Proj #	Project Title	Lead Organization	Geography/ Ecoregion	Drought Aspects	Project Abstract	Requested Funds
1	"Follow the Beaten Path" - Documentary Film	Oregon Wildlife Foundation	Blue Mountains; East Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	“Follow the Beaten Path” is a documentary that aims to understand the effects non-motorized recreational trail use is having on wildlife, specifically within central Oregon's National Forests. The film’s mission is to spread awareness about the importance of responsibly coexisting with nature and wildlife as well as expanding the understanding of sustainable recreation. See Film Trailer Produced for Fund Raising: Trailer Edit V15.mp4 - Google Drive	$42,000
2	A Hydroscapes Approach to Assess Water Availability and Native Fish Habitat in a Drought Sensitive, Endorheic Basin	Oregon State University	East Cascades; Northern Basin & Range	Addresses aspects of drought	Riparian and aquatic habitats in high elevation, arid lands ecosystems are highly vulnerable to climate-mediated disturbances. These understudied ecosystems are expected to experience an increase in the frequency and duration of droughts and wildfires and a transition from snow-driven to rain-driven hydrology, thus threatening future water availability. The proposed project will address identified knowledge gaps regarding water availability, hydrologic connectivity, and habitat suitability in the Goose Lake Basin, a Conservation Opportunity Area. The goal of the proposed project is to identify priority habitats for Conservation Strategy Species—mainly Great Basin/Goose Lake redband trout, but also Goose Lake sucker, Modoc sucker, and Pit sculpin—given current and projected drought conditions in the Basin. We will accomplish this by satisfying the following objectives: 1) Evaluate seasonal and interannual surface water availability and habitat connectivity in the Basin, 2) Identify climate refugia that are available, accessible, and thermally optimal for cold-water fish species, and 3) Pinpoint areas of optimal growth and productivity for redband trout in wet and dry water years, and use this information to validate the climate refugia model. The proposed work leverages ongoing research efforts funded by the USGS, USFWS, ODFW, and OWEB along with new data (stable isotopes, otoliths) to identify suitable habitat for strategy species in a drought sensitive landscape. Deliverables will provide managers with spatial data to inform conservation plans and provide agency partners with key areas that should be prioritized for habitat restoration based on projected habitat accessibility and suitability.	$130,852

3	A Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for Evaluating Change and Resilience in Nearshore Marine Communities	ODFW	Nearshore	Addresses aspects of drought	The ODFW Marine Program has invested two decades of work using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to conduct video surveys of the seafloor, directly addressing nearshore data needs for a wide range of conservation and resource management concerns. These data needs stem directly from the Nearshore Strategy, the marine implementation of Oregon's Conservation Strategy. ODFW acquired its current ROV in 2000, and the ROV now faces the end of its serviceable life, threatening ODFW's ability to continue critical studies, evaluate emerging threats to nearshore ecosystems, and help inform potential management actions with solid data. The failing ROV is already significantly impacting the quantity and quality of surveys we are able to conduct. The requested equipment funding, combined with other sources that have already been secured, would enable the Marine Program to purchase a new, highly capable ROV, enabling continuation of its high-priority fishery-independent video assessments of nearshore seafloor habitats, fish, and invertebrate communities. The beneficiaries of this project will include a wide range of stakeholders in the understanding, management, and conservation of nearshore ecosystems. In particular, studies assessing the resilience of kelp communities to three major recent nearshore ecological changes are all dependent on this important survey tool. These three interrelated changes are: an unprecedented explosion in the population of kelp-consuming purple sea urchins, the complete loss of the sunflower sea star (a dominant sea urchin predator), and a major climate perturbation that produced historically warm ocean temperatures. The Strategy Species that may benefit most, through data-informed guidance on potential future direct interventions, re-introductions, and restoration efforts, include bull kelp, sunflower sea stars, flat abalone, red abalone, red sea urchins, and many kelp-associated nearshore rockfishes.	$50,000
4	Assessing Shark Presence in Potential Sea Otter Reintroduction Areas in Oregon - Phase II	Elakha Alliance	Nearshore	Addresses aspects of drought	This project is a continuation of a pioneering effort to assess the danger to translocated sea otters in Oregon from interactions with sharks. Essential new information will be provided to the Elakha Alliance and government wildlife agencies about the spatial and temporal presence of two species of shark known to interact with sea otters in other regions and whose distribution and abundance in Oregon is unknown: White (WS; Carcharodon carcharias) and Broadnose Sevengill (BSS; Cepedianus notorynchus) sharks. Data will be collected from environmental DNA (eDNA) and acoustic tags attached to at least 10 individuals of each species. eDNA will detect the temporal and spatial presence of sharks, even when animals are no longer present and can inform tagging efforts. Acoustic tags will provide presence/absence of sharks near acoustic receiver buoys deployed along the Oregon coast. The project is a northward extension of similar research conducted along the central California coast, and will employ techniques and technology previously proofed and used to determine the threat of sharks to sea otters there.	$49,875

5	Avian Monitoring and Community Programs in Malheur	Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Portland Audubon)	Northern Basin & Range	Addresses aspects of drought	The Harney Basin is a snowpack-dependent closed-lake basin in southeastern Oregon. Many species of migrating and nesting shorebirds and waterfowl depend on semi-permanent wetlands in the basin as a stopover location along the Pacific Flyway. However, increasingly variable weather patterns due to climate change and changing irrigation practices threaten the prevalence of these wetlands. Several bird species have already experienced population declines and are predicted to experience shifts in distribution and abundance due to climate change. Understanding how birds use wetland habitats in the Harney Basin is essential to prioritizing, developing, and evaluating the efficacy of restoration projects in this region–ultimately helping conserve currently-threatened birds and those at risk of decline from habitat loss. In addition, developing and deepening relationships with community members is essential for growing the grassroots support necessary to support current and future climate-resilient conservation efforts that protect birds and their habitats in the Harney Basin. This project is a three-pronged approach to understanding and helping conserve bird populations in the Harney Basin, specifically at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and in the Silvies Floodplain: 1) Formal bird surveys, 2) Local community scientist engagement, and 3) Environmental education opportunities that cultivate an appreciation for birds and their habitats, including the challenges they face. This project will be conducted with collaboration from the Harney County Library, Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative, and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS), among others. This project will take place in the Northern Basin and Range ecoregion and will specifically benefit the Harney-Malheur and Upper Silvies River COAs. Conservation Strategy Species benefiting from this work include but are not limited to: Black-necked Stilt, Bobolink, Franklin’s Gull, and Greater Sandhill Crane.	$40,000

6	Basalt to Breakers Native Trout Challenge	Oregon Wildlife Foundation (OWF) -- Fiscally sponsored project Basalt to Breakers	Blue Mountains; Coast Range; Columbia Plateau; East Cascades; Klamath Mountains; Northern Basin & Range; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Both the Native Trout Challenge and the Basalt to Breakers nonprofit aligns with multiple objectives listed between Oregon Conservation Strategy Species. * Our challenge requires anglers to catch a native trout in each of the eight ecoregions and focuses on native ecosystem and fishery education. * The overall goals include: * Promote native trout conservation by increasing recreation opportunities. We believe increased recreation and education will lead to increased conservation by allowing more people to experience Oregon's incredible native fisheries. * Building a high-quality dataset of Oregon's native trout population based on the data collected from the participants challenge findings. * We have multiple ways we plan to impact Oregon Native Trout conservation. * Partnering with underserved communities: We'll directly reach out to organizations and clubs focused on increasing recreation access throughout these communities. For each organization, we will offer free participation in our native trout challenge, and provide the gear necessary to complete the challenge. Gear will be acquired via donations from our retail sponsors. * Native trout population data we collect from participants will serve as a publicly available data set. This will help support management decisions in protecting the future of this species, in addition to providing data on recreation usage of public lands, while also offering an achievement for those that pursue recreation through the challenge. * Ongoing educational efforts. Our nonprofit consistently releases educational content currently and the challenge will allow us to further our educational outreach. Additionally, we intend to create a short film that will educate people throughout the US on Oregon’s native trout and the challenges to their conservation. Through this education and outreach, we believe that we can create more engaging information for people who participate in recreational opportunities through our nonprofit.	$27,000

7	Battle Creek Mule Deer Habitat Enhancement	South Fork John Day Watershed Council	Blue Mountains	Addresses aspects of drought	The Battle Creek Ranch is located in Grant County, Oregon, approximately 2.5 miles West of the town of Dayville. This property includes the Battle Creek watershed, with multiple side tributaries. The Battle Creek Ranch is 1,462 acres with approximately 5,000 acres of BLM allotted ground intermixed with the private land. The Southeast corner of the property is bordered by the ODFW Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area and classified as critical winter range habitat for mule deer. Battle Creek is listed as a Critical Habitat Stream for Mid-Columbia Steelhead and is also listed on the DEQ 303dlist for temperature with a 7-day average of daily maximum of 74.5 with 122 days exceeding temperature standards. Vernoy Walker recently purchased this property in 2022, and we have toured the property multiple times with many partners in order to assist in developing a master restoration plan for the ranch. This property is dealing with legacy livestock use issues, degraded upland vegetation, stream channel incision, Juniper encroachment, and invasive species (annual grass and noxious weeds). We are requesting ODFW support in order to address 100 acres of Juniper encroachment and re-develop 2 BLM upland water sources. We have secured funding through the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) to treat approximately 75 acres of Juniper, and this proposal will also compliment annual grass control efforts by Grant SWCD, and the private landowner, as well as upland water developments by the landowner.	$66,771

8	Beaver Recovery Program for Upper Crooked River Watershed - Phase I	Crooked River Watershed Council	Blue Mountains; Northern Basin & Range	Addresses aspects of drought	The primary need for this project is to build a foundation of beaver support and recovery program focused on the upper Crooked River watershed, a place where beavers historically occupied in high numbers. Project locations will be on private lands within the Upper Crooked and Beaver-South Fork sub-watersheds to include the Conservation Opportunity Areas of 173, 174, and 184. A key partner in the project is Western Beavers Cooperative (WBC) who works to support beaver-specific needs including addressing nuisance beavers through exclusionary techniques, and improving beaver habitat. Another key partner is Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF), who will oversee calibration of BRAT (Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool) for Blue Mountain and Great Basin Range ecoregions and provide technical training for field survey crews. Outcomes and benefits from this proposal meet five main project objectives: * A reliable assessment tool (BRAT) to inform the potential for beaver occupancy; * A strategic plan built in part on #1 above, to inform beaver-based restoration opportunities throughout the watershed; * Increased community awareness on how a return of beaver activities, and Beaver Managed Floodplains (BMFPs), can again benefit land health and more; * Subbasin scale, ranch/landowner focused Beaver Management Plans to guide decision-making around beaver tolerance and recovery; * Expand the capacity of existing beaver conflict services providing beaver exclusion devices. Funds from OCRF will be combined with in-kind and match contributions from project partners and the watershed council (applicant) to complete this phase of the overall program aimed at reestablishing beaver habitat and expanding BMFPs in the watershed. In time, this phase of the project will pave the way for more beaver projects implemented on private lands in the target geography. With thousands of stream miles this area and many willing landowners, the future for beaver recolonization in our area looks positive.	$45,000

9	Bend to Suttle Lake Wildlife Crossing Initiative	Oregon Wildlife Foundation	East Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	According to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), between 350 and 600 mule deer and elk are killed each year by vehicle strikes along Highway 20 between Bend and Suttle Lake; that is the highest density of collisions with deer and elk anywhere in Oregon. The Bend to Suttle Lake Wildlife Passage Initiative (B2S), a Central Oregon coalition comprised of state and federal agencies, non-profits, tribal partners, landowners, and a university, have come together to address this problem. Our project goal is to provide safe passage for wildlife across OR Highway 20 in Central Oregon, to accomplish three important objectives; 1) lower wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) as measured by ODOT, 2) increase landscape permeability, and 3) increase wildlife resilience to climate change, particularly drought and wildfire risk. Work on a wildlife crossing mitigation analysis by an Oregon-based consulting team is wrapping up and the B2S Coalition is now raising the funds needed to complete engineering and design for wildlife passage infrastructure at the three highest priority locations within the 35-mile Bend to Suttle Lake corridor. Based on the development of other dedicated wildlife crossing structures in Oregon and elsewhere, the Coalition estimates that a total of $500,000 will be needed in non-Federal match for the Federal Highway Administration's Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program or a similar source of funding support. Funding from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, in combination with other sources, will be used to meet the program's non-Federal match requirement. Numerous species will benefit from wildlife passage projects within this corridor including mule deer, elk, black bear, bobcat, and mountain lion. In addition, grey wolf, Pacific marten and Sierra Nevada red fox; all Oregon Conservation Strategy species, are known to inhabit this area and would benefit from passage infrastructure.	$140,000
10	Bird Friendly Communities Certification Program	Lane County Audubon Society	Blue Mountains; Coast Range; Columbia Plateau; East Cascades; Klamath Mountains; Nearshore; Northern Basin & Range; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Does not addess aspects of drought	The Bird Friendly Communities Certification Program (BFCCR) is a new program led by Lane County Audubon and Bird Conservation Oregon which seeks to engage local communities in the conservation of native birds. Local cities and towns could become certified and receive recognition and benefits as “Bird Friendly” by achieving criteria in each of four categories: Habitat Restoration, Threat Reduction, Research and Monitoring, Public Outreach and Engagement. BFCCR is designed to be both a fun and substantial strategy to engage communities in avian conservation and to build long-term relationships that maintain commitment over time. Native birds face a wide range of challenges including habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species and anthropogenic threats such as light pollution, building collisions, cats, etc. These challenges span urban, suburban, rural and wild landscapes. The BFCCR targets specifically urban and suburban landscapes and engages local communities in protecting and promoting wild birds in their own communities. In order to become a Bird Friendly Community applicants will need to form a “Bird Friendly Community Coalition” with a designated lead organization. They will have to fill out an application describing how their community is achieving objectives in each of the four program areas. They will also need a resolution from their local city/ town council committing to being a “Bird Friendly Community.” The program requires annual reporting and ongoing progress (new annual targets in each of the program areas) for renewal. The Bird Friendly Communities Program provides educational resources to help develop programs, recognition, ongoing support and expertise, and resources. The program is designed to build long-term relationships and commitment as opposed to a “one-off” certification. We are requesting costs associated with launching this program including website, signage, materials, professional services and outreach costs.	$13,376

11	Birds with Fish: Combining community science and research to monitor changes in marine bird diets along the Oregon Coast	Oregon State University	Nearshore	Does not addess aspects of drought	Understanding seabird diet composition supplies vital information regarding the health and function of marine food webs. Diet information can inform management decisions for both marine birds – including tufted puffins – and the marine species they feed on. The tufted puffin is an Oregon nearshore strategy species and has declined precipitously in the state over the last 50 years for uncertain reasons. Notably, little is known about the diet of tufted puffins in the region. To address this knowledge gap we launched 'Birds with Fish'. Birds with Fish is a community science initiative to engage nature photographers to contribute photos of birds with fish and other marine prey to our online portal. While obtaining photos of tufted puffins requires technical photography equipment, other species like common murres and pigeon guillemots are often viewable in close enough proximity that smart phones can be used. In 2022-2023, we ran a proof-of concept field effort at the Haystack Rock tufted puffin and common murre colony to photograph both species with bill loads containing fish for their chicks. Our OCRF project will continue these efforts to better understand what marine birds are eating along the coast and how tufted puffin prey composition changes with environmental conditions. Determining the appropriate conservation actions depends on access to adequate biological background knowledge, which is unfortunately lacking for this species in the Pacific Northwest. Our project is therefore designed to address an ecological question and also provide accessible information, education and engagement opportunities to a diverse group of Oregonians and visitors. By simultaneously engaging the nature photography community through Birds with Fish, building awareness about avian conservation in coastal communities, and collecting much-needed data on marine bird diets along the coast, we can begin to better understand the role that marine birds play in nearshore food webs.	$35,954
12	Bring it Outside - Rivulets to Rivers: Wonders of Our Watershed	Hike it Baby dba OutGrown	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	There has been a growing concern for drought impacts in Oregon due to climate change, including decreased water for agriculture, more intense and longer wildfire seasons, and impact on the availability of Indigenous first foods. It has also made it harder for sensitive species, like the Acorn Woodpecker, Oregon Vesper Sparrow, Fringed Myotis, Northern Red-legged Frog, Western Pond Turtle, and the Columbia Torrent Salamander to thrive. BIPOC families have been disproportionately affected by climate change in the Portland Metro area, in part due to historic discriminatory racist policies and ongoing gentrification. OutGrown's Rivulets to Rivers: Wonders of Our Watershed (WOW) project will weave together family friendly education, hands-on outdoor experiences, and community science in an effort to rebuild the bridge between BIPOC families and the urban watershed they are an integral part of, while also taking action to protect strategy species. By working in partnership with People of Color Outdoors (POCO) and local US Fish & Wildlife Service's NW Family Daycation, Rivulets to Rivers will center the BIPOC community, creating a co-designed facilitator training, participant booklet, and WOW exploration kits for libraries. In addition to these evergreen materials, activities will include 8 walks and 4 paddle events to provide hands-on connection to the urban watershed within the Portland Metro region, focusing on the opportunity areas of Smith-Bybee Lakes and Columbia Slough, the Lower Willamette River Floodplain, Forest Park, and Sauvie Island/Scappoose. The project will also coordinate community science opportunities that engage families in the support of the above named priority sensitive species, and improvement and conservation of opportunity areas in the region.	$140,000

13	Building Support and Protection for Otter Rock Marine Reserve Wildlife and Habitat	Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserve	Nearshore	Addresses aspects of drought	The creation of Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserve (Friends) arose from the need to protect wildlife and habitat after observing wildlife disturbances. We are not "enforcers" but since 2021, we have observed that the mere presence of our volunteers has reduced the incidence of wildlife disturbances from visitors climbing over fences and/or entering prohibited areas. Friends recruits and trains volunteers and student interns to interact with visitors to enrich their experience and to inspire them to protect and preserve the landscape and the rocky shore intertidal life. The primary species of concern are black oystercatchers, harbor seals, and sea stars, but see sections below: Primary Taxa and Wildlife Priority Strategy Species. Our training acquaints volunteers with interpretive techniques and topics including ecology, geology, climate, whales, birds, tide pool organisms, and tribal history of the area. In addition to adult volunteers, we hire and train students from 5 area high schools who have an interest in coastal and ocean science as paid summer interns. This program helps students expand their ocean science and conservation knowledge while building communication skills. Volunteers and interns connect with visitors to inspire a sense of appreciation for the area and natural habitats in general. In 2023, Friends volunteers and interns engaged with 10,000 visitors. Finally, the data we collect in our community science activities contributes to the understanding and potential strategies concerning ocean health. We seek funding to broaden our reach and interactions through: * additional interpretive programming; * additional coverage during week-days; * expanded community science activities such as measurement of Ocean Acidification, which contributes to ocean-oriented climate resilience; * participation in planning for the newly designated Marine Conservation Area adjacent to Otter Rock Marine Reserve, which will involve geographic expansion of interpretive programs.	$29,556
14	Cambodian American Community of Oregon Annual Camp	Cambodian American Community of Oregon	Coast Range	Does not addess aspects of drought	This project focuses on bridging cultural connections and promoting outdoor education within the Khmer community through a partnership between CACO's Annual Camping and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Grounded in the vision of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee, the initiative aims to inspire stewardship and involvement in Oregon's natural resources while fostering cultural understanding and community engagement. Taking place at BSA campgrounds, the project offers reduced-cost opportunities for community members to learn fishing, crabbing, and clamming from experienced veterans, thereby reconnecting them with traditional outdoor activities. Through educational programs and cultural exchanges, participants gain knowledge and skills while developing a deeper appreciation for Oregon's fish, wildlife, and wild places. By providing access to outdoor spaces not typically accessible to the Cambodian community, the project supports equitable engagement in outdoor recreation, aligning with Oregon's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2024-28. Ultimately, this initiative aims to empower individuals to become stewards of their cultural heritage and the natural environment, contributing to both community cohesion and conservation efforts in Oregon.	$11,000

15	Campaign for Oregon's Estuaries	Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition	Coast Range; Nearshore	Addresses aspects of drought	Estuary management plans for Oregon's 22 major estuaries are decades old. The state has launched a years-long effort to revise and update them. Developing adaptive plans is essential to preserve estuarine resources and maintain resilience in the era of climate change. Oregon Shores' Campaign for Oregon's Estuaries successfully engaged the Coos Bay and Yaquina Bay communities in this process for Phase 1 of the updates, through public education and in-depth outreach. Now our goal is to work in concert with DLCD, ODFW, OCCRI, and Tribes to develop a community engagement roadmap and resources for local resilience planning and to offer direct capacity to local governments in use of those resources to meaningfully engage the public, particularly underrepresented and marginalized populations, so that plans for the long-term ecological health of estuaries will reflect broad community understanding and support. Achieving this coordinated, coastwide resilience vision will fill a major gap in the preparedness of Oregon's estuaries and coastal communities for the effects of climate change, such as flooding, storm surge, sea level rise, and higher water temperatures. This project supports aquatic habitat resilience: conservation of estuarine "strategy habitat," essential to the life-cycles of many commercially important and sensitive species listed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, including Chinook salmon, Dungeness crab, and Littleneck clams. National Marine Fisheries Service has designated estuaries and eelgrass beds as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern for these key species. We aim to facilitate community-based plans that foster climate resilience, prioritize carbon sequestration, and promote conservation of key blue carbon habitats, by focusing on land-use planning. It is our goal to educate coastal communities and visitors about the role estuaries play in climate adaptation, to encourage community support for greater stewardship of these critical resources.	$50,000
16	Central Oregon Human/ Wildlife Coexistence Project	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	East Cascades	Does not addess aspects of drought	This project, Central Oregon Human/Wildlife Coexistence Project, focuses on producing educational materials about responsible recreation tailored for audiences in the Bend area. We plan to use video and animation to educate residents and visitors about the benefits of animal crossing structures and the need for connectivity for wildlife. Also, some of the videos will focus on recreation and wildlife disturbance and how to minimize impacts. The desired outcome is a change in behavior over time towards cohabitation between people and wildlife and to encourage responsible recreation throughout Oregon.	$50,000

17	Community Conservation for Mardon Skipper Meadows: Monitoring, Restoration, and Education	Vesper Meadow Education Program DBA of The Understory Initiative	West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	The Mardon skipper Polites mardon (Poma), is a rare butterfly in Oregon/Washington and an indicator of healthy wet meadow habitat. It is an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species and a Federal Species of Concern among several other conservation designations. Poma were likely more widespread and abundant prior to the past 150 years of development, water diversion, livestock grazing, fire suppression, and non-native vegetation invasion. (Black & Vaughan 2005) Several P. mardon klamathense meadow surveys in show population declines of 95% or more in the last fifteen years. (Mardon Skipper Site Monitoring reports, Ashland BLM Resource Area, Keller 2020, 2022) This project will address the ongoing habitat degradation in the last two known meadows with viable populations of this southwest Oregon endemic species. These headwater meadows continue to face degradation issues of related to a legacy of hydrologic disturbance, invasive pasture grasses and soil compaction and overgrazing by illegal tresspass cattle, and climate change. In addition to bolstering conservation for the Mardon skipper, this project will also serve other wildlife such as songbirds and resident Elk, downstream fish species in both Klamath and Rogue River watersheds, water quality and climate resiliency. We are building upon existing federal, Tribal, and NGO partnerships, for a multipronged conservation strategy to monitor Poma populations and habitat, engage volunteers in conservation actions and habitat restoration, increase public awareness through education, art, and digital media. Project Partners: Bureau of Land Management, The Understory Initiative, Project Beaver (formerly The Beaver Coalition), Xerces Society, Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center	$49,789

18	Community-Based Beaver Habitat Restoration and Outreach to Address Drought and Enhance Biodiversity	Think Wild	Blue Mountains; East Cascades; Northern Basin & Range	Addresses aspects of drought	Central and Eastern Oregon riparian landscapes are beset by environmental issues: wildfires, drought, rising water temperatures, invasive species, and harmful land use practices, which threaten habitat for fish, wildlife, and humans. Research supports that the presence of beavers, and their activity in stream ecosystems, lead to improved habitat for fish, wildlife, and native plants, as well as increased drought, flood, and fire tolerance. A variety of factors limit beaver populations' success in Oregon, including suitable habitat, resource availability, drought, and public perception. Beaver Works Oregon is a program under Think Wild dedicated to supporting beaver success in Central and Eastern Oregon. Through this program, our project addresses these limiting factors by conducting community-based beaver habitat restoration and outreach for and with landholders, tribes, agencies, and the public. Our project works to establish self-sustaining beaver habitat in degraded stream reaches as well as human tolerance for beavers to safely settle and reproduce. To achieve this, we collaborate with local watershed councils, tribes, agencies, and landholders to implement habitat restoration projects primarily in three Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) ecoregions: Blue Mountain, Northern Basin and Range and East Cascades. We take students and volunteer groups to the worksites to execute and monitor the projects by spending up to a couple days "recreating for good" - working, camping, and learning about beaver habitat, healthy ecosystems, and working lands. Our project also includes accessible education, outreach, and support services to rural youth, adults, and agencies about coexistence solutions and benefits of beavers in Central and Eastern Oregon watersheds. Examples include workshops for landholders and agency personnel, interpretive walks, citizen science activities, postcard mailings, tabling at events, youth education programs, and volunteer recruiting.	$130,000

19	Cottonwood Creek Habitat Restoration-Lake County	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	East Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	This application requests support for native fish habitat conservation efforts in the high desert closed-basin ecosystem of South-Central Oregon. The Goose Lake Basin provides habitat for a diverse native fish community with a high level of endemism (species found nowhere else). Endemic fish species include the Goose Lake Redband Trout, Goose Lake Sucker, Goose Lake Tui Chub, and Goose Lake Lamprey are known to spend at least part of their lives in Goose Lake when available. Four of these native fish species (Goose Lake Redband Trout, Goose Lake Lamprey, Goose Lake Sucker, and Pit Roach) are listed as “species of concern” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to species’ vulnerability within the Goose Lake Basin. Goose Lake Redband Trout population is considered "vulnerable" with an interim assessment of "at risk. An "at risk" designation is applied when three or fewer criteria are met for the population in the basin.The Great Basin Redband Trout is one of the eight native fish living in Cottonwood Creek. The Goose Lake Redband Trout is comprised of nineteen populations and only lives in this watershed and relies on connectivity and quality habitat. Adfluvial redband trout move upstream from early March until late May, spawn from late March to early June and then head back downstream to Goose Lake or stay in larger streams such as Thomas or Cottonwood Creeks. The work proposed in this application will take place on Cottonwood Creek, one of the largest tributaries to Goose Lake. Project objectives aim to support instream water availability, reduce sediment pollution, create and improve pool habitat, and provide streambank stability. The overarching goal is to create quality habitat to support native fish populations, abundance, and resiliency in this closed basin environment. Project partners include Cottonwood Cattle Company LLC, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, River Design Group, and Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council.	$140,000
20	Cougar Mountain Willamette River Greenway Project	Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	This proposed project is located in Lane County, along the Coast Fork Willamette River within an Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitat. Cougar Mountain Greenway is 30.6 acres, located in the Willamette Greenway system, and owned and managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). This project proposes removing undesired and invasive species in the riparian forest and upland meadow. This property has a high level of biodiversity of native species, especially native wildflowers, however, OPRD has little to no funding or staff time to maintain the park. Limiting factors include poor regeneration of hardwood trees and shrubs, changes in plant species composition and structure, and degradation by invasive plants. Without immediate intervention, nonnative and invasive species will continue to spread and outcompete the native species including wildflowers reducing the overall biodiversity on site. These proposed actions will positively impact Oregon Conservation Strategy Species like Northwestern pond turtles, Western bluebirds, and white-breasted nuthatches. This project is a partnership between OPRD and the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC).	$43,900

21	Cox Creek Fish Passage and Screening-Lake County	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	East Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	The project is located in the Goose Lake Watershed, Lake County Oregon. The Goose Lake Watershed is a closed basin that occupies about 1,100 square miles. This is a semi-arid region, and historically Goose Lake has gone completely dry during periods of extended drought. The area lies in the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California (SONEC) region of the Pacific Flyway. This region stands out as the highest priority habitat across the 11-state geography. SONEC sustains more than six million migrating and breeding birds each year. Latest data indicates that wetlands across this landscape are threatened not only by land use changes but also drying as a result of climate change. Additionally, the lake and its tributary streams support a unique assemblage of nine native fish species, four of these fish species are listed as “species of concern” by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) due to vulnerability within this challenging system. This includes the Goose Lake red band trout, Goose Lake lamprey, Goose Lake sucker, and the California Pit Roach. Survival through drought has been possible for centuries by seeking refuge in the upstream tributaries. In the early and mid 1900's the majority of these streams have been utilized for irrigation and diversion barriers impede upstream migration and refuge - ultimately impacting populations and resilience. The project has three goals: 1) Implement a fish screen to prevent fish entrapment, 2) Restore fish passage on Cox Creek at the irrigation diversion, and 3) Maintain the integrity of the irrigation diversion which provides hundreds of acres of wet meadow habitat for migratory birds. Project partners include The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Ducks Unlimited (DU), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and River Design Group, Inc. (RDG).	$140,000
22	Determining Western Yellow Rail Distribution and Drought Resilience of Shallow Wetland Habitats in the Pacific Northwest	Oregon State University	East Cascades; Northern Basin & Range	Addresses aspects of drought	Wetland ecosystems across the western US are in decline from overallocation of water resources, competing water uses, and drought. Despite having lost 90% of perennial emergent wetlands by the 1980s, the Upper Klamath Basin of southcentral Oregon is a key area for migratory waterbirds in the Pacific flyway. Recurring and increased drought has continued to shrink wetlands. Yellow rails are dependent on shallow wetlands, with almost all known breeding range in western North America contained within the Klamath Basin and adjacent wetlands. There are significant knowledge gaps regarding the distribution and migratory patterns of this small and isolated population. Automated recording units (ARUs) offer an opportunity to study their occurrence, behavior, and phenology, while balancing surveyor effort and impact on birds. The objectives are 1) to develop and evaluate a methodology to estimate abundance with ARUs and compare it to human surveys and 2) to build an occupancy model for yellow rails within their range. ARUs offer a unique approach to studying rare and secretive species, and our project seeks to solve one of the tenants of wildlife research, species abundance. This work is the result of an ongoing collaboration among US Fish & Wildlife Service Migratory Birds (Region 1&8), USFWS Refuges, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Geological Survey, and Oregon State University. We have amassed 631 hours of volunteer time in assisting with surveys and ARU deployment. Outcomes from the project include a predictive map that translates not only to rail occupancy but to wetland condition that will be transferable to other species of conservation concern that occupy similar habitats. Additionally, we anticipate this product informing the occurrence of wetland areas that are most resilient to drought as indicated by the presence of rails in these areas.	$86,391

23	Discovery Center Invasive Plant Project	McKenzie River Discovery Center	Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	The McKenzie River Discovery Center (MRDC) land is owned by Lane County Parks, and MRDC has a 99-year lease to the property. The 46-acre site is leased by the MRDC for the purpose of educating Oregon youth about the unique characteristics of the McKenzie River, and promote stewardship of rivers throughout Oregon. The project is located within the footprint of the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire and will concentrate on the historic pond, Hatchery Creek, and wetland area. Invasive vegetation includes English ivy (Hedera helix), reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus), and English holly (Ilex aquifolium). Removal of these species is difficult and variable: * English Ivy should be manually removed and grubbed out using hand tools while soil is moist. Girdle ivy climbing up trees at 2 feet, and remove lower vines. * Reed canary grass can be shaded out using willow stakes, or can be chemically treated using triclopyr, an aquatic-safe herbicide. * Himalayan blackberry can be manually removed and grubbed out using hand tools while soil is moist, or chemically treated using triclopyr. If chemically treated, dense thickets should be cut to the base approximately 4 weeks prior to treatment and the regrowth spot sprayed. * English holly should be manually pulled from the ground if small enough, or larger trees should be cut to the base, and stump sprayed immediately with imazapyr. All chemical applications will be administered by an ODA licensed pesticide applicator. To provide additional bank stabilization we will be planting native species above the trail: A riparian mix of native species in restoration projects based on reference conditions in riparian forest and geared towards maximizing site biodiversity and ecosystem. See plant list in Project Objective section. Invasive plants have killed several trees, and had negative impacts on the ecosystem and other native plants.	$33,300
24	Diversifying the Outdoors – Increasing BIPOC Leadership in Conservation and Recreation	Wild Diversity	Willamette Valley	Does not addess aspects of drought	Many conservation and outdoor recreation organizations are working to improve diversity and inclusion efforts, however, recruitment and retention of BIPOC individuals remains a challenge. At the same time, many talented BIPOC that are currently working in those career fields in Oregon are not advancing into leadership positions. Wild Diversity is changing these dynamics through increased representation and leadership development for marginalized communities. Our BIPOC Youth Media program increases representation in outdoor recreation by training young adults to film and produce outdoor educational videos about a variety of topics such as hiking, camping, kayaking, swift water safety, and ecology. These videos elevate the outdoor expertise of young BIPOC Oregonians, while also showcasing Black and brown joy in nature. We're also building BIPOC up as thought leaders in the conservation field who are creating initiatives that better foster inclusion, including our BIPOC Leadership Development program with mentorship and professional career advancement supports. We would be honored to partner with the OCRF to continue breaking stereotypes and redefining outdoor recreation and conservation by creating a more inclusive culture where Black, brown, queer, and trans people have a deep knowing that the outdoors is a place where they belong, where they can thrive and where they can fully access the healing and improved wellbeing nature provides.	$50,000

25	Enhancing Habitat Resilience at local Angling Ponds: Community-driven Restoration for Oregon's Wildlife	ODFW STEP	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	The Mid-Willamette STEP program aims to secure funding for local habitat restoration initiatives in community angler access ponds and school properties with creek access. Rather than undertaking extensive habitat overhauls, the project focuses on enhancing existing ecosystems by introducing complexity and fortifying treatment areas against future drought and invasive species encroachment. Removing invasive vegetation will increase fire resistance across the board at ODFW properties. The project relies entirely on local volunteers recruited through the STEP program, targeting college students pursuing careers in fish and wildlife, community members passionate about habitat restoration, and K-12 students engaged in fish and wildlife projects. Few opportunities exist for volunteers to actively participate in restoring and expanding Oregon's habitat, making planting and invasive species removal projects invaluable for fostering public engagement and stewardship of state resources. Target zones include Bond Butte Angling Pond, Junction City Angling Pond, Adair Pond, and approximately half a mile of Mill Creek in partnership with Turner Elementary School. Leveraging existing agreements, the project emphasizes hands-on involvement of volunteers alongside staff members, recognizing the significance of community engagement in habitat conservation. Planting activities will follow invasive species removal in small clusters, conducted between October and April to mitigate drought impacts on new vegetation.	$20,000
26	Equitable Outdoor Access for Under-Sourced Community Members: Regenerative Communal Land-Tending and Conservation for Immigrants & Refugees, Folks with Disabilities, Low-Incomes, BIPOC, & LGBTQIIA2S+.	Kindness Farm	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	Historically, in communities around the world, land tending and the practice of conservation have been intimately intertwined with community building and wellbeing, social connection, civic engagement, and the local economy. Currently, however, our lives have become divorced from community and connection to land. Modern practices have been damaging our planet and our communities for decades – in particular low income communities, communities of color, folks living with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, and LGBTQIIA2S+. In our current system, democratic access to land tending and conservation is missing. Our disconnection from the experience of tending land and conservation has significant consequences. It results in a lack of environmental literacy (an understanding of how our actions impact our environment), lack of access to natural spaces, and lack of access to community. All of these disconnections result in tremendous disparities in health and wellbeing. The question we're asking is: how can we reunite local communities, in particular those most impacted, with the experience of tending land and practicing conservation in a way that equips us with tools to face the climate crisis, re-ignite a passion for protecting the outdoors, and create physical, emotional, mental, and social wellbeing and resilience for generations to come? Our solution to that is Kindness Farm. Kindness Farm is a 100% regenerative farm. Utilizing indigenous practices that are thousands of years old, we focus on holistic practices that create resilience and health in our urban communities, sequester carbon, protect wildlife in an urban environment, mitigate the heat dome effect, preserve and increase biodiversity, facilitate communal regenerative land-tending and conservation work, reconnect us to the land, provide access to local food, and help us see ourselves as one participant in a much greater ecosystem.	$45,000

27	Examining Pollinators of Culturally Significant Plants: Native Pollinators and First Foods	Oregon State University	Blue Mountains	Does not addess aspects of drought	Insect pollinators are key components of Oregon's wildlife and contribute substantially to the state's biodiversity. Insect pollination is necessary for the reproduction of most flowering plants, including culturally significant species. For example, certain plant species are identified by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) as First Foods, including insect-pollinated roots and berries. However, relatively little is known about which insects pollinate these culturally significant plants and how common they are. This information is needed to evaluate the conservation status of First Food pollinators and help guide future management actions by CTUIR and their partners. In addition, raising public awareness about the importance of insect pollinators in supporting native plants that are culturally significant to Tribes and other groups is a high priority. Several pollinator species in the area are sensitive species, including the western bumble bee (an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species). In collaboration with CTUIR and the US Forest Service (USFS), we propose to 1) sample pollinator and blooming plants and document pollinator relationships (with a focus on First Food plants) at 10 sites in eastern Oregon (including in three Conservation Opportunity Areas) monthly from May to September 2025 and 2) produce outreach materials aimed at outdoor recreationists. Research findings will be summarized for use by CTUIR and the USFS in planning restoration and management and disseminated to the scientific community. Outreach products will introduce users to the biology, ecology, and cultural significance of insect pollinators, describe common pollinators in the region, and provide tips for watching and photographing them in recreational settings. Outreach efforts will aim to raise awareness about pollinators and encourage recreational pollinator watching, a fast-growing outdoor activity accessible to diverse groups of people in almost any habitat.	$49,999
28	Expedition Equipment	Team River Runner PDX	Columbia Plateau;East Cascades; Willamette Valley	Does not addess aspects of drought	One of the best ways that Team River Runner Has found that helps Veterans, is through our multi day expeditions. There is a lot of healing that happens on the river. On our expeditions a Veteran has the opportunity to get out of their own head, they can have an opportunity enjoy, and learn to enjoy the present. We currently rely on our volunteers to provide their private gear for our expeditions.	$4,300

29	Generation Green Fisheries Internship	Discover Your Forest	Blue Mountains; East Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Discover Your Forest (DYF) requests funds to support 4 Generation Green Fisheries intern(s) from 2024-2026 who will assist Forest Service-led Aquatics teams on projects in the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests. The interns' work will address stream health and functionality, data acquisition and monitoring, and organization for the Aquatics team to meet their mission-critical objectives. Their work will span across the Deschutes NF and Ochoco NF, which contain ODFW Conservation Opportunity Areas such as the Metolius River Area (COA ID: 127), Whychus Creek (COA ID: 128), Central Cascades Crest, Southeast (COA ID: 116), Upper Deschutes River (COA ID:129), Ochoco Mountains (COA ID: 173), and the South Fork Crooked River Area (COA ID: 174). ODFW strategy species within these areas include and are not limited to Steelhead trout, Interior Columbia Basin Redband Trout, and Columbia Spotted Frog. Upon completion of full-service (640 hours per intern), the Fisheries and Stream Survey Interns/Trainees will receive the Public Land Corps Hiring Authority certificate. PLC Hiring Authority provides 2 years of non-competitive hiring status*. (*Non-competitive hiring status is the ability to apply and be considered for permanent vacancies within the U.S. Forest Service without competitive examination or competing with career or career-conditional employees under internal merit staffing procedures for any position which eligible. Candidates applying under this authority are considered with other non-competitive status candidates.	$37,804
30	Harlequin Duck breeding ecology, survey methodology, and potential impacts of drought and recreation	Oregon Institute of Technology	West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Harlequin Duck (HADU) is a Conservation Strategy Species with a breeding range restricted to streams and rivers of the West Cascades. Breeding ground arrival, nesting, and brood rearing appear phenologically synchronized with seasonal hydrology patterns and may require a mosaic of aquatic and riparian habitats including rapids and riffles for adult foraging and glides, pools, and backwaters for brood rearing. These narrow habitat requirements, low reproductive rate, high site fidelity, and delayed reproduction make them especially vulnerable to climate change, drought, altered disturbance regimes, and human activities. Declining snowpack, reduced water quantity and quality, increased wildfire and flood risk, and altered aquatic and riparian habitat required for foraging, nesting, and brood rearing along with increased recreational activity at key breeding sites could be driving significant population declines recorded over the past twenty years. Consistent and accurate research and monitoring efforts are severely limited by low detection probability and population density, a large range comprised of rugged terrain and dense vegetation, and seasonal population demographics. We will quantify nest and brood rearing habitat within Quartzville Creek, Santiam, Molalla, and Salmon Rivers that comprise four COAs of the West Cascades. To guide species conservation and management actions, we will quantify stream bank morphology, stream substrate, woody debris, riparian vegetation, and aquatic prey at nesting, adult foraging, and brood rearing sites AND use daily water temperature and flow data from USGS NWIS stations. We will monitor nest success, predation, and wildlife or human disturbance with trail cameras. We will also assess use of wildlife cameras and Automated Recording Units (ARUs) to detect HADU. Our key partners include the BLM Northwest District Cascades Field Office, BLM State Office, BLM/USFS ISSSSP, and Willamette NF.	$117,159

31	High lakes in the Oregon Cascades (Phase 2): Using eDNA metabar-coding to evaluate relationships between drought and coexistence of fish and amphibians	US Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center	East Cascades; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	High elevation aquatic ecosystems are experiencing rapid change with increasing recreation, drought, and wildfires. Fish and amphibians are key components of food webs in lakes, often as apex predators. Amphibians can be an important food source for fish, especially in nutrient-limited mountain lakes. ODFW stocks montane lakes with hatchery trout to provide quality angling opportunities. Most montane lakes were fishless prior to stocking. Introduced trout can affect survival and reproduction of amphibians. Summer drought frequency and severity are projected to increase in Oregon and will likely reduce suitability of smaller lakes and ponds for amphibians, resulting in increased use of larger more permanent waterbodies with greater exposure to fish. This has been referred to as a 'climate vise' (Ryan et al. 2014). Information on this pattern is needed to help balance recreational opportunities and conservation needs for both fish and amphibians. In Phase 1 (2022-23), we conducted visual encounter surveys and collected water for eDNA analysis at 30 lakes in the southern Oregon Cascades to characterize their fish and amphibian communities (map attached). This Phase 2 proposal funds lab analysis of Phase 1 eDNA samples and adds a 2nd field year to appreciably increase our sample size. Our goals are to better understand amphibian habitat associations across a gradient of drought susceptibility and to evaluate potential for fish and amphibians to coexist at site and landscape scales as climate change alters distribution of wetland sizes and hydroperiods. This work directly addresses multiple Conservation Strategy Species and Conservation Opportunity Areas. We will share results with partners throughout the study including on efficacy of eDNA for sampling fish and amphibians in high lakes, distributions of fish and amphibians across a drought susceptibility gradient, and implications for fish and amphibians to coexist as montane wetlands change in the future.	$137,870
32	Highway 82 Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction & Awareness	Oregon Hunters Association	Blue Mountains	Does not addess aspects of drought	Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 5 are working to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and raise awareness of this major problem on Highway 82 in the Wallowa Mountains Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) and adjacent to the Zumwalt Prairie Plateau COA. Highway 82, between Wallowa and Enterprise, accounts for hundreds of wildlife-vehicle collisions each year and possesses the highest wildlife-vehicle collision density level in Oregon with over 41 collisions with deer alone per mile. With funding sparse for this area for this cause, this project aims to make drivers aware of the dangers they are facing and to reduce direct mortality of wildlife by installing robust, solar-powered, flashing wildlife crossing signs along this deadly stretch of highway. After installation of new flashing wildlife crossing signs, and a robust outreach effort, we hope to reduce driver speeds within these areas to avoid collisions with numerous Oregon Conservation Strategy Species. Wildlife-vehicle collisions are indiscriminate and can result in additive mortality for these species which can cause population declines. These signs that we hope to install are a cost-effective way to educate and warn the public of wildlife-vehicle collisions and if our monitoring efforts show that these signs are effective in reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions, we may see an increased use of these signs statewide.	$50,000

33	Immersive River Access Project	Adventures Without Limits	East Cascades; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	According to the Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, "by providing Oregon's youth with opportunities to learn outdoor recreation skills in outdoor settings, we have the opportunity to rebuild the foundation for future outdoor recreation participation and reestablish personal connections with nature and their public lands." Through this project, Adventures Without Limits will connect underserved communities to wildlife viewing opportunities that are uniquely accessed by river recreation, including single and multi-day rafting trips on the Santiam, Clackamas, and Deschutes Rivers. Leaning on long-standing partnerships with organizations like Hacienda CDC, Adelante Mujeres, Latino Network, The Companion Program, Edwards Center, Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection, and the School for the Deaf, we will host 6 single-day, and 3 multi-day rafting trips connecting Latinx youth, along with youth and adults with disabilities to the waterways of the Willamette Valley, along with the East and West Cascades. This project centers OCRF's commitment to equity and engaging underserved populations who have been historically excluded from recreation and conservation issues in Oregon, with consideration for race/ethnicity, language, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disabilities, and/or other cultural or economic status. We will serve more than 150 participant user days for a total of 1900 hours in nature. Participants will build community, learn new skills, and develop a deep connection to place in Oregon, including the historically inaccessible natural spaces that are home to fish and wildlife habitats.	$50,000
34	Increasing and Leading Access to Nature in the Willamette Valley	Environment for the Americas	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	The convergence of climate change and population growth underscores the need to help foster a deeper and broader understanding of stewardship and inclusiveness in conservation. Oregon's annual temperature will increase by 5 °F by mid-century and 8.2 °F by the 2080s. This level of warming will exacerbate impacts on the natural and human environments that have started to manifest in the state. The state's Latinx population grew by over 30% over the last ten years, as Oregon has added nearly 140,000 Latino residents, according to the 2020 census. Latinos are now the largest minority group in the state, accounting for almost 14% of the state's population. Among Oregonians under 18, Latinos make up 23% of the population. The Willamette Valley National Refuge Complex (WVNWRC) has been working to reach more of their communities since 2015. Long aware of the faces and families missing from public lands, the Complex started a Latino Engagement Program nearly 10 years ago. To ensure a member of the Latino community and a native Spanish speaker joined the team, the Complex partnered with the Environment for the Americas (EFTA), to recruit bilingual interns. Increasing and continuing to lead access to nature in the Willamette Valley continues with a focus on four bilingual nature programs throughout the mid-Willamette Valley with additional partners and across all of the complex Refugees. Using the assessment of field tests of the curriculum developed by a previous WVNWRC-EFTA intern, the intern will expand the program's reach across Hispanic communities in four mid-Valley counties. Funding provided by the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund will support the intern, provide materials for appropriate hands-on education in bilingual learning environments, and produce easily replicated activities for future learning.	$37,070

35	Interpretive Signs for Lincoln City Osprey Nests	Audubon Society of Lincoln City	Nearshore	Does not addess aspects of drought	To advance conservation education and recreational birding, Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) will partner with the City of Lincoln City to install interpretive signs at ten Osprey nest sites in COA 20-Devils Lake and 21-Siletz Bay. This project is part of ASLC's Osprey Awareness Initiative, which addresses the need to make resident and tourist audiences aware of wildlife in urban areas, and to emphasize how human activity can negatively impact wildlife—stressing positive actions we all can take. Using Oregon's State Raptor, the Osprey, as a signature example, this issue matters because * Urban audiences are often "wildlife unaware," * Just one engaging bird experience can spark a lifetime of wildlife interest and enjoyment, and * Human activities can negatively impact Ospreys and other wildlife. Work activities include identifying the ten most accessible Osprey nest sites within the municipal boundaries, working with Lincoln City to determine whether nests are on City or private land, and negotiating with private landowners for permission to install signs. With sites identified, ASLC will design a different bilingual sign for each nest with a compelling Osprey fact and a QR code that links to more information. Once installed, signs will be used as part of a passport program to encourage multiple nest visits. Signs will also support ASLC's ongoing Osprey bird walks, community celebrations, and school programs. Outcomes and benefits of the project include: * Public awareness of Osprey nests, the birds' natural history, and personal conservation actions will increase for both residents and tourists in Lincoln City, * ASLC's Osprey Awareness Initiative will benefit from increased visibility, enhancing success in recruiting volunteer nest observers, and * With a successful Lincoln City collaboration, ASLC will continue to partner with coastal cities and government entities in Lincoln and Tillamook Counties to advance conservation of wildlife and their natural habitats.	$6,948

36	Jubilee Lake Dam spillway repair and safety monitoring equipment	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Blue Mountains	Does not addess aspects of drought	We are requesting funds to make repairs to the Jubilee Lake Dam spillway and to install lake level monitoring equipment to ensure safe operation of the dam that creates a reservoir thereby providing important recreational opportunities in northeast Oregon. Jubilee Lake is an artificial lake on Motett Creek, a tributary to Lookingglass Creek in the Grande Ronde Watershed. The lake is created by an earthen dam owned and operated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purpose of providing recreational opportunities. Jubilee Lake is located on the Umatilla National Forest and is the highest used recreation site on the forest. The lake paired with the Forest Service Campground provide opportunities for camping, hiking, picnicking, fishing, and non-motorized boating. The recreation site includes the 2.8 mile long Jubilee Lake National Recreation Trail that like most of the facilities at the campground, is fully wheelchair accessible. The lake is a very popular recreation site providing opportunities for a diverse suite of types of recreation and ensuring access to outdoor recreation for a diverse group of users. The dam structure has begun to age leading to a recent designation by the Oregon Water Resources Department as a high hazard dam. To continue to safely provide the important recreational opportunities associated with the lake, we are requesting $41,513 from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund to restore sections of failing concrete on the dam spillway and to install lake level monitoring equipment. These actions will help alleviate concerns associated with the current conditions of the dam and allow the continued operation of the dam to provide the highly valued recreational opportunities associated with Jubilee Lake. Furthermore, this work helps protect persons and infrastructure downstream of Jubilee Lake Dam including Lookingglass Hatchery where all the spring/summer Chinook Salmon for the Oregon Snake River tributaries are reared.	$41,513
37	Lake County Drought Mitigation and Recreation Improvement	Lake County	East Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Lake County Drought Mitigation and Recreation Improvement proposal is a two phased project that includes forest thinning in phase one and adding bike trails in phase two. The mountain bike trails will be located and designed in the summer of 2024 with separate funding. This project is located on County property that includes the Warner Canyon Ski Area. The current properties has a Ponderosa and White Fir forest stand. The project also includes encroachment of juniper trees on prime mule deer habitat where sagebrush is present. Juniper reduction promotes water back into the soil, increases grassland growth and adds carbon to the soil. The thinning on this project would also increase winter skiing and snowboarding opportunities for the adjacent ski area. This area could be greatly improved by utilizing hand crews to brush and pile debris and small growth that was not thinned mechanically. This would clean up and beautify the conifer forest while providing for increased mule deer habitat as well as allow for increased access for winter and summer recreation opportunities. Partners include the Fremont Highlanders Ski Club (FHSC), Lake County, Lake County Chamber of Commerce and Outback Trails Club.	$45,800

38	Lincoln County Parks Riparian Restoration	Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District	Coast Range	Addresses aspects of drought	This project involves three county parks on the Siletz River, each of which are popular recreational destinations for anglers, swimmers, and campers. The largest portion of restoration activities will occur at the furthest upstream location, Moonshine Park. Here, mature conifers are present along the stream banks throughout most of the park, but human foot traffic has degraded much of the understory vegetation within the riparian buffer and several invasive species are present, particularly Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus). This park is also a known spawning location for several salmonid species. Ojalla Park is mainly used for its boat launch, which was constructed in 2015 and involved the total removal of trees and ground cover vegetation in the vicinity. Some revegetation was conducted, which we plan to supplement. Jack Morgan Park is used for mixed recreation during the summer and fishing during fall and winter. At this location, conifers are absent from the riparian zone and Himalayan blackberry dominates the stream bank. Our project aims to enrich native tree and shrub cover in the riparian zones of each of these parks and increase plant diversity by removing invasive weeds, planting native shrub species in the project areas, propagating willow along the stream edge, and installing protective fencing in high traffic areas to prevent trampling until plants become established. Expected to benefits coastal salmonids include shade cover provided by planted conifers and eventual large woody debris accumulation, which will serve to lower water temperatures and increase habitat complexity. Mitigating erosion issues at the project sites will help reduce water turbidity, which is linked to increased water temperatures, and will also reduce sedimentation of gravel beds which provide critical spawning habitat. Partners include the Lincoln County Parks & Recreation Department, MidCoast Watershed Council, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.	$43,650
39	Mainstreaming Beaver-based restoration as a Natural Climate Solution in Oregon Phase II	Bonneville Environmental Foundation	Blue Mountains; Coast Range; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Supporting the recovery of beaver populations and their wetland habitats is an essential strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change, especially drought, and for recovering federally and state listed endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. While overwhelming support exists among practitioners, researchers and agencies to partner with beavers to address these issues, beaver-based restoration is a severely underutilized tool. On-the-ground organizations lack the tools and information necessary to prioritize efforts and the training and skills to implement projects. This proposal will build on previously and on-going successful efforts (Phase 1) to address major barriers to mainstreaming beaver-based restoration across the state while completing key actions in several state plans and habitat recovery for a number of Oregon Conservation Strategy species (e.g. coho salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey) and opportunity areas. The project draws on a strong and diverse coalition of local and regional non-profits, Tribes, and state and federal agencies to implement a statewide calibration effort of an existing Beaver-based restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) model that assesses beaver dam capacity and flood risk to infrastructure of all perennial and important intermittent streams (Phase 2). The project's community driven approach supports volunteer and youth education and career building opportunities in the process. Finally, data will be shared widely with practitioners along with other practical resources and guidance that support implementation through an interactive online resource hub (Phase 3).	$139,890

40	Mapping bull kelp and monitoring wildlife populations to support sustainable recreational harvest	Oregon Coast Aquarium	Nearshore	Does not addess aspects of drought	The Oregon Coast Aquarium partners with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon State University, and the Oregon Kelp Alliance to assist with research dives to protect and monitor local marine reserves. Otter Rock was designated as an official marine reserve in 2012. Since then we have been part of a continued effort to manage marine waters using an ecosystem-based approach, acknowledging that these protected areas are tools to sustain and restore the nearshore marine ecosystem, its habitats, and species. Of particular concern are sunflower sea stars, keystone species that have been decimated by sea star wasting disease. Sunflower sea stars prey on urchins and protect bull kelp forests that provide critical habitat to species from rockfish to whales. Bull kelp is particularly important for juvenile fish populations, providing shelter and protection from predators. Kelp forests also sequester carbon, making them invaluable to combating climate change. Collecting data on Oregon Conservation Strategy Species including bull kelp, sunflower sea stars, and rockfish in nearshore environments fills gaps in ecological knowledge and supports sustainable recreational harvest outside of marine reserves. We have raised $25,000 for this project and are requesting $48,695 in funding for a total project cost of $73,695 to continue research dives, gathering data on sea star numbers and fish and how to best restore kelp forests affected by urchin overgrazing.	$48,695
41	Mapping Drought-Resilient Habitat for Fish and Wildlife	The Nature Conservancy in Oregon	Blue Mountains; Coast Range; Columbia Plateau; East Cascades; Klamath Mountains; Northern Basin & Range; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Springs are uniquely drought-resilient aquatic habitat and often form the perennial headwaters of Oregon's most charismatic and ecologically-important streams. Springs and spring-supported streams are almost universally more resilient to short-term drought than surface water-dominated habitats. Springs are known to support high rates of endemism (e.g., ramshorn snails) and relict species (e.g., Borax Lake chub), and springs discharging into streams serve as hydrologic and cold-water refugia for a wide range of Oregon Conservation Strategy Species like shortnose suckers, Chinook salmon, and Great Basin redband trout. However, their capacity to serve as drought refugia still varies widely and depends on their hydrogeologic characteristics. Some perennial springs may be 'transient refugia' which will eventually become ephemeral under future drought stress. Other perennial springs are 'stable refugia' which have the ability to persist through long-term climate drying events. Despite their ecological importance, there have been few studies on the landscape scale to document their refugial capacity. This proposed project will survey 60 springs across Oregon that are important for Oregon Conservation Strategy Species and are representative of ecoregions and geology types. The project will sample springs for radioisotopes and stable isotopes to assess their refugial capacity. Six springs will be surveyed in partnership with Central Oregon Community College students to provide hands-on field education about key Oregon Conservation Strategy issues like climate change and water quantity. The project will provide information to help resource managers across Oregon prioritize conservation and recreation actions based on the drought resilience of springs and the streams that rely on them. Springs and streams with greater refugial capacity are likely better candidates for durable, climate-smart conservation and long-lasting benefits from recreational investment.	$84,731

42	Maternity and Winter Roosts of Myotis Species and Seasonal Activity Patterns of Bats in Dry Forests of Northeast Oregon; a Pilot Study	Forest Service	Blue Mountains	Addresses aspects of drought	Roosting requirements and seasonal activity patterns of forest bats in Northeast Oregon are poorly understood. This area has been subject to a history of intensive timber management, natural high-frequency fire regimes, and drought. Commercial logging has reduced availability of large-diameter trees used for maternity roosts. Availability of roosts may limit populations of bats, and dependence of bats on suitable roosts may magnify sensitivity to environmental stressors. Decreased water availability during periods of drought has been shown to reduce reproductive output for species of forest-dwelling bats that occur in this region. Understanding roosting ecology and activity patterns at relevant spatial and temporal scales is fundamental for evaluating the impacts of forest management, drought, disease, and climate change, and effectively prioritizing conservation of bats. This study will examine characteristics of maternity and winter roosts, and seasonal activity patterns of forest-dwelling bats on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. This information is critical for development of long-term studies evaluating population trends for bats in response to forest management, drought, and climate change in Northeast Oregon. Five Strategy Species of bat will be monitored in this study; California Myotis (Myotis californicus), Fringed Myotis (Myotis thysanodes), Long-legged Myotis (Myotis volans), and Silver-haired bats (Lasionycteris noctivagans), and Townsend's Big-eared Bat (Corynorhinus townsendii). Monitoring will occur within the Imnaha (ID 161), Wallowa Mountains (ID 163), and Upper Grande Ronde River Area (ID 160) Conservation Opportunity Areas. The US Forest Service (USFS) will lead project activities, with fieldwork and analysis support from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Eastern Oregon University (EOU). EOU and USFS will also partner in education opportunities for university students.	$70,000
43	Mitigating the Effects of Drought by Restoring Floodplain Systems: Low-cost and Accessible Methods for Monitoring At-Risk Amphibians	Oregon State University	Blue Mountains	Addresses aspects of drought	Many amphibians, such as the Columbia spotted frog (CSF, Rana luteiventris), are at risk in the Pacific Northwest, where they are threatened by increasing drought, land use change, habitat loss, introduced species, and other hazards. Past land management has led to losses of floodplain wetlands, a key habitat for amphibians. Fortunately, efforts are underway to increase stream-floodplain connectivity through restoration, increasing both floodplain wetland habitat and resilience to drought. While many of these projects are aimed at salmonid recovery, they are expected to benefit amphibians. However, due to a lack of cost-effective and efficient ways to monitor amphibians, little is known about how floodplain restoration affects amphibians. The project's goals are to 1) address this gap by monitoring CSF responses to restoration using four methods, and 2) compare the effectiveness, cost, and efficiency of the four methods. We will monitor CSFs with the traditional approach of visual surveys and with three rapidly evolving monitoring techniques: a) laboratory-based metabarcoding on eDNA isolated from water samples; b) streamside targeted sequence detection on eDNA, and c) bioacoustic surveys. The study will be part of a larger monitoring effort of 12 restoration projects (paired with 11 controls) managed by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the US Forest Service, and local watershed councils. The monitored sites are in the Grande Ronde Valley (159), Upper Grande Ronde (160) and South Fork John Day River (171) Conservation Opportunity Areas. This study will improve our understanding of how restoration affects amphibians in drought-prone eastern Oregon and build a better understanding of the effectiveness of these novel monitoring methods. If successful, these methods may be game-changers that enhance our understanding of amphibian conservation and can increase the quality of data on imperiled amphibians and their responses to restoration.	$96,582

44	Next Generation Riparian Planting: engaging college students in the riparian restoration process	Necanicum Watershed Council	Coast Range	Addresses aspects of drought	In August of 2023 the Necanicum Watershed Council successfully completed an important fish passage project on Coho Creek in Seaside, Oregon adding 1.4-miles of fully volitional salmonid habitat. At the site of the culvert replacement the streambanks remain barren and subject to increased risk of erosion and subsequent sediment transport. Fish are now able to safely and easily pass under Wahanna Road via our new 20' open-bottom arch culvert, however they are at risk during passage from lack of riparian shade and streambank sediment instability. In addition, there are little to no field-work related opportunities for local Ecology/Biology students from Clatsop Community College. This poses a dual-threat risk for habitat restoration work in our community: 1. A partially completed fish passage and habitat improvement project for salmonids; and 2. Ineffective or nonexistent engagement of next generation conservationists in the field This project proposes to address both of these issues by allowing a space for collegiate learners to engage with a hands-on restoration project from site planning to planting to post planting observation. At the conclusion of the project upwards of 30 students will have received 2-3 field days on an active restoration site with real engagement and participation in the work and the Coho Creek fish passage project will be completed by successfully installing vital streambank vegetation to ensure riparian shade and erosion control.	$17,700
45	Northeast Oregon Highway 82 Wildlife Crossing Project	Oregon Wildlife Foundation	Blue Mountains	Addresses aspects of drought	Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) records show that between 2009 and 2023, 885 deer and 21 elk were struck and killed by vehicles in a 22-mile corridor of US Highway 82 in NE Oregon. On average, 65 animals, primarily mule and white-tailed deer, are involved in wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) every year in this corridor that lies roughly between the towns of Wallowa and Enterprise. The actual number of WVCs is likely much higher as some animals die outside the highway right of way. Consequently, those animals are not recorded nor are smaller wildlife species killed by vehicle strikes. The NE Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition, comprised of federal and state agencies, non-profits, tribal partners, a private landowner, and a university, have come together to address this problem. Our project goal is safe passage for wildlife across OR 82, to accomplish three important objectives; 1) decrease WVCs as measured by ODOT, 2) increase landscape permeability, and 3) increase wildlife resilience to the effects of climate change, particularly habitat loss due to drought and wildfire risk. With funding support from OCRF, the Coalition will retain a consultant or team to complete a wildlife crossing mitigation analysis of the OR 82 project corridor to identify priority crossing locations, assess site conditions, and evaluate crossing designs and configurations for those priority crossing locations. This is the first phase of a project to address the problem of WVCs, landscape permeability, and climate change resilience in this section of OR 82. Wildlife crossings, when constructed, will reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, facilitate movement, and increase climate change resilience by supporting dispersal, following wildfires and drought-related habitat loss, for a diverse group of species including mule and white-tailed deer, elk, and OCS species Pacific marten, grey wolf, Columbia spotted frog, Rocky Mountain tailed frog, Western painted turtle, and Western toad.	$82,500

46	ODFW 2024 Beaver Action Plan Internships	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Blue Mountains; Coast Range; East Cascades; Klamath Mountains; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	This project advances a key goal in the ODFW 3-Year Action Plan for Beaver Modified Landscapes: 'Improve the understanding of current beaver presence, constraints on beaver distribution, and the habitat needs of beavers in Oregon'. American beavers are a strategic focus for ODFW and its partners because of the important habitat modifications they create in riparian, wetland, and woodland habitats throughout the state. Protection and restoration of riparian-floodplain vegetation communities are strategies identified in Oregon's conservation and recovery plans for migratory salmon, trout, and lamprey as well as the Oregon Conservation Strategy. The ODFW Beaver Action Plan commits ODFW to take specific steps toward landscape-scale restoration of beaver habitat by advancing four interconnected pillars: 1) Data and Science, 2) Habitat Restoration, 3) Beaver Management, and 4) Outreach and Communication. ODFW has identified 10 Beaver Emphasis Area watersheds (BEAs; HUC10s) across the state to expand partnerships and capacity for surveying beaver presence and activity (Plan Actions 1C, 1D), implementing beaver-based habitat restoration activities (Action 2B), and reducing human-beaver conflict through coexistence practices (Action 3B), where applicable (ODFW 2023; Att 4). This project directly advances Pillar 1: Data and Science, by funding 7 wildlife internships and 2 temporary Biological Science Assistants to assist ODFW staff with beaver surveys in priority watersheds. Interns/assistants will be located across the state in 6 of the 10 ODFW Beaver Emphasis Areas (BEAs) that need additional field capacity to scale-up beaver activity monitoring in coordination with partners. The 6 BEAs contain numerous Conservation Strategy Species and overlap 5 Conservation Opportunity Areas. OCRF funded beaver activity survey work in the 6 BEAs is part of a statewide effort and will complement corresponding beaver surveys in the remaining 4 (non-OCRF funded) BEAs (Att 1 - BEA Map).	$104,885
47	Oregon Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kits	Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation	Klamath Mountains; Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	Pollinators are essential to the reproduction of more than 85% of the world's flowering plants, which in turn produce the fruits and seeds that feed songbirds and other wildlife. Despite the ecological importance of pollinators, many are experiencing alarming population declines—including the monarch butterfly, Franklin's bumble bee and the western bumble bee—all three are designated as Strategy Species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. The Xerces Society's monarch and pollinator habitat kit program aims to address the decline of monarchs, the western bumble bee and other imperiled pollinators in Oregon by creating high-quality permanent habitats in the Willamette Valley and Klamath Mountains Ecoregions. This initiative seeks to engage and support a diverse range of Oregonians to participate in the program by providing carefully designed habitat kits to optimize the potential for monarch populations and other native pollinators to thrive. At the same time, this project will address key conservation concerns within the focal ecoregions, including habitat loss and habitat connectivity by creating stepping stones of habitat for pollinators. In addition, the habitat kit program aims to address barriers to conservation for underserved communities by providing both technical assistance and plant resources at no cost, while participants provide the time, labor, and space to promote pollinators. Landownership is not a perquisite to participation, as the program works to uplift and promote community projects and other projects in public spaces that are inclusive of public participation, including school grounds, natural areas, and parks. Through a grant from OCRF, we will leverage the success of Xerces' Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit pilot program in Oregon to expand the reach of the program to Conservation Opportunity Areas within the Willamette Valley and Klamath Mountains Ecoregions to increase participation and conservation outcomes in these areas.	$50,000

48	Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit in Partnership with the Oregon Trails Summit	Oregon Trails Coalition	West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	The Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit brings together two of Oregon's premier outdoor recreation events: the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit and Oregon Trails Summit. The event shapes the future of outdoor recreation with a focus on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities consistent with healthy fish, wildlife, and their habitats and connecting youth, families, and diverse and underserved communities to the outdoors. The 2024 summit combines fun and high-impact in-person networking opportunities with conference programming on the important issues of the day, educational content, trail stewardship work parties, and in-field tours and workshops. The summit convenes Oregon's diverse outdoor community to learn, build relationships, and find solutions to the challenges in developing and elevating outdoor recreation opportunities for all. It will include keynote and plenary sessions, educational panels, presentations, technical workshops, and strategic sessions designed to activate partners to advance our shared efforts. The 2024 summit will primarily take place Thursday- Saturday, December 5th-7th, at the Sunriver Resort and surrounding areas in Central Oregon. Through education programming and facilitating strategic cross-sector conversations, the summit seeks to accelerate efforts to: * Connect Oregonians of all backgrounds and abilities to the outdoors and increase health equity * Aid in the recovery of Oregon communities through outdoor recreation partnerships * Address the impacts of climate change on outdoor recreation and build climate resilience * Build a culture of environmental and cultural stewardship and healthy recreation * Provide an off-street network of trails for recreating and traveling within and between Oregon communities * Attract a wide range of visitors that contribute to Oregon's urban and rural economies * Support sustainable entrepreneurship and a thriving outdoor recreation economy that reduces economic disparities	$13,750

49	Oregon's Conservation Strategy Habitats, Past and Present	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Blue Mountains; Coast Range; Columbia Plateau; East Cascades; Klamath Mountains; Nearshore; Northern Basin & Range; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	The Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) is used extensively to guide and direct implementation of conservation work statewide. Ensuring that resources provided within the OCS are current and accurate is foundational to its utility as a resource to partners and practitioners. The OCS first established Strategy Habitats, defined as habitats determined to be of particular importance to sensitive species and/or of high conservation value, in 2006. ODFW is currently revising the OCS, to be published in 2026, and understands that recent habitat trends must be identified to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation under the OCS to-date and plan for future conservation implementation. While maps are available describing the extent of habitat types in Oregon within the last 10 years, a comprehensive assessment of status and trends of these habitat types at the statewide scale has not been conducted in approximately 25 years. However, over the last 25 years there have been dramatic changes to habitats across the state including both positive and negative changes driven by policy, focused restoration investments, high severity forest fires, drought, climate change, development, and invasive species. The resulting data gap has a substantial impact on conservation efforts. For the 2026 revision of the OCS it is timely to consider changes that occurred on the landscape for the last 25 years. Characterization of the magnitude of change of these habitat types is needed to understand the threats and current status of habitats as they pertain to Strategy Species, Strategy Habitats, and Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs). This proposal seeks to update available resources with information from the most current vegetation maps available to demonstrate change in habitat types. The products resulting from this effort will have broad reaching impacts to support effective conservation work statewide and will be beneficial to all projects guided by the OCS after 2026.	$35,650
50	People of Color Outdoors Bird Watching Leaders Training Cohort	People of Color Outdoors	Coast Range;Willamette Valley	Does not addess aspects of drought	The mission of People of Color Outdoors (POCO) is to use outdoor recreation and environmental education to provide Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) with a welcoming outdoors community that will help members create deep bonds with nature and ultimately find a way to contribute to the protection, restoration or caretaking of our beautiful natural spaces. We host 65-70 experiences per year in natural spaces, and we also host the POCO Guardians educational program for families with K-5th graders during winter, spring and summer breaks. POCO offers a "bite" of different activities. POCO is made up of over 5,000 diverse BIPOC members, Their interests are diverse. Some have discovered a love of kayaking but are not interested in hiking, for instance. POCO partnered with the Oregon Boating Foundation to create a cohort of kayak leaders. POCO members spent a week in Newport, OR and received 40 hours of education, training and practicing in kayaks, first in a lake, and ultimately in the Yaquina Bay. POCO now has a team of volunteers that can safely lead our members during paddle events. With the help of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), POCO has gained a cohort of fishing leaders. Dr. Tia Ho, owner of Mindfulness Now, trained two different cohorts of mindfulness walk leaders. POCO is now proposing that we work with partners ODFW, Bird Alliance Oregon (fka the Audubon Society of Portland), and the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) to train a cohort of BIPOC bird watching leaders.	$18,480

51	Populations of Oregon raptors in drought and monitoring a potential indicator species	Oregon State University	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	Populations of the American Kestrel (AMKE) are falling across North America. The decline of our smallest, most familiar falcon remains unexplained. We propose testing four alternative hypotheses for their decline using local experiments and state-wide data analysis. We will involve local communities in our work. We have partnered with local landowners for our experiments. Our experiments will improve nest habitat for AMKEs by placing nest boxes at pre-determined sites. We will measure the impacts of nest boxes on AMKE populations and populations of other bird species by monitoring at treatment and control sites. The areas we are focusing on include strategy habitats (grasslands, wetlands, oak woodlands) and four Conservation Opportunity Areas. Our state-wide analysis will examine interactions among populations of raptor species and the impacts of drought and land-use change upon them. Increasing droughts with climate changes make it imperative to know how raptor populations will be affected and how habitat management could protect them. This state-wide analysis will include seven strategy species. This project will reach the general public through education and outreach activities. We have partnered with Corvallis Parks and Rec to provide educational opportunities to 240 students across the funding period. Students will learn about AMKEs, local ecosystems, and conservation. We will also provide tours to falconers and the Audubon Society of Corvallis so that they can learn about how our work benefits their recreational opportunities. Local farmers we have partnered with will benefit because AMKEs are predators of agricultural pests.	$85,965
52	Promoting Access to Outdoor Recreation, Adventure, and Nature Through Cycling	Shift Community Cycles	Willamette Valley	Does not addess aspects of drought	Diverse youth and families need more access to bicycles and outdoor cycling opportunities. Historically, BIPOC individuals on bicycles have been discriminated against and harassed. Shift Community Cycles, a nonprofit community bike shop in Eugene, OR, offers safe, inclusive group rides in the Willamette Valley, Lane County. With ODFW funds, Shift will expand opportunities for underserved individuals to engage in outdoor cycling. Shift will guide group rides for diverse youth, adults, and families to participate in outdoor adventure rides and planned conservation projects. Some rides will take place in the West Eugene, Upper Willamette River Flood Plain, and Coburg Ridge opportunity areas, including conservation strategies, such as mitigating wetlands and planting trees. The City of Eugene has designated birdwatching as a priority activity during May's bike month. Guided group rides will result in improved health outcomes, equitable access to the outdoors, and increased outdoor recreation for underserved populations.	$50,000

53	Protecting surface waters in the Walla Walla Watershed by empowering community partnerships	Oregon Water Resources Department	Blue Mountains; Columbia Plateau	Addresses aspects of drought	The Walla Walla Watershed is unique in that it supports species of bull trout, summer steelhead, and Chinook salmon as well as a thriving agriculturally based community reliant on surface water flows. The watershed also provides critical first foods and small but economically important recreational fishing opportunities. With headwaters in Oregon Blue Mountains (COA ID 157) and valuable aquatic habitat and farmlands in the Columbia Plateau, this region encompasses 1,758 square miles including the climate vulnerable community of Milton-Freewater, Oregon (per EPA Environmental Justice Screening tool). As rural and urban communities continue to develop in the watershed, water must be efficiently conserved for the benefit of humans and the environment. However, like many other watersheds, surface waters have been overallocated - meaning there are more legal rights to use water than there is water available for use. Farmers are the leading surface water users, followed by municipalities. Combined with increasing levels of snow drought conditions, the Walla Walla Watershed is experiencing extreme water shortages. Voluntary community actions to conserve water will be key to getting more surface water back into the system. With fish, families, and farms reliant on surface water, communities want to be engaged in collaborative water planning. Yet, many are lacking resources to create local solutions and develop action focused educational materials (in English and Spanish). Tasked with managing water quantity, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is positioned to help local agricultural, recreational, and conservation partners equability participate in water planning and outreach. By working alongside the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), OWRD can facilitate the creation of water conservation solutions and educational materials supporting the Walla Walla 2050 Water Strategy.	$65,718
54	Providing Youth Outdoor Recreational Opportunities to Inspire Environmental Stewardship	Back2Youth	Coast Range; Nearshore; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Does not addess aspects of drought	Back2Youth (B2Y) exists to create new pathways to health and wellness by actively engaging youth between the ages of 11 and 18 in the natural environment. Our target population is BIPOC, at-risk, and marginalized youth in Lane County. Our goal is to create opportunity, stability, and ultimately success for these diverse and too often under-resourced youth populations. Our year-round outdoor adventure camps bridge pathways to health, wellness, and resiliency by reconnecting youth to nature through various outdoor activities (i.e., camping, fishing, hiking, etc., along with environmental stewardship projects) and mindfulness practices (i.e., yoga, meditation, breath work, grounding, and many other self-empowering activities). We strongly believe that connecting to nature improves environmental awareness by understanding our role in respecting our Earth as an extension of ourselves. OCRF funds will again allow B2Y to engage diverse youth in outdoor recreation. Activities involve education and action that focus on the human impact on fish, wildlife, and habitats. ODFW staff and other environmental experts help us to determine appropriate conservation/mitigation actions/projects/solutions. Having an improved understanding of the impact of their recreational choices, youth will be better prepared to take an active role in addressing conservation and make critical decisions concerning their future (and the planet's future).	$50,000

55	Provolt Pond Turtle Project	ODFW	Klamath Mountains	Addresses aspects of drought	The northwestern pond turtle (NWPT) is a semi-aquatic reptile listed as an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species that occurs in pond and stream habitats. Given concerns over declining population trends in portions of it's Oregon range, management actions are needed to address threats to persistence and to support habitats that sustain NWPT populations. This project proposes research and monitoring efforts that will quantify habitat use of NWPT at a recreational facility (Provolt Seed Orchard Special Recreation Management Area) in Josephine County, Oregon. In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will deploy VHF transmitters on up to 12 adult turtles, and will monitor turtle movements and document observation locations for up to 15 months from spring of 2024 through summer of 2025. Resulting observational data will be used to identify critical NWPT habitat such as nesting or overwintering areas, to monitor turtle use of planning areas, to better understand the status of this important population of NWPT as threats like drought and climate change continue to affect habitat quantity and quality, and to update site management plans to ensure long-term compatibility of conservation and public use goals at this recreational site.	$11,782
56	Reconnecting People and Place: Ash Creek Restoration and Engagement	Luckiamute Watershed Council	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) seeks to restore and revitalize Ash Creek, a perennial tributary to the Willamette River that flows through the cities of Monmouth and Independence (M-I), located within the Mid-Willamette River Floodplain COA. Although Ash Creek has been significantly altered over the years, this waterway and its floodplain continue to provide important ecological functions such as floodwater storage and habitat for several Oregon Conservation Strategy Species, including winter steelhead, spring chinook, yellow-breasted chat, willow flycatcher, white-breasted nuthatch, western bluebird and floater freshwater mussels. Ash Creek and its South, Middle and North Forks flow alongside schools, businesses, farmland, private residences, public parks and a community garden, providing recreational and educational opportunities for M-I community members. The LWC will enhance 10.47 acres of riparian habitat along 1.09 stream miles of Ash Creek. This will support an ongoing restoration project, situated within the most densely populated region of the LWC's service area, that has struggled to fully establish due to severe browse pressure from a local deer population. This project will address this issue by planting trees and shrubs that are either deer-resistant or protected by cages. The proposed community engagement activities are designed to broaden and deepen the relationship between people and place within the communities that live alongside and depend upon a healthy Ash Creek. Many residents overlook the role of their local urban streams and backyards as part of an overall strategy towards improving watershed health and drought resiliency. Volunteer and community outreach events, some of which will be conducted primarily in Spanish, aim to empower more watershed residents to become active stewards of their local rivers and lands, and bring awareness to the role that all community members can play in promoting a healthier and more resilient Ash Creek.	$77,128
57	Rest rooms for lake access lots on pine hollow lake.	Barlow water imp. dist.	East Cascades	Does not addess aspects of drought	We are in need of 2 handy cap rest room for 2 lots on pine hollow lake. These are lots for the public to fish, swim. picnic, walking around the lake and boating. Having these rest rooms will stop the lake from being a bathroom and other birds, frog's and animals from being exposed to fickle mater on land and in the water. We Barlow water will install vaults and rest rooms on top of vault to keep the cost down. The locations are on opposite's sides of the lake for optimal usage. this will benefit all public including the elderly and handicaps that cant wait to get back there houses.	$50,000

58	Restoring nesting habitat for Streaked Horned Lark	Institute for Applied Ecology	Willamette Valley	Does not addess aspects of drought	The Streaked Horned Lark (hereafter lark) is an Oregon Conservation Strategy sensitive species and listed as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Their rangewide population is estimated to be fewer than 2,000 individuals, with the majority of extant populations in the southern Willamette Valley – the location of our project site. Larks require a large, open landscape of low-statured herbaceous vegetation (for foraging) with patches of sparsely vegetated ground (for nesting). Agricultural practices and prairie succession in the absence of natural or cultural fire reduce available habitat for larks. The federal listing and associated recovery plan describe habitat restoration guidelines to benefit larks. Our previous OCRF project assessed the efficacy of these practices and found limitations that will be addressed with this proposed project. We found that vernal pools and swales can provide nesting habitat for larks but are entirely dependent on seasonal weather patterns (i.e., how long the pools stay wet and limit available habitat). Based on lessons learned from that OCRF project, we developed (and refined following discussions with ODFW biologists) a protocol for restoring longer-term nesting habitat patches. Here, we propose to create experimental patches at Herbert Farm and Natural Area and monitor the efficacy of this practice to provide nesting habitat for larks. The Herbert Farm and Natural Area is a popular public recreation site and one of the most reliable places to see and/or hear streaked horned larks. Our project will increase opportunities for the public to experience this Conservation Strategy species.	$38,291
59	Salmon Watch Youth Program	World Salmon Council	East Cascades; Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Salmon Watch provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary education focused on salmon through classroom instruction, in-stream study, and community service projects. Committed to equity and inclusion, World Salmon Council annually provides up to 40 classroom's field trips at no cost and provides culturally-relevant learning experiences. WSC uses an equity filter to review all teacher applications for Salmon Watch field trips to ensure we are prioritizing schools and students that have historically been underserved. Salmon Watch's field trips not only provide active, hands-on education, but also enable students to explore their natural heritage and develop a sense of resource stewardship through learning about salmon ecosystems. Salmon Watch's science-based field stations teach students about salmon biology, macroinvertebrate identification, water quality testing, and the riparian ecosystems. Field stations are led by volunteer educators and Student Educators. Volunteer educators include experts in the field of salmon biology, conservation, habitat restoration, community involvement and many other relevant areas of expertise. WSC provides Student Educator positions to culturally relevant high school mentors from the communities we serve. We prioritize partnerships with organizations working with BIPOC youth. By working with culturally-relevant Student Educators to learn about salmon and their ecosystems, Salmon Watch students are empowered to pursue careers in natural resource fields that will help improve salmon habitat and watershed habitat throughout the Columbia River Basin. After the field trip, Salmon Watch classrooms complete a field-based service learning project in their local community. Salmon Watch classrooms complete a wide array of creative, hands-on projects, which inspire students to apply their new knowledge in a real-world action that gives back to their community.	$39,500

60	Salmonberry Trail: The Learning Mile	The Salmonberry Trail Foundation	Coast Range; Willamette Valley	Does not addess aspects of drought	The Salmonberry Trail Foundation is embarking on an innovative project, the Learning Mile, to enrich our engagement with the region’s natural and cultural history. This initiative aims to harness a collaborative spirit by partnering with historians, ecologists, tribal leaders, and interpretive sign design experts to craft messages that resonate with the trail's diverse visitors. A unique aspect of the Learning Mile is our focus on environmental restoration and education. The removal of old railway tracks from this section presents a prime opportunity to tackle invasive species, promoting a transition back to native flora. This ecological endeavor is not just about restoration but also serves as a real-world study case for effective management practices against invasive species. Education plays a central role in the Learning Mile. We are dedicated to collaborating with educators to develop seasonal curricula aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Our goal is to transform the trail into a dynamic outdoor classroom and laboratory where local students can engage with their environment through experiential learning. This approach not only enriches students' educational experience but also fosters a deep connection with nature. Ultimately, the Learning Mile project aspires to make the Salmonberry Trail a model of how recreational spaces can coexist in harmony with their natural surroundings, serving both as a conduit for public enjoyment and education and as a steward of environmental conservation.	$50,000

61	Shangrila Wetland Restoration	North Coast Land Conservancy	Coast Range	Does not addess aspects of drought	Shangrila wetlands includes 11 acres of freshwater forested wetland located in Clatsop County within the city limits of Seaside, Oregon. The project site is located in the Coast Range ecoregion within the Necanicum River Conservation Opportunity Area. The property is home to at least 7 Strategy Species including: coho, cutthroat trout, chum, Pacific lamprey, red-legged frogs, willow flycatchers, and olive-sided flycatchers. Our partners in the project include the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the City of Seaside, the Necanicum Watershed Council, and Clatsop Community Action. The property was conserved in 2009 to protect 70 acres of important forest and wetland habitat. Proximity to commercial land has created human impact challenges on this portion of the property since it was protected. In recent years these challenges significantly increased resulting in a substantial amount of trespassing and dumping. These activities have negatively impacted water quality, wildlife habitat, and native plant communities by killing vegetation, dumping toxic and hazardous material in and near wetlands, and causing ground disturbance that leads to erosion. The project will consist of removing all trash and debris from the site, installing a 2,500 foot perimeter of minimally-invasive fencing to restrict human access, and planting native forbs and shrubs into impacted areas. Following the restoration project, NCLC staff and volunteers will monitor the site weekly to ensure long-term success. The project will positively impact strategy species by: * Preventing future human disturbances to sensitive terrestrial and aquatic habitat; * Reversing negative impacts to water quality in a highly productive coho spawning and rearing habitat; and * Improving several aspects of climate change mitigation including increasing carbon sequestration, the water holding capacity of the site, and shade for aquatic salmonid habitat.	$50,000

62	Siletz River Basin – Drift and Schooner Creeks - Reassembling a fragmented coastal rainforest to ensure cold clean water for salmon and people	Western Rivers Conservancy	Coast Range	Addresses aspects of drought	Flowing from Oregon's coastal rainforest to the Pacific Ocean, the Siletz River and its tributaries are home to the most diverse assemblage of fish on the Oregon Coast, including the only native summer steelhead population in an Oregon Coast Range river. The basin's geology, characterized by deeply fractured bedrock that readily stores water and abundant winter precipitation provides clear, cold river flows throughout the year. This is most critical to aquatic systems during dry months when the Coast Range receives little to no rain. Yet, despite its rich biodiversity, the river has been threatened for decades due to timber harvest. Industrial timber companies control much of the basin's headwaters and lower reaches, with Oregon's highest density of clearcuts and logging roads. Within the Siuslaw National Forest, two tributaries, Drift and Schooner creeks, are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of timber harvest. The creeks provide spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, habitat for endangered wildlife, and serve as the drinking water source for Lincoln City and other communities. Along these streams, there are a few remaining private in-holdings and edge-holdings currently owned by timber companies scattered throughout. Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) has the rare opportunity to acquire and conserve six parcels, totaling 1,030 acres along five miles of these creeks that contain spawning and rearing habitat for listed runs of salmon and steelhead. WRC plans to convey the parcels to the Siuslaw NF for long-term stewardship. The project implements actions in the Oregon Conservation Strategy Climate Change and Water Quality Key Conservation Issues and those identified in the Coast Range Ecoregion and the Siletz River COA (ID:022). The project will remove the threat of logging, protect habitat for listed fish, improve habitat connectivity in this fragmented coastal rainforest landscape, create new recreational opportunities, and protect the municipal water supply.	$140,000

63	SOUL RIVER INC ECO LAB	Soul River inc	Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	SRI's Eco Lab program is a unique initiative, focused on providing a holistic approach to outdoor education, environmental stewardship, design and awareness, and access to nature for youth and veterans. The program utilizes a diverse range of modules, led by veterans in collaboration with conservation experts and community partners. This program provides a comprehensive outdoor education and environmental stewardship experience where youth and veteran participants have unique opportunities to gain experience about various aspects of ecosystem health and function, i.e., biodiversity, botany, fisheries, pollinators, hydrology as well as Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous cultural practices associated with land stewardship/management and environmental design. Each Eco Lab has a field-based component which aims to promote hands-on learning and allow participants to directly experience the mental, physical, and emotional benefits of nature and gain a deeper connection to nature. Experiential learning for this Eco Lab will take place at Riverside Park along the Clackamas River in Clackamas, OR and on adjacent properties owned by PGE and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Clackamas River provides critical freshwater habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey. Fifteen acres are targeted for ecological restoration. Soul River Inc. will collaborate with Mad Bears LLC to restore 1.5 of the total project acres, 2500 ft of streambank, create a pollinator garden and remove 1.5 acres of blackberry using manual techniques and then follow up with the establishment of native riparian vegetation species including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species. CRBC, with additional and separate funding, will partner with AntFarm Youth Services and professional reforestation contractors to restore and revegetate the remaining 13.5 acres including an additional 2,200 ft of riverbank.	$48,500
64	South Fork Crooked River Preserve Riparian Restoration	Oregon Natural Desert Association	Blue Mountains; Northern Basin & Range	Addresses aspects of drought	Oregon Natural Desert Association's (ONDA) project will restore 0.75 miles of riparian habitat, increase stream flows and improve the ecological functioning of the South Fork Crooked River, a major tributary of central Oregon's Crooked River. Severe drought, coupled with historic land uses and climate change, have diminished water quality and quantity in this river system and degraded riparian habitat, threatening the survival of already struggling fish and wildlife. This project addresses the impacts of drought conditions by retaining water, increasing vegetation, improving habitat and promoting the health of Oregon desert ecosystems and species. The project site is at the core of the South Fork Crooked River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) #174, and 18 Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) Species have been documented in the watershed, including Interior Columbia Basin redband trout, western ridged mussel, and Oregon spotted frog. The South Fork Crooked River is listed by Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project (OCAMP) as an ODFW Priority Wildlife Connectivity Area. This project will benefit OCS Strategy Species and the COA as a whole by improving habitat conditions and resiliency to drought and climate change impacts. This project leverages the strengths of partners such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Desert Land Trust. ONDA will employ a combination of installation of native plants and strategic in-stream and erosion control structures on 0.75 stream miles and 10 acres of upland habitat within the 80-acre South Fork Crooked River Preserve. Anticipated outcomes include restored riparian habitat of 0.75 stream miles of the South Fork Crooked River, reconnection of the river with 1.5 acres of floodplain, decreased stream temperatures and increased flows, increased biodiversity and abundance of native riparian vegetation, and bolstered fish and wildlife populations.	$121,000

65	Strengthen the programs of Ambassadors, Crew Leaders and Independent Volunteers to educate the public on key conservation opportunities and maintain Forest Park/Marquam Nature Park trails and habitat.	Forest Park Conservancy	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	Forest Park Conservancy (FPC) works to maintain and improve 47 miles of soft-surface trails in Forest Park and 7 miles of trails in Marquam Nature Park for the long-term use and enjoyment of all visitors. In addition, FPC manages a restoration program to restore over approx. 5,370 acres of forest habitat by removing invasive species, mulching/planting native plants and clearing streams/culverts. To inspire local stewardship of our beautiful forests, FPC also holds free educational/activity events such as history hikes, ecology tours, nature photography classes, ivy basket weaving, forest yoga and forest therapy walks to list a few. All of the work and classes take place in Forest Park/Marquam Nature Park COA 058 which is in the Tualatin Mountains (Portland West Hills). Almost all of FPC's work is completed with the generous support of over 1,700 public and corporate volunteers. We collaborate with local partners to ensure cohesion throughout our shared vision, as well as to share knowledge and develop community with each other. Our primary partner is Portland Parks & Recreation; we crosstrain volunteers and plan significant trail and restoration projects together. We also collaborate with many different partners as discussed further in the applications section "Project Partners". Forest Park is connected to the Coast Range and Willamette River and acts as a wildlife movement corridor for many species. In addition, Forest Park's rich habitat has a direct impact on various animal populations, such as the ODFW priority species Northern Red-legged Frog, Fringed Myotis Bat and Acorn Woodpecker. The forest also creates clean/cool water for Coastal Cutthroat Trout. The over 140 yearly volunteer events hosted by FPC are part of our effort to maintain and strengthen the trails and improve forest habitat so that the over half a million yearly visitors can continue to enjoy the park. Maintaining the forest habitat will allow the current animal species to continue to prosper.	$37,249

66	The past, present and future of Purple Martins in Oregon - Exploring Purple Martins through traditional oral history and 21st century science	Environment for the Americas	Coast Range	Addresses aspects of drought	Purple Martin is a migratory bird that feeds on insects as it flies. Concern over its decline led to its listing as a U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species and a species of concern in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. In 2020, work began on the coastal beaches of the Siuslaw National Forest, opening doors to our understanding of where these birds winter and their migratory path. In 2023, we confirmed that Purple Martins banded in Oregon spend their winters in coastal beach towns of Southeastern Brazil. While this information is widely considered 'new to science,' we believe that there has long been a historical relationship between humans and Purple Martins that remains under-documented and often forgotten. In this project, we aim to bridge this gap by documenting the relationship between humans and Purple Martins connecting Oregon and Southeastern Brazil and gathering much-needed information about martins in Oregon. We will deploy four satellite transmitters at breeding grounds in Oregon. Transmitters will provide new information about how martins in Oregon make their way to and from Brazil every year and use the information to connect local communities in two countries. With this knowledge, we can identify key environmental factors associated with their survival in Oregon and Brazil and assess possible threats related to habitat loss and climate change. We will also sample feathers from Purple Martins to assess contaminant levels, focusing on metals/metalloids, persistent organic pollutants (such as PFCs and PCBs), and their potential impacts on both humans and wildlife. Finally, we will develop outreach initiatives linking breeding sites in Oregon and Brazil, sharing the history of martins in both places and highlighting how science and new technologies can deepen our understanding of the human-bird relationship. Through these efforts, we hope to shed light on the intricate connection between humans and martins to contribute to their conservation and well-being.	$57,500
67	The Sbink: planning recreational access and restoration in beaver wetlands	Project Beaver (an assumed business name of The Beaver Coalition)	Klamath Mountains	Addresses aspects of drought	Beavers have been managing the waterways of the northern hemisphere since before humans emerged from Africa. In this land that is now Oregon, all of the species highlighted the Oregon Conservation Strategy coevolved with beavers in charge of that water. Supporting beavers in building and maintaining this "beavered" habitat is perhaps the most impactful action we can make for habitat resiliency and water security as droughts intensify throughout the Beaver State. However, most Oregonians have never experienced beaver wetland, nor have access to such a place. In the dry lands outside rural Cave Junction, Oregon, beavers have restored a degraded stream into a drought-resilient wetland in prime rearing habitat for native salmon and trout. This is a special site, with a freestanding beaver lodge and abundant wildlife. In the language of the local Takelma People, this site is a "sbink" or "place of the beavers." Project Beaver recently purchased this site and through this proposed project we will plan the restoration of another two acres of habitat "under beaver management" as well as building an accessible boardwalk and welcome center—so both locals from this underserved community, and visitors driving Redwood Highway, can recreationally learn from this site and its watchable wildlife.	$95,964

68	The World is your Turtle! Engaging communities with Northwestern Pond Turtle restoration and recreation in John Neal Park	North Santiam Watershed Council	Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	The NSWC is requesting OCRF Funds to support a Western Pond Turtle conservation initiative that focuses on conserving and documenting the population of Western Pond Turtles at John Neal Park. Through this lens, we will also seek to improve equitable access to outdoor experiences through community-centered conservation, education, recreation, and land stewardship actions. This project's community-driven approach will provide education and career-building opportunities for volunteers and young people, while supporting recovery for federally and state listed threatened and sensitive species.	$43,534
69	Trout Creek Meadows Conceptual Restoration Design	Oregon Desert Land Trust	Northern Basin & Range	Addresses aspects of drought	The Oregon Desert Land Trust, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, purchased Trout Creek Ranch in July 2021. Trout Creek Ranch includes 16,645 acres of private land and public land grazing permits covering more than 500,000 acres. The project area supports a wide variety of sensitive and other priority species, including Alvord Chub, black-necked stilt, bobolink, burrowing owl, California bighorn sheep, greater sage grouse, greater sandhill crane, Lahontan cutthroat trout, long-billed curlew, pygmy rabbit, sagebrush sparrow, trumpeter swan, and willow flycatcher. All these species depend on the continued health of mesic and aquatic resources in this desert environment. This proposal focuses on restoring ~2 miles of Trout Creek and ~500 acres of associated wet meadows at the ranch's Pueblo Valley headquarters. The project area—an ODFW Priority Wildlife Connectivity Area Region—connects the Pueblo Mountain and Alvord Lake Basin Conservation Opportunity Areas. This area supports several strategy species, including Alvord chub, black-necked stilt, bobolink, ferruginous hawk, greater sandhill crane, long-billed curlew, Swainson's hawk, trumpeter swan, and willow flycatcher. Prior owners converted this reach of Trout Creek to a network of ditches to facilitate flood irrigation, hay production, and cattle grazing. ODLT proposes to restore the stream and meadows to a more natural system, reestablishing connectivity and improving habitat in Trout Creek. Our first step in this process will be hiring a contractor to assess the site and develop a conceptual restoration plan. As part of the planning effort, we will draw on the expertise of various partners, including ODFW, The Nature Conservancy, Harney SWCD, High Desert Partnership, Intermountain West Joint Venture, USFWS, and the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Station. We will also solicit the input of stakeholders, including neighbors, other water rights holders, and the area's first people, the Northern Paiute.	$52,640

70	Tualatin Mountain Forest	Trust for Public Land	Coast Range; Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	Trust for Public Land and Oregon State University are working in partnership to acquire the Tualatin Mountain Forest property and establish a 3,111-acre working research forest to be owned by OSU. Pioneering forestry methods like climate-smart forestry, the Project can serve as a national model for an actively managed forest that balances the needs of financial productivity, carbon sequestration, healthy watersheds, and diverse plant and wildlife communities, including rare oak woodlands. The mature forest helps mitigate climate change by providing cold water refugia and sequestering carbon at a high rate. Five cold-water creeks benefit federally threatened Chinook, Coho, and steelhead salmonids downstream in the Multnomah Channel. By protecting preferred habitat with documented occurrences, the Project contributes to the goal of reversing declines of Olive-sided Flycatcher. 96% of the Project falls within the Forest Park and the Sauvie Island-Scappoose Conservation Opportunity Areas. The Project implements the COA recommendations of maintaining wetlands and balancing public access with preserving wildlife habitat. By maintaining water quality in Multnomah Channel, the Project also complements the 11,543-acres ODFW Sauvie Island Wildlife Area downstream, where wetlands and mudflats support shorebirds and waterfowls. By protecting diverse habitat types in the Tualatin Mountains, The Project helps implement the goal of improving wildlife migration between Forest Park and the Tualatin Mountains. By creating public access to 24 miles of trails, the Project will benefit both locally underserved residents and the Portland Metropolitan Area's outdoor recreation economy. Yet the Project also contains 10 developable lots in Oregon's most populous metro area just 17 miles from Portland. It is surrounded by cities, towns, and amenities, and bordered by two highways. If not protected, the Tualatin Mountain Forest is at risk of being lost to residential development.	$50,000
71	Tufted Puffin Social Attraction and Community Education	The National Audubon Society's Seabird Institute ('Audubon')	Coast Range;Nearshore	Does not addess aspects of drought	The Tufted Puffin is an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species in the Nearshore ecoregion. In 1988, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) estimated that there were 4,858 Tufted Puffins in Oregon; today the estimated population is 553 individuals. Over the last 4 decades, Oregon has experienced an order of magnitude decline in our puffin population. This project will contribute to the future conservation of Tufted Puffins along the Oregon coast. We are proposing to experiment with social attraction, a proven management tool for Atlantic Puffins and other seabirds, to maintain and eventually enhance the puffin population in Oregon. We will place two arrays of decoys on rocks where puffins have been documented; one array will use stationary decoys, and the other will use decoys with moving wings. Both arrays will include mirror boxes and be monitored using cameras. Our objectives are to (1) better document Tufted Puffin presence at the selected site, and (2) compare attraction between the two arrays. Our third objective is to engage and educate the public about Tufted Puffins. We will create a shareable StoryMap; lead community presentations; encourage the public to participate in community science activities; and build a database of people interested in participating in future Tufted Puffin conservation activities. The specific location for the experiment will be determined with input from land managers. The site will be selected based on permissions, permits, logistics, accessibility, and historic or existing presence of puffins. Possible locations include Newport, Tillamook, or Brookings. The community education element will take place online and in Cannon Beach. This project is led by Audubon in collaboration with Oregon State University, USFWS, Friends of Haystack Rock, and appropriate land managers.	$14,898

72	Understanding cause of decline in a suite of oak-associated bird species, and measuring success of oak restoration for bird habitat	Klamath Bird Observatory	Klamath Mountains	Does not addess aspects of drought	Oak habitats are among the richest habitats for wildlife, but are threatened and have undergone significant direct loss, prompting their inclusion as an Oregon Strategy Habitat. Almost half of the 49 bird species in the Pacific Northwest highly associated with oak-prairie habitats have experienced extirpations, range contractions, and/or regional population declines. We propose to enhance our understanding of bird use of oak restoration sites, and the habitat quality they provide for oak-associated bird species. We will begin to identify potential causes of oak bird declines by nest-searching for a suite of oak-associated Oregon Conservation Strategy species (Acorn Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse, Western Bluebird, and White-breasted Nuthatch) to measure nest success and productivity. We will also contribute to understanding the value of restored oak woodlands for at-risk birds by comparing reproductive success, age ratios, and body condition of adults breeding at oak sites in pre- and post-restoration stages in the Rogue Basin watershed. The outcome of our work - to understand habitat quality of restored oak habitats for avifauna, and to determine whether low reproductive success could be limiting population growth - will provide the direction for the next phase of conservation actions, bolstering recovery efforts for these Strategy Species. Further, the general public will benefit because filling knowledge gaps for oak-associated birds could prevent further declines and provide land managers with key information necessary to develop management actions, which supports the purpose and interest of many members of the public to protect biodiversity and rare species, and participate in recreational activities like bird-watching. Funding requested from OCRF is intended to support a Master's student co-supervised by KBO and Cal Poly Humboldt to carry out this research as part of their thesis, but the study can also be completed with KBO staff and field technicians if needed.	$50,000
73	Universal Design Trail at Finn Rock Boat Landing	McKenzie River Trust	West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	This project will design and construct a trail using Universal Design principles at the Finn Rock Landing recreation site on the McKenzie River near Blue River, OR. The project is located in the West Cascades on the east margin of the McKenzie River Area COA 114. The trail will provide a safe, accessible path with interpretive signage and scenic seating options (benches for resting) for all members of the public to enjoy, including those with mobility limitations. The project will increase access and inclusion, enhance recreational opportunities, and promote community engagement. Users will experience the serene beauty of the McKenzie River while learning about riparian ecosystems, fluvial processes, protection of threatened species, and restoration efforts to provide native forest regeneration after wildfires. This project will also re-establish native vegetation and will improve site safety by removing trees killed in the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire and replacing invasive vegetation (mostly blackberry and Scotch broom) with native trees and shrubs. The project will benefit Pileated woodpeckers and white-breasted nuthatches, and aligns with the Oregon Conservation Strategy by addressing the key issues of invasive species, water quality, and disruption of disturbance regimes.	$49,995

74	Upper Klamath Basin Motus Wildlife Tracking Network	Bird Conservation Oregon	East Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is an international collaborative network of researchers and stations that can track any species of bird or bat tagged with a Motus tag when they fly near a Motus station. The resulting information is made available on a public website that maps the movements of each animal over time. On the west coast, California and British Columbia each have over 50 stations, but Oregon has only 16 stations, including just one in the Upper Klamath Basin. Although dozens of species of birds and bats with Motus tags are being tagged and detected elsewhere from California to British Columbia, without additional stations in Oregon we are sometimes flying blind when it comes to conservation planning, restoration and protection of breeding locations and migratory routes. The American Bird Conservancy has identified a corridor along the Oregon-California border including the Upper Klamath Basin as a Tier 1 priority for a Motus station transect or 'digital fence' that will go from the Pacific Ocean to the Snake River Basin in Idaho. This project will result in the installation of four new Motus stations adjacent to wetlands surrounded by pine forest and agriculture in the Upper Klamath Basin of Oregon. These stations will automatically pick up and report the individual signals of passing birds and bats tagged as part of ongoing and future projects in Oregon, as well as migratory animals wintering in California, or birds passing through on their way north to Washington, Idaho and even Canada. This includes multiple Oregon Conservation Strategy species already tagged elsewhere that could be picked up in the Klamath Basin, such as Hoary Bat, Long-Legged Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Meadowlark and Willow Flycatcher. Additional shorebird and forest species are likely to be detected, as well as future projects that may put tags on Strategy species such as Purple Martin, Yellow Rail, and even the Monarch butterfly.	$25,013

75	Urban Wildlife Information Network - Portland (UWIN PDX)	Oregon Wildlife Foundation	Willamette Valley	Does not addess aspects of drought	Portland's Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN PDX) is a collaboration between Bird Alliance of Oregon, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Portland State University (PSU), and Samara Group designed to collect data (images and audio) on the wildlife species sharing the urban landscape with human communities. The overarching goal of the project is to better understand the interplay between habitat connectivity, wildlife presence, and urbanization in the Portland Metropolitan region, as well as how racial inequities affect these. The objectives of this grant scope are to continue gathering and analyzing new and existing UWIN data, create communication materials for project partners (including land managers and influential working groups) that share and summarize their local data, encourage community science volunteer efforts, and explore deeper local community engagement efforts through current and new partnerships. Partner engagement and data collected during this project will help inform urban planning and land management decision-making, identify ways that UWIN PDX can be expanded and modified to better serve communities of color, and contribute to scientific studies across a broad region while supporting graduate/undergraduate students in these efforts. In the long-term, we aim for diverse wildlife to have more places throughout the Portland Metro region where they can thrive, and for diverse people to benefit from having more opportunities to enjoy wildlife viewing in their daily lives. The current UWIN PDX transect is located in the Willamette Valley ecoregion and includes a portion of the Forest Park Conservation Opportunity Area. The transect spans from Hillsboro to Gresham across Portland's center, with an extension from southwest Portland to Sherwood. Conservation Strategy Species that may benefit from work conducted as a result of the findings of this project include Western Gray Squirrel and various bat and bird species, detailed further in this application.	$19,502

76	Using GPS technology to uncover migratory stopover and overwintering locations of the at-risk Western Purple Martin	Klamath Bird Observatory	Coast Range;Willamette Valley	Does not addess aspects of drought	The unique western subspecies of Purple Martin, an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species, is estimated at just 3,500 pairs in the Pacific Northwest. Determining factors that limit population size in a migratory bird requires understanding what threats they may face in different parts of the year – and thus, the first step is understanding where those locations are. A geolocator study revealed that Western Purple Martins may use a separate wintering area than the eastern subspecies, but the sample size was small, and location data obtained from geolocators are not very precise. A better understanding of winter locations and migratory stopover sites used by Western Purple Martins, and potential threats originating during the non-breeding season, are key information gaps needed to target conservation actions. In 2020-2022, we captured 23 martins breeding in coastal Oregon and fit them with lightweight archival GPS tags to track their movements – the very first study to do so with this subspecies. Three have been recaptured so far, revealing a tantalizing first look at the migratory routes, extended fall stopovers, and wintering locations in southeastern Brazil used by this imperiled bird, but more data are needed. Eight GPS tags were deployed at Fern Ridge Reservoir in 2023, a site where we expect return rates to be higher. To increase our sample size, this project aims to collect additional data, deploying 10 GPS tags on adult Western Purple Martins in 2025. We will resight and recapture returning GPS-tagged birds in 2026. Our objectives are to 1) obtain precise locations of roost sites used during migration and winter, 2) obtain daytime foraging locations during the non-breeding season, and 3) use GIS to analyze habitat types, land ownership, and land cover change at these sites, including sites in Oregon. The novel data collected during this project will contribute to our long-term goal of stabilizing and increasing the population of Western Purple Martin.	$29,998

77	Wallowa Lake East Moraine Community Forest Vault Toilets	Wallowa Land Trust	Blue Mountains	Addresses aspects of drought	The grant funding requested would support a crucial sanitation infrastructure project to install vault toilets on the East Moraine Community Forest (EMCF). Installing these facilities will aid the conservation of habitat while also enhancing public access and enjoyment of this treasured natural area along Wallowa Lake. Located in the Blue Mountains ecoregion, the EMCF is home to several Oregon Conservation Strategy species such as Flammulated Owls,Townsend's big-eared bats, and Spalding's catchfly. The 1,824-acre EMCF is managed by Wallowa County and partners to balance working lands of grazing/forestry with habitat, cultural resources, and recreational access. Public use has risen rapidly, and the current lack of restrooms cannot sustain demand. Thoughtfully sited vault toilets will decrease human waste on the land, enabling more residents and visitors to appreciate this ancient yet fragile landscape in NE Oregon. Wallowa Land Trust, together with the Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership, aim to concentrate visitor impacts to appropriate hardened locations instead of dispersing detrimental effects across sensitive natural areas. This will make it convenient for people to make responsible decisions that demonstrate ethical land stewardship. Enhancing inclusive recreational access through basic facilities like toilets aligns with the Oregon Conservation Strategy's focus on infrastructure supporting enjoyment of waterways, forests, and prairies. It also matches the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund's vision to get people involved with Oregon's fish, wildlife, wild places, and recreational opportunities to inspire their personal stewardship. As rising regional populations increase pressure on special habitats like the glacial moraines and grasslands found in the EMCF, sustainable access improvements let more residents and visitors connect with these landscapes while reducing their impact.	$10,000

78	Watershed Community Stewardship	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	East Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Watershed Community Stewardship (WCS) will create meaningful conservation education opportunities for students and community members in Central Oregon. By participating in WCS, students and community members will acquire watershed knowledge and will develop an increased sense of environmental awareness and empowered habitat stewardship. WCS is designed to guide project participants to develop informed watershed stewardship and all program activities are aligned with the conservation strategies for Conservation Opportunity Areas to help community members and students learn ways that they can restore and protect habitat for Oregon Conservation Strategy Species. Providing students and community members with quality opportunities to directly experience their watershed through hands-on conservation activities will inform how them how to interact in recreation spaces, develop stewardship responsibility, and gain a connection to the natural world. We will use support from OCRF to coordinate program delivery for 90 community members and 500 local students from under resourced schools in Bend, La Pine, and Sisters. We will work with local partners to guide students and community members to gain watershed knowledge and new stewardship skills. Specifically, our learning activities are designed to guide students and community members to examine current watershed issues, learn about habitat needs for steelhead and the Oregon spotted frog, understand impacts to water quality, and become familiar with local organizations involved in conservation and watershed management. Students and community members will participate in riparian and wetland plantings in Conservation Opportunity Areas on Whychus Creek and the Deschutes River and be a part of stewardship efforts that will benefit their community and our watershed for generations. WCS projects will instill a sense of stewardship in participants to motivate them care for natural places and make responsible recreation choices.	$46,000

79	Westwind Camp Scholarship Program	Westwind Stewardship Group	Coast Range	Does not addess aspects of drought	The Westwind Stewardship Group inspires people to be stewards of the environment and their communities by conserving Westwind's diverse ecosystems in perpetuity and fostering life-changing experiences for children, families, individuals, and groups. Located on the central Oregon Coast, Westwind's property totals 529 acres and includes one mile of shoreline along the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Salmon River and 2.7 miles bordering the Salmon River and its estuary. The property is located within the Cascade Head Scenic-Research Area (Salmon River Estuary-Cascade Head Conservation Opportunity Area). Nestled between striking headlands on the Oregon coast, Westwind is a home away from home for over 1200 children and families every year. During our Youth, Teen, and Family Camp programs, Westwind welcomes campers to explore our sandy coasts and wild forests while learning to be stewards of the environment. Camp experiences and guided outdoor learning are foundational tools that allow children to discover that caring for the land is caring for ourselves and our communities. Each year, Camp Westwind provides hundreds of children and families with opportunities to gather, learn, and grow together among the old-growth forests and pristine beaches of the central Oregon Coast. Overnight camps are life-changing experiences that should be available to all children. However, we recognize that the cost of camp is not attainable for all families. Westwind provides scholarships to as many people who are in need as possible through direct requests and partnerships with community organizations. These organizations serve families experiencing homelessness, victims of domestic violence, children of incarcerated mothers, immigrant and refugee families, BIPOC youth, and low-income households. Many of these children experience outdoor recreation that they might not otherwise be able to access outside of a week at Westwind.	$35,000

80	Wildlife Diversity Internship	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Coast Range;Willamette Valley; West Cascades	Addresses aspects of drought	Connecting underserved communities to wildlife conservation is imperative to continued understanding of and support for natural resources management and meeting the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife [ODFW]'s mission to serve all Oregonians. In this project, we will recruit summer interns to 1) benefit wildlife conservation, research, and habitat management in Northwest Oregon, 2) provide conservation-related education to the public, particularly targeting underserved communities, and 3) provide interns with valuable experience working for a state agency (ODFW). Every effort will be made to recruit interns from diverse backgrounds reflective of Oregon's population. The intern will work with ODFW staff and partners on conservation projects including monitoring and management of Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) and climate-resilience-linked species (e.g., northwest pond turtle, beaver, western gray squirrel) and habitats (oak woodlands, wetlands). The intern will work with partner organizations to conduct outreach on these species and habitats to diverse audiences.	$42,188

81	Willamette Valley Wetland Conservation and Management Initiative	Ducks Unlimited Inc	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	Wetlands and floodplain in the Willamette Valley are an increasingly threatened habitat type. This is due to several reasons including: * Drought * Urbanization * Tiling/draining * Land Use conversion Wetlands and wet habitats in the Willamette Valley are critical to amphibians, migratory birds, fish and a multitude of other species, including, the following OCS Species: Dusky Canada Goose, Western Pond Turtle, Coastal Cutthroat trout, Northern Red-legged frog, Western Painted Turtle, Yellow Breasted Chat, and others. This project overlaps in 14 opportunity areas. As stated by the Oregon Conservation Strategy: "About 96 percent of the Willamette Valley ecoregion is privately-owned, presenting challenges to conservation efforts. Conservation strategies that focus on needs of individual at-risk species and key sites are particularly critical in this ecoregion". DU and partners have been contacted by numerous landowners in the last decade who are seeking assistance on wetland management to better serve recreation and fish and wildlife conservation. Finding funding for private lands projects is challenging. Initial estimation of impact could be 20,000 acres in the Willamette Valley that could be positively impacted with a focused initiative and plan. In 2023 DU tested outreach strategies by hosting a workshop with 25 private landowners. The workshop consisted of: * Who DU is and the Projects we do * Why wetlands are important and * Wetland Types * Wetland Plants and crops * Benefits to fish, wildlife and people * Why your property is important * Science of wetland management * How to manage and * Generational turnover * Budgeting and * Human Dimensions and * Connection to the landThe workshops were a success and we have several workshops planned for 2024. Due to the clear need of private lands conservation, we plan to invite River Refuge Seed, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture (PBHJV), and ODFW to discuss partnership and promote their work with habitat, fish and wildlife and private landowners.	$78,000

82	Witham Hill Oak Habitat Restoration	City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation	Willamette Valley	Addresses aspects of drought	Oak woodlands are a declining native habitat of the Willamette Valley with less than 5% remaining. The City of Corvallis, Oregon State University (OSU), and Marys River Watershed Council (MRWC) have the opportunity to collaborate in the enhancement of this rare habitat across property boundaries. The 85-acre project area, historically oak savanna habitat, has transformed into a dense canopy of fir, oak, and invasive species over time. Site conditions have also increased fuel loads and fire risk to adjacent housing developments. The project area falls within Conservation Opportunity Area 081, and is vital for the conservation of legacy oaks aging between 200-300 years that are experiencing canopy dieback due to overtopping and shading. Urgent action is essential to prevent further habitat deterioration. Restoration activities are expected to benefit Wildlife Priority Strategy Species the Acorn Woodpeckers and Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch, which were identified within the project area during a 2022 survey. Chipping Sparrow and Western Bluebird are also expect to return post-restoration activities. OCRF will fund the preparation of a the Witham Hill Oak Habitat Restoration Plan by Trout Mountain Forestry (TMF), and MRWC and TMF staff time for further grant development. This Plan will serve as a basis for securing additional funding for its implementation across the project area. Development of the Plan is vital for demonstrating the logistics, budget, and estimated timber revenue needed for match from harvest thinning operations to achieve oak restoration objectives. Additionally, OCRF will fund a contracted herbicide application to target invasive understory species well as facilitate community engagement efforts led by the MRWC in partnership with the City of Corvallis, involving volunteer events and field trips for underserved youth, aimed to foster their sense of stewardship and connection to conservation issues.	$49,835

83	Wolverine Tracking Project	Cascadia Wild	East Cascades; West Cascades	Does not addess aspects of drought	The Wolverine Tracking Project is a community science initiative that addresses two critical needs: long-term monitoring of rare carnivores to inform better conservation and management practices, and connecting people to the wildlife and wild places that make Oregon such a special place to live. Surveys utilize cameras and wildlife tracking to collect data on five rare carnivore species. The project has provided the only evidence of Sierra Nevada red fox in our area, captured some of the first images of wolves returning, and helped confirm the first wolverine in our area in over 30 years. Work is done on the Mt Hood National Forest. This year we will expand into the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area as well, at the request of their biologist. This will allow more volunteers to be involved, will cover the potential routes of wolverine dispersal from Washington, and will reach areas that have never been surveyed for these species before. The project provides a space for volunteers to engage with the natural environment and learn about wildlife, wild places, and the importance that all species play in keeping our forests healthy. With over 200 volunteers annually, the project has touched the lives of many people over its 20 year history. The volunteers collect data on five Oregon Conservation Strategy species: Sierra Nevada red fox (SNRF), gray wolves, wolverine, Pacific marten and fisher. We work closely with ODFW biologists, the US Forest Service, and university researchers. Most of our work is within Conservation Opportunity Areas. With a successful project history, we are truly connecting people with the natural world while also providing tangibly important data to wildlife conservation decision-makers. OCRF has enabled much of this with valuable cost-shared grants. With continued OCRF funding for the upcoming year, we hope to expand our impact to reach more people and monitor for rare species in areas not yet surveyed.	$27,700
84	YMCA Elk Trail Outdoor School - Group Gathering Space	Rogue Valley Family YMCA	Klamath Mountains	Addresses aspects of drought	This project aims to repurpose the former Elk Trail School cafeteria into a dining hall for youth outdoor education and as a community gathering hub. Tasks include basic facility upgrades, adding an ADA restroom, and ADA access to the dining hall. These grant funds would support this effort, as a part of a larger $500,000 phase 1 in our effort to create a fully functioning outdoor camp facility, including sleeping spaces and a commercial kitchen. Our partnerships with local school districts and many local organizations demonstrate the community's support of this project. This initiative aligns with Oregon's efforts to provide week-long, residential outdoor education opportunities for all 5th or 6th grade students during the school year. Our goal is to connect students with nature, promoting environmental stewardship through hands-on learning and exploration.	$50,000