

# *Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee*

## **EXHIBIT E: OREGON CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUND SPECIAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

*October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Dr. Charlotte Regula-Whitefield, OCRF Coordinator  
Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator**



# OCRFB Granting Structure

## Two funding mechanisms exist for OCRFB to utilize:

### 1) Competitive granting process

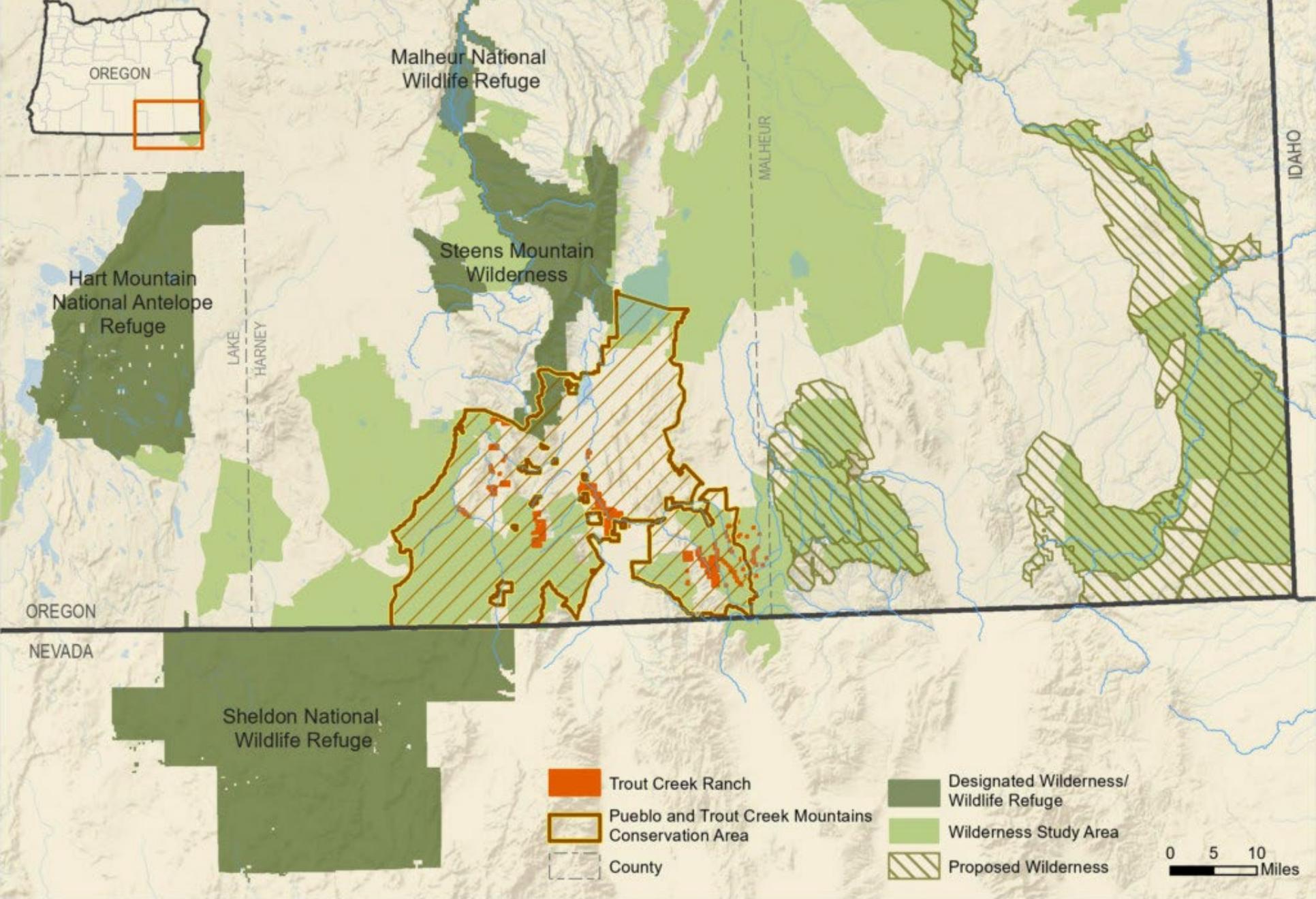
*(twice a year)*

- *Funding levels have been on the scale of \$10K to \$50K*
- *Project timelines of 1 – 3 years*

### 2) Direct awards outside of the competitive fund process

*(as needed, and at the discretion of the Committee)*

- *Vetted through the OCRFB Special Projects Subcommittee*
- *Voted on for recommendation by the main OCRFB Advisory Committee*



# Overarching Project Goals

1. Finalize acquisition of the 16,688-acre Trout Creek Ranch and associated grazing permits totaling over 500,000 acres;
2. Create meaningful Tribal engagement and grow collaborative working relationships with local farmers and ranchers; and
3. Develop long-term management and restoration plans for the Trout Creek Ranch Conservation Project.



# Project Partnerships and Outreach

**Oregon Desert Land Trust** and **The Nature Conservancy** have been working with many groups including but not limited to:

**Neighboring Landowners**  
**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**USDA Natural Resources Conservation**

**Northern Paiute Tribes**

**Local Government Bodies**

**Hunter and Angler Associations**



# Competitive Project Grant: *Trout Creek Ranch Conservation*

## **COMPETITIVE PROJECT GOALS:**

Oregon Desert Land Trust grant focused on interim operations and maintenance of land.

The project will hire a full-time local property manager, who will work on the following.

- Decommissioning of unneeded infrastructure
- Continue Tribal and stakeholder collaborations
- Finalize 5-year conservation plans



# Competitive Project Grant: *Trout Creek Ranch Conservation*



**Funded June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, by the ODFW Commission**  
*(Awarded \$50,000 OCRF funds)*

- Each project was scored by 2 Advisory Committee members and at least 1 ODFW staff and then received a project ranking.
- Advisory Committee selected projects to for funding at the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 OCRF meeting.
- Maximum allowable grant size was \$50,000

# Directed Project Grant: *Trout Creek Ranch Conservation*

**ODLT has fundraised over \$13,000,000 for the Trout Creek Ranch Conservation Project.**

An additional \$550,000 in private restricted donations have been allocated to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund for the Trout Creek Ranch Conservation Project for the re-payment of the 2021 land acquisition loan.



# Directed Project Grant:

## *Trout Creek Ranch Conservation*

### **DIRECTED PROJECT GOALS:**

**This project is making a payment toward principle on a loan held by Oregon Desert Land Trust that was obtained to purchase properties collectively known as Trout Creek Ranch Conservation Areas.**

Discharging the loan earlier will expediate habitat restoration actions with existing funds sooner than originally called for in their 5-year conservation plan.



# Directed Project Grant: *Trout Creek Ranch Conservation*



- The directed project request was presented to OCRF Special Projects Subcommittee on Sept. 2nd, 2022.
- ODFW staff worked to clarify scope of work and intended accelerated restoration efforts on the land.
- OCRF Advisory Committee discussed and voted on project recommendations for funding on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

# Accelerated Restoration Timeline

The restoration efforts at Trout Creek Ranch will advance the Oregon Sage Grouse Action Plan, the Recovery Plan for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California Working Wet Meadows Initiative, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and Audubon Important Bird Areas.

## **Some of the activities that will occur include, but are not limited to:**

- Maintain or restore aspen forests and woodlands.
- Maintain or restore mountain mahogany woodlands and shrublands.
- Control spread of western juniper to maintain habitat values in sagebrush, riparian, and wetland habitats.
- Promote early detection and removal of invasive plants with an emphasis on unique high-quality grasslands.

# Draft Motion Templates re: *Trout Creek Ranch Special Project*

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

*I move that the Commission approves the expenditure of up to \$715,000 on the Trout Creek Ranch Special Project for the Oregon Desert Land Trust as recommended by the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund.*