

PROJECT NOTES

August 31, 2023

Project 23-13 - Palensky Highway 30 - Wildlife Underpass

The Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force is asking for a total of \$50,000 for this project. The Highway 30 Wildlife Underpass project addresses the urgent need for safe wildlife passage between the floodplain wetlands along Multnomah Channel and the upland forests of the Tualatin Mountains in Oregon. Amphibians like the northern red-legged frog and Pacific treefrog migrate twice a year between these habitats, but the four-lane U.S. Highway 30 poses a significant obstacle, resulting in high mortality rates due to vehicle collisions. The project involves collaboration between CREST, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). A 130-foot long underground tunnel with natural substrate and light openings, accompanied by 600 linear feet of directional walls, will guide amphibians and small mammals safely across the highway. This initiative aligns with the Oregon Conservation Strategy's goals to enhance wildlife connectivity, prevent declines of at-risk species, and provide safe passage corridors. Through effective monitoring and data collection, the project aims to mitigate amphibian mortality caused by road crossings and promote the health of local species.

-Matching Funds? Yes

-Can be funded from W4W

-OCS Species? Yes, Northern Red-Legged Frog

-Letters of support from: Metro, USFWS, ODFW, OWEB

Project 23-14 - Owl Pellet Dissection for Middle School Students

Forests Today & Forever (FTF), a non-profit organization in Lane County is asking for \$1000 for The "Owl Pellet Dissection for Middle School Students." FTF aims to promote forest stewardship through education, with their central program being Forest Field Days. This initiative involves a classroom curriculum and a field day to a working forest, allowing middle school students to explore forest resources and wildlife. The curriculum includes a wildlife component where students learn about wildlife ecology. During the field day, students meet wildlife professionals, engage in activities like wildlife observation and adaptational studies, and importantly, dissect owl pellets to understand the forest food web and the significance of various species, including the Northern Spotted Owl. The project seeks \$1,000 from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation to purchase owl pellets, providing 2,000 middle school students with a hands-on experience that fosters appreciation for forest wildlife, underscores the need for wildlife protection in forestry, and introduces them to the Northern Spotted Owl's role in the forest ecosystem.

-Matching funds? Yes, from the organization itself

-This would be funded from Unrestricted monies

-OCS Species? Yes, Northern Spotted Owl

-Letters of support from: Past Participants

Project 23-15 - Bonney Butte HawkWatch Platform Rebuild

HawkWatch International is asking for \$5,000 for the Bonney Butte Platform Rebuild. The project's primary goal is to rebuild a platform for a wall tent used by a crew during their field season, providing them with a safe and hospitable space. This initiative is part of Bonney Butte HawkWatch's efforts to monitor raptor populations and understand their status as ecological indicators. The project involves standardized counts, banding operations, and educational programs aimed at increasing awareness and promoting public stewardship of raptors and their habitats. Funding from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation will support the construction of a new platform for the crew's wall tent, enhancing their safety, comfort, and capacity to conduct research and education. The project's importance lies in its contribution to recognizing ecosystem trends and formulating conservation recommendations. The impact extends to public awareness, data availability, and mentorship opportunities for young scientists. HawkWatch International will acknowledge the foundation's support through various channels, including their website, social media, and on-site visits.

-Matching funds? Yes, all pending except for in kind volunteer work

-This would be funded from Unrestricted monies

-OCS Species? Yes, Peregrine Falcon, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Goshawk

-Letters of support from: USDA

Project 23-16 - Rainbow Oak and Prairie Restoration Phase 1

Columbia Land Trust is seeking \$10,000 to initiate prairie and oak restoration on a 50-acre farm field in the Tualatin River floodplain. The project aims to establish prairie vegetation by planting native bulbs, controlling non-native vegetation, and seeding a mix of forbs, sedges, rushes, and grasses over the following year. The long-term goal is to restore native oak woodland/savanna habitat and wet prairie in different areas of the field. The project will benefit soil health, water quality, and aquatic species in the Tualatin River while creating critical habitats for threatened species. Partnerships with experts and local nurseries ensure the success of the restoration. The success of the project relies on the support of the Oregon Wildlife Foundation to purchase essential plant materials and materials needed for implementation.

-Matching funds? Yes, from the organization itself

-Can potentially be funded by Willamette Habitat Restoration

-OCS species? Yes, multiple birds

-Letters of support from: USFWS, PhD

Project 23-17 - Safeguarding Coastal Ecosystems

Oregon State University is asking for \$86,421 for this project. The proposal aims to address the challenges posed by seafood processing water discharge in Oregon's coastal communities, driven by the transformation of the seafood processing industry from derby-style fishing to individual fishing quotas (IFQs) and the subsequent multispecies processing. Despite the benefits of this evolution, including enhanced conservation and economic viability, multispecies processing facilities lack sufficient process water treatment infrastructure. This leads to unique challenges in managing sporadic and variable process water streams. The project's objectives include conducting a comprehensive review of seafood process water treatment literature, surveying multispecies seafood processing facilities to gather

environmental compliance data, statistically evaluating the data, and compiling a report highlighting best management practices. The project seeks to minimize the environmental impact of seafood processing by providing actionable insights for responsible process water management, thus safeguarding coastal ecosystems and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the seafood industry. The budget includes funds for a post-doctoral scholar's salary, computer equipment, software, statistical consulting, conference presentations, and publishing costs. The proposed timeline spans two years, with a focus on data collection, analysis, and reporting. The proposed match budget covers the salary of the Principal Investigator, travel expenses, and indirect costs.

- Matching funds? Yes (much of the \$\$ is budgeted for salary)
- Can potentially be funded from Seafood Mitigation monies
- OCS Species? Yes, many
- Letters of support from: Pacific, Bornstein and, Da Yang Seafood, OSU

Project 23-18 - BIPOC Outdoor Education Camp

Vive Northwest is asking for \$5,000 for this project. The proposal outlines an inclusive BIPOC Outdoor Education Camp aimed at blending outdoor recreation, environmental education, community building, and leadership training. The program intends to connect 60 BIPOC youth through three different weekend trips to various ecosystems in Oregon, promoting a strong bond with nature, community, and empowerment. The grant's funds will make the program financially accessible to all participants. The camps will incorporate hands-on lessons on diverse ecosystems, team-building activities, and leadership workshops, aiming to address barriers preventing BIPOC communities from enjoying the outdoors and mitigating Covid-19-related learning losses. The program will be linguistically accessible for non-English speakers, enhancing environmental education. The organization, Vive Northwest, brings its expertise and reputation in delivering innovative community-focused programs to develop and implement the BIPOC Outdoor Education Camp, with the goal of addressing the challenges faced by BIPOC youth in accessing and engaging with nature.

- Matching funds? Yes, in kind from organization, other pending*
- This would be funded from Unrestricted monies*
- OCS Species? No*
- Letters of support? No*

Project 23-19 - Horse Heaven Creek BDA Implementation

The Crooked River Watershed Council is asking for \$6,500 for this project. The proposal outlines a restoration project focused on improving the riparian habitat conditions of a 3.2-mile stream section of Horse Heaven Creek in Post, Oregon. The project aims to initiate the process of re-establishing beavers in the area, enhancing the overall riverscape health and function. The project site is situated on a working cattle ranch adjacent to ODFW's newly designated priority areas for beaver-related restoration. The proposal outlines the first phase of the project, scheduled for Fall 2023, which involves installing 37 hand-built log structures (primarily Beaver Dam Analogues and Post Assisted Log Structures) within distinct stream reaches to create floodplains, increase ponded areas, improve fish habitat, and establish an environment conducive to beaver settlement. The proposal seeks funding from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation to cover the implementation costs of this foundational restoration work. The ultimate goal is

to support the establishment of 3 to 5 beaver families in the area, fostering beaver-related restoration activities.

- Matching funds? Yes, from USFWS
- Could possibly be funded through the OCS Implementation Fund
- OCS Species? Yes, Beaver, Redband Trout and others
- Letters of support: Oregon Natural Desert Association, Western Beaver Coop

Project 23-20 - Nitrox Equipment for Aquarium Research Dive Team

The Oregon Coast Aquarium (OCAq) is seeking a \$4,685 matching grant from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation for the purchase of Nitrox scuba diving equipment. This equipment will be utilized by their research dive team to conduct ecological surveys of the Oregon Marine Reserves in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and to complete kelp forest conservation surveys along the Oregon coast in partnership with the Oregon Kelp Alliance (ORKA). The project aims to conserve kelp forests, which are threatened by sea urchin population booms, and to inspire ocean conservation and literacy through underwater video footage and educational initiatives. The acquisition of Nitrox equipment would enhance the dive team's capacity to perform surveys, cover more ground, and increase dive safety margins. The equipment would also be shared with partners like Oregon State University and contribute to collaborative scientific research in marine ecosystems.

- Matching funds? Yes*
- _ Could possibly be funded from our Enhancement Funds*
- OCS Species? Yes*
- Letters of support from: ODFW, Oregon Kelp Alliance, OSU*