# Attachment 2

| OCRF Board Rank Sum | Project # | Project Title | Lead Organization | Requested Funds | Geography/Ecoregion | How would you classify your project? | Identified as Drought | Funding | Project Abstract |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 37 | Deschutes STREAM Connections Program | Trout Unlimited (TU) | $39,229.00 | Blue Mountains, East Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | Trout Unlimited's (TU) Deschutes STREAM Connections Program will reach 1000 students & Girl Scouts in eight local communities in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties by implementing field trips during school, after-school outdoor lessons, weekend field days for educational partners, and hands-on river restoration activities. For all our programming, activities are designed to build confidence in youth as they pursue outdoor skills, science activities, and practice watershed stewardship. |
| 3 | 44 | Plover Patrol Program: Engaging communities to help recover the threatened Western Snowy Plover on the North Coast | Portland Audubon | $19,983.00 | Nearshore | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | The Plover Patrol Program was initiated by Oregon Parks Recreation Department (OPRD) several years ago and in partnership with Portland Audubon since 2018 with the aim of bolstering the recovery effort of the Endangered Species Act threatened Western Snowy Plover on Oregon's North Coast through an enhanced breeding bird monitoring and outreach program utilizing community scientist volunteers. This effort has helped move forward objectives and goals mandated in the Snowy Plover Recovery Plan and the Western Snowy Plover Habitat Conservation Plan. This type of program has been very successful in other parts of the country. We also propose community outreach events with diverse partners aimed at enhancing plover habitat. These events will help move the needle forward in the recovery of the Western Snowy Plover through community engagement. |
| 4 | 12 | Ochoco National Forest, Beaver Distribution Monitoring | Discover Your Forest | $29,500.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | This project has designed and is implementing the work the Commission appointed beaver working group called for. This is the first time anyone has applied a beaver-specific survey protocol, that was locally designed by beaver researchers. This rigorous monitoring effort will provide an improved understanding of American beaver distribution across the ONF over time, provide ODFW and the ONF empirical data to make future management decisions, and better understand the potential for the natural recruitment of beaver in our ongoing and future restoration projects. The following is a list of habitat restoration projects the Ochoco has invested in: |
| 4 | 20 | Monitoring Chum Salmon LCR | ODFW | $32,982.80 | Coast Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) with assistance from Deschutes Juvenile Community Justice (DJCJ) has built and given away bird boxes for over 15 years. Oregon Hunters Association has covered the bulk of these purchases for that time. ODFW buys a unit off cedar fence boards and nails, we then give it to DJCJ, and they cut the boards to length and use a wood brand to put the ODFW logo on the front of the box. After all the pieces are cut, they wrap them up into a kit with nails and bring them back to the ODFW office in Bend. The Bend office sells some to offset the costs, but since COVID we did not sell them for 2 years and just used them at Guzzler sites and on the Little Deschutes property that ODFW owns. I over see the guzzler program and I have 25-30 volunteers that work on about 60 guzzlers, and they put up and check on the bird houses. I also work with DJCJ on the 4 Little Deschutes property's out of LaPine and we have 40-50 bird boxes on these properties. The Kids check them yearly replacing bad ones and cleaning them out every spring. |
| 6 | 22 | Bird house for blue birds | ODFW | $1,500.00 | East Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded | The 50-year-old pump at ODFW's St. Louis Fishing Ponds died and needs to be replaced. This essential piece of equipment provides cool water to 7 highly popular public fishing ponds during the summer and early fall. These manmade ponds are subject to evaporation because they receive no freshwater input other than rainwater. Low water levels and high temperatures threaten fish health and in turn, angling opportunity and our ability to keep the facility open. A rented temporary pump was installed as an emergency measure, but it is not sufficient to meet long-term needs. A permanent high efficiency replacement pump is needed to ensure that the appropriate water levels will be maintained to provide for fish health, angling opportunities and additional ecological services that are afforded to a wide and diverse community by this unique facility. We are seeking OCRF funding to support this pump replacement project. |
| 6 | 41 | Salmon Watch Youth Program Expansion & DEI | World Salmon Council | $30,000.00 | Coast Range, Nearshore, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | Salmon Watch is an established 30-year program in Portland-area schools which connects students to nature through field trips, salmon spawning experiences, science learning stations, and community service projects. While Salmon Watch programming has been successful at providing students with experiential learning experiences in pristine wilderness areas, we recognize that there are important areas of growth that are necessary for us to intentionally and strategically grow our capacity to better impact our community. |
| 6 | 42 | McDonald's Ferry: Preserving habitat, history and recreation on the Lower John Day River | Western Rivers Conservancy | $50,000.00 | Columbia Plateau | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | To uphold a wild sagebrush landscape and connect people with Oregon's premier wild river landscape along the Oregon Trail, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) is permanently protecting the historic McDonald's Ferry Ranch on the lower John Day River (COA 153). When WRC places the land in public hands in 2023, it will put in place a critical piece of the puzzle for recovering the region's native fish and wildlife while also securing prized public access to three miles of the Wild & Scenic John Day River that features the last boating access site to the river and a segment of the Oregon Trail at McDonald's Ferry Crossing. Working with the Bureau of Land Management, Warm Springs Tribes, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and local partners, the project will expand outdoor access to rural residents and visitors, advance tribal stewardship of ancestral lands, and improve habitat for many sensitive species, including summer steelhead, bighorn sheep, loggerhead shrike, pronghorn, mule deer, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, sage sparrow and many others. |
| 7 | 14 | Species status assessment for special status (herpetofauna) | ODFW | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Nearshore, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | To address a critical gap in available resources, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) seeks to develop Species Status Assessments (SSAs) on each of the 22 herptile species that are identified as Strategy Species. The SSA provides a single source for species' biological information needed for management and planning, allows for engagement by agencies and other partners, and provides the best available scientific information to guide conservation action. SSAs will be completed by a a qualified contractor, and we anticipate that possible funding available through OCRF will be sufficient to complete 12 of the highest priority herptile SSAs. Each individual species profile will include a complete review of the scientific information available, including their general biology and ecology, habitat requirements, habitat availability/distribution/quality, conservation status, population status, and threats and environmental stressor. By making synthesized research summaries publicly available, we can support the equitable access to high quality Oregon-specific data that may be used to ensure that conservation actions implemented across the state adequately consider the needs of these species. |
| 7 | 40 | Community Outreach, Recreation & Education (CORE) Program | Siuslaw Watershed Council | $50,000.00 | Coast Range, Nearshore | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | No | YES - OCRF Funded | Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC)'s Community Outreach, Recreation & Education (CORE) Program creates experiential outdoor education opportunities for local students and families in order to cultivate the next generation of stewards for our watershed, ensuring that future generations may also inherit the bounty that is provided by and owed to the past management of the Siuslaw and Coastal watersheds by indigenous peoples. This stewardship cannot be cultivated without understanding the local human history and ecology, and studies show that experiential learning can be most effective at instilling an environmental ethos and stewardship ethic. Funding from OCRF will supplement contributions from the Gray Family Foundation, BOGS Impact Fund, and private donors and enable SWC to continue the employment of the CORE Program project manager and to hire a youth engagement specialist to further the organization's capacity to deliver outdoor education programs to local schools, engage the community at large in our restoration efforts, and deliver inclusive recreational opportunities throughout the watershed. |
| 8 | 32 | Grazing for Oregon Vesper Sparrows | Greenbelt Land Trust | $27,518.00 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded | Range-wide declines in Oregon Vesper Sparrow (OVS) populations are due in part to the challenge of creating and maintaining suitable habitat. This Oregon Conservation Strategy Species and Federal Candidate sub-species prefers grasslands with heterogeneous vegetation heights and areas of sparsely-vegetated ground during its nesting season, which spans April – July in the Pacific Northwest. Greenbelt Land Trust's Bald Hill Farm conservation property supports one of the largest populations of OVS in the mid-Willamette Valley, in habitat that has likely been grazed for over 100 years. The conservation objectives of our project are to continue long-term demographic monitoring of the site's OVS population, track habitat suitability relative to OVS preferences in restored prairie and grazed pasture and use this information to adaptively manage and integrate these preferences with objectives for prairie restoration and grazing. The recreational objective of the project is to raise the awareness of Oregon Vesper Sparrow and its habitat for hikers, birders and other members of the public that recreate at Bald Hill Farm. While Bald Hill Farm includes miles of open public trails, the vesper sparrow habitat is not in an area not usually accessible to the public. This project will provide an opportunity for birders and other community members who recreate at Bald Hill Farm to participate in a guided tour of the site's Oregon Vesper Sparrow occupied areas with the region's foremost species expert, with an overview of Greenbelt's approach to managing habitat for the species. |
| 8 | 51 | Club Aves Multilingual Birding & Nature Club | Verde | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation | No | YES - OCRF Funded | Club Aves is a multilingual, field trip-based environmental education program that creates access to green spaces and inspires low-income youth and youth of color to learn and explore the outdoors. We host field trips to parks and other natural areas, provide fun, hands-on after school classes at low-income apartment complexes, and hold Family Days for youth & their families. With this project, we will expand the program to include additional participants and locations. |
| 9 | 15 | Increasing beaver-modified floodplain habitat in Oregon through collaborative practitioner planning | The Beaver Coalition | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | Oregon is experiencing extreme drought conditions, and science shows that beavers and beaver-modified floodplains provide for water security and ecosystem resiliency. There is urgency to increase the pace and scale of beaver-based restoration projects for the benefit of our State. Restoration practitioners need tools that will highlight where to prioritize beaver-based restoration projects in Oregon, that will provide a baseline assessment of beaver presence and activity from which to plan their efforts. This project will leverage the collective energy of The Beaver Coalition's state-wide "Practitioner Collaborative" group to facilitate planning for the development of such a pair of tools: an accessible statewide Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) model and a cohesive approach to collecting beaver presence and activity. These Global Information System (GIS) tools will prove critically useful for practitioners to identify and prioritize opportunities statewide, across various organizations and projects across the ecoregions identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS). The OCS highlighted "partnering with beavers" as a recommended approach for multiple limiting factors in both the "Wetlands" and "Flowing Water and Riparian Habitats" ecoregions. Funding this proposal would provide capacity for collaboration between partners and contracted technical experts to facilitate the foundational project planning that these two complex, interdisciplinary project efforts will require. |
| 9 | 17 | Beaver Habitat Restoration, Outreach and Support Services in Oregon's High Desert Watersheds | Think Wild Central Oregon | $49,870.00 | Blue Mountains, East Cascades, Northern Basin & Range | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | Beaver Works Oregon (BWO) is a program under Think Wild dedicated to supporting beaver success on Oregon's high desert landscape. Through the BWO program, this project will address these limiting factors by providing beaver habitat restoration, outreach, and support services to landholders, agencies, and the public in Central and Eastern Oregon. Our project works to establish BeaverHOODs, stream reaches with adequate food, water, sediment, and construction building materials, as well as human tolerance for beavers to settle, establish, survive, and reproduce. To achieve this, we collaborate with local watershed councils, agencies, and landholders to identify, consult on, and plan habitat restoration projects primarily in three Oregon Conservation Strategy ecoregions: Blue Mountain, Northern Basin and Range and East Cascades. We then take volunteer groups out to the worksites to implement and monitor the projects by spending a weekend "recreating for good" - planting, camping, and learning about beaver habitat, healthy ecosystems and working lands. As we build community understanding of why beavers matter and how to invite them back to our watersheds, we also build opportunities for more habitat restoration throughout the region. OCRF support for this project will promote deeper, wider expansion of beaver-focused outreach, habitat services, coexistence solutions, and opportunities for "recreating for good" on the land. |
| 9 | 45 | Turtle Island Park Restoration Project | Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council | $40,691.00 | West Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | No | YES - OCRF Funded | The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC), the City of Westfir (Westfir), and other partnering organizations and community members (Project partners) have identified the need to provide and improve river access for all people and recreational skill levels, and restore sensitive riparian habitat in support of crucial native species. Project partners have collaboratively planned actions to enhance outdoor equity and ecosystem health of TIP. Starting in 2023, project partners will implement the removal of 6.25 acres of invasive species, plant and seed native species where invasive removal has occurred, plan and develop conceptual designs for an accessible trail through the riparian zone to the water front, and host education and outreach activities to spread awareness and increase engagement in restoration, native habitat, and responsible recreation. As part of the project, the MFWWC will support Westfir and other partners in developing a Park Management Plan to ensure recreation and habitat quality for both local residents and visitors. This project complements plans to pave the parking area and install bathroom facilities at through Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) Boating Facility Program funding that Westfir will pursue during the 2023-2025 funding cycle. |
| 9 | 56 | Back2Earth: Providing Youth Outdoor Recreational Opportunities to Inspire Environmental Stewardship | Back2Youth | $50,000.00 | Coast Range, Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | Our mission is to create new pathways to health and wellness by actively engaging youth between the ages of 11 and 18-years-old in the natural environment. Our target population is BIPOC, at-risk, and marginalized youth in Lane County, Oregon. Our year-round outdoor adventure camps provide a wide range of recreational activities (i.e., archery, camping, fishing, and hiking) and support experiences (i.e., leadership development, mindfulness practice, and outdoor education). Our goal is to create opportunity, stability and ultimately success for these diverse and too often under-resourced youth populations. A growing body of research shows that increasing youth's nature interactions can have positive benefits for their health-related quality of life. There is good evidence that vulnerable populations have relatively worse access to high quality natural environments (e.g., tree-lined streets, publicly accessible green spaces, forests, and riverbanks), something public health researchers believe to be a contributing factor to health inequities. Further, lower socio-economic individuals reap greater benefit from access than more privileged groups. We strongly believe that connecting to nature improves environmental awareness through the understanding of the role we each play in respecting our Earth as an extension of ourselves. Our proposed OCRF project – Back2Earth – will engage youth in outdoor recreation with a focus on conservation and personal stewardship. Activities will involve both education and action. Youth will learn about human impact on fish, wildlife, and habitats; and determine appropriate actions/solutions. |
| 11 | 9 | Geospatial Analysis and Modeling of Stream Temperature and Fish Habitat in the Clackamas River Basin | Clackamas River Basin Council | $33,550.00 | Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | A multi-phase, basin-wide, stream temperature data gathering, geospatial network analysis of stream temperatures with salmonid-related parameters map overlays (thermal tolerance, distribution and High Intrinsic Potential) project. Phase 1 is being funded by others and the Phase 2 activities as described below are what are to be funded by the OCRF-requested funds. Currently underway, this project is being performed by a consortium of public and private entities, including Portland State University (PSU) and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). PSU is analyzing data pertinent for present day representations of stream temperatures and will analyze future stream temperature conditions utilizing three representative IPCC-projected climate change scenarios, which will be integrated into a larger, ongoing, community volunteer-driven project, supported with in-kind donations of labor and materials from many sources. This much larger volunteer-driven project incorporates data acquisition efforts and standard statistical analyses of stream temperatures within the 940 square mile Clackamas River basin (mainstem and tributaries) at 90 selected sampling locations across rural and urban areas utilizing currently operating, historic and future data loggers between June and October of 2021, 2022, and 2023. |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 21 | Smallmouth bass, some trouble for rearing salmonids | ODFW | $49,942.00 | Columbia Plateau | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded | Our proposed monitoring in Thirtymile Creek, a tributary to the John Day River, near Condon, Gilliam County, OR aims to quantify the impact of nonnative SMB bass invasion on ESA-listed Mid-C summer steelhead productivity under current environmental conditions as well as quantify the strength of the interaction under altered thermal regimes and invasion scenarios, which are predicted to occur as a result of proposed restoration activities. Specifically, our project aims to 1) document the timing degree of sympatry that currently exists between smallmouth bass and steelhead by examining smallmouth bass entry timing and steelhead emergence timing, 2) quantify smallmouth predation on steelhead and the relationship between predation and temperature, and 3) describe and quantify the competition for food resources that occurs between all size classes of smallmouth bass and steelhead. Because management of the smallmouth sport fishery and the conservation of threated steelhead is a strong topic of conversation/controversy between small bass anglers and steelhead conservationists and anglers, we are also proposing to engage members who identify with both groups into our research and monitoring by hosting a volunteer sampling event. Additionally, we are committed to hosting an education station at the 2023 and 2024 Tupper Outdoor School to educate sixth graders about predator prey dynamics in the John Day River.. The results of this monitoring are both critical and time-sensitive to the development of ongoing successful restoration strategies aimed at improving steelhead productivity in both Thirtymile and other tributaries that currently, or are predicted to, support smallmouth bass. |
| 12 | 4 | Distribution Surveys of Lamprey of the Genus Lampetra Throughout Oregon to Inform Conservation | ODFW | $49,720.00 | Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation | No | YES - OCRF Funded | Over the last century, lampreys have suffered dramatic declines in Oregon. Today, five of the ten lampreys in Oregon are on the state's sensitive species list and are therefore categorized as Oregon Conservation Strategy Species (OCS). Three of these OCS species: Western River Lamprey (Lampetra ayresi), Western Brook Lamprey (Lampetra richardsoni), and Pacific Brook Lamprey (Lampetra pacifica) lack distribution data, which is the primary challenge to assessing their conservation status throughout Oregon. Hence, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified that determining distribution is a primary research priority for these lampreys. Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling is a highly sensitive, efficient, and non-invasive tool for determining species distributions. Results outlining detection of Lampetra DNA in the previously collected samples will be used to inform additional, targeted sampling efforts. Here, we will coordinate (i.e., recruit, educate, train, and advise) existing and new professional partners (agencies, tribes, watershed councils, etc.) and amateur naturalists (Oregonians) to collect new eDNA samples. This approach addresses the top priority for conservation of Oregon lampreys — education and outreach, while also filling-in spatial data gaps that were not previously covered by the Pacific Lamprey and Bull Trout surveys. This proposal is for funds to cover laboratory costs of assaying existing and new (to-be-acquired samples) water samples for Lampetra eDNA. |
| 12 | 19 | South Tongue Point Habitat Improvement | Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) | $50,000.00 | Coast Range | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded | The purpose of this project is to enhance overall estuarine ecosystem function at an important location adjacent to Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. Importantly, the project will benefit Endangered Species Act-listed juvenile salmonids through increased access and enhancement of rearing and foraging habitat. The South Tongue Point (STP) Habitat Improvement Project site is located along the western margin of Cathlamet Bay, approximately at river mile 18 of the Columbia River Estuary (CRE). Importantly, the site sits in the critical brackish area of the estuary ecosystem, where juvenile salmonids must undergo the physiological transition necessary for ocean conditions. The project builds on an adjacent restoration project completed by CREST and its partners in 2012.The primary features of the project are designed to improve and expand salmonid access to off-channel tidal marshplain habitat by restoring hydrologic connections and maximizing off-channel habitat quantity and quality. Project elements include tidal channel creation, marshplain development, placement of wood habitat structures, amendment of the existing soil with masticated wood, and an extensive revegetation effort. Additional design elements include reestablishing native plant communities, improving food web connections between the site interior and the Columbia River, and preparing a recreational and educational access trail. |
| 13 | 5 | Stream Amphibians in the Oregon Coast Range: Assessment of Population Status and Genetic Uniqueness of Cryptic Species | Northwest Ecological Research Institute (NERI) | $42,400.00 | Coast Range, Klamath Mountains | Conservation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | We propose to determine the population status and genetic variation of two State "sensitive species" of stream amphibians in the Oregon Coast Range: (1) Southern Torrent Salamander (earlier proposed for listing at the Federal level) and (2) Coastal Tailed Frog (ranked as #2 priority species in the Coast Range from the Oregon Conservation Strategy). We will re-survey 20 headwaters that were first sampled in 1984/85 and published results reported that clear-cut logging significantly reduced these sensitive species. We revisited sites in 1996 and 2004. Previous results, combined with this new study, will be the first to indicate how long it takes for stream amphibians to recover from clear-cut logging. It is one of the longest running studies in the U.S. At these 20 sites (and others in the Coast Range), we will take tissue samples to better identify genetic distinctiveness of the two species here. Preliminary data suggested these are at least Evolutionary Significant Units or, perhaps, new species. Description as new species will require other lines of evidence including available data in the literature and new measurements of selected samples. Field efforts will include students and interested public through Umpqua Watersheds and Umpqua Community College (UCC), Roseburg, Oregon. Public outreach includes speaking at UCC natural resources classes and on a local radio show (thr0ugh Umpqua Watersheds). |
| 13 | 53 | Huntley Homestead Trail Construction | Robert Brunoe Secretary-Treasurer/CEO | $42,323.00 | Blue Mountains | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | The 0.5 mile Huntley Homestead Trail, located within the Pine Creek Conservation Area, will give visitors a unique opportunity to explore high desert ecology, Oregon's homesteading history, and current and past Indigenous habitation of the area. Interpretative signs and trail boundaries will lead visitors along a steelhead bearing stream and through a historic homestead, while providing a history of Tribal use and ownership of the Conservation Area into present times. Visitors will travel through an old corral where they will encounter the last sign, discussing the current ecological status of the high desert and the future goals of the Conservation Area. |
| 13 | 55 | Hunting Equity Mentorship Program | Hunters of Color | $40,000.00 | Coast Range, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded | Hunters of Color was founded to address this issue by creating access to hunting and conservation for BIPOC Oregonians through mentorship, educational opportunities, and access to shared resources. We have identified four main barriers to entry for BIPOC in hunting: lack of exposure to, and knowledge of, hunting; lack of access to private land; fear of exclusion in predominantly white spaces; and lack of capital to purchase equipment. To address these issues, our diverse leadership creates programming that is culturally specific and racially literate with the support of state and federal agencies, private foundations, and outdoor-centered organizations and corporations. By breaking down these barriers through mentorship and hunting education, we are able to recruit and engage more BIPOC in hunting and conservation. This grant would directly support our long-term goal of establishing a HOC community in every state by 2032. Additionally, this funding will support our newly established Ambassador Program- a network of volunteer leaders who steward chapters in various regions. Through our work, we are giving BIPOC communities the tools, skills, and awareness they need so that they can create familial lines of hunting, access mentorship, and gain knowledge to self-recruit and self-perpetuate hunting/conservation for generations to come. |
| 14 | 10 | Sheep Creek Stewardship Project | Trout Unlimited | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | The Sheep Creek Stewardship Project will engage young adults and local volunteers in public land stewardship and enhance recreational opportunities in the Grande Ronde Basin by restoring critical habitat for ESA-listed Snake River Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, ESA-listed bull trout, and Oregon State-Sensitive and Species of Concern including Pacific lamprey, redband trout and Columbia spotted frogs. By restoring biodiverse meadow habitats, the project will also benefit numerous other flora and fauna species including wetland and migratory birds, elk, mule deer, beaver, and others. Funding from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) will support low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) and riparian planting actions across 4.5 miles of stream on US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands while directly engaging Oregonians from diverse backgrounds. The proposed OCRF project will restore floodplain processes with cost-effective, hand-based restoration, including 40 beaver dam analogs, 10 hand-built large wood structures, and riparian planting along 4.5 miles of Sheep Creek. |
| 14 | 16 | Adventurers for Audible Bats-Phase II | Oregon State University | $49,609.42 | Blue Mountains, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO | The Adventurers for Audible Bats Project capitalizes on the low-frequency vocalizations of rare desert bats, the pallid bat (Antrozous pallidus) and spotted bat (Euderma maculatum), offering a unique opportunity for public engagement and multi-method monitoring. In a time of accelerating environmental change, Oregonians urgently need positive ways to connect to nature, increase their scientific literacy, and feel empowered to help contribute to Oregon's future. Further, there is a serious need for increased data on the presence of these rare desert bats and locations of pallid bat maternity colonies. Adventurers for Audible Bats provides this by harnessing the energy of community activism, agency interest, and the structured scientific survey methodology provided by the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat).<br>A key benefit of Adventurers for Audible Bats is its use of the NABat Program grid-based survey architecture. This program is embedded within the NABat grid such that all aural survey data collected by volunteers and technicians are co-located in the mapped grid cells and are formally included within the statistically valid master sample. The NABat master sample provides a spatially balanced randomization and helps guide sample unit selection and assignment of survey locations. Such data can then be used to develop statistically robust species distribution models and maps. |
| 14 | 39 | High Quality Seed Production for Restoration in the Willamette Valley | Institute for Applied Ecology | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | Over the last several decades, government agencies (including ODFW), non-profit organizations, and private landowners in the Willamette Valley have been working to reduce the decline of native species, recover listed species, and create an interconnected landscape of prairie and oak habitat by implementing restoration projects throughout the region. However, one major limiting factor to the success of these projects is the limited availability of genetically diverse and ecologically appropriate native plant materials for use in these projects. Up until recently, availability of locally sourced native seed for restoration work in the Willamette Valley suffered from a lack of coordination. This lack of coordination potentially resulted in over-collection from wild native populations, introduction of inappropriate genetic material into existing populations, duplication of plant materials production efforts, scarcity of critical diversity species, instability for commercial native plant growers, and higher costs for restoration projects. In 2012, the Willamette Valley Native Plant Partnership (WVNPP) was formed to increase the availability and affordability of genetically diverse native seed for use in Willamette Valley restoration, revegetation, and recovery projects. We are requesting funds to establish two new perennial beds as well as cover partnership coordinator time to assist with species selection, manage contracts, and disburse seed to partners. |
| 15 | 35 | Tinker Bell Trail Reconstruction and Community Engagement | Eastern Oregon Trail Alliance | $18,720.00 | Blue Mountains | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded | At the nexus of conservation, recreation and inclusive collaboration; our project proposes a creative solution to end a current conflict between forest uses while also leveraging the collaboration, born of conflict, to bring conservation education to a rural community. Implementation of overlapping forest users has led to recent conflict between stream conservation and recreation. In 2021 a stream restoration and watershed enhancement project on Tinker Creek damaged .53 miles of the existing Tinker Bell Trail. The restoration project was implemented to benefit Middle Columbia Steelhead and redband trout by reconstructing floodplain habitat and increasing water storage. Unfortunately, heavy equipment needed for the restoration project resulted in the elimination of some sections of the Tinker Bell Trail, effectively cutting off continuous trail access to ~ 11 miles of trail. Eastern Oregon Trail Alliance (EOTA), as a strong supporter of conservation, responsible recreation, and sustainable trail design is proposing, and is excited at the opportunity, to flip this conflict on its head and instead turn it into an educational opportunity that bridges the gap between conservation and responsible recreation. Specifically, we are proposing to reconstruct the Tinker Bell Trail and host two weekend community volunteer events to finish the reconstructed trail. We are also proposing to install an informational sign that educates the public about the restoration project, and how to recreate responsibility. We will place the sign at the location where the trail meets the restoration project which is ~ ½ mile from the trailhead. |
| 16 | 8 | Identifying Best Practices for Restoring Forb Islands to Benefit Greater Sage Grouse | Institute for Applied Ecology | $28,411.13 | Northern Basin & Range | Conservation | No | NO | Populations of greater sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus), an obligate sagebrush species and a species of concern in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, have experienced dramatic declines over the past 50 years. Populations have continued to decline even following substantial collaborative efforts across the region to address conservation threats.Forbs, perennial grasses, and forb-associated arthropods in sagebrush understories are critical for chick-rearing and reproductive success. Restoration of these important understory forb plant communities is a high priority, as they are scarce or missing in many priority sage-grouse conservation areas in eastern Oregon. Because of the many challenges of restoring the understory plant community at landscape scales, a key strategy is to restore "forb islands" in core sage-grouse habitat. Unfortunately, there is a paucity of research on the best methods for restoring forbs in these areas. Using a robust experimental design, our study will measure the response of key understory forbs and grasses to combinations of treatment options that have shown promise in prior and anecdotal studies. Our treatments are also designed to be applicable to operational scales. This project will leverage an existing study (including in-kind and cash matching) in the Brothers Priority Area for Conservation (also the Brothers-Wagontire Conservation Opportunity Area) initiated in 2021 by the Institute for Applied Ecology, East Cascades Audubon Society, and other partners. |
| 16 | 25 | Southwestern Cascades Meadow Resource Protection Project | Oregon Hunters Association | $50,000.00 | East Cascades, Klamath Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | NO | Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is partnering with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), United States Forest Service (USFS), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to protect and enhance mesic areas and associated meadows in the West Cascade and Klamath Mountain Ecoregions for the benefit of wildlife, their habitat and Oregonians. Specifically, OHA and partners will protect three areas in the Cascade Mountains (Willow Prairie, Short Creek, and Whiskey Springs/Fourbit) with 6.5 total miles of wildlife-friendly fencing to restore and increase the resiliency of these mesic systems and allow native flora and fauna to flourish.The project areas provide several recreational opportunities for the public. The Whiskey Springs and Fourbit project areas are in close proximity to campgrounds with interpretive trails that lead to the project sites. Therefore, restoring these springs and meadow systems should provide excellent nature and wildlife viewing opportunities in the foreseeable future once these systems recover. Further, fencing associated with this project should physically prohibit illegal off-road driving which has damaged these mesic systems in the recent past. Whiskey Springs and Willow Prairie Campgrounds also have their own surface water sources and infrastructure that will be better protected from cattle with improved, wildlife-friendly fencing. |
| 18 | 18 | Electrofishing Catarafi for ODFW Charleston Field Office | ODFW | $50,000.00 | Coast Range | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO | Historically, Chum Salmon (Oncorhynchus keta) returned to the Lower Columbia River (LCR) to spawn in both Washington and Oregon tributaries. At one time, Chum Salmon were one of the most encountered salmonids in the LCR and represented a significant proportion of the commercial harvest in the 1920s. Today, the most robust populations occur on the Washington side of the LCR, while most Oregon populations are functionally extirpated. Reintroduction efforts in Oregon are ongoing and supported by a conservation broodstock, habitat restoration projects, and outreach aimed at increasing awareness of Chum Salmon status in the state. These efforts are primarily focused in the coastal region where most Chum Salmon return to spawn volitionally. However, monitoring and outreach are needed in the other recovery populations (e.g., cascade region), especially as reintroduction efforts expand and recovery occurs. Environmental DNA (eDNA) is an effective way to determine the presence or absence of rare species in a system without the laborious efforts and costs associated with physical surveys. Our project aims to 1) create an eDNA monitoring program for Chum Salmon in the cascade region; 2) partner with local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and local non-profits to source volunteers for sampling; and 3) define adult run timing, estimate fry production, and/or determine potential habitat restoration projects for Chum Salmon in unmonitored areas. |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | 58 | 2023 Training for Oregon Boating Foundation Staff and People of Color Outdoors Leaders | Oregon Boating Foundation | $21,464.06 | Nearshore, Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | NO | The Oregon Boating Foundation (OBF) and People of Color Outdoors (POCO) have developed a partnership to meet OBF's goal of training local staff to safely oversee outdoor recreational paddling events in the Newport area, and also meet POCO's goal of creating cohorts of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) volunteers to lead kayak outings for People of Color Outdoors in the Portland area. OBF will also provide environmental education relevant to the Oregon Coast, nearshore region, and climate change.The Oregon Boating Foundation will provide basic kayaking skills training, including how to paddle, conduct a rescue, handle emergencies, and use radios to communicate. Cohort members will learn leadership skills needed to be confident and competent and keep kayak passengers safe. All participants will learn preventative maintenance and care for taking care of kayaks, paddles, life jackets, spray skirts, paddle floats and bilge pumps. The staff and cohort will receive education about some local history relating to the Yacona tribe and Newport's history. The cohort will learn basics about marine environments, including ocean and river tides, currents, weather considerations, and other things related to planning and hosting a safe trip. The environmental education will include information about how climate change is impacting fisheries, habitat, and ecology. Participants will learn about salmon, harbor seals, sea lions, native eelgrass, sea starts, urchins, and much more. The goal is to provide the education and resources needed for OBF staff and POCO volunteers to be able to effectively research conservation issues for a given recreation venue, educate others about wildlife and ecology, and inspire environmental stewardship among participants of the recreational outings they are supervising. |
| 18 | 59 | Willamette River Outdoor Education Science Summer Program | Heritage Museum Society | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | NO | The Heritage Museum (est. 1976) has the mission of collecting and sharing the natural history and diverse cultural heritage of our river community. In April of 2022, it opened its doors at a newly renovated building in historic downtown only 500 feet from the bank of the Willamette River in Independence. The Heritage Museum has created a new program: the Heritage Outdoor Program (HOP). This program's mission is to make outdoor science education accessible for school-aged children in Polk County. In partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Luckiamute Watershed Council, the program utilizes scientific inquiry to examine the ecology and history, specifically as it is grounded in the history and traditions of the first people to live in the area. Curriculum topics will include how the Kalapuya experienced the river including how they cultivated native plant species, as well as how the river was changed by colonialism and industry, and how the ecology and health of the river aid our understanding of the impacts of climate change. This program represents an opportunity in an educationally underserved area of Oregon. To our knowledge, there is currently no extracurricular K-12 science education in Polk County (population 85,234) during the summer months. Our program is affordable, meets working families' schedules, utilizes local partnerships, and provides science-based summer adventures for school-aged children. |
| 19 | 7 | Determining Western Yellow Rail Distribution and Drought Resilience of Shallow Wetland Habitats in the Pacific Northwest | Oregon State University | $49,401.00 | East Cascades, Northern Basin & Range | Conservation | YES | NO | Short-emergent perennial wetlands are key to the persistence of several species of concern in the Klamath Basin, including Oregon Spotted Frog (Rana pretiosa), Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis), Sandhill Crane (Antigone canadensis), and Miller Lake lamprey (Entosphenus minimus). Additionally, the condition of these wetlands is directly tied to water quality and quantity conditions in Upper Klamath Lake, which are critical for the recovery of endangered Lost River (Deltistes luxatus) and Shortnose suckers (Chasmistes brevirostris). However, the extent, condition, and ecosystem services supported by short-emergent perennial wetlands is poorly understood across the Intermountain West. As a result, these wetlands are overlooked in the planning, protection and implementation of restoration efforts. As changes in climate extend and exacerbate the frequency and duration of droughts, these short-emergent wetlands may become more imperiled in the absence of our understanding them more completely.<br>We are proposing a research effort designed to increase the understanding of where short-emergent perennial wetlands exist, what condition they are in, their resiliency to climate and hydrologic change, and their capability to support fish and wildlife populations when in properly functioning condition. Additionally, we will be developing an automated survey technique that will allow a rapid evaluation of key species, such as Yellow Rail, through a more efficient effort with reduced financial and human resources. These two data sources will help prioritize restoration efforts based on the presence of wetlands, hydrologic condition of those wetlands, and presence or absence of key indicator species. |
| 19 | 23 | Building Protective Fencing for Klamath Marsh BDAs | The Klamath Tribes Ambodat Department | $49,560.00 | East Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO | The Klamath Tribes Ambodat Department have been working on several Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) installation projects, with the intentions of improving water quality and reintroducing/attracting wild beaver families. The proposed project will support the Tribes Habitat Restoration for Beaver Reintroduction in the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge project, furthering its success and allowing for optimal ecological benefits. With the support and technical assistance from the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) staff and Tribal volunteers, we intend to install approximately five miles of wildlife-friendly fencing around the Klamath Marsh NWR near Little Wocus Bay. Currently, there are two BDAs in the Little Wocus Bay area that are well established, with the live willow materials having taken root and producing leaves. However, this area is subject to repeated cattle trespass incidents due to failing boundary fencing and inadequate gates. The impacts of livestock entering these ecologically sensitive areas includes a great amount of vegetative destruction, soil compaction, and channel degradation. This project would fund the installation of four to five miles of wildlife-friendly fencing around the BDAs. We hope that this will be the first small step in completely fencing off the entire Klamath Marsh from the degradation of trespass cattle grazing. |
| 19 | 24 | Wildlife crossing structure effectiveness monitoring in Central Oregon. | Oregon State University | $40,354.86 | East Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | NO | This project will provide a critical extension to a previous agreement (OWEB 221-4034-19625) documenting effectiveness of five wildlife crossing structures on U.S. Highway 97 between Gilchrist and Lava Butte (mileposts 149-185). These structures were designed to restore and enhance habitat connectivity for mule deer and elk between summer and winter ranges and are the first of their kind in Oregon. Four of the crossing structures were complete at the start of the OWEB agreement, though the fifth structure was not completed until late summer 2022 and additional crossing elements (fencing, deer guards/jump-outs) have not yet been completed. While two of the original structures have been monitored in previous efforts the remaining three structures have not been monitored, nor has there been any monitoring of the 5-structure system. As part of the previous agreement, study design, camera trap installation, and five months of image capture have already been completed. Crossing structure installation timing and associated delayed camera trap deployment combined with a greater rate of image capture than anticipated require additional funding to ensure adequate resources for project completion. Funds requested here will be used to extend graduate student project supervisor salary and hire two undergraduate research technicians to assist with image processing. Funding this request will extend the project timeline and ensure delivery of a strategic and evidence-based platform for statewide crossing structure monitoring. |
| 19 | 34 | Witham Hill Oak Habitat Restoration | City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation | $14,840.00 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | NO | Approximately 83 acres, the project area is located just outside the city limits of west Corvallis within Benton County, which includes Witham Hill Natural Area (WHNA) (35 acres) owned by the City of Corvallis and a portion of Hill Farm East (48 acres) owned by the Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences. Today, only 5% of oak woodland habitat and 1% of oak savanna habitat remain in the Willamette Valley. While Benton County still contains a large corridor of oak-prairie habitat as identified in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy and the Benton County Prairie Conservation Strategy, restoration is needed to increase and enhance these declining habitats. Changes in habitat and structure in the project area over time has shifted historic oak savanna to mixed oak woodland forest with dense, closed canopy conditions created by Douglas fir, oak, invasive sweet cherry and English hawthorn encroachment that also increases fire risk. Restoration actions across City of Corvallis and OSU properties would enhance these habitats and connectivity for this species and other wildlife within COA 081, of which Bald Hill Natural Area, Bald Hill Farm, Fitton Green, and Chip Ross Natural Area are all a part. OCRF will be used to fund a Witham Hill Oak Habitat Restoration Plan for an 83-acre project area to be prepared by Trout Mountain Forestry (TMF). |
| 20 | 33 | Taking Care of Tryon Creek - Workforce Project | Tryon Creek Watershed Council | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO | We will engage in a variety of management activities with youth-based workforce groups to address multiple issues in the Tryon Creek State Natural Area. We will provide training in response to Emerald Ash Borer; reduce the spread of invasive plants by installing boot brushes at trailheads, collect canopy closure data to inform succession planting plans, and foster opportunities for students to plan activities and deepen their sense of place. |
| 20 | 61 | Creating Recreation and Education Spaces for ALL of our Community – Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom Elements at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center | Salem Audubon Society | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | NO | Creating spaces and experiences to connect families and our community to nature is what the Ankeny Hill Nature Center (AHNC, the Center) is all about. Salem Audubon Society (SAS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS or Service) and the Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Friends) formed a formal partnership in 2016 for this purpose. The spaces and experiences we are creating, including multi-language website, signage, programming, trails, facilities, events, materials, and a volunteer program. We designed the AHNC for five different audiences: Families, Latino Community, Seniors and Alter-Abled, Formal School Groups and Informal School Groups/Homeschoolers. Meeting the needs of these audiences and being an asset to them is our goal and primary focus. The next phase of the Center is the Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom perched over Peregrine Marsh, a restored emergent wetland. This classroom will have important functions, mainly a) provide wildlife-dependent recreation experiences for visitors every day from dawn to dusk; b) offer a dedicated nature/conservation education space; c) be a model for climate resiliency, sustainability, and invasive species control. To accomplish this, the partnership has raised over $207,000 for construction alone. The parking lot, bus parking, accessible parking, sidewalks, and trails are already in – completed in 2020. The contractor and architect are lined up for the Dave Marshall Classroom design and construction, we are on the construction calendar, and the design is 60% complete. Construction would commence and finish within the 2023 construction window. |
| 21 | 47 | North Johnson Creek Restoration | Trail Keepers of Oregon (TKO) | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | No | NO | This OCRF grant proposal is to fund the second phase of a larger ongoing project to restore ten acres around the headwaters of N Johnson Creek and to build a nature trail along this forested, riparian corridor. The project's partners are each recognized as exceptional organizations state-wide in the respective conservation and recreation (trail building) areas that they have signed up for in the project. Each lead partner's strengths are their integration of students, volunteers, the extended community and other environmental organizations through multifaceted and collaborative conservation, education and community engagement in the project's elements. This includes education, identification of Oregon Conservation Strategy Species on the site, and in particular the Northern Red-legged Frog which is a Strategy Priority Species. The project is located in the West Haven neighborhood in unincorporated Washington County, north of Highway 26 and just west and south of Forest Park in Multnomah County. The project is on property owned by Providence St. Vincent Medical Center and Catlin Gabel School (CGS). Letters of support, from both property owners, commit to providing permanent public easements and trail maintenance when the route is established. Although not directly located in a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), the project area includes an Oregon Protected Goal 5 'Safe Harbor' Riparian Corridor for wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and is part of a migratory corridor connected to the close-by expansive Forest Park COA. This is a community project through Neighbors For Smart Growth (NFSG), a group started by West Haven residents, with exceptional project support of local government, environmental groups, regulatory and non-regulatory agency, schools, nonprofits and land trust partners. See partner description in Section 17. |
| 21 | 48 | River Ambassadors in Training (River RATS) | We Love Clean Rivers | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | NO | We Love Clean Rivers will expand its River Ambassador initiative to include a student-focused river access, education and adventure program on the Clackamas Water Trail (lower 22 miles of the Clackamas River). These River Ambassadors in Training (River RATs) will learn and experience their home river first hand and on the water itself. Clackamas County middle schoolers are the target population, with a goal to have students raft the river in both 6th and 7th grade. Trained river professionals and safety kayakers will lead the students and their teachers. Starting with the 6th graders, this program will complement Outdoor School experiences, hit a number of science and environmental learning standards, and give students a rare opportunity to both recreate and learn on their home river. For this project, a pilot cohort of different middle school classes (depending on sizes and teacher recruitment, maybe 2-3 schools, 200-300 students total) will complete the program over two years (into their 7th grade). Bottom line is students will have an unprecedented opportunity to get to know their own river - the main source of ecological health and drinking water for the region, and a fantastic recreational resource available to all. |
| 22 | 2 | Movement Ecology of Northeast Oregon Sandhill Cranes (Grus canadensis) | International Crane Foundation, Inc. | $43,820.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation | Yes | NO | Northeastern Oregon (NEO) hosts a growing flock of breeding Greater Sandhill Cranes (hereafter, cranes) as well as serving as an important stop-over site for migrating cranes in both spring and fall. Prior to the onset of research in 2007, little was known about the breeding areas, migration, wintering areas, or population affiliation(s) of those cranes. Through ongoing color banding and radio telemetry, we have gained insight into those questions, but much remains unanswered. Color banding alone yielded no reports of cranes during migration or winter, leading us to begin the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) transmitters. Opportunities for attachment of transmitters to cranes, either juvenile or adult, have been limited by available funding from a variety of sources. However, there remain gaps in our understanding of NEO cranes such as what proportion of NEO cranes are affiliated with each of the western crane populations; what other areas and habitats breeding cranes use in the Blue Mountains Ecoregion; where migrating cranes stop to rest or stage and the relative importance of those places; and how an increasingly warm and dry climate may affect the availability of summer, winter, and migration habitats. We propose to purchase 20 Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) transmitters with GPS capability and place them on adult and juvenile cranes over the next 2-3 years. This will increase our sample size and add power to inferences made from the resulting data. |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 11 | Conserving Bumble Bees in the Blue Mountains Ecoregion: Engaging Volunteers in Inventory and Building a Bumble Bee Habitat Network | The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | NO | Bumble bees (Bombus spp.) are charismatic and easily recognizable pollinators that play an incredibly important role in keeping our environment healthy by pollinating flowers in natural areas and by contributing to successful harvests on farms. The Oregon Conservation Strategy (Strategy) recognizes both the western bumble bee (Bombus occidentalis) and Franklin's bumble bee (B. franklini) as strategy species and Morrison's bumble bee (B. morrisoni) as a data gap species. Recent observations of these and other bumble bee species from coordinated efforts led by the Xerces Society, with previous support from OCRF, have vastly improved our understanding of their distribution in Oregon. These observations of rare bumble bee species provide an opportunity to take the next step in conservation efforts to protect, restore, and enhance habitat to help these animals recover and to build resilience for the future.This Network will help us to gather a clearer picture of Strategy bumble bee species distribution within the Blue Mountains and build a prioritization framework for bumblebee conservation and habitat restoration. Using this framework, and ODFW's Strategy Conservation Opportunity Areas as a nexus, we will identify existing and potential stakeholders (e.g. private landowners, tribal natural resources divisions, public land managers, watershed councils) currently practicing or planning habitat restoration and management focused on fish and/or sage grouse in key regions of the Blue Mountains (e.g. close to rare bumble bee populations or in important habitat corridors). We will conduct outreach to these stakeholders, which will include collaborating with them to fill gaps in our understanding of existing bumblebee habitat. |
| 23 | 28 | Combining community and research | Oregon State University | $45,673.00 | Nearshore | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO | Understanding seabird diet composition supplies vital information regarding the health and function of marine food webs. Diet information can inform management decisions for both marine birds, including tufted puffins and their prey species, mostly forage fishes. However, populations of tufted puffins have declined on the Oregon coast and little is known about the foraging ecology of this seabird species in the region, including its diet. To address this knowledge gap we launched 'Birds with Fish' in 2021. Birds with Fish is a community science initiative to engage skilled photographers to contribute photos of birds with fish, and other marine prey, to our online web portal. While obtaining photos of tufted puffins requires patience and technical photography equipment, other species like common murres, pigeon guillemots, and cormorant spp. are sometimes viewable in close enough proximity that smart phones can be used for photography. Secondly, in 2021 and 2022 we ran a proof-of concept dedicated field effort at the Haystack Rock tufted puffin and common murre colony to photograph both species with bill loads. Our OCRF project continues these efforts for an additional two summers to understand what marine birds are eating along the coast and how tufted puffin prey composition changes with environmental conditions. The tufted puffin is a nearshore strategy species, however direct conservation actions linking this species to the marine food webs it depends on are lacking without diet information. Our project is designed to both address an ecological question and provide accessible information, education and engagement opportunities to a diverse group of Oregonians and visitors. The beach overlooking Haystack Rock is a popular visitor destination; our presence there enhances wildlife viewing opportunities and provides informal outreach and education. |
| 24 | 31 | Stream Health Keizer | City of Keizer | $4,926.15 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO | The City of Keizer Public Works is responsible for the maintenance and management of our public infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks, parks and public buildings. We are also responsible for the management and upkeep of public riparian areas along the major waterways that flow through Keizer. As a small agency, we have typically relied on the historic anecdotal knowledge of our field staff to assist with making decision regarding flooding mitigation, riparian habitat and stream management. However, as development has grown, so has impervious surface, paired with smaller riparian buffers, an increase in flash flooding and a closer interface between private property, waterways and wildlife. We recognize that there is a need to better collect data to support thoughtful and effective wetland and wildlife management strategies that help native fish, plants, wildlife and human populations thrive. In September, 2022, the Environmental & Technical Division took the first step in achieving this goal by starting the first ever Keizer Canopy Cover Study. The goal of this project was to collect canopy cover data along Claggett Creek and Labish Ditch to determine the health of the riparian habitat along these two streams. During this study, it was found that the average canopy cover along Claggett Creek was only 36% coverage. The goal of this project is to implement year-round data collection, monitoring and documenting water levels, beaver activity and canopy cover / stream health data. The data would be used to develop interactive maps to show of known flooding areas, beaver dams, debris jams, water temperature and canopy cover, all to be used to support more thoughtful and effective management strategies and track the impact of implemented strategies. |
| 24 | 39 | Crumb Clean Recreation Site Assessment | American Bird Conservancy | $48,108.38 | Coast Range, Nearshore | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | No | NO | The Marbled Murrelet, a forest-nesting seabird, and the Western Snowy Plover, a shorebird that prefers nesting on coastal beaches, have more in common than it appears at first glance. Both species are found along the entire Oregon coast and are listed under the state and federal endangered species acts. These birds also share a common limiting factor, nest predation by members of the Corvid family. Jays, ravens, and crows are all natural nest predators, but their populations can be increased unintentionally by humans recreating near breeding areas. Studies have shown that when human food waste becomes accessible to corvids, their populations increase, thereby increasing the risk of nest predation. The goal of this project is to assess and prioritize recreation sites in Oregon's Coast Range and nearshore ecoregions for inclusion in an Oregon-based Crumb Clean program. Over the last decade, California State Parks has implemented an education and infrastructure program to reduce human food waste in Marbled Murrelet habitat. This program has been successful in reducing corvid densities by spreading a "Crumb Clean" message to park visitors and improving trash and dishwashing infrastructure in the parks. By reducing nest predator densities, we hope to improve the nest success of both of these threatened species. For 2023, we would like to expand this effort by continuing surveys at recreation sites within or adjacent to Marbled Murrelet and Snowy Plover habitat along the rest of Oregon Coast. This would include additional USFS and OPRD recreation sites as well as sites under ownership of the Oregon Department of Forestry. A seasonal technician would be hired to complete the surveys and generate draft prioritization and needs lists for each landowner. ABC will then coordinate a plan for Crumb Clean implementation with each landowner and assist with ordering supplies that are based on the identified needs and feasibility of implementation. |
| 24 | 50 | Deaf Outdoor Recreation Summer Programming | Adventures Without Limits | $50,000.00 | Coast Range, Nearshore, Willamette Valley | Recreation | No | NO | Adventures Without Limits is seeking funding to host outdoor recreation programming and events for Oregon's Deaf communities in summer 2023. We will host regular day events to build relationships and trust in a way that's accessible for people who may be new to the outdoors, culminating in a Deaf camping weekend at the end of the summer. |
| 24 | 52 | BeneFISHal Invasive Species Angling & Data Project | Native Fish Society | $4,141.20 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | NO | Brown Folks Fishing (BFF) and Native Fish Society (NFS) are partnering to put on an event that will educate, empower, and welcome new BIPOC anglers from the greater Portland Metro area. Three experienced anglers from BFF will lead instruction on how to fish for smallmouth bass in the lower Molalla River. Participants will get an afternoon of smallmouth fishing instruction with spinning rods, fly fishing rods, or both. Once participants have had their fill of fishing, they will get a tutorial on how to use a citizen science app to record smallmouth bass predation on native aquatic species. Participants will also be invited to join BFF and NFS and take part in further angling and conservation activities. |
| 25 | 26 | Pompadour Bluff Access Infrastructure Phase II | Southern Oregon Land Conservancy | $50,000.00 | Klamath Mountains, West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO | Pompadour Bluff itself is an iconic geologic formation visible from the I-5 corridor and Ashland's viewscape, and supports intact oak woodland, native grasslands, shrubland, and habitat for multiple native plants, including sensitive ones, and animals. Donated to form a preserve with public access, Pompadour Bluff is in designated very sensitive deer and elk winter range and is closely adjacent two ODFW Conservation Opportunity Areas and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. SOLC completed Phase I of our Pompadour Bluff Access Infrastructure plan in 2022, replacing an access bridge across an irrigation ditch to comply with local code for service and fire safety vehicles. Demand for recreational access was extraordinary – over 200 people were on the waiting list for our first series of guided hikes – and many regional partners have expressed interest in working with SOLC to utilize Pompadour Bluff as a site for their own conservation, research, and outreach opportunities. With the new bridge and successful soft launch of onsite programming, we are now ready to move into Phase II of our Access Infrastructure plan to support safe and accessible recreation opportunities while maintaining the property's high conservation values. Phase II includes improving the access road; installing a fire-safe parking area; constructing a welcome kiosk to present trail, safety, and interpretive materials, in both English and Spanish; and building a universal access trail from the former homesite to the viewpoint at the top of Pompadour Bluff. Completing Access Infrastructure Phase II will allow us to confidently welcome students, families, partner organizations, and the general public to Pompadour Bluff for recreation, research, and education opportunities in a truly unique landscape. |
| 25 | 38 | Powder Basin Beaver Restoration | Powder Basin Watershed Council | $34,964.00 | Blue Mountains | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | NO | The Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) and Wallowa Whitman National Forest (WWNF) are building a partnership whereby the PBWC will serve to assist the WWNF in accomplishing aquatic restoration needs/objectives (aka. climate change adaptation projects) on the Forest within the Powder Basin. The first step in this partnership is the Camp Creek Ecosystem Resiliency Project, of which the OCRF is a funding partner. The Camp Creek project involves implementing low-tech, process-based restoration techniques (LTPBR) to restore floodplain and aquatic habitats with the focal species being beaver, Columbia Basin Redband Trout and Columbia Spotted Frog. Low-tech process-based stream restoration involves simple, cost-effective, hand-built solutions that help repair degraded streams. Rather than using big construction equipment to force a stream into place, the goal is to kickstart ecological processes that allow the stream to repair itself, including creating conditions to facilitate recolonization by beavers. Our end goal is for beavers to colonize where we have completed our work, to make it better and maintain it nature's way. We will do our best at mimicking what beavers do on the landscape by hand constructing beaver dam analogs, post-assisted log structures and hand placing wood. While delay in completing NEPA for the Camp Creek project has set back implementation to 2023 and 2024, the partners wish to move forward with planning, design and permitting for the next project on Trout Creek, also a tributary to the North Fork Burnt River. Ultimately, we are requesting funds to: 1) begin necessary planning and preparation for LTPBR work on Trout Creek, and 2) acquire equipment to support our long-term goal of implementing LTPBR projects throughout the Powder Basin. |
| 25 | 54 | Coastal Beaver Community Science Survey Expansion and Partnership Collaborative | The Wetlands Conservancy | $50,000.00 | Coast Range | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | NO | Diverse wetland habitats created by beavers are vital to salmon, lamprey, first foods, and other Oregon Conservation Species. Oregon's Coast Range Ecoregion has little to no presence/absence or dispersal data for beaver in coastal watersheds or saltwater estuary systems. Meanwhile, there are many agencies and organizations studying beavers as a key partner in habitat restoration, drought mitigation, and watershed resilience. The Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership is testing and piloting the recently improved Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) model to evaluate abiotic habitat for beaver potential; and ODFW, The Beaver Coalition, and others have identified the need for a standardized program around collecting beaver presence and activity field data in order to ground truth the BRAT model across the state. The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) seeks to complement these efforts while fostering support for our state animals by engaging the public through community science within the Coast Range Ecoregion, specifically the Yaquina Bay and Coos Bay Conservation Opportunity Areas. By forming relationships with community organizations, partnering with other nonprofits, foundations, and agencies to ensure the data community members gather is contributing to larger, statewide efforts, beaver community science surveys have a much broader impact. Beaver-created habitat is essential for climate change resilience for humans and wildlife, and knowing the positive impact these hands-on experiences in wetlands have on participants, these community science surveys can foster support among Oregonians for beavers and their benefits. |
| 26 | 6 | Using GPS technology to uncover migratory routes and non-breeding season roost locations of the at-risk Western Purple Martin | Klamath Bird Observatory | $49,703.42 | Coast Range, Willamette Valley | Conservation | No | NO | The unique western subspecies of Purple Martin is roughly estimated at just 3,500 pairs, and as an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species, is considered to be of conservation concern. Determining the factors that limit population size in a migratory bird requires understanding what threats they may face in different parts of their annual cycle – and thus, the first step is understanding where those locations are. A better understanding of overwintering locations and migratory stopover sites used by Western Purple Martins, and potential threats originating during the non-breeding season, are key information gaps needed to target conservation actions. A single returning tagged martin was recaptured in 2021, revealing a tantalizing first look at the migratory route, extended fall stopover sites, and wintering locations in southeastern Brazil used by this at-risk subspecies, but more data are needed. Eight additional tags were deployed in coastal Oregon in 2022. To increase our sample size, this project aims to collect additional data in 2023-2024. This effort would occur at a new study site where we would relocate our work to improve return and recapture rates. We propose to deploy 15 GPS tags on adult Western Purple Martins, and color-band an additional 15 adults, at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane County, OR, in 2023. We will resight returning color-banded birds and recapture GPS-tagged birds in 2024. Our objectives are to 1) obtain precise locations of roost sites used during migration and winter, and 2) use this information to identify state, federal, and international partners and conservation actions that can be taken during the non-breeding season, but also to 3) compare return rates of color-banded only vs. GPS-tagged Purple Martins to test for any unintended effects of this technology on survival. |
| 26 | 38 | Iron Head Public Access and Riparian Habitat Enhancement | Curry Watersheds Nonprofit | $38,038.00 | Coast Range | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | NO | In 2019, the Curry Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with ODFW to implement watershed restoration projects at Iron Head that were identified in the recently completed Elk River Coho Salmon Recovery Strategic Action Plan. Over the next three years, the SWCD and other members of the Curry Watersheds Partnership (CWP) cleared gorse and other invasive weeds from riparian habitat, and began to reforest the property with native trees and shrubs. During this time the CWP observed ongoing illegal dumping of garbage, the abandonment of vehicles, and other nefarious activities in the Iron Head parking lot, which is accessible to vehicles year-round, day or night. CWP's Project Manager discussed the matter with ODFW's Gold Beach District Fish Biologist, who also expressed dismay and frustration about the situation, and asked if the CWP could help secure funding to address the problem.Through this proposal, the Curry Watersheds Nonprofit (a member of the CWP) requests OCRF funding to install a gate on the entrance to Iron Head, and to line the county road right-of-way with boulders to block vehicle access to the property when the river is closed to fishing. OCRF funding will also be used to improve the parking lot surface and drainage, to reduce turbid runoff to the Elk River and wear and tear on people's vehicles. The CWP will continue to restore and enhance riparian habitat on the property, with funding from the Wild Salmon Center, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and/or the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance. |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | 52 | Improvements to Creating Memories Camp Lodge | Creating Memories for Disabled Children | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | NO | Our project involves renovation of the lodge building at our camp property, formerly the Wallowa Lake Boy Scout Camp, for use by children with disabilities and their families to have access and opportunity to engage in outdoor recreation. To date we have renovated 3 cabins on the property to serve as lodging for children with disabilities and their families to enjoy free vacations in an wilderness setting with access to accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. The lodge, once completed, will serve as a gathering place to provide families with opportunities to network, engage and support one another. |
| 27 | 29 | Fish Creek Valley Pre-Restoration Monitoring & Recreation Access | National Forest Foundation | $50,000.00 | West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | NO | The Fish Creek Valley within the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness is a two mile long, low gradient, wide valley meadow in the headwaters of the Fish Creek Watershed within the North Umpqua Basin. Despite its location within the wilderness, Fish Creek Valley is not without anthropogenic impacts, including both beaver trapping and livestock grazing. Prior to colonization of the western United States, Fish Creek used to span the valley at this site. This stream condition would have resulted in significant hydrologic connectivity between the stream and its floodplain, likely creating ecologically dynamic wet meadows and storing water late into the summer season. Beaver complexes were likely a significant driver of this hydrologically connected system. Beaver trapping and livestock grazing have both contributed to the degradation of Fish Creek, resulting in an incised stream channel disconnected from the floodplain. The lead project partners – National Forest Foundation (NFF) and Umpqua National Forest (Umpqua NF) – are working together to plan and design restoration actions such as beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and willow plantings with likely implementation in 2025. Prior to restoration implementation, and as a key part of the current proposal to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, we seek to conduct two years of pre-restoration monitoring of stream conditions (temperature, dissolved oxygen, discharge, stream shading) so that we can assess restoration impacts in Fish Creek Valley and help fill key knowledge gaps in the field of beaver restoration. |
| 28 | 13 | Camp Creek Aspen Meadow Protection | Backcountry Hunters and Anglers | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | NO | Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) is partnering with, Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), United States Forest Service (USFS), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to protect and enhance aspen and associated meadows in the Blue Mountain Ecoregion for the benefit of wildlife, their habitat and Oregonians. Specifically, BHA and partners will protect 33 acres within four aspen stands in Crooked and Camp creeks, tributaries of the Silvies River with approximately 2 miles of wildlife-friendly fencing to restore and increase the resiliency of aspen stands, protect spring and riparian habitats and improve quality and quantity of riparian and other deciduous vegetation. Throughout the west, there is concern about the loss of aspen habitats and the lack of aspen regeneration in remnant stands due to degradation and fragmentation due to conifer encroachment, heavy use by domestic livestock, and wildfire suppression among other factors. Therefore, restoring these aspen stands, springs and meadows should provide excellent hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities in the foreseeable future once these systems recover. Further, this project will physically prohibit off-highway vehicle use. In light of climate change, and subsequent drought conditions that we are experiencing throughout much of Oregon, it is more important than ever to protect water sources for the benefit of wildlife, native plants, and people. This project will have a lasting, positive impact on wildlife in the Silvies River watershed, their habitat, and generations of outdoor enthusiasts. |
| 28 | 53 | St. Louis Fishing Ponds Pump Replacement | **ODFW** | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | NO | The 50-year-old pump at ODFW's St. Louis Fishing Ponds died and needs to be replaced. This essential piece of equipment provides cool water to 7 highly popular public fishing ponds during the summer and early fall. These manmade ponds are subject to evaporation because they receive no freshwater input other than rainwater. Low water levels and high temperatures threaten fish health and in turn, angling opportunity and our ability to keep the facility open. A rented temporary pump was installed as an emergency measure, but it is not sufficient to meet long-term needs. A permanent high efficiency replacement pump is needed to ensure that the appropriate water levels will be maintained to provide for fish health, angling opportunities and additional ecological services that are afforded to a wide and diverse community by this unique facility. We are seeking OCRF funding to support this pump replacement project. |
| 29 | 1 | Snow Mountain Aspen Protection | South Fork John Day Watershed Council | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation | Yes | NO | Snow Mountain Ranch, owned and managed by the Kee family, is a 680-acre property at the headwaters of the South Fork John Day River about 30 miles south of Dayville, Oregon in Grant County. The property contains the headwaters of Flat Creek and feeds large volumes of cold water into the trout-bearing system. Due to fire suppression, juniper and conifers were encroaching into uplands and wetlands on the property and depleting water resources, biodiversity, and ecological resilience. The Ranch has been working with project partners to enhance and restore their natural resources for the past 10 years. Partners include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Mule Deer Foundation. Project work includes Juniper removal and Forest Health thinning to promote aspen and bitterbrush communities, and promotion of Old Growth Forest. The Ranch has inventoried over 50 acres of aspen. We are requesting assistance to protect the aspen after thinning conifer, using buck and pole and wire caging. |
| 29 | 50 | POCO Cultural Celebration | People of Color Outdoors | $11,630.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | NO | People of Color Outdoors (POCO) is a community of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). We're located in Portland, as are most members, although several commute from Hillsboro, Salem and other nearby towns. Our community is bound together by a desire to experience what nature has to offer, along with a common concern for safety. People know that Oregon was a state that specifically excluded Black people from becoming recognized residents, and was unwelcoming to all BIPOC. POCO hosts 50+ outings each year to help to fill the need for BIPOC to experience the outdoors safely, and create a healing community. In 2023, we will host outings that are focused on appreciating and understanding nature, while learning something about our large variety of cultural backgrounds. Members have a desire to feel safe in nature, but many have not experienced contact with cultures outside of their own. It is our goal to help members to share a basic understanding about each other as we continue to build our healing community. Our first celebration will focus on India. We'll host a hike in April, May, June and July. Part of each outing will be spent sharing an aspect of Indian culture. In August, we'll highlight what we've learned by celebrating. The celebration will include a speaker that will share about India - some basics about the culture. Dil Se Indian Cuisine will provide sampling of Indian food, we'll have a fashion show highlighting traditional Indian garb. Finally, we'll enjoy Indian music and learn Bollywood dance moves through an interactive lesson with DJ Prasant. |
| 30 | 27 | Otters Among Us: The Impact of Sea Otter Reintroduction on South Coast Crab and Urchin Fisheries | Elakha Alliance | $49,850.00 | Nearshore | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO | Our proposed project will combine scenario predictions of the Oregon Sea Otter population model (ORSO) with data from local commercial fishermen to identify areas of opportunity for reintroducing sea otters to the South Coast of Oregon. The extirpation of sea otters during the maritime fur trade of the 19th century has had significant consequences on ecosystems in Oregon and throughout the Pacific U.S. and Canada. Sea otter reintroductions, which began in the 1960s and 1970s, have resulted in successful populations along the U.S. and Canadian Pacific Coasts, but failed in Oregon for reasons as yet unknown. Sea otters are a keystone species; they are a top predator whose activity maintains nearshore maritime ecosystems, notably kelp forests, by limiting the population of urchin and other kelp-feeding species. Kelp forests, in turn, both sequester carbon and provide critical habitat, including nursery, for a diverse array of ecologically, culturally, and economically important finfish species. |
| 31 | 57 | Forest Interpretive Trail | The Crest | $27,000.00 | Klamath Mountains, West Cascades | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | NO | The Crest is a 501(c)3 non-profit located on 445 Acres private in-holding in the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.The mission is to connect people of all ages with food, forest, water, and each other. One can not conserve what one does not know and love. Our educational mission included over 1000 students from K- college with out door day trips in 2019. The pandemic changed our plans for spring and fall outdoor school programs for 5th and 6th graders. We shifted to summer outdoor day care for 2020 and in 2021 and 2022, we held 8-9 weeks of summer outdoor day camps for ages 6-11 serving over 200 students each year with bus transportation from the Expo, Talent/Phoenix, and Ashland. Over 93% of the students received scholarship aid. |
| 32 | 43 | Ford's Pond Community Park - Complete ADA Access Around Pond and Restore Oak Woodlands/Savanna (Phase 2) | Friends of Ford's Pond | $50,000.00 | Klamath Mountains | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | NO | The Friends of Ford's Pond is seeking funding for two concurrent, Phase 2 projects at the new Ford's Pond Community Park, in Sutherlin. In 2023, Phase 2 construction will combine five Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) grants into one construction contract. For this project, two OPRD grants will construct 0.9 miles of a 10-foot-wide asphalt path/composite boardwalk. The Friends are proposing an OCRF grant be used to alleviate supply chain inflation costs, to complete the 2-mile ADA path around Ford's Pond. Four interpretive panels, a shaded bird observation/education area adjacent to the wetlands and west hillside, and a 0.9-acre wetlands mitigation/enhancement are included in this project. The other three OPRD grants will complete the ADA facilities in the southeast corner of the park (oversized/bus parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, and an inclusive playground) at no cost to this project.The Friends are also facilitating Phase 2 of a 25-acre oak woodlands/savanna restoration project on the hillside, in a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Sutherlin HS FFA Chapter. In Phase 1, the students planted 25 acres from acorns they collected on the property and propagated at the school's greenhouse. Phase 2 will repeat this process with the students planting an additional 25 acres in fall 2023. For this project, the Friends are proposing an OCRF grant be used to purchase seeds for native grasses and forbs, and starter shrubs, to support 15 acres of the Phase 2 restoration project. Ongoing removal and treatment of invasive species, monitoring of seedling growth, and two interpretive panels are included in this project. |
| 34 | 3 | Trauma-Informed Communications Tools for Conservation Agencies Engaging Unhoused Communities | Bonneville Environmental Foundation | $30,000.00 | Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Nearshore, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation | Yes | NO | The project directly addresses a limiting factor to conservation in urban areas of the "need for additional education and outreach" (Oregon Conservation Strategy) by supporting engagement and relationship building between unhoused communities and conservation managers. Currently, environmental personnel lack the necessary training and support around interpersonal engagement with unhoused communities. Critical conservation and hazard mitigation resources and staff time are increasingly being directed towards conflict resolution, waste management and forced evictions, straining relationships and exacerbating tensions between staff and unhoused communities living in greenspaces and natural areas. These relationships and conservation resources are essential as climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of drought, fire and flood events that impact habitats and ecosystems, as well as the most vulnerable in our communities. This project will develop resources to support conservation staff in their engagement with unhoused communities through a trauma informed approach. Our aim is to reduce burnout and promote workplace wellness amongst conservation workers so they can continue to carry out programs that promote the health of Oregon's ecosystems and fish and wildlife species identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Bonneville Environmental Foundation has a strong history of developing trauma informed resources to support both conservation workers and unhoused community members, including hosting peer to peer support sessions, online and in-person trauma informed care training and projects to support hygiene access in greenspaces. |
| 34 | 49 | Eco Survey Challenge 2023 | 500 Women Scientists | $46,000.00 | Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | NO | We are living in unprecedented times. Droughts, wildfires, and other catastrophic events are rapidly altering Earth's ecosystems, although the rate and magnitude of change varies by location. Consequently, enhancing community resilience requires local information on environmental conditions to accurately identify baselines, trends, cumulative effects, and successful restoration strategies. Using Eco Survey Challenge 2023, our goal is to collect 1,000 records of Oregon weather and wildlife during 20 March (Equinox) through 21 June (Solstice) to establish a public database of crowdsourced observations. Data that documents the impacts of climate change while increasing the temporal and spatial resolution of scientific research.To participate in the challenge, people will submit their ecological observations using a standardized checklist (https://bit.ly/EcoSurveyForm) after conducting a 15-minute survey outside. Although an Eco Survey can be completed anywhere, monitoring stations (posters with temperature & humidity gauges) will be established in specific landscapes and Conservation Opportunity Areas. By installing public data collection sites in schoolyards, parks, natural areas, and homeless encampments, anybody can contribute critical information for capturing place-based differences in microclimate, biodiversity, recreation, and lived experiences. |
| 37 | 46 | Moving to Electric to Provide a Better Park Experience & Carbon Footprint Reduction | Friends of BUford Park & Mt. Pisgah | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | NO | 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. |

| OCRF Board Rank Sum | Project # | Project Title | Lead Organization | Requested Funds | Geography/Ecoregion | How would you classify your project? | Identified as Drought | Funding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 37 | Deschutes STREAM Connections Program | Trout Unlimited (TU) | $39,229.00 | Blue Mountains, East Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 3 | 44 | Plover Patrol Program: Engaging communities to help recover the threatened Western Snowy Plover on the North Coast | Portland Audubon | $19,983.00 | Nearshore | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 4 | 12 | Ochoco National Forest, Beaver Distribution Monitoring | Discover Your Forest | $29,500.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 4 | 20 | Monitoring Chum Salmon LCR | ODFW | $32,982.80 | Coast Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 6 | 22 | Bird house for blue birds | ODFW | $1,500.00 | East Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 6 | 41 | Salmon Watch Youth Program Expansion & DEI | World Salmon Council | $30,000.00 | Coast Range, Nearshore, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 6 | 42 | McDonald's Ferry: Preserving habitat, history and recreation on the Lower John Day River | Western Rivers Conservancy | $50,000.00 | Columbia Plateau | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 7 | 14 | Species status assessment for special status (herpetofauna) | ODFW | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Nearshore, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 7 | 40 | Community Outreach, Recreation & Education (CORE) Program | Siuslaw Watershed Council | $50,000.00 | Coast Range, Nearshore | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | No | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 8 | 32 | Grazing for Oregon Vesper Sparrows | Greenbelt Land Trust | $27,518.00 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 8 | 51 | Club Aves Multilingual Birding & Nature Club | Verde | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation | No | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 9 | 15 | Increasing beaver-modified floodplain habitat in Oregon through collaborative practitioner planning | The Beaver Coalition | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 9 | 17 | Beaver Habitat Restoration, Outreach and Support Services in Oregon's High Desert Watersheds | Think Wild Central Oregon | $49,870.00 | Blue Mountains, East Cascades, Northern Basin & Range | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | YES - OCRF Funded |
| 9 | 45 | Turtle Island Park Restoration Project | Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council | $40,691.00 | West Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | No | YES - OCRF Funded |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **9** | **56** | **Back2Earth: Providing Youth Outdoor Recreational Opportunities to Inspire Environmental Stewardship** | **Back2Youth** | $50,000.00 | Coast Range, Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| **11** | **9** | **Geospatial Analysis and Modeling of Stream Temperature and Fish Habitat in the Clackamas River Basin** | **Clackamas River Basin Council** | $33,550.00 | Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation | Yes | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| **11** | **21** | **Smallmouth bass, some trouble for rearing salmonids** | **ODFW** | $49,942.00 | Columbia Plateau | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| **12** | **4** | **Distribution Surveys of Lamprey of the Genus Lampetra Throughout Oregon to Inform Conservation** | **ODFW** | $49,720.00 | Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation | No | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| **12** | **19** | **South Tongue Point Habitat Improvement** | **Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST)** | $50,000.00 | Coast Range | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| **13** | **5** | **Stream Amphibians in the Oregon Coast Range: Assessment of Population Status and Genetic Uniqueness of Cryptic Species** | **Northwest Ecological Research Institute (NERi)** | $42,400.00 | Coast Range, Klamath Mountains | Conservation | Yes | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| **13** | **53** | **Huntley Homestead Trail Construction** | **Robert Brunoe Secretary-Treasurer/CEO** | $42,323.00 | Blue Mountains | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| **13** | **55** | **Hunting Equity Mentorship Program** | **Hunters of Color** | $40,000.00 | Coast Range, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| 14 | 10 | **Sheep Creek Stewardship Project** | Trout Unlimited | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| 14 | 16 | Adventurers for Audible Bats-Phase II | Oregon State University | $49,609.42 | Blue Mountains, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **NO** |
| **14** | **30** | **High Quality Seed Production for Restoration in the Willamette Valley** | **Institute for Applied Ecology** | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | **YES - OCRF Funded** |
| 15 | 35 | Tinker Bell Trail Reconstruction and Community Engagement | Eastern Oregon Trail Alliance | $18,720.00 | Blue Mountains | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | **YES - OCRF Funded** |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 8 | Identifying Best Practices for Restoring Forb Islands to Benefit Greater Sage Grouse | Institute for Applied Ecology | $28,411.13 | Northern Basin & Range | Conservation | No | **NO** |
| 16 | 25 | Southwestern Cascades Meadow Resource Protection Project | Oregon Hunters Association | $50,000.00 | East Cascades, Klamath Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | **NO** |
| 18 | 18 | Electrofishing Cataraft for ODFW Charleston Field Office | **ODFW** | $50,000.00 | Coast Range | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **NO** |
| 18 | 58 | 2023 Training for Oregon Boating Foundation Staff and People of Color Outdoors Leaders | Oregon Boating Foundation | $21,464.06 | Nearshore, Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | **NO** |
| 18 | 59 | Willamette River Outdoor Education Science Summer Program | Heritage Museum Society | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | **NO** |
| 19 | 7 | Determining Western Yellow Rail Distribution and Drought Resilience of Shallow Wetland Habitats in the Pacific Northwest | Oregon State University | $49,401.00 | East Cascades, Northern Basin & Range | Conservation | YES | **NO** |
| 19 | 23 | Building Protective Fencing for Klamath Marsh BDAs | The Klamath Tribes Ambodat Department | $49,560.00 | East Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **NO** |
| 19 | 24 | Wildlife crossing structure effectiveness monitoring in Central Oregon. | Oregon State University | $40,354.86 | East Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | **NO** |
| 19 | 34 | Witham Hill Oak Habitat Restoration | City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation | $14,840.00 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | **NO** |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 33 | Taking Care of Tryon Creek - Workforce Project | Tryon Creek Watershed Council | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **NO** |
| 20 | 61 | Creating Recreation and Education Spaces for ALL of our Community – Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom Elements at the Ankeny Hill Nature Center | Salem Audubon Society | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | **NO** |
| 21 | 47 | North Johnson Creek Restoration | Trail Keepers of Oregon (TKO) | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | No | **NO** |
| 21 | 48 | River Ambassadors in Training (River RATS) | We Love Clean Rivers | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | **NO** |
| 22 | 2 | Movement Ecology of Northeast Oregon Sandhill Cranes (Grus canadensis) | International Crane Foundation, Inc. | $43,620.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation | Yes | **NO** |
| 22 | 11 | Conserving Bumble Bees in the Blue Mountains Ecoregion: Engaging Volunteers in Inventory and Building a Bumble Bee Habitat Network | The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | **NO** |
| 23 | 28 | Combining community and research | Oregon State University | $45,673.00 | Nearshore | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **NO** |
| 24 | 31 | Stream Health Keizer | City of Keizer | $4,926.15 | Willamette Valley | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **NO** |
| 24 | 39 | Crumb Clean Recreation Site Assessment | American Bird Conservancy | $48,108.38 | Coast Range, Nearshore | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | No | **NO** |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | 50 | Deaf Outdoor Recreation Summer Programming | Adventures Without Limits | $50,000.00 | Coast Range, Nearshore, Willamette Valley | Recreation | No | NO |
| 24 | 62 | BeneFISHal Invasive Species Angling & Data Project | Native Fish Society | $4,141.20 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | NO |
| 25 | 26 | Pompadour Bluff Access Infrastructure Phase II | Southern Oregon Land Conservancy | $50,000.00 | Klamath Mountains, West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | NO |
| 25 | 36 | Powder Basin Beaver Restoration | Powder Basin Watershed Council | $34,964.00 | Blue Mountains | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | NO |
| 25 | 54 | Coastal Beaver Community Science Survey Expansion and Partnership Collaborative | The Wetlands Conservancy | $50,000.00 | Coast Range | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | NO |
| 26 | 6 | Using GPS technology to uncover migratory routes and non-breeding season roost locations of the at-risk Western Purple Martin | Klamath Bird Observatory | $49,703.42 | Coast Range, Willamette Valley | Conservation | No | NO |
| 26 | 38 | Iron Head Public Access and Riparian Habitat Enhancement | Curry Watersheds Nonprofit | $38,038.00 | Coast Range | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | NO |
| 26 | 52 | Improvements to Creating Memories Camp Lodge | Creating Memories for Disabled Children | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | NO |
| 27 | 29 | Fish Creek Valley Pre-Restoration Monitoring & Recreation Access | National Forest Foundation | $50,000.00 | West Cascades | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | NO |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | 13 | Camp Creek Aspen Meadow Protection | Backcountry Hunters and Anglers | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation with a Recreation element | Yes | **NO** |
| 28 | 63 | St. Louis Fishing Ponds Pump Replacement | **ODFW** | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | **NO** |
| 29 | 1 | Snow Mountain Aspen Protection | South Fork John Day Watershed Council | $50,000.00 | Blue Mountains | Conservation | Yes | **NO** |
| 29 | 60 | POCO Cultural Celebration | People of Color Outdoors | $11,630.00 | Willamette Valley | Recreation with a Conservation element | No | **NO** |
| 30 | 27 | Otters Among Us: The Impact of Sea Otter Reintroduction on South Coast Crab and Urchin Fisheries | Elakha Alliance | $49,850.00 | Nearshore | Conservation with a Recreation element | No | **NO** |
| 31 | 57 | Forest Interpretive Trail | The Crest | $27,000.00 | Klamath Mountains, West Cascades | Recreation with a Conservation element | Yes | **NO** |
| 32 | 43 | Ford's Pond Community Park - Complete ADA Access Around Pond and Restore Oak Woodlands/Savanna (Phase 2) | Friends of Ford's Pond | $50,000.00 | Klamath Mountains | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | **NO** |
| 34 | 3 | Trauma-Informed Communications Tools for Conservation Agencies Engaging Unhoused Communities | Bonneville Environmental Foundation | $30,000.00 | Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Nearshore, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Conservation | Yes | **NO** |
| 34 | 49 | Eco Survey Challenge 2023 | 500 Women Scientists | $46,000.00 | Willamette Valley, West Cascades | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | **NO** |
| 37 | 46 | Moving to Electric to Provide a Better Park Experience & Carbon Footprint Reduction | Friends of BUford Park & Mt. Pisgah | $50,000.00 | Willamette Valley | Even mix of Conservation and Recreation | Yes | **NO** |

| OCRF Board Rank Sum | Project # | Funding | Project Abstract |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 37 | YES - OCRF Funded | Trout Unlimited's (TU) Deschutes STREAM Connections Program will reach 1000 students & Girl Scouts in eight local communities in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties by implementing field trips during school, after-school outdoor lessons, weekend field days for educational partners, and hands-on river restoration activities. For all our programming, activities are designed to build confidence in youth as they pursue outdoor skills, science activities, and practice watershed stewardship. |
| 3 | 44 | YES - OCRF Funded | The Plover Patrol Program was initiated by Oregon Parks Recreation Department (OPRD) several years ago and in partnership with Portland Audubon since 2018 with the aim of bolstering the recovery effort of the Endangered Species Act threatened Western Snowy Plover on Oregon's North Coast through an enhanced breeding bird monitoring and outreach program utilizing community scientist volunteers. This effort has helped move forward objectives and goals mandated in the Snowy Plover Recovery Plan and the Western Snowy Plover Habitat Conservation Plan. This type of program has been very successful in other parts of the country. We also propose community outreach events with diverse partners aimed at enhancing plover habitat. These events will help move the needle forward in the recovery of the Western Snowy Plover through community engagement. |
| 4 | 12 | YES - OCRF Funded | This project has designed and is implementing the work the Commission appointed beaver working group called for. This is the first time anyone has applied a beaver-specific survey protocol, that was locally designed by beaver researchers. This rigorous monitoring effort will provide an improved understanding of American beaver distribution across the ONF over time, provide ODFW and the ONF empirical data to make future management decisions, and better understand the potential for the natural recruitment of beaver in our ongoing and future restoration projects. The following is a list of habitat restoration projects the Ochoco has invested in: |
| 4 | 20 | YES - OCRF Funded | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) with assistance from Deschutes Juvenile Community Justice (DJCJ) has built and given away bird boxes for over 15 years. Oregon Hunters Association has covered the bulk of these purchases for that time. ODFW buys a unit off cedar fence boards and nails, we then give it to DJCJ, and they cut the boards to length and use a wood brand to put the ODFW logo on the front of the box. After all the pieces are cut, they wrap them up into a kit with nails and bring them back to the ODFW office in Bend. The Bend office sells some to offset the costs, but since COVID we did not sell them for 2 years and just used them at Guzzler sites and on the Little Deschutes property that ODFW owns. I over see the guzzler program and I have 25-30 volunteers that work on about 60 guzzlers, and they put up and check on the bird houses. I also work with DJCJ on the 4 Little Deschutes property's out of LaPine and we have 40-50 bird boxes on these properties. The Kids check them yearly replacing bad ones and cleaning them out every spring. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 22 | YES - OCRF Funded | The 50-year-old pump at ODFW's St. Louis Fishing Ponds died and needs to be replaced. This essential piece of equipment provides cool water to 7 highly popular public fishing ponds during the summer and early fall. These manmade ponds are subject to evaporation because they receive no freshwater input other than rainwater. Low water levels and high temperatures threaten fish health and in turn, angling opportunity and our ability to keep the facility open. A rented temporary pump was installed as an emergency measure, but it is not sufficient to meet long-term needs. A permanent high efficiency replacement pump is needed to ensure that the appropriate water levels will be maintained to provide for fish health, angling opportunities and additional ecological services that are afforded to a wide and diverse community by this unique facility. We are seeking OCRF funding to support this pump replacement project. |
| 6 | 41 | YES - OCRF Funded | Salmon Watch is an established 30-year program in Portland-area schools which connects students to nature through field trips, salmon spawning experiences, science learning stations, and community service projects. While Salmon Watch programming has been successful at providing students with experiential learning experiences in pristine wilderness areas, we recognize that there are important areas of growth that are necessary for us to intentionally and strategically grow our capacity to better impact our community. |
| 6 | 42 | YES - OCRF Funded | To uphold a wild sagebrush landscape and connect people with Oregon's premier wild river landscape along the Oregon Trail, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) is permanently protecting the historic McDonald's Ferry Ranch on the lower John Day River (COA 153). When WRC places the land in public hands in 2023, it will put in place a critical piece of the puzzle for recovering the region's native fish and wildlife while also securing prized public access to three miles of the Wild & Scenic John Day River that features the last boating access site to the river and a segment of the Oregon Trail at McDonald's Ferry Crossing. Working with the Bureau of Land Management, Warm Springs Tribes, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and local partners, the project will expand outdoor access to rural residents and visitors, advance tribal stewardship of ancestral lands, and improve habitat for many sensitive species, including summer steelhead, bighorn sheep, loggerhead shrike, pronghorn, mule deer, burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, sage sparrow and many others. |
| 7 | 14 | YES - OCRF Funded | To address a critical gap in available resources, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) seeks to develop Species Status Assessments (SSAs) on each of the 22 herptile species that are identified as Strategy Species. The SSA provides a single source for species' biological information needed for management and planning, allows for engagement by agencies and other partners, and provides the best available scientific information to guide conservation action. SSAs will be completed by a a qualified contractor, and we anticipate that possible funding available through OCRF will be sufficient to complete 12 of the highest priority herptile SSAs. Each individual species profile will include a complete review of the scientific information available, including their general biology and ecology, habitat requirements, habitat availability/distribution/quality, conservation status, population status, and threats and environmental stressor. By making synthesized research summaries publicly available, we can support the equitable access to high quality Oregon-specific data that may be used to ensure that conservation actions implemented across the state adequately consider the needs of these species. |
| 7 | 40 | YES - OCRF Funded | Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC)'s Community Outreach, Recreation & Education (CORE) Program creates experiential outdoor education opportunities for local students and families in order to cultivate the next generation of stewards for our watershed, ensuring that future generations may also inherit the bounty that is provided by and owed to the past management of the Siuslaw and Coastal watersheds by indigenous peoples. This stewardship cannot be cultivated without understanding the local human history and ecology, and studies show that experiential learning can be most effective at instilling an environmental ethos and stewardship ethic. Funding from OCRF will supplement contributions from the Gray Family Foundation, BOGS Impact Fund, and private donors and enable SWC to continue the employment of the CORE Program project manager and to hire a youth engagement specialist to further the organization's capacity to deliver outdoor education programs to local schools, engage the community at large in our restoration efforts, and deliver inclusive recreational opportunities throughout the watershed. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 32 | YES - OCRF Funded | Range-wide declines in Oregon Vesper Sparrow (OVS) populations are due in part to the challenge of creating and maintaining suitable habitat. This Oregon Conservation Strategy Species and Federal Candidate sub-species prefers grasslands with heterogeneous vegetation heights and areas of sparsely-vegetated ground during its nesting season, which spans April – July in the Pacific Northwest. Greenbelt Land Trust's Bald Hill Farm conservation property supports one of the largest populations of OVS in the mid-Willamette Valley, in habitat that has likely been grazed for over 100 years. The conservation objectives of our project are to continue long-term demographic monitoring of the site's OVS population, track habitat suitability relative to OVS preferences in restored prairie and grazed pasture and use this information to adaptively manage and integrate these preferences with objectives for prairie restoration and grazing. The recreational objective of the project is to raise the awareness of Oregon Vesper Sparrow and its habitat for hikers, birders and other members of the public that recreate at Bald Hill Farm. While Bald Hill Farm includes miles of open public trails, the vesper sparrow habitat is not in an area not usually accessible to the public. This project will provide an opportunity for birders and other community members who recreate at Bald Hill Farm to participate in a guided tour of the site's Oregon Vesper Sparrow occupied areas with the region's foremost species expert, with an overview of Greenbelt's approach to managing habitat for the species. |
| 8 | 51 | YES - OCRF Funded | Club Aves is a multilingual, field trip-based environmental education program that creates access to green spaces and inspires low-income youth and youth of color to learn and explore the outdoors. We host field trips to parks and other natural areas, provide fun, hands-on after school classes at low-income apartment complexes, and hold Family Days for youth & their families. With this project, we will expand the program to include additional participants and locations. |
| 9 | 15 | YES - OCRF Funded | Oregon is experiencing extreme drought conditions, and science shows that beavers and beaver-modified floodplains provide for water security and ecosystem resiliency. There is urgency to increase the pace and scale of beaver-based restoration projects for the benefit of our State. Restoration practitioners need tools that will highlight where to prioritize beaver-based restoration projects in Oregon, that will provide a baseline assessment of beaver presence and activity from which to plan their efforts. This project will leverage the collective energy of The Beaver Coalition's state-wide "Practitioner Collaborative" group to facilitate planning for the development of such a pair of tools: an accessible statewide Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) model and a cohesive approach to collecting beaver presence and activity. These Global Information System (GIS) tools will prove critically useful for practitioners to identify and prioritize opportunities statewide, across various organizations and projects across the ecoregions identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS). The OCS highlighted "partnering with beavers" as a recommended approach for multiple limiting factors in both the "Wetlands" and "Flowing Water and Riparian Habitats" ecoregions. Funding this proposal would provide capacity for collaboration between partners and contracted technical experts to facilitate the foundational project planning that these two complex, interdisciplinary project efforts will require. |
| 9 | 17 | YES - OCRF Funded | Beaver Works Oregon (BWO) is a program under Think Wild dedicated to supporting beaver success on Oregon's high desert landscape. Through the BWO program, this project will address these limiting factors by providing beaver habitat restoration, outreach, and support services to landholders, agencies, and the public in Central and Eastern Oregon. Our project works to establish BeaverHOODs, stream reaches with adequate food, water, sediment, and construction building materials, as well as human tolerance for beavers to settle, establish, survive, and reproduce. To achieve this, we collaborate with local watershed councils, agencies, and landholders to identify, consult on, and plan habitat restoration projects primarily in three Oregon Conservation Strategy ecoregions: Blue Mountain, Northern Basin and Range and East Cascades. We then take volunteer groups out to the worksites to implement and monitor the projects by spending a weekend "recreating for good" - planting, camping, and learning about beaver habitat, healthy ecosystems and working lands. As we build community understanding of why beavers matter and how to invite them back to our watersheds, we also build opportunities for more habitat restoration throughout the region. OCRF support for this project will promote deeper, wider expansion of beaver-focused outreach, habitat services, coexistence solutions, and opportunities for "recreating for good" on the land. |
| 9 | 45 | YES - OCRF Funded | The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC), the City of Westfir (Westfir), and other partnering organizations and community members (Project partners) have identified the need to provide and improve river access for all people and recreational skill levels, and restore sensitive riparian habitat in support of crucial native species. Project partners have collaboratively planned actions to enhance outdoor equity and ecosystem health of TIP. Starting in 2023, project partners will implement the removal of 6.25 acres of invasive species, plant and seed native species where invasive removal has occurred, plan and develop conceptual designs for an accessible trail through the riparian zone to the water front, and host education and outreach activities to spread awareness and increase engagement in restoration, native habitat, and responsible recreation. As part of the project, the MFWWC will support Westfir and other partners in developing a Park Management Plan to ensure recreation and habitat quality for both local residents and visitors. This project compliments plans to pave the parking area and install bathroom facilities at through Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) Boating Facility Program funding that Westfir will pursue during the 2023-2025 funding cycle. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 56 | YES - OCRF Funded | Our mission is to create new pathways to health and wellness by actively engaging youth between the ages of 11 and 18-years-old in the natural environment. Our target population is BIPOC, at-risk, and marginalized youth in Lane County, Oregon. Our year-round outdoor adventure camps provide a wide range of recreational activities (i.e., archery, camping, fishing, and hiking) and support experiences (i.e., leadership development, mindfulness practice, and outdoor education). Our goal is to create opportunity, stability and ultimately success for these diverse and too often under-resourced youth populations. A growing body of research shows that increasing youth's nature interactions can have positive benefits for their health-related quality of life. There is good evidence that vulnerable populations have relatively worse access to high quality natural environments (e.g., tree-lined streets, publicly accessible green spaces, forests, and riverbanks), something public health researchers believe to be a contributing factor to health inequities. Further, lower socio-economic individuals reap greater benefit from access than more privileged groups. We strongly believe that connecting to nature improves environmental awareness through the understanding of the role we each play in respecting our Earth as an extension of ourselves. Our proposed OCRF project – Back2Earth – will engage youth in outdoor recreation with a focus on conservation and personal stewardship. Activities will involve both education and action. Youth will learn about human impact on fish, wildlife, and habitats; and determine appropriate actions/solutions. |
| 11 | 9 | YES - OCRF Funded | A multi-phase, basin-wide, stream temperature data gathering, geospatial network analysis of stream temperatures with salmonid-related parameters map overlays (thermal tolerance, distribution and High Intrinsic Potential) project. Phase 1 is being funded by others and the Phase 2 activities as described below are what are to be funded by the OCRF-requested funds. Currently underway, this project is being performed by a consortium of public and private entities, including Portland State University (PSU) and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). PSU is analyzing data pertinent for present day representations of stream temperatures and will analyze future stream temperature conditions utilizing three representative IPCC-projected climate change scenarios, which will be integrated into a larger, ongoing, community volunteer-driven project, supported with in-kind donations of labor and materials from many sources. This much larger volunteer-driven project incorporates data acquisition efforts and standard statistical analyses of stream temperatures within the 940 square mile Clackamas River basin (mainstem and tributaries) at 90 selected sampling locations across rural and urban areas utilizing currently operating, historic and future data loggers between June and October of 2021, 2022, and 2023. |
| 11 | 21 | YES - OCRF Funded | Our proposed monitoring in Thirtymile Creek, a tributary to the John Day River, near Condon, Gilliam County, OR aims to quantify the impact of nonnative SMB bass invasion on ESA-listed Mid-C summer steelhead productivity under current environmental conditions as well as quantify the strength of the interaction under altered thermal regimes and invasion scenarios, which are predicted to occur as a result of proposed restoration activities. Specifically, our project aims to 1) document the timing degree of sympatry that currently exists between smallmouth bass and steelhead by examining smallmouth bass entry timing and steelhead emergence timing, 2) quantify smallmouth predation on steelhead and the relationship between predation and temperature, and 3) describe and quantify the competition for food resources that occurs between all size classes of smallmouth bass and steelhead. Because management of the smallmouth sport fishery and the conservation of threated steelhead is a strong topic of conversation/controversy between small bass anglers and steelhead conservationists and anglers, we are also proposing to engage members who identify with both groups into our research and monitoring by hosting a volunteer sampling event. Additionally, we are committed to hosting an education station at the 2023 and 2024 Tupper Outdoor School to educate sixth graders about predator prey dynamics in the John Day River. The results of this monitoring are both critical and time-sensitive to the development of ongoing successful restoration strategies aimed at improving steelhead productivity in both Thirtymile and other tributaries that currently, or are predicted to, support smallmouth bass. |
| 12 | 4 | YES - OCRF Funded | Over the last century, lampreys have suffered dramatic declines in Oregon. Today, five of the ten lampreys in Oregon are on the state's sensitive species list and are therefore categorized as Oregon Conservation Strategy Species (OCS). Three of these OCS species: Western River Lamprey (Lampetra ayresii), Western Brook Lamprey (Lampetra richardsoni), and Pacific Brook Lamprey (Lampetra pacifica) lack distribution data, which is the primary challenge to assessing their conservation status throughout Oregon. Hence, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified that determining distribution is a primary research priority for these lampreys. Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling is a highly sensitive, efficient, and non-invasive tool for determining species distributions. Results outlining detection of Lampetra DNA in the previously collected samples will be used to inform additional, targeted sampling efforts. Here, we will coordinate (i.e., recruit, educate, train, and advise) existing and new professional partners (agencies, tribes, watershed councils, etc.) and amateur naturalists (Oregonians) to collect new eDNA samples. This approach addresses the top priority for conservation of Oregon lampreys — education and outreach, while also filling-in spatial data gaps that were not previously covered by the Pacific Lamprey and Bull Trout surveys. This proposal is for funds to cover laboratory costs of assaying existing and new (to-be-acquired samples) water samples for Lampetra eDNA. |
| 12 | 19 | YES - OCRF Funded | The purpose of this project is to enhance overall estuarine ecosystem function at an important location adjacent to Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. Importantly, the project will benefit Endangered Species Act-listed juvenile salmonids through increased access and enhancement of rearing and foraging habitat. The South Tongue Point (STP) Habitat Improvement Project site is located along the western margin of Cathlamet Bay, approximately at river mile 18 of the Columbia River Estuary (CRE). Importantly, the site sits in the critical brackish area of the estuary ecosystem, where juvenile salmonids must undergo the physiological transition necessary for ocean conditions. The project builds on an adjacent restoration project completed by CREST and its partners in 2012.The primary features of the project are designed to improve and expand salmonid access to off-channel tidal marshplain habitat by restoring hydrologic connections and maximizing off-channel habitat quantity and quality. Project elements include tidal channel creation, marshplain development, placement of wood habitat structures, amendment of the existing soil with masticated wood, and an extensive revegetation effort. Additional design elements include reestablishing native plant communities, improving food web connections between the site interior and the Columbia River, and preparing a recreational and educational access trail. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 5 | YES - OCRF Funded | We propose to determine the population status and genetic variation of two State “sensitive species” of stream amphibians in the Oregon Coast Range: (1) Southern Torrent Salamander (earlier proposed for listing at the Federal level) and (2) Coastal Tailed Frog (ranked as #2 priority species in the Coast Range from the Oregon Conservation Strategy). We will re-survey 20 headwaters that were first sampled in 1984/85 and published results reported that clear-cut logging significantly reduced these sensitive species. We revisited sites in 1996 and 2004. Previous results, combined with this new study, will be the first to indicate how long it takes for stream amphibians to recover from clear-cut logging. It is one of the longest running studies in the U.S. At these 20 sites (and others in the Coast Range), we will take tissue samples to better identify genetic distinctiveness of the two species here. Preliminary data suggested these are at least Evolutionary Significant Units or, perhaps, new species. Description as new species will require other lines of evidence including available data in the literature and new measurements of selected samples. Field efforts will include students and interested public through Umpqua Watersheds and Umpqua Community College (UCC), Roseburg, Oregon. Public outreach includes speaking at UCC natural resources classes and on a local radio show (thr0ugh Umpqua Watersheds). |
| 13 | 53 | YES - OCRF Funded | The 0.5 mile Huntley Homestead Trail, located within the Pine Creek Conservation Area, will give visitors a unique opportunity to explore high desert ecology, Oregon’s homesteading history, and current and past Indigenous habitation of the area. Interpretative signs and trail boundaries will lead visitors along a steelhead bearing stream and through a historic homestead, while providing a history of Tribal use and ownership of the Conservation Area into present times. Visitors will travel through an old corral where they will encounter the last sign, discussing the current ecological status of the high desert and the future goals of the Conservation Area. |
| 13 | 55 | YES - OCRF Funded | Hunters of Color was founded to address this issue by creating access to hunting and conservation for BIPOC Oregonians through mentorship, educational opportunities, and access to shared resources. We have identified four main barriers to entry for BIPOC in hunting: lack of exposure to, and knowledge of, hunting; lack of access to private land; fear of exclusion in predominantly white spaces; and lack of capital to purchase equipment. To address these issues, our diverse leadership creates programming that is culturally specific and racially literate with the support of state and federal agencies, private foundations, and outdoor-centered organizations and corporations. By breaking down these barriers through mentorship and hunting education, we are able to recruit and engage more BIPOC in hunting and conservation. This grant would directly support our long-term goal of establishing a HOC community in every state by 2032. Additionally, this funding will support our newly established Ambassador Program– a network of volunteer leaders who steward chapters in various regions. Through our work, we are giving BIPOC communities the tools, skills, and awareness they need so that they can create familial lines of hunting, access mentorship, and gain knowledge to self-recruit and self-perpetuate hunting/conservation for generations to come. |
| 14 | 10 | YES - OCRF Funded | The Sheep Creek Stewardship Project will engage young adults and local volunteers in public land stewardship and enhance recreational opportunities in the Grande Ronde Basin by restoring critical habitat for ESA-listed Snake River Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, ESA-listed bull trout, and Oregon State-Sensitive and Species of Concern including Pacific lamprey, redband trout and Columbia spotted frogs. By restoring biodiverse meadow habitats, the project will also benefit numerous other flora and fauna species including wetland and migratory birds, elk, mule deer, beaver, and others. Funding from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) will support low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) and riparian planting actions across 4.5 miles of stream on US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands while directly engaging Oregonians from diverse backgrounds. The proposed OCRF project will restore floodplain processes with cost-effective, hand-based restoration, including 40 beaver dam analogs, 10 hand-built large wood structures, and riparian planting along 4.5 miles of Sheep Creek. |
| 14 | 16 | NO | The Adventurers for Audible Bats Project capitalizes on the low-frequency vocalizations of rare desert bats, the pallid bat (Antrozous pallidus) and spotted bat (Euderma maculatum), offering a unique opportunity for public engagement and multi-method monitoring. In a time of accelerating environmental change, Oregonians urgently need positive ways to connect to nature, increase their scientific literacy, and feel empowered to help contribute to Oregon’s future. Further, there is a serious need for increased data on the presence of these rare desert bats and locations of pallid bat maternity colonies. Adventurers for Audible Bats provides this by harnessing the energy of community activism, agency interest, and the structured scientific survey methodology provided by the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat).<br>A key benefit of Adventurers for Audible Bats is its use of the NABat Program grid-based survey architecture. This program is embedded within the NABat grid such that all aural survey data collected by volunteers and technicians are co-located in the mapped grid cells and are formally included within the statistically valid master sample. The NABat master sample provides a spatially balanced randomization and helps guide sample unit selection and assignment of survey locations. Such data can then be used to develop statistically robust species distribution models and maps. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 30 | YES - OCRF Funded | Over the last several decades, government agencies (including ODFW), non-profit organizations, and private landowners in the Willamette Valley have been working to reduce the decline of native species, recover listed species, and create an interconnected landscape of prairie and oak habitat by implementing restoration projects throughout the region. However, one major limiting factor to the success of these projects is the limited availability of genetically diverse and ecologically appropriate native plant materials for use in these projects. Up until recently, availability of locally sourced native seed for restoration work in the Willamette Valley suffered from a lack of coordination. This lack of coordination potentially resulted in over-collection from wild native populations, introduction of inappropriate genetic material into existing populations, duplication of plant materials production efforts, scarcity of critical diversity species, instability for commercial native plant growers, and higher costs for restoration projects. In 2012, the Willamette Valley Native Plant Partnership (WVNPP) was formed to increase the availability and affordability of genetically diverse native seed for use in Willamette Valley restoration, revegetation, and recovery projects. We are requesting funds to establish two new perennial beds as well as cover partnership coordinator time to assist with species selection, manage contracts, and disburse seed to partners. |
| 15 | 35 | YES - OCRF Funded | At the nexus of conservation, recreation and inclusive collaboration, our project proposes a creative solution to end a current conflict between forest uses while also leveraging the collaboration, born of conflict, to bring conservation education to a rural community. Implementation of overlapping forest users has led to recent conflict between stream conservation and recreation. In 2021 a stream restoration and watershed enhancement project on Tinker Creek damaged .53 miles of the existing Tinker Bell Trail. The restoration project was implemented to benefit Middle Columbia Steelhead and redband trout by reconstructing floodplain habitat and increasing water storage. Unfortunately, heavy equipment needed for the restoration project resulted in the elimination of some sections of the Tinker Bell Trail, effectively cutting off continuous trail access to ~ 11 miles of trail. Eastern Oregon Trail Alliance (EOTA), as a strong supporter of conservation, responsible recreation, and sustainable trail design is proposing, and is excited at the opportunity, to flip this conflict on its head and instead turn it into an educational opportunity that bridges the gap between conservation and responsible recreation. Specifically, we are proposing to reconstruct the Tinker Bell Trail and host two weekend community volunteer events to finish the reconstructed trail. We are also proposing to install an informational sign that educates the public about the restoration project, and how to recreate responsibility. We will place the sign at the location where the trail meets the restoration project which is ~ ½ mile from the trailhead. |
| 16 | 8 | NO | Populations of greater sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus), an obligate sagebrush species and a species of concern in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, have experienced dramatic declines over the past 50 years. Populations have continued to decline even following substantial collaborative efforts across the region to address conservation threats.Forbs, perennial grasses, and forb-associated arthropods in sagebrush understories are critical for chick-rearing and reproductive success. Restoration of these important understory forb plant communities is a high priority, as they are scarce or missing in many priority sage-grouse conservation areas in eastern Oregon. Because of the many challenges of restoring the understory plant community at landscape scales, a key strategy is to restore “forb islands” in core sage-grouse habitat. Unfortunately, there is a paucity of research on the best methods for restoring forbs in these areas. Using a robust experimental design, our study will measure the response of key understory forbs and grasses to combinations of treatment options that have shown promise in prior and anecdotal studies. Our treatments are also designed to be applicable to operational scales. This project will leverage an existing study (including in-kind and cash matching) in the Brothers Priority Area for Conservation (also the Brothers-Wagontire Conservation Opportunity Area) initiated in 2021 by the Institute for Applied Ecology, East Cascades Audubon Society, and other partners. |
| 16 | 25 | NO | Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is partnering with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), United States Forest Service (USFS), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to protect and enhance mesic areas and associated meadows in the West Cascade and Klamath Mountain Ecoregions for the benefit of wildlife, their habitat and Oregonians. Specifically, OHA and partners will protect three areas in the Cascade Mountains (Willow Prairie, Short Creek, and Whiskey Springs/Fourbit) with 6.5 total miles of wildlife-friendly fencing to restore and increase the resiliency of these mesic systems and allow native flora and fauna to flourish.The project areas provide several recreational opportunities for the public. The Whiskey Springs and Fourbit project areas are in close proximity to campgrounds with interpretive trails that lead to the project sites. Therefore, restoring these springs and meadow systems should provide excellent nature and wildlife viewing opportunities in the foreseeable future once these systems recover. Further, fencing associated with this project should physically prohibit illegal off-road driving which has damaged these mesic systems in the recent past. Whiskey Springs and Willow Prairie Campgrounds also have their own surface water sources and infrastructure that will be better protected from cattle with improved, wildlife-friendly fencing. |
| 18 | 18 | NO | Historically, Chum Salmon (Oncorhynchus keta) returned to the Lower Columbia River (LCR) to spawn in both Washington and Oregon tributaries. At one time, Chum Salmon were one of the most encountered salmonids in the LCR and represented a significant proportion of the commercial harvest in the 1920s. Today, the most robust populations occur on the Washington side of the LCR, while most Oregon populations are functionally extirpated. Reintroduction efforts in Oregon are ongoing and supported by a conservation broodstock, habitat restoration projects, and outreach aimed at increasing awareness of Chum Salmon status in the state. These efforts are primarily focused in the coastal region where most Chum Salmon return to spawn volitionally. However, monitoring and outreach are needed in the other recovery populations (e.g., cascade region), especially as reintroduction efforts expand and recovery occurs. Environmental DNA (eDNA) is an effective way to determine the presence or absence of rare species in a system without the laborious efforts and costs associated with physical surveys. Our project aims to 1) create an eDNA monitoring program for Chum Salmon in the cascade region; 2) partner with local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and local non-profits to source volunteers for sampling; and 3) define adult run timing, estimate fry production, and/or determine potential habitat restoration projects for Chum Salmon in unmonitored areas. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | 58 | NO | The Oregon Boating Foundation (OBF) and People of Color Outdoors (POCO) have developed a partnership to meet OBF's goal of training local staff to safely oversee outdoor recreational paddling events in the Newport area, and also meet POCO's goal of creating cohorts of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) volunteers to lead kayak outings for People of Color Outdoors in the Portland area. OBF will also provide environmental education relevant to the Oregon Coast, nearshore region, and climate change.The Oregon Boating Foundation will provide basic kayaking skills training, including how to paddle, conduct a rescue, handle emergencies, and use radios to communicate. Cohort members will learn leadership skills needed to be confident and competent and keep kayak passengers safe. All participants will learn preventative maintenance and care for taking care of kayaks, paddles, life jackets, spray skirts, paddle floats and bilge pumps. The staff and cohort will receive education about some local history relating to the Yacona tribe and Newport's history. The cohort will learn basics about marine environments, including ocean and river tides, currents, weather considerations, and other things related to planning and hosting a safe trip. The environmental education will include information about how climate change is impacting fisheries, habitat, and ecology. Participants will learn about salmon, harbor seals, sea lions, native eelgrass, sea starts, urchins, and much more. The goal is to provide the education and resources needed for OBF staff and POCO volunteers to be able to effectively research conservation issues for a given recreation venue, educate others about wildlife and ecology, and inspire environmental stewardship among participants of the recreational outings they are supervising. |
| 18 | 59 | NO | The Heritage Museum (est. 1976) has the mission of collecting and sharing the natural history and diverse cultural heritage of our river community. In April of 2022, it opened its doors at a newly renovated building in historic downtown only 500 feet from the bank of the Willamette River in Independence. The Heritage Museum has created a new program: the Heritage Outdoor Program (HOP). This program's mission is to make outdoor science education accessible for school-aged children in Polk County. In partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Luckiamute Watershed Council, the program utilizes scientific inquiry to examine the ecology and history, specifically as it is grounded in the history and traditions of the first people to live in the area. Curriculum topics will include how the Kalapuya experienced the river including how they cultivated native plant species, as well as how the river was changed by colonialism and industry, and how the ecology and health of the river aid our understanding of the impacts of climate change. This program represents an opportunity in an educationally underserved area of Oregon. To our knowledge, there is currently no extracurricular K-12 science education in Polk County (population 85,234) during the summer months. Our program is affordable, meets working families' schedules, utilizes local partnerships, and provides science-based summer adventures for school-aged children. |
| 19 | 7 | NO | Short-emergent perennial wetlands are key to the persistence of several species of concern in the Klamath Basin, including Oregon Spotted Frog (Rana pretiosa), Yellow Rail (Coturnicops noveboracensis), Sandhill Crane (Antigone canadensis), and Miller Lake lamprey (Entosphenus minimus). Additionally, the condition of these wetlands is directly tied to water quality and quantity conditions in Upper Klamath Lake, which are critical for the recovery of endangered Lost River (Deltistes luxatus) and Shortnose suckers (Chasmistes brevirostris). However, the extent, condition, and ecosystem services supported by short-emergent perennial wetlands is poorly understood across the Intermountain West. As a result, these wetlands are overlooked in the planning, protection and implementation of restoration efforts. As changes in climate extend and exacerbate the frequency and duration of droughts, these short-emergent wetlands may become more imperiled in the absence of our understanding them more completely.<br>We are proposing a research effort designed to increase the understanding of where short-emergent perennial wetlands exist, what condition they are in, their resiliency to climate and hydrologic change, and their capability to support fish and wildlife populations when in properly functioning condition. Additionally, we will be developing an automated survey technique that will allow a rapid evaluation of key species, such as Yellow Rail, through a more efficient effort with reduced financial and human resources. These two data sources will help prioritize restoration efforts based on the presence of wetlands, hydrologic condition of those wetlands, and presence or absence of key indicator species. |
| 19 | 23 | NO | The Klamath Tribes Ambodat Department have been working on several Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) installation projects, with the intentions of improving water quality and reintroducing/attracting wild beaver families. The proposed project will support the Tribes Habitat Restoration for Beaver Reintroduction in the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge project, furthering its success and allowing for optimal ecological benefits. With the support and technical assistance from the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) staff and Tribal volunteers, we intend to install approximately five miles of wildlife-friendly fencing around the Klamath Marsh NWR near Little Wocus Bay. Currently, there are two BDAs in the Little Wocus Bay area that are well established, with the live willow materials having taken root and producing leaves. However, this area is subject to repeated cattle trespass incidents due to failing boundary fencing and inadequate gates. The impacts of livestock entering these ecologically sensitive areas includes a great amount of vegetative destruction, soil compaction, and channel degradation. This project would fund the installation of four to five miles of wildlife-friendly fencing around the BDAs. We hope that this will be the first small step in completely fencing off the entire Klamath Marsh from the degradation of trespass cattle grazing. |
| 19 | 24 | NO | This project will provide a critical extension to a previous agreement (OWEB 221-4034-19625) documenting effectiveness of five wildlife crossing structures on U.S. Highway 97 between Gilchrist and Lava Butte (mileposts 149-185). These structures were designed to restore and enhance habitat connectivity for mule deer and elk between summer and winter ranges and are the first of their kind in Oregon. Four of the crossing structures were complete at the start of the OWEB agreement, though the fifth structure was not completed until late summer 2022 and additional crossing elements (fencing, deer guards/jump-outs) have not yet been completed. While two of the original structures have been monitored in previous efforts the remaining three structures have not been monitored, nor has there been any monitoring of the 5-structure system. As part of the previous agreement, study design, camera trap installation, and five months of image capture have already been completed. Crossing structure installation timing and associated delayed camera trap deployment combined with a greater rate of image capture than anticipated require additional funding to ensure adequate resources for project completion. Funds requested here will be used to extend graduate student project supervisor salary and hire two undergraduate research technicians to assist with image processing. Funding this request will extend the project timeline and ensure delivery of a strategic and evidence-based platform for statewide crossing structure monitoring. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | 34 | NO | Approximately 83 acres, the project area is located just outside the city limits of west Corvallis within Benton County, which includes Witham Hill Natural Area (WHNA) (35 acres) owned by the City of Corvallis and a portion of Hill Farm East (48 acres) owned by the Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences. Today, only 5% of oak woodland habitat and 1% of oak savanna habitat remain in the Willamette Valley. While Benton County still contains a large corridor of oak-prairie habitat as identified in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy and the Benton County Prairie Conservation Strategy, restoration is needed to increase and enhance these declining habitats. Changes in habitat and structure in the project area over time has shifted historic oak savanna to mixed oak woodland forest with dense, closed canopy conditions created by Douglas fir, oak, invasive sweet cherry and English hawthorn encroachment that also increases fire risk. Restoration actions across City of Corvallis and OSU properties would enhance these habitats and connectivity for this species and other wildlife within COA 081, of which Bald Hill Natural Area, Bald Hill Farm, Fitton Green, and Chip Ross Natural Area are all a part. OCRF will be used to fund a Witham Hill Oak Habitat Restoration Plan for an 83-acre project area to be prepared by Trout Mountain Forestry (TMF). |
| 20 | 33 | NO | We will engage in a variety of management activities with youth-based workforce groups to address multiple issues in the Tryon Creek State Natural Area. We will provide training in response to Emerald Ash Borer, reduce the spread of invasive plants by installing boot brushes at trailheads, collect canopy closure data to inform succession planting plans, and foster opportunities for students to plan activities and deepen their sense of place. |
| 20 | 61 | NO | Creating spaces and experiences to connect families and our community to nature is what the Ankeny Hill Nature Center (AHNC, the Center) is all about. Salem Audubon Society (SAS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS or Service) and the Friends of the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Friends) formed a formal partnership in 2016 for this purpose. The spaces and experiences we are creating, including multi-language website, signage, programming, trails, facilities, events, materials, and a volunteer program. We designed the AHNC for five different audiences: Families, Latino Community, Seniors and Alter-Abled, Formal School Groups and Informal School Groups/Homeschoolers. Meeting the needs of these audiences and being an asset to them is our goal and primary focus. The next phase of the Center is the Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom perched over Peregrine Marsh, a restored emergent wetland. This classroom will have important functions, mainly a) provide wildlife-dependent recreation experiences for visitors every day from dawn to dusk; b) offer a dedicated nature/conservation education space; c) be a model for climate resiliency, sustainability, and invasive species control. To accomplish this, the partnership has raised over $207,000 for construction alone. The parking lot, bus parking, accessible parking, sidewalks, and trails are already in – completed in 2020. The contractor and architect are lined up for the Dave Marshall Classroom design and construction, we are on the construction calendar, and the design is 60% complete. Construction would commence and finish within the 2023 construction window. |
| 21 | 47 | NO | This OCRF grant proposal is to fund the second phase of a larger ongoing project to restore ten acres around the headwaters of N Johnson Creek and to build a nature trail along this forested, riparian corridor. The project's partners are each recognized as exceptional organizations state-wide in the respective conservation and recreation (trail building) areas that they have signed up for in the project. Each lead partner's strengths are their integration of students, volunteers, the extended community and other environmental organizations through multifaceted and collaborative conservation, education and community engagement in the project's elements. This includes education, identification of Oregon Conservation Strategy Species on the site, and in particular the Northern Red-legged Frog which is a Strategy Priority Species. The project is located in the West Haven neighborhood in unincorporated Washington County, north of Highway 26 and just west and south of Forest Park in Multnomah County. The project is on property owned by Providence St. Vincent Medical Center and Catlin Gabel School (CGS). Letters of support, from both property owners, commit to providing permanent public easements and trail maintenance when the route is established. Although not directly located in a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), the project area includes an Oregon Protected Goal 5 'Safe Harbor' Riparian Corridor for wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and is part of a migratory corridor connected to the close-by expansive Forest Park COA. This is a community project through Neighbors For Smart Growth (NFSG), a group started by West Haven residents, with exceptional project support of local government, environmental groups, regulatory and non-regulatory agency, schools, nonprofits and land trust partners. See partner description in Section 17. |
| 21 | 48 | NO | We Love Clean Rivers will expand its River Ambassador initiative to include a student-focused river access, education and adventure program on the Clackamas Water Trail (lower 22 miles of the Clackamas River). These River Ambassadors in Training (River RATs) will learn and experience their home river first hand and on the water itself.<br>Clackamas County middle schoolers are the target population, with a goal to have students raft the river in both 6th and 7th grade. Trained river professionals and safety kayakers will lead the students and their teachers. Starting with the 6th graders, this program will complement Outdoor School experiences, hit a number of science and environmental learning standards, and give students a rare opportunity to both recreate and learn on their home river. For this project, a pilot cohort of different middle school classes (depending on sizes and teacher recruitment, maybe 2-3 schools, 200-300 students total) will complete the program over two years (into their 7th grade). Bottom line is students will have an unprecedented opportunity to get to know their own river - the main source of ecological health and drinking water for the region, and a fantastic recreational resource available to all. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 2 | NO | Northeastern Oregon (NEO) hosts a growing flock of breeding Greater Sandhill Cranes (hereafter, cranes) as well as serving as an important stop-over site for migrating cranes in both spring and fall. Prior to the onset of research in 2007, little was known about the breeding areas, migration, wintering areas, or population affiliation(s) of those cranes. Through ongoing color banding and radio telemetry, we have gained insight into those questions, but much remains unanswered. Color banding alone yielded no reports of cranes during migration or winter, leading us to begin the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) transmitters. Opportunities for attachment of transmitters to cranes, either juvenile or adult, have been limited by available funding from a variety of sources. However, there remain gaps in our understanding of NEO cranes such as what proportion of NEO cranes are affiliated with each of the western crane populations; what other areas and habitats breeding cranes use in the Blue Mountains Ecoregion; where migrating cranes stop to rest or stage and the relative importance of those places; and how an increasingly warm and dry climate may affect the availability of summer, winter, and migration habitats. We propose to purchase 20 Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) transmitters with GPS capability and place them on adult and juvenile cranes over the next 2-3 years. This will increase our sample size and add power to inferences made from the resulting data. |
| 22 | 11 | NO | Bumble bees (Bombus spp.) are charismatic and easily recognizable pollinators that play an incredibly important role in keeping our environment healthy by pollinating flowers in natural areas and by contributing to successful harvests on farms. The Oregon Conservation Strategy (Strategy) recognizes both the western bumble bee (Bombus occidentalis) and Franklin's bumble bee (B. franklini) as strategy species and Morrison's bumble bee (B. morrisoni) as a data gap species. Recent observations of these and other bumble bee species from coordinated efforts led by the Xerces Society, with previous support from OCRF, have vastly improved our understanding of their distribution in Oregon. These observations of rare bumble bee species provide an opportunity to take the next step in conservation efforts to protect, restore, and enhance habitat to help these animals recover and to build resilience for the future.This Network will help us to gather a clearer picture of Strategy bumble bee species distribution within the Blue Mountains and build a prioritization framework for bumblebee conservation and habitat restoration. Using this framework, and ODFW's Strategy Conservation Opportunity Areas as a nexus, we will identify existing and potential stakeholders (e.g. private landowners, tribal natural resources divisions, public land managers, watershed councils) currently practicing or planning habitat restoration and management focused on fish and/or sage grouse in key regions of the Blue Mountains (e.g. close to rare bumble bee populations or in important habitat corridors). We will conduct outreach to these stakeholders, which will include collaborating with them to fill gaps in our understanding of existing bumblebee habitat. |
| 23 | 28 | NO | Understanding seabird diet composition supplies vital information regarding the health and function of marine food webs. Diet information can inform management decisions for both marine birds, including tufted puffins and their prey species, mostly forage fishes. However, populations of tufted puffins have declined on the Oregon coast and little is known about the foraging ecology of this seabird species in the region, including its diet. To address this knowledge gap we launched 'Birds with Fish' in 2021. Birds with Fish is a community science initiative to engage skilled photographers to contribute photos of birds with fish, and other marine prey, to our online web portal. While obtaining photos of tufted puffins requires patience and technical photography equipment, other species like common murres, pigeon guillemots, and cormorant spp. are sometimes viewable in close enough proximity that smart phones can be used for photography. Secondly, in 2021 and 2022 we ran a proof-of concept dedicated field effort at the Haystack Rock tufted puffin and common murre colony to photograph both species with bill loads. Our OCRF project continues these efforts for an additional two summers to understand what marine birds are eating along the coast and how tufted puffin prey composition changes with environmental conditions. The tufted puffin is a nearshore strategy species, however direct conservation actions linking this species to the marine food webs it depends on are lacking without diet information. Our project is designed to both address an ecological question and provide accessible information, education and engagement opportunities to a diverse group of Oregonians and visitors. The beach overlooking Haystack Rock is a popular visitor destination; our presence there enhances wildlife viewing opportunities and provides informal outreach and education. |
| 24 | 31 | NO | The City of Keizer Public Works is responsible for the maintenance and management of our public infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks, parks and public buildings. We are also responsible for the management and upkeep of public riparian areas along the major waterways that flow through Keizer. As a small agency, we have typically relied on the historic anecdotal knowledge of our field staff to assist with making decision regarding flooding mitigation, riparian habitat and stream management. However, as development has grown, so has impervious surface, paired with smaller riparian buffers, an increase in flash flooding and a closer interface between private property, waterways and wildlife. We recognize that there is a need to better collect data to support thoughtful and effective wetland and wildlife management strategies that help native fish, plants, wildlife and human populations thrive. In September, 2022, the Environmental & Technical Division took the first step in achieving this goal by starting the first ever Keizer Canopy Cover Study. The goal of this project was to collect canopy cover data along Claggett Creek and Labish Ditch to determine the health of the riparian habitat along these two streams. During this study, it was found that the average canopy cover along Claggett Creek was only 36% coverage. The goal of this project is to implement year-round data collection, monitoring and documenting water levels, beaver activity and canopy cover / stream health data. The data would be used to develop interactive maps to show of known flooding areas, beaver dams, debris jams, water temperature and canopy cover, all to be used to support more thoughtful and effective management strategies and track the impact of implemented strategies. |
| 24 | 39 | NO | The Marbled Murrelet, a forest-nesting seabird, and the Western Snowy Plover, a shorebird that prefers nesting on coastal beaches, have more in common than it appears at first glance. Both species are found along the entire Oregon coast and are listed under the state and federal endangered species acts. These birds also share a common limiting factor, nest predation by members of the Corvid family. Jays, ravens, and crows are all natural nest predators, but their populations can be increased unintentionally by humans recreating near breeding areas. Studies have shown that when human food waste becomes accessible to corvids, their populations increase, thereby increasing the risk of nest predation. The goal of this project is to assess and prioritize recreation sites in Oregon's Coast Range and nearshore ecoregions for inclusion in an Oregon-based Crumb Clean program. Over the last decade, California State Parks has implemented an education and infrastructure program to reduce human food waste in Marbled Murrelet habitat. This program has been successful in reducing corvid densities by spreading a "Crumb Clean" message to park visitors and improving trash and dishwashing infrastructure in the parks. By reducing nest predator densities, we hope to improve the nest success of both of these threatened species. For 2023, we would like to expand this effort by continuing surveys at recreation sites within or adjacent to Marbled Murrelet and Snowy Plover habitat along the rest of Oregon Coast. This would include additional USFS and OPRD recreation sites as well as sites under ownership of the Oregon Department of Forestry. A seasonal technician would be hired to complete the surveys and generate draft prioritization and needs lists for each landowner. ABC will then coordinate a plan for Crumb Clean implementation with each landowner and assist with ordering supplies that are based on the identified needs and feasibility of implementation. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | 50 | NO | Adventures Without Limits is seeking funding to host outdoor recreation programming and events for Oregon's Deaf communities in summer 2023. We will host regular day events to build relationships and trust in a way that's accessible for people who may be new to the outdoors, culminating in a Deaf camping weekend at the end of the summer. |
| 24 | 62 | NO | Brown Folks Fishing (BFF) and Native Fish Society (NFS) are partnering to put on an event that will educate, empower, and welcome new BIPOC anglers from the greater Portland Metro area. Three experienced anglers from BFF will lead instruction on how to fish for smallmouth bass in the lower Molalla River. Participants will get an afternoon of smallmouth fishing instruction with spinning rods, fly fishing rods, or both. Once participants have had their fill of fishing, they will get a tutorial on how to use a citizen science app to record smallmouth bass predation on native aquatic species. Participants will also be invited to join BFF and NFS and take part in further angling and conservation activities. |
| 25 | 26 | NO | Pompadour Bluff itself is an iconic geologic formation visible from the I-5 corridor and Ashland's viewscape, and supports intact oak woodland, native grasslands, shrubland, and habitat for multiple native plants, including sensitive ones, and animals. Donated to form a preserve with public access, Pompadour Bluff is in designated very sensitive deer and elk winter range and is closely adjacent two ODFW Conservation Opportunity Areas and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. SOLC completed Phase I of our Pompadour Bluff Access Infrastructure plan in 2022, replacing an access bridge across an irrigation ditch to comply with local code for service and fire safety vehicles. Demand for recreational access was extraordinary – over 200 people were on the waiting list for our first series of guided hikes – and many regional partners have expressed interest in working with SOLC to utilize Pompadour Bluff as a site for their own conservation, research, and outreach opportunities. With the new bridge and successful soft launch of onsite programming, we are now ready to move into Phase II of our Access Infrastructure plan to support safe and accessible recreation opportunities while maintaining the property's high conservation values. Phase II includes improving the access road; installing a fire-safe parking area; constructing a welcome kiosk to present trail, safety, and interpretive materials, in both English and Spanish; and building a universal access trail from the former homesite to the viewpoint at the top of Pompadour Bluff. Completing Access Infrastructure Phase II will allow us to confidently welcome students, families, partner organizations, and the general public to Pompadour Bluff for recreation, research, and education opportunities in a truly unique landscape. |
| 25 | 36 | NO | The Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) and Wallowa Whitman National Forest (WWNF) are building a partnership whereby the PBWC will serve to assist the WWNF in accomplishing aquatic restoration needs/objectives (aka. climate change adaptation projects) on the Forest within the Powder Basin. The first step in this partnership is the Camp Creek Ecosystem Resiliency Project, of which the OCRF is a funding partner. The Camp Creek project involves implementing low-tech, process-based restoration techniques (LTPBR) to restore floodplain and aquatic habitats with the focal species being beaver, Columbia Basin Redband Trout and Columbia Spotted Frog. Low-tech process-based stream restoration involves simple, cost-effective, hand-built solutions that help repair degraded streams. Rather than using big construction equipment to force a stream into place, the goal is to kickstart ecological processes that allow the stream to repair itself, including creating conditions to facilitate recolonization by beavers. Our end goal is for beavers to colonize where we have completed our work, to make it better and maintain it nature's way. We will do our best at mimicking what beavers do on the landscape by hand constructing beaver dam analogs, post-assisted log structures and hand placing wood. While delay in completing NEPA for the Camp Creek project has set back implementation to 2023 and 2024, the partners wish to move forward with planning, design and permitting for the next project on Trout Creek, also a tributary to the North Fork Burnt River. Ultimately, we are requesting funds to: 1) begin necessary planning and preparation for LTPBR work on Trout Creek, and 2) acquire equipment to support our long-term goal of implementing LTPBR projects throughout the Powder Basin. |
| 25 | 54 | NO | Diverse wetland habitats created by beavers are vital to salmon, lamprey, first foods, and other Oregon Conservation Species. Oregon's Coast Range Ecoregion has little to no presence/absence or dispersal data for beaver in coastal watersheds or saltwater estuary systems. Meanwhile, there are many agencies and organizations studying beavers as a key partner in habitat restoration, drought mitigation, and watershed resilience. The Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership is testing and piloting the recently improved Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) model to evaluate abiotic habitat for beaver potential; and ODFW, The Beaver Coalition, and others have identified the need for a standardized program around collecting beaver presence and activity field data in order to ground truth the BRAT model across the state. The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) seeks to complement these efforts while fostering support for our state animals by engaging the public through community science within the Coast Range Ecoregion, specifically the Yaquina Bay and Coos Bay Conservation Opportunity Areas. By forming relationships with community organizations, partnering with other nonprofits, foundations, and agencies to ensure the data community members gather is contributing to larger, statewide efforts, beaver community science surveys have a much broader impact. Beaver-created habitat is essential for climate change resilience for humans and wildlife, and knowing the positive impact these hands-on experiences in wetlands have on participants, these community science surveys can foster support among Oregonians for beavers and their benefits. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | 6 | NO | The unique western subspecies of Purple Martin is roughly estimated at just 3,500 pairs, and as an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species, is considered to be of conservation concern. Determining the factors that limit population size in a migratory bird requires understanding what threats they may face in different parts of their annual cycle – and thus, the first step is understanding where those locations are. A better understanding of overwintering locations and migratory stopover sites used by Western Purple Martins, and potential threats originating during the non-breeding season, are key information gaps needed to target conservation actions. A single returning tagged martin was recaptured in 2021, revealing a tantalizing first look at the migratory route, extended fall stopover sites, and wintering locations in southeastern Brazil used by this at-risk subspecies, but more data are needed. Eight additional tags were deployed in coastal Oregon in 2022. To increase our sample size, this project aims to collect additional data in 2023-2024. This effort would occur at a new study site where we would relocate our work to improve return and recapture rates. We propose to deploy 15 GPS tags on adult Western Purple Martins, and color-band an additional 15 adults, at Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane County, OR, in 2023. We will resight returning color-banded birds and recapture GPS-tagged birds in 2024. Our objectives are to 1) obtain precise locations of roost sites used during migration and winter, and 2) use this information to identify state, federal, and international partners and conservation actions that can be taken during the non-breeding season, but also to 3) compare return rates of color-banded only vs. GPS-tagged Purple Martins to test for any unintended effects of this technology on survival. |
| 26 | 38 | NO | In 2019, the Curry Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with ODFW to implement watershed restoration projects at Iron Head that were identified in the recently completed Elk River Coho Salmon Recovery Strategic Action Plan. Over the next three years, the SWCD and other members of the Curry Watersheds Partnership (CWP) cleared gorse and other invasive weeds from riparian habitat, and began to reforest the property with native trees and shrubs. During this time the CWP observed ongoing illegal dumping of garbage, the abandonment of vehicles, and other nefarious activities in the Iron Head parking lot, which is accessible to vehicles year-round, day or night. CWP's Project Manager discussed the matter with ODFW's Gold Beach District Fish Biologist, who also expressed dismay and frustration about the situation, and asked if the CWP could help secure funding to address the problem.Through this proposal, the Curry Watersheds Nonprofit (a member of the CWP) requests OCRF funding to install a gate on the entrance to Iron Head, and to line the county road right-of-way with boulders to block vehicle access to the property when the river is closed to fishing. OCRF funding will also be used to improve the parking lot surface and drainage, to reduce turbid runoff to the Elk River and wear and tear on people's vehicles. The CWP will continue to restore and enhance riparian habitat on the property, with funding from the Wild Salmon Center, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and/or the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance. |
| 26 | 52 | NO | Our project involves renovation of the lodge building at our camp property, formerly the Wallowa Lake Boy Scout Camp, for use by children with disabilities and their families to have access and opportunity to engage in outdoor recreation. To date we have renovated 3 cabins on the property to serve as lodging for children with disabilities and their families to enjoy free vacations in an wilderness setting with access to accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. The lodge, once completed, will serve as a gathering place to provide families with opportunities to network, engage and support one another. |
| 27 | 29 | NO | The Fish Creek Valley within the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness is a two mile long, low gradient, wide valley meadow in the headwaters of the Fish Creek Watershed within the North Umpqua Basin. Despite its location within the wilderness, Fish Creek Valley is not without anthropogenic impacts, including both beaver trapping and livestock grazing. Prior to colonization of the western United States, Fish Creek used to span the valley at this site. This stream condition would have resulted in significant hydrologic connectivity between the stream and its floodplain, likely creating ecologically dynamic wet meadows and storing water late into the summer season. Beaver complexes were likely a significant driver of this hydrologically connected system. Beaver trapping and livestock grazing have both contributed to the degradation of Fish Creek, resulting in an incised stream channel disconnected from the floodplain. The lead project partners – National Forest Foundation (NFF) and Umpqua National Forest (Umpqua NF) – are working together to plan and design restoration actions such as beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and willow plantings with likely implementation in 2025. Prior to restoration implementation, and as a key part of the current proposal to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, we seek to conduct two years of pre-restoration monitoring of stream conditions (temperature, dissolved oxygen, discharge, stream shading) so that we can assess restoration impacts in Fish Creek Valley and help fill key knowledge gaps in the field of beaver restoration. |
| 28 | 13 | NO | Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) is partnering with, Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), United States Forest Service (USFS), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to protect and enhance aspen and associated meadows in the Blue Mountain Ecoregion for the benefit of wildlife, their habitat and Oregonians. Specifically, BHA and partners will protect 33 acres within four aspen stands in Crooked and Camp creeks, tributaries of the Silvies River with approximately 2 miles of wildlife-friendly fencing to restore and increase the resiliency of aspen stands, protect spring and riparian habitats and improve quality and quantity of riparian and other deciduous vegetation. Throughout the west, there is concern about the loss of aspen habitats and the lack of aspen regeneration in remnant stands due to degradation and fragmentation due to conifer encroachment, heavy use by domestic livestock, and wildfire suppression among other factors. Therefore, restoring these aspen stands, springs and meadows should provide excellent hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities in the foreseeable future once these systems recover. Further, this project will physically prohibit off-highway vehicle use. In light of climate change, and subsequent drought conditions that we are experiencing throughout much of Oregon, it is more important than ever to protect water sources for the benefit of wildlife, native plants, and people. This project will have a lasting, positive impact on wildlife in the Silvies River watershed, their habitat, and generations of outdoor enthusiasts. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | 63 | NO | The 50-year-old pump at ODFW's St. Louis Fishing Ponds died and needs to be replaced. This essential piece of equipment provides cool water to 7 highly popular public fishing ponds during the summer and early fall. These manmade ponds are subject to evaporation because they receive no freshwater input other than rainwater. Low water levels and high temperatures threaten fish health and in turn, angling opportunity and our ability to keep the facility open. A rented temporary pump was installed as an emergency measure, but it is not sufficient to meet long-term needs. A permanent high efficiency replacement pump is needed to ensure that the appropriate water levels will be maintained to provide for fish health, angling opportunities and additional ecological services that are afforded to a wide and diverse community by this unique facility. We are seeking OCRF funding to support this pump replacement project. |
| 29 | 1 | NO | Snow Mountain Ranch, owned and managed by the Kee family, is a 680-acre property at the headwaters of the South Fork John Day River about 30 miles south of Dayville, Oregon in Grant County. The property contains the headwaters of Flat Creek and feeds large volumes of cold water into the trout-bearing system. Due to fire suppression, juniper and conifers were encroaching into uplands and wetlands on the property and depleting water resources, biodiversity, and ecological resilience. The Ranch has been working with project partners to enhance and restore their natural resources for the past 10 years. Partners include the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Mule Deer Foundation. Project work includes Juniper removal and Forest Health thinning to promote aspen and bitterbrush communities, and promotion of Old Growth Forest. The Ranch has inventoried over 50 acres of aspen. We are requesting assistance to protect the aspen after thinning conifer, using buck and pole and wire caging. |
| 29 | 60 | NO | People of Color Outdoors (POCO) is a community of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). We're located in Portland, as are most members, although several commute from Hillsboro, Salem and other nearby towns. Our community is bound together by a desire to experience what nature has to offer, along with a common concern for safety. People know that Oregon was a state that specifically excluded Black people from becoming recognized residents, and was unwelcoming to all BIPOC.. POCO hosts 50+ outings each year to help to fill the need for BIPOC to experience the outdoors safely, and create a healing community. In 2023, we will host outings that are focused on appreciating and understanding nature, while learning something about our large variety of cultural backgrounds. Members have a desire to feel safe in nature, but many have not experienced contact with cultures outside of their own. It is our goal to help members to share a basic understanding about each other as we continue to build our healing community. Our first celebration will focus on India. We'll host a hike in April, May, June and July. Part of each outing will be spent sharing an aspect of Indian culture. In August, we'll highlight what we've learned by celebrating. The celebration will include a speaker that will share about India - some basics about the culture. Dil Se Indian Cuisine will provide sampling of Indian food, we'll have a fashion show highlighting traditional Indian garb. Finally, we'll enjoy Indian music and learn Bollywood dance moves through an interactive lesson with DJ Prasant. |
| 30 | 27 | NO | Our proposed project will combine scenario predictions of the Oregon Sea Otter population model (ORSO) with data from local commercial fishermen to identify areas of opportunity for reintroducing sea otters to the South Coast of Oregon. The extirpation of sea otters during the maritime fur trade of the 19th century has had significant consequences on ecosystems in Oregon and throughout the Pacific U.S. and Canada. Sea otter reintroductions, which began in the 1960s and 1970s, have resulted in successful populations along the U.S. and Canadian Pacific Coasts, but failed in Oregon for reasons as yet unknown. Sea otters are a keystone species; they are a top predator whose activity maintains nearshore maritime ecosystems, notably kelp forests, by limiting the population of urchin and other kelp-feeding species. Kelp forests, in turn, both sequester carbon and provide critical habitat, including nursery, for a diverse array of ecologically, culturally, and economically important finfish species. |
| 31 | 57 | NO | The Crest is a 501(c)3 non-profit located on 445 Acres private in-holding in the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.The mission is to connect people of all ages with food, forest, water, and each other. One can not conserve what one does not know and love. Our educational mission included over 1000 students from K- college with out door day trips in 2019. The pandemic changed our plans for spring and fall outdoor school programs for 5th and 6th graders. We shifted to summer outdoor day care for 2020 and in 2021 and 2022, we held 8-9 weeks of summer outdoor day camps for ages 6-11 serving over 200 students each year with bus transportation from the Expo, Talent/Phoenix, and Ashland. Over 53% of the students received scholarship aid. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | 43 | NO | The Friends of Ford's Pond is seeking funding for two concurrent, Phase 2 projects at the new Ford's Pond Community Park, in Sutherlin. In 2023, Phase 2 construction will combine five Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) grants into one construction contract. For this project, two OPRD grants will construct 0.9 miles of a10-foot-wide asphalt path/composite boardwalk. The Friends are proposing an OCRF grant be used to alleviate supply chain inflation costs, to complete the 2-mile ADA path around Ford's Pond. Four interpretive panels, a shaded bird observation/education area adjacent to the wetlands and west hillside, and a 0.9-acre wetlands mitigation/enhancement are included in this project. The other three OPRD grants will complete the ADA facilities in the southeast corner of the park (oversized/bus parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, and an inclusive playground) at no cost to this project.The Friends are also facilitating Phase 2 of a 25-acre oak woodlands/savanna restoration project on the hillside, in a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Sutherlin HS FFA Chapter. In Phase 1, the students planted 25 acres from acorns they collected on the property and propagated at the school's greenhouse. Phase 2 will repeat this process with the students planting an additional 25 acres in fall 2023. For this project, the Friends are proposing an OCRF grant be used to purchase seeds for native grasses and forbs, and starter shrubs, to support 15 acres of the Phase 2 restoration project. Ongoing removal and treatment of invasive species, monitoring of seedling growth, and two interpretive panels are included in this project. |
| 34 | 3 | NO | The project directly addresses a limiting factor to conservation in urban areas of the "need for additional education and outreach" (Oregon Conservation Strategy) by supporting engagement and relationship building between unhoused communities and conservation managers. Currently, environmental personnel lack the necessary training and support around interpersonal engagement with unhoused communities. Critical conservation and hazard mitigation resources and staff time are increasingly being directed towards conflict resolution, waste management and forced evictions, straining relationships and exacerbating tensions between staff and unhoused communities living in greenspaces and natural areas. These relationships and conservation resources are essential as climate change exacerbates the frequency and intensity of drought, fire and flood events that impact habitats and ecosystems, as well as the most vulnerable in our communities. This project will develop resources to support conservation staff in their engagement with unhoused communities through a trauma informed approach. Our aim is to reduce burnout and promote workplace wellness amongst conservation workers so they can continue to carry out programs that promote the health of Oregon's ecosystems and fish and wildlife species identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Bonneville Environmental Foundation has a strong history of developing trauma informed resources to support both conservation workers and unhoused community members, including hosting peer to peer support sessions, online and in-person trauma informed care training and projects to support hygiene access in greenspaces. |
| 34 | 49 | NO | We are living in unprecedented times. Droughts, wildfires, and other catastrophic events are rapidly altering Earth's ecosystems, although the rate and magnitude of change varies by location. Consequently, enhancing community resilience requires local information on environmental conditions to accurately identify baselines, trends, cumulative effects, and successful restoration strategies. Using Eco Survey Challenge 2023, our goal is to collect 1,000 records of Oregon weather and wildlife during 20 March (Equinox) through 21 June (Solstice) to establish a public database of crowdsourced observations. Data that documents the impacts of climate change while increasing the temporal and spatial resolution of scientific research.To participate in the challenge, people will submit their ecological observations using a standardized checklist (https://bit.ly/EcoSurveyForm) after conducting a 15-minute survey outside. Although an Eco Survey can be completed anywhere, monitoring stations (posters with temperature & humidity gauges) will be established in specific landscapes and Conservation Opportunity Areas. By installing public data collection sites in schoolyards, parks, natural areas, and homeless encampments, anybody can contribute critical information for capturing place-based differences in microclimate, biodiversity, recreation, and lived experiences. |
| 37 | 46 | NO | 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. |