to assess readiness for larger group gatherings for Club Aves Fall.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/club-aves-exposes-latinx-and-somali-youth-nature-and-history-smith-and-bybee

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The Cully Youth Rain Garden Project engages youth from Reynolds Learning Academy MYC program and Hacienda CDC Expresiones youth in hands-on projects that solve storm-water management problems in the Cully area. Students learn about watershed health, ecology and landscaping. During the rain garden installation, they put together all they have learned in class, while also getting their hands dirty.
Rain gardens are creatively designed to collect stormwater, reduce flooding, sewage overflows, and pollution, and provide habitat for native plants and fauna. In addition to the environmental benefits, the gardens provide a suite of benefits for homeowners: reducing damages and repair costs from flooding, reducing stormwater utilities, and enriching the landscape.
The program continues a partnership between Verde and Habitat for Humanity. Working together, the organizations find low-income homeowners who participate in other Habitat programming and are interested in having a rain garden in their yard. Verde's Youth Rain Garden program models how environmental investments can be tied to social and economic outcomes for low-income communities of color, demonstrated by ongoing environmental education for underserved youth and economic/environmental assets for low-income homeowners.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Verde led a campaign to transform a 25-acre landfill from an environmental hazard into a community-designed park in Cully, Portland's most diverse, park-deprived neighborhood.
A coalition of Cully residents, community-based organizations, environmental professionals, and government agencies evaluated the site and designed the park to meet the needs of the Cully community and reflect its diverse cultures. The project provided job training opportunities and wealth building for the minority- and women-owned businesses that built the park.
The Play Area was designed with input from Hacienda CDC's Expresiones after-school program, which includes low-income students and children from homeless families. The Play Area has nature-play features that encourage open-ended and non-directed play, and direct engagement with natural materials, as well as traditional equipment for swinging, spinning, climbing, and sliding. It includes accessible elements, including a wheelchair-accessible sensory wall.
The Native Gathering Garden provides the unifying design theme for the park. A committed group of Native and non-Native community leaders turned to our Portland urban Indian community to define this indigenous garden design feature.
The North Slope of Cully Park, a large area too steep for park features, was identified as a perfect site for habitat restoration and was restored to filter stormwater, prevent erosion, and return native plants to the landscape.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

BIPOC Birding and Bilingual Paddling: Increasing Diversity in Outdoor Recreation in the Columbia Slough Watershed

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The BIPOC Birding and Bilingual Paddling Project provides outdoor leadership and recreational opportunities to people of color and Latinx communities through birding, kayaking and canoeing events in the Columbia Slough Watershed. Partnering with local nonprofits Vive NW and People of Color Outdoors, we will train bilingual paddle leaders from the Latinx community to help lead kayak and canoe paddles on the Slough and organize birding outings led by and for people of color. These events will offer opportunities for Latinx and people of color to safely participate in a new outdoor activity, develop paddling and birding skills, and learn about bird, fish, and habitat conservation in the watershed. Additionally, our project will place people of color in positions of leadership in the outdoors, increasing the diversity of Oregon's outdoor recreation community.

Primary Contact Person *

Rachel Walsh

Primary Contact Email Address *

rachel.walsh@columbiaslough.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-281-1132

Lead Organization *

Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

03-0456181

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Portland

Project Location (County) *

Multnomah

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 15 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

10 / 15 / 2020

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9400.00

Total Project Cost *

13015.00

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Our goal is to offer educational outdoor recreation opportunities to underserved communities and communities of color, thereby increasing the diversity of Oregon's outdoor users and introducing Oregonians to new outdoor recreation activities: birding, canoeing, and kayaking.

The first component of this project is our People of Color Outdoors birding program. With funding support from ODFW, we will partner with the community group People of Color Outdoors to organize and carry out two birding walks in local natural areas led by and for people of color. The Columbia Slough Watershed Council has a close relationship with People of Color Outdoors, an organization that provides access for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to enjoy nature in Oregon. This program will offer two opportunities for 15-20 people of color to safely participate in a new wildlife-related activity, develop birding skills, and learn about bird conservation. Additionally, it will place people of color in positions of leadership in the outdoors, expanding the diversity of largely white-dominated wildlife recreation activities such as birding.

The second component of this project is our Bilingual Paddle Leaders initiative. We will recruit and train Latinx paddle leaders who will serve as ambassadors to the Latinx community and lead bilingual Spanish-English paddle events on the Columbia Slough. Assuming that current COVID-19 restrictions on event size remain through 2021, our goal is to recruit and train 4-7 new paddle leaders who we work with to then co-lead two bilingual paddle events with 20-35 members of the Latinx community. These events give members of the Latinx community the opportunity to engage in safe outdoor recreation by canoe and kayak, offering them opportunities to view wildlife and learn about conservation in the Columbia Slough watershed. The program engages community members who disproportionately lack access to opportunities to enjoy and steward local natural areas and waterways due to language, safety, and other barriers to participation in the outdoors. It also introduces new paddling skills and ways of engaging with the outdoors, encouraging members of the Latinx community to connect with and conserve natural areas within their local urban environment. Ultimately, this program reduces barriers to outdoor recreation for an underserved community and helps create a larger and more diverse community of people who work to care for and conserve the watershed.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Expected outcomes of our project include: greater participation in the outdoors within the Latinx community and communities of color in the Columbia Slough watershed, improved physical and mental health for members of the these communities who spend more time outdoors, increased sense of connection with the Columbia Slough watershed and increased self-efficacy and pro-environmental beliefs that promote conservation action with members of the Latinx community and communities of color who participate in our birding and bilingual paddle programming.

Our birding program will also support increased outdoor leadership opportunities for people of color, heightened education and interest about our local wildlife species, and will help make Oregon's birding community more inclusive and diverse. Outcomes for this program will be measured by numbers of participants in the birding events and survey responses of participants regarding how the event affected their interest in birds, conservation, their desire to go birding again, and their connection to local natural areas and wildlife.

Our bilingual paddle program will lead to increased skills in paddling and leadership self-efficacy for paddle leaders. Outcomes for this program will be measured through numbers of Latinx participants in our bilingual paddle program and social impact surveys of program participants that assess self-efficacy regarding conservation behaviors as well as paddling and leadership skills, pro-environmental beliefs, self-reported frequency of outdoor participation, and self-assessments of improved health outcomes as a result of recreating outdoors.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Columbia Slough watershed contains many opportunities for outdoor recreation within the Portland metro region, including opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, birding, biking and hiking. These activities provide many physical and mental health benefits for those who participate. Additionally, spending time in natural areas in the Columbia Slough watershed motivates community members to protect these places.

However, underserved communities such as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and migrant communities that speak English as a second language face many barriers to engaging in these opportunities, not the least of which is representation. That is why we are seeking funding to create birding and paddling opportunities that are led by and for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and Latinx community members. Increased representation makes the outdoors a more inclusive place which will, in turn, encourage more diversity in outdoor recreation and conservation in the watershed.

The People of Color (POC) Outdoors birding program will plan and implement two birding walks in partnership with People of Color Outdoors, a Portland-based organization dedicated to providing BIPOC a safe and welcoming way to connect with nature in Oregon, including environmental education, outdoor career options, and outdoor recreation and leadership skills. POC Outdoors has hosted over 100 events since its founding in July 2017 and has over 1,200 members, allowing their events to reach a broad group of people of color interested in engaging in the outdoors. However, many of their events have a fee to pay for leaders and organization; funding from the ODFW Conservation and Recreation Fund will increase accessibility by providing free birding opportunities for people of color, and paying for bird field guides for POC Outdoors to lend out during their events, including these bird walks and other hikes and outdoor activities.

The free birding walks will be led in spring of 2021 by Pamela Slaughter, founder of POC Outdoors, a black birder and author of a children's book about birds. Event planning assistance, field guides and sanitized binoculars will be provided by the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, while outreach will be conducted to the POC Outdoors community. Staff at the Watershed Council lead regular bird walks in the watershed and will help coordinate any logistics, supplies, and co-leadership support needed for the events.

Unlike many Oregonians, people of color don't always feel welcome or safe enjoying Oregon's outdoors. Black people and other people of color sometimes experience verbal abuse, threatening behavior, and even physical attacks while enjoying the outdoors—especially in activities like birding. Our POC Outdoors birding program creates a safe and encouraging space for people of color to acquire knowledge, skills, and interest in birds. These events will build on recent movements like #BlackBirder'sWeek to help raise the profile of black birders and birders of color and expand the accessibility and diversity of the birding and outdoors communities.

The Council and POC Outdoors will develop a feedback survey for bird walk participants to complete after each event. These surveys will help determine how effective the events were at encouraging interest in birds and conservation, and how they could be improved to increase accessibility and connection to nature, as well as garner suggestions and ideas for future birding events with People of Color Outdoors.

The bilingual paddle leaders program will further increase the accessibility and diversity of participation and leadership in outdoor recreation. This program will recruit and train bilingual Latinx paddle leaders who will serve as ambassadors to the Latinx community and lead bilingual Spanish-English paddle events on the Columbia Slough in summer 2021. This program will reduce barriers to outdoor participation for members of the Latinx community in the Columbia Slough watershed, increase the diversity of Oregon's outdoor users, build stronger connections to the watershed, and encourage conservation and stewardship practices among members of the Portland Latinx community.

The program will train bilingual leaders in the Latinx community who will help promote and communicate the Columbia Slough Watershed Council's mission to restore, protect, and enhance the Columbia Slough. These bilingual ambassadors will lead Spanish-English paddle events on the Columbia Slough, engaging members of the Latinx community in culturally-specific programming that provides opportunities to enjoy and learn about the Columbia Slough watershed. Overall, this program will reduce barriers to outdoor participation, increasing beneficial health and wellness outcomes and encouraging greater connection to the watershed and motivation to conserve and protect the Columbia Slough among members of the Latinx community.

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council will implement this programming in partnership with the local Portland nonprofit, Vive NW. In 2020, the Council partnered with Vive NW to implement the pilot year of this program which resulted in 4 new bilingual Latinx paddle leaders and reached 16 participants from the Latinx community with two bilingual paddle events. Assuming a continued need for smaller events and social distancing, our goal in 2021 is to recruit and train 4-7 additional Latinx paddle leaders and reach 20-35 new members of the Latinx community with 2-3 bilingual paddle events. We also hope to retain the original 4 bilingual paddle leaders for a total of 8-11 bilingual leaders. This represents a significant gain in diversity and language skills for our existing team of paddle event leaders, which assist with our many public paddle events held spring through fall. It also represents the growth of our ongoing partnership with Vive NW, which has included collaboration on our 2020 annual educational workshop Groundwater 101 and a listening session with members of the Latinx community designed to gather data on the impact of that event for the Latinx community.

This program will begin in early 2021 with planning and preparation in coordination with Vive NW, and outreach and recruitment to new bilingual paddle leaders will begin in spring 2021. Trainings for new paddle leaders and bilingual paddle events will occur in summer 2021, followed by collection of impact data via written surveys, and if match funding is secured, listening sessions to assess the impact of the program. Additional match funding would help provide more training for paddle leaders on conservation topics relevant to our watershed, selected by paddle leaders from a menu of potential topics.

Ultimately, the bilingual paddle program will utilize our expertise in leading paddle events combined with Vive NW's expertise in working with the Latinx community outdoors to build a program that will increase diverse participation in outdoor recreation in the Columbia Slough watershed, providing health benefits and growing and diversifying the community of conservation leaders in the Portland metro area.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Both the People of Color Outdoors birding program and the bilingual paddle leaders program will engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users. The programs will accomplish this by directly engaging members of underserved communities of color in outdoor recreation.

The paddle program will engage Latinx community members in learning new paddling skills. The program will cultivate outdoor leaders who will serve as ambassadors for our mission to protect and enhance the Columbia Slough watershed. These leaders will act as role models who encourage further outdoor participation within their communities and build increased connection to the Council and the Columbia Slough as they return as paddle leaders in future years. Ultimately, this will grow and diversify the community of leaders who take action to conserve the Columbia Slough and urban natural areas within the Portland metro area.

The POC Outdoors birding program will help diversify Oregon's birding community and increase the number of people of color engaged in birding, bird conservation, and outdoor recreation in the watershed. These events will introduce Oregonians of color to a new, accessible wildlife-associated outdoor recreation activity and increase their bird knowledge and birding skills. Because Oregon's bird diversity relies on nearly all of its varied habitats, interest in this activity can promote care for conservation both locally and across the state.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funding will be split between the project's two programs:

Bilingual Paddle Leaders:
Funds will support the continuation of the program in 2021, including recruiting and training new paddle leaders and hosting two bilingual paddle events.

Staff Time (Planning, Coordination): $2500
Contractor (Vive NW; Outreach, Consulting, Translation): $2000
Paddle Leader Stipends: $1000
Event Supplies (Food, Materials): $100
Subtotal: $5600
Admin Costs: $560
Subtotal: $6160
If secured, pending match funds will add program elements including listening sessions and additional trainings on conservation topics.

POC Outdoors Birding:
Funds will fully support two birding events led by and for People of Color, which will lay the groundwork for future events for birders of color.

Staff Time (Planning, Coordination, Followup): $800
POC Outdoors Contracting (Leadership, Outreach): $2000
Event Supplies (Field Guides for POC Outdoors): $150
Subtotal: $2950
Admin Costs: $290
Subtotal: $3240

TOTAL: $9400

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

We have two key partners for this project: Vive NW and People of Color Outdoors

Vive NW is a key partner integral to the bilingual paddle leaders program. Vive NW will serve as a consultant to the program that will provide cultural expertise and implement culturally-specific outreach to the Latinx community to recruit bilingual paddle leaders and paddle event participants. In addition, Vive NW will provide translation services for program materials and produce bilingual outreach videos that will inform the Latinx community about our paddle programming and will be used as communication tools for this and future years of the program.

People of Color Outdoors will provide event leadership and outreach for the birding program. People of Color Outdoor is an important partner to the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, hosting outdoor opportunities for people of color in the watershed and collaborating with us on several paddle events in 2020. People of Color Outdoors will advertise the free bird walks to their list and will be the main leader of the events, with Council staff supporting them.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Our project's two programs have individual timelines: Bilingual paddle leaders program: Initial program planning: January-April 2021 April-July 2021: Bilingual paddle leader recruitment July-August 2021: Bilingual paddle leader training; bilingual paddle event outreach August-September 2021: Bilingual paddle events August-October 2021: Social impact data collection; possible listening sessions People of Color Outdoors Birding Program: Program planning: January-March 2021 Outreach and Advertising: March-May 2021 April-May 2021: Bird walk events April-June 2021: Feedback survey data collection and reflection

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Columbia Slough Watershed Council website: www.columbiaslough.org
Article about People of Color Outdoors: https://audubonportland.org/blog/people-of-color-outdoors-a-fast-growing-community-group-organizing-inclusive-and-safe-outdoor-outings/
ViveNW letter of support: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13Q7MDeFN3Q2YwYPgpUGEkgogL6hsOKPd/view?usp=sharing
2020 Bilingual Paddle Leader Recruits (photo): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ABumGsnmwMgMrq_Wc7pJYjIIXjHQ3iBL/view?usp=sharing

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

During 2020, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and Vive NW worked together to implement the pilot year of the bilingual paddle leaders program with the goal to diversify outdoor participation within our watershed through culturally-specific engagement with our recreational paddle programming on the Columbia Slough. Together, we recruited 4 new bilingual paddle leaders, increasing our total number of Latinx paddle leaders from 2 to 6, and we engaged 16 members of the Latinx community in two bilingual paddle events. This programming took place in September-October 2020, and we are still in the process of gathering impact data from the program. We expect data analysis to show that participants in this program experience high conservation-oriented self-efficacy and motivation to participate in additional recreational and conservation activities. We are also collecting input on how to improve the program and better serve the Latinx community in following years. This program strengthened our relationship with Vive NW, a key culturally-specific partner, and significantly diversified leadership in our paddle programming. Overall, the program has contributed to promoting greater outdoor participation, leadership and paddling skills among members of the Latinx community in our watershed and helped diversify the community of conservation leaders in the Portland metro area.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Columbia Slough Watershed Council was first founded by a small group of community members who came together in response to combined sewer overflows (CSOs) dumping Portland sewage into the Columbia Slough. A “Slough Summit” was called and a diverse group of property owners, businesses, neighborhoods, environmental groups and government agencies got together to form a committee. Because of the Council’s efforts, the Big Pipe Project was completed, which eliminated 99% of all sewage releases into the Slough. As a result, water and habitat quality have improved drastically, and the Slough is a healthier place for people and wildlife. Since that first victory, the Columbia Slough Watershed Council has evolved into an active nonprofit organization providing free paddle programming, natural history walks, community festivals, volunteer stewardship events, educational workshops, and more to the watershed community. Since our founding, we have endeavored to help keep the Columbia Slough watershed a healthy, welcoming, and accessible place for all to visit, care for, and enjoy.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Angling Diversity: Transcreating Wildlife Recreation for the LatinX Community

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Vive NW's 'Angling Diversity' project is a three-stage effort in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) with the ultimate goal of introducing, enhancing, expanding, and retaining participation in fishing recreation throughout the LatinX community.

Primary Contact Person *

Marielle Cowdin

Primary Contact Email Address *

mcowdin@vivenw.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

703-509-6457

Lead Organization *

Vive NW, fiscally sponsored by Oregon Wild

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

Oregon Wild Tax ID: 23-7432820

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [x] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Statewide, with emphasis on communities in: Portland, Salem, Eugene, Eastern Oregon

Project Location (County) *

Statewide, with emphasis on communities in: Multnomah, Washington, Marion, Lincoln, and Umatilla Counties

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

09 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

50000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Increasing, enhancing, and retaining LatinX community anglers across the state of Oregon.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Vive NW expects high participation rates among survey participants, video viewers/sharers, and outing participants. Success will be measured by the number of survey participants in phase one, the number of engaged viewers via Vive NW and TV Jam social media pages in phase two, and the number of participants in outdoor outings in phase three. Reports will be provided at the end of each phase to OCRF members and partners within the project.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Vive NW's 'Angling Diversity' project is a three-stage effort in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) with the ultimate goal of introducing, enhancing, expanding, and retaining participation in fishing recreation throughout the LatinX community. Phase one of the project includes a research component and a survey of Oregon's LatinX community about existing and potential barriers to angling. The results of this survey will be compiled into a comprehensive report that will help guide content for phase two of the project - a multilingual, multicultural video series around angling introduction and education for diverse communities.

As part of phase two, Vive NW will create a series of 10 tailored videos in Spanish and indigenous languages (such as Mam), to be distributed and broadcasted on multiple social media and digital platforms. Vive NW will also promote these videos on TV Jam (an affiliated entity of Vive NW). Each video will provide specific information about unique Oregon fishing areas, species, angling how-tos, permitting, safety, and other topics per guidance from ODFW staff and the survey results. As part of Vive NW's internal talent and repertoire, videos and other outreach content will be transcreated - i.e. both linguistically and culturally translated to have the greatest impact for the target audiences.
Dependent on COVID-19 regulations next spring and summer, phase three will entail a series of in-person, socially-distanced angling events with ODFW staff and Vive NW alongside members of the LatinX community and Oregon communities of color to put information to practice and engage at a deeper level. These events will feature a diverse array of Oregon's ecoregions, geography, fish species, and angling approaches.

The LatinX community is one that is already deeply engaged and connected to the outdoors. This project aims to break down the barriers to Oregon's unique recreational opportunities and for communities of color.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project directly applies to OCRF's Recreation priorities as it engages and expands both the number and the diversity of Oregon's outdoor users, specifically among the LatinX community, one of Oregon's largest minority communities. By focusing specifically on angling recreation and by creating a three-part project of research, education & outreach, and practical application, this proposal advances goals of long-term, diverse and sustainable recreationalists across the state.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF funding would allow Vive NW to fund salaries and indirect costs for the internal staff working on phase one and two of this project - namely developing the survey and subsequent research report as well as developing relevant content for videos pertaining to angling recreation for the LatinX and Indigenous language communities across the state.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) staff has been involved in preliminary discussion of this project and as a partner would be involved in phase one development of the survey as well as direction around video content in phase two and leading trips in phase three. Oregon State Parks would also potentially serve as a partner regarding phase three locations for angling activities and Travel Oregon as a partner in phase two for disseminating outreach information and promotion of communications materials and locals for angling activities.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Once funded, work on this project would begin immediately.First steps will include research with our project partners to determine priority content for videos and digital materials, followed by the crafting of a production schedule and outreach plan. Once priority topics are identified, script writing, video production, and content vetting will occur with total video turnaround time within two weeks. One video will be released across Vive NW and project partner platforms every 4-5 weeks.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Vive NW has created similar content for the U.S. Forest Service - https://www.facebook.com/vivenorthwest/videos/287352489038094 - and for the Oregon Health Authority - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJoZG37T2_f4PRMU_KerCgg/videos

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Vive NW has worked in partnership with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to create multilingual, multicultural content around COVID-19 and related health issues for communities of color and non-English speaking groups. The videos produced by Vive NW have reached hundreds of thousands of Spanish and Indigenous speaking communities, with more being reached through the sharing of our videos across the CPOP network (over 200 community-based organizations serving populations in over 27 different non-English languages).

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Vive NW has also partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and created content around diversity in the outdoors within our National Forests and the recreation opportunities available to all Pacific Northwest residents. Two videos have been produced introducing Spanish and Mam-speaking communities to opportunities within their Pacific Northwests forests with an emphasis on access and an inclusive outdoors experience. We've also worked with the USFS on multilingual fire information and are currently hosting a series of webinars with USFS and REI around Responsible Recreation.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Engaging Outdoor Recreationists in the Conservation of Oregon's Native Freshwater Turtles

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

This project will aid the conservation of Oregon's native freshwater turtles through engaging outdoor recreationists. Specifically, we will: (a) restore, protect, and monitor critical basking and nesting habitat for turtles in a municipal park; (b) conduct research on how outdoor recreation may impact turtles in these habitats; and (c) create novel bilingual tools and educational materials, including a new customizable citizen science survey mobile phone app, for members of the public to engage with and contribute directly to turtle conservation. In doing so, we aim to introduce a diverse population of outdoor recreationists to wildlife-based conservation, and manage recreation impacts in such a way that it directly benefits and contributes to the conservation of these sensitive conservation strategy species.

Primary Contact Person *

Gareth Hopkins

Primary Contact Email Address *

hopkinsg@wou.edu

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-838-9395

Lead Organization *

Western Oregon University

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-6033807

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Salem

Project Location (County) *

Marion

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2023

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

9971

Total Project Cost *

9971

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

This project's overarching goal is to help conserve two Oregon conservation strategy species of native freshwater turtles - the Western Pond Turtle and the Western Painted Turtle - through ongoing habitat restoration, research, monitoring, and the engagement of Oregonian outdoor recreationists in these efforts.

To achieve this overall goal, this project has four main objectives which will take place at Minto Brown Park in Salem. Minto Brown serves as an excellent testing ground for these objectives, with the eventual goal of applying findings elsewhere in the state and beyond. The four objectives of this project are:

1. Continue and enhance ongoing restoration and monitoring efforts of critical basking and nesting habitat for turtles at Minto Brown Park.
2. Finish the development of and launch a newly-created custom "PNW Turtle Watch" mobile phone app and website specially designed for outdoor recreationists to record sightings of turtles of conservation concern state-wide, and for in-depth basking and nesting surveys by Citizen Science volunteers at Minto Brown.
3. Determine, through field research, how outdoor recreationists are interacting with, and potentially impacting, turtles at Minto Brown Park.
4. Develop and disseminate educational materials based on results from Objective 3 to help educate, engage, and involve outdoor recreationists in the conservation of turtles, focusing on ways that they can reduce their potential impacts and become involved in turtle monitoring efforts.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Outcome 1: The creation and maintenance of turtle basking habitat throughout Minto Brown Park through the repair, maintenance, and creation of artificial basking structures and logs.
Success Measured by: Successful deployment of basking structures. Utilization of basking structure by turtles evaluated through in-person, citizen science, and camera monitoring.

Outcome 2: The restoration and protection of critical nesting habitat for turtles at Minto Brown Park achieved through mowing, mounding, and fencing to restrict predator and public access.
Success Measured by: Monitoring of nesting habitat use by turtles and predators, monitoring of depredation of nests, evaluated through in-person and camera surveillance and hatching success.

Outcome 3: Creation and dissemination of a bilingual (English and Spanish) citizen science app to record turtle observations and conduct ecological survey monitoring efforts.
Success Measured by: App downloads and turtle sightings reported. Volunteers recruited to conduct more in-depth surveys using the app.

Outcome 4: Knowledge of the possible impacts that recreationists may be having on turtle behavior and the mechanism of those impacts, and the creation of a best-practices management guide for park managers.
Success Measured by: Completion of monitoring surveys to determine recreation use and impacts.

Outcome 5: Creation of permanent signage and other educational materials at Minto Brown Park to help the outdoor recreation community understand how recreation might be impacting turtles, how to minimize those impacts, and how to get involved in turtle conservation through reporting turtle sightings on the new app and volunteering for more in-depth survey efforts.
Success Measured by: Observations and surveys of how people interact with the educational materials and the turtles.

Outcome 6: Training at least one Ph.D. student and several (2-5) undergraduate students in turtle conservation and recreation ecology research techniques.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

The Western Pond Turtle and the Western Painted Turtle are two listed Oregon Conservation Strategy species. Both species are found at Minto Brown Park (MBP) in Salem, which has been the site of ongoing habitat restoration efforts led by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). PI (Hopkins) has engaged with ODFW on these conservation measures since 2019, training Western Oregon University (WOU) undergraduates in turtle basking and nesting site monitoring and data analysis. Our monitoring of basking structures has indicated few if any young turtles are being found in the park, leading to concern that hatchlings are not surviving to maturity. The research done thus far has indicated several gaps in our knowledge and abilities to most efficiently monitor turtles and engage the public in conservation. This is especially critical as MBP is a heavily-used park with thousands of outdoor recreationists using the park each year. This volume of recreational activity has the potential to negatively impact turtles as well as provide an opportunity to engage visitors directly in turtle conservation efforts. Existing funding for this work ends in 2021. Funding from this grant will allow ongoing critical habitat restoration and monitoring efforts for turtles to continue while also greatly expanding the scope and direction of our work into the fields of recreation ecology and citizen science.

Objective 1: Deployment of supplemental basking structures has been a success. However, some structures need repair, and we would like to deploy additional logs and structures in the park. Our monitoring efforts have indicated that some structures and areas of the park have very few native turtles, whereas others have many native turtles, and we do not fully understand why. To better understand the use patterns and efficacy of basking structures we need to continue our monitoring efforts, requiring logistical and material support (including replacing some cameras and structures, batteries, memory cards, etc.). Our remote camera monitoring of turtle nesting habitats in the park has indicated that raccoons appear to be a major predator of turtle eggs. This monitoring has only just begun and needs financial support to continue to identify other potential threats and to proactively protect turtle eggs and hatchlings. Existing grant funds are supporting the creation of nesting mounds in May to help improve the quality of the substrate for turtle nesting in a fenced-off area of the park. OCRF funding will allow us to continue current efforts to restore turtle nesting habitat, and experimentally determine the efficacy of different predator exclusion strategies through a field experiment.

Objective 2: To aid in ongoing monitoring of turtles at MBP, a group of citizen science volunteers were recruited in 2019. Volunteers were trained on paper survey techniques, noting the location of basking turtles and details about habitat and environmental conditions. During this period, it was identified that a custom-designed phone app would be a preferred method of efficiently conducting these surveys. This app would allow the trained user to note the location of turtle nest starts via built-in GPS and to communicate directly with researchers. The app would be flexible and could support multiple use cases: from incidental observations by the public to customized collection fields on nests, basking structures, habitat, or recreation use by trained citizen scientists. Since Spring 2019, the PI and co-PI Dr. Lucas Cordova (WOU Computer Science) have worked with a WOU student to create this app; with the goal of beta testing in MBP with volunteers this spring. While the app is being developed with the consultation and support of ODFW and the City of Salem, it has been self-funded by the PIs. Additional funding is needed to finish app development, engage in beta testing, and support Spanish language localization. This app will be bilingual, multi-functional, and fully customizable, allowing academic, state, and citizen scientists to go beyond the limitations of currently available options (e.g., iNaturalist). This app will also have a robust “back-end” database where custom data can be easily downloaded and analyzed by scientists (WOU will host the app and database with a data-sharing agreement with ODFW) and members of the public can interface with researchers. OCRF funding will allow us to create a customizable app and website framework that can be modified for monitoring other Oregon Conservation Strategy Species and expand the use of this app state-wide for turtles. This app will be a positive way to engage Oregonian outdoor recreators in wildlife-based recreation, helping to conserve turtles in their own backyard.

Objective 3: MBP is heavily utilized by multi-use outdoor recreationists with very high potential for people to interact with turtles and their critical habitat. In fact, we have interacted with many park visitors who are curious about the turtles. How do we assess and manage the potential negative impacts of outdoor recreation on sensitive turtles while also directly educating and involving the public in their conservation? The first step in this process is to understand how outdoor recreationists are engaging with turtles. The PI, an expert in herpetology and conservation, has teamed up with co-PI Dr. Ashley D’Antonio (OSU, Recreation Ecologist) to begin investigating the effects of outdoor recreation on reptiles. Dr. D’Antonio has a self-funded Ph.D. student interested in focusing their studies on this research. OCRF funding is required to pay for material supplies, travel to and from the research site, and an undergraduate field technician’s salary to assist in monitoring efforts. Monitoring visitors and turtles in MBP will allow us to understand and quantify any impacts that recreation use may be having on turtle behavior and identify the mechanisms of those impacts. Monitoring will occur using continuous monitoring with wildlife cameras and discrete direction observations. Cameras will be placed on the basking structures and locations that provide a view of the basking structure and recreationists. We will use the photos to quantify the presence/absence of turtles, counts of visitors present, and visitors’ activity types. Direct observations will document both recreationists and turtles at each location with a basking structure or nesting site. We will observe the location, number, activity type, and behavior of visitors and the number and behavior of turtles by species. These combined methods will help us better understand if recreational use impacts how and when turtles use the basking structures and, if impacts are occurring, if these impacts are a function of visitor numbers, activity types, behavior, and/or a combination of these factors.

Objective 4: Based on findings from this study’s monitoring components, education and outreach messages will be developed for MBP. Not only will the messaging aim to encourage responsible recreation related to turtles but will also aim to engage visitors in turtle conservation. The messaging will also encourage visitors to participate in citizen science via the newly developed PNW Turtle Watch mobile phone app (Objective 2). The bilingual (English and Spanish) education and outreach materials - disseminated via signage and in-person by volunteers - will be tested at a demonstration area at Minto Brown Park and have the support of the City of Salem. The messages’ effectiveness will be tested via observational techniques (measure how visitors engage with signs and volunteers) and surveys (to gauge engagement, knowledge, and attitudes). Using these techniques, we can evaluate: 1) If people engage in and/or understand the responsible recreation behaviors we are encouraging, 2) Do visitors know and care more about turtle conservation? And 3) Are visitors likely to engage in citizen science with the PNW Turtle Watch app?

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project is highly aligned with 6 out of 7 of the OCRF priority areas and the Oregon Conservation Strategy.
By restoring and monitoring habitat (Objective 1) for two Oregon Conservation Strategy species (Western Pond Turtle and Western Painted Turtle) in an Oregon Conservation Strategy Conservation Opportunity Area (Middle Willamette River Floodplain), our work will align well with the first two ORCF conservation strategies.
The creation of a survey and monitoring mobile phone app (Objective 2) for use by members of the public and citizen science volunteers directly aligns with ORCF's priorities of conservation monitoring through community science activities and introduces Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation. Our efforts to create this app and website in a bilingual format will also engage and expand Oregon's outdoor users' number and diversity in this task, another OCRF priority.
Our research on how recreational users interact with turtles (Objective 3) directly supports OCRF's priority to fund research that "supports responsible recreational opportunities." Importantly, we will follow-up that research by creating and distributing bilingual educational materials (Objective 4) to support responsible outdoor recreation, the conservation of strategy species, and the long-term engagement of the public as citizen scientists.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [x] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

$750 of OCRF funds will support Objective 1 through the purchasing of materials to repair and replenish basking structures and the protection of critical nesting habitat.

$937 will support Objective 2 by paying for app developer fees, operating system and distribution software licensing fees, and Spanish language localization.

$1950 will support Objectives 3 and 4 by paying for new trail cameras for monitoring turtles and recreationists, travel to and from the field site by researchers, and educational signage and materials.

$5859 will fund multiple objectives. This includes the purchase of batteries and memory cards to be used for monitoring turtle basking and nesting habitat and recreation use (~$300), and $5559 being used to hire two biology undergraduate research assistant students (one in each year) to help conduct field work surveys in aid of Objectives 3 and 4, and processing of photos in support of Objectives 1, 3 and 4.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Western Oregon University - in addition to Dr. Hopkins and his students conducting critical biological monitoring and habitat restoration (Objective 1), Dr. Lucas Cordova, of the Division of Computer Science and students co-advised with Dr. Hopkins, will lead the development, launch, and maintenance of the citizen science app (Objective 2). Western Oregon University will provide in-kind support hosting the server and database for the app and will also help promote the app.

Oregon State University - Dr. Ashley D'Antonio, Assistant Professor of Nature-based Recreation Management, and Ph.D. Student Rosario Allende, of the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society at Oregon State University will help lead Objectives 3 and 4, coordinating and leading research and education efforts on recreation use in the park, in collaboration with the PI (Hopkins) and WOU undergraduate students.

City of Salem - The City of Salem Parks and Recreation Department (contact: Matt Johnston) will support the project by allowing and hosting research and habitat restoration, research, and educational infrastructure (basking structures, cameras, fencing, signage, etc.) at Minto Brown Park. They will also provide in-kind support for ongoing nesting habitat restoration through mowing and providing logistical support for the placement of basking structures.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) – As the lead agency on the original restoration efforts at Minto Brown Park (which will also overlap by one year of this grant), ODFW will continue to provide logistical support for research on turtles at Minto Brown through making a boat and trail cameras available for surveys, and assisting where needed and appropriate in turtle monitoring and habitat restoration efforts.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

YEAR 1: January - March 2021: Work continues on app development (Objective 2), with a beta version of app slated for release in April. All required permitting and permissions for research (e.g., IRB) obtained. Field supplies obtained in anticipation of field season. April - May 2021: Basking structures repaired and re-deployed (Objective 1). Additional basking structures, logs, etc. added to the park. Cameras attached to basking structures and habitat locations for remote monitoring of turtles and visitors (Objectives 1 and 3). In-person monitoring of basking using newly created survey app and citizen science volunteers commences (Objectives 1 and 2). In-person monitoring of recreation use commences (Objective 3). May-June 2021: Nest mounding completed and predator exclusions methods experimentally installed to test efficacy of nest protection efforts (Objective 1). Cameras to monitor nesting installed. In-person monitoring of recreation and turtles continues (Objectives 1, 3). June - September 2021: Monitoring of recreation use and turtle nesting and basking behavior and efficacy of predator exclusion methods continues. INTER-YEAR: October 2021 - March 2022: Data processing and analysis of camera photos, surveys, and monitoring efforts (Objectives 1 and 3). Revision of Turtle App based on feedback from citizen science volunteers and scientists (Objective 2). Educational materials start to be prepared based on research results (Objective 4). YEAR 2: April - May 2022: Field research continues on turtle basking and recreation use. Educational outreach materials (Objective 4) are created based on results from Year 1. Full revised and bilingual app made accessible to the entire public and advertised (Objective 2). June-September 2022: Nesting and basking habitats continually monitored and restored as necessary (Objective 1). More targeted follow-up field research on recreation use conducted as deemed necessary based on the results of Year 1 (Objective 3). Bilingual educational outreach materials and signage and surveys of their effectiveness are deployed at Minto Brown park (Objective 4) October 2022-January 2023: Data processing and analysis conducted and full reports written up for OCRF and partners. Management Guide for park managers written and disseminated. Scientific papers prepared for publication and presentation at conferences.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

The lead PI has been working with ODFW since 2019 to carry out pre- and post-basking habitat restoration monitoring of turtles at Minto Brown Park, in what is hoped to be a long-term monitoring effort. This ongoing project has involved the supervision and mentoring of 3 undergraduate researchers doing in-person and remote (trail camera) monitoring of basking and nesting habitats. Year 1 of this project resulted in the analysis of data collected by the student and a team of citizen scientists, and the preparation and presentation of a report in September 2019 of management recommendations to ODFW. The plan of originally conducting more in-person monitoring during 2020 was derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but was still achieved by placing trail cameras on basking platforms and nesting habitats. The photo data from this year is still being processed but has already resulted in the knowledge that raccoons are digging up turtle nests. The lead PI has also recruited a student researcher and founded the collaboration with computer scientist and Co-PI Cordova to begin developing the turtle survey app, which is now well into development. The student involved was also mentored in the writing of a formal critical review on Citizen Science. Several management papers regarding basking structures and remote monitoring are in the planning stages based on the work conducted so far. This entire two years of work has laid the groundwork for the currently proposed OCRF-funded project.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

The lead PI (Hopkins) has an established history of collaboration with co-PI D'Antonio, supervising student research on the impacts of outdoor recreation on reptiles. Specifically, in the Spring of 2019, we co-supervised a student (Blake Looney) to conduct walking surveys of recreation use at Bald Hill Natural Area in Corvallis.he student recorded and quantified the behavior of people recreating in the park on different days and times and compared that to the number and diversity of snakes and lizards that he came across thermoregulating on the walking path, along with other environmental variables. The results demonstrated that different types of recreation on different days may impact reptiles differently. This work is currently being written up for publication and sharing with the City of Corvallis.

In addition to this work with the Lead Organization, co-PI Dr. D'Antonio also has a wealth of experience conducting similar work in recreation ecology. These include a collaborative project in the Summer of 2018 with Siuslaw National Forest focused on the effectiveness of messaging to influence visitors behavior on Western Snowy Plover nesting beaches at Oregon Dunes National Recreation Areas. This project involved observing visitors on nesting beaches, developing messaging to encourage responsible recreation behavior, and testing the effectiveness of this messaging.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

From: Gareth Hopkins
To: Davia M Palmeri
Subject: Re: OCRF Application Received
Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020 11:51:13 AM

Many thanks, Davia.

I just wanted to add one thing which I forgot to put in the "Other Information" section of our application:

I know that there is sometimes concern that universities charge a large "indirect" / "overhead" fee on grants. As OCRF is targeted towards non-profits, if successful we have been given permission to run this grant through the Western Oregon University Foundation (which is the tax number I provided), which is a registered non-profit, and has a much smaller administrative processing fee (5%) compared to our normal indirect fee for grants (22%). I have included that 5% fee in the total dollars requested from OCRF.

If you or the committee have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you very much for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

Gareth

> On 22 Oct 2020, at 11:46 am, Davia M Palmeri <Davia.M.Palmeri@state.or.us> wrote:
>
> Good afternoon,
>
> Thanks so much for your application for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund! This email is to confirm that the Department of Fish and Wildlife has received your materials. Your submission through the Google Form is attached. Your application is currently being reviewed for completeness. We will follow up with you if more information is needed.
>
> The Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee will meet on Monday, October 26 to discuss the review process and commence review thereafter. The Committee will meet again on November 17 to discuss application scores and decide on their funding recommendations. Finally, the Committee's recommendations will be sent to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for their approval. These are all public meetings that you are welcome to attend. You can find more information about the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp
>
> As a reminder, the Conservation & Recreation Fund is a new public-private partnership. More information about the fundraising campaign is available online here:

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Wildlife Habitat Modeling with Community Science and Data in the Blue Mountains

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

The Blue Mountains Forest Partners (BMFP) forest restoration collaborative and project partners are using their Wildlife Habitat Zones of Agreement (ZOA) and Decision Support Tool (DST) to address the habitat needs of all 200+ terrestrial vertebrate wildlife species on the Malheur NF. To test the ability to predict wildlife habitat (pre- and post-restoration) via species specific requirements, BMFP is modeling Pacific Marten habitat as a pilot species.

Primary Contact Person *

Mark Webb

Primary Contact Email Address *

bmfp06@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

541.620.2546

Lead Organization *

Blue Mountains Forest Partners

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

45-4844162

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [x] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Mt Vernon

Project Location (County) *

Grant (primarily)

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

03 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

10000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Goal: To create a wildlife habitat model that allows local data to be incorporated

Objectives:

- To build a Pacific Marten model (using current FS, LiDAR, and environmental/geographic data) for the Malheur NF
- To create options for the Marten model to incorporate locally collected collaborative data (plot level vegetation and structure data)
- To test the Marten model by deploying camera traps for detection and ground-truthing the vegetation model for presence of key habitat characteristics
- To adapt the model based on detections and ground-truthing
- To create a wildlife habitat model framework that can be adapted to other landscapes (NFs, state, private) and other terrestrial vertebrate species (with their own habitat requirement inputs).

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Our success will be ultimately measured by being able to adapt the preliminary model for Pacific Marten habitat created by the University of Washington to include BMFP's collaborative community science and data to better inform below canopy habitat requirements for the Marten that are also important to many other Conservation Strategy Species requiring downed wood and snags. Specifically, our outcomes and measured success will include:

Preliminary Pacific Marten Model based on LiDAR and environmental and geographical data incorporates community science and data: here, collaborative data plot data on snags, downed wood, and understory vegetation.

The preliminary model was built upon data easily acquired by Federal, State, and Private landowners that have access to LiDAR data for their boundaries. This new component will allow a framework for adding additional community science and data that informs wildlife habitat models with specific understory data not easily accessed through LiDAR or GIS databases (e.g., FS FIA pots, Common Stand Exam plots, or extrapolation of FS data through GNN).

Openly publish the format and framework for adding community science and data into LiDAR and GIS models for wildlife habitat.

Use the new model that includes plot level data collected by the Collaborative to update the preliminary Pacific Marten model to reassess where camera traps will be deployed on the Malheur NF to detect the presence of Marten.

After proof of concept with the Pacific Marten, provide the plot level data of snags, downed wood, and understory vegetation to wildlife scientists to consider for models for other Conservation Strategy Species such as Pileated Woodpecker, Great Gray Owl, and other snag dependent species.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Overview: BMFP is working with scientists from Oregon and Washington to better apply community data into complex modeling of LiDAR, vegetation data, soils, and other environmental and geographical data layers. The community data (gathered by the Collaborative and consulting researchers) allows more accurate understanding of pre- and post-treatment of forest restoration and of plot-level data that is not currently captured by LiDAR (such as snags, logs, and understory vegetation) nor accurately modeled by Forest Service plots (FIA, CSE, and GNN) for wildlife habitat purposes. Our goal is to show that the inclusion of local data makes a model better. Additionally, we want to create a model that can be exported to other landowners and landscapes. To do that, we want to prove that models can be more valuable when they have inputs from local landscapes (LiDAR) and community sources (here, a collaborative). Once piloted, the model could be used by other landowners for other wildlife species of interest to them.

Background: BMFP was established in 2006 and is a diverse group of stakeholders who work together to create and implement a shared vision to improve the resilience and wellbeing of forests and communities in the Blue Mountains. The work of the BMFP takes place on the northern two Ranger Districts (Prairie City and Blue Mountain) of the 1.7 million-acre Malheur NF located in Grant, Harney, and Baker counties in eastern Oregon.

BMFP is dedicated to the restoration of forest ecosystems on the Malheur NF. Decades of fire exclusion and climate change have shifted tree species composition, stem density, tree spatial pattern, dead wood amounts, and ecoregion boundaries to fall outside of the historical range of variability (HRV). Consequently, as result of these shifts, there are some terrestrial vertebrate wildlife species whose habitat availability has declined and other species whose habitat availability has increased.

Of particular interest are the wildlife species whose habitat would be reduced as management activities return the landscape to fall within HRV and desired future conditions. With any natural or anthropogenic disturbance or stressor, there are species that gain habitat and others that lose habitat. Within the context of climate change and subsequent effects on forest resistance, we want to be sure that losses of habitat for some species is understood when conducting landscape and project restoration. Project- and forest-level analysis should include whether management activities cause habitat availability for a species to fall outside of the HRV. We are using a filter approach to understand the likelihood of conservation of all terrestrial vertebrates across the Malheur NF as forest management continues to restore forest types to HRV. The filter approach is consistent with use of HRV and the future range of variability (FRV) under climate change scenarios, and this approach provides a framework for assessing which wildlife species may need special attention when implementing projects.

When addressing the issue of conserving biodiversity, and the thousands of species of plants and animals that occur within a given management area, a tiered approach to decision-making is used that considers the needs of some species explicitly, but assumes that the needs of others will be met through a more generalized strategy of habitat protection and active management that considers plant community and seral stage representation across the planning area. The filter approach is often used as a basis for reducing the risk of losing a species from an ecosystem by using three management strategies, or “filters”: (1) coarse; (2) meso; and (3) fine. These strategies are designed to “catch” species in each filter within a hierarchy of management approaches while minimizing the risk of losing species. Coarse filter species, such as the Bobcat or American Robin, are assumed to have their habitat needs met by plant association (forest type) of a certain seral stage. Meso-filter species, such as the Great-gray Owl, need structural elements (snags, nest platforms) within a given distance to foraging habitat (meadows). The Fine-filter species such as the Pacific Marten, need species-level analysis to assure their habitat needs are being met under management.

Project Specifics: BMFP has created an approach to addressing over 200 wildlife species on the Malheur NF. To pilot our Zones of Agreement (ZOA; document outlining social agreement among members) and Decision Support Tool (DST; wildlife priority species and habitat requirements), we are working with Resilient Forestry and other partners to create a Pacific Marten habitat model. By using the Marten as our pilot, we can show whether the model can accurately map canopy cover (LiDAR), environmental factors (seasonal weather, distance to water), and geographical data (elevation). This data was available from our Forest Service partners and Oregon Department of Forestry. However, to accurately account for Marten habitat needs, we need to include downed wood and snag components under predominately closed canopy. BMFP has this data from our community work as a collaborative working directly with researchers and crews on the ground on the Malheur NF.

We hope that OCRF will fund this important piece of using community science and data from the Collaborative and their partners. While funding has been secured for the ZOA, DST, and Pacific Marten Model, we feel that without the increased accuracy of detecting downed wood and snags, the Marten model will not be as effective. Additionally, without this community data, the model will not be able to be adapted to other species requiring snags (most meso filter species, Forest Service Management Indicator Species, and many ODFW Conservation Strategy Species).

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [ ] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The preliminary model includes analysis of existing canopy structure and vegetation type (forest type) based on LiDAR and restoration since ODF LiDAR flights. However, to accurately model potential Pacific Marten habitat, the connection of riparian corridors, mixed conifer forests, and ponderosa pine forests with closed canopy (or open canopy as a potential barrier to permeability to Marten), we need to incorporate community science and data into the LiDAR model so as to add downed wood and snag components required for Marten and for other Conservation Strategy Species.

Priority Habitats: Late successional mixed conifer forests, Aspen woodlands, Ponderosa Pine, Flowing Water and Riparian Habitats, and Grasslands

Priority Species: Pacific Marten (species being piloted). The ability to include snags, logs, and other data under closed or mostly closed canopy will then allow us to model habitat with local data for other avian and mammalian species that have meso or fine filter habitat needs: Flammulated Owl, California Myotis, Pileated Woodpecker, Great-gray Owl, Wolverine, White-headed Woodpecker, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Olive-sided Flycatcher, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Long-legged myotis, Lewis's Woodpecker. Note: the mapping tool will first focus the above species, but once completed we will also model habitat for coarse-filter species, including Silver-haired Bat, Spotted Bat, Pallid Bat, and Hoary Bat, among others.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other: _____

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The entirety of the funds will be used to meet our objective of creating options for the Marten model to incorporate community science and data. The collaborative data includes plot level snags, downed wood, tree structure, and understory vegetation data. Resilient Forestry will work with BMFP to input collaborative data into the existing Pacific Marten model. Specifically, data from 350+ plots (across 3-7 years for each plot in pre- and post- forest restoration stands) will be added to the complex LiDAR model created by University of Washington. We estimate $8,500 for data preparation, modeling, forest-wide estimates, and final model report; and $1500 (or 18%) for BMFP administration of the grant.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Resilient Forestry, Sean Jeronimo (Oregon). Role: data preparation, modeling, forest estimates, and other technical work on creating Pacific Marten model. Project lead for incorporating community science and data into the model.
Sustainable Northwest, Dr. Trent Seager (Oregon). Role: project co-lead.
Dr. Brenda McComb. Role: project co-lead.
Malheur National Forest. Role: funding and technical assistance on the Pacific Marten and vegetation maps on the Malheur NF.
Pacific Northwest Regional US Forest Service Office. Role: funding and technical assistance on the Pacific Marten survey, detection, and research on the Malheur and other Blues NFs
University of Washington. Role: preliminary Pacific Marten model.
Oregon State University, College of Forestry. Role: leading the Collaborative data collection on the Malheur NF.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January 2020 through March 2020.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

www.bluemountainsforestpartners.org

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

In 2015, the Canyon Creek Fire destroyed over 40 homes in Grant County and burned over 110,000 acres of the Malheur National Forest (MNF) and adjacent private lands. BMFP used this event to develop and implement an experimental salvage logging effort, which had two related goals: determine if we can manage in such situations to concurrently benefit economics and wildlife; and determine what levels (and types) of snags are needed for the population persistence of Black-backed, White-headed, and Lewis's Woodpeckers. We enlisted the help of Vicki Saab, a researcher with Rocky Mountain Research Station, MNF staff, and loggers to develop treatment prescriptions that met these goals.

Objectives included:

- Quantifying occupancy and nesting densities in relation to the gradient of salvage logging.
- Characterizing nest-site selection in relation to burn severity, snag and tree densities, and % ponderosa pine.
- Determining the influence of salvage gradient on nest survival.

Ms. Saab and her team conducted pre-treatment and 4 years of post-treatment monitoring per the objectives. Researchers are currently analyzing data. This effort will inform habitat suitability modeling for disturbance-associated woodpeckers and, consequently, the decision space available to federal land managers who manage for multiple (and frequently conflicting) values. It will also inform BMFP's effort to develop a "zone of agreement" around salvage logging and post-fire habitat management.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

BMFP works collaboratively with the MNF to develop and implement landscape scale restoration projects. Within the last 5 years these include the experimental salvage logging project described above and 4 other "green" vegetation projects that cover over 138,000 acres. An important part of this project work involves the development of BMFP "zones of agreement"—ZOA. Our ZOA are informed by best available science, memorialize BMFP's level of social agreement around restoration issues, and provide the decision space within which we work with MNF staff to facilitate accelerated restoration on the MNF.

Regular field trips and rigorous quantitative monitoring are also critical parts of pre- and post-treatment project work that provide an important educational component that helps educate community members and inform the MNF's adaptive management efforts.

Project results include:

- An Upland Forest Restoration ZOA (for xeric and dry pine, dry mixed forests, and moist mixed forests); a Riparian ZOA; a Aspen ZOA; and a Wildlife Habitat ZOA (which provides a wildlife centric approach to restoration actions on the MNF).

- Ecologically appropriate shifts in species composition, basal area, and stand structure have increased landscape health and resilience to climate change.

- Improved wildlife habitat for many species on the MNF.

- An additional $4 million coming to the MNF annually to cover implementation costs associated with project work.

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Google Forms

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

BIPOC Conservation Strategy

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Funds are requested to support Wild Diversity's Conservation & Stewardship Program. The funds will cover instructor stipends, coordination, equipment, supplies and indirect costs. Our project will create a platform for current & future conservationists of color from our community to learn, explore and thrive. Wild Diversity seeks to move away from the single-day, labor-centered model for people of color in conservation and instead build our community up as thought leaders who have the autonomy to create conservation initiatives that better support and retain people of color within the field. Our conservation program is three parts: 1. Support current BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) conservation leaders to collaborate on a new vision for BIPOC conservation for Wild DIversity. 2. Teach our culturally relevant conservation curriculum to students within our Wild X and Youth Ecology programs. 3. Create a foundation for conservation by facilitating access for our community to experience wild spaces, building those relationships with the outdoors, and helping them find their personal 'love language' within conservation.

Primary Contact Person *

Mercy M'fon Shammah

Primary Contact Email Address *

mercy@wilddiversity.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-703-9837

Lead Organization *

Wild Diversity

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

83-3099383

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [x] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Portland

Project Location (County) *

Multnomah

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

09 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

34280

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

We have three project objectives for our conservation program;
The first is to create conservation initiatives which support the Wild Diversity community. Our approach will be adjacent to existing regional conservation initiatives and the Oregon Conservation Strategy. The role that our community plays will be authored from within the community, for the community, and will empower the community. We will have avenues of leadership and growth for new and existing conservationists of color.
The second is to utilize the existing framework into our program curriculum which affects the youth in our community. We want to connect youth to wild spaces in a meaningful way that builds their sense of responsibility for their role in our ecosystem. Through the Wild X Project and our Youth Ecology program we will introduce and foster stewardship within culturally sensitive and culturally relevant methodology.
The last outcome of our conservation program takes methodical steps to help our community to find their 'love language' in conservations. This is a recognition that people have different needs and different modes of fulfilment when it comes to conservation. We seek to get our community out in wild spaces, create a space for healing and connection to these wild spaces, and help them find their love language by testing what aspects of ecosystem support resonate with them most as we pressure our conservation strategy.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

For our first objective our outcome is to create a Wild Diversity conservation initiative to support the Wild Diversity community. Components of a successful process and initiative would be:
a) The designing of an initiative building process that can be duplicated and scaled by creating a system that we can dive into for future years, developing a structure of many branches in multiple conservation arenas.
b) The creation of a conservation initiative that moves away from a single-day labor only conservation model for people of color and moves toward an environment in which our community plays various roles in the conservation movement while catering to community members with little or no experience as well as to members with extensive backgrounds in conservation. BIPOC individuals will be a part of the process from beginning to end. We will survey new and returning community members' comfort levels regarding their participation and will measure their experience level and understanding of the work.
c) Measure our initiative against our decolonized methodology which centers our community's needs while aligning existing regional conservation strategies. Our initiative will align with our existing standard of community centering and support and will showcase the programs ability to lead our own culturally responsive conservation initiative.
d) To survey participating BIPOC conservationists regarding their experiences and sense of connection to the work before and at the conclusion of the creation process. A successful process will show an increase in BIPOC conservationists connection to the work.

When it comes to connecting youth and adults to conservation:
a) Our major outcome is to have participants return and support the initiative multiple times throughout the year. Through our attendance tracking, we want to see returning adults and families continue with our conservation education and initiative events.
b) We want to have participants feel a sense of connection to our initiatives. By surveying our community's experiences, we can measure how connected they feel to the overall initiatives and will be able to make improvements throughout the year to ensure that the community's efforts fully resonate with them.
c) We want to have our participants come away with increased knowledge about conservation and what they can do, big or small, to best support our ecosystem. We can measure this by surveying participants at the conclusion of each event.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Success in solving conservation problems is dependent on an inclusive, robust community being a part of the solutions. All too often conservation attracts and caters to the needs of a narrow population that tends to be white and wealthy, setting up barriers for the broader population connecting to this work. We know that those who create benefit from what they create, and that the toll of environmental problems disproportionately impacts the less wealthy and the BIPOC communities.

Through Wild Diversity's conservation program we will explore what it could look like once the BIPOC communities are able to create conservation initiatives that are community-centered. It is an opportunity for us to envision ways to support our communities while also supporting the ecology around us. Wild Diversity will share the wide history of conservation — a history that includes major contributions in conservation from Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, and Asian Americans; a history that our community can relate to, connect with, and see themselves in. We believe that this type of thoughtful connection will create a lifelong relationship between the Wild Diversity community and conservation.

Our BIPOC communities in conservation echo the concerns about access and opportunity within the organizations that they work. They are wishing to see BIPOC representation in the higher levels of the organization or in the decision making process. But the representation is allocated to community outreach or crew leadership. This type of imbalance shows how diversity is still very much an aside, and the confidence in people of color to fill these roles shows a system that has made adjustments in words but not deeds. Wild Diversity's conservation program is an opportunity for those BIPOC leaders to exercise their broad love for the outdoors, connect with conservation in ways where they were once restricted, and become thought leaders for BIPOC conservation. As we collaborate with existing BIPOC conservation organizations and groups, we can strengthen the foundation for existing conservationists while building a strong foundation for new conservationists.

Our curriculum for our Wild X Project and Youth Ecology programs is designed to educate, inspire and excite youth's vision of ecology, who they can be, and their role in supporting nature. We will share knowledge about the contributions of people who look like them. They will know that their value in the conservation movement is expansive and needed. Youth learn about the ecosystem and build a connection to the places and spaces they learn in. Both programs are 100% outdoors and our curriculum was especially built with youth of color at the forefront.

For many youth of color, the prospect of summer camps and robust outdoor adventures is not something they get to experience. Building positive relationships with the outdoors is a key step to building future conservationists. As people of color make up a rapidly growing 40% of the population, educating our youth of color today is imperative for the future of conservation tomorrow.

Our adult and family events are similarly tiered. It first starts with access to outdoor spaces in a safe environment, then creating positive experiences to help build relationships with the wild, and finally we help them find their love language in conservation and find the area they can most thrive in. We want these participants to return again and again to connect with the outdoors; build community with us and foster community in wild spaces.

Existing BIPOC conservation leaders have the opportunity to mentor our participants as they get their feet wet through this process. These BIPOC leaders will be able to share their knowledge and excitement to our blossoming conservationists.

Our program is a holistic approach to conservation for the BIPOC community. We are meeting our communities' needs, connecting with them at their level and supporting the ecology around us. Through our work and support from the Oregon Conservation Recreation Fund we will increase the number of BIPOC communities who call themselves conservationists.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

Our program has many steps with recreation and conservation education being an initial step. A major component to our project proposal is to execute a community centered conservation strategy. Together, we will curate a conservation strategy that is culturally sensitive and relevant. We will share the process and the pursuit of our strategy with our community. Our program priorities will include both recreation and conservation elements. Our conservation strategy will depend on community creation and access to spaces where we can do the work. Our strategy will prospectively be place-centered and will incorporate many elements of restoration. We will utilize Oregon Conservation Strategy as a guide on creating our organizational strategy.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [x] Other:

Our priorities will be community created and has yet to be formulated. I see us working on many elements listed above. We have been educating our communities in many of the above taxa in the past few years.

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

The funds will cover instructor stipends, coordination, equipment, supplies and indirect costs to running this program. Our trained instructors will lead the participants in the field to support a safe and welcoming environment as they access and learn more about these wild spaces. We will be able to gather all the equipment, supplies, permits and materials we need for our planning workshops to our excursions in the wild on land and water. And finally the funds will cover the administrative costs of supporting and facilitating programing.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Our major partner for Wild X Project is Girls Build. They are our co-contributor for our outdoor pod-style educational programing for youth K-2. We are working together to ensure that children of color do not get left behind during this COVID-era of virtual learning. Latino Network is one of our partners for our Youth Ecology Program. We will work with their Sun School students teaching them about the ecology of the watershed. We will also seek additional partnerships for our Youth Ecology Program. We have a long standing partnership with Portland Audubon and have hosted dozens of bird walks and workshops together. We will seek their support for our strategy elements surrounding birds. New Visions Coalition, a cohort of BIPOC conservationists, is our major partner to collaborate with for our conservation strategy and mentorship.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January 2021 - Begin workshoping with BIPOC conservation leaders. March 2021 - Create our final 2021 community centered conservation strategy for Wild Diversity Spring to Fall 2021 - Build our community's conservation capacity while executing our conservation strategy.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

www.wilddiversity.com

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

2020 has been a trying year for all individuals and a lot of organizations. For organizations like Wild Diversity where community connection is imperative, I wanted to highlight what we are capable of when the odds are stacked against us. During the global pandemic we carried on with our Leadership Development Training. We had twelve adventure leaders who stayed with us through 7 week of online training. Our training was in-depth and even including homework assignments. While volunteer retention is difficult for any new organization, we were able to successfully complete the 7 weeks of training followed by 2 multi day training weekends in the field and 4 kayak training sessions in the water once the restrictions were lifted. This demonstrates mission buy-in from our community members and also demonstrates engaging and meaningful training curriculum. When times are tough it is always good to know that our organization's mission is a priority to our community members.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Our second example is our Resilience Outdoor Conference. Of course we were not able to host this year's event in person because of COVID-19. In 2019 we were able to provide Wilderness First Aid certificate training to 25 participants and host another 50 for our multi day skill-share workshop on Warm Springs. This year with the restrictions we chose to continue with the conference and move it to an online format over the weekend. Our workshop leaders helped host a robust conference and our participant engagement quadrupled from the previous year. Both years we had participants from all over the west coast from San Diego all the way to Vancouver B.C. This year we also hosted participants from the central US, east coast and all over Europe. It is a reminder that the work we do for our community is so needed. Through Wild Diversity events we are fostering other organizations as they begin something similar in their areas. Our mentorship expanded to organizations San Diego and the Bay Area with additional interest from Maine and Texas. Especially during the toughest times people are seeking safe and supportive communities. We are very proud to be this kind of beacon of support to help guide the way for more diversity in the wild.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

Adventure Wednesdays! Outdoor Leadership Club

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Adventures Without Limits facilitates year round adaptive and inclusive outdoor education and adventure programming serving Oregonians who face barriers to access outdoors, including youth and adults with disabilities, low income communities, and at-risk youth. These programs are intentionally designed to build a deep love of the natural environment and connect traditionally underserved communities to the ecosystems that sustain our plants and wildlife. In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, AWL has adjusted our trip model to serve small cohorts of students and provide reprieve from the challenges of virtual learning with engaging outdoor education programming. For this program, we will recruit three cohorts of middle school students to participate in a 4 week outdoor leadership program. This program will strategically recruit students with disabilities, students from low income families, children of essential workers, and families who were impacted by the wildfires in September. Students will learn and retain essential wilderness skills for responsible recreation while building comfort and confidence in the outdoors. Each cohort will complete an environmental stewardship project to begin their journey as future conservationists and build positive peer relationships centered in caring for the wild spaces and species we love in Oregon.

Primary Contact Person *

Jennifer Wilde

Primary Contact Email Address *

jennifer@awloutdoors.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

503-389-0580

Lead Organization *

Adventures Without Limits

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

72-1572963

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [x] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Multiple - Forest Grove, Mt. Hood, Welches, Portland, Scappoose, Estacada, Newberg

Project Location (County) *

Multiple - Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Yamhill, Columbia, Tillamook

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 04 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

06 / 30 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

15000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Goal: We intend to facilitate a positive outdoor recreation experience for 15-24 middle school aged youth.
Objective: Each cohort will participate in at least two different outdoor recreation activities and learn entry level skills in their respective fields between January and June 2021.
Goal: Students will demonstrate increased proficiency in outdoor recreation skills.
Objective: We will instruct responsible recreation practices in a digestible and appropriate format with consideration for age, language, and ability level to 15-24 middle school aged youth.
Goal: 50% of youth served will discover or renew their sense of appreciation for the outdoors.
Objective: Each student will have the opportunity to participate in 4 unique outdoor adventure trips, including 1 environmental stewardship project.
Goal: Increase opportunity for underserved communities to participate in outdoor recreation in Oregon.
Objective: Recruit 8+ students who identify as BIPOC and/or having a disability to participate in a 4 week outdoor leadership program.
Goal: Increase partnership and collaboration in the conservation field to engage diverse and underserved youth.
Objective: Build one new conservation or land management partner to co facilitate an environmental stewardship project.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Using both qualitative and quantitative data from a pre- post- survey model of both students and parents, we anticipate the following outcomes upon program completion:

We will serve over 100 participant user days, engaged in 600 hours of outdoor education and recreation.
90% of students will report interest in continuing to pursue outdoor recreation.
80% of students will report learning a new outdoor recreation skill or principle.
70% of students will report an interest in learning more about wildlife and conservation.
60% of families served will demonstrate financial need.
50% of students will demonstrate increased proficiency in a given outdoor activity.
At least 30% of students will identify as BIPOC and/or having a disability.
100% of students will visit a new outdoor destination in Oregon.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

For this project, we will recruit three cohorts of 5-8 middle school students to participate in a 4-week Outdoor Leadership Program. This program will intentionally recruit students who face barriers to access outdoors, including students with disabilities, BIPOC students, youth from low income families, at-risk youth, and those who have faced extraordinary circumstances this year, such as the children of essential workers and youth who have been impacted by the wildfires in September.

Each week students will learn new outdoor recreation and wilderness skills including Leave No Trace Principles, 10 essentials, plant identification, and activity specific skills related to a seasonally appropriate focus activity (snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hiking, and/or kayaking). Building these entry level skills will help students to build confidence and appreciation for the outdoor spaces that allow us to share these experiences. Additionally, students will build positive peer relationships centered in a shared interest in outdoor recreation and the natural environment. Each cohort will be asked to reflect on their learning experiences by journaling throughout the program, and the program will culminate with an environmental stewardship project such as waste clean up, trail maintenance, or riparian planting.

In a typical year, Adventures Without Limits facilitates similar programs serving group sizes of 25+ students. These programs are financially feasible for families due to low cost to participate, and AWL is able to cover our costs based on the volume of youth served with such large enrollment numbers. Often these trips are subsidized by school districts and nonprofit partners who have cancelled nearly all in-person programming since the outbreak of Covid-19. We have taken this opportunity to thoughtfully design new small group, cohort model programs that align with public health guidelines for youth programming, while also reflecting the high impact we want to have on the communities we serve. We determined that despite the pandemic, interest and participation in outdoor recreation continues to rise in Oregon, yet these activities remain largely inaccessible to some families due to financial constraints, as well as barriers to transportation, knowledge and expertise in responsible recreation, and physical access due to ADA barriers in the built and natural environment. We are prepared to address these barriers and more by offering low cost, weekly outdoor education programs for young Oregonians. We believe that this program design will allow us to build deeper relationships among program participants and deliver inclusive, engaging outdoor leadership curriculum to have a lasting impact on the students and families we serve. It is our goal to welcome students who have been traditionally underserved in outdoor education due to disability, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and/or gender identity, as well as those who have faced significant hardship in 2020.

While many programs have been forced to cease operations due to the pandemic, we have shifted our program model to be responsive to the needs of our community and in consideration of public health guidelines and restrictions. We believe that finding solace in nature is more important than ever, and through this program we have the opportunity to make an indelible impact on students to become lifelong outdoor recreationists.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [x] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [x] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project will address all of the OCRF program priorities related to recreation. By design and through Adventures Without Limits' long standing partnerships and expertise in serving youth from diverse backgrounds, we are prepared to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users. Youth will be introduced to wildlife-associated recreation, such as bird watching, and we will provide educational materials related to responsible recreation and conservation in both English and Spanish. A student led environmental stewardship project will preserve a sensitive habitat in a small way for the ecosystem, but hopefully have a longer term impact on the students and their passion for conservation. Finally, through careful consideration, we have devised a plan to introduce students to outdoor recreation without overwhelming popular outdoor destinations in Oregon by participating in very small groups during off-peak hours and minimizing our impact on the space. As part of the Oregon Conservation Strategy - children are the future in Oregon, and our communities continue to grow more beautifully diverse, inclusive, and integrated. This program will invite underserved communities and voices to the table to become future stewards of Oregon's outdoors.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [ ] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRF Funds will help Adventures Without Limits subsidize the cost of our Outdoor Leadership Program, so that we are able to recruit students from low income families to participate in an engaging 4 week cohort program. We estimate that each cohort will cost $4800 to cover payroll for outdoor educators, along with outreach, recruitment, and onboarding of students, and program evaluation. The remaining $600 will cover activity related expenses such as transportation costs, parking fees, printing, and teaching materials printed in English and Spanish. Of the $15,000 total budget for this program, we are requesting funding support in the amount of $10,000 from OCRF funds to ensure that no student is turned away due to lack of funds. This program will be offered on a low cost sliding scale, anticipating that 70% of families will demonstrate financial need.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

For this project, we will partner with Forest Grove School District, Banks School District, and Estacada School District as well as their respective SPED departments to reach students and families who may be interested in participating. We will also lean on our friends at Adelante Mujeres and Centro Cultural to assist in outreach and recruitment. Our long standing partnerships with these respective school districts and nonprofits, as well as subsidized program fees will help ensure that we are reaching the students and families who could most benefit from participation.

At the present time, we are in conversation with conservation partners (Willamette Riverkeeper, Sandy Watershed Council) and land managers (OPRD) to identify opportunities to collaborate on student-led stewardship projects.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

January 2020 - Schedule program activities, update marketing materials, and begin outreach and recruitment process February 2020 - First Adventure Leaders cohort March 2020 - Second Adventure Leaders cohort April 2020 - Third Adventure Leaders cohort May 2020 - Program evaluation and follow up

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

https://awloutdoors.org/fgsdaw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTaAWfZETbM

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

In 2019, Adventures Without Limits hosted three multi-day camping trips as part of our Campability program serving folks with spinal cord injuries and their families, as well as youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each trip was 3 days 2 nights and invited 30 individuals with disabilities to camp, kayak, and hike in 3 different Oregon State Parks. Of these campers, nearly 40% reported an intersectional identity as a member of the BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+ community, and over 60% reported that it was their first time camping, or first time post-injury.

This program helped to create a strong community connection among our campers, rooted in a shared interest in outdoor recreation. It also provided an opportunity for stakeholders with lived experience to provide valuable feedback to park managers about how to make their spaces more welcoming and inclusive for people with disabilities. The enthusiasm and feedback from each group proved that outdoor enthusiasm is alive and well within the disabilities community, and Oregonians with disabilities are eager for more opportunities to connect with nature. We learned that invitation, along with a trusted host and adequate information are key for individuals to step outside of their comfort zone and participate in new outdoor activities. We plan to resume this program in 2021 if public health and safety allows group camping experiences.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mk_4iMbktcA

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

We are wrapping our first pilot of the Adventure Leaders Program, called “Adventure Wednesday”, with strong support from the students, families, and district to continue offering subsidized and low cost outdoor education programming. Students in Forest Grove School District have been participating in virtual learning 4 days a week (M, T, Th, Fr) with Wednesdays free to pursue extracurricular activities while teachers have weekly time for professional development. This causes a problem for families that do not have access to childcare or alternate activities for kids. Students have reported feelings of loneliness due to the social isolation caused by distance learning, and a strong desire to leave their homes and spend time in nature with friends.

Of the first cohort of Adventure Wednesday students, 80% identify as BIPOC, 60% qualify for free or reduced lunch, 40% experience mental health challenges, and 80% are children of essential workers. In the first three weeks of the program, students have explored three unique watersheds hiking in the Tillamook State Forest, and kayaking the Willamette River and Scappoose Bay. Each outdoor adventure has included opportunity for reflection and journaling, skill building, and environmental education lessons. So far, students have reported increased interest in wildlife and science, and demonstrated a strong desire to continue pursuing outdoor recreation. We will engage in a more robust evaluation upon program completion next week.

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OCRF Project Proposal Form

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Project Information

Project Title *

How Do Sensitive Bird Populations Respond to Forest Restoration? Monitoring to Inform and Improve Forest Restoration Techniques in Oregon's Dry Forests

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

An avian monitoring program was designed to evaluate the effects of restoration treatments on Strategy habitat and landbird species on the Deschutes National Forest. Restoration treatments to be evaluated included conifer thinning, prescribed burns, and aspen regeneration. A collaborative effort began in 2013 and 2015, with support from USFS-Deschutes NF, the Oregon Zoo, East Cascades Audubon, the Oregon Wildlife Foundation, and Northwest Avian Resources and others; and established an avian monitoring program at Ryan Ranch Meadow (no treatment) and within the Indian Ford Creek restoration site. Monitoring included constant-effort mist-netting/banding stations at each site (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) positioned within riparian habitats, and one avian point count transect at each site to supplement capture data. We are requesting funding support here to 1) conduct a rigorous population trend analysis in 2020 to evaluate acute effects of the restoration treatments, 2) develop publications for peer-reviewed journals and other reports for natural resource managers, and 3, continue field work in 2021. We expect this applied research will provide valuable insights on the benefits of conifer thinning and prescribed fire to avian communities for forest managers. Furthermore, we expect future analyses and publication will strengthen trust and confidence within forest collaboratives that active restoration can have significant benefits for priority wildlife.

Primary Contact Person *

John Goodell

Primary Contact Email Address *

jfiskegoodell@gmail.com

Primary Contact Phone number *

3076905604

Lead Organization *

Northwest Avian Resources

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

822157238

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [x] East Cascades
- [ ] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [ ] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Sisters

Project Location (County) *

Oregon

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 01 / 2020

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

09 / 21 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

85000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

MAPS monitoring at Ryan Ranch and Indian Ford seeks to provide insights into how the avian community responds to specific silviculture prescriptions and restoration strategies. We intend to answer practical management questions such as:

1. Will aspen and riparian-associated avian guilds respond positively to fall conifer thinning and fall prescribed burns?
2. Will dry conifer-associated avian guilds respond positively to fall conifer thinning and fall prescribed burns (including OCS species like white-headed woodpeckers)?
3. How will restoration efforts effect priority aspen and riparian bird species such as the willow flycatcher and red-naped sapsucker?

The actionable science generated from our work will provide practitioners and managers with region-specific guidance on how to implement effective dry forest restoration. Analyses and publications from this work will provide the scientific underpinnings of these efforts and increase the level of confidence among forest stakeholders that restoration efforts will return resiliency to the forest and commensurate benefits to wildlife.

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

We intend to continue post-treatment monitoring through 2024 at both treatment and control site

In 2021, we hope to complete the analysis examining the avian response to treatments, submit a manuscript for publication, and develop outreach materials, webinars, and info-graphics exhibiting how each avian guild responds to treatments over time.

Success will be measured in our ability to communicate these results beyond wildlife and ecology peers to forest management staff and other forest stakeholders

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

With the increasing attention on climate change, severe wildfire, and insect damage, forest managers are shifting emphasis from single species management to a more holistic strategy targeting forest resiliency. To restore ecological resiliency to the Deschutes National Forest, stakeholders agree on the need to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration, including thinning projects.

This momentum has sparked concerns within the conservation community that aggressive forest treatments may produce short-term negative outcomes for various wildlife communities, and thus underscores the importance of monitoring programs to ensure long-term benefit.

Although aspen makes up less than 1% of the total area in Oregon's eastside forests, it supports high avian landbird richness and abundance, second only to classic riparian habitat such as willow and cottonwood gallery forests. Aspen habitat has decreased significantly throughout dry forest systems in the Interior West and its restoration is a priority for state and federal agencies and conservation groups (especially in arid regions) and it is listed as a Strategy Habitat in Oregon (ODFW, Oregon Conservation Strategy). Similarly, riparian habitat is also listed as a Strategy Habitat in the OCS and is a nursery for avian diversity throughout Oregon and the arid west.

The USFS Deschutes National Forest's Indian Ford Restoration Project seeks to restore historical aspen and riparian habitats through conifer thinning and prescribed fire treatments. Indian Ford Creek is currently one of the most significant willow-riparian habitat areas on the Forest, supporting high species avian richness and abundance – including Oregon Strategy Species such as the willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii) and other numerous neotropical landbird species. A historical aspen stand once existed along the edge of the riparian zone before conifer encroachment slowly shaded it out.

In 2015, partners established the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) station at Indian Ford Creek, with the goal of evaluating the avian response to these planned treatments, and to achieve a 10-year database reflecting pre and post-restoration population trends.

The MAPS Program is a continent-wide collaborative effort among public agencies, non-governmental groups, and individuals to assist the conservation of birds and their habitats through demographic monitoring.

Avian Monitoring and Restoration Timeline To-Date
- 2013 – present; MAPS at Rayan Ranch Meadows
- 2015 & 2016 MAPS started at Indian Ford pre-treatment monitoring
- Fall 2016 Indian Ford, ponderosa pine thinning completed & slash removal
- 2017 Indian Ford, MAPS monitoring completed
- Fall 2017 Indian Ford, first prescribed ground burn completed
- 2018 Indian Ford, MAPS monitoring completed
- Fall 2018 Indian Ford, 2nd and final prescribed ground bird completed
- 2019 Indian Ford MAPS monitoring completed
- 2020 MAPS monitoring in-progress with in-kind volunteer assistance
- Pursuing Funds to continue through 2024

2015-19 Work Completed
- Captured and banded over 3800 passerine birds
- Re-capture rate approximately 16-24% for most abundant species.
- Conducted habitat assessments in accordance with IBP/MAPS protocol
- Conducted habitat assessments in accordance with point count habitat protocols accepted by Deschutes National Forest biologists

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [x] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [x] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [ ] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

The actionable science generated from our work will provide practitioners and managers with region-specific guidance on how to implement effective aspen and riparian restoration in the context of Oregon's dry forest ecosystem. Analyses, publications, reports and other media from this work will increase the awareness among public land stakeholders that restoration efforts will return resiliency to the forest and commensurate benefits to wildlife.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [x] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [x] Amphibians
- [x] Fish
- [x] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

1. Analysis of the existing multi-year database to assess population trends of focal bird species associated with aspen and riparian habitats
2. Generate a paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
3. Develop reports and other media intended to communicate the results to a broad spectrum of forest users, foresters, la d managers, and other relevant natural resource professionals outside of the wildlife profession.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

1. U.S. Forest Service Deschutes National Forest: past funder and ongoing in-kind staff field support
2. Oregon Wildlife Foundation: awarded grants to the project and serves as a fiscal sponsor
3. Oregon Zoo Foundation: awarded grants to the project
4. Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project: Lead organization behind the restoration project
5. Oregon State University, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife: in-kind staff support
6. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: in-kind staff support
7. Tout Unlimited: Lead organization behind restoration project
8. Mule Deer Foundation: Lead organization behind restoration project

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

• 2013 – present; MAPS at Rayan Ranch Meadows • 2015 & 2016 MAPS started at Indian Ford pre-treatment monitoring • Fall 2016 Indian Ford, ponderosa pine thinning completed & slash removal • 2017 Indian Ford, MAPS monitoring completed • Fall 2017 Indian Ford, first prescribed ground burn completed • 2018 Indian Ford, MAPS monitoring completed • Fall 2018 Indian Ford, 2nd and final prescribed ground bird completed • 2019 Indian Ford MAPS monitoring completed • 2020 MAPS monitoring in-progress with in-kind volunteer assistance • Pursuing Funds to publish results and continue through 2024

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Non-game avian monitoring in Oregon has declines substantially since the 1990's. The original impetus behind this project was based in this context, to help the USFS and ODFW fill gaps in their capacity to monitor priority non-game wildlife and their habitats. The opportunity to conduct a pre/post treatment evaluation of a large-scale restoration effort focused on two OCS Strategy Habitats, was a surprise opportunity we jumped on in 2015.

Few experimental studies exist that use rigorous mark-recapture methods to evaluate avian demographic response to dry forest restoration. Most past studies have relied on point-count (sight and sound observations) or nest territory densities to evaluate management practices. However, nearly all fail to include controls (or reference sites) or collect pre-treatment observations.

Here, we have implemented a Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) avian study designed to produce practical, actionable science to guide adaptive management. Initial results suggest the aspen and riparian restoration efforts (i.e., fall conifer thinning, prescribed burns) are producing a positive avian response at Indian Ford. Avian abundance and breeding productivity for some guilds has increased markedly post-treatment, while overall abundance and productivity are declining modestly at Ryan Ranch.

Anecdotal observations of forest conditions at Ryan Ranch suggests a slow, but gradual increase in conifer encroachment into the annually flooded streamside willow habitats – a common phenomenon along the Deschutes River corridor.

The actionable science generated from our work will provide practitioners and managers with region-specific guidance on how to implement effective dry forest restoration. Analyses and publications from this work will provide the scientific underpinnings of these efforts and increase the level of confidence among forest stakeholders that restoration efforts will return resiliency to the forest and commensurate benefits to wildlife.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

Evaluate eagle and raptor use of a proposed wind facility in north/central Oregon. 2016-2018. Recorded and mapped eagle and other raptor species use of a areas associated with proposed wind turbine sites. Communicated results to agencies and industry stakeholders.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

Conduct an analysis of the possible population effects/contribution of raptor rehabilitation to regional raptor populations. Presented results at professional wildlife conferences and meetings. Peer-reviewed publication in review.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

From: John Goodell
To: Karl Wenner; Davia M Palmeri
Subject: Re: OCRF proposal
Date: Thursday, October 22, 2020 8:08:58 AM

I realize there are two things I would like to add to the information in the proposal....

1. the short video piece I produced about the project

2. I left out East Cascade Audubon as a project partner. They were a fiscal sponsor for a while

On Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 11:41 PM John Goodell <jfiskegoodell@gmail.com> wrote:

> HI Karl and Davia,
>
> I recently remembered the OCRF deadline and submitted a proposal via the online form - hope it went through - just letting you know. The project is asking for partial support for what is now a 7-8 year avian monitoring project I have been operating in partnership with the USFS and others. THe project is seeking to evaluate the avian response to aspen and riparian habitat restoration....its possible population effects on priority bird species. It is in Central Oregon. I have attached a copy of the funding proposal we sent USFS staff recently...who have been trying to keep it alive. If funded, Christain Hagen (OSU faculty) would lead the analysis part. Warm regards J

OCRF Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/committee.asp. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Project Information

Project Title *

Conservation Birding, Education, and Outreach

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

Klamath Bird Observatory advances bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships. KBO's Conservation Birding, Education, and Outreach project aims to increase public engagement in bird watching and community science that supports bird and habitat conservation; to increase accessibility to bird watching and community science activities and education materials for underserved, Spanish-speaking, and urban audiences; and to engage a broader audience and increase our ability to educate the public about bird and habitat conservation and how they can support healthy riparian habitats. The project will include eBird community science events that embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion and support restoration efforts along the Bear Creek riparian corridor; free or low-cost community education events about birds and birding in English and Spanish; education handouts in English and Spanish; a Riparian Landowner's Guide; and video content such as virtual bird walks.

Primary Contact Person *

Jacob McNab

Primary Contact Email Address *

admin@klamathbird.org

Primary Contact Phone number *

5412010866

Lead Organization *

Klamath Bird Observatory

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

93-1297400

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Blue Mountains
- [ ] Coast Range
- [ ] Columbia Plateau
- [ ] East Cascades
- [x] Klamath Mountains
- [ ] Nearshore
- [ ] Northern Basin & Range
- [ ] Willamette Valley
- [x] West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Ashland

Project Location (County) *

Jackson

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

01 / 01 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2021

Funding Amount Requested *

Maximum request is $10,000.00 per project

10000

Total Project Cost *

40000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

In 2020 the state of Oregon saw an unprecedented fire season. In September the Almeda fire ignited in Ashland, then spread northward and consumed thousands of homes and structures in Talent, Phoenix, and Medford. The fire also burned the local Bear Creek greenway, a popular birding and recreating pathway. This month, local organizations initiated restoration of the greenway's adjacent riparian habitat with aerial seeding and stream bank reinforcement. Local concern for healthy riparian habitats has increased as a result of the destructive Almeda fire, and the local community needs alternative spaces to recreate.

In addition, recent events involving a Black birder in Central Park have brought increased attention to the world of birding and bird conservation. Significant barriers to birding and outdoor recreation in general exist for people of color and others who have been historically excluded from such activities and the places where they occur.

Over the next calendar year, Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) and partners will implement a Conservation Birding, Education, and Outreach project that aims to:
1) Increase public engagement in bird watching and community science that supports bird and habitat conservation
2) Increase accessibility to bird watching, community science, and education materials for underserved, Spanish-speaking, and urban audiences
3) Engage a broader audience and increase our ability to educate the public about bird and habitat conservation and how they can support healthy riparian habitats

We can achieve these goals through the following objectives:
1) Design and host eBird community science events that embrace Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and allow a diverse and/or underserved audience to watch and learn about birds and bird habitats in their own community where they feel safe and welcome
2) Offer in-person and virtual community education events that are free or low-cost with a Spanish-speaking instructor or translator, and introduce the community to local places where they can recreate
3) Design and host eBird community science surveys along the Bear Creek greenway to share the ecological value of riparian habitats; the data collected can help illuminate how the Almeda fire has impacted wildlife along Bear Creek
4) Translate our Education Handouts to Spanish and promote them widely
5) Reprint and distribute our Riparian Landowner's Guide
6) Increase our virtual outreach through video content, such as virtual bird walks

Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Klamath Bird Observatory has an excellent record for tracking finances and expenditures, as indicated by annual 990 filings, results from previous A-133 audits in which no findings were reported, as well as previous project reports. We will comply with ODFW evaluation and reporting requirements. We will measure success by the number of events and products we are able to deliver, the number of event attendees who are bird watching for the first time, the number of Riparian Landowners Guides we distribute, and by community participation and data collected through the eBird Northwest portal. Where appropriate, we will request and evaluate demographic data from our program participants and larger audience to measure the success of our DEI efforts.

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Klamath Bird Observatory advances bird and habitat conservation through science, education, and partnerships. Our work focuses on the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion of southern Oregon and northern California. Sound science, with an emphasis on bird monitoring and applied research, forms the core of our programs. Central to our approach are collaborations among scientists, decision makers, and educators that enhance the use of bird monitoring within the adaptive management framework by ensuring scientific results target and inform the specific decisions natural resource managers face. Also, recognizing that conservation occurs across many fronts, we nurture a conservation ethic in our local, regional, and international communities through our outreach activities and education programs.

In early 2020, the COVID-19 virus began to spread throughout the United States. KBO has responded to COVID-19 with the health and safety of our staff, partners, and communities in mind. As part of our response to COVID-19, we are adapting our outreach activities, programs, events, and field work to follow State of Oregon requirements and CDC recommendations for social distancing, face coverings, and hygiene to slow the spread of the virus. We are also focusing on how birds and their habitats support good health. Bird watching improves health and decreases stress, and has benefits for recovery after sickness. Listening to birds can help improve a person's mood and attention.

In order to seek solutions and support change in birding, outdoor recreation, community science, and conservation, KBO has begun to integrate DEI into our ways of thinking, communicating, and operating. We are prepared to engage in conversations about bias, racism, and other forms of discrimination, oppression, and exclusion in birding and bird conservation communities, STEM fields, and in a broader national context. We are building a DEI resource library for our staff and partners, and we are connecting a partner network that practices and promotes DEI in birding, outdoor recreation, and conservation. Our DEI strategy also includes collaborating with local tribes to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into our adaptive management framework, and hiring a DEI advocate to guide the development of our programs and events.

Conservation Birding and Education Programs

KBO's Conservation Birding program targets southern Oregon community members and visitors who are interested in bird-watching in our ecologically unique area and enjoying the beauty and diversity of our bird life. Then, through best practices in experiential learning, Conservation Birding turns that interest into opportunities to contribute time, data, and/or funding to the conservation of birds and their habitats. Conservation Birding supports economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

KBO's Education program targets southern Oregon community members and visitors; generates tourism revenue for local business and the small communities of southern Oregon, including Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, and Klamath Falls; models sustainability concepts; strengthens the community through volunteer engagement; and helps to raise funds that support locally-based, professional-level bird and habitat conservation jobs. This program helps instill an environmental ethic and promote community interest in sustainability and the natural world.

Conservation Birding and Education program products include our Talks and Walks series, Pub Talks, guided field trips, virtual and in-person classes and presentations, videos, and printed materials. KBO also offers Community Science opportunities through our Conservation Birding and Education programs. These are safe, fun, friendly, interactive, and novel opportunities for "everyday" people to contribute to the body of knowledge that informs bird and habitat conservation. We do this through a mix of virtual platforms and place-base projects, such as backyard bird count events, and when safe, more traditional collaborative field-based studies. These community-driven investigations engage the public with their natural world and help to connect all of us with each other and our birds.

Outreach

Private landowners own and manage roughly 60% of the land area of the United States. These private lands have potential to sustain native wildlife populations while also benefiting landowners and providing ecological services. An exciting opportunity exists for landowners and conservation partners to work together to improve local riparian systems and their associated wildlife communities, which are listed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. We propose to print a Riparian Landowners' Management Guide for local streamside land owners, focusing on Jackson County, but also relevant to elsewhere in southwestern Oregon. Local organizations such as the Rogue Basin Partnership and Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) have identified a need for continued landowner outreach and education to improve local riparian habitats, especially at the scale of small acreage, rural residential properties. Our focus, using birds as indicators of healthy riparian vegetation, offers a unique way to connect with these landowners. The type of education being offered is a full-color, engaging handbook describing restoration techniques and desired habitat attributes, written for lay audiences, that can be distributed to local owners of private riparian properties. This handbook will offer best practice guidelines on how to manage their lands for stream health and wildlife habitat. We anticipate printing and distributing 200 handbooks.

The Outreach portion of this project will help protect and conserve Oregon Conservation Strategy habitat and species by encouraging riparian landowners to promote healthy riparian vegetation on private lands. Increasing the amount of intact, ecologically functioning riparian habitat will serve the people of Oregon by providing important ecological services, including maintaining water quality, recharging groundwater, reducing erosion, improving in-stream habitat for fish, lowering stream temperatures, filtering agricultural runoff, and providing nutrients. Riparian vegetation also provides important bird and wildlife habitat in a highly biodiverse yet threatened ecosystem type. The guide we produce will give landowners practical and technical knowledge regarding best practices for riparian restoration, and connect them to additional resources should they decide to complete management actions on their lands. The net effect of many small, private landowners improving our local riparian habitats will be a better-functioning and more connected riparian system, resulting in a healthier watershed for wildlife, fish, and people.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- [ ] Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- [ ] Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- [x] Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- [x] Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- [ ] Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- [ ] Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

KBO's Conservation Birding, Education, and Outreach project directly advances the above priorities in several ways. Our focus on incorporating DEI into this and other projects means we are dedicated to the priority of expanding the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users. Conservation Birding and Education events are designed introduce Oregonians to recreation birding; they are fun and well-suited for people with various levels of experience with bird watching. Finally, KBO has a number of high quality educational materials about responsible birding and wildlife recreation that are not yet available in Spanish. Translating these materials to Spanish would advance the priority of providing education material related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will affected?

- [x] Birds
- [ ] Mammals
- [ ] Reptiles
- [ ] Amphibians
- [ ] Fish
- [ ] Plants
- [ ] Invertebrates
- [ ] Other:

OCRF Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRF funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

1) Printing costs for our Riparian Landowners Guide
2) Spanish-speaking instructors and/or translation services
3) Transportation costs for eBird community science events
4) Video equipment (e.g. digital camera, tripod, noise-canceling microphone)
5) KBO Staff wages + benefits

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

1) Ashland Parks and Recreation (North Mountain Park) hosts our classes and is one of the locations we use to film our video products
2) ScienceWorks museum provides studio space for filming video products
3) eBird Northwest is the platform for our community science project and we can promote our project on the website
4) The US Fish and Wildlife Service is our partner for our upcoming DEI-driven eBird community science project and is providing personnel support and funds for hiring a professional consultant to guide our project
5) Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff sit on the eBird Northwest Steering Committee; participate in DEI work and the creation of our DEI-driven eBird project; and provide expertise on Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats and species
6) The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District will support distribution of the Riparian Landowner's Guide
7) We have not yet identified a partner to collaborate with us on Spanish instructors/translation services
8) Other partners may become involved as the project progresses or need arises.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

Our timeline largely depends upon our ability to secure resources for this project. The key milestones in our tentative timeline are planned to be completed : • By end of November 2020 – Secure video and audio equipment • By end of December 2020 – reprint and distribute Riparian Landowners Guide • By end of January 2021 – Hire professional consultant for eBird event and begin planning process • By end of March 2021 – complete and distribute one five-minute Pub Talk video; partner with a Spanish-speaker or organization for translation services; offer one community education event with a Spanish-speaking instructor or translator; • By end of June 2021 – Host two spring/summer Talk and Walk events, one of which includes Spanish; host eBird DEI event; produce and distribute at least one additional video product • By end of December 2021 – Host two fall Talk and Walk events, one of which includes Spanish; produce and distribute at least one additional video product; complete and distribute a Spanish version of at least one KBO education handout such as the Ashland Birding Guide

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

In 2018 KBO created and revised several products that highlight a local conservation partnership with Klamath Bird Observatory, Lomakatsi, the Ashland School District and ongoing restoration efforts along Ashland's Bear Creek, and specifically at the Willow Wind Learning Center. They include "Birdwatching in Riparian Habitats of Ashland, Oregon: a case study in urban habitat restoration at Willow Wind Community Learning Center and A Checklist of Bird Species Detected along the Bear Creek Riparian Corridor, Ashland, Oregon, Birding Guide to Ashland and the Greater Rogue Valley and Shared Birds of Ashland and Guanajuato: Conserving Our Natural and Cultural Heritage. We produced a series of articles highlighting what community members can do to help birds – these were published on our Klamath Call Note Blog, the eBird Northwest Newsfeed, and in other KBO social media outlets. Additionally, we commissioned two local artists to create paintings that raise awareness of priority bird conservation issues. One painting was commissioned that is raising awareness about oak woodland bird conservations. We also created a series of community education rack cards such as "What You Can Do for Birds," which celebrated 2018 as the Year of the Bird listing opportunities for community members to support bird conservation every day. We also offered several education events that reached hundreds of people.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

2019 Community Education Program

In 2018 we produced a series of articles that highlighted KBO's role in developing decision-making tools to help conservation practitioners protect birds and their habitats, and articles that shared what community members can do to help birds. We offered outdoor education field trips and hosted and/or participated in traditional and virtual birding, conservation, and education programs. We hosted Talk and Walk events where participants learned about a variety of bird-related topics. We offered a series of educational presentations. Highlights included presenting at a Klamath Basin Audubon Society meeting, recording a virtual World Migratory Bird Day event in the spring and presenting several invited public lectures about science, conservation, and climate. Klamath Bird Observatory offered banding station visits at Crater Lake National Park and we participated in Refuge Day in collaboration with the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge Complex. Our community education program offerings culminated in September at our Wings and Wine Gala that was focused on celebrating World Migratory Bird Day and a love for birds and birding; supporting science-driven conservation; and promoting science-driven decision making. For the second consecutive year, KBO successfully facilitated a community science program to collect Short-eared Owl surveys for the Western Asio Flammeus Landscape Study.

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