

Grant Application

Richard Christian



Email : rick_wrenn@live.com

Application ID : A34CR84

Custom Ref. -

Application Start Date: 2022-08-17 18:50:42

Application Completed Date: 2022-08-18 23:08:35

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

Ventenata Removal Pilot Project

4 Name of my Organization

Christian Cattle Company

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

NA

6 Project Manager Full Name

Richard Christian

7 Project Manager Mailing Address

-

Please enter full address with city, state & zip

P.O. Box 15, Ukiah, OR 97880

8	Project Manager Phone Number
	541-215-4021
9	Project Manager Email Address
	rick_wrenn@live.com
10	Please provide a brief biographical statement about yourself
	I have been doing watershed restoration projects for 30 years for Tribes and the USDA FS. I have been able to complete weed treatment nearly every year for most of the common invasives present in the west. Other restoration activities included construction of fences around aspen stands, floodplain reconnection, wood placement, levee removal and planting.
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
	na
12	Please indicate if you are currently following Oregon Wildlife Foundation on our social media channels
	- None of these channels
13	Total estimated project cost
	5985
14	Funding that you are requesting from OWF - If you're request is for more than \$5,000, please contact Tim Greseth - tim@myowf.org before submitting your application.
	3986
15	What type of project are your proposing?
	Other
16	Will your project address an Oregon Conservation Strategy habitat or species?
	yes
16.1	What habitat or species is addressed?
	Grasslands
17	Start date of project- Day/Month/Year
	20-09-2022

18	End date of project
	30-11-2022
19	Location of project
	40875 Oregon 244, Ukiah, OR, USA
20	Has a local, state or federal biologist reviewed this project?
	yes
20.1	What is their name and contact info?
	Nate James, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS 1 SW NYE AVE suite 130 Pendleton OR 97826 541-278-8049 ext 105 Cell 541-620-3979
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?
	The funds will be used to purchase Rejuvra (an herbicide for the treatment of annual grasses). In addition we will be buying a boom sprayer for a UTV to apply the chemical.
23	Provide a brief Project Summary
	This project seeks to treat 70-100 acres of land that has become 90% Ventenata grass. This grass is replacing native and planted perennial grasses. One application has been documented as having very high success rates of removing all annual grasses and allowing the perennial bunch grasses to fully recover for a period of up to 5 years.

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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Oregon Wildlife Foundation Grant Proposal

Ventenata Removal Pilot Project

This project seeks to treat ventenata grass in areas that were historical bunch grasses, such as Idaho Fescue (refer to the map *Figure 1*). In the Intermountain Pacific Northwest, *V. dubia* has caused substantial ecological and economic impacts in perennial grass habitatsⁱ. In addition to having minimal forage value for livestock or wildlife, ventenata is also undesirable because its shallow root system may cause the soil to be more prone to erosionⁱⁱ. Impending climate change threats have the potential to exacerbate the spread of this invasive species by stressing native plants and allowing annual, early season plants to expand their habitat rapidly.

There is a relatively new product Rejuvra, a pre-emergent herbicide and restoration tool that has been demonstrated to have a high success rate at reducing annual grasses, including cheat grass, Medusahead and Ventenata, while having little-to-no impact on perennial grasses. In all trials to date this has resulted in multiyear control of annual grasses and allowed the native and non-native perennial grasses to recover. Initial trial work across the western United States have provided evidence that areas treated with Rejuvra demonstrated a two-to-three-fold increase in perennial grass biomass, compared to untreated areas.ⁱⁱⁱ Please see this video for further information and effectiveness on cheatgrass: <https://youtu.be/oSvBfbt25ag>.

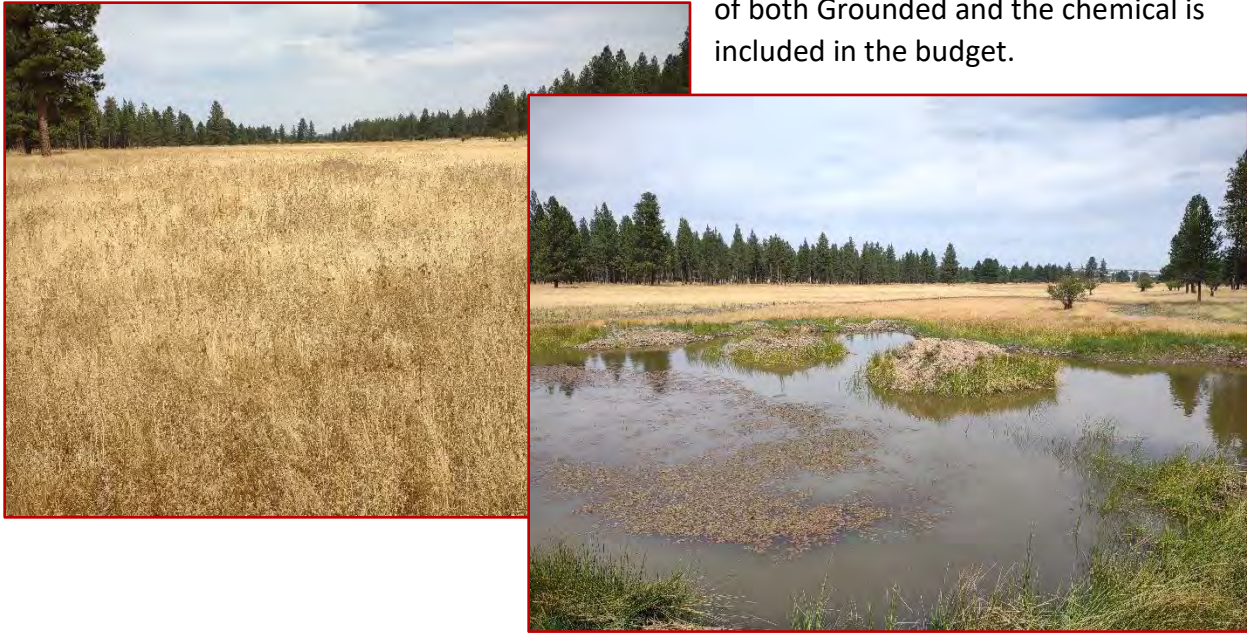
There is current effort to include a much larger and regional project to treat ventenata specifically. This effort is being proposed by the regional Natural Resource Conservation Services and is set to begin next year. The District Conservationist, Nate James, for Umatilla County indicated that they are looking to try to initiate trials this year and provide cost-share funding in the next two years at a county-wide scale. Additional trials have been called for under varying conditions and environmental factors and management strategies.^{iv}

The monoculture nature of the stands located in Sites 1-3 on the following map have made this ground virtually unusable to wildlife. There are 5 perennial ponds located on the parcels for these 3 sites, which create wildlife havens. It is hoped that this project will allow the native vegetation to re-establish in a very short period. That would allow wildlife to begin to utilize this property more again. Some of the wildlife that had used the property in the past include mule deer, whitetail deer, elk, sandhill cranes, Canada geese and several species of ducks. In addition, there are many neotropical migrants that have used the parcels historically.

The project being proposed here would become a trial project to showcase the efficacy of Rejuvra. This product has been demonstrated to be effective at eliminating the germination of seed for up to 5 years. Since the seed is apparently only viable for 2-4 years, this product has eliminated the plant on that site permanently, to date. Because the cost of chemical is so high, it is not feasible for the landowner to complete this project alone.

It has been suggested that a boom sprayer works better by the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District. They are the regional leaders in treatment, including 23,000 acres

completed during the 2022 field season. The Grant SWCD also suggested using a Grounded, a specific adjuvant that allows the chemical to bind to the soil, rather than to the plants. The cost of both Grounded and the chemical is included in the budget.



Site 1: Including the pond that was constructed with two islands to encourage geese to nest.



Site 2: This valley has a very high density of ventenata, but there are also some perennial grasses still present.

August 18, 2022

Site 3: This site has more cheat grass and perennials in the foreground.



This project would treat as many acres as is possible with the funding obtained this year to be able to clearly document chemical efficacy for treating ventenata at this site and elevation. The figure above includes multiple polygons. The red outlined polygons are the highest priorities to treat under this project. Sites 1-3 include a total of 45.3 acres. Sites 4-7 include additional acres that are needed for treatment. Although sites 4-7 are not a monoculture of ventenata, but rather are very patchy. There is also a sub-priority among these four southern sites. The priority order, depending on available funding and coverage would be Sites 7, 5, 6 and then 4. If the current application is successful, the landowner will be able to treat Sites 1-3 and half of 7. Site 7 is the most likely place to conduct future tours. This is therefore proposed as the treatment and control parcel. Half would be treated and half would be untreated for the first year.

An important note here is that there are two larger ponds that also creates habitat for a variety of animals located on the eastern boundary of Site 5 (refer to map). These ponds have had river otter, beaver (including a lodge), red headed and yellow-winged blackbirds, many species of ducks and geese (nesting and rearing), snipes, sandhill cranes, mule deer, whitetail deer, elk, bald eagles, osprey and a variety of other species. Again, it is hoped that improving the forage on the adjacent acres would greatly increase the usability of this parcel for all wildlife species. Sandhill cranes have even nested in the area over the last few years.

ⁱ <https://scholarworks.montana.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1/16170/harvey-understanding-the-2019.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

ⁱⁱ https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmcp8372.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://westernagnetwork.com/new-tool-available-for-controlling-invasive-weed-species-on-rangeland>

^{iv}

<https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/pii/S0190052822000025?token=F980196AC2C2ED4BA0DE5EC8154480EFF803175B47F7953356DA80B215B65EAA027AD03324D6021BB7A4E3E2B9AE3C6B&originRegion=us-east-1&originCreation=20220818200328>

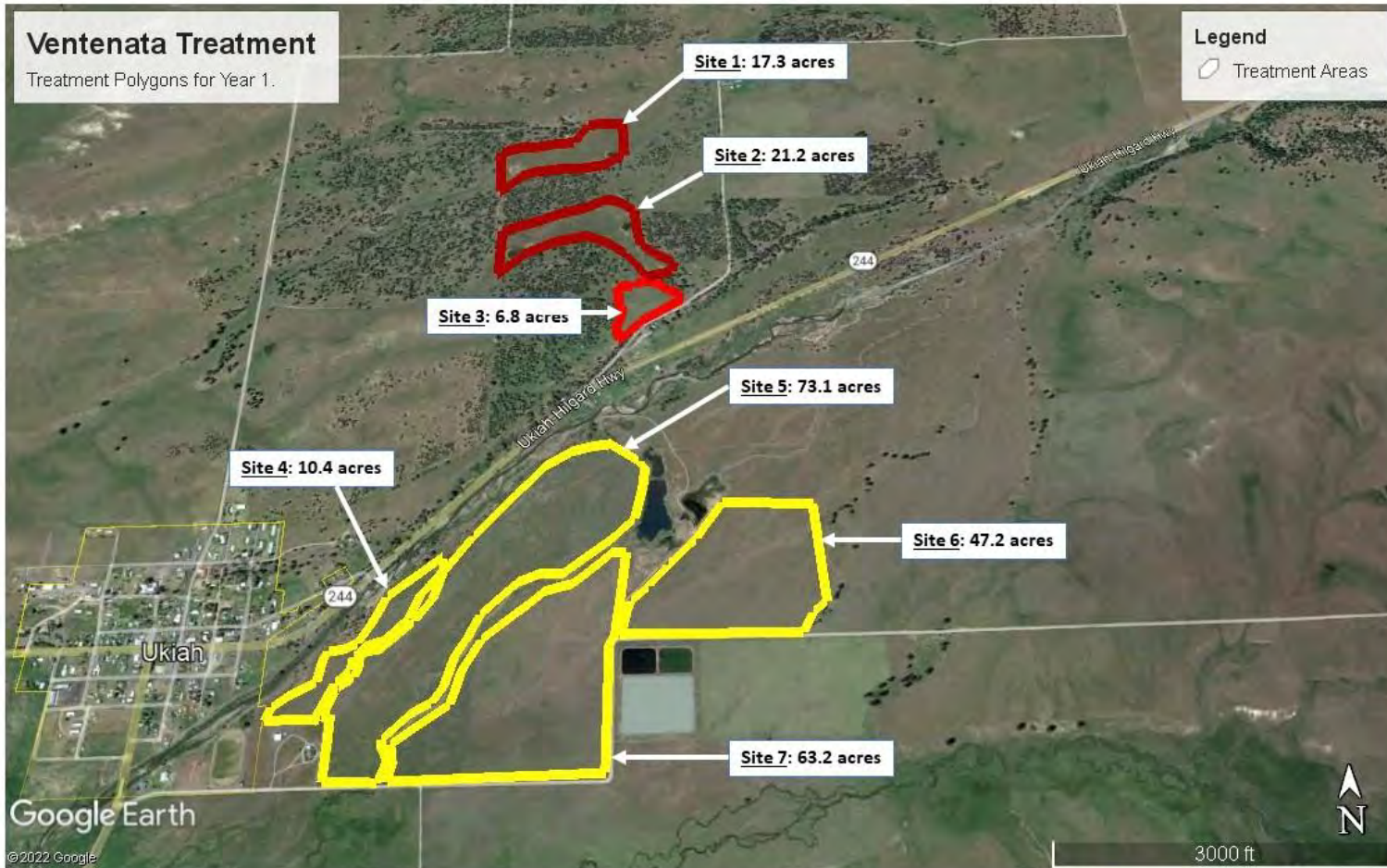


Figure 1. Map depicting the potential treatment areas.

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 for guidance.



25 Fill out the budget

Due to a limited amount of time available. No letters of support were obtained. However, the applicant strongly encourages you to contact Nate James (NRCS District Conservationist) or Brad Lathrop, Range Conservationist (541-969-7744)









