

DRAFT

Project Notes for September 2021 Meeting

Project Budget

Project funds currently available are \$89,187. Our committee budget is \$100,000 per year, or \$25,000 per quarter. In the 2nd quarter we approved project grants of \$24,779. Requests for this quarter are \$30,880.

Project 21-12 Dive Propulsion Vehicles for Research & Collection

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is requesting \$5,000 in funding to support to help purchase two Dive propulsion vehicles to support their research work in Oregon's offshore environment.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species – Oregon Coast Marine Reserve species including sea stars
- Includes letters of support from Dr. Sheanna Steingass, ODFW Marine Mammal Program Leader and Lindsay Aylesworth, ODFW Marine Reserves Project Leader

Project 21-13 Slate

WaterWatch of Oregon is requesting \$10,000 in funding for their project to remove 3 dams from Slate Creek, improving access to approximately 15 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. **Note on funding request;** our portal previously auto-limited funding requests to \$5,000 or less. That's been adjusted to \$10,000 but not before we'd received this request.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses OCS habitat and species – Flowing water and riparian habitats; coho and Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey, steelhead, and rainbow trout
- Includes letters of support from WaterWatch's OWEB grant request

Project 21-14 Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN) PDX

OWF staff is requesting \$6,096 for the 2021-22 field season. We have a new Project Coordinator in Hunter Storm, a Senior at Portland State University studying Urban Ecology and adding six additional camera locations to better enable comparisons across different land use types. UWIN Portland seeks to develop a better understanding of urban wildlife trends and habitat connectivity using trail cameras placed across a gradient of urban density. This project is being done in collaboration with Portland Audubon and Portland State University. Gresham, Portland, and Tualatin Parks & Recreation Departments are our three largest land managing partners.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Includes a letter of support from Joe Liebrecht, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager for Portland Audubon. A letter from Portland State University is forthcoming documenting their support of this project.

Project 21-15 Escape Ramps for Sage Grouse

The Crook County Soil & Water Conservation District is requesting \$4,784 dollars to purchase escape ramps for sage grouse. These will be installed in stock tanks and water troughs to prevent sage grouse, and other wildlife, from accidentally drowning. This is a coordinated effort to curb the decline of the Greater sage grouse population.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses a OCS species: Greater sage grouse
- Includes letters of support from Holli Kingsbury, Crook County ranch owner, and Bridget Moran, Field Supervisor for the Bend Office of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Project 21-16 Sandy River Delta Turtle Surveys

The Sandy River Watershed Council is requesting \$5,000 to conduct surveys on the Sandy River Delta to establish baseline population figures for western painted and western pond turtles, monitoring expenses, and some maintenance of previously enhanced turtle habitat

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines – Please note that most of the budget is personnel expenses. There’s a strong likelihood that our funds will be used in that way.
- Addresses OCS strategy species, western painted and western pond turtles
- Includes a letter of support from ODFW Conservation Biologist Susan Barnes

New Business

1. **Fishhawk Lake Mitigation Settlement/Nehalem River Basin Habitat Improvement** – ODFW directed ~\$3.6MM to OWF for the following purposes:
 - a. \$1MM to be given to the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund as “match” to meet the legislative requirement for release of \$1MM in general fund monies.
 - b. ~\$2.6MM to be used by OWF to enhance aquatic habitat throughout the entirety of the Nehalem River basin. This can be used for our own projects, in partnership with the Department or other qualified entities, or directed to qualifying projects through our grantmaking program as we’ve done with the Pacific Seafood Environmental Enhancement Fund.
2. **Watch for Wildlife License Plate** – Finally! We sold the requisite number of license plate vouchers (3,000 + 20 for good measure) to officially qualify our plate for production and sale by DMV. Next steps:
 - a. A final voucher is being mailed to all purchasers. In error, my signature was left off the first 2,000 that were mailed so everyone’s getting a new and correct voucher.

- b. A copy of all 3,000 vouchers is being forwarded to DMV for “authentication.” Along with that is a check for all voucher fees collected plus an additional \$45K for production of the plate. Once produced and as vouchers are exchanged for the plates, ~\$35/plate will be deposited to our bank account. Tim has asked that the funds recovered be earmarked for operations to help make whole 2+ years of staff time and effort.
 - c. OWF staff will be conducting a VIP list auction for license plate numbers 00001 – 00020. Highest bidder will get 00001 and so on. We’ll be using eBay for the auction.
3. **Design by Fire Fiscal Sponsorship Application** – this is a public engagement project that’s being proposed by a design studio called We Are All Collage. The project manager has ties in Oregon and is working in conjunction with someone with prior experience as a structural and wildland firefighter. Design by Fire (DBF) as a project intends to make use of cross-disciplinary research to create both online and offline exhibits to engage the public in understanding and responding to extreme weather events. Their plan is to bring together professional and academics who analyze and build environments to determine how architecture, planning, and land use should evolve to help communities and nature adapt to prolonged drought and the increased occurrence of major wildfire events. The outcomes of this project are, among others, development of a research consortium, spatial design analysis, an online resource library with suggested readings, public engagement facilitation, talks, roundtable discussions, creative workshops, and data visualization.
Staff note, this is an interesting project with no perceivable downside for the Foundation. The project leader and collaborators are responsible for raising the necessary funding. OWF would receive 10% of whatever’s raised as our fiscal administration fee.
4. **OSP F&W Wildlife K-9 Program Expansion** – OSP’s Resource Allocation Committee has given the go-ahead for the Department to add one additional K-9 team to be located at a tbd station on the east side of the Cascades. Given the timing of this decision, it’s most likely that implementation won’t be until sometime next year (2022) with training, winter/spring of 2023. The estimated budget is \$30,000.
5. **Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition** – OWF is part of this fledgling coalition in Southern Oregon that’s evaluating locations on I-5 between Ashland and the California border for retrofitted infrastructure and construction of an over or underpass. The project leader is a recently retired staff member from Senator Merkeley’s office. OWF will be submitting a technical assistance grant request to OWEB on behalf of the coalition.
6. **Humboldt Marten Crossing Project** – a project to help conserve a small population of Humboldt marten on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Four animals have been killed over the last three years on the same stretch of the TransPacific Parkway. There are only four populations of coastal marten known from northern California to central Oregon and all have fewer than 100 adults estimated in each. Coos Bay is the southern extent of the central coastal Oregon population This subpopulation is estimated to have 30 adults so the loss of four animals is significant. This project is at the feasibility stage and OWF has submitted a letter of support as part of USFWS’s fundraising efforts.

Old Business

1. **Beaver Dam Analogue Partnership Request** – As a reminder, this was a request from Renee Coxen with ODFW seeking \$24K in matching funds for an OWEB proposal that the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council submitted to evaluate the effectiveness of beaver dam analogues in the Coast range. ODFW was/is helping the Council with this project as they’re under resourced. I let Renee know that our Project committee felt like the timeline (7 years) and the amount were more than we could commit to. She understood and said that they were going to see if The Wild Salmon Center could provide some of

the needed funding. Her last message to me was in June and I haven't circled back to her yet.

Staff note, we now have dedicated funding for that basin if the committee wanted to reconsider the merits of this project again.

2. **Eagle Fern Park Dam Removal** – The project start was supposed to start on 9/13 but has been delayed. A community planning organization filed a late objection against our land use permit stating that the public was not given enough time to comment on the project. That issue was resolved but now the Clackamas County commission wants additional information. Dave Stewart is presenting to the commission on the 14th. Barring objection from the County or other parties, deconstruction of the dam will begin immediately thereafter.
3. **Seeley Creek Habitat Improvement Project** – one-half of this project was constructed in late August with large wood debris placement. The conversion of the log pond into a side channel is pending permits that are unlikely to be approved with enough time for construction to take place. Currently, the plan is to complete this project during the 2022 in-water work period.