

OCRF Grant Project Completion Report

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Introduction

Project Name*

OCRF2023-50_ The Audible Bats Project-Phase II

Character Limit: 200

Upon completion of the project, please complete this Final Report document and submit it before the Project Expiration Date in the Agreement. The information you provide will be used for accountability and reporting and displayed to the general public. Please be as clear and concise as possible and avoid jargon or acronyms.

Project Location*

Bend, Oregon

Actual Impact Measurement Unit

Number of volunteers engaged

Oregon Conservation Strategy Species *

List the Oregon Conservation Strategy Species and Oregon Conservation Strategy Opportunity Areas that the Project benefited.

Spotted bats, *Euderma maculatum*

Pallid bats, *Antrozous pallidus*

Final Report Questions

Project Statement*

Briefly describe what the project accomplished and the problem(s) it addressed. Make a clear and concise statement; avoid jargon and acronyms.

This project succeeded in engaging community members in bat research and conservation. Bats are generally misunderstood by the public and this project has helped to bridge some knowledge gaps and garner support for the conservation of these animals. Group events took place in central and eastern Oregon. Volunteers attended trainings and group surveys, and many continued to conduct bat surveys independently after the group events. Bat Hub staff were able to conduct dozens of surveys in addition to those completed by volunteers.

Spotted and pallid bats were detected in multiple places where their presence had not previously been confirmed. The Audible Bats Project continues to increase our knowledge of spotted and pallid bat distributions and habitat use.

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Summary of Goals*

- We have successfully developed an aural survey protocol for structured, statistically robust monitoring of audible bat species using a combination of professional and volunteer surveys.
- Bat Hub technicians completed in-office and in-field trainings to survey for and correctly identify spotted and pallid bat vocalizations.
- Field staff from the Forest Service, BLM, and NPS completed Audible Bat surveys following our protocol.
- Bat Hub staff completed 136 surveys in the tri-state area. Approximately 80 of those took place in Oregon.
- Four group survey events took place in Oregon, in addition to one in-person training event. Volunteers conducted 14 surveys in addition to the group survey events in Oregon.
- 46 volunteers participated in trainings and surveys. Volunteers ranged in age from 16 to ~65 and came from a variety of backgrounds.
- Development of a multi-method occupancy model for spotted and pallid bats is currently underway.

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Lessons Learned*

Keeping volunteers engaged long-term continues to be a point of difficulty for this project. This year, I am focusing on recruiting volunteers in the climbing and rafting communities, as well as students in biology, natural resources, and environmental sciences programs. I am continually reminded that many people find nighttime surveys intimidating and so I am trying to find more ways to put folks at ease for these surveys.

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Next Steps*

The Audible Bats Project is ongoing, with continuing funding support from OCRF. This year, we will continue to our group survey events and trainings. Volunteers are still being encouraged to complete independent surveys. Due to the changes in the federal funding landscape, the Bat Hub will not be hiring field staff to conduct surveys this year. However, we are in the process of developing a job shadow program for students and early career biologists to gain field experience. The participants will complete a number of field tasks, including Audible Bats surveys and assisting with outreach events.

We continue to work towards building a long-term monitoring strategy for spotted and pallid bats, and predictive models for occupancy and maternity roosts will be developed soon. For the 2025 data collection season, we will be conducting more targeted surveys at pallid bat maternity colonies to help inform those models.

Taking a longer view of the future, we hope to publish our survey methods and modelling results in an academic journal.

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Attachments

Include all project data collected, such as surveys, reports, PDF maps, photo monitoring and planning documents. Upload any color photographs of the Project area(s) before and after the Project completion taken at the pre-set photo points as one document.

Optional Document URL

If documents are stored in an accessible location such as Dropbox, you may enter the url here.

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Attachment 1

File Size Limit: 9 MB

Attachment 2

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Attachment 3

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Attachment 5

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Attachment 6

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Attachment 7

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Attachment 8

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Attachment 9

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Attachment 10

File Size Limit: 9 MB

Certification

Drafts of final reports for review may be submitted to ODFW.OCRF@odfw.oregon.gov

Certifying Statement*

I certify that the above and attached information is true and accurate.

Choices

Yes

Applicant Authorized Representative Name*

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Authorized Representative Title*

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