

# Grant Application

Rachael Davee



**Email :** rachael.davee@oregonstate.edu

**Application ID :** A12DR27

**Custom Ref. -**

**Application Start Date:** 2021-03-15 17:55:24

**Application Completed Date:** 2021-08-24 00:54:50

1 Have you ever applied for an OWF grant before?

no

2 Have you ever been denied for an OWF grant before?

no

3 Project Title

Escape Ramps for Sage Grouse

4 Name of my Organization

Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District

5 If your organization is not a tax-exempt nonprofit, please list the name of your fiscal sponsor

-

If this does not apply to you, write N/A

N/A

6 Project Manager Full Name

Rachael Davee

7 Project Manager Mailing Address

-

Please enter full address with city, state & zip

498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, OR 97754

8	Project Manager Phone Number
	541-447-3548
9	Project Manager Email Address
	racahel.davee@oregonstate.edu
10	Please provide a brief biographical statement about yourself
	I have worked as a project manager with Crook SWCD for over three years and my primary focus is the sage-grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program. We work with private landowners in Crook and Deschutes county to develop conservation plans that will assist in the improvement of sage-grouse habitat in ways that are complimentary to agricultural practices in the area- cattle ranching and hay production. I manage the grant writing and implementation of this program as well as our programs for fish passage and irrigation efficiency.
11	Provide any social media handles you use - Enter social handles or URLs such as instagram, facebook, twitter, youtube, etc. so that we can use to cross promote on our channels - if you do not have any, please place N/A
	www.crookswcd.com
12	Please indicate if you are currently following Oregon Wildlife Foundation on our social media channels
	- YouTube - Instagram
13	Total estimated project cost
	99084
14	Funding that you are requesting from OWF - If you're request if for more than \$5,000, please contact Tim Greseth - <a href="mailto:tim@myowf.org">tim@myowf.org</a> before submitting your application.
	4784
15	What type of project are your proposing?
	Wildlife
16	Will your project address an Oregon Conservation Strategy habitat or species?
	yes
16.1	What habitat or species is addressed?
	Greater sage-grouse

17	Start date of project- Day/Month/Year
	01-11-2021
18	End date of project
	30-11-2022
19	Location of project
	Crook County, OR, USA
20	Has a local, state or federal biologist reviewed this project?
	yes
20.1	What is their name and contact info?
	Greg Jackle, District Wildlife Biologist, ODFW, 541- 447-5111, greg.s.jackle@coho2.dfw.state.or.us; Bridget Moran, Field Supervisor, USFWS, (541)480-7914, bridget_moran@fws.gov
21	Have you already or will you obtain necessary permits from all requisite agencies as applicable to proposed project?
	yes
22	What will the requested funds be used for?
	Purchasing escape ramps to install in livestock troughs.
23	Provide a brief Project Summary
	<p>In a coordinated effort to curb the decline of Greater sage-grouse populations USFWS issued a permit to Crook SWCD to implement a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Eleven landowners committed to enrolling approximately 300,000 acres of private rangeland in this CCAA. Of the 11 landowners two have completed SSPs, four more were written in 2020 and 3 are currently in progress. The SSPs detail each pasture of the ranch, identifying plant communities and threats and then prescribe conservation measures. We are currently implementing and monitoring the conservation measures prescribed on the four approved plans. With each new plan we will provide significant technical assistance to landowner about the appropriate conservation measures that they will use to improve their management practices to benefit sage-grouse in all stages of their life cycle. The work we are doing on private land dovetails with the BLM's work on adjacent public land and their implementation of Candidate Conservation Agreements. By working across boundaries to collect data and implement projects there is an opportunity to address the threats to sage-grouse at a landscape scale by implementing projects holistically and providing benefits at a population level. This project is in the process of drastically increasing the number of acres under improved management and set a long term trajectory for sage-grouse recovery within the Crook Deschutes CCAA. Now that multiple plans are written and more are in progress it is important to identify funding to implement the actions prescribed in the plans. One of the actions prescribed in every plan is to install escape ramps in all water troughs to prevent sage-grouse from drowning. Many wildlife species, including sage-grouse, are known to accidentally drown in stock tanks that do not have adequate escape ramps. We are requesting funding to buy the escape ramps for all troughs that are identified in these plans.</p>

24 Upload pre-project pictures or a video -  
By submitting these photos or video I warrant that I am the legal owner of this media and grant the Foundation permission to reproduce, exhibit, or publish them for all general purposes in relation to Oregon Wildlife Foundation's work. If you have questions about photo or video submissions please refer to [myowf.org/grants](http://myowf.org/grants) for guidance.

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25 Fill out the budget

<b>Project Revenue</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Committed / Pending</b>
<b>Oregon Wildlife Foundation Request</b>	4784		Pending
National Fish and Wildlife Federation	75000		Committed
Crook SWCD	5900	6000	Committed
US Fish and Wildlife Service		4000	Committed
Landowners		2400	Committed
ODFW		1000	Committed
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>85684.00</b>	<b>13400.00</b>	
		<b>TOTAL PROJECT SUPPORT</b>	<b>99084.00</b>
<b>Project Expenses</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
Developing Conservation Plans	75000		<b>75000.00</b>
Reviewing Conservation Plans		3000	<b>3000.00</b>
Implementing conservation measure 29- mark fence	1000	2000	<b>3000.00</b>
Travel to project sites	5700	5000	<b>10700.00</b>
40- 24 inch escape ramps	3160		<b>3160.00</b>
15- 22 inch escape ramps	1080		<b>1080.00</b>
8- 20 inch escape ramps	544		<b>544.00</b>
Sand to seal bottom of ramps in tire troughs	200		<b>200.00</b>
Landowner labor to install escape ramps		2400	<b>2400.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES</b>	<b>99084.00</b>
<b>Balanced budget? This cell should read "0" ----&gt;</b>		<b>NET</b>	<b>0.00</b>

26 Upload your Project Narrative - Please make sure your narrative is no more than 7 pages long, single spaced, 12 pt. font (Calibri preferred).

27 Upload letters of support

2 Documents Uploaded

28 I understand that I am 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

yes

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— Grant Application

Rachael Davee

Application ID: **A12DR27**

1 Are the eligible?

No Answer Provided

Sage-grouse populations are dependent on large intact tracts of sage steppe habitat and the ribbons of mesic meadows that braid across the desert. In Crook and parts of Deschutes counties a large area of high quality sage-grouse habitat is privately owned and managed as cattle ranches. Crook SWCD is working with many of these private landowners to develop strategic plans that will jointly allow the landowners to maintain productive agricultural operations and improve their land for the benefit of sage-grouse. In 2015 US Fish and Wildlife and Crook SWCD entered into a joint agreement to create a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) that provides protections for the landowner in the event that sage-grouse are listed in under the Endangered Species Act. If the landowners implement the conservation plans that Crook SWCD writes and USFWS approves they will be not be subject to take violations for their ranching operations.

Since the 2015 when the partnership was established Crook SWCD has applied for and received a series of grants to create and maintain the CCAA program. The first phase was recruiting participants through outreach and engagement efforts across the county. The second phase is in process is ongoing and currently being funded through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to collect baseline data about the condition of the habitat and then write conservation plans that are tailored to each property based on their ecological condition. Now as plans are being completed we are seeking funding to implement the tasks that are prescribed based on the initial data collection. In the future we will seek additional funding to monitor the plans to ensure that they are being implemented as prescribed and to collect monitoring data to track the improvement in ecological condition over the thirty year timeframe of the CCAA program.

In each sage-grouse plan that we write we are charged with addressing the threats that are associated with unmanaged or improper livestock grazing. Under this mandate Conservation Measure 27 states that the landowner will: *Ensure wildlife accessibility to water and install escape ramps in all new and existing water troughs.* To facilitate this we are taking gps locations of every trough and stock water tank on each property and documenting if there is an existing ramp or if a ramp needs to be placed.

This funding opportunity through the Oregon Wildlife Foundation seems like a great fit for purchasing escape ramps because of the direct benefits the project will provide to sage-grouse, which are an Oregon Conservation Strategy species; and because we have commitment from the landowners that they will install the ramps and their labor is an in-kind donation to the project. We are requesting funds to buy escape ramps from a company called Rainmaker Wildlife, who specialize in making versatile escape ramps that can be easily installed in a wide variety of troughs including: tires; concrete; galvanized metal; and plastic. Crook SWCD currently installs escape ramps as a component of all watering facilities that we construct as a low cost means of making these water sources a benefit rather than a detriment to wildlife as well as the agricultural operation.



At this point there are 88 documented troughs and ramps exist in 21 of those locations. If we are awarded this funding it will be used to purchase 63 escape ramps, which will nearly close the gap on the identified need at this point in the planning process. An added benefit of this investment is that through the mandatory annual monitoring of these sage-grouse plans we can ensure that the installations will be carried out to the conservation spec standards and maintained for at least 30 years.















8/23/2021

Oregon Wildlife Foundation  
901 SE Oak St, Suite 103  
Portland, OR 97214

RE: Funding for Escape Ramps

Dear Oregon Wildlife Foundation Grant Committee,

On our ranch in Crook County, we have been working for many years to improve sage-grouse habitat through a wide variety of conservation projects. The Crook SWCD has been helping to supply escape ramps in many of our water troughs and we continue to add them with 15+ troughs left to complete installation. Receiving ramps from the Crook SWCD has made completing these projects so much easier for us because we did not have to purchase the materials or build the ladders ourselves. We encourage the Oregon Wildlife Foundation to support the grant to make these ladders available to Crook County landowners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holli Kingsbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Holli Kingsbury  
McCormack Ranch, LLC