

Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Nick Cady

Organization

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Recovering imperiled species

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Work on imperiled species, habitat restoration

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Wildlife crossing I-84

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

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If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Sristi Kamal

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

To support and expand initiatives and projects that promote conservation of non-game species and shift the narrative away from management of species toward actual conservation of species

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Projects that will give Oregonians the opportunity to recreate and connect with nature and wilderness beyond the traditional "hunting and fishing" methods; make nature and wildlife; projects that directly contribute to species conservation efforts beyond ODFW

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Yes, community science projects are a perfect blend of conservation and recreation! Cascadia Wild's Wolverine Tracking Project is a great example! We have partnered with them for three years (and running) and it has been an invaluable project both in collecting data for ODFW, USFWS, NFS as well as connecting local communities to natural places, including under-served communities

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

It can be a great additional funding source for ODFW. Right now, ODFW is restricted in implementing the agency's mission because of the sources of funding (PR funds dependency etc.). Having alternate sources of funding will help gradually shift ODFW away from management to real conservation

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

connectivity and habitat restoration

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Landscape scale connectivity where a species is at risk; habitat restoration of winter range collaborations of public and private partners.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Our collaborative partners do: Forest Service, private NGO's, working on restoration of wildlife corridors, riparian habitats and other eco systems vital to the survival of many species, especially ungulates.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

A map showing wildlife corridors and areas of risk with projects underway or needed. More wildlife crossings to bring Oregon up to other western states who have dozens. Oregon has three. More education for the general public on the reasons for these projects.

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If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Sean Matthews, PhD

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The highest priority uses of the fund in the short term should include the implementation of conservation strategies that promote biodiversity by leveraging and investing in empirical, field-based science and community-inclusive research. For far too long the North American model of fisheries and wildlife management, with its single revenue stream and focus on game species, has dominated the culture and priorities of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. External pressures appear to be guiding a slow shift in cultural and priorities toward the conservation of biodiversity as public expectations for ODFW have eclipsed a game-focused world view. The Fund has the opportunity to expedite this cultural and priority shift.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Conservation strategy recommendations and priorities

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

The Institute for Natural Resources works closely with a diverse range of stakeholders to develop and synthesize science and research for use in natural resources decision making. Many of our current and future projects are guided by priorities outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy in close collaboration with ODFW. For example, our office manages state-wide biodiversity information and we survey and monitor threatened, endangered, and invasive species. Continuity of these and future efforts will require reliable sources of support.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Funding individual projects and initiatives will help make incremental change in specific conservation priorities. The most valuable contribution the OCRF can make will be broadening the range and diversity of stakeholders meaningfully engaged in state-wide conservation and collaborating with ODFW. Hunters and anglers remain an important stakeholder group. The future of conservation in Oregon, however, will require more and diverse stakeholders at the conservation table.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The most "pressing" issue, such as: "The most endangered animal protections in our state."

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Boots on the Ground projects, where leveraging the P-R dollars, and the OCF, by utilizing Good Neighbor Authority etc., to wring the most "bang-for-the-Buck," out of our dollars.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Both, OHA, and BHA should, as well as RMEF.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Showing the efforts and groups working to make a difference, and finding the right project that volunteers and limited monies not ear-marked for other projects can get started on.

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If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Micheal Russell

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The top two priorities should be 1) purchasing key properties to safeguard critical habitat and connectivity and 2) Establishing a competitive grant program that offers multiple grants and empowers Oregon's great conservation community to develop and implement the most important inventory, monitoring, research, restoration, or conservation projects

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

My community expects the fund to focus on all wildlife and biodiversity in general rather than simply on fish and game.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Through the forest, Inventory, and analysis (FIA) program of the US Forest Service and the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) program of the BLM, the federal government has established an inventory and long term monitoring plot network to provide high quality data on the health of natural communities. In order to ensure the persistence and understanding of each natural community in Oregon, the State has designated over 200 public and private land parcels as State Natural Areas and Nature Preserves. Creating a dedicated funding source to ensure the natural areas on federal, state, and private land are included in FIA or AIM monitoring efforts or in a similar program created by the state is necessary to ensure natural areas are accomplishing what they are designed to do.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

I think the best use of a large fund is to provide various grants to enable Oregonians who know the land and ecosystems to be able to enact their dreams. There are a number of clear priorities that need to be addressed and having grant programs available for government and non-profit organizations is a great way to get things done. Creating an organization similar to the National Science Foundation that creates specific funding programs with detailed criteria in terms of what they want to accomplish and selects the best proposals for funding. This process will help the program include the entire state and not just areas known to people in Salem or various agency and university hubs. This process will allow the people with the best and most innovative ideas to make their ideas a reality. This process will also strengthen government and nonprofit conservation organizations by providing additional funding to help ensure they can continue to do their important work.

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If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Lindsey Wise

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The highest priority should be the protection of existing habitats and resident species populations. Given the scope of this task, sites/species could be prioritized by an analysis of the concentration of strategy species compared to habitat quality and connectivity. Sites that are in connectivity corridors between high quality sites could be prioritized for restoration or habitat conservation via activities such as weed control, water management, and vegetation restoration.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Habitat acquisition and existing habitat maintenance is key to supporting Oregon's wildlife. Next, providing equitable access to Oregonians to enjoying these habitats through wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking, fishing, etc. But these habitats must provide for the wildlife first, which can require maintenance activities, as well as data collection, wildlife surveys, and habitat monitoring so we can catch potential issues early and track the success of management actions over time.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

I work at the Institute for Natural Resources, which integrates information on habitats and species to provide decision makers with the best information for conserving Oregon's biodiversity. Good decisions cannot be made without good data. We rely on ODFW's animal survey data and habitat information to get an accurate picture of wildlife species' statuses in the state. ODFW is a crucial partner in collecting and sharing this information with us and other state and federal agencies. These activities must continue to be funded at ODFW.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Keeping the focus on all of Oregon's wildlife and their habitats, not just on fish and game species that are hunted or fished for recreation, is key. Oregonians have long valued recreating in our natural spaces for many other reasons, whether hiking, bird watching, kayaking, or beach combing. Hunting and fishing are important activities, but conserving wildlife habitat goes far beyond those two activities. Keep a broad scope of the importance and value of conserving natural areas for the species that depend on them and for the people who value these spaces. In addition, working together with other state agencies and sharing information is essential for meeting our shared goals as agencies and organizations working to protect Oregon's biodiversity.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Restoring healthy ecosystems to benefit Oregon's fish and wildlife and improve the health of our environment for future generations.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

invasive species, barriers to animal movement, water quality and quantity, climate change, encourage enjoyment and activity in the outdoors

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Barriers to wildlife movement (US Hwy 20), addressing invasive annual grasses and megafires, water conservation and protection, connecting underserved populations with the outdoors, improving hunting and fishing opportunities for indigenous nations

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Increase Oregonian's connection and investment in nature to improve the future of fish, wildlife and habitat health and conservation in Oregon.

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Increase the monitoring of Oregon's water resources. The Oregon Conservation Strategy Action 1.4 under Water Quality and Quantity addresses the notion of "Monitor structural, compositional, and functional parameters of aquatic habitats for changes in water quality." In doing so, this will help create a better data set for managers and policy makers to detect change and diagnose water quality and quantity issues in Oregon's waterways.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Greater protections and monitoring of potentially at risk or currently at risk species of habitat loss and extinction.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

The Institute for Natural Resources (INR) partners with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the implementation of Aquatic Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) strategy for collecting data from streams in BLM districts in areas of Oregon that would in the future be vulnerable to the effects of population growth. These programs that INR runs are a field based strategy are an ideal way of accomplishing the short term goal for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund that I have described.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

The placement of increased protections of riparian areas of waterways in Oregon. Similar to what the Oregon Water Resources Department described in its Integrated Water Resources Strategy, the big picture would place a greater emphasis on the; prevention and eradication of invasive species and greater tools to protect and restore instream flows, habitat, and access for fish and wildlife. In doing so, this will help take into account future changes in land use, population growth, and help address future climate conditions that models show Oregon will be susceptible to.

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Name *

David Green

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Habitat restoration and basic research regarding population monitoring of species of conservation concern.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Any research or monitoring projects that help to conserve wildlife or the wild and natural places where we recreate.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Our organization conducts research on many species of conservation concern that are strategy species in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, including fishers, martens, ringtails, and Sierra Nevada Red Foxes. For example, we have a project in southern Oregon that is studying the effects of wildfires on fisher and ringtail population dynamics and we are currently modeling the distribution and population size of Sierra Nevada Red Foxes across their range in Oregon and California.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

My perspective is that the OCRF can support organizations and research projects that work to conserve wildlife of conservation concern in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Snowy Plover habitat expansion, grassland bird conservation and habitat improvement, Sage grouse conservation.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Snowy Plover monitoring

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

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Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Fund needed conservation research.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

We think this Fund should be used to support and implement projects in conservation. Specifically, it should be used on species (and habitats) most at risk, where dedicated funding can have a measurable impact. It should also focus on projects/species that wouldn't otherwise have access to ODFW funds (such as Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, hunting/fishing, etc.). One of the main reasons for the creation of this Fund was to be able to more fully invest in on-the-ground conservation of 'non-game' species. As such, we think the Conservation Strategy species (and habitats) should be a top priority.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Our supporters and members of the public want to see ODFW more fully carry out their mission to protect and enhance the state's fish and wildlife (and their habitat). Often, we hear that investment in conservation is difficult due to a lack of dedicated funding. Hence, the creation of this fund. So we would like to see projects that bolster the Conservation Strategy and invest in 'non-game' species. It's also imperative to be able to galvanize public attention for these projects in order to seek future funding and get the public excited about ODFW's conservation work.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

We don't have a specific list of projects to offer. However, we would emphasize projects that illustrate true on-the-ground conservation, have a measurable impact, and galvanize more public support and attention.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

The OCRF can play a pivotal role in helping the agency recommit to its conservation mission. By effectively doing this, it can galvanize more public support, which in turn, means more future dedicated funding. One of the challenges the legislature has had in seeking additional funding for ODFW is that the broad public (most of whom don't hunt or fish) aren't excited. However, this OCRF can illustrate that ODFW is committed to conservation and serves all Oregonians, not just those who hunt and fish.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Conservation for native flora/ fauna and coexistence policies with native wildlife.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Watershed and habitat conservation, including conservation for native carnivores, not just bird and ungulate game species.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Not at this time.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Prioritizing conservation for all native species, including carnivores.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

A clear evaluation of habitats and species in the conservation strategy as they relate to recreational revenue opportunities. Such an evaluation could help guide and prioritize opportunities for projects that meet conservation outcomes of the strategy, while developing needed revenue resources for recreation.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

While the conservation strategy covers many ecoregions our constituents are heavily focused on supporting coastal and ocean projects. Projects that support monitoring, management, research and protection within the nearshore ecoregion. These may include projects and programs of the state such as marine reserves and protected areas program or other major initiatives such as OAH monitoring to assess the longterm viability of our recreational fisheries and nearshore habitats. Another massive area of interest of our members is Oreogn's beaches. Likely one of the state's greatest recreational opportunities that has yet to be fully evaluated for it's longterm protection. Much research needs to be done to understand the full economic value of recreation on our beaches and may be impacted or averted from development, sea level rise and political pressures on Goal 18. Many of problems of tomorrow's development (that has yet to occur on the coast) can be averted and become opportunities for recreation today if we plan responsibly.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Too many

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

At times. There is a lot of interest in the OCRF and breaking through that noise to develop our own organizational vision has been a little challenging.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

To match with other funds - either federal or private to accomplish more on existing projects such as wildlife migration and establishing safe passage corridors. And, to do something novel and new such as a statewide "citizen science" endeavor - such as recording geographical distribution of rare or unique species such as wolves, wolverines, foxes, etc.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Mitigation for energy development, displaced wildlife from both solar and wind will need improved habitats a safe distance from these facilities. In general, our membership will look for project selection that is complimentary to those supported by Pittman Robertson and/or Dingle Johnson funds.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

1) Contributing to safe wildlife passage/corridors (to avoid vehicle strikes) is a top one. 2) OHA is also looking into partnering in Conservation Easements (w/private land owners) adjacent to the Crooked River National Grasslands...to expand planned grasslands rehabilitation. 3) On the recreational side - the newly formed Ochoco Trails group is proposing a trail system in this same region, but wants to give strong consideration to minimizing ecological disturbance and this will take a mix of interpretive displays and educational materials. 4) Also recreational - the Wapato National Wildlife Refuge, near Gaston, will be offering waterfowl hunting in the near future. This is a great opportunity to bring in under privileged, minority, and new-to-hunting citizens living in urban environments yet seeking an opportunity nearby. Promoting this unique opportunity will be another potential project.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Yes, to involve Oregonians in diversified opportunities that range from conservation participation (such as awareness of vehicle strikes on wildlife) to "citizen science" where a diverse citizenry (birdwatchers, hunters, hikers, bikers, backpackers, and equestrians) can join together in a common goal. One example would be an organized system of recording rare animal sightings ranging from wolves, foxes, wolverines, to snowy owls, and rare herps.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Address recovery of species of greatest conservation need as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, educate the public on how they can help and be involved in conservation efforts, and engage the outdoor recreation community in supporting activities and actions that enhance or support species affected by human interactions of all types.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Improve scientific knowledge of population dynamics of wildlife species in crisis and determine best management practices for their recovery and sustainability. Projects that identify species habitat requirements and protect/improve those lands in Oregon that provide important habitat for all life stages of key species of concern. Projects that provide education and better understanding of the plight and importance of Oregon's lesser known species and their importance to people. Hands-on outdoor and nature focused class curriculum for younger children and adults to create awareness of their natural environment and the need for conservation related actions. Projects that improve outdoor recreation opportunities that are compatible with healthy natural environments (biking, camping, birding, rock climbing, water sports, hunting fishing, etc.).

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Demonstration projects such as mowing and seeding of sagebrush habitats to determine effectiveness of improving forb and grass recovery of negatively impacted sage grouse habitats. Providing funds to existing outdoor educational and research programs such as those associated with the Malheur Environmental Field Station, to expand programs on conservation and biology of priority species. Purchase lands or support conservation easements in conjunction with conservation partners on important wildlife habitat in private ownership that provides connectivity for important wildlife migration corridors. Translocation of wildlife to new areas suitable for establishing new or expanding populations (eg. trumpeter swans moved to new or unoccupied nesting areas on state and federal wildlife areas.) Funds to support citizen science projects and volunteer efforts to protect species of concern (eg. red-legged frog crossings on Hwy 30 north of Portland)

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

OCRF provides an opportunity for Oregonians to take ownership of the future of wildlife and associated recreational activities at a time when those resources are under the greatest threats and pressures of being lost. A collaborative network of committed organizations and individuals to our wildlife's future is imperative to keeping common species common and returning those in peril to a more sustainable future. Funding is critical and has been the missing link for those attempting to slow the demise of species that have not had a constituency or advocacy group with the backing of public funding. OCRF can be the stimulus for long term funding and develop a broad-based constituency to keep Oregon's wildlife healthy and vibrant.

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

- Sensitive/unique habitats (oaks, grasslands & prairie, wetlands) habitat projects (strategy habitats) that are difficult to find funding for, these habitats on private land
- Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP) to support urban conservation efforts (providing additional funding for)
- Seed money for Land Trusts to hold easements (Clackamas County needs a land trust)
- Community Natural Areas (funding to support habitat restoration on city or county-owned natural areas that can be accessed by community members)

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

- private lands habitat restoration
- Rural and urban habitat projects
- Upland habitat work
- - Multi year habitat projects (one year projects aren't ideal, particularly where adequate weed control is necessary before establishing native plants)
- Access to wildlife watching, beyond hunting/fishing
- Funding to provide educational workshops/tours/presentations for landowners and the public focused on wildlife habitat conservation and management
- Grant funding for great programs that already fit the OCRF mission, e.g. BHCP
- Small and large funding opportunities for projects
- Installation of interpretive signage in high quality habitat areas with recreational use
- Community science efforts (including pollinator monitoring)

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

- Swallow boxes for vector control
- Backyard Habitat Certification program
- Oak restoration/enhancement initiative in Clackamas County
- Riparian projects
- Native hedgerow projects
- Habitat enhancement projects on District-owned properties, some could be for demonstration purposes
- Most of our habitat project efforts right now are focused on oak and riparian, but this funding could help us branch out to other habitats too, especially where we have more than one private property where we have landowners willing and interested in restoring habitat

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

- Consistent source of multi-year funding for small and large habitat project on private and public lands
- Easement and acquisition funding – something to back fill WWMP
- Wildlife habitat maintenance funding
- Wildlife habitat monitoring funding

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Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

conservation projects

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

stream restoration, private landowner restoration projects

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

yes

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

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If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Focus on implementing the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategy, with a specific and intentional approach to include current scientific, evidence based understanding of the implications of a changing climate. By prioritizing the Goals and Actions in the Climate Change chapter of the strategy, and using tools like climate resiliency and habitat connectivity models the OCRF will be able to hone ranking of future projects to maximize long term return on investments. These investments in ecological restoration of functioning terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems are essential to providing recreation benefits to people and local/regional economies.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

A blend of on-the-ground efforts such as acquisition, restoration, and infrastructure for conservation and sustainable recreation outcomes and outreach/marketing to support behavior changes, broaden public support and engagement and achieve outcomes that advance the Goals of the Strategy and the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. Projects that bring together stakeholders to guide and implement cooperative visions of sustainable recreation that centers conservation and restoration of functioning ecosystems as the foundation for benefits to people and communities should be prioritized. In addition, projects should leverage state investment with federal dollars, impact investors, and other conservation finance vehicles to increase the scale and impact of limited OCRF dollars.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Across the major habitats of Oregon, there are important partnership projects involving agencies, local communities, and partner organizations. These range from nature preserves that are expanding sustainable approaches to land management and providing access to outdoor experiences to schools and general public to large scale restoration programs with federal agencies. Many of these meet the purpose of the Fund. Without naming specific projects our priorities include:

- Tidal wetland acquisition, restoration and working land strategies (e.g. improved tide gate for fish passage) to restore wetland function, habitat for anadromous fish and store carbon.
- Support Forest Resiliency and Restoration in Oregon Fire Adapted Forests consistent w the Governor's Wildfire Council's Mitigation Recommendations
- Advance Precision Restoration through funding support for pilot testing of bunchgrass restoration
- Support re-introduction of prescribed fire across the many fire-dependent ecosystems (coastal grasslands, oak savannah, fire-adapted forests, and arid rangelands) as a tool to protect, restore, and sustain the ecological values that drive a robust recreation economy in Oregon.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

The OCRF is a primary advocate and leader for advancing and implementing Oregon's Conservation and Nearshore Strategies, using state funds to leverage additional federal funds to advance priorities tied to habitat recovery for vulnerable species and habitat management that adapts to and mitigates effects of climate change. OCRF can serve as a forum to convene key stakeholder groups from conservation, economic development, recreation and tourism, government, and policy makers for critical discussions around investment in conservation and restoration to support sustainable recreation in Oregon.



Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Jim Owens

Organization

HB 2402 Task Force Facilitator

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Projects that, in implementing the Oregon Conservation Strategy, can be undertaken in the short term and that get Oregonians outdoors and back to work = economic stimulus projects.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

- Broaden ODFW's revenue stream for conservation and associated recreation.
 - Prepare Oregon to be a model for the use of funding from the Recovering America's Wildlife Act when it passes.
 - Improve the public's understanding of the benefits, challenges and opportunities associated with fish, wildlife and habitat conservation and associated recreation.
 - Provide mechanisms for all Oregonians, not just hunters and fisher people, to share the cost of conservation and management of fish, wildlife and habitat conservation and associated recreation.
 - Build partnerships that leverage state funds with financial and other contributions from non-profits, the private sector and landowners.
 - Develop monitoring and measurable outcomes for conservation and associated recreation spending that demonstrate the values, including economic, of investing in these activities.
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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Donald Moore

Organization

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

In the opinion of Metro Regional Government Parks and Natural Areas and Zoo-based wildlife conservation professionals, the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund should be used to implement the goals of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and connect the public to the benefits of having our native “game” and “non-game” wildlife and ecosystems of Oregon conserved in perpetuity. The Oregon Conservation Strategy addresses a broad suite of species and issues that additional diverse funding can help address. These include Oregon Conservation Strategy Species like rare butterflies and fish, many of which currently need better data for well-informed conservation management planning and conservation action. Metro Regional Government expects this fund will support more diversified species management planning, incorporating holistic ecosystem approaches to address our unique and varied Oregon habitats, the magnificent species diversity found in Oregon, and human use across our Oregon landscapes. Continued land development, and increased use of wild spaces, creates additional anthropogenic pressures that require the investment from not just “traditional” funding sources, but from all Oregonians who rely on intact ecosystems for their food, water, livelihoods, and recreation. In our view, the projects funded through these efforts should be dedicated to conservation, management of diverse species and habitats, research, habitat acquisition and improvements, wildlife law enforcement, outdoor recreation, public education and other activities that serve to protect, maintain or enhance the many wildlife and wild lands resources of Oregon.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

There are currently 294 strategy species listed within the Oregon Conservation Strategy, many of which need investment in Oregon’s wildlife and wild lands as Metro Regional Government has done historically; the species and habitats require ongoing conservation actions so they have a better future. In general, there are major needs for basic inventory and monitoring projects across a broad variety of these Strategy-identified wildlife species, including birds, mammals, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. There are additional science and management needs for identified plant and algae species, which create the foundation of healthy ecosystems. As we experience continued interest and participation in outdoor recreation, alternative energy, and development, it is critical to have robust information about our native wildlife species and their habitats in order to examine impacts of these anthropogenic changes to these species and ecosystems. There may be great opportunities to engage nature enthusiasts and other members of the outdoor recreation community in participating in citizen science projects to gather baseline data, while creating ownership of the efforts within the Metro regional and statewide community.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

There are numerous recommendations for projects within the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Metro Parks and Nature, and Oregon Zoo, believe that opportunities exist to work with ongoing habitat acquisition, habitat study, and animal migration/movement projects, leveraging our ongoing efforts that fulfill the intent of the OCRF while also leveraging funding for initial and ongoing success. Oregon Zoo Foundation, a not-for-profit support arm of Oregon Zoo, specifically helps to provide funding matches for conservation funding from agencies. Projects that are happening now and will occur into the future include recovering now-extinct condors throughout Oregon (Oregon Zoo has the second-largest collaborating chick production facility for these endangered birds, and has provided over 50 condors for release in California and Arizona – next up is northern California and Oregon!), recovering sea otters along the Oregon coast, Pika surveys in the Gorge, and ongoing protection and restoration of rare salmonids or native butterflies and their habitats.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Metro Regional parks have a mission to protect water quality, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and to improve access to nature to provide an opportunity for public appreciation of wildlife on over 17,000 acres of parks and natural areas, from wetlands to uplands in the region.

Oregon Zoo's mission is to create a better future for wildlife through production of individuals of rare species, from butterflies to condors, for the purpose of reintroduction into nature so these species have self-sustaining populations in Oregon's natural habitats.

In the Metro Region and across the United States we know that wildlife management agencies are in dire need of diversifying current funding structures to better represent today's public and fulfill their obligations for responsible conservation of all wildlife ("game" and "nongame") and ecosystems.

The OCRF is a valuable start to the process in Oregon, ensuring that the implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy can begin in earnest, while also bringing together the diverse interests of the public and outdoor recreationists from across the state. The continued federal efforts to implement Recovering America's Wildlife Act may in the future create a structure of federal support similar to the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts. At the state level, OCRF is in a powerful position to begin the efforts outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy in a way that not only conserves wildlife and ecosystems, but connects people and communities to the benefits of those efforts, through outreach and engagement. This engagement includes the role of leveraging local government and non-governmental funds to increase public engagement and funding of wildlife. Without our intact wild lands and wildlife in Oregon, outdoor recreation as we know it will lose a core element that draws people to those places. A forest stream like the Sandy River may exist for our fishing, bird-watching, hiking and enjoyment, but without public appreciation and greater investment, public experience with wildlife and wild lands, and interest in conservation, will be diminished. Long term, OCRF is in a position to be a mirror to Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funding streams, creating a three-tiered foundation for conservation efforts in Oregon.

The OCRF gives an opportunity for the ODFW to engage in conservation in collaboration with Metro and other local governments, and Oregon Zoo Foundation and other NGOs, and is visionary in its contribution to the stewardship of Oregon's wildlife and wild places for future generations.

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Samantha Bayer

Organization

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

It would be best to focus on attainable projects that will have both conservation and ecological benefits

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Ones that have cooperation with private, tribal, and non-profit support. Additionally, ones that will help landowners achieve and comply with current law.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

This program should be utilized via consistent interagency coordination. There are so many existing projects that could be successful if they had more funding. We should concentrate funding in order to see meaningful results from existing programs and projects.

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

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Name *

Brian Posewitz

Organization

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Conservation of habitat for all species of fish and wildlife; opportunities to appreciate and enjoy Oregon's fish and wildlife in ways in addition to hunting and fishing.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Conservation of fish and wildlife habitat; access for non-consumptive outdoor recreation.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Not at this time.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Diversify ODFW funding to be less reliant on license revenue and shift fish and wildlife management to serve a broader and more diverse constituency (not just hunters and anglers).

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Protecting, connecting or conserving key non-game habitats that provide public use and access and enjoyment but are not directly related to hunting or fishing public access.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Our organization and our members hope that this fund will increase the non-hunting and non-fishing access to watchable wildlife - such as bird, wildlife and fish observation areas.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

We do not have specific projects in mind at this time. However, it may make sense to look for opportunities for viewing and interpretation at or adjacent to places where the public is already going or traveling to or past - areas such as waysides, historic points of interest, existing rest stops, viewpoints or other publicly owned landscapes that may not have much in the way of wildlife or fish information presently. ODOT and ODFW likely are aware of places where travelers frequently stop and where interpretive site development could add opportunities to observe birds or butterflies or other wildlife. Information about the type of ecosystem people are in and what typical species could be observed would enhance public interaction and appreciation. It might also be a valuable expenditure to help expand and fund backyard bird habitat programs (and in cities, helping people build outdoor domestic cat areas to reduce the predation on wild birds).

For fish and aquatic creatures, there are very few sites like the Cascade Stream Watch site on the Salmon River off Hwy 26 in Welches, OR. It would be a great example of the type of facility to create that enables people to see the world that humans cannot typically view when looking at a river. It is a window into a world people really do not understand.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

The OCRF is a work in progress - everyone needs to be patient - and it might be very helpful to remove or extend the sunset and other limitations from the authorizing legislation so the program can be built and grown sensibly and without the false urgency currently hanging over everyone's efforts.

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

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Name *

Bob Sallinger

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Supporting projects directly tied to the Oregon Conservation Strategy and related to non-game species. A significant portion of these project should also engage new, diverse, underserved and urban constituencies.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Same as above

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Yes we have a wide range of projects including multiple community science projects related to strategy species on urban and rural landscapes.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

It is essential that the fund promote protection of non-game species that have historically been underfunded by ODFW and also expand ODFWs base of support and involvement.

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Chandra Ferrari

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

In the short term, the fund should focus on: (1) implementing projects/programs pursuant to the Conservation Strategy that will improve the resiliency of fish and wildlife resources in key geographies to respond to threats of climate change, drought and population growth; (2) implementing projects/programs that will produce the maximum biological return for investment while also considering costs, and other potential benefits (can leverage with other sources of revenue, possibility of strong partnerships, higher certainty that benefits to fish and wildlife will materialize, focus on imperiled species, focus on climate-change impacted species, encourage projects that also protect recreational opportunities and education); and (3) securing a foundation of information that will help ensure long-term success of ODFW conservation programs (support monitoring programs in key areas (e.g., salmonids in coastal rivers), support current ODFW efforts (particularly in the water program) to develop a prioritization strategy for protective actions for focal species, and support instream flow studies and instream demand projection work.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

This fund should support a healthy mix of projects however TU supports a high percentage of the funds going toward projects that "protect, maintain or enhance" fish and wildlife resources in Oregon with a focus toward imperiled species, climate-dependent species, and species that support the recreational economy. Such projects should include protection and restoration of instream flows, protection and restoration of habitat and improved access and connectivity for fish and wildlife populations. Additionally, the funds should support ODFW programs that seek to secure information about species needs/habitat requirements now and into the future and efforts to prioritize actions to protect species including fish monitoring efforts, efforts to secure information on climate vulnerability of habitats and species, instream flow studies and demand projections. Finally, the funds should support ODFW communications efforts to increase awareness among the general public regarding the value of our fish and wildlife resources and the threats they face.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

(1) Redband Trout Monitoring in Upper Klamath Lake: Example of how some early investment by ODFW in monitoring continues to be leveraged among several other partners and how that information is being used for both restoration and management decisions for Redband Trout (a very important recreational species). In 2016, ODFW and OSU initiated a radio telemetry study to track the movement of adfluvial Redband Trout in Upper Klamath Lake and its tributaries. The information gave us a decent understanding of adult habitat use but we were still missing the juvenile part of the puzzle. Based on information gathered, TU, in partnership with USFWS, began restoration work on a property along a key reach identified by the study. Additionally, OSU sought additional funding to continue Redband Trout research in the basin. Most of the work is dedicated to understanding juvenile movement and habitat use in the Sprague River. Over 500,000 has been leveraged from state, federal and private partners in this area to support restoration, research, and management actions since ODFW's monitoring efforts. We now have a better understanding of how Redband Trout (both adult and juvenile) are using the area, which areas are "refugia" zones, and which areas should be prioritized for restoration. Additionally, actions are being taken "on the ground" to engage in restoration activities in those prioritized areas. This is but one example of how ODFW can "seed" larger efforts to understand species and prioritize and implement on the ground actions. TU hopes that similar information-gathering efforts will be embraced by this Fund.

(2) Salmon Superhighway: Support engagement of ODFW to support projects identified in this effort. The Salmon SuperHwy project is the single biggest combined fish conservation/economic development partnership going on the Oregon Coast. Its goal is to reconnect 6 important rivers in the Tillamook-Nestucca area that have been blocked over time to Chinook, steelhead, coho, chum, sea-run cutthroat trout and lamprey. It has done a great job of securing a diverse partnership, leveraging resources and stimulating local economies while implementing critical conservation actions.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Over the long-term, the OCRF should facilitate the development and implementation of a more thoughtful and balanced strategy to conserve and protect Oregon's fish and wildlife resources by (1) relieving some of the financial pressure that ODFW faces by providing a more diversified funding stream; (2) equally considering the recreational and conservation goals that ODFW must meet so that the general public feels a stronger sense of ownership over its fish and wildlife resources; (3) improving the effectiveness and credibility of ODFW by funding data collection, prioritization efforts and projects/programs that can demonstrate a strong biological return which in turn will help ODFW make science-based, strategic management decisions; (4) raising awareness of the value and challenges that Oregon's fish and wildlife face by funding communication efforts that target not only hunters and anglers, but the general public.

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Wendy Gerlach

Organization

Pacific Forest Trust

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The short term priority should be protecting less-degraded, more functional habitat that has high species diversity now (and is likely to continue to do so under climate change), that offers opportunities for species connectivity, and that has strong potential to adapt to climate change.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Pacific Forest Trust's constituency and customers expect this fund to support large landscape habitat enhancement. It should support management of property for wildlife and human benefits such as watershed function, reduced fire risk, recreational access, and improved forest management.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Yes, Pacific Forest Trust has a current Oregon project that will provide significant habitat connectivity for many species (including federally listed species) habitat enhancement, watershed protection, fire fuels reduction, and improved forest management. It is in a highly biodiverse region of the Siskiyou and would protect a largely intact ecosystem in a region with high species connectivity needs (and opportunities), while protecting source waters of a tributary to the Rogue River. This project links federally managed lands with other protected private lands, and would keep those lands working, while focused on ecological outcomes as well.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

OCRF can serve as a critical wildlife-focused fund that also takes into account the need for human interaction with the outdoors, for physical and mental health, as well as for allowing first-hand public experience of the role that nature plays in supporting human well-being.

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Aoibheann Cline

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Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The highest priority use of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund dollars should be to strategically leverage these funds to maximize federally matched funding sources for the statutorily authorized purposes of OCRF dollars. The projects funded by the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund should qualify for federal match such as:

- Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (10% state match for projects that develop public target ranges)
- Boating and fishing access projects through the Sport Fish Restoration Act (25% state match required)
- Hunting access projects authorized by the Wildlife Restoration Act (25% state match required)
- Stateside Land and Water and Conservation Fund (25% match required)

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation expects the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund to support projects that strategically target acquisitions for increased access for hunting, fish and rec shooting opportunities. Through the American System of Conservation Funding (comprised of revenue from sporting licenses and Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux funds), sportsmen and women contribute billions of dollars to conservation. Oregon's 703,000 hunters and anglers spend \$929 million annually and support nearly 15,000 jobs. Leveraging OCRF funds with existing federal programs to pursue projects that provide quality opportunities for hunters, anglers and recreational shooters will ensure that the integrity of these conservation funding sources remains intact.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation does not have specific project recommendations but, would like to reiterate that the highest priority for use of these funds be for projects that increase access and opportunities for hunting, fishing and recreational shooting. Strategically using these funds for projects that qualify for federal match provides expands other opportunities to make federally matched from licenses sales for habitat and fish and wildlife management and restoration to benefit hunters and anglers in Oregon.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation's "big picture" vision of the long-term role for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund is to secure stable and ongoing funding generated by hunting, fishing and recreational shooting. It is critical to maximize the amount of money Oregon qualifies for by promoting those activities and projects that qualify for from federal match that benefit hunters and anglers, first and foremost, because these funds are generated by sportsmen and women through the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, Sport Fish Restoration Act, and the Land and Water and Conservation Fund. Doing so, will free up other sources of conservation dollars for additional outdoor recreation projects.

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

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Organization

Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund should prioritize projects that protect habitat and also connect people to nature. The first projects the Fund supports will set a tone for what Oregonians can do if we come together to support our iconic species and landscapes. The first investments should get people excited and resonate with the values of Oregonians.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Our member land trusts would like to see investments that are durable and leave a legacy in Oregon. The opportunity to protect land can galvanize a community around a sense of place, which is powerful and tangible. Many of the land conservation projects in Oregon offer opportunities for public enjoyment and recreation- from trails, to boat ramps, to bird watching. COLT's members would be excited to see the funds available to match existing land conservation funding, be additive as restoration funds or provide a unique source of funding to support public engagement signs the about strategy species, natural resources and indigenous history of conserved lands.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Yes- I believe there are several land conservation opportunities in Oregon that would fit the criteria. For example, the Oregon Community Foundation just launched a Resilient Landscape Initiative to invest in the protection of climate-resilient lands that can host a diversity of wildlife in the face of climate change. The Initiative just identified 6 land protection opportunities in Oregon- from the Rainforest Reserve on the North Coast to a stretch of rare oak woodlands on the east flanks of Mt. Hood. If there was an additional layer added about recreation, I think these projects provide wonderful investment opportunities to protect fish and wildlife habitat, provide recreation, and support climate resilience in Oregon.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

It has been over 10 years since the passage of a new statewide conservation funding source in Oregon (M 76), yet the need for investments that protect nature continues to grow. We also know from public opinion research that protecting Oregon's natural areas and iconic lands is a core value for most Oregonians. The OCRF can shine a light on these win-win projects and the Committee can act as a leadership body to advocate for increased investments in our State Conservation Strategy. I see the OCRF as a great investment vehicle for conservation and recreation projects, but I also see it as a way to show the pipeline of our needs in Oregon. It could be a program that builds new bridges with the outdoor recreation industry and potentially secures new investments from that sector. I also see the Committee as providing a living voice to the Oregon Conservation Strategy to actively elevate the key species, conservation opportunity areas and strategies.

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Perspectives on the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

If you are able, we would appreciate your response by Friday, May 1 for review by the Committee members in advance of our May 5 meeting.

Name *

Erich Reeder

Organization

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What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

A statewide inventory of non-game wildlife species that are suspected or known to be declining. It is hard to know where to direct funding priorities without this baseline information. Additionally, we should conduct a comprehensive statewide inventory of our threatened or endangered ecosystems (e.g. old-growth forests, wetlands, rivers, estuaries, oak woodlands, etc.), again to gain critical baseline information about what we have left and where it is.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

With all of the past, present, and likely future use of chemical biocides sprayed across private timber lands and farms, as well as a plethora of other pollutants introduced into the environment, I would like to see a dedicated program of contaminant testing in wildlife be initiated and maintained. Such a program has been investigated using ospreys as a sentinel species (See: North American Osprey Populations and Contaminants: Historic and Contemporary Perspectives, Charles J Henny 1, Robert A Grove, James L Kaiser, Branden L Johnson, 2010). In addition, annual monitoring of other apex predator populations that have had trouble with biocides in the past (e.g. peregrine falcons and bald eagles) should be maintained statewide with at minimum a distributed sampling effort.

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May 1, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Davia Palmeri
Conservation Policy Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Davia.M.Palmeri@state.or.us

RE: Request from the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee

Dear Ms. Palmeri,

On behalf of the Oregon Natural Desert Association, please accept the following response to the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's recent request for input. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Framing Questions and Answers

1. What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The Oregon Natural Desert Association would like to see the highest priority placed on increasing resiliency in the face of a changing climate, focusing protection and restoration efforts on habitat and genetic connectivity corridors for non-game wildlife. Of particular importance are the arid landscapes on the eastern half of the state, including the sagebrush habitats identified as a "Strategy Habitat" within the Oregon Conservation Strategy, where impacts from climate change are predicted to be greatest. Priority should be given not only to wildlife habitat and species facing immediate threats, such as from development, but also to wildlife strongholds where protection and conservation measures have the highest likelihood of preserving intact habitat and providing climate refugia for a multitude of species.

2. What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

The Oregon Natural Desert Association, and its members and supporters, expect the fund to support science based projects that increase native species diversity and resiliency. We expect restoration projects to emphasize native plant restoration, species diversity, and meaningful protection of connectivity corridors for wildlife within the state. Our members and supporters especially support these types of projects within Oregon's sagebrush steppe ecosystem.

3. Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

The Oregon Natural Desert Association has a long history of working to restore ecosystems to resiliency in eastern Oregon, including ongoing work to reestablish native plant and wildlife communities in degraded riparian areas and restoring access to historic floodplains. Native plantings and restoration projects that focus on mesic habitats will help to preserve areas with an outsized importance to wildlife, while also protecting critical linkages between a diversity of habitats for species within the state.

4. Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

The Oregon Natural Desert Association hopes that the OCRF can become a permanent funding source for ODFW, one that helps support the conservation and connectivity of wildlife habitat for all of Oregon's wildlife species. Establishing a new, permanent funding source, that is independent of hunting and fishing revenue, will be critical to diversifying the department's financial resources and continuing important conservation and protection efforts for non-game wildlife species.

Sincerely,

s/ Jeremy Austin

Jeremy Austin, Policy Manager
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Framing Questions:

1. What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

Consistent (between agencies, organizations, state, federal, etc) wide-spread messaging/marketing on how recreation (including non-motorized recreation, 24/7/365 use, etc) impacts wildlife and habitats and in what ways. Provide education as most people are unaware that their actions impact wildlife in various ways. Help to provide solutions or actions that they can take to help minimize these impacts.

In addition, continuing to fund the Oregon Connectivity project. It is very important to identify critical corridors and connectivity as some areas are at the point where connectivity may be lost.

2. What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Both on-the-ground restoration projects to large scale messaging or marketing. We think you need both to help inform the public of why these projects are important and necessary and to get their support. Restoration could range from a small meadow restoration project to land acquisition based on species needs and priorities.

3. Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

We have been working with a variety of folks on the concept of core habitat and connectivity. From this we identify which are the highest priority habitat patches to retain and modify our trails proposals to have the least impact. This concept could be expanded to much more. In addition, road/trail closures or decommissioning (especially social trails and roads), habitat restoration, mule deer connectivity (including crossing structures, fencing, etc), and wetlands enhancement.

4. Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Not all areas of the state are created equal when it comes to recreation use. Aiding with a carrying capacity analysis to help determine when thresholds have been met could go a long way in maintaining the wildlife habitat and high quality recreation opportunities we have today.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these questions.

Sincerely,

Lauri Turner
Forest Wildlife Biologist
Deschutes National Forest



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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David O. Wiebers, M.D.

April 30, 2020

Karl Wenner, MD, Chair
Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
Submitted via email: Davia.M.Palmeri@state.or.us

RE: Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund Priorities

Dear Chair Wenner and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in Oregon, I thank you for this opportunity to submit recommendations regarding the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee (“Committee”) priorities and use of available funds.

I submit the following recommendations in response to the four questions posed by the Committee:

1. What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The Humane Society of the United States urges the Committee to prioritize use of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (“Fund”) for efforts that seek to include and involve all Oregonians. Funding for conservation has traditionally relied heavily on hunting and fishing fees, giving hunters and anglers a powerful voice in how wildlife is managed in our state. The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund is a welcomed alternative - a modern approach to funding for conservation which reflects Oregon’s changing attitudes towards wildlife. We encourage the Committee to consult the broadest array of stakeholders as possible at every point of decision as to how the fund is allocated –and are grateful for this particular effort to do just that.

While there are many competing priorities, the HSUS believes among the top should be the protection of native carnivores, such as gray wolves, mountain lions, black bears and coyotes. These species have historically faced great challenges such as from hunting, predator control and human development. These issues are further exacerbated in the face of climate change which is altering their native habitat and prey sources. As such, we believe that now more than ever native carnivores need protection from the sources of mortality we can easily prevent, such as from lethal control for livestock predation and public safety.

We recommend this Committee prioritize the use of funds to better equip Oregonians with the tools, strategies and understanding to prevent conflicts with native carnivores and increase coexistence with ecological significant keystone



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species. For example, non-lethal tools and strategies that assist ranchers in protecting their livestock from depredation can be a win-win solution for both the people and the animals involved. Additionally, public outreach and education campaigns can help people understand how to better coexist with wildlife near their communities and while out recreating.

2. What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

The Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in Oregon expect the Fund to support projects that protect Oregon's natural resources and wildlife species. Specifically, our hope is that the Fund will be used to 1) encourage human-wildlife coexistence, particularly in urban settings, 2) support non-consumptive recreation, and 3) prioritize non-lethal conservation strategies, such as equipping ranchers with effective wildlife deterrent tools and strategies.

3. Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") sponsors a Wildlife Watch program in Los Angeles and Orange Counties with the goal of reducing human-wildlife conflict in these urban areas. In the Wildlife Watch program, residents "join forces with their city and county governments to identify and eliminate wildlife attractants, such as pet food, trash and hiding places, in order to keep wildlife in the wild where they belong." Though the program is sponsored by CDFW, it is run and maintained by those participating citizens, community groups and regional partners.

Benefits to CDFW of the Wildlife Watch program include but are not limited to:

- Saves agency time, resources and money
- Promotes better communication between agencies and the communities they serve
- Supports consistency in agency response through effective collaboration and coordination
- Creates increased awareness of urban wildlife, reducing complacency while promoting education at all age levels

(More information can be found here: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/wildlife-watch>)

A similar program here in Oregon would fulfill the Fund's objective to "create new opportunities for wildlife watching, urban conservation, community science, and other wildlife-associated recreation." Such a program would be beneficial to a wide range of wildlife, including native carnivores as fewer individuals will be drawn to human communities by their natural prey such as deer and raccoons.

The HSUS stands by ready and eager to assist in the implementation of a Wildlife Watch program in Oregon.



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4. Do you have a “big picture” vision of the long-term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon’s statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Our “big picture” vision is that Oregon’s state wildlife agency operates in a manner consistent with the changing attitudes of Oregonians towards wildlife who want to see wildlife conserved as well as protected from unnecessary killing.

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund can play a significant role in making this a reality by giving voice to a diversity of citizens, providing more opportunities for non-consumptive recreation, and encouraging greater use of humane solutions to human-wildlife conflicts.

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson
Oregon Senior State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
kpeterson@humanesociety.org
503/869-0422

John M. Goodell
April 28th 2020

Subject: Feedback Regarding OCRF Committee Questions

Chair Wenner and Committee Members,

I am submitting my comments here as an individual. I have been engaged with alternative funding for F&W in Oregon for the past 8 years and have led support for related efforts for the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society. I have served as ORTWS's Liaison to the HB 2402 Funding Task Force & HB 2829 advisory group. Thank you for the opportunity to comment here:

1. What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

In the short-term – the most critical aspect of the OCRF is to the proving-up process. – the effort means little without achieving the match and an amendment to HB2829 that permanently secures significant dedicated funding from the General Fund.

While the initial projects chosen for the first iteration of funding should be compatible with objectives of the Fund, they should also be chosen based on their likelihood to 1) attract existing private sector funds for the required match needed to secure the Fund; 2) have a high likelihood of being implemented in relatively fast timeframes; and 3) pose strong potential to attract positive interest from diverse stakeholders.

2. What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

Two categories of funded projects expected AND are most likely to benefit the future support of the fund overall are:

1. Funded projects that implement on-the-ground recovery/restoration of non-game strategy species and/or habitats
2. Funded projects that implement non-game species inventory and monitoring – where there are significant long-term gaps.
3. Funded projects that implement scalable outreach and engagement initiatives focused on new constituency groups in outdoor recreation, wildlife watching and hunting/fishing.

3. Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Special attention should be given to iconic species where the recovery, restoration, and/or inventory work is implementable in a 1-3 year scale, and includes notable species with added public interest:

1. Conducting an extensive statewide inventory of beaver, develop and implement translocation plans, targeting unoccupied or under-occupied habitats, riparian restoration areas and other areas with complimentary habitat objectives like salmon restoration, climate mitigation etc
2. Initiate state-wide inventory of other non-game taxa related to specific Strategy habitats.
3. Reintroducing sea otters to limited/specific reaches of the Oregon Coast
4. Projects that support kelp habitat conservation along nearshore habitats (such measurable direct benefits to commercial and recreational fin-fisheries may also be more likely to build positive support for the Fund in general.)
5. Projects that add support to private lands habitat conservation initiatives through SWCD's, NRCS and other partners (improved capacity for programs like EQIP, ALE, CRP etc)
6. STEM education projects that connect K-12 students to natural history, ecology and conservation topics in Oregon.

4. Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long-term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Like many other state natural resource agencies, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) contends with a bewildering trust responsibility to manage fish and wildlife and their habitats across private, state, and federal ownership boundaries. Moreover, this duty includes the stewardship of both game and non-game wildlife populations held in the public trust, while relying almost solely on management revenue from hunting and fishing users. ODFW, like many fish and wildlife agencies, has struggled to reconcile their diversifying responsibilities with the interests of their primary revenue source.

While fish and wildlife management initially focused on managing a sustainable yield of game and sportfish, the interests of sportsmen are still better served by modern conservation science. Best available conservation science over the last half-century indicates managing for native biodiversity and functional ecosystems provides the most effective long-term benefit. Beneficiaries of modern ecosystem management not only include sportsmen and many other outdoor user groups, but Oregon's economic growth so inextricably tied to the integrity and stability of our natural areas. Specifically, modern wildlife conservation science seeks to:

- Monitor, identify and conserve indigenous species of concern and their habitats
- Proactively conserve and/or restore priority species and their habitats
- Build functional and resilient ecosystems capable of persisting in the face of climate change effects, catastrophic wildfire, and other human-caused impacts

Recognizing this evolving responsibility, the USFWS developed the State Wildlife Action Plan Grant Program encouraging states like Oregon to develop a conservation plan based on this modern understanding of fish and wildlife management. ODFW subsequently developed the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) in collaboration with 200 external technical experts and a diverse Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The Strategy represents a collaborative and proactive approach to maintaining and restoring Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats. While the Oregon Conservation Strategy includes numerous objectives, two are of overriding importance:

1. Identify, monitor and proactively conserve priority species of conservation concern
2. Maintain and restore critical habitats and the wildlife they support

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund is the product of a decade-long campaign by Oregon conservation partners to build a funding framework commensurate with modern conservation practices and the Oregon Conservation Strategy. It should not be viewed as a supplemental fund for special projects, but rather a new paradigm in conservation. If properly established, the fund will serve as the driver and engine supporting the future of fish and wildlife conservation in Oregon.

Response from Audubon Society Of Lincoln City

Contact: Steve Griffiths sgoregon@gmail.com

What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City recommends that the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund should include:

- 1) Protecting habitat for threatened species, including here on the coast, the Snowy Plover, Black Oystercatcher, and Marbled Murrelet.
- 2) Educating the public about the need to protect Oregon's natural resources and wildlife habitat, including coastal rocky habitat and estuaries.
- 3) Protecting submerged aquatic vegetation (such as kelp beds and eel grass) in estuaries and along coastal shorelines. These species provide habitat for a variety of marine species, help prevent shoreline erosion, and mitigate the damaging effects of climate change on marine life.
- 4) Providing greater protection for streams in the Coast Range to ensure the survival of Oregon's iconic salmon runs. Currently, industrial logging cuts too close to these streams, resulting in siltation and stream warming, both of which threaten salmon fry.
- 5) Capturing more carbon in Oregon's coastal forests. Logging cycles should be lengthened significantly to store carbon and mitigate climate change.
- 6) Educating the public about the damaging impact of single-use plastic on birds and marine life.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

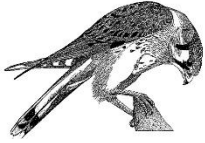
- 1) Hands-on projects where the public can actively become involved in addressing local conservation and recreation priority issues. For example, efforts by community groups to propose protections for coastal rocky habitat, estuaries, and threatened species habitat.
- 2) Projects that would address major issues like carbon sequestration and that would require significant funding.

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

Would you consider awarding small grants to community groups across Oregon to address local conservation issues? We have mentioned several examples above – educating the public about the need to protect our coastal rocky habitats and estuaries, taking steps to protect eelgrass and kelp, advocating that carbon sequestration and climate change be major factors in the management of forests in the Coast Range, and so forth.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long-term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

Only in the sense that the Fund could be used effectively to promote actions by Oregonians across the state to address issues of critical concern in their local communities.



SALEM AUDUBON SOCIETY

May 1, 2020

To: Davia Palmeri

Fr: Tim Johnson, President, Salem Audubon Society

CC: Ray, Joe, David, Stephanie

Subj: Salem Audubon response to questions from the OCRF Advisory Committee

The Salem Audubon Society's mission is to connect people with nature. We construe that to encompass both experiences in nature and opportunities to learn about nature, plus activities that contribute to habitat and species conservation. As an Audubon chapter our focus is on birds but we see our mission extending to other taxa as well. We are partnering with the USFWS and a refuges Friends group to establish a nature center at Ankeny NWR. The first phase will be functionally ready for public use this fall. Programs there will support all parts of our mission and the missions of both funding partners and participating partners. Our responses here reflect the breadth of our mission.

Here are our responses to the Advisory Committee's request:

1.Short term priorities for the OCRF?

Response: The fund's short term priorities must be to demonstrate broad support for conservation funding and actions: to promote conservation community trust and support; to select projects for Strategy Species that are both meaningful and which can produce results before the '21 session. Finding projects that are priority actions for strategy species and that can be completed within the time window will not be easy but both the political audience and the conservation advocacy audience need to see serious attention being given to the task. In addition, the committee should advocate for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's support of collaboration that brings the stakeholders together on a strategy package

that looks to the '21 Legislative session and longer. Absent planning that engages conservation advocates and the agency ahead of the session we will be divided rather than united at a critical juncture. This request clearly stretches the mandate of the committee but there does not appear to be another body to provide the longer perspective. Salem Audubon is interested in participating in any way that is productive.

2. Expected categories of projects to be funded by the OCRF?

Response: The leadership of Salem Audubon believes that helping everyday people appreciate species and habitat associations and the need for conservation stewardship underpins all levels of conservation. Our proxy for nature in general is the bird community that we all see and appreciate. Projects that focus on immersive exposure to natural history and facilitate subsequent discussion of stewardship are important. We have seen participants in Metro's naturalist-led walks have obvious epiphanies after having first-time experiences with nature. Those awakenings are important and remembered by the recipients. Whatever is offered must present real-world information that can be taken home and acted on.

For our members, seeing projects in the Willamette Valley aimed at strategy species would demonstrate the importance of the OCRF and the relevance of future conservation funding proposals.

3. Specific projects or ideas that we recommend?

Response: The Ankeny Hill Nature Center is poised to serve the Mid-Willamette Valley with conservation and environmental education programming never before available here. While the first phase is expected to open to limited delivery of environmental programming this fall, there is much to do to meet its potential. We are still seeking support for specific aspects of programming and facilities. If funding for projects that help complete this facility or deliver programs is a consideration for the OCRF, Salem Audubon can provide a proposal.

The Oregon vesper sparrow and streaked horned-lark are threatened/endangered subspecies unique to our region, and in particular need of help. Projects for these species should be considered.

4. Long term vision of the OCRF's role in conservation and recreation?

Salem Audubon supported passage of HB2829 through the Legislative process and has continued engagement with other chapters and

organizations regarding the OCRF and subsequent endeavors intended to provide meaningful conservation funding.

HB 2829, the OCRF and its advisory committee, and funding outreach are all important in the near term, but we ask that they occur in the context of a longer view. We need to engage the elements of a process that we all know and understand but which often gets lost in the press of real life issues. The one that starts with stakeholders and managers working together to agree on the fundamental problem statement and goes forward from there.

Funding, conservation strategy identification, and reprogramming at ODFW are interactive and not serial. Getting to a package that identifies elements of an effective ODFW program for the Strategy Species and estimated costs is achievable with strong collaborative leadership and effective, in-person outreach if the conservation community will play. Legislators, ODFW leadership, and conservation advocates all need to figure out how to be influential in an outcome that solves problems. If the OCRF Advisory Group can play a tacit advocacy role that looks past the '21 Legislative session or can just keep the collaboration goal in mind as you review and recommend projects, please do. And please use your advisory role to speak for bringing these superficially divisive interests on board for the bigger picture.

Good morning Davia and thanks for the opportunity to provide input on the OCRF. Our responses are listed below. Please confirm you received our feedback and that it will indeed be provided to the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee for their upcoming May 5 Meeting. Thanks again.

Framing Questions:

1) What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

- Acquisitions of specific lands identified as priorities by local, State, and/or Federal Recovery and/or Strategic Action Plans. Acquisitions should:
 - Expand public outdoor recreation opportunities consistent with healthy fish, wildlife, and their native habitats.
 - Maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and reversing declines in these resources where possible.
 - If needed, be rehabilitated through process based efforts that restore habitat function for the benefit of multiple endemic and/or sensitive species, while maximizing ecosystem services (for example: protecting public drinking water source areas).
 - Be managed by ODFW to:
 - Conserve and protect Oregon's native fish and wildlife, according to the State's Conservation and Nearshore Strategies. Lands acquired with OCRF funds should NOT be managed by ODF to generate State revenue through timber extraction.
 - Restore healthy ecosystems to benefit Oregon's fish and wildlife and improve the health of our environment for future generations.
- Science based research and monitoring opportunities that increase our understanding of the natural world to make sound, informed decisions regarding fish, wildlife and habitat.
- Process based restoration projects that restore habitat function for the benefit of multiple and/or endemic species, while maximizing ecosystem services (for example: protecting public drinking water source areas). These projects should have perpetual protection in place to ensure the long term benefits, especially if located on private lands.

2) What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

- The same types of endeavors listed in our responses to Framing Question #1.

3) Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

- Yes, the District and our partners do have specific projects and project ideas that would meet the purposes of this Fund.

4) Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

- Yes, the OCRF should be managed for the long term to support:
 - Conserving and protecting Oregon's native wildlife through implementation of the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategies.

- Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities consistent with healthy fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
- Investing in science and research to increase our understanding of the natural world to make sound, informed decisions regarding fish, wildlife and habitat.
- Restoring healthy ecosystems to benefit Oregon's fish and wildlife and improve the health of our environment for future generations.
- Connecting youth, families, diverse and underserved communities to the outdoors.
- Helping all Oregonians take voluntary, proactive steps to conserve and protect fish, wildlife and habitat for future generations.
- Improving fishing and hunting and reducing license fees that currently fund most conservation efforts.
- Recognizing Oregon's diversity by encouraging all Oregonians to enjoy our rich outdoor heritage.

Potential Means of Securing Long Term Matching Funds Required:

- Updating the State's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program to meet and exceed the inadequacies originally identified by the EPA and NOAA over 20 years ago, specifically the unmet conditions related to: Urban Areas Management and New Developments, Operating Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems, Forestry, and Agriculture. In doing so, the State could pursue the substantial Federal funding we've lost since the EPA and NOAA revoked their conditional approval of our Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program in 2014. A portion of those funds could be used to satisfy the OCRF's 1:1 matching requirement.
- Explore opportunities to access programs that leverage and/or provide funding for ecosystem services (potential examples: the any of the applicable USDA's/FSA's programs, the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities Innovative Finance For National Forest Program, etc.).

Seth Mead
 Watershed Conservationist
 Siuslaw SWCD
 541 997 1272

Hi, see my response below.

Thank you,

Karin L. Stutzman

District Manager

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District

<https://www.polkswcd.com>

503-623-9680 x110



1. What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term? ***Maintain current properties and current programs***
2. What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support? ***Weed and invasive species control on protected properties***
3. Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund? ***We and other organizations like ours own or manage conservation easements, and a majority of the dollars goes towards property management for the continued enjoyment of the public and the plant and animal species that live there.***
4. Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts? ***Having enough money invested over the long term, the maintain areas currently being used by the public for recreational use, in conjunction with a healthy habitat.***

Hello Davia

I am a research assistant for Oregon Biodiversity Information Center, Institute for Natural Resources, Portland State University. I have been researching and monitoring Federally Threatened Snowy Plovers on the Oregon Coast for 24 years. Below are my responses to the Framing Questions request by CRAC.

Thank you for your time.

David J Lauten, MS
Oregon Biodiversity Information Center
Institute for Natural Resources
Portland State Univ
dlauten@pdx.edu

1. What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

I am unaware of the exact nature and scope of the OCR, but in my time here in Oregon it is clear to me that there are serious funding shortages for non game wildlife management in the state of Oregon. It has always been disappointing to me that ODFW has basically no budget for non game species, and does little work with non game species. From my perspective, the highest priority should be threatened and endangered species management and monitoring. While I am not an expert on all things T and E in Oregon, my experience with Snowy Plovers indicates that dedicated effort, monitoring, and management of T and E species can and does have positive results not only for the state of Oregon, but for the Pacific Northwest. In 1990 when Snowy Plovers were first intensely monitored on the Oregon coast by Mark Stern of The Nature Conservancy, there were only about 35 individuals left on the coast at only a handful of breeding sites. Thirty years later there are now over 500 individuals in Oregon, with breeding on all coastal counties in the past two years from Columbia River to Curry Cty. The intensive cooperative management program by the Federal and State agencies has had not just a significant impact on the Oregon plover population, but has resulted in plovers sustaining or occupying beaches from Mendocino Cty in California north to Washington state. In other words, the success of this project has had an impact on over 500 miles of coastal Pacific Northwest. There are clearly many T and E species that could benefit from increased and intense management if only funding was available. T and E species are not only suffering from lack of funding, but also impacts from unregulated or poorly managed recreational activity. The state of Oregon has a lack of enforcement and monitoring due to low law enforcement and patrolling efforts. Better funding and direction and education for law enforcement and monitoring is much needed. My general assessment is T and E species and non game animals that are in dire need of research and monitoring should be placed high on a list of priorities. This would include badly needed habitat management work, basic population level monitoring, and recreation management. It seems important to me that organizations like ORBIC can be consulted as to which species are in most dire need for management or monitoring. Oregon has fairly low human population levels, and much available habitat, and thus investments in conservation could have a large impact on T and E species in the Pacific NW.

David J Lauten, MS

2. What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

I would like to see projects that accomplish two major goals: stabilizing and sustaining population levels of T and E species, and providing education and viewing opportunities for the public without compromising the conservation status of the species. We cannot protect what we do not know or understand, so it is of paramount importance that funding for surveys and monitoring are secured, as it is the most basic set of information needed to understand population levels and begin to appropriately manage the species.

3. Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

ORBIC is a state level biodiversity library. Our staff is full of information on rare and endangered species, and would certainly be full of ideas and recommendations for projects.

4. Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

I reiterate that basic survey and monitoring funds are needed. These types of funds are often difficult to obtain, yet we cannot manage what we do not understand. OCRF has the potential to accomplish what our state does not have: a dedicated fund for non game management. Just understanding the basics of population levels and trends is the first important piece of data to obtain; management of causes of low population levels or conservation priorities comes from the basic understanding of what a species population level is and then what the factors are effecting the population level. We need even better basic understanding of where these species are and how many exist. If OCRF can move towards a better understanding of non game species in Oregon, with more and better monitoring and management, it will have succeeded and filled in a very big gap in wildlife funding in Oregon.

1. Public Awareness: Education and outreach to the public on best practices for the most enjoyment of the outdoor recreation experience AND protection of the space and resources they have come to enjoy. The awareness campaign also complements the fundraising efforts necessary for the success of the program.
2. In addition to building public awareness, projects that build upon current conservation efforts (weed pulls, bird counts, tree planting, trail maintenance, trash cleanups, stewardship programs) that engage recreation groups and users and give them the opportunity to participate in solutions for increasing both access and enjoyment of the recreation experience.
3. As I represent private landowners and the conservation of resources on private lands, there is a continuous need to develop partnerships with the public users and private landowners to create a synergy of benefits to the resource, rather than conflicts among users.
4. If you can accomplish 1-3 above, you have a big picture. You have an excellent committee and a blank slate. I am confident that you will go forward and do great work and willing to assist your efforts wherever I can.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input,

Jeff Rola
Co-Chair, Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District
VP, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
541.408.7024



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OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
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DATE: MAY 1, 2020

FROM: **Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society**

SUBJECT: **Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund**

TO: **Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee**

Chair Wenner and Advisory Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society's perspective on the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF). The Wildlife Society is an international organization founded in 1937, representing nearly 10,000 professionals, including scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, consultants, conservation officers, students and others who manage, conserve, and study wildlife populations and habitat. In Oregon, the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) represents nearly 500 such professionals from many areas of public and private enterprise. Our mission is to promote wise conservation and management of wildlife resources in Oregon by serving and representing natural resource professionals. We are dedicated to the success of OCRF and look forward to working with you on continuing to improve wildlife conservation in Oregon. Our thoughts on OCRF follow:

What should be the highest priority uses of the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund in the short term?

This fund should be used to implement the goals of the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS), and connect the public to the benefits of having the native wildlife and ecosystems of Oregon conserved in perpetuity. Oregon Conservation Strategy addresses a broad suite of species and issues that additional diverse funding can help solve, conserving the nine Oregon ecoregions and associated wildlife and habitat. This includes creating baseline population and demographic data for Oregon Conservation Strategy Species, many of which lack the data needed for accurate conservation management planning. The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) expects this fund to support more diversified species management planning, incorporating holistic ecosystem approaches to address Key Conservation Issues outlined by the

OCS including climate change, land use changes, invasive species encroachment, wildlife movement, and human use and conservation across the Oregon landscape.

ORTWS highly recommends concentrating the initial efforts of OCRF on projects aimed at developing key monitoring and species inventory data and mitigating the impacts of climate change, as these will likely involve or influence multiple additional Key Conservation Issues. These include continued land development, alternative energy development, disruption of disturbance regimes, and impacts of increased recreational use of wild spaces. The changes associated with the Key Conservation Issues create additional pressures that require the investment from not just the “traditional” funding sources but all Oregonians, who rely on intact ecosystems for their livelihoods, food, water, and recreation. ORTWS believes the projects funded through these efforts should be dedicated to conservation, management, research, habitat improvements, enforcement, outdoor recreation, education and other activities that serve to protect, maintain or enhance the fish and wildlife resources of Oregon. Given the short time frame for raising funds we strongly recommend that the committee approve the acceptance of dedicated funds to projects that meet the framework for OCRF projects. Priority should be focused on projects with obtainable goals for completing project objectives in a relatively short time frame (1-3 years) to assist in creating proven success for OCRF and build public support.

What types of projects do your members/customers/constituents expect this Fund to support?

There are currently 9 ecoregions, 11 strategy habitats, 206 Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs), and 294 strategy species identified within the Oregon Conservation Strategy, many of which need investment in projects that have previously identified high impact returns, or better inform managers and the public about the species, habitats, and actions needed to conserve them. In general, there are major needs for basic inventory and monitoring projects across a broad variety of these strategy wildlife species, including amphibians, birds, mammals, invertebrates, reptiles, and fish. There are additional needs for identified plant and algae species, which create the foundation of healthy ecosystems. As we see continued interest and participation in outdoor recreation, alternative energy, and development, it is critical to have robust information on wildlife species in order to examine impacts of these changes to the species and ecosystems. There may be great opportunities to engage members of the outdoor recreation community in participating in citizen science projects to gather baseline data, while creating ownership of the efforts within the community. In general we are expecting to see projects that:

1. Create baseline population and demographic data for Oregon Conservation Strategy species, threatened species, and at-risk species lacking adequate historical monitoring, and continued long-term monitoring;
2. Mitigate the effects of climate change through researching and implementing effective measures that may lessen the impact that wildlife face from sea level rise, higher temperatures, and more frequent storms and droughts;
3. Restore habitats and establishing wildlife corridors to improve connectivity of wildlife populations and habitats across private, state, and federal lands;
4. Create educational outreach initiatives that encourage responsible recreation in regards to wildlife impacts;
5. Manage recreation and development of important habitat, such as rimrock, wetlands, sagebrush, and other strategy habitats;
6. Recover and supplement at-risk and extirpated species (e.g. restoring sea otters to their historic range along the Oregon coast)

Does your organization have specific projects or project ideas that you believe would meet the purposes of this Fund?

There are numerous recommendations for projects within the Oregon Conservation Strategy that would meet the purpose of the Fund. These include the 206 identified Conservation Opportunity Areas prioritized within the OCS, as well as specific Strategy Species recommendations. Opportunities also exist to work with ongoing migration and wildlife corridor projects, incorporating current efforts that fulfill the intent of the OCRF while also leveraging committed funding into conservation action via OCRF. Projects may include but are not limited to:

1. Implement COAs recommendations, including inventory and monitoring of strategy species, and conservation actions in coordination with identified potential partners
2. Wildlife crossing development around Highway 97 in Central Oregon, leveraging current pledged funding
3. Utilize beaver to address altered flood plain function, including state-wide inventory, development of translocation plans, implementation of translocation to targeted strategic habitats, riparian restoration to support beaver restoration and additional habitat and species benefits
4. Reintroduction of sea otters to specific locations, supporting kelp bed restoration and associated fishery benefits
5. Develop citizen science monitoring projects for urban wildlife corridor inventory, engaging general public and K-12 students

Perhaps more important than specific projects is the decision to use the Oregon Conservation Strategy as a framework to analyze projects. ORTWS recommends that projects fulfill recommendations within the OCS. This will also allow the Advisory committee to confidently accept dedicated funds from organizations to magnify the success of projects that fulfill the conservation priorities identified by the OCS. This will in turn improve the ability of projects to be successful, and provide increased opportunity to complete the matching requirements posed by the Oregon legislature for full funding of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund.

Do you have a "big picture" vision of the long term role that the OCRF can play in promoting Oregon's statewide conservation and recreational efforts?

There is broad agreement across the United States that wildlife management agencies are in dire need of diversified funding structures to better represent the public, and fulfill their obligations for sustainable conservation of wildlife and ecosystems. The OCRF is a valuable start to the process in Oregon, ensuring that the implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy can begin in earnest, while also bringing together the diverse interests of the public and recreationists from across the state. The continued federal efforts to implement Recovering America's Wildlife Act may create a structure of support similar to the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts in the future. OCRF is in a powerful position to begin the efforts outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy in a way that not only conserves wildlife and ecosystems and builds sustainable, resilient landscapes, but connects people to the benefits of those efforts, through outreach and engagement. This engagement includes leveraging non-governmental funds to increase public engagement and funding of wildlife conservation.

Long term OCRF is in a position to be a mirror to the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts, creating a three-pronged approach for conservation efforts in Oregon. Currently only 3% of the ODFW budget goes to Conservation Program, while 26% and 17% go to the inland fisheries and wildlife management programs respectively. With approximately 88% of the species for which ODFW is responsible classified as non-game, there is an obvious imbalance in funding available for fulfilling the agency mission: to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. Without the resilient functioning ecosystems in Oregon, recreation across the state may continue, however it will lose a core element that draws people to those places. The landscape may exist, but without intact ecosystems and the native species within, the experience is diminished for people who engage in recreation across Oregon. The OCRF gives an opportunity for the ODFW to engage in conservation by, as expressed by Aldo Leopold, "thinking like the mountain."

Respectfully,

ORTWS Board of Directors

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