

Grant Application



Wheeler SWCD

Email : administration@wheelerswcd.org

Application ID : A43SW90

Custom Ref. -

Application Start Date: 2022-09-25 05:50:17

Application Completed Date: 2023-02-06 22:37:57

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

no

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

no

3 Title of your proposed project

Butte Creek Riparian Planting - Phase 1

4 Name of your organization

Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District

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

-

If this does not apply to you, write N/A

N/A

6 Your name or the name of the Project Manager

Brooke Moore

7 organization mailing address
-
Please enter full address with city, state & zip

40535 Hwy 19, Fossil, OR 97830

8 your phone number or that of the Project Manager

Office: 541-468-2990, Cell: 541-460-1368

9 your email address or that of the Project Manager

brooke.moore@wheelerswcd.org

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

Brooke Moore grew up in Fossil, OR and graduated from Wheeler High School in 2017. After graduation she went and furthered her education at CGCC (Columbia Gorge Community College) in the Dalles, OR. She attended the community college for two and half years and graduated with two degrees: Associated of Arts (Transfer) and Associates General Studies. After college, she was able to move back closer to home in Condon, OR and began working on the Ruggs Ranch in 2019. At the ranch she assisted with daily chores of spraying, moving pipeline, and catering to hunting clients. She worked at the ranch throughout the summer until she was able to apply for the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District Field Technician position. In the fall of 2019, Brooke was able to move back to Fossil, OR and began working for the Wheeler SWCD. Brooke started as a Field Technician I and assisted with project management, inspections/certifications, project planning, and NRCS programs. She has now been with the district for three years and been promoted to Conservation Technician II and is the lead technician on CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). In her time at the district, Brooke has successfully managed multiple large-scale projects, inspections/certifications, designs, monitoring, NRCS and CREP contracts.

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

www.facebook.com/wheelerswcd

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

- Facebook

13 what is the total estimated cost of your project?

20751.40

14 Funding that you are requesting from OWF -
If you're request is for more than \$5,000, please contact Tim Greseth - tim@myowf.org before submitting your application.

4974

15 what type of project are your proposing?

fish habitat restoration or improvement

16 will your project address an Oregon Conservation Strategy habitat or species?

yes

16.1 What habitat or species is addressed?

The larger project that this planting project supports is explicitly focused on recovery of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (<https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/strategy-species/steelhead-rainbow-redband-trout/>). The riparian plantings will also support beavers (*Castor canadensis*), although not identified as a Strategy Species within the OCS, the habitat that beavers create when successfully established, is proven to support many of the OCS species in this region. Other species who may benefit from this project, are listed on the Lower John Day River COA page here: <https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/conservation-opportunity-area/lower-john-day-river/>

17 what is the location of your proposed project?

The project is located in Northeast Wheeler County, within the Butte Creek Watershed approximately 13 miles West of the town of Fossil. The 181 sq. mile watershed encompasses mostly private agricultural and rangelands within Gilliam and Wheeler Counties. The watershed is located within the southernmost boundary of the Oregon Conservation Strategy's Columbia Plateau Ecoregion.

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

The Butte Creek subbasin where this project exists, sits within the Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) 153 Lower John Day River (<https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/conservation-opportunity-area/lower-john-day-river/>). The COA contains 35 strategy species both Flora and Fauna.

19 what is the anticipated start date of your project? -
Day/Month/Year

01-03-2023

20 what is the anticipated end date of your project?

15-04-2023

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

yes

21.1 What is their name and contact info?

Stephan Charrette (John Day ODFW District Fish Biologist). Email:
Stephan.R.CHARETTE@odfw.oregon.gov, Office: 541-575-1167 ext. 226

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

yes

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

-

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

If awarded, OWF funding will cover the costs for: 1) planting crew services to oversee a trained volunteer crew over four days of staging and implementation; 2) additional fencing/caging materials to protect donated riparian plants from wildlife browse; 3) mileage reimbursement for the planting crew leads. 4) Wheeler SWCD project management time for planning planting implementation and completion reporting.

24

provide us a brief summary of your proposed project

This project will serve to supplement and complete the riparian planting implementation portion of the large grant, Butte Creek Riverscape Restoration, that was largely funded/supported by OWEB and NRCS. The completed project activities of this larger project include: riparian fencing (new and repair) and the installation of 257 Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) and Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS) to help reconnect floodplains along 9 miles of stream in the Butte Creek subbasin, a direct tributary into the John Day River. With this Butte Creek Riparian Planting – Phase 1, we seek to implement approximately 1000 - 1200 total Riparian plantings that will support native wildlife habitat and preferred beaver food species, all caged for protection during their first 3 to 5 years of establishment

25 upload pre-project pictures 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 Wildlife Foundation's work. If you have questions about photo or video submissions please refer to myowf.org/grants for guidance.



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fill out our budget form

Project Revenue	Cash	In-Kind	Committed / Pending
Oregon Wildlife Foundation Request	4974		Pending
15 Volunteer Crew Beaver Corps		7188	Committed

Field Tech 2		1250	Committed
BWO Donated Beaver Food Sticks		500	Committed
CTWS Plants and Partial Caging Donated		4909	Committed
Wheeler SWCD Augers		530.40	Committed
Side by Side		1400	Committed
REVENUE	4974.00	15777.40	
		TOTAL PROJECT SUPPORT	20751.40
Project Expenses	Cash	In-Kind	Total
BWO Project Planning/Management	2500		2500.00
Travel	270		270.00
Fencing Protection	1325		1325.00
Wheeler SWCD Project Planning/Management	879		879.00
15 Volunteer Crew Beaver Corps		7188	7188.00
Field Tech 2		1250	1250.00
BWO Donated Beaver Food Sticks		500	500.00
CTWS Plants and Partial Caging Donated		4909	4909.00
Wheeler SWCD Augers		530.40	530.40
Side by Side		1400	1400.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
		TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	20751.40

Balanced budget? This cell should read "0" ---->		NET	0.00
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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



Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District

Brooke Moore, Conservation Technician II
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brooke.moore@wheelerswcd.org

Oregon Wildlife Foundation Butte Creek Riparian Planting– Phase 1 Project Narrative

Background / Statement of Need

The Butte Creek Riparian Planting project is located in Northeast Wheeler County, within the Butte Creek Watershed approximately 13 miles West of the town of Fossil. The 181 sq. mile watershed encompasses mostly private agricultural and rangelands within Gilliam and Wheeler Counties.

This planting scope is an essential last step in completing the full implementation scope of a larger Riverscape Restoration wide project that addressed the following conditions:

- Structural starvation (i.e., lack of woody debris and beaver dams) and channel straightening that resulted in hydraulic, topographic, and substrate homogeneity that offered little benefit to threatened salmonids. The impairments ultimately render the Butte Creek watershed a population sink for threatened steelhead, in which a high rate of returning adults produce few surviving juveniles.
- Seasonal surface flow limitation that prevented the establishment and expansion of riparian and wetland vegetation within the Butte Creek riverscape. The John Day Subbasin Plan (NWPPC 2005) specifically lists flow restoration, riparian vegetation recovery, and enhancement of channel habitat quantity and quality as being high priorities for recovery of the lower John Day Steelhead population.
- Historic grazing had resulted in reduction of riparian vegetation that has been slow to reestablish on degraded streams such as Butte Creek.

As of Fall 2022 most of these conditions above have been addressed through the Butte Creek Riverscape Restoration project activities that included: BDA/PAL installations and riparian fencing (new and repaired).

With these improvements and earlier investments now in place, ecological conditions are now present to help ensure the survivability and success of native riparian plantings that this Butte Creek Riparian Planting project will address.

Riparian plantings will provide important biological component to help kickstart the project's ecological recovery processes, and the supporting practices will enhance and protect the recovery potential for years to come increasing trends in summer steelhead freshwater productivity in the Butte Creek watershed and addresses OWEB's State Priority to support Aquatic Habitat for Native Species.



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The riparian plantings will also mature and eventually serve as a local source for large wood recruitment in future years. An increase in perennial surface flow extent during draught periods is likely to occur with the addition of BDAs. BDAs are specifically designed to slow and distribute surface flows. Working in conjunction with one another, these complexes of structures spread flows, inundating floodplain, and attenuating flows. Water will be held in reserve behind BDA structures and within soil that will slowly release back into the system. Wetland and riparian vegetation extent, diversity, and abundance will be achieved through the installation of new riparian plantings. These plantings will eventually mature and shade the stream lessening the impacts of evapotranspiration and help to attenuate flow

Award Purpose

Wheeler SWCD will contract with Think Wild/Beaver Works (TW/BW) program to provide a planting crew of trained volunteers with two crew leaders and two augers for the plantings with either a hand or hydraulic powered 6 in auger allowing plant roots to make optimal contact with the flood plain. Heavy duty caging will be installed around plant species that are prone to be browsed by wildlife.

The area's best suited for plantings have been identified via ground surveys and UAV aerial imagery acquisition after the installation of BDA structures, seasonal fall precipitation and the return of flows to the stream occurs. Adaptive management will occur in the form of observing spring runoff flows in the same manner and the resulting interaction with LT-BPR structures.

Plantings will only occur in conjunction with the BDA/PAL structures installed in Fall 2022, and within the 84 acres of fenced stream, behind 2.55 miles of wildlife friendly riparian fencing (see below). Further, the plantings will be protected from beaver and mule deer browse during establishment. In 4 to 5 years once plants are established, volunteer crews will remove the fencing.

Donated Riparian Plant Stock

Wheeler SWCD has partnered with the Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs to grow approximately 875 woody riparian native potted plantings that will be donated to the project. The Think Wild/Beaver Works program will expand the overall planting success and diversity of planting types by donating up to 500 native willow and cottonwood sticks harvested locally from a local Forest Service managed nursery.

Riparian protection from livestock grazing

The participating landowner leases her uplands for grazing during the months of December-March, the riparian corridor is not utilized. Cattle are kept in the uplands by existing infrastructure (fencing) where water and forage are abundant during that time of year. Riparian fencing provides an extra measure to exclude these opportunistic intrusions.



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Timetable / Milestones and Deliverables

The plantings are scheduled to occur within a two-week window of March 27th to April 10th, 2023.

Monitoring

No plant stewardship is planned. However, heavy duty cage protections will be installed on all rooted plantings, and a 3–4-year planting regime is scheduled. During each subsequent planting year, the previous year's plantings will be inspected to ensure that HD caging remains in place, and to check for accidental scaring or girdling that can occur as plants mature.

Future Planting

The Wheeler SWCD is working with the landowner on a large landscape scale. We are currently in the process of planning a phase 2 of BDA/PALS installation and juniper removal.



Oregon Wildlife Foundation
901 SE Oak St #103
Portland, OR 97214
February 3, 2023

Re: Butte Creek Riparian Planting
Fossil, Oregon

Dear OWF Review Team,

I would like to formally express support for the Wheeler SWCD Riparian Planting in spring 2023, that's part of the larger Riverscape Restoration project in the Butte Creek subbasin.

I understand the goals and objectives for these projects are to restore this subbasin for riparian resilience and wildlife habitat that would benefit up to 35 flora and fauna strategy species within the Oregon Conservation Strategy's COA 153 (Lower John Day River), as well as beavers (*Castor canadensis*), a keystone species and important to the OCS strategy species.

During a site visit in Fall 2022 our Beaver Works Oregon crew observed some recent beaver settlement activity (likely dispersers from the main stem of the John Day River), that included den building and some dam building – but this activity appeared short-lived and beavers were not present by the time of our visit.

We theorize that beavers had moved on due to a lack of the ideal conditions they needed to succeed in this system, notably: a lack of muddy sediment, a lack of most beavers' universally preferred food species, *Salix* and *Populus* varieties.

The above referred projects begin to address these limiting factors to successful long term beaver establishment.

Toward this effort, Beaver Works will be providing a crew of tree planting and fencing volunteers – the work valued at \$7,188 – and donating up to 500 cuttings of native *Salix* and *Populus* varieties, valued at \$500.

I am committed to the success of the project toward establishing successful potential beaver habitat where the potential exists, and the learnings that Beaver Works will gain through these projects.

Please feel free to contact me with questions by email at beavers@thinkwildco.org or phone 541-362-1024.

Regards,

Reese Mercer
Think Wild
Beaver Works Oregon, Program Director



2022/10/19 00:10



2022/10/19 00:24



2021/05/27



2021/05/27