

OCRFB Submitted Projects Overview - Winter 2023						
Proj #	Project Title	Lead Organization	Requested Funds	Geography/ Ecoregion	Addresses drought	Project Abstract
1	Flukebook: Tracking Individual Gray Whales in Oregon with AI	Wild Me	50,000	Nearshore	No	<p>Wild Me (<a href="http://www.wildme.org">www.wildme.org</a>) is a Portland-based nonprofit, and its mission is to support researchers in wildlife conservation. Composed of IT and AI professionals, Wild Me provides advanced technology to a diverse array of wildlife studies and organizations to help them better assess wildlife populations and develop responsive conservation strategies that positively impact abundance. Wild Me develops and manages the Flukebook.org online data management platform for collaborative whale and dolphin mark-recapture, as well as the collaborative Seal monitoring platform Seal Codex (<a href="http://seals.wildme.org">seals.wildme.org</a>). These tools support whale, dolphin, and seal monitoring organizations tracking these species along the Pacific coast. Computer vision allows individual animals to be identified in photographs and tracked across data sets, institutions, and regional boundaries, and we can also integrate photography from tourism and citizen science. We seek server and infrastructure support costs and staffing for Flukebook.org and Seal Codex in support of collaborative gray whale and Pacific harbor seal monitoring under the Oregon Conservation Strategy.</p> <p>Our collaborative software infrastructure and applied machine learning tools can empower successful population assessments and effective conservation for these unique species while providing ODFW with an example of how AI can improve population assessment and monitoring.</p>
2	5-Stand Project for Youth, Women and Beginner Target Sport Shooters	Creswell Clay Target Sports	\$25,000	Willamette Valley	No	<p>Creating the 5-stand will allow us to broaden the array of people coming to CCTS. This is in regard to expanding the population of youth, women and other beginning shooters. This will be a valuable asset to CCTS for training purposes. The closest training school is approximately 100 miles away.</p> <p>We would need to purchase 8 throwing machines, have a covered area and LED lighting so they can shoot in the evenings after work or school.</p> <p>In the last few years, we have seen a huge increase in our youth and program. Having this 5-stand would allow a safe neutering environment for new youth, and woman shooters. ODFW has scheduled several days at CCTS for their training, and it will allow their students to have hands on experience in an environment they feel comfortable.</p>

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3	Continuing the Upper Klamath Basin Juvenile Chinook Salmon Release Study	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$25,000	East Cascades	Yes	The four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River will be removed in 2024, opening hundreds of miles of Chinook Salmon habitat in Oregon that has been blocked for over 100 years. The purpose of this project is to learn how juvenile spring-run Chinook Salmon will out migrate from tributaries of Upper Klamath Lake, through the lake, and through the two dams that will remain in place after the hydroelectric dams are removed. Funds are needed to purchase fish food for rearing the juvenile Chinook at the ODFW Klamath Fish Hatchery, and for purchasing telemetry tags that will be surgically implanted in them prior to their release. By releasing tagged fish in tributaries of UKL, the team intends to use telemetry receivers in addition to existing (passive integrated transponder) PIT tag antenna arrays throughout the Basin to detect tagged individuals as they migrate out of the upper basin. The intent of the requested funding is to continue this study for another year building on what was learned during the last two years. Extending this study another year will increase the ability to make better decisions when it comes to reintroducing spring-run Chinook Salmon to the Upper Klamath Basin following dam removal.
4	Walker Mountain Handicap range and restroom update	Josephine County Sportsman Ass.	\$40,000		No	JSCA, range walker mountain needs to be updated for Handicap access for shooting bench's and change the dirt to pavement and have a flat paved path to targets boards. Also to have the handicap rest room overhaul.
5	Trout Creek Ecosystem Resiliency	Powder Basin Watershed Council	\$34,430	Blue Mountains	Yes	This project continues a partnership between the PBWC and Willowa Whitman National Forest (WWNF); PBWC assisting the WWNF in accomplishing aquatic restoration needs (aka. climate change adaptation projects). We will implement low-tech, process-based restoration (LTPBR) techniques to restore floodplain and aquatic habitats along 2.5 miles of Trout Creek in the North Fork Burnt River watershed of northeast Oregon. LTPBR involves simple, cost-effective, hand-built solutions (beaver dam analogs,

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6	Connecting Oregonians to Nature through ECO Curriculum	Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors (ECO)	41,000	Blue Mountains , Coast Range, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains , Nearshore , Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades	Yes	Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors (ECO) seeks to expand our reach and provide equitable opportunities to access ecology education throughout Oregon. With this project, our goal is twofold: 1) offer inclusive ecology curriculum packages and ready-to-go activities to provide Oregonians accessible ways to learn about and connect with nature 2) encourage responsible recreation and how to advocate for conservation (you protect what you love). Through our decades of experience teaching youth outside, we know firsthand the impact that guided, meaningful experiences in nature can have on people's ability to invest in its conservation. Now we bring that experience and breadth of knowledge forward as we offer ecology lessons and experiential activities to teachers, students, and community members through our new site, teachECO.org. With a dedicated, interactive membership database and store, we can distribute ECO curriculum (Free Lessons, Place-Based Units, Climate Action) to participants across Oregon and beyond, for free and sliding scale. We will also work with contractors to translate materials into Spanish and build a digital Climate Change game for immediate access through teachECO.org. With these tools, we aim to equip Oregonians of all ages to learn, play, explore and care for the natural world.
7	Oregon Coast Aquarium Sea Otter Foraging Survey	Oregon Coast Aquarium	\$50,000	Nearshore	No	Sea otters once thrived on the Oregon coast, but these populations became extinct due to the fur trade in the 1800s. Sea otters are a keystone species for marine environments, protecting important kelp forests from predators like sea urchins. Kelp forests provide essential habitat and sequester carbon, making them valuable in combating climate change, enhancing ecosystem resilience. There is a movement to reintroduce sea otters to the Oregon coast, and to do that, we need data about the status of populations in Southern Washington and the amount and type of food sea otters obtain per foraging dive. This project will allow us to collect and share critical data that can be used to restore sea otter populations to Oregon and protect our treasured kelp forests. We will provide meaningful engagement to the public by sharing findings through online, onsite, and education outreach curriculum from the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

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8	Shangrila Swamp Habitat Restoration	North Coast Land Conservancy	\$35,000	Coast Range	No	Shangrila Swamp is an 80 acre habitat reserve owned and managed by North Coast Land Conservancy. Shangrila Creek watershed is located within the Necanicum watershed, and the habitat reserve is connected to a conservation corridor that spans 100's of acres within the lower Necanicum watershed and the Neawanna Estuary, an ODFW Conservation Strategy opportunity area. A portion of the property has been heavily impacted by illegal dumping and transient camping, degrading the fish and wildlife habitat and potentially the water quality. NCLC proposes to hire contractors to clean up the site, fence off the boundary, and restore the riparian swamp habitat vegetation.
9	Eastern Cascades Community Honeybee Conservation Project (ECCHCP)	APIS ARBOREA	\$24,037	East Cascades	Yes	Honeybees are a keystone species and serve as an inspiration for our human work in agriculture, sociocultural and environmental fields, apiculture and economics. Wild, unmanaged honeybees can be considered co-constituents of diverse pollinator communities and have become a driving force for the creation of a holistic paradigm of apiculture and pollinator conservation. Currently, honey bees are without legal protection, public conservation programs, or surveys designed for solely wild populations. The Eastern Cascades Community Honeybee Conservation Project (ECCHCP) is a community-led initiative that combines recreation, and conservation, and introduces communities to the beauty and hidden habitats of honeybees within wild landscapes. It engages diverse stakeholders of local communities to observe and protect wild honeybee populations in regional watersheds, endorses apian networks and their self-willed ecological processes, and generates baseline data of habitat and nesting sites. The 2024 project is a continuation and expansion of the initial stage from May 2023.
10	Bring it Outside GMEC/IRCO	Hike it Baby	\$42,300	Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley	Yes	The Bring it Outside (BIO) program, offers a unique opportunity for families with young children to get outside, play together, take first steps as trail stewards, and soak the physical and mental benefits of time spent in nature by providing tools, activities, and events that motivate families to get outside year-round, meeting them where they are and helping them get outside in the ways that work for their families. We will expand Bring it Outside to the immigrant and refugee community in urban Washington County and rural Malheur county through a series of engaging workshops, events, and resources formulated based on their needs expressed through community relationships. By developing these relationships with the Greater Middle Eastern Community/Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (GMEC/IRCO), we can expand our programming to meet the needs of the large refugee community in various Oregon locations.

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11	Stop-Gap Funding for the Beaver Dam Analogue Pilot Study	Upper Nehalem Watershed Council	\$35,920.00	Coast Range	Yes	This request is for stop-gap funding that would provide for two years (2024, 2025) of data collection while partners seek additional funding to complete the remaining 3-years (2026, 2027, 2028) of this 10-year study. The application will build on 5-years of initial monitoring efforts and will provide long-term data important to understanding the physical and biological outcomes of using beaver dam analogues (BDAs) as a natural-process restoration tool in coastal watersheds. This restoration project increases ecosystem resilience by increasing floodplain connectivity and ponded areas in the headwaters of the Nehalem River and is increasing our collective understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of using BDAs to increase aquatic resilience and ponded freshwater habitat on the landscape in the face of climate change impacts. This project is also an opportunity to increase outdoor equity by providing open and targeted invites to guided tours to share what we learn.
12	Pine Creek Conservation Area Spring and Mesic Habitat Restoration	Oregon Natural Desert Association	\$27,087	Blue Mountains	Yes	In partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), the Oregon Natural Desert Association's (ONDA) Pine Creek Conservation Area Spring and Mesic Habitat Restoration project will rehabilitate mesic habitat and restore spring hydrology and function on tributaries of Pine Creek. This project is located within the Pine Creek Conservation Area, which is owned and managed by CTWS. Expected outcomes of the project include increased year-round flows in springs and streams, increased vegetation abundance and diversity, improved conditions for local mesic habitat and improved watershed-wide habitat conditions for Mid-Columbia steelhead and other native fish and wildlife. ONDA will recruit and lead volunteers on restoration work trips to accomplish these outcomes by removing western juniper that are encroaching on springs, reusing juniper materials to construct instream structures and for temporary biodegradable caging to protect desired plants from deer and elk browse, and installing native plants. Other key outcomes of the project will include increased public engagement in the restoration of critical habitat for fish and wildlife, and increased abundance of plants and wildlife on Pine Creek Conservation Area that Warm Springs tribal members utilize for subsistence and medicinal purposes.

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13	Shadow Wetland Recovery/Restoration	Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub	\$31,527	Klamath Mountains, West Cascades	Yes	This project will recover Shadow Wetland (10 ac) on the Umpqua National Forest to a functioning ecosystem for its historic dependent species. Shadow is important for breeding, rearing habitat and connectivity for Western pond turtles, Northern red-legged frogs, beaver, rough-skinned newt, and other species. This wetland was fishless. In the 1980s the outlet was dammed creating reservoir conditions severely reducing riparian and aquatic emergent vegetation. It was then stocked with rainbow trout to enhance wildlife and fishing recreation. The rainbow trout did not survive and members of the public illegally introduced non-native bass and sunfish. The invasive bull frog also moved in. As a result the native wetland dependent species experienced major loss of population and essential habitat. Water quality is deteriorating with increased eutrophication. This project will remove the dam, fish, and bullfrogs, restore vegetation and improve water quality. Funding is obtained but certain aspects are still in need of support.
14	Greater Hells Canyon Region Volunteer Monitoring Initiative	Greater Hells Canyon Council	\$38,298	Blue Mountains	Yes	Greater Hells Canyon Council seeks to develop, pilot, and promote a volunteer monitoring program in the Blue Mountains region for the purposes of advocacy and prioritizing improvements to recreation infrastructure, contributing to public engagement with stewardship science, protecting cultural heritage, and mitigating the detrimental effects of climate change, including wildfire and drought.

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15	Seaside High School Riparian Planting Program	Necanicum Watershed Council	24,000	Coast Range	Yes	The Necanicum Watershed Council will partner with the Chinook Indian Nation and Seaside High School to implement a small-scale riparian planting and watershed education project on nearly 2,000 linear feet of Coho salmon bearing stream adjacent to the new Seaside High School campus. Through multiple seasonally planned planting and educational events, Seaside High School students will be exposed to a real boots-on-the-ground watershed restoration experience bolstered by the presence of Chinook Nation cultural and natural resource educators.
16	Días del Salmón	Necanicum Watershed Council	14,000	Coast Range	Yes	The north coast of Oregon is a diverse community with Latinx culture playing a substantial role in the identity of the region. Unfortunately, there is little to no investment in ecological or environmental education geared towards the Latinx/Spanish-speaking community. Días del Salmón is a program that is proposed to address this issue within the Necanicum Basin (Seaside and Gearhart). In partnership with Consejo Hispano, the Necanicum Watershed Council will develop bilingual educational materials, field trip opportunities and events that showcase the beauty of our watershed in a way that our Latinx community members feel comfortable with and engaged in. The Necanicum Watershed Council will partner with Consejo Hispano on creating the Días del Salmón curriculum which will include (but not be limited to): 1) Two separate field trip opportunities each year timed with the salmonid cycle of the north coast, 2) an interactive workbook that allows students to explore and learn about our watershed in both English and Spanish combined with opportunities for Latinx kids and adults to join the Watershed Council on various work party excursions or explorations and 3) an annual celebration of Latinx heritage on the north coast focused on connecting community with our salmon runs. Ultimately, the goal of this partnership is to develop educational materials and a festival/event structure that can easily be adapted to fit other watershed council regions and engage their Latinx community to their work.

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17	Building a Diverse New Generation of Conservation Stewards with Camp Fire Wilani	Camp Fire Camp Wilani	\$32,950	Willamette Valley	Yes	In 1910, Camp Fire was founded. It was the first multicultural, multiracial, non-sectarian organization for girls, and it gave girls the same outdoor experiences boys already had access to. In 1975, Camp Fire became co-ed, and in 1993 Camp Fire added sexual orientation to its official inclusion policy, ensuring its programs were welcoming spaces for LGBTQIA participants and staff. Camp Fire Wilani intends to cultivate the next generation of stewards by imparting scientific, practical, experiential teaching and learning skills to teens in southwestern Oregon. By cultivating the power of young people, we can create a community of committed, educated and empowered youth who not only practice conservation activities themselves, but have the skills to teach others about conservation practices. Participants will be connected to a variety of nonprofit and public agencies to diversify their experience, provide a wide range of perspectives, and encourage pursuit of careers in the conservation field.
18	Bend to Suttle Lake Wildlife Passage Initiative	Oregon Wildlife Foundation	\$50,000	Blue Mountains, East Cascades	Yes	The goal of the Bend to Suttle Lake Wildlife Passage Initiative (B2S) is to construct safe wildlife crossings on Highway 20 between Bend and Suttle Lake for the benefit of wildlife and motorists. B2S will use funds to secure a contractor to complete a feasibility study to identify priority wildlife crossing site locations, assess site conditions, and evaluate crossing designs and configurations along Highway 20 between Bend and Suttle Lake. In addition to specifically identifying potential wildlife crossing locations, the feasibility study will include a more detailed planning and structural design process for a site near Indian Ford Creek at the base of Black Butte. Oregon Department of Transportation carcass collection data and the recently completed Oregon Conservation and Mapping Project have identified this site as a priority location for wildlife passage in the Oregon.
19	Response of birds and bats to forest and riparian restoration	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$46,080	Blue Mountains	Yes	The goal of this work focuses on forest thinning to reduce fuel loads to improve forest resiliency in the face of climate change and increased risk of stand replacing wildfire. Additionally, this project will deal with riparian restoration to improve stream resilience and habitat for aquatic species is occurring on streams throughout the western United States. Despite the increasing frequency of these land management activities, little is known about the response of birds and bats to these management activities. OCRF funds would be used to purchase acoustic recording units (ARU) to monitor species presence before planned land management activities. This project allows collection of baseline data prior to forest thinning and riparian restoration in the Meadow Creek Watershed in the Blue Mountains Ecoregion. Pre-treatment data would then be compared to post-treatment data to determine if these land management activities are beneficial or detrimental to native bird and bat species.

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20	Creswell Butte: Initiating Recreation & Conservation Phase 2	Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council	\$49,997	Willamette Valley	Yes	<p>This project restores 20 acres of rural oak woodland and upland prairie habitat on Creswell Butte, an iconic, permanently conserved 74-acre natural area in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed, south of Creswell. Creswell Butte itself is seen from the I-5 corridor and is within Creswell's viewscape. This proposed work is a key step toward creating safe access to the butte for restoration, recreation, trail development &amp; fire prevention. Creswell Butte was gifted as a viewshed conservation easement to McKenzie River Trust in the 2000s. Donated to form a preserve with plans for public and tribal access, and educational opportunities, Creswell Butte has had little active management over the last two decades. The butte shares a boundary with the City of Creswell's UGB and is near the West Eugene Conservation Opportunity Area (2.25 mi). It contains habitat for native plants and animals including a rare plant at risk of extirpation.</p>
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21	Fish Habitat Protection with Thermal Infrared Imagery, Lower Willamette COA	North Clackamas Watersheds Council	\$28,223.99	Willamette Valley	Yes	The North Clackamas Watersheds Council will use newly-available drone-based aerial thermal infrared (TIR) imagery to identify and locate cold-water refugia in key habitat areas vital to salmon, steelhead and lamprey within the Lower Willamette River Conservation Opportunity Area. We will identify the specific locations of cold water inputs known to exist at Elk Rock Island/Spring Park on the Willamette River side channel, in the Kellogg Lake Impoundment that will be restored to Willamette River floodplain habitat when Kellogg Dam is removed (planned 2026). At Minthorn Springs, we will identify sources of heat input that turn some of the coldest water in our region into excessively warm. These locations will then be integrated into restoration designs underway to maximize the ecological value of cold water, reduce heat inputs and steer outdoor recreation use at these sites away from these sensitive areas.
22	Multi-Use Management of the East Moraine Community Forest	Wallowa Resources	\$17,500	Blue Mountains	Yes	This project focuses on Wallowa County’s East Moraine, a geologically unique landscape feature that is recognized as the largest glacial moraine in North America. To protect this area from the pressures of development, Wallowa County purchased the moraine in 2021 as a community property that would be managed and showcased as a multi-use working landscape. Currently this 1700-acre area hosts a multitude of wildlife species, is home to rare plant communities utilized by the Nez Perce Tribes, sustains a managed forest, serves as a grazing resource to local livestock producers, and is sought after by hundreds of recreationists that navigate the six-mile-long trail system that overlooks majestic Wallowa Lake. This area is highly visible and serves as a showcase example of how multiple uses can complement one another when thoughtful management tools are employed. Specifically, this project is targeted at improving riparian area and range conditions on the East Moraine by implementing virtual fence technologies that will reduce fencing infrastructure that impedes wildlife movement and recreational access.
23	Population assessment and conservation of Oregon Vesper Sparrow in the Rogue Basin	Klamath Bird Observatory	48,579.26	Klamath Mountains	Yes	The Oregon Vesper Sparrow is a Conservation Strategy Species that has been petitioned for federal ESA listing, but factors limiting its population and its status in the Rogue Basin are not well understood. A thorough inventory of subpopulation size and distribution in the Rogue Basin is needed to understand current population status and risk of local extirpation. We will also continue resighting a color-banded population to build our mark-recapture survival dataset. Further, we will engage community scientists and use Motus technology to address between-year dispersal among meadows. This study will occur in and around Howard Prairie, on both federal lands and private conservation properties. This research is timely and conservation-relevant; it is imperative that we understand limiting factors for this declining subspecies, and where and how management actions may best be implemented.  This work is critically important to land managers charged with maintaining biodiversity on public lands, as well as to conservation-minded private landowners.

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24	Thriving Together: Enhancing Turtle and Oak Habitat while Engaging Communities	Calapooia Watershed Council	\$27,664.00	Willamette Valley	Yes	The CWC is partnering with the City of Albany and community volunteers to restore 8.5 acres of lakeshore habitat to a functional oak prairie at East Thornton Lake Natural Area. The project will incorporate both habitat restoration and community engagement to raise awareness of native oak prairie habitats, as well as Oregon’s two native turtle species; the Western Pond and Western Painted Turtles. The habitat restoration includes planting scattered Oregon White Oak and seeding a mix of native grasses and forbs. This restored natural area will be drought tolerant and provide wildlife benefits for numerous species of declining grassland birds, pollinating insects, and reptiles. The local community will be invited to assist with habitat restoration work, including weed removal, native plantings, and turtle nesting enhancements. Two educational signs and one pet waste station will also be installed to further awareness and appreciation of Oregon’s native habitats and wildlife species.
25	Oregon Coast Crumb Clean Program	American Bird Conservancy	\$45,121.24	Coast Range, Nearshore	No	The Marbled Murrelet and the Western Snowy Plover, two federally threatened species and Oregon Conservation Strategy Species, share a common limiting factor of nest predation by members of the corvid family. Jays, ravens, and crows are 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 survey recreation sites in Oregon’s Coast Range and nearshore ecoregions as the first foundational step in implementing a “Crumb Clean” program. This is an education and infrastructure program that reduces the availability of human food waste and controls corvid densities by changing outdoor recreational users’ behaviors. Recreation sites will be surveyed for corvids and any existing infrastructure that supports program objectives. This information will then be used to prioritize sites and supplies for Crumb Clean implementation across the Coast Range and on Oregon beaches where Marbled Murrelet and Western Snowy Plover nest.

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26	eDNA metabarcoding to monitor Cascades fish and amphibians (Phase 2)	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$50,000	East Cascades, West Cascades	Yes	The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) stocks alpine lakes with hatchery trout to provide quality angling opportunities. High elevation aquatic ecosystems are experience rapid change with increasing temperatures, recreation, and wildfires. Fish and amphibians are key parts of food chains in lakes and some introduced trout can affect survival and reproduction of amphibians. Native fish and amphibians are taxonomic groups experiencing global declines, and ODFW needs information to help balance recreational opportunities and conservation needs applicable to both groups. By using new eDNA analytical methods, ODFW and partners will evaluate conditions associated with fish and amphibian co-existence in lakes in the Cascade Range. The 1st phase of this project was funded through OCRF in 2022-23; this 2nd phase proposal funds the completion of sample collection, DNA extraction, metabarcoding analysis, and dissemination of results.
27	Albertson Wildfire Risk Reduction and Forest Health Restoration	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	\$49,995	East Cascades	Yes	The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council envisions utilizing this funding to help create a healthy, resilient, and functional forest landscape, while mitigating the threat of high severity wildfire to dry forests, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and the surrounding human communities. The ecological outcomes align with ODFW's East Cascades Ecoregion conservation issues and priorities including invasive species, disruption of disturbance regimes and water quantity and quality. The project area also falls within the Dry Valley COA and addresses several key Conservation Strategy Species and conservation issues. This project will assist with engagement of private landowners to increase public knowledge of dry forest restoration principles and techniques; restoring dry forest landscape resiliency by re-establishing open and variable forest structure and reducing fuel loading; restoring healthy aspen, meadow, and shrub-steppe habitats by reducing encroaching conifers and juniper. These outcomes would be accomplished through strategic thinning, prescribed fire, and noxious weed treatments completed by the core partners listed in the application.
28	Water Access Project	Adventures Without Limits	\$30,000	Willamette Valley	No	We are seeking \$30,000 from OCRF to facilitate water access for people with disabilities in the Portland Metro area.

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29	Community Conservation for Mardon Skipper Meadows: Monitoring, Restoration, and Education	Vesper Meadow Education Program - of The Understory Initiative 501c3	\$50,000	West Cascades	Yes	<p>The mardon skipper <i>Polites mardon</i> (Poma), is a rare butterfly in Oregon/Washington and an indicator of healthy meadow habitat. It is an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species and a Federal Species of Concern among several other conservation designations. Poma were likely more widespread and abundant prior to the past 150 years of development, water diversion, livestock grazing, fire suppression, and non-native vegetation invasion. (Black &amp; Vaughan 2005) Several <i>P. mardon</i> klamathense meadow surveys in the Cascade Siskiyou region show population declines of 95% or more in the last fifteen years. (Mardon Skipper Site Monitoring reports, Ashland BLM Resource Area, Keller 2020, 2022). This project will enhance Poma habitat at the Vesper Meadow Restoration Preserve and address ongoing habitat degradation in the last two known meadows with viable populations of this southwest Oregon endemic species. We are building upon existing federal, Tribal, and NGO partnerships, for a multipronged conservation strategy to monitor Poma populations and habitat, engage volunteers in conservation actions and habitat restoration, and increase public awareness through education, art, and digital media.</p>
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30	Southwest Cascades Meadow Protection Project	Oregon Hunters Association	\$50,000	Klamath Mountains, West Cascades	Yes	Oregon Hunters Association, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and agency partners are working to protect and enhance meadows and mesic systems in the West Cascade and Klamath Mountain Ecoregions for the benefit of wildlife, habitat, and Oregonians. This project will protect Willow Prairie, Short Creek, Whiskey Springs, and Fourbit Creek with 6.5 total miles of wildlife-friendly fencing to restore and increase the resiliency of these systems. These areas provide critical habitat for wildlife including neotropical and migratory birds, owls, ungulates, amphibians, reptiles, pollinators, and small mammals. However, these systems are at risk because historical fencing is dilapidated and no longer usable which has resulted in illegal vehicle and heavy livestock use. In light of climate change, it is more important than ever to protect these meadows and water sources. This project will have a lasting, positive impact on wildlife in the west Cascades, their habitat, and generations of diverse outdoor enthusiasts.
31	Campaign for Oregon's Estuaries	Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition	\$50,000	Coast Range, Nearshore	Yes	Estuary management plans for Oregon's 22 major estuaries are decades old. The state has launched a years-long effort to revise and update them. Developing adaptive plans is essential to preserve estuarine resources and maintain resilience in the era of climate change. Oregon Shores' Campaign for Oregon's Estuaries is devoted to engaging communities in this process through public education and in-depth outreach, beginning with the Coos Bay and Yaquina Bay watersheds, the first two plans being updated. The goal is to engage all population segments within estuarine watersheds through educational presentations and webinars, field trips, online and print background materials (including translation into Spanish), and training in participation in land use processes, so that plans for the long-term ecological health of estuaries will reflect broad community understanding and support.
32	Ash Creek Riparian Restoration and Community Engagement	Luckiamute Watershed Council	\$28,876.00	Willamette Valley	Yes	The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) is seeking funding to enhance 11.25 acres of an active riparian restoration project along 1.1 stream miles of Ash Creek in Monmouth and Independence. The ongoing restoration project, situated within the most densely populated region of the LWC's service area, has struggled to fully establish, despite effective plant establishment activities in the form of competitive weed control. Severe browse pressure from a local deer population has prevented robust plant establishment. This grant seeks to counter that pressure by installing carefully selected trees and shrubs that are either deer-resistant (unpalatable) or protected by cages to be installed by local volunteers. Initial trials of these techniques have proven very effective – the LWC now seeks to scale them to the full project area. In addition to volunteer engagement, the LWC will organize bilingual birding events to increase opportunities and connections to local wildlife viewing and recreation.

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33	People of Color Outdoors Guardians	People of Color Outdoors	50000	Willamette Valley	Yes	<p>People of Color Outdoors Guardians is a nature education program for children and families. Sessions last for five days and are focused on Smith &amp; Bybee Wetlands, Whitaker Ponds, the wildlife, trees and plants found there. Smith &amp; Bybee Wetlands has 2,000 acres of freshwater wetlands inhabited by beaver, western painted turtles, western pond turtles, and many other species. The area is historically important to BIPOC. Whitaker Ponds Nature Park is a 22-acre cottonwood forest with two ponds, an active beaver dam, field, and a trail that loops around the first pond. It's bordered by the Columbia Slough and industrial businesses.</p> <p>Whitaker Ponds was a garbage dump before gentrification. It sits in the center of industrial businesses that historically used the Slough as a dump. The area has been in the process of restoration and is important to BIPOC. It's a habitat for western pond turtles, western painted turtles, otters, herons, egrets, muskrats, rabbits, garter snakes and many birds and waterfowl. POCO's goal is to teach BIPOC children and families about keystone species, native turtles, invasive species, the role of trees in fighting climate change, and ways that individuals can help to fight climate change and support the environment.</p>
34	Ni'a-ota-ke'a, omi & ará: water & land stewardship initiative	Bohio Cibanani	15,000.00	Willamette Valley, West Cascades	Yes	<p>Bohio Cibanani is a 501 (c) 3 organization devoted to the preservation and recuperation of Caribbean Afro- Indigenous ancestral knowledges, traditions and practices. With the Forest &amp; Water Conservation Initiative, we seek to work with our BIPOC communities to restore the health of a 5 acre forest that includes an untended spring connected to the Cascade watershed; old-growth hazel and oak groves; and a conifer forest. Funding will enable our BIPOC communities to gather and learn about the process of water restoration as we restore the spring. We will work with our community to repopulate the oak groves, tend to the hazel and foster plant diversity along the forest floor. Throughout the process, we will foster traditional Afro-Indigenous forest and wildlife conservation knowledge and practices.</p>
35	Tualatin Restoration Leader program	Tualatin Riverkeepers	\$40,000	Willamette Valley	Yes	<p>The Tualatin Restoration Leader program, under the leadership of Tualatin Riverkeepers, will train two cohorts of habitat restoration leaders for the Tualatin River watershed. Each cohort will consist of 10 restoration leaders. These volunteers will be trained on how to safely and effectively lead volunteer projects, and on specific restoration and stewardship topics pertinent to the watershed. These include identifying and removing invasive species, identifying and planting native species, and training on bigger picture topics such as the impact of the emerald ash borer and equitable access to the Tualatin River. Once trained, Restoration Leaders will be expected to lead or assist on a minimum of four projects each year. Our recruiting efforts and training projects will focus on underserved upper watershed communities such as Forest Grove and Cornelius, which have not historically enjoyed the stewardship resources of communities in the lower watershed.</p>

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36	Applegate Riparian Improvement Project	Elk Creek Watershed Council	\$12,591.48	Klamath Mountains, West Cascades	Yes	The Applegate Riparian Improvement project will cut downed trees and limbs, and create brush piles for wildlife habitat. Areas of dense conifer trees will be thinned to promote understory growth and improve forage for wildlife. Invasive blackberries, English Hawthorn, and Scotch Broom will be cut and treated. Oregon White Oak will be planted to expand the Riparian Oak Grove habitat, and willows will be planted along the banks of Elk Creek to stabilize banks and reduce erosion. Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub (UNLSH) instructors will use the restoration work as part of a hands-on learning opportunity for volunteer students from Yoncalla High School, Umpqua Watersheds Ameri-core volunteers, and Komemma Cultural Preservation Association.
37	Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring at Rogue River Confluence Area	Medford Water	49456	Klamath Mountains	Yes	Water quality sondes will be added to a streamflow gauge at Dodge Bridge on the Rogue River (upstream of the Little Butte Creek confluence) and on Antelope Creek, a tributary of Little Butte Creek, to improve water quality monitoring of Little Butte Creek and the Rogue River. These sondes will measure temperature, conductivity, pH, turbidity, organics, and algae. The data will track trends, improve real-time surveillance of water quality to enhance management of drinking water for local communities, expand the publicly accessible water resource monitoring data for interested Oregonians, and facilitate progress tracking on habitat restoration investments in Little Butte Creek. Poor water quality, especially elevated water temperature, is a primary limiting factor for fish in the Rogue South Coast Multispecies Plan, and a focus of the Rogue Watershed Resiliency Initiative. These sondes will also improve the early warning system for the treatment plant, which currently is inadequate.
38	Wildlife crossing structure effectiveness monitoring in Central Oregon.	Oregon State University-Cascades, HERS Lab	\$39,940.00	East Cascades	Yes	This project will extend a previous agreement (OWEB 221-4034-19625) documenting effectiveness of wildlife crossing structures on U.S. Highway 97 between Gilchrist and Lava Butte. These structures were designed to restore habitat connectivity for mule deer and elk between summer and winter ranges. Three of the crossing structures were complete at the start of the OWEB agreement, a fourth structure was completed late summer 2022, and additional crossing structure elements (fencing, deer guards/jump-outs) were completed late fall 2022. Pre-project vehicle collision data through the entire project reach serves as the basis for pre-project and post-project analysis. Project installation delays resulted in only one full migratory period (fall 2022) of data collection, which limits robust analysis of crossing structure effectiveness and impacts on animal-vehicle collisions. Funds requested here will be used to support project lead salary and ensure delivery of an evidence-based platform for statewide crossing structure design and monitoring.

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39	Discovering Burrowing Owl Migration Routes and Wintering Grounds	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	\$50,000	Columbia Plateau	Yes	<p>The Western Burrowing Owl is an Oregon Conservation Strategy species that is cherished by Oregon’s public and has special cultural significance to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). A population of over 100 Burrowing Owls breeds in Oregon’s Columbia Plateau on properties managed by the CTUIR and the Oregon Military Department. Artificial burrows established there by the Global Owl Project have allowed intensive study of burrowing owl demography and capture methods for over a decade. Yet little is known about where Burrowing Owls overwinter or the migratory paths they follow. We propose to deploy satellite telemetry tags to identify the habitats used by the owls outside of the breeding period. Because wintering habitats are likely an important influence on owl survival and reproduction, such information is critical to developing effective conservation strategies.</p>
40	30-year trends in Migratory Shorebirds of Eastern Oregon	Point Reyes Bird Observatory DBA Point Blue Conservation Science	\$50,000	Blue Mountains, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Northern Basin & Range	Yes	<p>Together the wetlands and saline lakes of eastern Oregon provide a critical habitat network for breeding and migrating shorebirds, including the Black-necked Stilt (<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>) and Snowy Plover (interior population; <i>Charadrius nivosus</i>). However, the network has been undergoing a functional decline because of drought and limited freshwater availability. In response habitat and water management decisions are occurring despite limited data on wetland- dependent migratory birds. This project aims to fill a data gap on wildlife concentrations and seasonal connectivity by documenting the distribution and abundance of migratory shorebirds at 12 key wetland sites in eastern Oregon. The project will coordinate systematic surveys for shorebirds at 12 sites each April and August from 2023-2025 using professional biologists and trained volunteers. The survey network will extend to &gt;200 sites in 11 states, and survey data will be available to inform local-, state-, and regional-level conservation actions.</p>

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41	Baseline Assessment of the Coyote Bucket Property	Klamath Lake Land Trust	\$49,625	East Cascades	Yes	The Klamath Lake Land Trust (KLLT) owns property which slopes steeply down to the Sycan River in Klamath County which was part of the 413,000 acres of land burned during the Bootleg Fire in 2021. Moderate- to high-severity burn occurred on about 75% of the 265 acres of forestland owned by KLLT. To mitigate impacts from the fire including degradation of water quality and invasive species intrusion, which are key conservation issues identified by the Oregon Conservation Strategy, a report documenting the current condition of the property which outlines the extent and type of damage must be created as part of a larger restoration planning project that will ultimately also include the development of a Restoration Plan and Management Plan. This request is for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund (OCRF) to fund the assessment and documentation of the current baseline conditions of the property known by KLLT as the Coyote Bucket property.
42	Watershed Stewardship Workshops	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council	\$13,192.37	Columbia Plateau	Yes	After 29 operational years, WWBWC hasn't formed projects with intercity or Hispanic landowners. While many successful projects have come from rural Caucasian landowners to date, our only project source- point, the area demographics indicates numerous missed opportunities from the aforementioned stakeholders. WWBWC intends to utilize a series of workshop events as a gateway for engagement that, while open to all, will focus on building urban and Hispanic landowner relations. With topics from pesticide stewardship and water-wise planting to water rights and habitat restoration, in addition to engagement with underserved populations within the basin, these workshops will aim to bring landowners with new projects to us that will ultimately continue to improve water quality and quantity within our basin. Furthermore, engagement with the community in this way allows us to highlight the key improvements we have made in the basin so far, continue to grow conservation awareness, and ensure responsible recreation for our community members.
43	Clean Water for Life: Understanding Aquatic Resilience	Salem Audubon Society	\$40,000	Willamette Valley	Yes	Wetland prairies, like those found in Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), provide opportunities to increase public awareness of how the natural resilience of these aquatic environments is critical to the water quality so crucial to lifeforms in these recreational spaces. Peregrine Marsh – a restored wetland area in the Refuge, is the location selected to construct the Dave Marshall Outdoor Classroom (Classroom), the next phase of the Ankeny Hill Nature Center (Center) development. A unique recreational destination, the Center exists to allow visitors of any age, interest, or ability to explore nature and develop a sense of environmental stewardship. We seek support from the ODFW to complete a Wetland Learning Node element within the new Classroom. The Node includes self-guided interpretation activities, expert-led programming, and off-grid facilities to engage the public in water conservation awareness and recreational activities supporting healthy fish, wildlife, and habitats.

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44	Diversifying the Outdoors – Increasing BIPOC Leadership in Conservation and Recreation	Wild Diversity	50000	Willamette Valley	Yes	<p>Many conservation and outdoor recreation organizations are working to improve diversity and inclusion efforts, however, recruitment and retention of BIPOC individuals remains a challenge. At the same time, many talented BIPOC that are currently working in those career fields in Oregon are not advancing into leadership positions. Wild Diversity is changing these dynamics through increased representation and leadership development for marginalized communities. Our BIPOC Youth Media program increases representation in outdoor recreation by training young adults to film and produce outdoor education videos about a variety of topics such as hiking, camping, kayaking, swift water safety, ecology. These videos elevate the outdoor expertise of young BIPOC Oregonians, while also showcasing Black and brown joy in nature. We're also building BIPOC up as thought leaders in the conservation field who are creating initiatives that better foster inclusion, including a new BIPOC Leadership Development program with mentorship and professional career advancement supports. We would be honored to partner with the OCRF to continue breaking stereotypes and redefining outdoor recreation and conservation by creating a more inclusive culture where Black, brown, queer, and trans people have a deep knowing that the outdoors is a place where they belong, where they can thrive and where they can fully access the healing and improved wellbeing nature provides.</p>
45	Welcome to the Great Outdoors, Harney County	Harney Soil & Water Conservation District	\$3,682.00	Northern Basin & Range	No	<p>Project would allow for a one-day Outdoor Show showcasing local outdoor groups and/or businesses. We are looking for a wide range of vendors/groups showcasing outdoor activities within Harney County. Admission would be one can of food for the local foodbank. HSWCD will incorporate a native plant giveaway for its booth. Outdoor Show will also include workshops on using a map and compass, how to build a safe campfire, bird identifying, and/or other topics.</p>

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46	WWBWC Environmental Education and Outreach	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council	\$24,600	Blue Mountains, Columbia Plateau	Yes	The WWBWC implements on-the-ground river restoration and supporting activities such as stream flow improvements via irrigation efficiency projects, fish passage and habitat projects, as well as significant monitoring and scientific data analysis in support of collaborative basin projects with partners. Our Outreach and Environmental Education Program provides hands-on experience based environmental education and recreation opportunities for all ages. This grant proposal aims to annually serve approximately 400 students and over 100 other community members of Milton-Freewater and surrounding areas. The program is designed to grow audience awareness and understanding of restoration efforts along with the need for these projects, resulting in the development and advancement of restoration projects. A collection of engagement activities including an assemblage of youth environmental education projects as well as other community engagements such as an open house, volunteer planting, river cleanup, presentations and other community events as well as direct landowner engagement and social media are used to further the mission of the WWBWC to enhance, restore and protect native populations and habitats.
47	Wildlife Candid Camera: A Rural Community Science Project	High Desert Museum	\$49,509	Columbia Plateau, East Cascades	No	This community-based science project will engage rural, underserved families and students in Central Oregon and generate presence and distribution data in the region. Partnering with wildlife biologists, High Desert Museum wildlife and education staff will supply and teach participants how to use trail cameras and the iNaturalist app through a series of library-based workshops, school outreach programs and a teacher workshop. With this new knowledge, community scientists will utilize trail cameras in their local areas to capture and upload wildlife images to iNaturalist, with special emphasis placed on Oregon Conservation Strategy species of concern as well as porcupines and badgers (for which there are currently gaps in abundance and distribution data) to support biologists' ongoing research across the region. The project will introduce participants to wildlife researchers, how they work to gather data, and draw scientific conclusions.

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48	Improving Biodiversity, Forest Habitat, and Community Engagement at Phipps Meadow	Blue Mountain Land Trust	\$50,000	Blue Mountains	Yes	<p>In 2021, BMLT purchased Phipps Meadow, a 278-acre property containing 1.58 miles of the headwaters of the Middle Fork John Day River, 147 acres of ponderosa and lodgepole pine forest, 102 acres of freshwater emergent marsh, 16 acres of big sagebrush steppe, and 10 acres of upland meadow. The property is surrounded by thousands of acres of Malheur National Forest, providing habitat connectivity for a diverse array of species relying on aquatic, meadow, and upland environments. However, the property requires riparian and upland restoration, as fire suppression, overgrazing, and the spread of invasive plants have led to habitat degradation. While funding for riparian and wetlands restoration supporting aquatic species is abundant, the equally-important forested uplands portion of Phipps Meadow lacks similar funding opportunities. These pine forest habitats are home to numerous Oregon Conservation Strategy species, and have the potential to support an even greater level of biodiversity if restored.</p>
49	The “Experience Your Watershed” Initiative	Marys River Watershed Council	49,661	Willamette Valley	Yes	<p>MRWC is requesting OCRF funds to support an “Experience Your Watershed” Initiative focused on improving outdoor equity through community engagement in conservation education, recreation, and stewardship in Benton County, Oregon. As part of this initiative, MRWC will focus on three Conservation Opportunity Areas: Corvallis Area Forests and Balds [COA 081], Finley-Muddy Creek Area [COA 084], and Marys Peak [COA 028]. MRWC will host free science seminars to engage the general public with the key conservation issues and strategy species of three regional Conservation Opportunity Area. MRWC will encourage citizen stewardship by leading volunteer crews to remove invasive species and reduce wildfire fuels in Corvallis Area Forests and Balds [COA 081] and contribute to a restoration project enhancing over 1 mile of in-stream habitat in the Finley-Muddy Creek Area [COA 084]. In addition, MRWC seeks to enhance our existing Youth Watershed Council program for high school students, whose members will benefit from conservation-oriented education and career development, enjoy recreational opportunities, and assist with field trips for Spanish-immersion elementary school students in 2024 and 2025. Finally, MRWC will participate in environmental education and outreach events within COA 028, 084, and 081, reaching over 1500 children and adults across diverse communities.</p>

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50	Audible Bats Project Phase II	Northwest Bat Hub	\$39,042.53	Blue Mountains, Columbia Plateau, East Cascades, Klamath Mountains, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley	Yes	<p>Our Audible Bats Project capitalizes on audible vocalizations of rare desert bats, the pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>) and spotted bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>), offering a unique opportunity for public engagement and multi-method monitoring. Oregonians need ways to connect to nature and feel empowered to contribute to our future. There is a serious need for increased data on the presence of these species and locations of maternity colonies. The Audible Bats Project provides this by harnessing community activism, agency interest, and structured scientific survey methodology.</p> <p>A key benefit of this project is its use of randomized grid based survey structure. Our program is embedded within NABat and aural survey data collected are co-located in high priority areas. NABat provides spatial randomization and helps guide assignment of survey locations. Data collected can be used to develop species distribution models and maps.</p> <p>Our long-term objective is to build a conservation information system for spotted and pallid bats through professional- and community-science.</p>
51	Wildlife Clinic Refurbishment Project	Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center	\$50,000	Klamath Mountains	No	<p>In an effort to provide the best possible care in the wildlife rehabilitation clinic, Wildlife Images has endeavored to replace, repair and upgrade equipment necessary to give wildlife its best possible chance to return to the wild. The clinic is more than 30 years old, and some of the equipment is as well, and this is part of a five-year plan to help transform the facility into the best version it can be within our means.</p>
52	Mapping yelloweye rockfish habitat to support sustainable groundfish recreational harvest	Oregon State University	45,681	Nearshore	No	<p>Sportfishing of rockfish in Oregon waters is growing in popularity. However, recreational harvest of yelloweye rockfish (<i>Sebastes ruberrimus</i>) is prohibited in state waters, as the yelloweye rockfish are currently overfished and the stock is rebuilding. Meanwhile other rockfish species are limited to 5 fish per angler per day. Thus, recreational anglers benefit from fishing in locations that will likely avoid yelloweye rockfish capture. Unfortunately, the spatial distribution of yelloweye rockfish is not well understood. If anglers knew where yelloweye rockfish were most likely to be caught, they could plan their fishing trips to avoid these locations. We propose to address this knowledge gap by integrating existing ODFW data on yelloweye rockfish to map their distribution and abundance, using remote camera sensing surveys in rocky reefs. ODFW currently is supporting the use of remote camera surveys in their Nearshore Strategy and yelloweye rockfish are listed on the Priority Strategy Species List. To do this, we will create a predictive species distribution model (SDM) by coupling video-derived abundance and density data with oceanographic and habitat data. The SDM we develop can be used to better manage yelloweye rockfish rebuilding efforts and guide fishers in better managing their harvest limits.</p>

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53	Taking Flight for Conservation: Overcoming Mobility Challenges and Protecting Migratory Shorebirds	Environment for the Americas	\$49,804	Nearshore	No	The Oregon Coast is a vital sanctuary for migratory shorebirds, providing them with essential habitat. Shorebird populations have declined at an alarming rate of 33% in the last 40 years in North America, and loss of coastal habitat is one cause. In Oregon, the availability of marshes and mudflats has declined by more than 50%. It is uncertain if projects that restore habitat for Oregon’s salmon populations contribute to this decline by altering habitats so that they are unsuited for shorebirds, or if restoration of estuaries for salmon is compatible with the needs of migratory shorebirds. This project combines the need for shorebird monitoring in pre-restoration sites with the excitement of observing migratory shorebirds, focusing on engaging individuals with limited mobility. Our goals are to 1) evaluate habitat for shorebirds at five estuary restoration projects through surveys while 2) raise public awareness of the phenomenon of migration in community birding programs.
54	Bridging the Gap in Equitable Outdoor Access for Marginalized Youth	Urban Nature Partners PDX	\$50,000	Willamette Valley	No	UNP-PDX connects youth from racially and economically marginalized Portland neighborhoods with mentorships and provides them with year-round educational and recreational experiences in the urban outdoors. Our mission is to remove barriers to outdoor access for low-income and BIPOC youth by supplying them with gear and clothing, planned activities, transportation, and adult guidance in the form of a mentor. Our program consists of a tiered set of outdoor experiences for youth, including weekly mentor-pair outings in neighborhood parks and greenspaces, bimonthly group outings that offer youth more in-depth opportunities to engage in outdoor recreational activities and environmental service projects around Oregon, scholarships to nature-based summer camps, and access to outdoor leadership programs for older youth. During the grant period, UNP will expand our existing program for youth in 3rd grade and up in the communities that face the most barriers to accessing the outdoors.
55	Soil Testing for wetlands stewardship and food sovereignty	The Wetlands Conservancy	\$33,925	Coast Range, Willamette Valley	Yes	The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) is a land trust that protects and stewards Oregon’s wetlands in partnership with communities. Land trusts conserve land that was stolen from Indigenous people, and TWC is invested in environmental conservation with Indigenous justice. We know wetland stewardship requires the removal of unwanted plants and assists native plant communities thrive for habitat and ecosystem health. By listening to our Indigenous partners, we also understand food sovereignty is a need, and being able to harvest First Foods and gather materials safely provides a connection to the land and an opportunity to heal. TWC will test the soil and a few plant tissues at select wetland preserves for pollutants commonly associated with restoration that prevent the harvest, tending, and gathering of native plants. TWC will work with Indigenous partners to test the soil, review the results, develop the stewardship plan accordingly, and create access and opportunity to harvest native plant species.

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56	Iron Head Public Access and Riparian Enhancement	Curry Watersheds Nonprofit	\$40,634	Coast Range	Yes	Iron Head is a 16.25 acre property in the Elk River Watershed that is owned by ODFW. It provides the only public vehicle access to the river downstream of river mile 14, and it includes 12.6 acres of critical floodplain habitat that are part of a 182 acre (4.22 mile) contiguous riparian corridor. Access to Iron Head is unregulated; as a result, the parking lot is in poor condition and the site is constantly plagued by illegal dumping, theft, and other nefarious activities. OCRF will pay for a gate and other improvements so ODFW can control vehicle access; and for parking lot improvements to reduce wear and damage to people's vehicles, and sediment loading to the Elk River. Secured match will pay for riparian management, including invasive weed treatments and the establishment of native trees and shrubs.
57	Rock Creek Dam	City of Vernonia	50,000	Coast Range	Yes	The project site is located in Rock Creek which flows through Vernonia, OR. Annually a check dam is installed within the creek to backwater the creek and fill the adjacent public pool. During this time frame, typically between June and early September, there is no fish passage above the dam. The creek provides habitat and passage for Spring Chinook, Fall Chinook, Coho, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, Winter Steelhead, Lamprey, Large-scale Suckers, Sculpin, and Crayfish. The project is intended to design alternatives to the current dam structure that would allow for the historic community pool to continue use while also providing fish passage during the summer months.
58	GoFish PI	LIVING ISLANDS NON-PROFIT	\$50,000	Blue Mountains, Coast Range, Nearshore, Willamette Valley	No	Our "GoFish PI" educational series is a vital effort in connecting Oregon's significant Pacific Islander populations with important information and resources pertaining to healthy and responsible access and enjoyment of our state's wonderful natural resources, with a focus on crabbing and fishing. We serve our communities at the intersection of their unique cultural perspectives and individual concerns, by creating classroom as well as practical environments in which participants can exchange stories and build trust with industry professionals as well as local and state officials. We work to address non-English language needs, and ensure that our approach is culturally responsive so that everyone is welcome to feel comfortable and included, as we learn together about what it means to crab and fish safely, responsibly, legally, and sustainably - whether for subsistence or recreation. Access and engagement with the water is a generationally significant part of our Pacific Island cultures, but there are important differences between how many of us learned to fish and the methods, seasons, and regulations which are appropriate here in Oregon. Living Islands provides connection with the tools we each need to thrive as we continue to support Oregon's economy and its ecosystem.

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59	Wolverine Tracking Project	Cascadia Wild	\$20,500	East Cascades, West Cascades	No	The Wolverine Tracking Project is a community science project that addresses two critical needs, conducting long-term monitoring of rare carnivores and connecting Oregonians to the wildlife and wild places that make Oregon such a special place to live. The project uses volunteers to collect data on four Oregon Conservation Strategy species, Sierra Nevada red fox, wolves, wolverine, and fisher, in the Mt Hood National Forest. The project has a successful 23-year history. Recently, we were able to share the extraordinary wolverine sighting on the Columbia River, first reported to Cascadia Wild by a volunteer who recognized the importance of the photos. Through findings such as these, the project provides critical information to wildlife decision makers. As a community science initiative, the project serves as a tool to educate people on wildlife issues, provides people an opportunity to get outside, and helps build a constituency that supports conservation measures.
60	Conservation of strategy plant species in the Coast Range	Portland State University	\$49,999	Coast Range	Yes	The coast range is an ecoregion with two strategy habitats threatened by climate change including estuaries and late successional mixed conifer forests. These habitats are important for several strategy species including Point Reyes Bird's-beak, Coast Range Fawn Lily, and Cascade Head Catchfly. This project will address species-specific data gaps outlined by the Oregon Conservation Strategy, including monitoring plant populations, developing propagation protocols, and producing public outreach materials. In collaboration with volunteers from the Citizens Rare Plant Watch, key populations of rare plants will be surveyed in 2023 and 2024 and seeds collected from wild populations. Propagation trials will then be performed on fresh seeds and seeds currently in storage at the Rae Selling Berry Seed Bank. Data collected will be disseminated through outreach materials including developing a field guide for rare plants of the Coast Range.

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61	Pompadour Bluff Access Infrastructure Ph II	Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	\$35,420	West Cascades	Yes	<p>The 55-acre Fisher Preserve at Pompadour Bluff, gifted to SOLC in July 2021, is an iconic geologic formation near Ashland featuring intact oak woodland, native grasslands, shrubland, and habitat for multiple native plants and animals. Donated to allow public access, Pompadour Bluff is in designated very sensitive deer and elk winter range, adjacent two ODFW Conservation Opportunity Areas and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. With its prominent place in the upper Bear Creek valley and history of inaccessibility, Pompadour Bluff has stirred community interest to soak in 360-degree summit views. SOLC completed Phase I of our Access plan in 2022, replacing an irrigation ditch bridge to safely allow service and fire safety vehicles. Initial interpretive and outreach activities revealed extraordinary demand for access – a waiting list &gt;200 for our first series of guided hikes – and interest from regional partners to collaborate in conservation, research, and outreach. Phase II of our Access Infrastructure plan will support safe recreation while maintaining the property’s unique conservation values. Actions include improving the access road and constructing a fire-safe parking area, bilingual welcome kiosk with trail, safety, and interpretive information, and a universal access trail to the viewpoint at the top of Pompadour Bluff.</p>
62	Recreation and Climate Impacts on a Continentally Unique Pika Population	Michigan State University, Dept. of Integrative Biology	\$49,924.00	East Cascades, West Cascades	Yes	<p>We will address how climate and recreation affect patterns of stress and metapopulation connectivity for wildlife in the Columbia River Gorge (CRG). We focus on American pikas (a “Strategy Species”), but our work has implications for conservation of other species with disjunct distributions. We will engage diverse volunteers to collect pika scat, which will be used to analyze stress (fecal glucocorticoid metabolites) and genetic diversity (RADseq) to identify habitat factors governing population isolation, genetic connectivity, and physiological stress. Through this analysis, we will identify patches that are critical to maintaining metapopulation connectivity and develop management plans to minimize stress. Engagement in this project will also help volunteers develop meaningful connections to CRG natural resources. Our group has been studying CRG pikas since 2011, working with land and wildlife managers across Oregon since 1997, and has well-established collaborations with numerous volunteer groups in the CRG, including Cascades Pika Watch.</p>

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63	Diversifying Outreach on Safe Recreation and Conservation During Oregon's Drought	Vive Northwest	\$45,310	Coast Range, East Cascades, Willamette Valley, West Cascades	Yes	Our Diversifying Outreach on Safe Recreation and Conservation During Oregon's Drought will provide crucial information for Oregon's non-English and BIPOC communities on how to participate in outdoor recreation safely, conserve water, prevent wildfires, and deepen their understanding of climate change during Oregon's drought conditions. As part of this program, we will develop a wide range of materials, including videos, workshops, in-person presentations at outings, and info packets that address the various topics related to Oregon's drought. Each video in the series will be 3-5 minutes long, informative, and captivating, and reach at least 40,000 people through Vive NW's and partner social media channels. Our broad outreach campaign aims to inform the non-English speakers and BIPOC community with useable and relevant information to keep themselves and local habitats safe and healthy during drought conditions. We will produce a video on various topics in six languages, 1,500 info packets and host two workshops that will dive in-depth into the four topics of concern.
64	Grande Ronde Valley Recreation Site Noxious Weed Control	Union County Weed Control	48,960	Blue Mountains	Yes	Union County is blessed to have 2 large recreational areas within 3 miles of La Grande. Mount Emily Recreation Area (MERA) and Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area (LMWA) along with the adjoining Access and Habitat properties cover 11,500 acres of the Grande Ronde Valley. These sites provide a myriad of no cost recreational opportunities where Economically Disadvantaged Oregonians can hunt, fish, ski, hike, bike, camp, bird-watch, or pick huckleberries without having to spend much money on fuel, get landowner permission, or own a 4x4 to access. Low income families and students from EOU are here every day riding trails, hiking, utilizing the archery range, and enjoying outdoor activities they wouldn't have access to without these recreational sites. The goal of this project is to conserve these recreation areas from invasive plants and expand awareness of the threat noxious weeds pose to wildlife habitat and recreation through educational material and outreach programs.
65	A Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for Understanding Nearshore Marine Communities	ODFW	50000	Nearshore	No	The ODFW Marine Program acquired its current Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in 2000, and has invested two decades of work in developing video transect sampling strategies, survey equipment, and data analysis approaches to address nearshore data needs for a wide range of conservation and resource management concerns. Now, ODFW's ability to conduct ROV video surveys is threatened by aging equipment. The old ROV and its control console are well past their supportable lifetime and are failing, already significantly impacting the quantity and quality of surveys we are able to conduct. The requested equipment funding would enable the Marine Program to continue its high-priority fishery-independent video assessment and monitoring of nearshore seafloor habitats, fish, and invertebrate communities by purchasing a new, highly capable ROV. The beneficiaries of this project will include a wide range of stakeholders in the understanding, management, and conservation of nearshore ecosystems.

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66	Crafting an Diverse Leadership in the Intertwine Regional Habitat Connectivity Strategic Action Plan Implementation	Urban Greenspaces Institute	\$44,939.13	Coast Range, Willamette Valley, West Cascades	Yes	The Regional Habitat Connectivity Working Group (RHCWG) is a conservation collaborative serving the greater Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region – “the Intertwine.” Active since 2016, the Intertwine RHCWG is refining regional habitat corridor maps, developing best management practices to improve habitat connectivity, and helping the region’s diversifying human communities to adapt and respond to climate change through appreciating the critical role that native habitats and corridors play. Habitat connectivity impacts human health and well-being, and UGI is spurring the RHCWG to re-envision habitat connectivity in the context of human benefits to address systemic inequities in access to nature. As part of this equity focus, UGI helped coordinate an equity analysis and report by Knot Design/Multicultural Collaborative of the draft RHCWG strategic action plan and processes. In 2023-24, with funding from Metro, Clean Water Services (CWS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), UGI will complete the strategic plan, integrate equity recommendations, and begin implementation. To engage a more diverse audience and attract new community leadership to the RHCWG, UGI seeks funding for paid community experts to help lead the RHCWG strategy implementation and create a more public-facing engagement effort with walking tours and restoration work parties in key conservation landscapes. This request would fund 3-5 community experts and a coordinator to lead community engagement in neighborhoods near conservation areas.
67	Westlake Oak Woodland Land Tending, Oak Release & Community Science	Oswego Lake Watershed Council	\$49,826.40	Willamette Valley	Yes	Oregon White Oak are a keystone species that provide vital habitat and watershed function in the Willamette Valley, but have been largely lost due to development, degradation, and lack of active management. Oak release and invasive species removal can increase resilience to stress events such as drought and wildfire. Conducting habitat enhancement creates opportunities for community-based conservation and recreation through volunteer land tending and community science monitoring. This project completes the next phase of restoration at Westlake Oak Woodland and will result in improved oak woodland structure and health. With the invasion of Emerald Ash Borer in Oregon and worsening impacts of anthropogenic climate change, actively managing and studying oak and associated ash systems is timely and strategic. Oswego Lake Watershed Council will mobilize community members and partners to improve oak woodland health through oak release and habitat restoration, and monitor the impacts on plants, soil, water, and wildlife.

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68	Humboldt Marten Dietary Use of Plants	Northern Arizona School of Forestry	48,840	Coast Range	Yes	<p>The Humboldt marten is an endangered subspecies of the Pacific marten endemic to coastal southwestern Oregon and northern California. The biotic communities in this area of Oregon are rapidly changing due to forestry management practices, climatic shifts, and increasing recreational use. Pacific martens are omnivores known to consume a notable amount and array of plants, which occur in almost 25% of scats in some populations. This aspect of marten ecology has not been well studied and not examined at all in Humboldt martens, yet is relevant to their conservation. Genetic metabarcoding is a new noninvasive method of analysis that allows for a species-level identification of plants consumed. We will work with youth and adults in southwestern Oregon who have or want to learn tracking skills in order to identify and collect scat samples for analysis. Engaging community scientists simultaneously increases survey effort and encourages a wider diversity of community members to deepen their engagement with their public lands. The scat samples collected will be analyzed by the Species From Feces Lab at Northern Arizona University and novel information on Humboldt marten diet and ecology will be co-presented by the researcher and community scientists at libraries and schools in southwestern Oregon.</p>
69	Kayaking Oregon To Help The Kelp	Oregon Kelp Alliance	\$49,722	Nearshore	Yes	<p>Oregon kelp forests support biodiversity, commercial fishing, and recreation. Many Northern California kelp forests have collapsed, leading to fisheries closures, devastating threatened species, and compromising recreational opportunities. Oregon shows signs of declining kelp forests, but has not yet suffered the synchronized, region wide collapse seen in California. The Oregon Kelp Alliance is seizing this moment to restore lost kelp forests and to protect those that remain. This project will contribute in two ways. First, by engaging community members in learning about kelp forests firsthand through restoration work. Second, by building on urchin removal work through kelp spore enhancement for kelp forest restoration. Spore enhancement increases the supply of new kelp in target areas and is particularly effective when combined with urchin removals. Kayakers will deploy kelp spore bags at urchin removal sites, helping educate the public, build community around coastal habitat conservation, and promote the efficacy of spore bags as a restoration tool.</p>

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70	Sieben Community Stewardship and Engagement Project	Clackamas River Basin Council	\$25,675.93	Willamette Valley	Yes	This project will grow and strengthen the Huckleberry Consortium, the Clackamas River Community Cooperative's (CRCC) resident led environmental stewardship team. CRCC, a Mobile Home Community located in a neighborhood identified by the Council of Environmental Quality as underserved, lies along the Sieben Creek/Clackamas River confluence, a location of ongoing restoration. Previous community engagement and restoration activity ignited the community around protection of the floodplain habitat on their land. The Consortium is motivated to continue improving habitats, water quality, and outdoor recreation within their community, and in the neighboring Shadowbrook Mobile Home Community as well. This opportunity will provide the Consortium with strategies and resources to further engage Co-op residents and bring Shadowbrook residents into the stewardship fold to mobilize others to protect Sieben Creek. Through peer-to-peer gatherings, educational workshops, and volunteer activities, this project aims to empower future and long-term actions around watershed protection in two Mobile Home Communities.
71	Coos Bay Public Pollinator Garden Program	Coos Watershed Association	\$49,826	Coast Range	Yes	There is an increasing recognition that pollinators are indispensable constituents of healthy, functional ecosystems. However, their numbers are in an overall state of decline, which can be largely attributed to habitat loss. Luckily, even ecologically sterile spaces – such as suburban lawns and urban areas – can be augmented to support pollinators. This project proposes to facilitate such a transformation in Coos Bay. The Coos Watershed Association will grow 5 native species of wildflowers at their native plant nursery. CoosWA staff will then give presentations to local groups, instructing them on the benefits of native landscaping as well as how to begin the process. Interested individuals will receive a free-of-charge wildflower 'starter pack' from our nursery. We will also create a guide to common local pollinators, and distribute it as part of the starter pack. Recipients will be encouraged to report sightings to iNaturalist as part of a citizen science initiative.
72	HBRA trails management to conserve habitat & improve recreation	Friends of Buford Park & Mt Pisgah	\$47,480.69	Willamette Valley	Yes	The Friends trails management to conserve habitat & improve recreation project is designed to bolster resilience and mitigate the affects of drought, improve wildfire preparedness, and protect aquatic habitats within the Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) including creeks and streams that flow into the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River. Located at the center of the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan area the HBRA is Lane County's largest (2,214 acres) and most visited park with an excess of 500,000 visits annually. Implementation of Objective One will result in reduced fuel loads along trail corridors resulting in improved firebreaks that will slow the spread of fire and provide safe corridors for park visitors to exit in the event of a fire. Implementation of Objectives Two and Three will reduce the amount of waste from dogs and people that pollute waterways and wetlands within the park and beyond as the contaminated water drains downstream.

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73	Protected Pathways: Conservation & Collaboration	Oregon Timber Trail Alliance	\$49,900	East Cascades, Northern Basin & Range, Willamette Valley	Yes	<p>The Oregon Timber Trail (OTT) is a 670-mile, multi-use trail that runs through 4 National Forest Regions in Oregon. The maintenance of this trail system requires ongoing stewardship and coordination, often in remote areas impacted by drought and wildfires. Protected Pathways: Conservation &amp; Collaboration is a project with The Oregon Timber Trail Alliance (OTTA), Warpaint Magazine (WP), Oregon Outdoor Trail Stewards (OOTS), Friends of the Breitenbush Cascades (FBC), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Its goal is to expand involvement in land stewardship, outdoor education, and improve user experiences in key conservational regions for all Oregonians. This project aims to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in the administrative process of grant application, fulfillment, and coordination with state and federal agencies. This will empower newer non-profits with experience and understanding of the administrative processes that result in successful funding and support for backcountry trail work and long-distance trail use in regions impacted by drought, wildfire, and habitat restoration.</p>
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