



empowering the lasting conservation of fish and wildlife and citizen enjoyment of our natural resources

Grant Application Cover Sheet

Please complete the following coversheet. See the grant application guidelines on our website www.myowf.org/grants to complete your application. Volunteer organizations without nonprofit status must have a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor. You may scan and email this cover sheet and your application.

About You

- 1 Project Title: Plotting for Pollinators
- 2 Organization: Coalition for the Deschutes
- 3 volunteer organizations without nonprofit status, list your fiscal sponsor:
- 4 Tax id number (not required for governmental applicants): 81-1215439
- 5 Project Manager Name: Dr. Inge Eriks Title: Retired; Coalition for the Deschutes volunteer
- 6 City: Bend Address: PO Box 1589 Zip Code: 97709
- 7 Phone (office): ()- - Phone (mobile): (609)-333-9951 email: iseriks@hotmail.com
- 8 Tell us about yourself (brief biographical statement): CV attached
- 9 Have you applied for a grant from Oregon Wildlife Foundation before? Yes No
- 10 If "yes", what was the name of the project?

About Your Proposed Project

- 11 What type of project are you proposing? Fish Wildlife Other
- 12 Will it address an Oregon Conservation Strategy habitat or species? Yes No
If "yes", please name the habitat and/or species addressed: Grasslands, Sagebrush Habitats
- 13 Proposed start date: May 2020 Anticipated end date: Grant funds will be expended by June 2021.
We intend for Plotting for Pollinators to be an ongoing project that continues to grow.
- 14 Project Location (attach map): attached Nearest town or city: Madras County: Jefferson
- 15 Has a local, state, or federal biologist reviewed this project? Yes No
If "yes", what is their name? Dr. Ramesh Sagili Phone: (541)-737-5460 email: horticulture@oregonstate.edu
- 16 If "no", what is your plan for an external review of the project?
- 17 Estimated project cost: \$31,300 Funding you are requesting: \$5,000
- 18 How will you use the requested funds? Purchasing plant seed and other supplies for use in pollinator plots
What will you accomplish (ex., stream miles enhanced, acres planted? 10 acres of pollinator plots planted; honeybee health will improve, which in turn improves crop yields and benefits farmers; native bee species will inhabit the plots and flourish. Heike Williams plans to do bee counts on the pollinator plots.
- 19
- 20 Check the following box to be added to our email distribution list:

Project Abstract/Summary

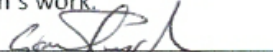
- 21 Limited to 750 characters. *Do not begin your narrative here or link to other pages:* (attached)

Certifications

- 22 Check here to certify that you have already or will obtain necessary permits from all requisite agencies *as applicable to the proposed project.*
- 23 I have included pre-project pictures or video as well as a picture or video entry of myself.

OREGON WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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- 24 I understand that I'm required to submit a Project Completion Report, copies of any publications or social media posts crediting the Foundation's support, and post-project pictures at the completion of my project.
- 25 I warrant that I am the legal owner of all pictures and video submitted in application and grant permission for the Foundation to reproduce, exhibit, or publish them for all general purposes in relation to Oregon Wildlife Foundation's work.
- 26 Signature of Applicant or Authorizing Official:  _____

Plotting for Pollinators

Oregon Wildlife Foundation Grant Request
Submitted by Coalition for the Deschutes

1. Describe your organization and the work that it does.

Coalition for the Deschutes (CFD) mission is to restore the Deschutes River so that fish, farms, and families can all thrive.

Our primary activities are:

- The “*Shared Vision for the Deschutes*” program that builds bridges between urban and rural communities (see attached)
- “*Share the Vision: Be the Change*” program (see attached)
- Educational presentations and field trips
- Active participation in river and water conservation planning forums, including the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative

CFD’s mission finds active expression through our “Shared Vision for the Deschutes” initiative. The Shared Vision brings conservation organizations, farmers and irrigation districts, local businesses, and individuals together in support of these Shared Vision goals and principles:

Goals:

- A healthy, restored Deschutes River
- Thriving farms and sustainable agriculture
- Robust and vibrant communities

Principles:

- The Deschutes River is integral to our Central Oregon communities, culture, and economy
- We all benefit from a healthy river and sustainable agriculture
- There’s enough water to meet all needs if it is managed wisely and shared equitably
- We can restore the Deschutes River to a healthy condition
- Irrigation modernization is essential to water conservation and a sustainable future for all
- Working together as partners is the key to our success

CFD works to convey the message that there is a reciprocal relationship between rivers and people, and between farmers and non-farmers. We see the need for a water conservation ethic that is embraced by all of society, an ethic in which everyone understands their individual and collective impacts, and our responsibility to share the water not only among ourselves but with all living things.

Through the Shared Vision, CFD builds bridges between urban and rural residents. This year we are launching our *Be the Change* program. *Be the Change* is designed to bring the *Shared Vision*

to life for the broader community. By giving people the opportunity to engage directly with the river and with farming, we provide an on-ramp for engagement and education. These are essential first steps to building relationships, trust, and effective partnerships and collaboration.

2. Identify the need for the proposed project; an outline of it; and the anticipated benefits upon completion.

This year, Coalition for the Deschutes initiated the **Plotting for Pollinators (P4P)** project as part of the *Be the Change* program. This project is a collaborative partnership between Shared Vision partners: CFD, North Unit Irrigation District (NUID), and the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council (MDWC).

The P4P project has two over-arching goals: 1. to bring local farmers and community members together through their support for bees and, 2. to address locally the steep decline in critical pollinator species that is being experienced across the globe.

If the working hypothesis described below is correct, as we and local experts believe it to be (i.e., native vegetation pollinator plots will provide supplemental forage for domestic bees and improve bee health), P4P will positively impact local agricultural production through enhanced crop pollination.

Dr. Ramesh Sagili describes the relevance and rationale for the P4P program as follows:

“Honey bee and native bee population declines have been reported in the USA and globally for more than a decade. Poor nutrition is one among the major factors implicated in these significant bee declines. The lack of adequate forage, habitat loss and extensive monocultures are believed to be largely contributing to poor nutrition. Research to date has demonstrated that adequate nutrition is critical for maintaining strong immunity and high survival rates in both honey bees and native bees. Hence, there is an urgent need to improve bee nutrition by providing adequate forage and habitat for bees.”

Agriculture (in particular specialty crops such as carrot seed) is the economic and cultural foundation of Jefferson County. Farmers in this region are the primary stewards of the land and water, and as such, we turn to them as partners in addressing the health and viability of native and domestic bees. North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) farmers are being invited to participate in P4P.

Commercial honey bees play an essential role in pollinating carrot flowers for carrot seed production. However, monocultures created by industrial agriculture, such as carrot pollen by itself, do not provide adequate nutrition to keep bees at optimal health throughout the pollinating season. This may result in lower pollination rates and less than optimal crop yield of seeds.

Currently, scientific studies are being conducted to test the hypothesis that providing supplemental nutrient sources for bees can help. Planting supplemental forage is designed to:

1. Improve carrot pollination
2. Increase the health of commercial honey bees
3. Promote native bee populations that can additionally improve crop yield

Pollinator plant species can also double as cover crops that help enrich soil with nutrients and reduce erosion. Cover crops offer added benefits for agriculture and the ecological health of the region and may help increase water efficiency in crop production.

Current Research by Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center

The Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center (COAREC) at Oregon State University is currently researching methods for improving bee health, thereby leading to improved crop yields without interfering with carrot pollination. Their research to date shows that planting lacy phacelia and yellow mustard seed has potential for providing much needed pollen and nectar for honey bees that are pollinating carrot seed crops.

These plant species augment commercial honey bee nutrition in a positive way. Researchers argue that adequate nutrition will lead to greater brood (larvae) production in the honey bee hives, which in turn will stimulate bees to seek more pollen and nectar, thereby increasing pollination of hybrid carrot seed crop. This will be a win-win scenario for both the carrot seed producers and beekeepers.

Plant species that are already being tested include gray rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*), and yellow mustard (*Sinapis alba*).

P4P Research Partnership

The P4P program has designed its pollinator plots to align with on-going research projects managed by COARCEC. Participating NUID farmers can opt to join the study, conditional to COAREC's experimental criteria and operational boundaries. Participation in the study will provide added support and resources to the pollinator plot. (Opting-in to the COAREC research study makes the plot an OSU project. As such, farmers should be willing to provide OSU researchers with harvest yield results and access to the fields for research purposes.)

Engaging NUID Farmers in P4P

The P4P planning team is reaching out to NUID farmers inviting them to participate in the program. P4P has been endorsed by these two well-respected and vital agricultural Shared Vision business partners:

- Central Oregon Seed, Inc.
- Pratum Co-op

The P4P application form tells farmers that:

Approximately ¼ acre of pollinator plot per 10 acres of commercial crop production may be adequate for providing necessary nutrients for honey bee colonies.

We are interested in finding patrons [farmers who receive water from NUID] who would like to improve their commercial and native bees' health by planting pollinator plots on their property this spring. This would involve the following:*

- 1. Identifying irrigated farmland*
- 2. Planting this field with selected pollinator species (lacy phacelia and yellow mustard). For optimal results, lacy phacelia should be planted in mid-May (approximately May 15). Yellow mustard should be planted at the end of May (approximately May 29).*
- 3. Develop translatable pollinator plot designs for both annual and perennial plots*

Seed costs may be covered by future grant opportunities.

**P4P is brought to you by these Shared Vision partners: Coalition for the Deschutes, North Unit Irrigation District, and the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council.*

Initial Steps

The P4P concept was first formally proposed in the Coalition for the Deschutes's "*Share the Vision: Be the Change*" (BTC) concept paper in January 2020. (See attached). At the same time, NUID and CFD entered into a partnership to hire a part-time intern to work on BTC projects. Our intern, Samantha (Sam) Bango, began her paid internship in March 2020 and her time is dedicated to this project.

After many conversations and meetings, the P4P team was formalized in April 2020. The team comprises:

- Dr. Inge Eriks, P4P project manager: CV attached
- Lisa Windom: Lisa is the Special Projects Coordinator, NUID. Lisa has a BS in Chemistry from Colorado State University and an MS in Crop and Soil Science/Water Resource Science from OSU. She serves on several natural resource related boards, including CFD.
- Jenna Keeton: Jenna is the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council Coordinator. She earned an M.S. in Aquatic Ecology from Utah State University and B.S. in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences from the University of Washington.
- Samantha Bango: NUID/CFD intern. Sam is soon to be a senior at OSU-Cascades, in Bend. Sam spent two years living and traveling in Brazil and Peru prior to starting her undergraduate program and is passionate about learning how communities are motivated to take meaningful actions towards sustainability.
- Gail Snyder: Gail is the founder/executive director of CFD and conceived and initiated the *Shared Vision* and *Be the Change*. She has a BA and MS in physical geography from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

The P4P project has already been received very enthusiastically. COARCEC has authorized Heike Williams, a Bio Science Research Technician working with Dr. Sagili, to collaborate with the P4P

project. Additionally, COARCEC has committed to contributing \$1,000 toward the purchase of seeds and other supplies.

Heike Williams, who is also a professional apiarist, is already actively engaged with P4P and has provided invaluable advice. She joined the P4P planning team on a social-distancing field trip on April 23rd to NUID farm, Fox Hollow Ranch. In her COARCEC staff capacity, Heike will be actively involved with this project and will conduct bee surveys to assess the efficacy of the program, especially as it impacts honey bees.

Fox Hollow Ranch (FHR) has already committed to participating in the project (see attached cover letter). FHR will plant annual native vegetation a 1.5-acre plot this spring and fall and plan to plant perennials starting in the spring 2021. On April 23rd, the team conducted a social-distancing field trip to FHR to see the plots and discuss plans. Photos from that field trip are attached.

On Monday, May 4, NUID sent out an application via email to all NUID patron inviting them to apply. We expect keen interest and good participation in the program in this initial phase, especially if we are able to help farmers cover the costs. Please note that by participating in P4P, farmers are being asked to make a significant investment. In addition to providing the land, water, and labor, they will incur an opportunity cost when the land is not put into commercial crop production. Depending on the crop and other variables, this cost can range widely in the many thousands of dollars.

Community Engagement with P4P (per “Be the Change”)

Once *Plotting for Pollinators* is underway, the program will grow to include farm tours open to the general public and volunteer planting days. Coalition for the Deschutes already has a successful track record of farm tours with their annual Springs to Sprouts tour (see attached).

The tours and volunteer days will accomplish several goals:

- give community members a chance to experience farms and pollinators first hand
- introduce urban and rural residents to each other
- the volunteer days have the added benefit to farmers of having help planting their pollinator plots, and to volunteers, the opportunity to get their hands in the soil and be an active part of the P4P program

3. Quantify your outcomes (i.e., acres planted, stream miles enhanced, etc.)

The goal for P4P in year 1 (2020) is to implement pollinator plots on 10 acres planted for the benefit of bees. Plots this spring will be planted with annuals. Starting this fall, farmers can choose to plant perennials and have permanently established, self-sustaining plots. However, discussion with farmers indicates that they are more likely to take this step in the spring when rain to help the plants get established is more probable.

COARCEC will be conducting bee counts on the plots that are part of their study. Hieke Williams (COARC Bio Science Research Technician) will conduct bee surveys in the fall to assess the efficacy of the program, especially as it impacts honey bees. Farmers who participate in the COARCEC study will be asked to provide OSU researchers with harvest yield results and access to the fields for research purposes.

The Oregon Bee Project has committed to providing technical advice on how to track native bees through the project. The design for implementing this has yet to be detailed. It provides a potential opportunity in the future for citizen science.

4. Identify who or what entity will manage or operate the project once it's completed.

P4P is designed to be a long-lasting program that will continue for the foreseeable future as a *Be the Change* project managed under the auspices of the initiating organizations (CFD, NUID, and MDWC) and with support from other partners including COARCEC, the Oregon Bee Project, COSI, Pratum Co-op, and participating farmers. We anticipate this approach to bee health being adopted by more NUID farmers through the years.

P4P has two phases. Phase 1, the “farm phase,” is described in this grant proposal. Phase 2, the “irrigation district phase,” envisions pollinator plots planted along piped irrigation canals and creating large-scale pollinator in Central Oregon. Preliminary discussions about phase 2 are underway among key stakeholders, including other irrigation districts in Central Oregon and Farmers Conservation Alliance. P4P is a key stepping stone toward implementing Phase 2.

5. Describe how the Foundation will be recognized for its funding support.

The Oregon Wildlife Foundation logo will be included in all media and community outreach, educational material, and relevant publications for the “farm phase” of this project. This includes logo use on social media, newsletters, presentations, and educational outreach materials such as project pamphlets. OWF will also be acknowledged on the Coalition for the Deschutes and NUID P4P webpages.

Per the attached Letter of Support from Dr. Andony Melathopoulos, “Throughout the course of the proposed project The Oregon Bee Project will feature the restoration in its training and outreach programs, including on its social media and weekly podcast channel (the podcast, based from Oregon State University, reaches 1,200 listeners each week).” We will request that OWF be recognized in these venues.

Attachments:

- Cover Letter
- P4P project budget
- Letters of support. Please note that the letters marked with an asterisk were written for a grant proposal submitted to Whole Foods. Tim Greseth advised us that we could use these same letters of support.
 - Oregon State University*
 - Oregon Bee Project*
 - Fox Hollow Ranch
 - Middle Deschutes Watershed Council*
 - North Unit Irrigation District*
- Photos and map of the project site
- Dr. Inge Eriks CV
- Shared Vision for the Deschutes Goals and Partners
- Share the Vision: Be the Change Overview
- Springs to Sprouts
- CFD case statement



Your budget should detail sources of support and expenses for your proposed project. Please do not use any format other than the one provided here. Instructions have been inserted as notes; put your cursor over the marked cell to read.

Project Budget			
Project Revenue	Cash	In-Kind	Committed/Pending
<i>Oregon Wildlife Foundation request</i> →	\$5,000.00		Pending
CFD (website/outreach, mailings to farmers)	\$500.00		Committed
CFD (paid internship - shared with NUID)		\$3,000.00	Committed
NUID (paid internship - shared w/ CFD)		\$4,000.00	Committed
Middle Deschutes Watershed Council (staff time)		\$1,800.00	Committed
OSU Central Oregon Ag Research Center - seeds, supplies	\$1,000.00		Committed
CFD (300 volunteer hrs in 2020 @ \$25/hour)		\$7,500.00	Committed
NUID staff time		\$2,500.00	Committed
Whole Foods Market grant proposal	\$5,000.00		Pending
Fox Hollow Ranch: 2 x 1- acre pollinators plots, spring 2020, very conservative estimate. (This does not include the opportunity cost of putting the land into crop production.)		\$1,000.00	Committed
revenues	\$11,500.00	\$19,800.00	
Total Project Support			\$ 31,300.00
Project Expenses			Amount
Pollinator plant seed, supplies, water (\$800/acre), target 10 acres			\$8,000.00

Volunteer support ; farmer appreciation	\$750.00
Communications: website, 2 direct mailings to farmers, other outreach	\$2,500.00
Outreach and project coordination (NUID, MDWC staff time)	\$3,800.00
Paid internship time (CFD, NUID shared internship)	\$7,000.00
Volunteer time for project management, research, outreach, etc.	\$7,500.00
Other expenses, overhead	\$750.00
Fox Hollow Ranch	\$1,000.00
Acronyms:	
CFD = Coalition for the Deschutes	
NUID = North Unit Irrigation District	
Total Project Expenses	\$31,300.00
<i>Balanced budget? This cell should read "\$0.00" →</i>	\$0.00



Oregon State
University

Department of Horticulture

Oregon State University
4017 Agricultural and
Life Sciences Building
Corvallis, Oregon, 97331
P 541-737-5460 | **F** 541-737-3479
horticulture@oregonstate.edu

04-23-2020

To: Whole Foods Community Giving Program

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal being submitted by the Coalition for the Deschutes regarding Pollinator Program. I am an Associate Professor-Apiculture at Oregon State University. My research focuses on honey bee health, nutrition and pollination. Honey bee and native bee population declines have been reported in the USA and globally for more than a decade. Poor nutrition is one among the major factors implicated in these significant bee declines. The lack of adequate forage, habitat loss and extensive monocultures are believed to be largely contributing to poor nutrition. Research to date has demonstrated that adequate nutrition is critical for maintaining strong immunity and high survival rates in both honey bees and native bees. Hence, there is an urgent need to improve bee nutrition by providing adequate forage and habitat for bees.

This proposal from the Coalition of Deschutes aims to improve bee health (both honey bees and native bees) by providing supplemental forage for bees. The proposed project is crucial and timely, which will not only improve bee health in this region, but will also lead to sustainable pollination and agriculture. I strongly support this proposal and hope that your program will be able to provide them the requested assistance.

Sincerely,

Ramesh Sagili, Ph.D.
Associate Professor-Apiculture



www.oregonbeeproject.org | info@oregonbeeproject.org

Coalition for the Deschutes
PO Box 1589
Bend, OR 97709

23 April 2020,

On behalf of the Oregon Bee Project, I would like to express our support for the proposal *Central Oregon Pollinator Plot Project*. The proposal comes along at an opportune moment, namely just as Oregon State University has developed expertise around creating pollinator habitat on carrot seed field headlands, as federal conservation organizations have begun supporting pollinator habitat projects in Oregon and as public concern over native bees has begun to grow. The proposed project would be the first commercial demonstration of integrating habitat into central Oregon vegetable seed production, potentially serving as a catalyst to wider adoption of these practices. Moreover, phase 2 of the project would provide a demonstration of placing habitat along irrigation corridors, connecting native bee populations across the biodiverse area of Oregon.

Oregonians care greatly about their bees. The Oregon Bee Project is a joint effort of Oregon State University Extension, Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Forestry. Together we provide state-level leadership on pollinator health. Our efforts include extensive training initiatives for land-managers and a native bee survey (the Oregon Bee Atlas). Our training has been highly effective and enabled us to promote specialty crop production in the region. Our bee survey has helped to demonstrate to consumers that high levels of bee biodiversity are associated with the kind of diverse crop production associated with specialty crops. But we rely heavily on successful demonstration projects in order to promote bee-friendly farming practices to growers.

Throughout the course of the proposed project The Oregon Bee Project will feature the restoration in its training and outreach programs, including on its social media and weekly podcast channel (the podcast, based from Oregon State University, reaches 1,200 listeners each week). The Oregon Bee Project will also provide technical advice on how to track native bees through the project.

We strongly recommend this project to the Whole Foods Community Giving Foundation. It is truly the right project, in the right place, with the right people, at the right time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Andony Melathopoulos
Assistant Professor, Pollinator Health Extension, Oregon State University
Chair, Oregon Bee Project



Kevin L. Richards
3459 SE Baldwin Drive
Madras, OR 97741

Ph: (503)803-1113
kevinfhr@gmail.com

May 3, 2020

RE: Letter of Support for CfD proposal to Oregon Wildlife Foundation

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Coalition for the Deschutes' grant proposal to the Oregon Wildlife Foundation and share our farm's commitment to participating in the *Plots for Pollinator* project.

I am a family farmer in Jefferson County. Along with my wife and parents, I grow a variety of specialty crops, including carrot seed which is sold throughout the country and the world. Having grown up where I now live and work, farming is in my blood; and, it's the life blood of Jefferson County and our communities. I hope that my young children will have the opportunity to farm this land in the decades to come.

As farmers, we care deeply about the land, water and ecosystem where we raise our children and earn our livelihood. Through our sustainable agricultural and water conservation practices we invest our time, money, and energy in caring for natural resources so that we can farm not only profitably, but also sustainably by being environmentally conscience and socially responsible.

However, we also need our urban neighbors to gain an understanding of what it means to farm, and to support water conservation and environmental enhancement efforts at a regional level. That is why we believe Coalition for the Deschutes efforts through *Share the Vision: Be the Change* is critical for Central Oregon rivers, agriculture, and communities. Collaboration is essential if we are to solve problems facing our rivers and farmlands as quickly as possible. Effective collaboration requires understanding of the issues through dialogue, relationship-building among diverse groups, and active engagement.

Share the Vision: Be the Change is a vital onramp for all of these. It offers a constructive way for the broader community to:

- learn about the many and varied demands made on our rivers and ecosystem;
- engage directly with our rivers and ecosystem through restoration and enhancement;
- gain insights into farming and rural life;
- learn about irrigation district operations and water conservation methods;
- introduce different sectors of Central Oregon to each other; and,
- make a commitment to conserving water and caring for the environment in their daily lives.

Importantly, Coalition for the Deschutes has demonstrated that it possesses the leadership and commitment to achieve the goals of *Share the Vision: Be the Change*. The collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach Coalition for the Deschutes is championing is truly precedent-setting for resource industries, such as agriculture, where stakeholder interests are often opposed. We have partnered with Coalition for the Deschutes to host several tours on our farm. During these tours I have witnessed firsthand the transformative influence and progress that is possible from the outreach, education, advocacy and action the Coalition is leading. In short, the concept and objectives of *Share the Vision: Be the Change* are not only critical for the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the Deschutes Basin; I'm also confident in the Coalition for the Deschutes's ability to implement the vision and successfully change the trajectory of the river's health and benefit communities in our region for generations.

We are especially excited to participate in Coalition for the Deschutes' *Plots for Pollinators* project. As seed farmers, we rely every year on professional apiary hives and native bees to pollinate over 100 acres of vegetable seed. To ensure the hives and native populations on our farm are as healthy as possible, we have researched the feasibility and committed to planting an initial 1.5 acre plot of flowering bee forage in 2020. We hope the initial plot will help to educate and inspire other farm and community-based plots in the region. Based on what we learn from the initial plot, our goal is to establish and annually maintain multiple plots on our own farm to create a thriving, healthy ecosystem for pollinators. We are grateful for Coalition for the Deschutes leadership and collaboration within the urban and rural interface in this important area.

I enthusiastically endorse the Coalition for the Deschutes hard work to bring our community together through *Share the Vision: Be the Change* and we are excited for the opportunity to contribute by participating in the *Plots for Pollinators* project.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Richards



625 SE Salmon Ave., Suite 6
Redmond, Oregon 97756
(541) 604-9444
middledeschuteswc@gmail.com
middledeschuteswatershedcouncil.org

April 24, 2020

RE: Letter of Support for *Coalition for the Deschutes* funding proposal to Whole Foods Community Giving for *Bee Kind: Pollinator Plots in the High Desert*

Dear Whole Foods Community Giving Grant Review Team:

On behalf of the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council (MDWC), I am pleased to express support for the *Central Oregon Pollinator Plot Project* proposal. The MDWC is a community-based organization representing a broad range of stakeholders who live, work, and recreate in the Middle Deschutes River watershed. Our mission is to involve local people to enhance and protect the natural resources of this region. As an organization that works collaboratively to restore stream and upland habitat and provide educational opportunities for the community, the MDWC supports the approach proposed by Coalition for the Deschutes (CFD) through the pollinator plots program.

The MDWC and CFD share many common goals, one of which is encouraging innovative conservation and community engagement actions within the Deschutes River Basin. The MDWC is committed to provide support for the *Central Oregon Pollinator Plot Project* by hosting volunteers and collaborating with local farmers to incorporate pollinator plots on their land. Activities such as planting native forage will be implemented with the intent to support habitat for bees and increase crop pollination for local agricultural producers.

Consideration of this funding opportunity, with emphasis on engaging Central Oregon community members in bee conservation projects, will support collaborative conservation initiatives focused on the health and prosperity of the Deschutes River Basin. *Central Oregon Pollinator Plot Project* offers a unique way for the broader community to engage directly with local farmers and learn about the fascinating aspects of our important local pollinators and the varied demands made on them

The MDWC is proud to endorse the Coalition for the Deschutes in their pursuit of conserving the culture and economy of the Deschutes River basin while bringing communities together.

All the best,

Jenna Keeton
Middle Deschutes Watershed Council Coordinator



2024 NW Beech Street
Madras, Oregon 97741

(541) 475-3625
nuid@northunitid.com

April 24th, 2020

Whole Foods Community Giving Program
Whole Foods Market
2610 NE Hwy 20,
Bend, OR 97701

Re: Letter of Support

Letter of Support to: Coalition for the Deschutes Plotting for Pollinators Program

North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) supports the Coalition for the Deschutes Plotting for Pollinators (P4P) program as funded through the Whole Foods Community Giving Program. Not only is NUID committed to its partnership with the Coalition for the Deschutes in working to meet our mutual goals of sustainable natural resource management, but the P4P positively bridges the gap between the urban region of Bend with the local agricultural communities of the greater Central Oregon area. The projects planned for the 2020 P4P program are the first phase of many focused on restoring pollinator corridors through urban and agricultural regions of the Deschutes Basin.

North Unit Irrigation District manages nearly 59,000 acres of productive agricultural land within Central Oregon. Most famous for producing over 55% of the nation's hybrid carrot seed, the farmers within this region are dedicated to optimizing their water efficiency and pollinator health. Hybrid carrots rely on healthy pollinators to produce seed; however, carrot flowers themselves provide little nutrients to the pollinators.

P4P plots supplement the nutrients necessary for sustainable commercial pollination as well as help build the stability of natural pollinator communities within this region. The P4P program will also invite all Central Oregon residents, urban and rural, to invest and take part in constructing these pollinator plots. This program will educate, engage, and connect communities that usually would not interact but share the same value: to restore the health of our pollinators within Central Oregon.

Sincerely,

Lisa Windom
Special Projects Manager

