

Grant Application



Ashley Gora Owens

Email : agoraowens@audubonportland.org

Application ID : A73GA154

Custom Ref. -

Application Start Date: 2024-01-18 23:55:37

Application Completed Date: 2024-02-06 18:43:18

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

yes

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

Explorer Packs for Environmental Education Initiatives

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

no

3 Title of your proposed project

Harney County Dark Skies Conservation Program

4 Name of your organization

Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Portland Audubon)

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

Ashley Gora Owens (Grant Manager), Teresa Wicks (Project Manager)

7 organization mailing address

Please enter full address with city, state & zip

5151 NW Cornell Rd., Portland, OR 97210

8 your phone number or that of the Project Manager

Ashley: (971) 222-6138, Teresa: (971) 222-6114

9 your email address or that of the Project Manager

Ashley: agoraowens@birdallianceoregon.org, Teresa: twicks@birdallianceoregon.org

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

Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Biologist, has been stationed in Harney County for over five years. Her work centers on avian conservation and monitoring, policy and collaboration work, and connecting people from Harney County and throughout Oregon to birds and Harney Basin conservation. The biological surveys she conducts are primarily associated with Malheur National Wildlife Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan, helping provide information about bird populations to aid Refuge management efforts. Her policy work centers on the Community-Based Water Planning Collaborative and the Harney Basin Wetland Collaborative. Her efforts to connect community members to conservation range from stewardship work days, to bird walks at the Refuge, to programs with the Burns Paiute Tribe's youth program. Teresa has a B.S. in Natural Resources and Wildlife Conservation, an M.S. in Environmental Education, and a PhD in Environmental Science from Oregon State University.

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: <https://www.facebook.com/BirdAllianceofOregon>, <https://www.facebook.com/RestoreMalheur>;
Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/BirdAllianceOR>; Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/birdallianceoforegon>;
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AudubonSocietyofPortland>; TikTok:
<https://www.tiktok.com/@birdallianceoforegon>

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

- Instagram
- Facebook
- Twitter

13 what is the total estimated cost of your project?

21823

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.

5000

15 what type of project are your proposing?

outdoor education

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

no

17 what is the location of your proposed project?

Educational activities will be held at various locations in Harney County, including Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the Harney County Library

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

Northern Basin and Range, Harney-Malheur Area

19 what is the anticipated start date of your project?

Day/Month/Year

02-04-2024

20 what is the anticipated end date of your project?

01-11-2024

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

yes

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

The project manager Teresa Wicks is a staff biologist: (971) 222-6114, twicks@birdallianceoregon.org

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

Funds will be used for food and nonalcoholic beverages during the educational series activities, printing of activity sheets, printing of flyers/mailers to communicate about the event, postage for the flyers/mailers, mileage for team members driving to/from workshop locations, and consultant expenses assisting with specific pilot project elements.

24 provide us a brief summary of your proposed project

Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Portland Audubon) will pilot a series of family-oriented learning experiences centered around community science, especially birds and dark skies, in Harney County for approximately 50 children and their families.

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.

1 Document Uploaded

26 fill out our budget form

Project Revenue	Cash	In-Kind	Committed / Pending
Oregon Wildlife Foundation Request	5000		Pending
Roundhouse Foundation	2500		Committed
Bird Alliance of Oregon (grantee) - individual donor gifts	10000		Committed
Burning Foundation	4323		Committed
REVENUE	21823.00	0.00	
		TOTAL PROJECT SUPPORT	21823.00
Project Expenses	Cash	In-Kind	Total
Meals/snacks	7500		7500.00
Materials & Printing	250		250.00
Lodging	300		300.00
Travel (mileage)	439		439.00
Space Rental	1500		1500.00
Flyers and Postage	1000		1000.00
Consultant: OMSI Planetarium	300		300.00
Staff: Harney County Library	1500		1500.00
Staff: Portland Audubon	8395		8395.00

Indirect Expense	639		639.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
		TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	21823.00
Balanced budget? This cell should read "0" ---->		NET	0.00

27 upload a narrative of your proposed project

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

1 Document Uploaded

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

— Grant Application

Ashley Gora Owens

Application ID: **A73GA154**

Please note that this project does not have any "before" photos due to its nature as an environmental engagement pilot program. We can provide photos of other community engagement with youth and adults in Harney County during other events upon request.

HARNEY COUNTY LIBRARY
80 West "D" Street
Burns, OR 97720
541-573-6670

Oregon Wildlife Foundation
Attn: Tim Greseth
2337 NW York St. #201C
Portland, OR 97210

November 3, 2023

Dear Mr. Greseth,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the grant proposal being submitted to the Oregon Wildlife Foundation by Dr. Teresa Wicks, the Eastern Oregon Biologist for Portland Audubon.

For several years, the Harney County Library has collaborated in various ways with Dr. Wicks to plan, organize and hold educational events at the Harney County Public Library that promote curiosity and learning about our stunning natural environment. As the children's librarian, I have particularly worked with Dr. Wicks around children and youth programming, such as Bird Scouts and CBC4Kids (Christmas Bird Count for Kids,) but in the past year we have expanded our collaboration to adult and family programs, such as creating a library-based Great Backyard's Bird Count (GBBC) team, and the library hosting an author's ornithology book presentation as part of the Harney County Migratory Bird Festival. We have had very good attendance to all these programs. Dr. Wicks also partnered with me on developing the natural-history-themed StoryWalk® in the library's pollinator garden.

As one of very few educational institutions in our rural county that promote learning and science, and as a central venue for hosting science-based events, the Harney County Library's partnership with Portland Audubon has allowed us to become the focus location within the community for science programming, to develop high quality educational programs, and to widely promote our collaborative events through our own outreach to our library patrons, school-aged children and youth and their families, and the community at large, while Dr. Wicks can reach out to the birding and natural sciences community.

I really appreciate the library's collaboration with Dr. Teresa Wicks of Portland Audubon, and I look forward to continue sharing our passion for natural history with our community's children and youth, and their families, in the future.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Fleuraud
Youth Services Coordinator
Harney County Library
Burns, OR



Harney County Dark Skies Series

February 2024

About Bird Alliance of Oregon

Bird Alliance of Oregon's (formerly Portland Audubon) passionate and growing community has loved and advocated for Oregon's wildlife and wild places for over 120 years. Throughout these many years, we have remained ever-determined in our mission to inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends. Our grassroots supporter base of over 12,000 members, hundreds of active volunteers, and a specialized staff uphold our mission through a broad range of programs. We envision a region where birds, other wildlife, and people flourish together, and we work year-round throughout Oregon to advance that vision through several programs:

1. Statewide Conservation: Advocating for critical wildlife habitat throughout Oregon and monitoring bird populations to inform resource management and policy decisions.
2. Urban Conservation: Maintaining the Portland-Vancouver region as one of the greenest metropolitan areas in North America through advocacy and local collaborative programs.
3. Education: Engaging 3,500+ children and 4,000+ adults annually to foster a stronger connection to nature through camps, classes, field trips, and ecotours.
4. Wildlife Rehabilitation: Promoting coexistence with urban wildlife and giving orphaned and injured native species a second chance at life in the wild.
5. Wildlife Sanctuaries: Protecting and stewarding 599 acres of habitat for Oregon's native species and for community education and recreation.

Need Statement

Dark skies are critical for ecosystem health, including bird populations. More than 80% of migratory birds make their journeys at night to avoid diurnal predators and take advantage of cooler temperatures, a less turbulent atmosphere, and preservation of daylight hours for refueling. Because they use the light of the moon and stars to navigate, artificial light in the night sky can pull birds off course and into lit areas where they can become entrapped, collide with buildings, and in some cases even inadvertently call other birds into hazardously lit areas.

Southeastern Oregon has long been recognized as having some of the darkest skies, attracting astronomy and photography enthusiasts from throughout the state and beyond. It is also home to some of the best birding areas. The Harney Basin specifically is a continentally-important biological hotspot and Important Bird Area for waterfowl and shorebirds, including sensitive Oregon Conservation Strategy Species (OCSS) such as Black-necked Stilt, Greater Sandhill Crane, Franklin's Gull, and Trumpeter Swan. The Harney Basin also boasts various upland OCSS, including Bobolink, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher (all long distance migrants).

Beyond their intrinsic and ecological values, birds and dark skies alike are key ecotourism drivers in Harney County. Yet while tourists may flock to Harney County to take in all that nature has to offer here, opportunities to experience this kind of ecotourism are not always accessible to local children and families. As Sir David Attenborough once said, “no one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.” Because previous efforts by groups in the Oregon Outback Dark Sky Network to create a designated regional Dark Sky Sanctuary were opposed by the Harney County Court, the best path forward to help preserve nighttime darkness for birds and people alike is through programmatic experiences that inspire youth and families to care.

The Harney County Dark Skies pilot program proposed by Bird Alliance of Oregon creates family-focused experiences that foster a greater appreciation for the nighttime nature that surrounds them, unfiltered by artificial light. With that appreciation comes a desire to continue finding ways to enjoy nature, steward the natural resources that make Harney County special, and raise community voices when these resources are threatened. Beyond this, the series helps community members of different backgrounds connect through the common thread that we are all a part of an ecosystem that our decisions influence.

Project Description

Bird Alliance of Oregon is piloting a formal Dark Skies program in Harney County between April-October 2024. The program consists of a four-part workshop series that offers Harney County families the opportunity to enrich their personal connection to two of the main drivers of ecotourism in the region: multitudes of birds and stars. Through family-centered educational presentations and hands-on learning activities, the Dark Skies experiences aim to spark wonder and enthusiasm in children and adults alike about Harney County's natural resources. Themes include the importance of dark skies for wildlife as well as for human health and culture, the growth of light pollution from nearby cities, and astronomy and astrotourism. Bird Alliance of Oregon will be partnering with the Harney County Library and the Oregon Observatory to implement this program.

Community Served: This community engagement effort is intended to serve a mix of adults and youth from Harney County. Harney County is 86.4% White, 4.4% American Indian, under 10% Latino/a/x, and 1% African American. Our non-overnight outreach projects typically serve about 29% American Indian, 1% African American, and around 70% White participants. In Harney County, about 50% of the population is between the ages of 18-65, and about 16% is school-aged. Additionally, there are 19 Resource Homes housing over 25 youth in foster care. Approximately 19% of the population lives in poverty, including nearly 30% of youth under age 18. We will be making concerted efforts to try to engage the Burns Paiute Tribe in these workshops, both as participants and as leaders.

Through the Dark Skies series, in 2024 we aim to engage approximately 40 individuals from Harney County, at least 5 of whom will come from racially/ethnically and socioeconomically diverse groups. Outreach will be via printed flyers, email newsletters mentions, print newsletter mentions, word of mouth, and partners' communications to community members. Promoting this series through Bird Alliance of Oregon's email list and newsletter list means that it is possible that the programs will attract people from outside Harney County. Because of this, we estimate that 5-10 non-residents will attend, equaling 50 total participants.

Timeline (all titles subject to change):

January-October: Ongoing workshop planning, community outreach and workshop communication

April: Our Magnificent Night Sky (community and school visits with the OMSI Planetarium)

May: Nature and Light Pollution (issues presentation by a Lights Out staff advocate)

July: Stars and Sundaes (telescope-focused event on a Sunday)

October: Malheur After Dark (guided night walk through Malheur National Wildlife Refuge)

November: Evaluate program success and sustainability

Goals: Bird Alliance of Oregon's goals for this pilot program are:

1. Foster a deeper appreciation for and understanding of Harney County's natural resources, especially birds and dark skies.
2. Help kids and their families identify ways they can take next steps for engaging with nature, whether through recreation, community science, or advocacy.
3. Increase community familiarity with and trust in Bird Alliance of Oregon as an organization that works to benefit communities and nature, including those in Harney County.

Measures of Success: Bird Alliance of Oregon will track each Dark Skies workshop's attendance by both adults and youth. Post-workshop surveys with an optional demographic section will be kept brief (about one half-page) to encourage participants to provide feedback. Bird Alliance of Oregon will also record any anecdotes about participants' experiences that can help identify whether the above goals are being effectively targeted through the program.

Budget and Sustainability Plan

The total project budget is \$21,823, of which \$6,823 has already been awarded by other foundations and \$10,000 is being committed by Bird Alliance of Oregon. Your \$5,000 grant will support the following expenses: food and nonalcoholic beverages during the educational series activities (\$3,500), printing of activity sheets (\$250), printing of flyers/mailers and postage to communicate about the event (\$700), mileage for team members driving to/from workshop locations (\$250), and consultant expenses assisting with specific Dark Skies pilot project elements (\$300).

Recognition Plan

Bird Alliance of Oregon acknowledges foundation, public agency, and business support through named recognition in our annual report. Bird Alliance of Oregon is open to a conversation about other ways Oregon Wildlife Foundation might like to be recognized.

Bird Alliance of Oregon welcomes Oregon Wildlife Foundation to crosspost or create original announcements about partnership on this project. Please note that this project does not have any "before" photos due to its nature as an environmental engagement pilot program. We can provide photos of other community engagement with youth and adults in Harney County during other events upon request.