

Grant Application

Beth Krisko



Email : coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org

Application ID : A55KB109

Custom Ref. -

Application Start Date: 2023-03-15 17:17:22

Application Completed Date: 2023-07-14 19:12:32

1 Have you previously applied for a grant from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation?

no

2 Has a previously submitted grant application been denied funding support?

no

3 Title of your proposed project

Owl Pellet Dissection for Middle School Students

4 Name of your organization

Forests Today & Forever

5 If your organization is not a 501c3 nonprofit, please identify your fiscal sponsor

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

931101518

6 Your name or the name of the Project Manager

Beth Krisko

7 organization mailing address

Please enter full address with city, state & zip

PO Box 55 Eugene OR 97405

8 your phone number or that of the Project Manager

541-554-1342

9 your email address or that of the Project Manager

coordinator@foreststodayandforever.org

10 a brief biographical statement about yourself or that of the Project Manager

Beth Krisko is the Executive Director of Forests Today & Forever for the past 10 years and has worked in outdoor/ forest education since 2005. Beth leads the organization and manages operations, including forestry education programming. During Beth's tenure, the organization has doubled its reach and operating budget to educate new audiences and further the organization's mission of promoting forest stewardship.

11 social media handles that your organization uses

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

<https://www.facebook.com/foreststodayandforever/>; <https://www.instagram.com/foreststodayandforever/>

12 are you are currently following Oregon Wildlife Foundation on its social media channels?

- Instagram
- Facebook

13 what is the total estimated cost of your project?

2000

14 Funding that you are requesting from OWF

If your request is for more than \$5,000, please contact Tim Greseth tim@myowf.org before submitting your application.

1000

15 what type of project are your proposing?

outdoor education

16 will your project address an Oregon Conservation Strategy habitat or species?

yes

16.Y.1 What habitat or species is addressed?

Northern Spotted Owl

17 what is the location of your proposed project?

Eugene, OR, USA

18	<p>what ecoregion and Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) is your proposed project located in?</p> <hr/> <p>See https://www.compass.dfw.state.or.us/ for the information you need to answer this question</p> <hr/> <p>Willamette Valley, late successional mixed conifer</p>
19	<p>what is the anticipated start date of your project?</p> <hr/> <p>Day/Month/Year</p> <hr/> <p>03-10-2023</p>
20	<p>what is the anticipated end date of your project?</p> <hr/> <p>01-06-2023</p>
21	<p>has a local, state or federal biologist reviewed this project?</p> <hr/> <p>yes</p>
21.Y.1	<p>What is their name and contact info?</p> <hr/> <p>Martyne Reeseman, ODFW (Martyne.J.REESMAN@odfw.oregon.gov)</p>
22	<p>have you already or will you obtain necessary permits from all requisite agencies as applicable to proposed project?</p> <hr/> <p>yes</p>
23	<p>what will the funds you are requesting be used for?</p> <hr/> <p>this would be a good time to review, if you haven't already done so, our grantmaking guidelines at www.myowf.org/grants</p> <hr/> <p>Owl pellets, which are dissected by students during our Forest Field Day program to demonstrate the forest food web and the important role that owls play in the food web.</p>
24	<p>provide us a brief summary of your proposed project</p> <hr/> <p>Forests Today & Forever is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization located in Lane County with the mission of promoting forest stewardship through education. Our cornerstone program is Forest Field Days, a classroom curriculum for middle school students complemented by a day in the forest studying trees, soil, recreation, and wildlife. During a normal year, we reach about 2,000 middle school students. The curriculum includes a wildlife component where students explore concepts in wildlife ecology and management. During the field trip to the forest, students get to meet a wildlife professional and other trained volunteers to learn about wildlife. Students are guided on a hike to look for and observe signs of wildlife, and they learn about wildlife adaptations by touching pelts and examining replica skulls, scat, and tracks. A highlight is the hands-on experience of dissecting an owl pellet to learn about the forest food web and the importance of owls to that food web. This proposal is in support of our field-based wildlife education. Forests Today & Forever seeks funding for owl pellets for students to dissect. This activity is a student favorite, but a costly expense to our organization. The objective of this project is to provide an experiential learning opportunity for 2,000 students that engages and inspires interest in wildlife and helps them understand the forest ecosystem and the importance of each species to that ecosystem. By reaching an annual 2,000 students, along with numerous teachers and parent volunteers, our science-based field curriculum engages youth and inspires an appreciation for forest stewardship and wildlife conservation.</p>

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.



28 upload letters of support

letters of support are strongly encouraged. in particular a letter from a supervising biologist

1 Document Uploaded

29 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

Beth Krisko

Application ID: **A55KB109**



Project Title: Owl Pellet Dissection for Middle School Students

Scope & Objective

Forests Today & Forever (FTF) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization located in Lane County with the mission of promoting forest stewardship through education. Our cornerstone program is Forest Field Days, a classroom curriculum for middle school students complemented by a field day to a working forest where they study forest resources, like timber, soil, water, recreation, and wildlife. During a normal year, we reach about 2,000 middle school students. The curriculum includes a wildlife component where students explore concepts in wildlife ecology. During the field trip, students get to meet a wildlife professional and other trained volunteers to learn about wildlife. Students are guided on a hike to look for and observe signs of wildlife, and they learn about wildlife adaptations by touching pelts and examining replica skulls, scat, and tracks. A highlight is the hands-on experience of dissecting an owl pellet to learn about the forest food web and the importance of all species, including the Northern Spotted Owl, to the forest ecosystem. This proposal requests \$1,000 from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation to purchase owl pellets with the objective of giving 2,000 middle schools students during the 2023-2024 school year a memorable and hands-on experience that builds understanding of the forest food web and an appreciation for the contributions of all species, including the Northern Spotted Owl.

Expected Outcomes

1. Students will gain an appreciation for forest wildlife and the roles they play in the forest food web.
2. Students will understand the need for wildlife protection in forestry practices.
3. Students will become familiar with the Northern Spotted Owl and its role in the forest ecosystem.

These outcomes are difficult to measure quantitatively since our contact time with students is short. However, student thank you notes written to FTF and to our volunteers show their excitement over the wildlife portion of the curriculum, especially dissecting owl pellets. Teacher testimony also demonstrates that the wildlife portion of our field day is impactful, and that the owl pellet dissection activity is especially well-loved by students. For the upcoming school year, we will continue to seek teacher feedback and will also be deliberate about checking for student understanding formatively during our programs.

Project Implementation

Each year, FTF serves 19-23 middle schools from nine-12 school districts, primarily from Lane County, through the Forest Field Day program. This three-six week program includes a classroom curriculum and a field trip (i.e., field day) to a working tree farm in Lane County. Teachers are delivered curriculum materials to their classrooms that they use for pre/ post-teaching. Then, the Educator from Forest Today & Forever visits the classroom prior to the scheduled field day to review the five curriculum areas, of which “wildlife” is included. During the field day, small groups of students rotate through stations to learn about forest resources. One of those stations is “wildlife”. Here, students meet with a wildlife professional for 45-50 minutes to participate in various activities including owl pellet dissection. During this activity, students learn about the forest food web and the importance of all species to the food web, including the Northern Spotted Owl.

Timeline

Owl pellets are dissected during spring and fall Forest Field Days field programs, which run September- October and April-May. For the 2023-2024 school year, we expect participation from twenty schools, representing eleven local school districts. Owl pellets will be purchased in advance of the programs in the late summer and late winter.

Funding Need

Outdoor and forestry education provides an alternative to traditional schooling where students are engaged through multiple intelligences, thereby, encouraging increased cognitive assimilation of concepts and experiences. Maximizing the experiential nature and hands-on opportunities in outdoor programs is of utmost importance. With funding for activities like the owl pellet dissection, we create meaningful experiences where the learning has lasting impact. Forests Today & Forever is committed to teaching about protecting wildlife and we see the owl pellet dissection activity as the best way to teach concepts about the forest food web. Forest Today & Forever can provide half the cost of the owl pellets for the 2023-2024 school year (\$1,000) through unrestricted funds. Our request to the Oregon Wildlife Foundation is to fund the other half (\$1,000).

Budget

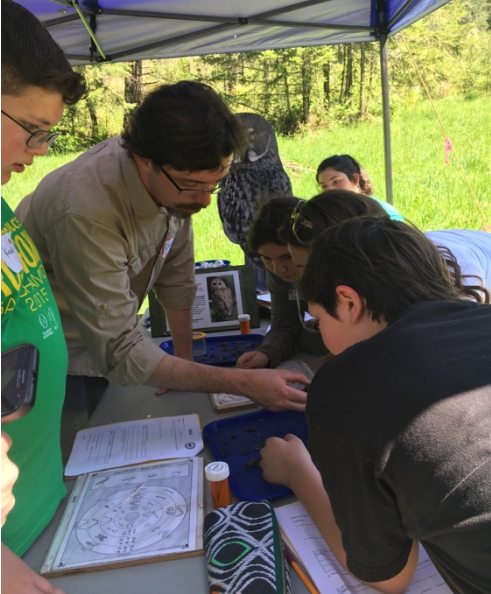
Income:

Source	Secure/ Pending	Amount	Total Price
FTF	Secure	\$1,000	\$2000.00
OR Wildlife Fnd.	Pending	\$1,000	\$2000.00
		TOTAL	\$2000.00

Expenses:

Item Description	Price/ unit	Quantity	Total Price
Owl Pellet	\$3.45	580	\$2000.00
		TOTAL	\$2000.00

Please accept these thank you notes from the students (pgs.2-3) we serve in outdoor and forestry education as support for this project. Here are a few pictures of students from previous years enjoying the owl pellet dissection activity.



Thank for showing us about the owl food chain and the owl pellets. It was really fun to open up the pellets and see what bones we have found inside of it. I guess I was lucky to have found a spine in mine. It was really cool to put it together like an undead skeleton of an animal. Thank you for teaching us, and giving me an extra skull to complete my skeleton.

Dear Volunteers:

Thankyou forest field day volunteers,
thanks for helping us students learn more
about the forest and what the law
requiers land owners to do to take good
care of their property.




HOO +!!!

OWL PELLETS

Owl pellets are masses of bone, teeth, hair, feathers and exoskeletons. Pellets are produced and regurgitated not only by owls, but by hawks, eagles and other raptors that swallow their prey whole or in small pieces. Owls feed early in the evening and regurgitate a single pellet approximately 4-6 hours after eating. Unlike snakes, the digestive enzymes and strong acids which occur in the stomach of raptors do not digest the prey. The relatively weak stomach acids of the bird form the undigested fur, feathers, etc. into wet slimy pellets. In most of the fragile bones are unbroken.

Owl pellets are ecosystems. They shelter fern communities with roots, beetles and fungi.



Gideon
Character: Alex
Group: b



Thank for showing us about the owl food chain and the owl pellets. It was really fun to open up the pellets and see what bones we have found inside of it. I guess I was lucky to have found a spine in mine. It was really cool to put it together like an undead skeleton of an animal. Thank you for teaching us, and giving me an extra skull to complete my skeleton.

