



Meeting: Conservation &
Recreation Advisory Committee
Meeting – Virtual Attendance
Time: October 6, 2021 9:00 AM
Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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2 *Committee minutes are considered draft until approved by the Advisory Committee.*
3

4 Those attending part all or part of the meeting included:
5

6 Advisory Committee Members

- | | |
|--|---|
| 7 Dr. Karl Wenner (Chair, Klamath Mountains) | 13 Chris Hager (at-large) |
| 8 Mauricio Valadrian (Vice-Chair, at-large) | 14 Jane Hartline (Willamette Valley) |
| 9 Maret Pajutee (East and West Cascades) | 15 Commissioner Mark Labhart |
| 10 Mark Stern (at-large) | 16 Cailin O'Brien Feeney, Office of Outdoor |
| 11 Kelly Timchak (Nearshore and Coast Range) | 17 Recreation |
| 12 Tim Davis (Northern Basin & Range) | |

18
19 ODFW Staff

- 20 Davia Palmeri, Conservation Policy Coordinator
21 Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant
22

23 4 Members of the Public

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 24 Mike Totey, Oregon Hunters Association | 28 Jena Carter |
| 25 Dick Vander Schaaf | 29 Sarah Rockwell |
| 26 Zach Schwartz, Wildlands Network | 30 Nicole DeCrappeo |
| 27 Kay Brown | 31 Greg Mintz |

32
33 **MEETING**

34 **Welcome**

35 On Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 9:07 a.m., Vice Chair Mauricio Valadrian, called the Oregon
36 Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee (the Committee) meeting to order. This meeting was
37 held online only via the Zoom platform. Warm up - Committee members introduced themselves and
38 shared something recent from their lives.
39

40 **Review and Approve Meeting Minutes**

41 Objective: Review and approve minutes from July 15 and August 30 meetings.
42

43 *Committee Member Kelly Timchak moved to approve the meeting minutes from the July 15 and August*
44 *30, 2021 meeting with continued authority to correct grammar and punctuation. Committee Member*
45 *Mark Stern seconded the motion and the motion carried with seven (7) in favor.*
46

47 **Current Funds Status**

48 Objective: Receive information on the status of fundraising, recent appropriations, and expenditures to
49 date.
50

51 *To date, the OCFR has generated \$666,800 in private contributions. The legislature appropriated \$2.5*
52 *million for the 2021-2023 biennium to the OCFR. This includes:*

- 1 • \$1 million General Fund to be matched with private donations in 2021-2023 (HB 2171)
- 2 • \$545K from GF to match funds raised in 2019-2021 (HB 5006)
- 3 • \$1 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (covid relief) for Oregon Outdoor Recreation
- 4 Stimulus (HB 5006), this will not count as non-state funds for the OCRF.

7 **Future Committee Membership and Committee Management**

8 Objective 1: Share information on the status of Committee member appointments to this Committee

9 Objective 2: Review request from ODFW to fund a staff position to support the OCRF program.

10
11 *Every member's appointment to this advisory committee expires on 1/2/2022. The Governor's office is*
12 *now using the Workday application to manage boards and commissions. Every member should now have*
13 *a Workday account and may need to re-apply for your current position. Members have also received*
14 *notice of required trainings through Workday. Members can contact Michelle Tate with any issues with*
15 *Workday. Michelle.L.TATE@odfw.oregon.gov*

16
17 *ODFW staff proposed creation of a new position at ODFW to manage the OCRF program. This includes*
18 *managing the fundraising campaign, liaising with the advisory committee, and managing the grant*
19 *program.*

20
21 *Committee Member Maret Pajutee moved to recommend expenditure from the Oregon Conservation*
22 *and Recreation Fund of up to \$181,000 for a full-time position at ODFW to manage the OCRF. Committee*
23 *Member Jane Hartline seconded the motion and seven (7) voted in favor.*

24 *Members noted that we should not market the OCRF as every dollar going on the ground, since*
25 *some donations will support the position.*

27 **Recommendations of Outdoor Recreation Task Force & Existing OPRD Programs/Funding Streams**

28 Objective: Consider the state's outdoor recreation priorities and the existing funding opportunities.

29
30 *Cailin O'Brien Feeney provided a presentation on the Governor's Task Force on Outdoor Recreation and*
31 *recommended the following considerations for OCRF Funding:*

- 32 *1. Outdoor Equity: Programs benefitting or led by traditionally underserved communities and*
33 *groups*
- 34 *2. Organizational Capacity: planning, engagement and collaboratives*
- 35 *3. Maintenance: recreation sites with clear connection to OCS (\$600 million maintenance backlog*
36 *in the state across all ownership)*
- 37 *4. Statewide priorities: align with established goals in SCORP*

38
39 *The full presentation is posted to the Advisory Committee's website.*

41 **OWEB – Wildfire Recovery Investments Update**

42 Objective: Receive information from OWEB on upcoming funding and other opportunities related to
43 recovery from the 2020 and 2021 fire seasons.

44
45 *OWEB Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an update on upcoming funding related to the 2020 fires.*
46 *Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force identified \$86 million needed for recovery. (Full*
47 *report:*

48 <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/233747>).

1 A few line items were funded by the legislature, but there are numerous other opportunities still in need
2 of support. The legislature provided:

- 3 • \$26 million General Fund for fire recovery from the 2020 fires
- 4 • \$20 million to OWEB
 - 5 ○ \$11 million on restoration/planting (opening in early November)
 - 6 ○ \$5 million on flood plain reconnection (water quality & post-fire flood risk)
 - 7 ○ \$4 million direct pass through to EWEB for work in the Holiday Farm Fire
- 8 • \$5 million to ODF for nursery capacity

9
10 2021 fires do not have the same level of coordinated state recovery plan.

11
12 **Other connections between OCRF and OWEB:**

13 OWEB has grant programs from open solicitation to Focused Investment Partnerships (that factor in the
14 Oregon Conservation Strategy, Integrated Water Resources Strategy, Oregon Plan for Salmon and
15 Watersheds). There could be areas where this committee is particularly interested that doesn't align with
16 OWEB priorities. For example OCRF could select a particular species to move the needle on. Work in the
17 outreach space is also an area to continue to focus on. OWEB outreach efforts has focused on
18 stakeholder engagement leading to future project proposals. OWEB doesn't invest in general public
19 awareness about conservation. In all conservation investments we want to think about setting up local
20 partners with success under future climate impacts. Don't want to be planting species assemblages that
21 will not be resilient. Don't want to invest in streams that will be dried up.

22
23 **Grantee Update: Feasibility Study: Restoring Sea Otters to the Oregon Coast**

24 Objective: Update from a recently completed OCRF project.

25
26 Bob Bailey provided a short report on the results of the draft Feasibility Study:

27 <https://www.elakhaalliance.org/feasibility-study/>.

28
29 **Discuss New Proposal from The Elakha Alliance**

30 Objective: Decide if the Committee will recommend expenditure from the OCRF to match private
31 donations made for this project.

32
33 The Committee discussed an invited proposal from The Elakha Alliance for communications related to
34 sea otter restoration, particularly on the south coast. Committee Member Jane Hartline moved to
35 recommend expenditure from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund of up to \$65,000 for the
36 project "Sea Otter Restoration Community Engagement" contingent upon the receipt of future restricted
37 donations of up to \$50,000. Vice Chair Mauricio Valadrian seconded the motion and the motion passed
38 with six (6) in favor.

39
40 **Access & Habitat Board**

41 Objective: Receive information on ODFW's Access & Habitat Board's funding priorities and existing work.

42
43 ODFW Staff Travis Schultz gave a presentation on ODFW's Access & Habitat Board (available on the
44 Committee's website). The Committee Members discussed how the A&H program leverage match.

45
46 **Beaver Update and Research Needs**

47 Objective: Receive information on the Fish and Wildlife Commission's Beaver Management Working
48 Group and ODFW staff recommendations for questions that could be address using OCRF funds.

1
2 *ODFW Staff Derek Broman described the current Fish and Wildlife Commission Beaver Management*
3 *Work Group. OCRF may have the opportunity to contribute to research about beaver and the limiting*
4 *factors on beaver populations. The process will conclude soon.*

5
6 **Public Comment**

7 Objective: Invite members of the public to comment on today's agenda items or strategic priorities for
8 the OCRF.

9
10 *No public comment was received.*

11
12 **OCRF Grantee Update: Western Bumblebee Atlas**

13 Objective: Update from a recently completed OCRF project.

14
15 *Rich Hatfield of The Xerces Society gave an update on the Western Bumble Bee Atlas, which was funded*
16 *by the OCRF earlier this year. Slides are available online.*

17
18 **OCRF Grantee Update: Exploring Nature in Lents**

19 Objective: Update from a recently completed OCRF project.

20
21 *Ana Meza of the Lentz Youth Initiative provided an update on the 2021 summer experiences that were*
22 *funded by the OCRF earlier this year, including a video put together by the Oregon Zoo, who supported*
23 *the program.*

24
25 **Restoration & Enhancement Board**

26 Objective: Receive information on ODFW's Restoration & Enhancement Board's funding priorities and
27 existing work.

28
29 *Richard Heap, Chair of ODFW's Restoration & Enhancement Board provided a background on that grant*
30 *program, which funds enhancement of fish hatchery facilities and projects to improve fishing. He shared*
31 *that ODFW gives a prioritized list of hatchery enhancement projects each biennium. Also, one of the*
32 *metrics R&E considers is how many other partners are in the project, how much funding can be*
33 *leveraged with R&E's contribution. Focusing major funding efforts in first two funding cycles of the*
34 *biennium to give people time to get projects done by the end of the biennium, which allows them to use*
35 *funds that are returned.*

36
37 **ODFW Conservation Strategy Priorities**

38 Objective 1: Consider ODFW's priority species, habitats, and conservation actions for implementing the
39 Oregon Conservation Strategy.

40 Objective 2: Receive information on ODFW projects that could be supported by the OCRF.

41
42 *ODFW staff shared priorities for implementing the Oregon Conservation Strategy. The primary need is*
43 *funding for species that are hard to fund through other existing mechanisms. This includes:*

- 44
45
 - 46 • *Reptiles & amphibians & bats*
 - 47 • *Collection of data on Strategy Species occurrence, distribution, habitat associations, and*
48 *population status*
 - *Support to design and manage community science programs to collect this data*

1 ODFW has identified a top 5 priority strategy species list for each of the nine ecoregions.
2 [https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/media/ODFW-Wildlife-Priority-Strategy-Species-by-](https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/media/ODFW-Wildlife-Priority-Strategy-Species-by-Ecoregion_3.2018.pdf)
3 [Ecoregion_3.2018.pdf](https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/media/ODFW-Wildlife-Priority-Strategy-Species-by-Ecoregion_3.2018.pdf)
4

5 The Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project has a list of data gap species, that include
6 significant overlap with the priority species list.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 7 | • Northern Red-legged Frog | 11 | • Ferruginous Hawk |
| 8 | • American Pika | 12 | • Hoary Bat |
| 9 | • Cascades Frog | 13 | • Oregon Slender Salamander |
| 10 | • Coastal Tailed Frog | 14 | • North American Porcupine |

15
16 Communication needs for the Oregon Conservation Strategy include:

- 17 • Improve wildlife viewing opportunities on ODFW lands
- 18 • Develop and Participate in K-12 School Programs
- 19 • Produce public outreach materials on living with wildlife and protecting wildlife habitat at home
20 (apartments, urban houses, farms, etc.)
- 21 • Develop promotional material related to the OCS, for example, highlighting key conservation
22 issues such as climate change or barriers to animal movement

23
24 The Oregon Conservation Strategy also describes seven key conservation issues. Climate change
25 underpins many of these key conservation issues. Other ways to prioritize include Conservation
26 Opportunity Areas, federal critical habitat designations, and strategy habitats.
27

28 ODFW has also identified these project types:

- 29 • Community Science – Limited duration position to establish framework, protocol, and
30 management for ODFW-led community bioblitzes across the state
- 31 • Motus Network – Support development of a network of Motus towers in Oregon that is
32 positioned to answer key questions about Strategy Species’ abundance, distribution, and
33 movement patterns
- 34 • Graduate student-led research on habitat associations of red-legged frog
- 35 • Upgrade ODFW Wildlife Viewing map and other wildlife viewing resources
- 36 • Community science to review ODFW trail camera (and public trail camera) footage for ALL
37 species

38 39 **Preparing for OCRF Long Term Planning**

40 Objective 1: Share observations about the conservation funding and conservation priorities discussed
41 today.

42 Objective 2: Identify decisions to be made at next meeting.
43

44 The Committee Members discussed their observations for today, in anticipation of the November
45 discussion. Observations included:

46 We’ve seen a lot of good projects through our competitive process, but we know that there are some
47 very specific needs. Maybe there is an opportunity to actively solicit specific work from specific partners
48 to help fill gaps.

49 The new OCRF position should be working with ODFW staff and other partners to identify priorities and
50 solicit specific applicants.
51

1 Need to consider how to know if we have the best projects for any of the above priorities, rather than
2 funding things piecemeal.
3 There is a lack of ODFW biologist capacity, but we should focus on coordinating with partners on a
4 certain species
5 We should talk to some of the major funders about priorities.
6

7 **Meeting Wrap up & Next Steps**

8 Objective: Adopt virtual meeting schedule for the foreseeable future.
9

10 *The Committee Members agreed to meet the first Monday of the month at 1pm for all of 2022.*

11
12 **Public Comments**

13 The Committee heard comments from these members of the public:

- 14 - Ken McCall, Oregon Hunters Association-

15
16 Chair Karl Wenner adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

DRAFT