

Project Notes for February 24, 2022

Project Budget

The Project Committee Beulah Drake Small Grants budget is \$100,000 per year, or \$25,000 per quarter. Current unrestricted project funds available are \$65,000.

Project 22 -01 East Cascades Oak Monitoring Study

East Cascades Oak Partnership (ECOP) recently completed a multi-year strategic planning process funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Two of the highest priority strategies include: 1) conserving and connecting the most intact, functional oak systems; and 2) developing and implementing best management practices specific to East Cascade oak systems. Renewed funding from OWF will allow ECOP to complete field kits that our partners can use to install plots, facilitating broader implementation of the study areas that will provide data on how different events affect the oak forests. ECOP is requesting \$8,000 to help fund implementation of these studies. All other funds are pending approval.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses habitat several OCS species
- Includes a letter of support from the Mt. Hood National Forest

Project 22-02 Oregon Vesper Sparrow

The Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) is requesting \$5,000 to expand their ongoing Oregon Vesper Sparrow work with a tangible conservation focus. KBO proposes to uncover new information about the migratory routes and overwintering areas used by this imperiled subspecies. KBO will use data from miniaturized GPS tags appropriate for small songbirds (tags ~1g) to track non-breeding season movements of 15 Oregon Vesper Sparrows that breed at our Rogue Basin study site in southern Oregon, and an additional 10 from a larger population breeding in the Willamette Valley. Funds requested OWF funds will be used for the purchase of 5 GPS tags, field mileage, and target-netting supplies.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species
- Includes a letter of support from ODFW

Project 22-03 Tufted Puffin Field Series – Year 2

In 2021, with support from OWF, Oregon State University (OSU) successfully developed a community science initiative called Birds with Fish which is designed to encourage and engage experienced nature photographers to submit photographs of birds with fish in their bills or talons. Birds with Fish has placed a special emphasis on collecting photographic data on Oregon's tufted puffins at Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach. The unique intertidal location of Haystack Rock makes photography a practical and noninvasive method to study tufted puffin diets. In 2021, a researcher supported by OWF spent 6 weeks in Cannon Beach taking over 12,000 photographs of puffins with bill loads – photo processing is still ongoing. However, there is a clear need for photographic equipment that improves zoom capabilities to

allow accurate prey identification. OSU is requesting \$4,000 to help with this purchase. Other funds are pending.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species
- Does not include letters of support

Project 22-04 Gearhart Ridge Pollinator Project

The Gearhart Ridge Path is a cherished community trail running through the center of town that is a prime location for pollinator habitat. However, the trail currently has patches of English Holly and English Ivy that dominate an already limited space for plants. The Necanicum Watershed Council, in collaboration with the City of Gearhart, will be designing a two-part restoration aimed at improving the Gearhart Ridge Trail's pollinator habitats. First, volunteers will remove invasive species on prioritized portions of the 1.4-mile trail. Second, the Council will oversee the planting of ~1500 native pollinator-friendly plants (such as Lupine, Oregon Gumweed, Lavenders, Ocean Spray, Milkweed, etc.) - depending on what is available from local growers. At the conclusion of the project, portions of the Gearhart Ridge Path will be greatly improved year-round pollinator habitats supporting not only pollinating insects (bees, butterflies, etc.) but also pollinating avian species like the Rufous and Anna's hummingbirds as well. The Necanicum Watershed Council is requesting \$5,000 to fund implementation of this project. Some other funds are pending approval.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species
- Includes a letter of support from the City of Gearhart

Project 22-05 Coho Response to Beaver Analogs

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council is requesting \$25,500 as match funds to complete long-term effectiveness monitoring to evaluate the use of beaver dam analogues as a cost-effective restoration tool to address the primary limiting factor (over-winter rearing habitat) for Oregon Coast Coho. In consultation with OWEB staff, it was determined that this match can be distributed out over the life of the study; it does not need to be allocated in a lump sum.

- Meets our match requirements
- Meets our funding guidelines
- Addresses an OCS species

Project 22-06 ODFW Work Boat Motors Purchase

ODFW is requesting \$26,543 to purchasing motors for its research boat in NE Oregon. They understand that our upper limit is \$10,000. We might be able to find additional donors who can help us increase the total support we can provide.

- Addresses an OCS species

Project 22-07, 22-08, 22-09 are Supplemental Environmental Projects that must be implemented as part of the Fish Hawk Lake settlement with DEQ. These are for your information; no vote is required.

New Business

Fiscal Sponsorship Application from K Media Films

This is specifically for a filmmaking project by Kyle Miller. Kyle has been providing pro bono videography services to the Foundation for the past couple of years under his for-profit company Timber Reel.

K Media Films is being organized as a nonprofit corporation to produce conservation films. Kyle and his filmmaking partner, Cara, have developed a treatment that looks at non-motorized recreation and its impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

One of the consequences of public health restrictions during the pandemic has been an unprecedented number of people recreating on our public lands. This has led to increased demand for new trail access and an explosion in unauthorized “user-created” trail construction.

Kyle and Cara’s film will illuminate increased recreation on our publicly managed forests and the impact it’s having on wildlife and their habitat. Still further the film will show the process used to determine where trails are built and the trade-offs that must be made.