

Grant Application



Keely McIntyre

Email : kmcintyre@columbialandtrust.org

Application ID : A58MK127

Custom Ref. -

Application Start Date: 2023-07-24 20:22:14

Application Completed Date: 2023-08-12 02:07:42

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

yes

1.Y.1 What was the name of the project?

ECOP: East Cascades Oak Habitat - Monitoring Implementation

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

no

3 Title of your proposed project

Rainbow Oak and Prairie Restoration Phase 1

4 Name of your organization

Columbia Land Trust

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

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

n/a

6 Your name or the name of the Project Manager

Emily Matson

7 organization mailing address

Please enter full address with city, state & zip

850 Officers Row, Vancouver, WA 98661

8	your phone number or that of the Project Manager
	360-461-5189
9	your email address or that of the Project Manager
	ematson@columbialandtrust.org
10	a brief biographical statement about yourself or that of the Project Manager
	A plant ecologist by training who believes in collaborative partnerships to care for land, Natural Area Manager Emily Matson brings more than 12 years of experience in natural resources management in the Pacific Northwest, Midwest, and Latin America. She holds a Master of Science degree in conservation biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During her 8 years with Columbia Land Trust, Emily has focused on land stewardship of conservation lands in the northern Willamette Valley, greater Portland Metro area, and western slopes of the Cascades. In her current role, she is responsible for planning and implementing habitat restoration projects, developing management plans, ecological monitoring, and other land stewardship activities in forests, woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands.
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
	• Facebook: http://facebook.com/ColumbiaLT • Instagram: http://instagram.com/columbialandtrust/ • Twitter: http://twitter.com/@ColumbiaNature • LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/columbia-land-trust/
12	are you are currently following Oregon Wildlife Foundation on its social media channels?
	- Instagram - Facebook - LinkedIn - Twitter - YouTube
13	what is the total estimated cost of your project?
	125000
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.
	10000
15	what type of project are your proposing?
	wildlife habitat restoration or improvement
16	will your project address an Oregon Conservation Strategy habitat or species?
	yes

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

Strategy habitats: Wetlands (wet prairie), Grasslands (oak savanna / upland prairie), Oak woodlands Strategy species (Willamette Valley ecoregion): acorn woodpecker, Western meadowlark, streaked horn lark, Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Western bluebird, Oregon vesper sparrow, chipping sparrow, white-breasted nuthatch, and Northwestern pond turtle.

17 what is the location of your proposed project?

There is no site address. The Rainbow property is located near Scholls, Oregon on SW Patricia Ave at the intersection with SW Rainbow Lane. <https://goo.gl/maps/e9prQLNzAcDmp1tu9>

18 what ecoregion and Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) is your proposed project located in?

See <https://www.compass.dfw.state.or.us/> for the information you need to answer this question

Ecoregion: Willamette Valley; COA: Tualatin River

19 what is the anticipated start date of your project?

Day/Month/Year

01-10-2023

20 what is the anticipated end date of your project?

31-10-2024

21 has a local, state or federal biologist reviewed this project?

yes

21.Y.1 What is their name and contact info?

George Kral, PhD, Forester; email: george@schollsvally.com

22 have you already or will you obtain necessary permits from all requisite agencies as applicable to proposed project?

yes

23 what will the funds you are requesting be used for?

this would be a good time to review, if you haven't already done so, our grantmaking guidelines at www.myowf.org/grants

Prairie restoration plant materials (bulbs and seed) and installation costs for initial planting.

24 provide us a brief summary of your proposed project

This project will begin the first phase of restoring a 50-acre, fallow agricultural field to Willamette Valley Wet Prairie and Oak Woodland habitat on Columbia Land Trust's Rainbow Natural Area. Located near Scholls, Oregon, the Rainbow property is entirely in the 100-year floodplain of the Tualatin River. Restoration of the field will complement Columbia Land Trust's ongoing habitat enhancement work on 18 acres of adjacent riparian forest, with the long-term goal of transitioning the entire 76-acre Rainbow Natural Area to priority and rare habitats, including wet prairie, oak woodland, riparian forest, and open water along the Tualatin River. We are seeking funding to support the first year of prairie plant establishment in the agricultural field, which includes: site preparation; planting bulbs for native species (camas, brodiaeas, and alliums); seeding a diverse mix of native prairie grasses, sedges, rushes, and forbs; and controlling weeds to allow native plants to establish. This year we began preparing the field for planting by discing the soil to control weeds and non-native grasses and to break up the thatch. Planting will be implemented in two phases: the first year we will broadcast 100,000 native bulbs (camas, brodiaea and allium species) and 100 pounds of camas seed across the field in the fall. Control of non-native weeds and grasses will continue that fall and the following spring-summer, taking precautions to avoid damaging the bulbs during their growing season. The second round of planting will take place the following fall, when we will seed a diverse mix of native forbs, grasses, sedges, and rushes to occupy the spaces among the bulbs. OWF funds would be used to help cover the purchase of plant materials (bulbs and seed). We estimate needing a total of \$55,000 to cover the cost of bulbs and seed in the first year of planting. Columbia Land Trust has also applied for a TREE grant from the Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District to implement the first year of project activities, including site preparation and planting work. OWF funds would be used as match for the TREE grant, which requires 25% match from the Land Trust. If we are successful with securing funds by late October to cover the costs of the initial planting (bulbs, seed, and contractor costs for installation), we are prepared to begin the project this fall. If we do not have funds in hand by the end of October, we will delay the first round of planting until fall of 2024.

25 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.



28 upload letters of support

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

2 Documents 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

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— Grant Application

Keely McIntyre

Application ID: **A58MK127**



Rainbow Oak and Prairie Restoration Phase 1
Proposal to Oregon Wildlife Foundation by Columbia Land Trust
August 14, 2023

Project Narrative

The Project

Columbia Land Trust is seeking funds to support the initial steps of prairie and oak restoration in a 50-acre farm field in the Tualatin River floodplain. The initial goal of the project is to begin establishing prairie vegetation by planting native bulbs, followed by control of competing non-native vegetation over the course of the growing season, and then seeding a diverse mix of forbs, sedges, rushes and grasses the following year. In future phases of the project, once native prairie vegetation has been established across the field, we will plant Oregon white oak and other trees and shrubs to restore oak woodland/savanna habitat in portions of the field, while the wetter areas will continue to be managed as wet prairie.

The Outcomes

This project is the first phase in restoring native oak and prairie habitat, including wetland habitat (wet prairie), on approximately 50 acres of fallow agricultural land in the 100-year floodplain of the Tualatin River. The project will convert a seasonally wet agricultural field to year-round native vegetation cover and will permanently end soil cultivation and the annual agricultural inputs needed to establish and sustain agricultural crops. Establishing native plant communities, including wetland vegetation, in the floodplain will promote soil health and decrease erosion risk, improve water quality in the Tualatin River, and increase groundwater recharge. Adjacent to the project area, Columbia Land Trust is working to enhance habitat on 18 acres of riparian forest, with the long-term goal of healthy, contiguous natural habitat across the entire 76-acre Rainbow Natural Area. The restoration of native vegetation and natural watershed processes across the site will benefit native fish, including salmon and steelhead, and other aquatic species at the project site and further downstream.

Most significantly, this project will create more than 50 acres of new terrestrial habitat, including wet prairie and oak woodland/savanna, which are identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy as increasingly rare and important in the Willamette Valley. Wet prairie is particularly rare, remaining in only 2% of its historic range in the Valley. The project also includes the release of large mature Oregon oak trees from encroaching conifer trees in the riparian forest along the Tualatin River, improving long-term health of the oaks and surrounding riparian forest and future oak woodland. Once restored, wet prairie and oak woodland/savanna habitats at the Rainbow site will benefit a wide variety of birds, mammals (including bats, deer, and elk), and other wildlife. These habitats support species that are threatened or declining in their range, including Western meadowlark, streaked horn lark, Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, American kestrel, Western bluebird, Western kingbird, Savanna sparrow, Oregon vesper sparrow, chipping sparrow, white breasted nuthatch, Lewis's woodpecker, and Western pond turtle. Rainbow Natural Area will provide an important stepping-stone to nearby habitat (including Metro's 190-acre Quamash Prairie site, directly across the river) for a variety of wildlife, including pollinators and migratory and resident birds.

The Plan

Since purchasing the Rainbow Natural Area property in 2015, Columbia Land Trust has leased the agricultural field to a local farmer for growing grain crops. Keeping the land in production has stabilized site conditions by controlling and preventing the spread of weeds. The field was fallowed this year and prepared for planting by discing the soil multiple times over the growing season to control weeds and non-native grasses, and to begin breaking down the thatch to create a favorable planting surface for native plants.

The first step in establishing native prairie vegetation will be planting native bulbs (camas, brodiaeas, and alliums), as well as camas seed, across the 50-acre field. Site preparation will continue over the following year, with careful timing of treatments to avoid impacts to the bulbs while they are actively growing in spring through early summer. The following fall, we will seed a diverse mix of native forbs, sedges, rushes, and grasses. Planting the camas, brodiaea, and allium species from bulbs one year in advance of seeding other forbs and grasses will allow these species to begin establishing without competition from other native plants that grow more quickly from seed. Our approach is to seed a wide variety of prairie and wetland species across the entire project area, allowing subtle differences in topography and seasonal hydrology to determine where each species will establish. Following the initial two rounds of planting, subsequent seeding efforts may be fine-tuned to establish robust, thriving native plant populations that can persist in each type of environmental condition across the site.

Timeline

Our proposed timeline assumes that we begin planting in late summer/ early fall of 2024, but if funding from OWF and the Tualatin SWCD is secured by October 2023, we will begin planting in fall of this year. OWF funding would support the purchase of locally sourced native plant materials (bulbs and seed) that are a critical element of this first year of the project.

Year 1

June–August: Site preparation (discing the field)

September/October: Plant bulbs (camas, brodiaeas, alliums) and seed (camas).

November: Broadcast herbicide application to control non-native weeds and grasses.

February: Broadcast herbicide application to control non-native weeds and grasses, prior to emergence of bulb species. May not be possible, depending on seasonal water levels.

July: Broadcast herbicide application to control non-native weeds and grasses. Spot spray with backpack or ATV sprayer in areas where native vegetation is mixed with weeds and in areas that are difficult to access with the tractor.

August/September: Seed a mix of native prairie grasses, sedges, rushes, and forbs.

Qualifications and Resources

This project will be led by Columbia Land Trust staff Emily Matson and Jennifer Zarnoch, who collectively have more than 25 years of experience working in land stewardship and habitat restoration in the northern Willamette Valley. Additionally, Columbia Land Trust has developed two important partnerships to support this project.

The first is with George Kral of Scholls Valley Nursery, a PhD botanist, forester, and native plant nursery specialist with decades of experience in habitat restoration (including prairie and oak habitats) and native plant propagation in the Tualatin River basin. Land Trust staff consulted with George to develop our customized approach to restoration and plant establishment at Rainbow Natural Area, and Scholls Valley Nursery will provide locally sourced plant materials for the project.

Second, we are partnering with Jay and Jayson Hoffman of Hoffman Family Farms, who have been farming the project area for the last several years (and for many years prior the Land Trust's ownership of the property) and bring decades of experience farming land in the Tualatin River basin. The Hoffmans have a wetland restoration project on their own property nearby (known as the Butler Mitigation Bank), which is a wonderful local example of diverse wet prairie restoration. For our project, Jay will provide expertise in site preparation, planting, seeding, and invasive species control, particularly with regards to farm equipment and methods. We also plan to hire the Hoffmans to implement some

elements of the site preparation, seeding, and maintenance work. Being able to utilize the Hoffmans' expertise, as well as being located so near their primary farming operations and equipment, will significantly cut implementation costs for the project. Finally, Jay will also provide seed harvested from his nearby restoration site for this project.

Locally sourced native plant materials for Willamette Valley prairie restoration are difficult to find, as is deep knowledge of farming and soils specific to the project site. George and Jay have been collaborators for the past many years on prairie restoration, working together to explore methods to reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and attempt to ensure that scalable restoration of this critical habitat is feasible. These partnerships will help ensure the success of our project.

Columbia Land Trust has envisioned the restoration potential of this property since our staff first set foot on the land. Despite decades of farming, remnant wildflowers persist in the wettest parts of the field, and beautiful spring wildflowers can be found in patches throughout the remnant riparian forest. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to finally begin the first steps toward restoring this important wildlife habitat and appreciate Oregon Wildlife Foundation's consideration for contributing to this project.

George L Kral, PhD
4188 NW Half Mile Lane
Forest Grove, OR 97116

Dear Grant Committee,

I have worked as a professional forester and trained biologist to restore and manage complex woodland and prairie habitats in the Tualatin Basin for over 20 years, and am now writing in support of Columbia Land Trust's proposal to restore these critical habitats at their Rainbow Natural Area along the Tualatin River. Restoration at Rainbow will add a key piece to one of the largest contiguous natural areas in the region. Further, this effort is an integral element of a much larger effort to restore thousands of acres of complex, functional grasslands and woodlands across the Tualatin Basin. This effort deserves broad support.

Within a scenic meander of the Tualatin River, the Rainbow project will restore 51 acres of fallow agricultural land to native habitats, including wet prairie and Oregon white oak savanna/woodland. In conjunction with ongoing habitat enhancement across 20 acres of riparian forest, the restoration of oak and prairie habitats will benefit many priority wildlife species including northern harrier, short-eared owl, western meadowlark, and western bluebird. The project includes restoration of wet prairie, a once-common habitat in the Willamette Valley, and has the potential to restore plants that are now rare or extirpated in the Tualatin basin including Willamette daisy, Bradshaw's desert parsley, and Nelson's checkermallow. The project will provide habitat for a variety of culturally important wildlife and plants utilized by local tribes.

The Rainbow Natural Area project builds upon existing habitat protection and restoration efforts in the Tualatin River watershed. The project is located directly across the Tualatin River from Metro's 237-acre Quamash Prairie. Restoration at the Rainbow site will provide "stepping-stone" habitat for migratory birds and other species in a watershed that is under increasing pressure of habitat conversion and development. Rainbow Natural Area is situated in the Tualatin River COA, identified as a priority in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and restoration at this site will restore priority habitats identified in the Plan.

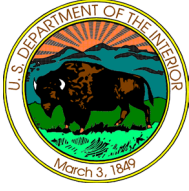
Columbia Land Trust is an established conservation partner in the northern Willamette Valley. They have demonstrated their capacity to carry out successful conservation and restoration efforts through past projects. I strongly urge you to support Columbia Land Trust's proposal to restore and enhance a rich and diverse mosaic of habitats in this key location. With your support, this and associated projects in the Tualatin Valley promise to build a natural resource of great significance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



George Kral PhD, Forester



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Willamette Valley NWR Complex

26208 Finley Refuge Road

Corvallis, Oregon 97333-9533

Phone (541) 757-7236



August 11, 2023

Re: proposed Rainbow Natural Area restoration project

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to document the support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex (WVNWRC) for the proposed Rainbow Natural Area restoration project in Washington County.

This project would restore 51 acres of fallow agricultural land in the Tualatin River floodplain to native habitat types including wet prairie and Oregon white oak savanna/woodland. In conjunction with ongoing habitat enhancement across 20 acres of existing riparian forest, the creation of the oak and prairie habitats would benefit many priority wildlife species including northern harrier, short-eared owl, western meadowlark, chipping sparrow, and slender-billed nuthatch. The project includes restoration of wet prairie, a particularly rare habitat in the Tualatin basin that has the potential to support multiple species of rare plants including Willamette Valley daisy and shaggy horkelia.

The Rainbow Natural Area project builds upon existing habitat protection and restoration efforts in the Tualatin River watershed. The project is located directly across the Tualatin River from Metro's 237 acre Quamash Prairie site that includes a diverse assemblage of restored wet prairie, riparian forest, oak savanna, and floodplain wetland habitats. Restoration of these habitats at the Rainbow site will provide stepping stone habitat for migratory birds and other species in a watershed that is under increasing pressure of habitat conversion and development. Rainbow Natural Area is situated in the Tualatin River Conservation Opportunity Area, identified as a priority in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Restoration of these habitats in this geography is consistent with this plan.

The WVNWRC (through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program) looks forward to working in partnership with the landowners and their conservation partners in the years ahead. If you have any questions, our staff contact for this project is Chris Seal who can be reached at 541-760-3317.

Sincerely,

Damien Miller
Project Leader





