

OCRF Projects Approved by Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on January 14, 2022

Lead Organization	Project Title	Funding Amount	Project Overview
Cascadia Wild	Wolverine Tracking Project: Monitoring rare carnivores on the Mt Hood National Forest	\$10,000.00	<p>The Wolverine Tracking Project is a community science project designed to address two critical needs: to conduct long-term monitoring of rare carnivores that supports and informs better wildlife conservation and management practices, and to connect Oregonians to the wildlife and wild places that make Oregon such a special place to live. The project uses volunteers to collect data on four Oregon Conservation Strategy species, Sierra Nevada red fox, wolves, wolverine, and fisher, as well as other carnivores, in the Mt Hood National Forest. Over the years, the project's success has been significant. Trail cameras documented gray wolves before the White River pack was officially established and provided the only recorded evidence of Sierra Nevada red fox in the area. Genetic samples have established the distribution of Sierra Nevada red fox in the northern Oregon Cascades. Through findings such as these, the project provides critical information to wildlife decision makers. As a community science initiative, the project also serves as a tool to educate people on the importance of wildlife in an ecosystem, the needs of wildlife, and the role of healthy ecosystems in supporting healthy human communities. Volunteers come from various backgrounds and help out in many different capacities. Pre-covid, 2019-20 saw 225 volunteers, over 4225 volunteer hours, 18 trail cameras, and 298 miles of track and scat surveys. We hope to be able to reach similar numbers this coming year. Long term volunteers serve as trip leaders, helping mentor new participants. Special workshops and trips will also be conducted for groups that don't usually have access to the outdoors, such as students of RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Student Empowerment) and Upward Bound (a program for students who are first in their family's history to go to college). With support from OCRF, Cascadia Wild would like in the coming year to make the program even more accessible to traditionally underserved communities.</p>
Oregon Hunters Association	Restoring Hope & Habitat	\$20,000.00	<p>Oregon Hunters Association, Institute for Applied Ecology, and partners are working to restore sagebrush steppe habitat and bitterbrush communities recently impacted by wildfires in the Interstate Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). Over a half-million acres burned in the Interstate WMU in 2021, including the colossal 400,000+ acre Bootleg Fire. As a result, Oregon Conservation Strategy species and habitats are in need of habitat restoration. An extensive amount of two key plant species, antelope bitterbrush and mountain big sagebrush burned in these fires. Though they are a vital component of these ecosystems, these plants are tremendously slow to regenerate naturally. However, planting, and caging seedlings will considerably expedite their reestablishment. This project is set to provide Adults in Custody (AICs) at Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF) sagebrush and bitterbrush seed in Fall 2021 and those seeds will be cleaned and sowed in Spring 2022. In Fall 2022, WCCF AICs along with a strong force of volunteers and OHA staff, will plant seedlings into previously burned areas for the benefit of wildlife. Together, we will plant a minimum combined total of 14,000 sagebrush and bitterbush plugs in critical areas identified by local wildlife biologists. This</p>

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			project will benefit the WCCF Sagebrush in Prison's Project to ensure its longevity and increase its capacity to assist in habitat restoration projects in Oregon. This unique program improves habitat for wildlife and offers horticulture training, ecological education, and nature connection to highly disadvantaged incarcerated AICs at WCCF. Training programs are some of the best ways to reduce recidivism and increase chances of employment upon release. This project offers AICs ongoing scientific curriculum, education lectures, workshops, and vocational training, while propagating thousands of native plants used to restore habitat.
Sandy River Watershed Council	Sandy River Delta Rare Turtle Surveys & Conservation	\$ 6,000.00	Conducting native turtle species surveys with Wisdom of the Elders Workforce crew to establish baseline population figures for existing western painted turtles and western pond turtles. Creating turtle basking habitat for western painted turtles and (in the future) western pond turtles. Monitoring and maintaining enhanced turtle habitat sites and monitoring of turtle populations.
Oregon State University-Cascades	Adventurers for audible bats! A community-supported scientific survey of Oregon's rarest desert bats	\$18,542.00	Two of Oregon's rarest and most striking bats, the spotted bat and pallid bat, produce echolocation calls audible to the unaided human ear. These are desert-dwelling bats that can be heard during summer evenings as they fly from their cliff-face homes in pursuit of a dinner menu that consists of large moths, crickets, and even an occasional scorpion. Adventurers for the audible bats is a community-supported scientific survey of these unique Oregonian wildlife that informs our understanding of where and when these species occur and how we can help them persist in an era of rapid environmental change. Our adventurers are a dedicated cadre of Oregonian humans from all kinds of communities that stroll through urban parks, hike along mountain meadows, and scramble up desert canyons in search of the sounds of spotted bats and pallid bats. At sunset we settle in for some focused listening time – nature sounds sometimes include owls and nighthawks, a coyote in the distance, and of course the bats themselves. We record our findings with our phone app and head home, grateful for the opportunity to pitch in and contribute to Oregon wildlife conservation and to have had another outdoor adventure. We coordinate ourselves and tap into the North American Bat Monitoring Program's scientific survey architecture for maximum impact. Along the way we train and practice our listening skills and learn about all 15 of the bat species that live in Oregon. Most of these bats, including our targeted species, are high priority species of concern to the Oregon Conservation Strategy and are in great need of more help. Come join us in our adventures!
Salem Audubon Society	Motus Receiving Site at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge	\$10,000.00	Willamette Valley has been identified by Motus Initiative partners as an critical location for inclusion into the Motus Network. We propose to install a Motus receiving station at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge to track tagged birds, bats, and insects that come within 10 miles of the Motus Tower. Tagged individuals that use the refuge or fly by the tower send a signal to the receiver station, that data is automatically uploaded to the Motus database, and is shared with site and network partners. Joan Hager of U.S. Geological Survey, Corvallis, wrote this, "Great that you are applying for this grant to install a station at Ankeny! In the interest of taking a strategic approach to developing the western Motus network as a whole, the Pacific Northwest Motus Coordination group is in the process of identifying 5 top priority sites for Motus stations by ecoregion in Oregon and Washington. I am taking the lead on identifying 5 sites for the

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			<p>Willamette Valley. My list so far consists of Ankeny NWR, Finley NWR, and Fern Ridge (Army Corp HQ).” Vanessa Loverti, with the USFWS Migratory Bird and Habitat Programs who oversees one Motus station in Oregon, also supports a station at Ankeny NWR. “A Motus station at Ankeny would link coastal Motus sites and fill an important gap in Oregon along the Pacific Flyway, in addition to answering local questions on how species like geese and shorebirds use this site. So far the only Motus receiving stations in Oregon are at Bandon (1,USFWS) and Jackson County (2, Klamath Bird Observatory). The Willamette Valley is a major migration route for birds from hummingbird to Sandhill Cranes. Some dozens of species pass through., Many dozens breed here and leave in spring. Most compelling, perhaps, are the many thousands of Cackling Geese who arrive here from Alaska for the cold months plus many other waterfowl, shorebirds, and montane species that come down to the lowlands to escape deep snow and cold.</p>
Oswego Lake Watershed Council	Westlake Oak Woodland Restoration Project	\$20,000.00	<p>The Westlake Oak Woodland Restoration and Interpretation Project restores 21.4 acres of suburban Oregon White Oak woodland and creates a plan to ensure the continued stewardship of the area through community education and citizen science monitoring. Westlake Home Owners Association (HOA) contains 200+ homes surrounded by twenty acres of Oregon white oak woodland habitat. These twenty acres are divided into three ‘tracts’ A (17 acres), B (2.7 acres), and C (1.7 acres). The Oswego Lake Watershed Council has partnered with the Westlake HOA, City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and Wisdom of the Elders to fund an the restoration of Tract A by removing invasive plants (predominantly ivy and blackberry) and invasive trees (mainly hawthorne) from the 17 acres. We have also designed and implemented an oak release project by removing trees (mainly ash, big leaf maple, cherry, and Douglas fir) that compete with oak development. The native sub canopy has been replanted to develop a healthy understory of cascara, vine maple, Indian plum, hazelnut, and other appropriate natives. Oak-associated species have been observed including sweet trilliums, camas, white breasted nuthatches, and western gray squirrels, all noteworthy oak obligate species. OLWC is requesting funding to complete this restoration work on Tracts B and C using the approach used on Tract A. We will also develop an education program through signage, web based information and school curriculum that helps community members understand the importance of oak woodland habitat with emphasis of future stewardship of the oaks. The educational materials will include an emphasis on how this land and the associated oaks were used by the original inhabitants. Indigenous residents actively maintained these areas to promote healthy Oregon White Oak populations. Monitoring protocols will also be implemented by volunteer citizen science volunteers to support continued conservation efforts.</p>
Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife	Northwestern Pond Turtle (NWPT) Life History and Habitat Study in Mosier, OR	\$20,000.00	<p>Northwestern ponds turtle (Actinemys marmorata; NWPT) populations are in decline across their geographic range, however little information is known about the habitat requirements and basic life history needs for the species; therefore, our aim is to provide a baseline for which to build conservation strategies. This project expands upon an ongoing, multi-year northwestern pond turtle monitoring project in Mosier, OR to fill an existing data gap on areas of utilization</p>

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			<p>across the terrestrial habitat and engage members of the community to help collect this data. This population is of particular interest since it is one of the farthest east in the Columbia Gorge and appears to be healthy both in terms of disease and number of individuals. Through our previous work marking turtles in their aquatic habitat in this area, we have been able to estimate population sizes and collect demographic data on NWPT within a network of ponds, primarily on private land. From past monitoring efforts, we know that NWPT are moving between the network of ponds we are surveying; however, we lack data on terrestrial habitats used for overwintering and nesting. This research will enable us to identify and conserve movement corridors between aquatic and terrestrial habitat and to gather basic life history information on the timing of nesting, overwintering, and movement between ponds. This information will help to inform and prioritize habitat enhancements on private land both locally and statewide. Additionally, because the pond sites exist primarily on private land, the current project has been particularly effective in engaging the Mosier community. We would like to continue this engagement by inviting students to help with our spring capture and marking events through formalized partnerships with local school districts. Understanding how NWPT use upland habitats will help us capitalize on and provide funding opportunities for private landowners to enhance these areas.</p>
Klamath Bird Observatory	Using GPS technology to track Oregon Vesper Sparrows from multiple breeding populations throughout their full annual cycle	\$19,998.32	<p>Oregon Vesper Sparrow is one of the most imperiled birds in North America, and is an Oregon Conservation Strategy Species. Current research is focused on breeding habitat needs, nest success, annual survival, and recruitment; more information is needed about the non-breeding season to complete a full assessment of conservation issues. Disentangling the potential causes of population decline requires understanding what threats Oregon Vesper Sparrows face in different parts of their annual cycle – and thus, the first step is understanding where those locations are. To address this critical knowledge gap, we deployed miniaturized, archival GPS tags on 10 Oregon Vesper Sparrows at our Rogue Basin study site in 2020; results from 3 birds recaptured in 2021 have provided the very first precise information about where Oregon Vesper Sparrows spend the non-breeding season, and a proof-of-concept for using GPS technology with this subspecies. Here, we propose to expand this study and deploy GPS tags on 20 Oregon Vesper Sparrows (10 in the Willamette Valley region, and 10 in the Rogue Basin region) in 2022 to further uncover migratory routes and wintering locations, and describe the degree of migratory connectivity (i.e., overlap in winter geography) between these two populations. This work will importantly double our sample size for the Rogue Basin breeding population, and provide the first GPS data identifying migratory stopover and wintering sites used by birds breeding in the Willamette Valley. We will use this novel spatial information to identify potential threats originating on the non-breeding grounds, and develop appropriate conservation strategies.</p>
Northwest Ecological Research Institute (NERI)	Harborton Frog Mortality Assessment	\$ 6,449.00	<p>Harborton Wetland is a 74-acre parcel located along Multnomah Channel within the historic Willamette River Delta and owned by Portland General Electric (PGE). Since the city was founded, most of the wetlands and riparian habitats of the Lower Willamette River Basin have been destroyed. Annually, hundreds to thousands of Northern red-legged frogs (<i>Rana aurora</i>,</p>

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			<p>RAAU) migrate from terrestrial uplands in Portland's Forest Park across Highway 30 to the Harborton Wetland to breed. During this migration, passing cars kill an unknown number of animals. Conservative estimates put amphibian road crossing deaths in the hundreds at this site, but the number could be substantially higher with evidence of soft frog carcasses disappearing rapidly on this busy highway. In 2014, the Harborton Frog Shuttle was established to assist the frog migration and reduce the effects of anthropogenically inflated mortality. While the shuttle is a great tool for community involvement, a more sustainable and permanent solution is called for. A wildlife undercrossing and/or creating improved wetland spaces that do not require road crossings are the primary proposed solutions. These are expensive, infrastructure-based solutions and more data is required to find the most appropriate path forward. Specifically, increased data on the rate and location of frogs being killed at road crossings will inform timing and movement patterns to find the best solution. The Northwest Ecological Research Institute (NERI) has performed amphibian surveys and restoration for decades throughout the Pacific Northwest.</p>
<p>The Klamath Tribes Aquatics Department</p>	<p>Habitat Restoration for Beaver Reintroduction in the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>	<p>The Klamath Tribes, with technical assistance and coordination from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are encouraging North American Beaver (<i>Castor canadensis</i>) reintroduction in the southern portion of the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (KMNWR). Since the decline of the beaver population in the KMNWR, the refuge's water retention, biodiversity, and overall ecological productivity has also declined. This project will aim at translocating nuisance beavers once the habitat has been restored to suitable conditions for beaver retention. Project actions will include beaver dam analog (BDA) installations along the outlet of the KMNWR, habitat restoration, beaver reintroduction, and continued monitoring. The project location currently consists of a homogeneous level landscape with little plant diversity or structural complexity, which is an artifact of many decades of intense cattle grazing. There are currently no woody materials within a mile of the project area that beavers would use to construct lodges or build water retention structures. Work is needed to reestablish native vegetation and restore the historic structural complexity of the ecosystem. In 2020, the first main stem BDA was installed by the Klamath Tribes on the Williamson River. Composed of local raw materials such as pine and willow trees and native soil. Local native willow cuttings will be collected, potted, and stored in a greenhouse. The live willows will then be tended to as needed and planted in the spring along the river at the site of the BDA. While the plants begin to establish, construction of an artificial beaver lodge will begin. The artificial lodge will consist of a variety of raw materials, such as aspens and willows, and be built prior to beaver reintroduction to ensure they have both a food and shelter source. The plant establishment and artificial lodge will be monitored thereafter, with the intention to introduce a family of beavers when habitat conditions are suitable.</p>
<p>Oregon Wildlife Foundation</p>	<p>Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossings Mitigation and</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>	<p>This proposal is submitted by the Oregon Wildlife Foundation on behalf of the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossings Coalition (SOWCC), a partnership of individuals and organizations dedicated to improving habitat connectivity and safe passage for wildlife across I-5 in the Klamath Mountains ecoregion. We propose to conduct a preferred mitigation alternative analysis of six</p>

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	Alternatives Analysis		wildlife crossing locations on I-5 between Ashland and the California border in southwestern Oregon. These sites were identified by the SOWCC as potential opportunities for wildlife passage in this stretch of I-5. I-5 bisects this region of rich biodiversity known to provide critical linkages among coastal mountains, the Siskiyou ecological province, the Cascade Range, and High Desert. Highly significant migratory fish and wildlife populations occur on both sides of the interstate, which is bordered by large areas of intact habitat on a mix of public and private lands. Among these public lands is the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which was designated to protect the high levels of biodiversity in the region and is itself bisected by I-5. Various species and large populations of ungulates attempt to cross I-5 with mixed success or are deflected away from the highway. ODOT carcass-collection data show that this 14-mile stretch of interstate is an area of high wildlife-vehicle collision density creating a safety hazard for both motorists and wildlife. There are currently no dedicated wildlife crossings in this area. We have evaluated existing highway infrastructure for its potential to be improved for safe wildlife passage across I-5. The six sites we've identified represent the best known of these opportunities and include locations where minor retrofitting could benefit crossing success, as well as sites that would require substantial reconstruction or new structures. The SOWCC includes representatives from State and Federal agencies, local and statewide nonprofit conservation organizations.
The Trumpeter Swan Society	Oregon Trumpeter Swan Research and Education	\$20,000.00	This project will help expand on Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Waterfowl Program's research on origins and migration paths of Trumpeter Swans that winter and migrate through eastern Oregon. It will include marking 6 adult Trumpeter Swans with GPS-GSM radio collars (purchased with this grant funding) during winter at Summer Lake Wildlife Area and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge with the purpose of determining their origins (breeding grounds) and migration pathways. A second objective of this proposal involves education and public awareness. The data from the marked swans will be documented and developed into a presentation that is available the public and to be presented at our 26th TTSS Swan Conference/7th International Swan Symposium and will also be used to develop an educational product, targeting grade school children where they can learn about Trumpeter Swans in Oregon, their life history, conservation needs and will include development of lesson plans for teachers, to include lessons in science, math and geography using the swan locations derived from the study.
Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit	Assessment of native fish population status and species distribution in Goose Lake Valley	\$19,807.00	The Goose Lake Valley is an endorheic desert valley that runs north-to-south on the border of Oregon and California. The Valley's watersheds drain into Goose Lake — a slightly alkaline system that has historically dried up during severe drought years, and drains into the Pit River to the south during very high-flow years. There are several endemic fish species that occupy Goose Lake and its adjacent rivers, wetlands, and riparian areas: the Goose Lake redband trout, Goose Lake lamprey, Goose Lake tui chub, and Goose Lake sucker. These endemic species coexist with a variety of native and non-native species. Goose Lake and its surrounding watersheds are highly sensitive to climate-mediated disturbances such as drought. An increased frequency of disturbance events in the region may limit the accessibility, quantity, and

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			<p>quality of available habitat for native fishes, while increasing range expansion of non-native fishes may put undue stress on vulnerable species. The goal of this project is to aid agency partners in conducting a population status assessment for at-risk native species in the Goose Lake ecosystem and to determine which areas are most at risk of declining populations due to disturbances such as drought and invasive species. This research is timely because consistent surveys have not been conducted in many of Oregon’s high desert basins for more than a decade. Updated abundance and distribution estimates will inform state and federal managers as to the population status of at-risk native fish species, while an assessment of habitat quality will support actionable management outcomes.</p>
Wayfinding Academy	Wayfinding Ambassadors Program	\$20,000.00	<p>Wayfinding Academy (WFA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit community college, will enhance educational, personal and professional outcomes for historically underrepresented students through a new “Wayfinding Ambassadors” program that advances outdoor equity and conservation priorities. High-level elements of this program include: 1. Curriculum and labs developed by the college with a central focus on the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Oregon’s nine ecoregions; 2. Service as a convener and academic resource for the broader community on outdoor equity and conservation, including the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Oregon’s nine ecoregions; 3. Equity-centered learning and development that fosters diverse representation in the outdoors and associated careers; 4. Stewardship projects that inspire lasting engagement, build practical skills, and benefit recreation infrastructure and natural areas in multiple ecoregions; and 5. Student projects that raise awareness and spur action in the broader community on outdoor issues, including priorities in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Centering equity, the Wayfinding Ambassadors program will be developed in partnership with Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI), a nonprofit serving youth and families, primarily African Americans and other communities of color, with culturally-responsible academic and wraparound services. Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO), a statewide nonprofit trail stewardship organization, will serve as the inaugural community partner providing hands-on experience, training and mentorship for students in the field. The Wayfinding Ambassadors program’s unique combination of college curriculum, professional training, and community outreach will connect students with the natural world in new and memorable ways. With adequate funding, the program is easily scalable to serve broader populations, school sites, and community partners -- aiming to inspire, educate, and empower the next generation of leaders in a more equitable outdoors.</p>
Hike it Baby	Bring it Outside	\$20,000.00	<p>The Bring it Outside Family Hiking program partners with community organizations that directly support Spanish-speaking families, providing children and their caregivers outdoor experiences through facilitated programming and materials in their native language, as well as gear and physical resources. We consider the program to be a first touch in building a lifetime relationship with nature for these families. With the support of OCRF, Hike it Baby will launch a Bring it Outside Program in the diverse Rockwood Community in the Portland Metro. We will build the infrastructure to extend the programming to include an online resources hub, an interactive trails and hiking map fully in Spanish, and ongoing opportunities and community-led hikes to continue to support these families after the initial 6-week in-person program ends.</p>

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			Through this Bring it Outside Program, we will introduce and connect LatinX families to the public greenspaces near where they live, providing that first step out hiking as a family in a supportive group environment, with the larger goal of continuing outdoor exploration and increased diversity of those who enjoy Oregon’s recreational spaces.
Wallowa Resources	White-headed Woodpecker Monitoring, Demographics, and Space Use in Managed Forests of the Blue Mountains	\$10,709.00	White-headed woodpecker are a focal species for late-successional dry forest, a priority species for the U.S. Forest Service, and an Oregon Conservation Strategy species due to the steep decline in their habitat and population trend. However, Blue Mountain Forests do not currently have a monitoring program in place for this species. Data from this study will determine whether fuels reduction treatments are affecting white-headed woodpecker occupancy, reproduction, and space use. Data will be used to develop a protocol that will form the basis of a long-term monitoring program. Results of this study will improve our understanding of foraging needs of White-headed Woodpecker to inform stand-scale silviculture prescriptions and better understand tradeoffs associated with space use and nest success. By integrating home range data with occupancy estimates, land managers will have the ability to estimate White-headed Woodpecker abundance across a wide range of habitat conditions. Home range estimates will allow for estimation of carrying capacity across the landscape in relation to forest management. Knowing the carrying capacity that treated and untreated stands can support will enable us to prioritize treatment areas to increase the size and quality of suitable habitat patches and improve connectivity between them.
North Coast Land Conservancy	Recreational management plan for the Rainforest Reserve and Arch Cape Forest	\$16,000.00	The North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC) and our partners request funding support for creating a Recreational Management plan for Oregon’s newest conservation area. The defining mountain range of the North Coast, slashing northeasterly to southwesterly from Saddle Mountain to Neahkahnie Mountain, is a relic of an ancient volcanic event. These peaks—lands in the sky—were once isolated by an oceanic moat. That isolation gave rise to a unique landscape of incredible diversity in ecology and geology. An effort underway for more than a decade to conserve this area through two acquisition projects is nearly complete, The Arch Cape Forest and the Rainforest Reserve. NCLC and Arch Cape Water and Sanitary District (ACWSD) have worked closely to secure these properties. The combined area is 5000 acres adjacent to both Oswald West State Park and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. As future landowners, we will collaborate on protection of these natural resources and management of recreation. Our team has secured technical assistance support from National Parks Services Recreational Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, and seeks additional support from OCRF in order to create a Recreational Management Plan for our project area. Funds from OCRF will support the staff time needed for NCLC to engage deeply in a public process over the next 12 months to support our team as we make decisions about: • recreation opportunities that will be provided or encouraged in the project area; what and where. • management of the project area’s current and future recreation resources and activities • integration of recreational use with environmental and cultural values and other land uses such as water protection and forestry operations.

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<p>Institute for Applied Ecology</p>	<p>Evaluating the effectiveness of prairie restoration for Streaked Horned Lark in the Willamette Valley</p>	<p>\$18,643.00</p>	<p>The Streaked Horned Lark (hereafter lark) is an Oregon Conservation Strategy sensitive species and listed as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The majority of extant populations (<2,000 birds) are in the southern Willamette Valley – the location of our two study sites. Larks require a large, open landscape of low-statured herbaceous vegetation with patches of sparsely vegetated ground. Agricultural practices and prairie succession in the absence of natural or cultural fire reduce available habitat for larks. Prairie restoration practices have been developed to specifically address this need, which is promulgated in both the lark recovery plan and recent Federal listing of the bird. However, the effectiveness of these treatments to contribute to lark recovery has not been verified. We propose to monitor the effectiveness of these treatments over 2 years at 2 sites where vernal pools and habitat swales have recently been created specifically for lark conservation.</p>
<p>Powder Basin Watershed Council</p>	<p>Camp Creek Ecosystem Resiliency</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>	<p>This project is on Camp Creek in the North Fork Burnt River watershed, approximately 45 miles southwest of Baker City, north of Whitney Valley on lands administered by the Whitman Ranger District of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Watershed issues addressed are: 1) degraded groundwater recharge and water storage functions, yet abundant unconfined and wide valleys are present, 2) limited water table maintenance supporting narrower riparian vegetation communities than the abundant willow valleys than could be present, 3) limited zones for water quality filtering, 4) excessive bank erosion resulting in streambeds with abundant fine silts, and a resulting limited fish and wildlife riparian and aquatic habitat. Throughout the 2.5-mile project reach, the creek is incised, not connected with broad historic floodplain, and beaver are not present. The result is a stream with an altered potential riparian vegetation community of sagebrush or lodgepole pine, instead of multiple species of willow, simplified aquatic habitat and one that is more efficient at routing water out of the system. Both Camp Creek and the North Fork Burnt River experience very low summer base flows and water temperature that exceed state water quality standards (303d water quality impaired for water temperature). We propose to utilize low-tech process-based restoration techniques (beaver dam analogues – BDAs) to reconnect Camp Creek with its historic floodplain and facilitate restoration of the native willow community by fencing to exclude ungulates from seven protection areas averaging 0.80 acres in size. This is a collaborative project between the Powder Basin Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Wallowa Whitman National Forest.</p>
<p>Southern Oregon Land Conservancy</p>	<p>Pompadour Bluff Access Infrastructure Phase I</p>	<p>\$20,000.00</p>	<p>Replacing a degraded bridge on the access road to Pompadour Bluff, an iconic, newly conserved 55-acre natural area preserve in the upper Bear Creek valley east of Ashland, is the first step toward safe access to the preserve for future habitat restoration, recreation, trail development and fire prevention. Pompadour Bluff and its 55 acres of dramatic rock outcrops and diverse wildlife habitat were gifted to Southern Oregon Land Conservancy in July 2021 after being isolated by private ownership for the past 50 years. Pompadour Bluff itself is an iconic geologic formation visible from the I-5 corridor and Ashland’s viewscape, surrounded by intact oak woodland, native grasslands, shrubland, and habitat for multiple native, sensitive plants and animals. Donated to form a preserve with public access, Pompadour Bluff is in designated deer</p>

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			and elk winter range (Grizzly Unit) and is closely adjacent two Conservation Opportunity Areas and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. With its prominent place on the eastern horizon of the upper Bear Creek valley and history of inaccessibility as a private property, Pompadour Bluff has already begun to stir community interest for visits to see the 360-degree views from the summit and fulfill previously distant appreciation of the bluff's beauty. A bridge across an irrigation ditch on the access road to Pompadour Bluff is eroded on one footing, rated unsafe for service and fire safety vehicles. To support planned conservation and recreational activities, the access bridge must be replaced with to meet code (60,000-pound capacity) to permit safe access to Pompadour Bluff for equipment to develop recreation facilities, school buses to bring students, fire trucks to prevent possible wildfire, and for long term conservation management to sustain the natural habitats, and initiate recreational use. Requested funds will support approximately one third of the cost of replacing the degraded bridge on the access road to Pompadour Bluff.
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)	APANO's BIPOC Youth Nature Series 2021	\$20,000.00	APANO's BIPOC Youth Nature Series is a cohort-based program designed to support about 12 BIPOC youth that we engage with in accessing environmental education and recreational activities in nature. The project will provide an accessible way for young BIPOC community members to see and experience Oregon's beauty, and learn from partner organizations on various environmental topics such as indigenous approaches to farming, plant and tree identification, water quality and processing, exploring the hiking trail networks around the Portland Metro region, and deepening their relationships to nature through a series of 5 workshops in the summer of 2022.
Wallowa Land Trust	East Moraine Community Forest Carrying Capacity Study	\$20,000.00	The East Moraine Community Forest is a newly acquired publically-owned property near Wallowa Lake State Park outside Joseph, Oregon. This 1,835-acre property is comprised of forest and grassland. It was secured from future development in January 2020 and is to be managed as a mixed-use community asset – providing public access while protecting habitat and cultural resources, and supporting the local economy. This project would allow the East Moraine Community Forest Management Committee to conduct a carrying capacity study for the property to determine acceptable levels and areas for recreational uses. The goal is to ensure public access that is carefully planned and managed to provide the best possible visitor experience while protecting and enhancing the diversity of native plants, animals, and their habitats on this iconic landscape.
People of Color Outdoors	People of Color Outdoors Guardians at Whitaker Ponds	\$15,010.00	People of Color Outdoors will host a series of week long nature education classes for children and their parents. The program is called "People of Color Outdoors Guardians at Whitaker Ponds. Each day, they will learn about a different set of animals/plants/birds, etc. Each night they will get some easy homework meant to keep the parents engaged and excite the children about returning the next day to share. There are lots of little incentives and prizes like bubbles, books, pencils, erasers, and other school supplies to keep the level of excitement high. Each day, the children and their parents will learn something about Whitaker Ponds. At the end of the week, the children graduate as Guardians!