



August 30, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee is pleased to announce our first opportunity for funding for conservation and recreation projects in the 2021-2023 biennium.



The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund supported 29 projects in the 2019-2021 biennium. We thank those of you who participated in the previous biennium and those of you that supported the program with the legislature. Thanks to the great work of our partners, the program's sunset was removed and there are \$2.5 million of state and federal funds available this biennium.

The Committee is opening this current opportunity for applicants using its existing framework. Throughout the fall, the Committee will administer the current opportunity while working on a long-term expenditure framework for the program that reflects that the sunset has been removed and the program has significant funds available. The Committee anticipates that this biennium will include:

- An opportunity for small grants, opening August 30 and closing October 22 (approximately \$300,000 available);
- An opportunity for small grants, opening November 15 and closing mid-February 2022 (approximately \$750,000 available);
- And an opportunity for larger projects, to be determined during the Committee's meetings throughout the rest of 2021.

Today, the Committee will begin accepting applications for projects with a maximum request of \$20,000. The timeline is as follows:

- August 30 – Applications open
- October 22 - Deadline for submission
- October through December - ODFW staff and Advisory Committee member review period
- December - Advisory Committee project recommendations determined
- January 2022 - ODFW Commission considers recommendations:
- February 2022 - Grant agreements with selected recipients and project work commences

The Committee's expenditure framework, criteria for the selection process, application form, and examples of successful project applications are all available on the [Committee's website](#).

Thank you for the good work you are doing, and we look forward to reviewing applications for projects addressing the outdoor issues that are so important to Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Karl Wenner, MD  
Chair, Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee

Enclosure: OCRF Application Details

# OCRF Application Details

## Project Review Timeline – Fall 2021

- August 30 – Applications open
- October 22 - Deadline for submission
- October - early December - ODFW staff and Advisory Committee review period
- December - Advisory Committee project recommendations determined
- January 2022 - ODFW Commission considers recommendations:
- February 2022 - Grant agreements with selected recipients in place and projects work commences

## Funds Available – Fall 2021

The legislature has appropriated just over \$2.5 million to the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund for the 2021-2023 biennium. For projects submitted by the October 22 deadline, **the maximum funding request is \$20,000** and the Committee expects to select approximately 15 projects for a total of \$300,000.

A portion of the state funds available in the Conservation & Recreation Fund are currently contingent on matching donations generated through [OregonIsAlive.org](https://OregonIsAlive.org) and the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Electronic Licensing System. To date, over \$500,000 for the OCRF has been generated by individual donations and we appreciate your support for the ongoing OCRF fundraising efforts.

## How the Committee will evaluate proposals

The Committee will evaluate these proposals based on the criteria below.

- **Project outcomes align with OCRF Program Priorities identified in the [Expenditure Framework](#) and are consistent with the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#)** – the more the better, but strong alignment with at least one as specified in the framework
- **Clarity of the proposal** – well presented, organized and with clear deliverables
- **Timeliness and/or have the necessary approvals in place** – the Committee seeks projects that will be implemented quickly
- **Appropriate partnership and demonstration of partner investment** – project engages a variety of partners and shows commitment from participants
- **Measurability** – the applicant has identified the ability to quantify the results of the project
- **Addresses the types of diversity identified in the Portfolio Metrics (see below section)**
- **Outdoor Equity** - How well projects engage Oregonians in the solution to a key conservation issue or in recreational opportunities that reach out to and engage people who have not participated in the past because of language barriers, financial barriers, access barriers, etc.

The Committee will also look favorably on proposals that demonstrate:

- Proven track record of applicant to achieve stated outcomes
- Integration/intersectionality between conservation and recreation

## Expenditure Portfolio

The Advisory Committee seeks to make multiple, diverse expenditures. The below list is an informal characterization of the metrics the Committee will consider to ensure that the suite of projects they select are diverse enough to represent the breadth of work the Committee can support.

### Portfolio Metrics

- Diverse geography (east/west, north/south, urban/rural, [OCS ecoregions](#))
- Diverse taxonomically (fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, invertebrates)
- Diverse representation of program priorities (see [Expenditure Framework](#))
- Diverse partners engaged & included in the overall portfolio
- Directly engages Oregonians in the solution to a key conservation issue or in recreational opportunities that reach out to and engage people who have not participated in the past because of language barriers, financial barriers, access barriers, etc.

## Submitting Proposals

OCRF applicants must review the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's [Expenditure Framework](#). The Committee encourages applicants to pay particular attention to the list of Program Priorities and encourages all applicants to review the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) before completing your application.

Project proposals must be submitted using this digital form: <https://forms.gle/gVhDpiWugQDgLP7JA>. A PDF copy of the form is available on the [Committee's website](#). We encourage you to develop your responses in advance and complete the form all at once to avoid any issues with returning to the form once you've started. The Committee may request additional information from the applicants.

Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: [odfw.ocrf@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:odfw.ocrf@odfw.oregon.gov) or by phone: 971-719-1192.