

Grant Application



Monty Gregg

Email : monty.gregg@usda.gov

Application ID : A64GM136

Custom Ref. -

Application Start Date: 2023-09-29 16:25:53

Application Completed Date: 2023-09-29 22:01:37

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

yes

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

Bat Maternity Roost Boxes

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

no

3 Title of your proposed project

Indian Ford/Ryan Ranch Avian Monitoring Project

4 Name of your organization

U.S. Forest Service

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

If do o apply o yo , w N/A

N/A

6 Your name or the name of the Project Manager

Monty Gregg

7 organization mailing address

Please enter full address with city, state & zip

3160 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR 97754

8 your phone number or that of the Project Manager

541-416-6508

9 your email address or that of the Project Manager

monty.gregg@usda.gov

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

I am the Forest Wildlife Biologist on the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland. I have been in my position for 5 years. Prior to that I worked as the District Biologist on the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest for 17 years. I currently have a variety of ongoing habitat restoration projects with the Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

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://twitter.com/ochocoNatForest/> <https://www.facebook.com/OchocoNatForestCrookedRiverNatGrassland/>

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

- Instagram
- Facebook
- YouTube

13 what is the total estimated cost of your project?

8000

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.

5000

15 what type of project are you 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?

Aspen Woodlands, Flowing Water Riparian Habitat

17 what is the location of your proposed project?

Sisters, OR, USA

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

East Cascades Eco Region

19 what is the anticipated start date of your project?

Day/Month/Year

04-12-2023

20 what is the anticipated end date of your project?

25-12-2026

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

yes

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

Lauri Turner: Laura.Turner@usda.gov , Jamie Bowles: Jamie.L.BOWLES@odfw.oregon.gov

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

yes

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

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

This is a 10-year project to Monitor Avian Populations and Survivorship, based restoration activities associated with Aspen Woodland and Riparian Habitat. Seven years of monitoring has occurred at the restoration site, the funding will be used to process the monitoring data.

24 provide us a brief summary of your proposed project

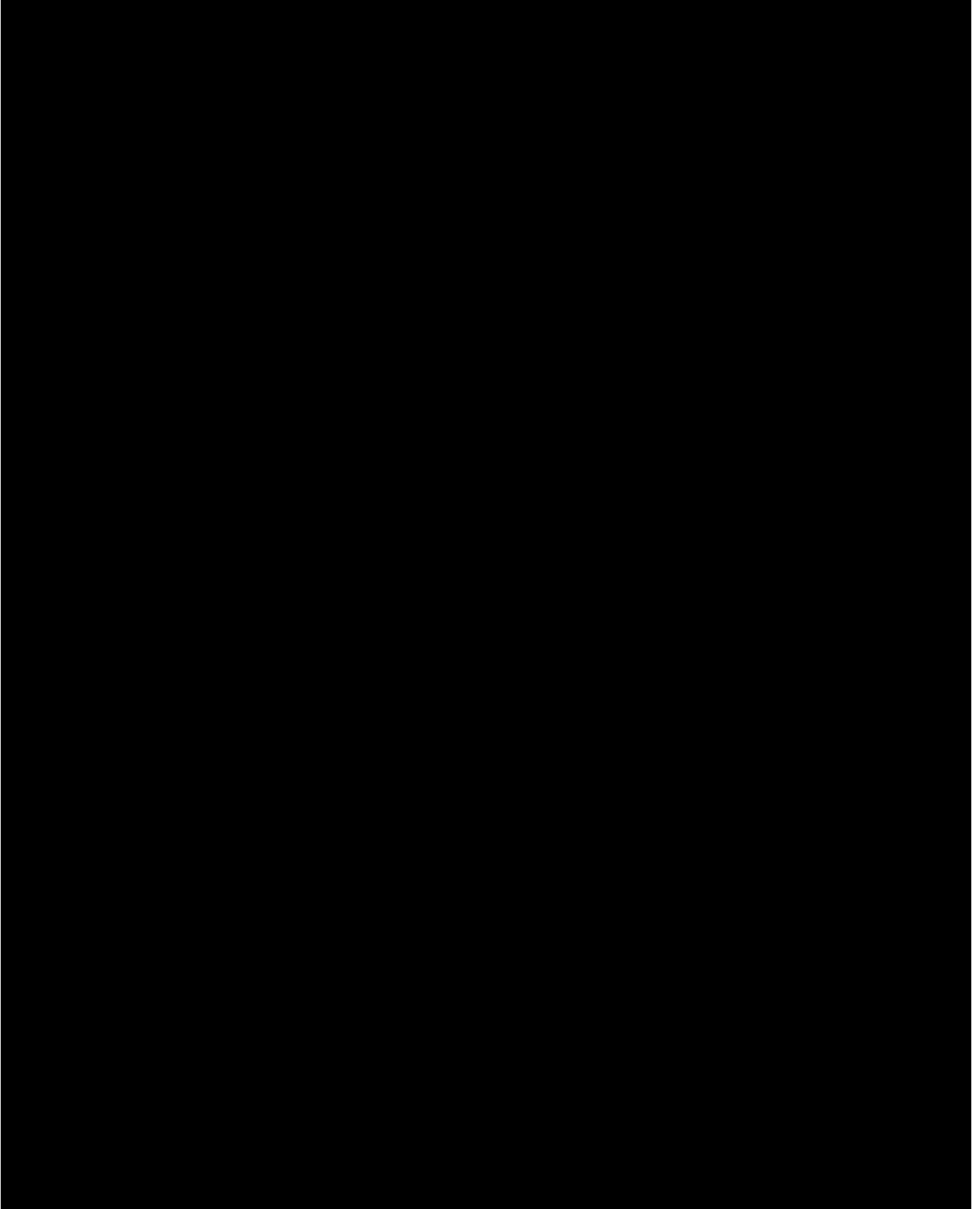
Although aspen makes up less than 1% of total acres in Oregon's eastside forests, it supports very high avian landbird richness and abundance, second only to classic riparian habitat such as willow and cottonwood gallery forests. Aspen habitat has decreased significantly throughout dry forest systems in the Interior West and its restoration is a priority for state and federal agencies and conservation groups. The monitoring program was designed to evaluate the effects of restoration treatments on priority landbird species and the avian community generally. The monitoring regime includes one constant-effort mist-netting/banding station (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) positioned within riparian habitats. All restoration efforts have been completed, and monitoring was conducted over 2 years prior, 2 years during, and 3 years post treatment. This project is ongoing for the next 3 years to complete a full 10 years of monitoring. This is an extremely important phase of the project now that the area has recovered from restoration treatments. Oregon State University is interested in developing a graduate study program from the project and publishing the outcome of the restoration and the importance to landbirds.

25 upload pre project picture 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 World of Dance Foundation's work. If you have questions about photo or video submissions please refer to myowf.org/grants for guidance.

<http://vimeo.com/244673429>

26 fill out our budget form



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

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— Grant Application

Monty Gregg

Application ID: **A64GM136**

Indian Ford/Ryan Ranch Avian Monitoring Project

Background

With the increasing attention on climate change, catastrophic fire events, and insect damage, forest managers are shifting emphases from single species management to a more holistic strategy targeting forest resiliency. In order to restore ecological resiliency to significant areas of the Deschutes National Forest, many stakeholders agree on the need to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration. This momentum has sparked concerns within the conservation community that aggressive forest treatments may produce negative outcomes for various wildlife communities, and thus underscores the importance of monitoring programs.

The Indian Ford and Ryan Ranch Avian Monitoring Project offers a rare opportunity to document the avian population response to a promising restoration plan with a rigorous study design. Furthermore, the avian community and forest type at Indian Ford are ecologically equivalent to the ponderosa pine, dry mixed conifer, riparian and aspen forest types found throughout inland northwest. Therefore, the monitoring results here will provide an essential resource for collaborative groups as they plan and negotiate future restoration throughout the region.

Although aspen makes up less than 1% of total acres in Oregon's eastside forests, it supports very high avian landbird richness and abundance, second only to classic riparian habitat such as willow and cottonwood gallery forests. Aspen habitat has decreased significantly throughout dry forest systems in the Interior West and its restoration is a priority for state and federal agencies and conservation groups.

The USFS Deschutes National Forest's Indian Ford Restoration Project seeks to restore historical aspen and riparian habitats through aggressive conifer thinning and burn treatments. Indian Ford Creek is currently one of the most significant willow-riparian habitat areas on the Forest, supporting high species avian richness and abundance – including both breeding riparian obligate landbird species and numerous migrant species.

The Ryan Ranch site was used as the control site, and data was collected there during the same years. Since no treatments were proposed at the site and similar habitats existed, it allowed data to be collected and compared to the Indian Ford site with active management and restoration occurring.

Project Summary

This project began in 2015 with the support from USFS and Staff, Portland General Electric Wildlife Biologist Staff, East Cascades Audubon Society, Oregon Wildlife Foundation and Northwest Avian Resources. Northwest Avian Resources operated an avian monitoring program at the Indian Ford Creek restoration area. The monitoring program was designed to evaluate the effects of restoration treatments on priority landbird species and the avian community generally. The monitoring regime includes one constant-effort mist-netting/banding station (Monitoring Avian Productivity and

Survivorship) positioned within riparian habitats (One avian point count transect was established in 2016 to supplement capture data).

During the late 1980's and early 1990's avian researchers began analyzing large avian databases derived from sight/sound detection survey methods. Flaws in their design and implementation were discovered that compromised the ability to generate statistically confident population trend assessments. Thus, a rigorous, standardized protocol was needed to capture long-term demographic data (vital rates) on multiple spatial scales. Specifically, productivity and survivorship indices were needed to identify the causal relationship between changes in priority habitats and landbird population trends. The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program is a continent-wide collaborative effort among public agencies, non-governmental groups, and individuals to assist the conservation of birds and their habitats through demographic monitoring. The analyses of MAPS data provide one of the best tools to model and predict the effects of habitat change on landbird communities (DeSante et al. 2009). Moreover, this method provides empirical evidence to inform the selection of appropriate forest indicator/surrogate species, based on their population response to habitat change.

The goals Indian Ford MAPS station are to:

1. Evaluate the effect of planned habitat restoration on focal landbird populations
2. Fulfill monitoring objectives in relation to planned forest restoration
3. Assess riparian-obligate landbird population trends in Central Oregon
4. Contribute avian trend data to regional, national and continental datasets

Pre-treatment data was collected in 2015 and 2016. Conifer removal occurred in the winter of 2016, and post thinning data was collected 2016 and 2017. Prescribed burning occurred Fall of 2018 and data was collected 2019 - 2021.

1) Description of Data and Collection Methods

The Indian Ford and Ryan Ranch (control) MAPS stations are comprised of ten, 12-meter mist nets placed opportunistically within target habitat. Nets are clustered within a roughly 20-hectare area, and placement of nets are also dependent upon the logistical restraints of checking ten nets in a timely fashion - prioritizing bird welfare. One established, net location remains stationary for the duration of the station unless flooding or other acts of nature require moving some net locations. The MAPS station is visited once every ten days throughout the breeding season; after the predominant breeding bird species have arrived, and before fall migration begins. Within the Central Oregon region this will be approximately late May (or first week in June) to early August.

On the day of operation, MAPS stations are opened at local sunrise PST, and closed 6 hours later. Each net is visited at regular intervals (every 30 minutes when feasible and nets are closed proactively due to inclement weather, heat and/or direct sun exposure), birds are extracted, placed in cloth bags then processed at the banding station located in a central space. Each bird is identified to species and banded. The bander also determines age, wing chord, fat content, feather wear, weight, - among other morphometric measurements. Lastly, sex is determined, breeding condition, and more detailed age estimates when possible. Birds are subsequently released. All efforts are made to reduce the time each bird is held captive.

All data is entered into a computer in the field, and subsequently back-up files are delivered to USFS weekly.

2) Sample Size

In order to achieve statistically confident estimates of a population's vital rates, it is important to capture large sample sizes of each species in question, on an annual basis. MAPS stations situated in locales with low avian abundance may generate statistically significant samples for only a few common species over the course of a multi-year effort. Thus, in selecting MAPS sites, it is important to look for sites with adequate avian abundance and select net lane locations accordingly - within the sampling area.

The capture data from Indian Ford in 2015, demonstrates the site supports very high relative abundance with over 100 captures per banding day (most stations produce less than 50/day), and with over 700 bird records in the 2015 season alone. This volume suggests the site will produce confident trend estimates for numerous neotropical migrant landbird species, including, but not limited to warbler, wren, thrush, flycatcher, sparrow, and woodpecker taxa.

This is a 10-year monitoring project and based on the recovery success of the vegetation, it is important to document species richness and abundance at the Indian Ford project site over the next 3 years, with the goal of incorporating the Oregon Conservation and Recreation program. OCR-Funds will be utilized to develop a graduate project through Oregon State University that will assist with analysis and publishing the data.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

1220 SW Third Avenue (97204)
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
503-808-2468

Date: September 18, 2023

Subject: Indian Ford Bird Banding Evaluation Small Grant Proposal

I support the continuation and evaluation of the monitoring and data collection to document how restoration treatments are impacting avian communities within the Indian Ford Restoration project and more broadly, important habitat types like aspen. Findings from projects like this help guide future restoration projects by identifying what treatments have the greatest restoration value and how treatments within biodiversity hotspots can bolster declining populations. With quickly changing environmental conditions due to climate change and the increase in pace and scale of landscape treatments to reduce fire risk, this information is needed more than ever to ensure we are moving habitat restoration in the right direction and to keep sensitive species from being listed. I ask that you give high consideration to funding the Indian Ford Restoration Project.

/S/LAURI TURNER
Interagency Special Status and Sensitive Species Specialist



**Fisheries, Wildlife and
Conservation Sciences**

Oregon State University
104 Nash Hall
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

P 541-410-0238
christian.hagen@oregonstate.edu

Oregon Wildlife Foundation
2337 NW York St #201C
Portland, OR 97210

To whom it may concern:

30 October 2023

I am providing my support and intention to collaborate on the proposed project, "Indian Ford-Ryan Ranch Avian Monitoring Project" submitted by Monty Gregg, US Forest Service.

The core of this work focuses on forest management practices aimed to restore aspen stands in the Deschutes and Crooked River watersheds. This is a once in career opportunity to evaluate forest restoration practices in a before-after-control-impact (i.e., BACI) study design. In the world of natural resource management monitoring and science a BACI is the golden standard, because controlled experiments are nearly impossible to conduct.

This project is an ideal opportunity to use the strength of a BACI to measure the success of aspen restoration in the context of avian community abundance and composition. In short, Indian Ford is the treatment (impact) and Ryan Ranch is the control (reference) site. Bird banding data has been collected pre and post treatment at both sites and promises to yield insightful data on how avian assemblages have changed (in the case of Indian Ford) or not (in the case of Ryan Ranch) if the management practices have been successful.

I have assisted Monty's team in the past with banding and discussions on study design and if funded we will seek additional funds to bring a student to OSU to complete the analyses and write up in the coming years.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian A. Hagen".

Christian A. Hagen, Ph.D.
Senior Research Faculty

<https://vimeo.com/244673429>