

# **2024 December Staff Report**

## **Private Forest Accord Grant Program**

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### **Summary:**

The PFA Grants Program had a highly successful year in 2024, characterized by strong engagement, impactful project submissions, and robust collaboration among stakeholders. During the Fall 2024 Open Solicitation, the program received 63 submissions representing a diverse array of projects focused on advancing conservation and restoration efforts for the Private Forest Accord (PFA) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) [Covered Species](#). These submissions reflected broad geographic participation across Oregon, with particularly high engagement from the East Side (Region 5) and the Southwest Coast (Region 3).

In April 2024, the Private Forest Accord Grants Advisory Committee, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the Fish and Wildlife Commission awarded over \$10 million in funding to the first slate of PFA-funded projects. These projects were strategically selected to drive meaningful progress for proposed HCP Covered Species statewide. Throughout the year, the program also prioritized broadening its reach while continuing to meet the needs of both past applicants and current grantees to the best of its ability.

### **Review Cycle Update:**

Since Summer 2024, Grant Administrative Staff have collaborated with regional, state, and federal partners to prepare for the 2024/2025 review cycle. This work has included coordinating reviewers across the state, working with partners to establish timelines, and securing participants. The Department has maintained ongoing statewide coordination efforts, including hosting a statewide reviewer kick-off meeting.

Regional review teams have been formed, consisting of staff from ODFW, ODF, NOAA, and USFWS, with ODFW staff leading the review process in each region. Regional team meetings will be held as needed.

Below is the preliminary draft schedule for the upcoming review cycle. Please note that the schedule is subject to change and will be reviewed again at the January Advisory Committee meeting by the Grant Coordinator:

### **Review Schedule**

#### **Regional Review Teams Review Timeline:**

- **Timeline:** December 2, 2024 – February 7, 2025
  - All reviews due to Grant Coordinator: **February 7, 2025**
  - Regional review in-person presentations due: **February 14, 2025**

#### **Advisory Committee Review Timeline:**

- **Timeline:** February 3, 2025 – March 6, 2025

- Grant Coordinator distributes Regional Reviews to Advisory Committee:  
**February 10, 2025**
- Regional review in-person presentations delivered to Advisory Committee:  
**~February 14, 2025**

### **In-person Advisory Committee Meeting:**

- **Dates:** March 12 and March 13
- **Location:** TBD

### **Key Accomplishments:**

The achievements of 2024 highlight the dedication and collaboration of staff, stakeholders, and program grantees/applicants, who have a shared mission to protect and enhance Oregon's natural resources. In its second year, the Grant Program made significant strides, from welcoming new Advisory Committee members to successfully executing agreements and getting money on the ground. The Advisory Committee played a pivotal role, meeting monthly to tackle key program priorities and engage with expert guest presenters who brought valuable insights and expertise from various facets of the community to help inform how to best build this new Grant Program.

Efficiency was a key focus this year, and the program continues to deliver. Staff worked through over \$10 million in awards within 6 months, working with local, state and federal partners to execute and meet the needs of the awardees the best we could. Thanks to the dedication of Regional Review Teams, the Grant Program was able to assign and allocate reviews 2-weeks ahead of schedule this year, while also hosting a statewide Regional Review Team meeting. Administrative staff worked in a timely manner to get the agreements in place with assistance of the Grant Coordinator who also continued to develop process improvements that will streamline decision-making and ensure a fair and thorough evaluation of all submissions.

**Project Updates and Highlights** – Reference *Attachment 2: Project Completion Updates*, for more detail on closed-out projects.

As of the time of this Staff Report, 19 project agreements have been executed, 4 agreements are outstanding, and 1 project was cancelled. The Department Staff is working with all outstanding Agreements and the Grantees. Of the 19 executed projects, 3 have already undergone a site close-out/inspection.

**2024 Submission Recap** – Reference *Attachment 1: Detailed 2024 Summaries*, for more details on submissions and a sortable list.

Key metrics from the 2024 Open Solicitation illustrate the scale of the program's impact:

- **Funding Requests:** Total funding requested reached \$34.17 million, with matching funds of \$21.29 million provided by grantees. The average funding request was \$544,000.00, demonstrating the substantial need for financial support to address critical environmental challenges for the proposed [PFA HCP covered species](#).

- **Project Types:** Implementation projects dominated submissions at 71%, followed by planning (17.5%) and research/monitoring (11.5%). This balance reflects a robust focus on on-the-ground solutions while maintaining a foundation of strategic planning and scientific understanding.
- **Diverse Applicants:** Applications were submitted by a wide range of organizations, including federal and state agencies, local governments, tribal entities, nonprofits, and watershed councils, emphasizing the collaborative nature of conservation efforts across Oregon.

There were 74 submission in 2023, illustrating wide-spread interest in the opportunities to receive funding from the PFA. For 2024, we received 63 submissions for the recent RFP, reflecting the continued interest of diverse needs and priorities of stakeholders statewide. This should be seen as a sign of success, with Grantees garnering a better understanding of what this Grant Program is funding and submitting applications they felt best met the need. The following is an in-depth look at the Open Solicitation for 2024 which closed in November.

- ✓ **Largest Funding Ask:** \$5,000,000.00
- ✓ **Smallest Funding Ask:** \$49,960.00
- ✓ **Average Funding Ask:** \$550,000.00

### Region 1

- **Counties:** Tillamook, Clatsop, Columbia, Washington
- **Submissions:** 8 (12 in 2023)
- **Funding Requested:** \$3,835,645.15 (\$11.4 million in 2023)

### Region 2

- **Counties:** Lincoln, Lane, Douglas, Polk, Part of Tillamook
- **Submissions:** 5 (7 in 2023)
- **Funding Requested:** \$475,520.95 (\$6.7 million in 2023)

### Region 3

- **Counties:** Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine
- **Submissions:** 16 (24 in 2023)
- **Funding Requested:** \$5,987,627.84 (\$11.5 million in 2023)

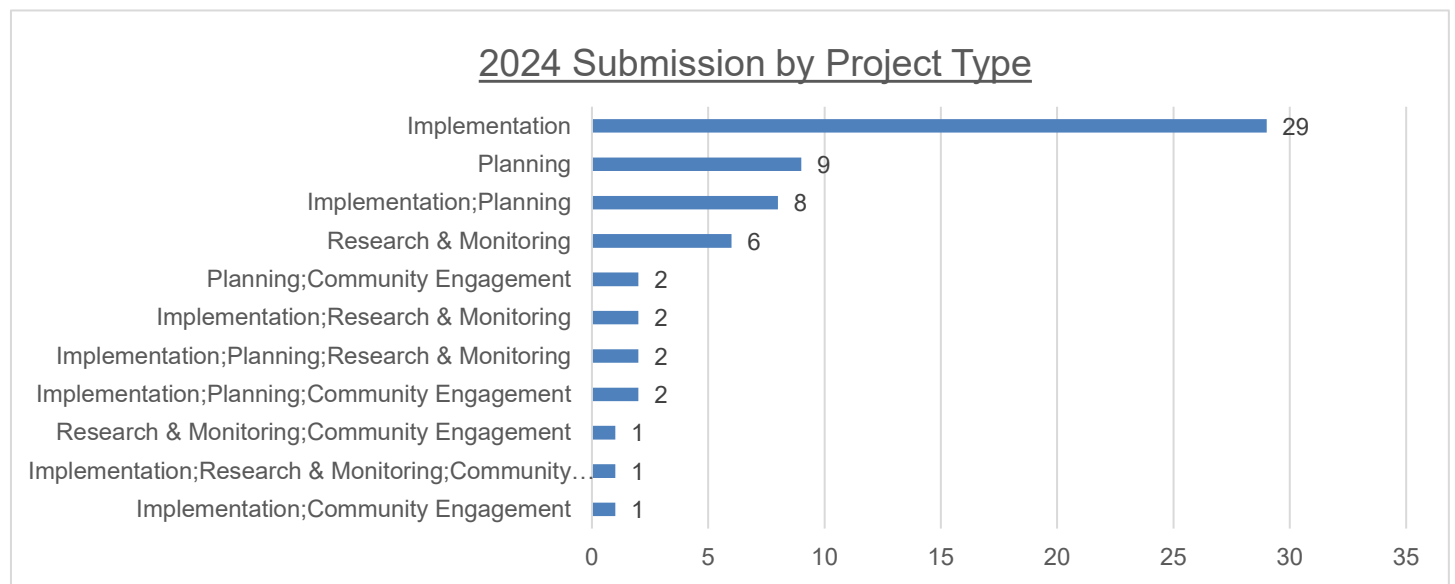
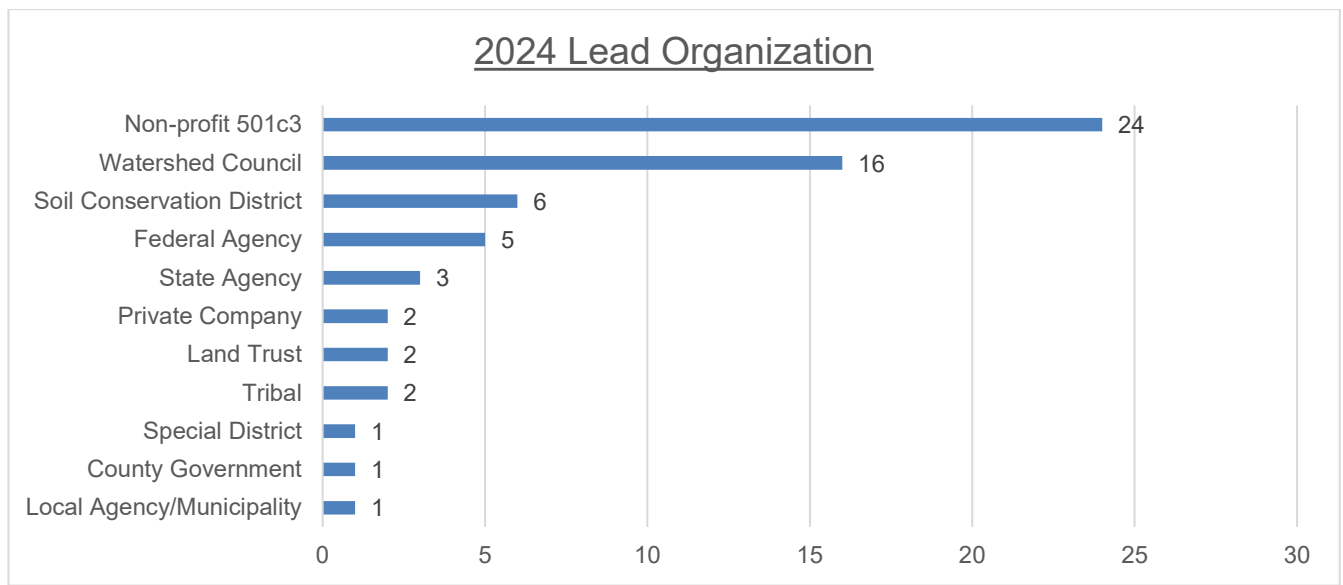
### Region 4

- **Counties:** Clackamas, Lane, Linn, Multnomah
- **Submissions:** 12 (9 in 2023)
- **Funding Requested:** \$8,736,492.79 (\$2.2 million in 2023)

### Region 5

- **Counties:** Baker, Grant, Union, Wallowa, Crook, Wheeler, Benton, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Lake, Klamath, Malheur, Umatilla, Union

- **Submissions:** 22 (22 in 2023)
- **Funding Requested:** \$15,133,560.57 (\$11.3 million in 2023)



### 2023 Submission by Project Type

