

# Grant Application

William Weiler



**Email :** bill@sandyriver.org  
**Application ID :** A13WW40  
**Custom Ref. -**

**Application Start Date:** 2021-08-04 22:34:52  
**Application Completed Date:** 2021-08-24 00:59:34

1 Have you ever applied for an OWF grant before?

yes

1.1 What was the name of the project?

Sandy River Delta Oak Conservation

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

no

3 Project Title

NA

4 Name of my Organization

Sandy River Watershed Council

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

Bill Weiler

7 Project Manager Mailing Address

-

Please enter full address with city, state & zip

17405 NE Glisan Street Portland, OR 97230

8	Project Manager Phone Number
	509-281-0344
9	Project Manager Email Address
	bill@sandyriver.org
10	Please provide a brief biographical statement about yourself
	Wildlife Biologist for WDFW and ODFW, Project Manager for Sandy River Watershed Council since 2012
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
	@sandywatershed
12	Please indicate if you are currently following Oregon Wildlife Foundation on our social media channels
	- Instagram - Facebook - LinkedIn - Twitter - YouTube
13	Total estimated project cost
	39500
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.
	5000
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?
	Western painted turtles and western pond turtles—basking habitat, nesting habitat, and hatchling habitat.

17	Start date of project- Day/Month/Year	01-10-2021
18	End date of project	30-09-2022
19	Location of project	Sandy River Delta, Exit 18 off Interstate 84, Troutdale, Oregon
20	Has a local, state or federal biologist reviewed this project?	yes
20.1	What is their name and contact info?	Susan Barnes, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife West Region, susan.p.barnes@odfw.oregon.gov 971-673-6010
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?	Conducting native turtle species surveys to establish baseline population figures for existing western painted turtles and western pond turtles. Creating turtle basking habitat for western painted turtles and (in the future) western pond turtles. Monitoring and maintaining enhanced turtle habitat sites and monitoring of turtle populations.

Located on the eastern edge of the Portland Metropolitan area, the US Forest Service (USFS) managed Sandy River Delta comprises 1,500 acres of deciduous forest, upland meadows, oak woodlands, wetlands, and riparian areas. USFS purchased the Sandy River Delta in the 1990s. The site had been extensively grazed with much of the existing wetlands damaged from years of agricultural use. According to the 1995 USFS Delta Plan, "Restoration of the landscape to support and enhance fish and wildlife use of the site is a key goal," including, "habitat to support herptiles....There should be, at least, three down logs per acre (in all wetland areas) to provide, nutrients, cover, and basking sites." The SRWC strategy for restoring habitat for "Sensitive-Critical western painted turtles and "Sensitive-Critical" western pond turtles includes: Conducting turtle surveys to establish baseline population figures for existing western painted turtles and western pond turtles. Creating turtle basking habitat for western painted turtles and (in the future) western pond turtles. Monitoring and maintaining enhanced turtle habitat sites and monitoring of turtle populations. The Sandy River Delta is within the Willamette Valley Eco-region and located in Conservation Opportunity Area COA-057 Lower Sandy River. Wetlands are a priority Strategy Habitat in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS; ODFW 2016). The western painted turtle and western pond turtle are two of five reptiles identified as Strategy Species in the OCS. Additionally, ODFW released a comprehensive guide focused on conserving Oregon's native turtle species and their habitats. This guide includes Best Management Practices to "protect and conserve these species, including help with planning projects in or near permanent or seasonal wetlands, ponds, and other water bodies that are within the known range of native turtles." (Turtle BMPs; ODFW 2015). Additionally, the western painted turtle is classified by the USFS as a "Sensitive Species" and The Oregon Natural Heritage Program ranks the western painted turtle as "S2" and the Center for Biological Diversity listed the western pond turtle as one of the "10 most vulnerable, least protected reptiles in the United States" in 2013. No western pond turtles have been found at the Delta to date. Our project addresses three Recommended Conservation Actions highlighted in the ODFW Turtle BMPs: Improving the quality of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Improving and creating nesting habitat, hatchling habitat, and basking structures. Developing and implementing a larger-scale research and survey strategy to assess and monitor turtle populations. Recommended Conservation Action #1: This project will improve the quality of aquatic and terrestrial habitats for existing populations of both western pond turtles and western painted turtles by planting climate-adapted native trees in turtle habitat areas throughout the Sandy River Delta Recommended Conservation Action #2: This project will improve and create nesting habitat and hatchling habitat throughout the delta by removing overhead, competing vegetation in ODFW-identified suitable turtle nesting habitat. The project will also create basking structures in turtle habitat areas through basking log creation and installation in wetland areas across the delta. Recommended Conservation Action #3: This project will develop and implement a western pond turtle and western painted turtle survey strategy to establish baseline populations of both species in the delta. We will use this baseline data to measure population growth and decline over the project and monitoring periods. We believe that existing populations of western painted turtles and western pond turtles at the Sandy River delta are worthy of conservation and study in keeping with the CSP outlined goals and best management practices. We will continue our effort to restore currently degraded areas and establish and maintain additional turtle nesting habitat and hatchling habitat.

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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Project Revenue	Cash	In-Kind	Committed / Pending
<b>Oregon Wildlife Foundation Request</b>	5000		Pending
ODA/OWEB	3100		Committed
			Pending
			Committed
Oregon Community Foundation	19400		Committed
Hillman Foundation	10000		Committed
Survey volunteers		2000	Committed
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>37500.00</b>	<b>2000.00</b>	
		<b>TOTAL PROJECT SUPPORT</b>	<b>39500.00</b>
<b>Project Expenses</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
SRWC Staff Project Planning, Implementation, Monitor.	25000		<b>25000.00</b>
Wisdom of the Elders Surveyors	3500		<b>3500.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
PSU Lead Surveyor	3000		<b>3000.00</b>
Basking Log Creation	3000		<b>3000.00</b>
SRWC Project Administration	5000		<b>5000.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
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			<b>0.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
			<b>0.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES</b>	<b>39500.00</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).

1 Document Uploaded

27 Upload letters of support

1 Document 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

Powered by **Submit.com**

— Grant Application

William Weiler

Application ID: **A13VVV40**

1 Are the eligible?

No Answer Provided



17405 NE Glisan St. Portland, OR 97230

## Sandy River Delta Turtle Habitat and Turtle Surveys 2021-2022

### Organization Background

The Sandy River Watershed Council (SRWC) is a partnership between individuals and organizations working cooperatively to improve the health of the watershed for fish, wildlife, and people. We coordinate our efforts with many private and public sector partners to produce the greatest benefits for the watershed. Founded by local residents in 1997, the watershed council is an independent, 501c3 non-profit corporation. We believe that cooperative efforts and relationships will produce lasting positive impacts for everyone involved. Our mission is to protect and restore the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Sandy River basin with a diversity of partners.

The Watershed Council has been leading habitat restoration efforts at the Sandy River Delta for the past eight years.

### Project Need & Benefits

Located on the eastern edge of the Portland Metropolitan area, the US Forest Service (USFS)-managed Sandy River Delta comprises 1,500 acres of deciduous forest, upland meadows, oak woodlands, wetlands, and riparian areas. USFS purchased the Sandy River Delta in the 1990s. The site had been extensively grazed with much of the existing wetlands damaged from years of agricultural use. According to the 1995 USFS Delta Plan, "Restoration of the landscape to support and enhance fish and wildlife use of the site is a key goal," including, "habitat to support herptiles....There should be, at least, three down logs per acre (in all wetland areas) to provide, nutrients, cover, and *basking sites*." The SRWC strategy for restoring habitat for "Sensitive-Critical western painted turtles and "Sensitive-Critical" western pond turtles includes:

1. Conducting turtle surveys to establish baseline population figures for existing western painted turtles and western pond turtles.
2. Creating turtle basking habitat for western painted turtles and (in the future) western pond turtles.
3. Monitoring and maintaining enhanced turtle habitat sites and monitoring of turtle populations.



The Sandy River Delta is within the Willamette Valley Ecoregion and is located in Conservation Opportunity Area COA-057 of the Lower Sandy River. Wetlands are a priority Strategy Habitat in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS; ODFW 2016).

The western painted turtle and western pond turtle are two of five reptiles identified as Strategy Species in the OCS. ODFW released a comprehensive guide focused on conserving Oregon's native turtle species and their habitats. This guide includes Best Management Practices to "protect and conserve these species, including help with planning projects in or near permanent or seasonal wetlands, ponds, and other water bodies that are within the known range of native turtles." (Turtle BMPs; ODFW 2015). Additionally, the western painted turtle is classified by the USFS as a "Sensitive Species" and The Oregon Natural Heritage Program ranks the western painted turtle as "S2" and the Center for Biological Diversity listed the western pond turtle as one of the "10 most vulnerable, least protected reptiles in the United States" in 2013. (No western pond turtles have been found at the Delta to date.)

Our project addresses three Recommended Conservation Actions highlighted in the ODFW Turtle BMPs:

1. Improving the quality of aquatic and terrestrial habitats.
2. Improving and creating nesting habitat, hatchling habitat, and basking structures.
3. Developing and implementing a larger-scale research and survey strategy to assess and monitor turtle populations.

**Recommended Conservation Action #1:** This project will improve the quality of aquatic and terrestrial habitats for existing populations of both western pond turtles and western painted turtles by planting climate-adapted native trees in turtle habitat areas throughout the Sandy River Delta

**Recommended Conservation Action #2:** This project will improve and create nesting habitat and hatchling habitat throughout the delta by removing overhead, competing vegetation in ODFW-identified suitable turtle nesting habitat. The project will also create basking structures in turtle habitat areas through basking log creation and installation in wetland areas across the delta.

**Recommended Conservation Action #3:** This project will develop and implement a western pond turtle and western painted turtle survey strategy to establish baseline populations of both species in the delta. We will use this baseline data to measure population growth and decline over the project and monitoring periods.

We believe that the existing population of western painted turtles and potential population of western pond turtles and their habitat at the Sandy River delta are worthy of conservation and study in keeping with the CSP outlined goals and best management practices. We will continue our effort to restore currently degraded areas and establish and maintain additional turtle nesting habitat and hatchling habitat.

## Project Objectives and Outcomes

1. Treat tree planting sites both manually and with USFS-approved herbicide.
2. Create and place basking logs in wetland habitats.
3. Design survey strategy and conduct western pond turtle and western painted turtle surveys with Wisdom of the Elders volunteers.
4. Instill a sense of stewardship for Oregon native turtle species in project volunteers and local Troutdale, Corbett, and Gresham students who visit the Sandy River Delta.

## Tentative Project Schedule

- Project Planning with Partners: September - October, 2021
- Project Implementation:
  - Turtle Surveys: October (weather permitting) March - August, 2022
  - Basking Logs Placement: December, 2021 - February, 2022
- Post Project Monitoring and Maintenance: (Monthly) March, 2022 - September, 2022
- Project Reporting: September, 2022

## Post-project Management

Working with the Forest Service, ODFW, Wisdom of the Elders and Portland State University, the SRWC will be responsible for coordinating the Sandy River Delta Turtle Basking Habitat Creation and Turtle Surveys Project as well as to ensure the effort's success through continual monitoring, and to expand Oregon native turtle habitat at the Delta if additional funding is provided.

## Recognizing Oregon Wildlife Foundation

The Council will gladly recognize the Oregon Wildlife Foundation in all of our public turtle survey, planting, and basking log creation events at the Delta, interpretive tours, and outreach materials. Verbal and written acknowledgement will be given to the OWF, and the OWF logo and website included on printed materials, on the Council's website, and in our social media turtle conservation project posts.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

West Region

17330 SE Evelyn Street

Clackamas, OR 97015

Phone: 971-673-6000

Fax: 971-673-6070

August 20, 2021



Oregon Wildlife Foundation  
Attn: Project Review Committee  
901 SE Oak St., Suite 103  
Portland, OR 97214

**Subject: Sandy River Delta Turtle Basking Habitat Creation & Turtle Survey Grant Proposal**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) supports the Sandy River Watershed Council's (SRWC) proposal to create turtle basking habitat and conduct turtle surveys at the Sandy River Delta. Western painted turtles, a priority species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and classified as "Sensitive-Critical" on Oregon's State Sensitive Species List, are present at the Delta.

The proposed project would provide much needed additional basking structures. During a May 2021 site visit / turtle basking survey effort, ODFW determined that suitable basking habitat is extremely limited at the site. The proposed project would also provide valuable information on turtle response to habitat enhancement efforts and help ODFW, SRWC and partners better understand how turtles are using the site. Additional survey information will help inform future management recommendations and decisions at the Delta (e.g., habitat restoration, turtle nesting habitat creation, and management of public access).

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is eager to see the Sandy River Watershed Council's proposed turtle basking habitat creation and turtle survey project implemented. The project complements on-going efforts by the SRWC and partners to conserve native turtles at this important site.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at [susan.p.barnes@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:susan.p.barnes@odfw.oregon.gov) or 971-673-6010.

Sincerely,

Susan Barnes  
Regional Wildlife Conservation Biologist  
West Region – Northwest









