

Project Notes

Project 21-01 Explorer Packs

The Audubon Society is requesting **\$5,000** in funding to support for 20 Harney County youth education “Explorer Packs” and associated materials. Items in their request include backpacks, bird books, binoculars and various other materials. The materials provided will be used in Harney County youth education programs. This program is part of Audubon’s strategy in Eastern Oregon to engage the community, and particularly youth and families, in positive birding and conservation experiences.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Does not address a particular species
- Does not have a letter of support

Project 21-02 Vesper Sparrow Hatch Metric

The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) is requesting **\$5,000** to purchase 20 CTT Tags (automated radio telemetry tags) and one TT Locator to track young Vesper Sparrows. The Oregon Vesper Sparrow is an Oregon Conversation Strategy Species and is considered of high conservation concern by natural resources entities within its breeding and wintering range. Recent estimates suggest the Oregon Vesper Sparrow population is only 2,000-3,000 individuals, and it is currently under review for listing under the Endangered Species Act (2017). KBO has already gained specific information on local nest success and migration return rates. This initial research has identified a potential issue with return rates for second year birds. KBO’s current proposal will allow them better understand winter mortality rates of young birds.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses and OCS species – Vesper Sparrow
- Includes a letter of support from Steve Niemela at ODFW

21-03 Pond Turtle Distribution

Northwest Ecological Research Initiative (NERI) is requesting **\$5,000** to help fund surveys of Northwestern Pond Turtles in Yamhill County using volunteers. Funds will be primarily used for salaries of coordinators. The Northwestern Pond Turtle is listed as endangered in Washington and threatened in Oregon. It has also been petitioned for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act (currently listed as a federal species of concern) and is a priority species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Little is known about the distribution of the Northwestern Pond Turtle in Yamhill County.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines

- Addresses an OCS species – Northwestern Pond Turtle
- Includes a letter of support from Susan Barnes at ODFW

21-04 Tufted Puffin Monitoring

Oregon State University is requesting **\$7,081** to develop simple and effective non-invasive methods to enhance the understanding of Tufted Puffin ecology and populations on the Oregon coast. Requested funds would be used for salaries, expenses and equipment. This work will enhance knowledge of the Tufted Puffin, help answer why it is in decline in its southern reaches and add genetic data to help determine if there are differences between the northern and southern populations. Funds will be used for salaries, expenses and equipment.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species – Tufted Puffins
- Includes a letter of support from Shawn Stevenson at USFWS

21-05 Fence Markers

The Harney Soil, Water and Conservation District is requesting **\$7,350** for fence markers and wildlife water trough escape ramps. A significant cause of death and injury to animals such as raptors, ducks and sage grouse is that they do not see a wire fence until it's too late. Collisions are especially likely to occur at dawn or dusk when light is dim. Fence markers help these animals see the fences before a collision. Another cause of death to animals is becoming stranded in water troughs. Wildlife escape ramps provide a secure way for animals to get out of the water troughs and prevent the water from becoming contaminated with dead bodies. The program priority focus is sage grouse conservation, however just by nature of placement of fence markers and escape ramps will benefit multiple other species including bats, birds, deer, elk, pronghorn, rodents, rabbits, squirrels and insects.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species – sage grouse
- Does not have a letter of support