

OCRF 2024-45 Northeast Oregon Highway 82 Wildlife Crossing Project

Spring 2024 OCRF Project Proposal

Oregon Wildlife Foundation

Mr. Tim Greseth
2337 NW York Street
Suite 201C
Portland, OR 97210-2112

O: 503-255-6059
M: 503-939-2257

Mr. Tim Greseth

2337 NW York Street
Suite 201C
Portland, OR 97210-2112

tim@myowf.org
O: 503-255-6059
M: 503-939-2257

FollowUp Form

Introduction

Project Title*

Insert the full project name assigned by ODFW, including the unique code before the Project Title that was given in the agreement.

(Example) **OCRF XXXX-XX_ ProjectTitle**

OCRF 2024-45 Northeast Oregon Highway 82 Wildlife Crossing Project

Upon completion of the project, please complete this Final Report document and submit it before the Project Expiration Date on the Project Agreements. 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

Provide the nearest city and the county where project work will be completed, if multiple locations will be used provide them as a bulleted list.

- Wallowa
- Lostine
- Enterprise

Anticipated Impact Measurement Unit*

Other (please explain below)

Anticipated Impact Measurement Unit - Other

If you selected other above, please explain here.

Assembling the funding needed to complete a wildlife crossing mitigation analysis and conceptual design for the Highway 82 project corridor

Anticipated Impact Value

(from the original application)

150000

Anticipated Impact Value 2*

Enter the actual miles, acres, volunteers engaged, etc.

162500

Oregon Conservation Strategy Species*

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

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.

While this project didn't occur within an OCS opportunity area, it does begin to address two of the Strategy's Key Conservation Issues:

- the importance of species and habitat connectivity identified under Goal 2, and
- improving connectivity of natural landscapes to better link fish and wildlife populations and allow for range shifts.

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.

there are four phases of a wildlife passage project on a road or highway like OR 82. The first phase I is completion of a wildlife crossing mitigation analysis and selection of conceptual design for the highest priority crossing locations within the project area. The second phase is engineering and permitting of one or several wildlife crossing structures at those priority locations. The third phase is construction of the crossing structure(s), and the fourth phase is post-construction monitoring of the crossing structure for wildlife use. Ongoing, post-project monitoring documents wildlife use and helps identify opportunities to make adaptive changes that increase crossing success and or recruits additional wildlife participation.

In the case of the Highway 82 Wildlife Crossing project, our coalition has completed phase I. The conceptual design report was previously shared with OCRF staff and Advisory committee members.

Summary of Goals*

Describe how project goals, objectives, and/or milestones were completed. Discuss any measurable and achieved benefits (# of volunteers engaged, acreage restored, retrofits, planning documents created, research results, etc.).

A coalition comprised of statewide and local agencies and organizations formed around the problem of wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) along a 22-mile stretch of OR hwy 82 between the towns of Enterprise and

Wallowa in NE Oregon.

The coalition learned about the issue of WVCs on highway 82 and, through a facilitated process, determined priority locations and potential crossing solutions that would both reduce collisions, and help conserve myriad wildlife species by connecting them with each other and the habitat they need to survive.

Through this educational process, the coalition also learned about the current level of community support for wildlife crossing structures, how that needs to increase, and some ways in which that might happen. Importantly, the project area occurs entirely within private lands so it presents an opportunity to learn how to work with private landowners on the issue of WVCs.

Lessons Learned*

Describe lessons learned and challenges faced during the grant performance period. Examples being delays, contractual issues, permitting, funding, changes to the project Scope of Work or amendments, etc.

While this project focuses on the section of highway with the highest density of WVCs in the NE region of Oregon, it didn't garner the support of ODFW. Launched as a third-party initiative by nonprofit organizations, the requisite agencies, while involved, were not consulted regarding prioritization of this project over and against other needs throughout the state. Additionally, the project's location adjoining mostly private lands, seemingly presents fewer opportunities to control costs than similar projects occurring within publicly-held property. Finally, the animal most often involved with WVCs in this area are white-tailed deer which is not a species of conservation concern.

The lesson learned is to consult both ODFW and ODOT before a project initiative like this is launched.

Next Steps*

Describe any next steps for the project, if any.

NE Oregon area members of the Wallowa County Wildlife Crossing Coalition are continuing the conversation within the Enterprise and Wallowa communities and with landowners adjoining the locations of identified priority crossings.

Oregon Wildlife Foundation submitted an LOI to OCRF for wildlife crossing funding to support a retrofit project at the location of the Wallowa River bridge. This project, should it attract funding support would install 1.0 miles of wildlife fencing to guide animals toward the existing undercrossing and plantings designed to provide cover for their movement.

Given the scarcity of funding for wildlife crossings at both the Federal and state level, any additional work toward implementation of crossing structures along OR hwy 82 is 'on hold' indefinitely.

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.

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Attachment 3

Attachment 4

Attachment 5

Attachment 6

Attachment 7

Attachment 8

Attachment 9

Attachment 10

Certification

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

Certifying Statement*

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

Yes

Applicant Authorized Representative Name*

Tim Greseth

Authorized Representative Title*

Executive Director

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded