

# ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

## Application for Grant Funds

**1. Project Title:** Thirtymile Creek Restoration

**2. Applicant:** Western Rivers Conservancy

**Grantee:** Western Rivers Conservancy

**Address:** 71 SW Oak St., Suite 100

**City/State/Zip:** Portland, OR 97204

**Contact:** Sue Doroff, President

**Phone:** 503-241-0151

**Email:** sdoroff@westernrivers.org

**3. Location: ODFW Region:** East Region

**Watershed District / WM Unit:** John Day Watershed /East Biggs WMU

**County:** Gilliam

**Township/Range/Section:** T5S, R19E, part of Sections 4, 5, 8, and 9

**4. Type of Project (check):**

Habitat Improvement

Access

Damage

Other (specify)

**5. Number of Acres of Habitat to be Improved:** 109 acres

**6. Number of Acres of Access to be Provided:** 8,327 acres of private land that will also provide new access to more than 78,000 acres of existing BLM lands.

- **Welcome to Hunt:** 8,327 acres of current private land, over 78,000 of existing BLM land
- **By Permission:** 80 acres

**7. Proposed Start Date:** June 2017      **Proposed End Date:** October 2018

**8. Estimated Cost of Project:** \$25,190

**9. Access and Habitat Fund Request:** \$16,333

**10. Briefly explain what the project proposes to do:**

Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) requests funding to restore 109 acres of former agricultural lands to native grasslands in the lower John Day River Canyon at Thirtymile Creek. The project will directly improve important habitat for game and non-game species such as big horn sheep, deer and upland birds, while opening prized new access (equestrian, hiking, driving, boating) for hunters to 8,327 acres of the Rattray Ranch, and 78,000 acres of adjacent BLM Wilderness Study Areas that are currently only reachable by boat. In addition to the restoration of these 109 acres, the public benefits from the access afforded to over 80,000 acres of land.

**11. Background: Describe the project area and explain the wildlife habitat and/or access challenge or opportunity this project will address. Address how current management actions benefit public access and/or wildlife and their habitat needs.**

The lower John Day River is a recreationist's paradise, with hunting opportunities abounding for upland game birds, mule deer, pronghorn, elk and bighorn sheep. However, access to the lower canyon is sparse, and riparian habitat is degraded in many areas. To address these issues, Western Rivers Conservancy has made a series of acquisitions in the lower John Day Basin including the lands that became Cottonwood Canyon State Park in 2013 (hunting is allowed in CCST, a rarity for a Oregon State Park). Our current focus is the Rattray Ranch at Thirtymile Creek, which encompasses 14,148 acres and a 10,530-acre BLM grazing lease. Thirtymile Creek is regarded as the most important spawning and rearing tributary for steelhead on the lower John Day River, sustaining cold-water flows through the summer. The property's John Day River reach is also essential habitat for spring chinook.

WRC bought the Rattray Ranch in 2014 and is in the process of conveying 8,327 acres of the ranch to the Bureau of Land Management for public recreation, including hunting and fishing, and to greatly enhance fish and wildlife habitat. The lands to be conveyed to the BLM lie along the east side of John Day River up and downstream from the mouth of Thirtymile Creek, up the Thirtymile Creek drainage, and up Armstrong Canyon, a tributary of Thirtymile Creek. WRC is specifically requesting funding to restore 109 acres of abandoned cropland on the Rattray Ranch to its native condition, thereby improving habitat for game and non-game species such as big horn sheep, deer and upland birds. These 109 acres are primarily surrounded by sagebrush steppe habitat- a Strategy Habitat as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

The Rattray Ranch will deliver the only public access on a 74-mile stretch of river between Condon and Cottonwood Bridges, and will provide access to a much larger block of BLM Wilderness Study Areas. Conveying the property to the BLM will forever secure the public the opportunity to hunt, fish, hike and boat this sublime wilderness stretch of the John Day Canyon.

**12. Past A&H History: (Describe any past Access & Habitat project, especially if the proposed project deals with the same objectives.)**

Western Rivers Conservancy received A&H funding for a restoration project in Cottonwood Canyon State Park in 2009. The objectives were very similar to this proposal — the lands had been impacted by nearly a century of agricultural use and the project enabled their restoration to a natural condition more beneficial to wildlife. WRC allowed the public to hunt and fish on the property while WRC owned it. We also worked successfully to ensure the public could continue to hunt CCSP under the Oregon Parks and Recreation District's ownership. Oregon State Parks typically do not allow for hunting, and we consider continued public hunting at CCSP to be a significant accomplishment.

**13. Project Objective(s):**

**What is the objective of the proposed project?**

Acquisition and restoration of the Rattray Ranch will achieve the following objectives:

- Restoration of 109 acres of former croplands to native grasslands to benefit game birds, elk, mule deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep and other species;
- Improvement of currently degraded steelhead habitat along four miles of Thirtymile Creek, ensuring the stream remains a critical source of cold water for the John Day during summer drought;
- Conservation of the ranch's 12 miles of river frontage along the John Day River itself; and
- Conveyance of 8,327 acres into BLM hands to ensure permanent public recreational access.

**How will the project benefit wildlife habitat?**

The Rattray Ranch lies at the heart of the John Day’s best habitat for California bighorn sheep, supporting an estimated 600 to 650 head, the largest herd in Oregon. Bighorn sheep are highly vulnerable to disease and can experience steep population declines as a result, making habitat conservation all the more important. The area is also home to 40 mammal species including Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, pronghorn and mountain lion, as well as upland game birds and 150 bird species including sensitive species such as grasshopper sparrow, loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk. Conserving high-quality feeding and nesting habitat for these animals is key to their long-term vitality, and the restoration abandoned croplands to native grasslands will enhance this habitat.

**Select species that will benefit from habitat improvements:**

<u>Big Game</u>	<u>Upland Bird</u>	<u>Migratory Game Bird</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chukar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ducks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elk	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Quail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geese
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear	<input type="checkbox"/> Valley Quail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Coot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cougar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pheasants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilsons Snipe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pronghorn	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Grouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bighorn Sheep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Band Tailed Pigeon
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Goat	<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Sage Grouse

**Length of time benefits provided:** <3yr \_\_\_\_ 3-6yr \_\_\_\_ >6yr

*Examples of Project Benefit Duration*

Noxious weed..... 2yrs	Forage planting..... 5yrs	Aspen fencing..... 10yrs
Range fertilization... 2yrs	Forest thinning..... 5yrs	Aspen plant/fence..... 10yrs
Rx Fire-grassland..... 2yrs	Aspen (conifer removal).... 5yrs	Road closure..... 10yrs
Rx Fire-forested..... 3yrs	Juniper removal..... 7yrs	Road decommission... 10yrs
Fence Removal..... 10yrs	Water Dev./Enhancement.. 10yrs	

(Source: *Blue Mountains Elk Initiative Project Evaluation Criteria*)

**How will the project benefit public access? If limited access, how many hunters will be permitted?**

A tremendous asset for hunters and recreationists, the project will secure 8,327 acres for the public including the only access point on a 74-mile stretch of the Lower John Day River. The Rattray Ranch’s strategic location will also open access to an additional 78,000 acres of BLM Wilderness Study Areas that currently can only be reached by boat. Managing new public river access at Thirtymile Creek is essential to create shorter trip alternatives and to manage recreational use compatibly with the Wild and Scenic River designation. The project will also provide much-needed camping sites on riverside flats. Under the management of the BLM, hunting will presumably be on an “Open to Hunt” basis. Western Rivers Conservancy will retain ownership of 80 acres that will be open for hunting by permission.

**Select species for which public access will provided:**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Big Game  | Upland Bird                                       | Migratory Game Bird                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deer          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chukar        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ducks              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elk           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Quail           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geese              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Valley Quail             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Coot      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cougar        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pheasants     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilsons Snipe      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pronghorn     | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Grouse            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bighorn Sheep | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turkey        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Band Tailed Pigeon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Goat            | <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sage Grouse              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Coyote |  |

**If damage related, how will the project alleviate/eliminate the problem?**

This project is not damage related.

**14. Project Location: (Attach a map and provide description of the location and how to get there from a major highway.)**

The project is accessible by vehicle by driving south from Condon on Highway 19 to Wehrli Canyon Road, to Buckhorn road, to Armstrong Canyon Road. There is a locked gate at the head of Armstrong Canyon; the key can be obtained from Western Rivers Conservancy.

**15. Procedure: Specifically describe how the project will be conducted--use separate page for additional information, drawings, or pictures.**

The abandoned croplands identified on the attached map (Attachment A) will have three weed treatments — spring 2017, fall 2017, early spring 2018 — then will be planted with native grasses and forbs. WRC is working with BLM botanists to decide on the optimal seed mixture. Please see Attachment B for detailed Planting Guide information that has been provided by the Contractor completing the work.

**16. Permits: Have all of the appropriate permits been secured or applied for? (Examples: Water Resources Department for water rights, Division of State Lands for fill-removal or wetlands projects).**

None needed.

**17. Scheduling: What is the estimated project schedule?**

**Habitat Work Start Date:** June 2017

**Habitat Work Completion Date:** July 2018

**Access Agreement Start Date:**

**Access Agreement End Date:**

Public access will be provided by the BLM sometime after the conveyance in 2017. The schedule for this opening has not been established yet.

**List major project activities and time schedule for each:**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time (month/year)</u>
Weed control	Spring 2017
Weed control	Fall 2017
Conveyance of land to BLM	Fall 2017
Weed control	Spring 2018
Seeding	Late spring 2018

**18. Participation and Funding: Will other organizations or individuals participate in the project? If so, list and describe participation, and attach letters of commitment or verification of grant awards. Costs listed here must be included in “Other Funds” column of the Project Budget (Section 20).**

The BLM will purchase WRC’s ownership at Thirtymile Creek using Land and Water Conservation Fund funding in the fall of 2017, ensuring access for the public. For the restoration component of the project, WRC is partnering with ODFW and the BLM to determine the optimal seed mixture for replanting and with the Gilliam County Weedmaster to control noxious weeds. In addition, WRC is partnering with the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District on a complimentary stream restoration project that is designed to improve habitat for native fish in Thirtymile Creek. We have listed these partnerships below but not in Section 20 so as not to add confusion to the costs of the cropland restoration project.

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1. Bureau of Land Management	Land Acquisition	Undetermined
2. Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District	Stream Restoration	Unknown
3. Western Rivers Conservancy	Project Administration	\$1,500
4. Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	Habitat Restoration	\$7,357

**Have any conditions been placed on the funds listed above which may affect the completion of the project? If so, identify and explain.**

None.

**19. Project Maintenance and Monitoring:**

**Who will maintain the project and fund long-term maintenance and/or operation if needed?**

Bureau of Land Management.

**What element(s) of the project will be monitored, how often, for how long?**

BLM will monitor the project pursuant to their guidelines. WRC follows up on its past projects on a five-year basis. WRC will retain ownership of 80 acres, which includes 40-acres in the restored land project area. WRC will monitor this area annually to determine how successful the restoration has been.

## **20. Project Budget**

(provide as much detail as possible) (As stated in Item 18, the cost of the land acquisition component of the overall project have not been included in this budget.)

<b>Category</b>	<b>A&amp;H Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Administration			
Personnel	\$1500	\$1500	\$3000
Benefits @ ___%			
Total			
Construction Materials <sup>2</sup>			
Supplies			
Weed Spray	\$5683	\$2567	\$8250
Seed	\$1090		\$1090
Contract Services <sup>3</sup> (itemize)			
Technical Consulting	\$975	\$975	\$1950
Weed Spraying	\$5450	\$2725	\$8175
Mowing	\$1635	\$1090	\$2725
Equipment <sup>4</sup> (itemize)			
Access Payment			
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$16,333</b>	<b>\$8,857</b>	<b>\$25,190</b>

<sup>1</sup>List detail in funding (section 18).

<sup>2</sup>Provide amounts and cost per unit.

<sup>3</sup>Attach subcontractor estimates.

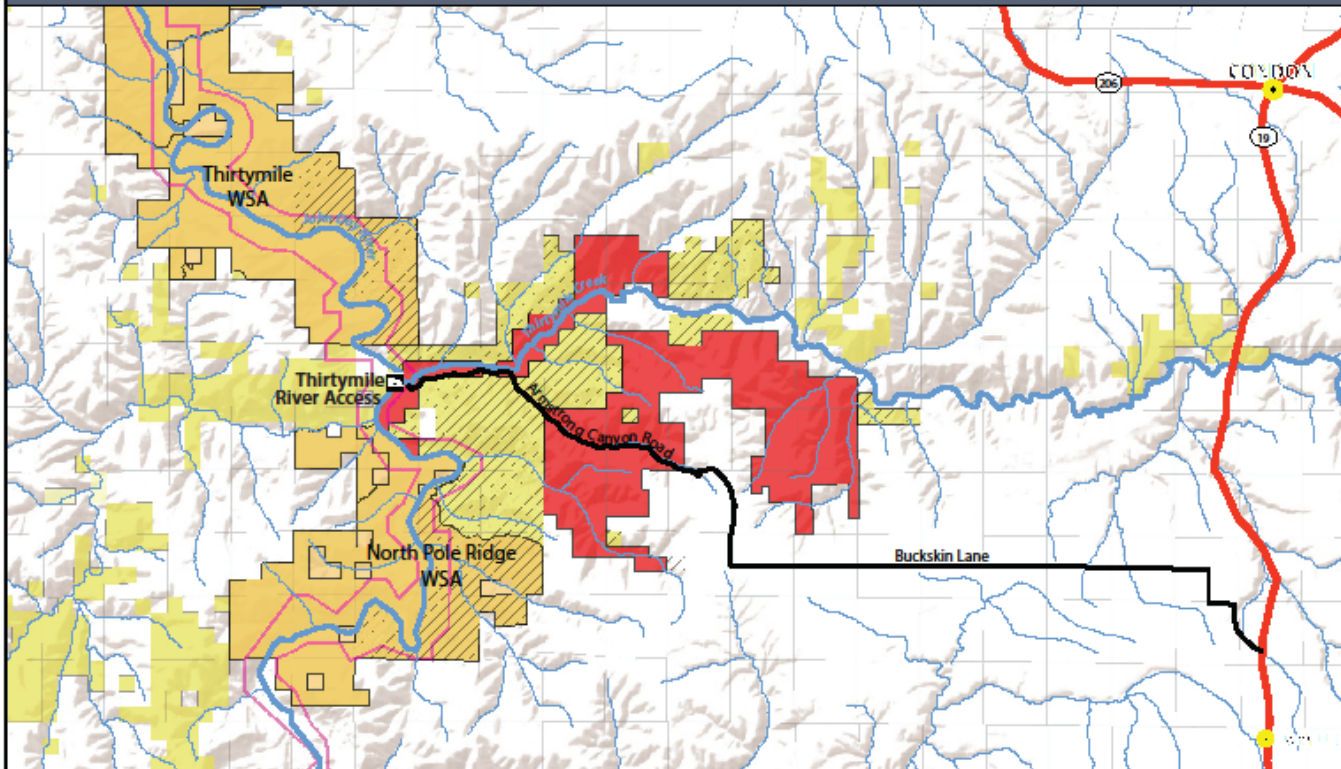
<sup>4</sup>Individual pieces of equipment costing over \$100.00.

# John Day Wild & Scenic River

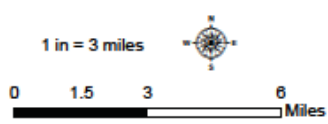
Thirtymile Creek - Lower John Day River Project

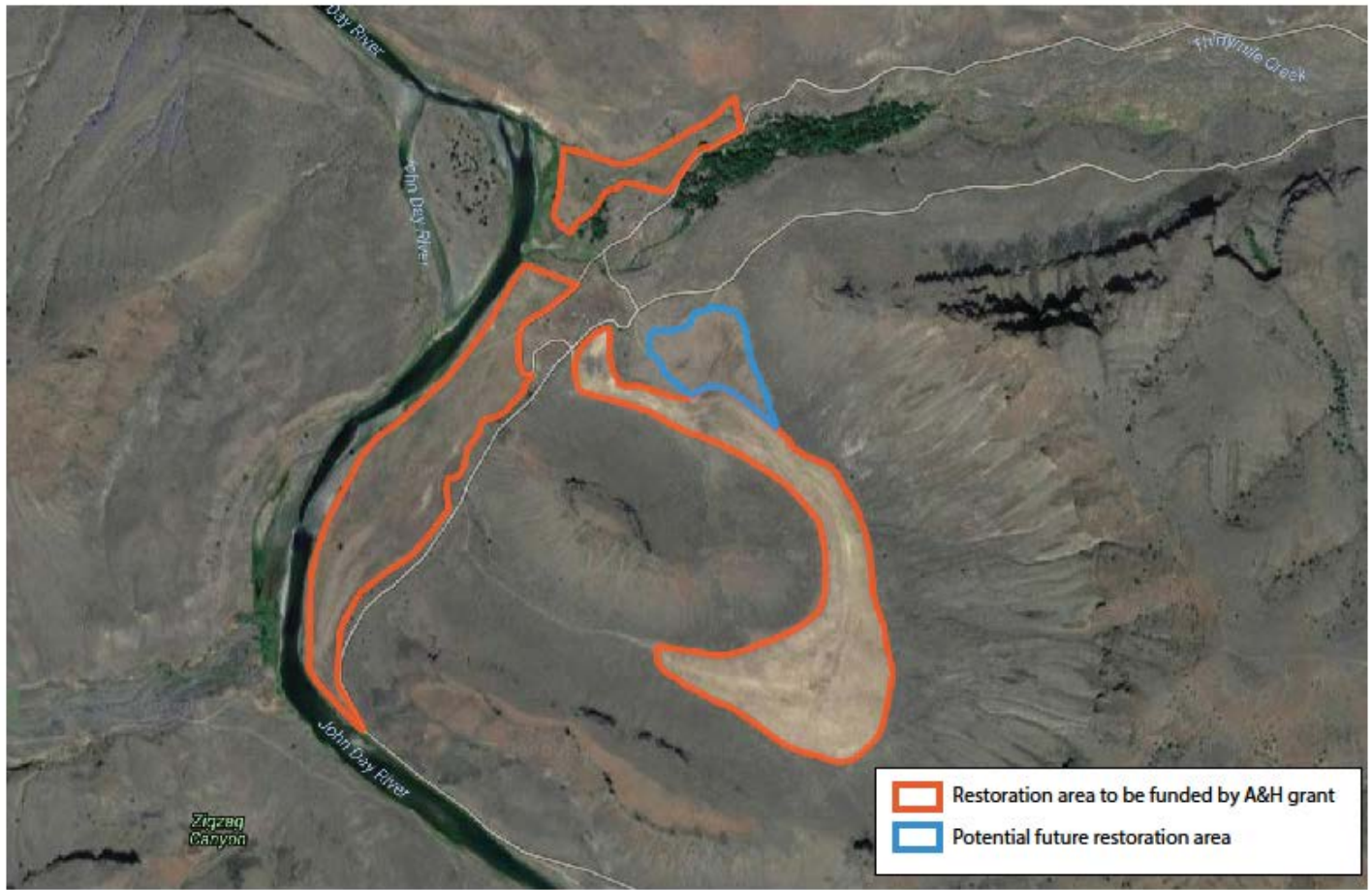
Rattray Property

Gilliam County, OR



- Rattray conservation lands (8,327 ac.)
- BLM Lands
- BLM Wilderness Study Areas
- BLM Grazing Lease (Rattray)
- Wild & Scenic River Corridor
- Access Road
- Highways
- Boater River Access







## Attachment B

### Non-Typical Ranch Consulting-Planting Guide

#### General Information

#### INTRODUCTION

Costs to plant and produce native grass stands in the John Day River Basin are shown in this crop plan and estimate. The plan is intended as a guide only, and can be used to make planting decisions, and to prepare budgets and estimates. Practices described are based on the production practices considered typical for this plant species and region, but will not apply to every situation. Costs for labor, materials, and equipment and custom services are based on current figures. The hypothetical farm operations, production practices, overhead, and calculations are described under the assumptions

#### ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions refer to costs associated with planting native grass stands in the John Day River Basin. Practices described represent production practices and materials considered typical of a well-managed acres in the region. The costs, materials, and practices shown in this will not apply to all situations. Establishment and production cultural practices vary by grower and the differences can be significant.

The costs associated with ground preparation, planting, and growing native grass stands in the region.

**Land Preparation.** Land preparations begin in the spring (March/April). The fields are mowed once with a rotary mower to incorporate the previous weed/crop residue. After mowing one pass, the field will be sprayed with chemical, to prepare the seedbed for seeding.

**Planting.** In late March to early April, the native grass seed is planted on flat ground in 30 to 38-inch lines at a rate of 10 pounds of seeds per acre. A custom planter does the planting for \$25 per acre.

Raised beds are formed after planting by cultivating and furrowing.

**Fertilization.** Growers should apply fertilizer or soil amendments after soil tests determine nutrient and pH levels. Nitrogen (N) as anhydrous ammonia (80-0-0) is injected and side dressed once in June at 100 pounds N per acre and water run once in July at 40 pounds N per acre.

**Pest Management.** For more information on other pesticides available, pest identification, monitoring, and management visit the UC IPM website at [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu) or contact your local UCCE farm advisor. For information and pesticide use permits, contact the local county agricultural commissioner's office. Adjuvants or surfactants may be recommended for use with some pesticides, but are not included in this study. Pesticide costs vary by location and grower volume. Pesticide and fertilizer costs are taken from a single dealer and are shown as full retail.

**Pest Control Adviser (PCA).** Written recommendations are required for many pesticides and are made by licensed pest control advisers. In addition the PCA will monitor the field for agronomic problems including pests and nutrition. Growers may hire private PCAs or receive the service as part of a service agreement with an agricultural chemical and fertilizer company.

**Weeds.** Post plant weed control consists of mechanical and chemical practices. Shortly after planting, an herbicide (Milestone) is applied for broadleaf control. A layby application of Prowl is applied in June. Normally, seven to eight days after the post-emergent herbicide application, the field is cultivated and furrowed and again approximately two weeks after the first irrigation.

**Labor, Equipment and Interest Costs** Labor. Labor rates of \$15.00 per hour for machine operators and \$12.00 for general labor includes payroll overhead of 36%. The basic hourly wages are \$15.00 for machine operators and \$12.00 for general labor. The overhead includes the employers' share of federal and Oregon state payroll taxes, workers' compensation insurance for field crops (code 0071), and a percentage for other possible benefits. Workers' compensation costs will vary among growers.

Labor for operations involving machinery are 20% higher than the operation time given for the extra labor involved in equipment set up, moving, maintenance, work breaks, and field repair.

Equipment Operating Costs. Repair costs are based on purchase price, annual hours of use, total hours of life, and repair coefficients formulated by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE). Fuel and lubrication costs are also determined by ASAE equations based on maximum power take off (PTO) horsepower and fuel type. Prices for on-farm delivery of diesel and gasoline are \$3.70 (excludes excise taxes) and \$3.36 per gallon, respectively. The fuel prices are the average costs from July through December 2008 derived from American Automobile Association (AAA) and Energy Information Administration monthly data. The cost includes a 2.25% sales tax for diesel fuel, and federal and excise taxes plus an 8% sales tax on gasoline. The federal and state excise tax on gasoline used on the farm can be refunded for on-farm use when filing your income tax. The fuel, lube, and repair cost per acre for each operation in the "Cost Per Acre to Produce" table is determined by multiplying the total hourly operating cost in the "Hourly Equipment Costs" table for each piece of equipment used from the Operation Time (Hrs/A) column by the hours per acre. Tractor time is 10% higher than implement time for a given operation to account for setup, travel and down time.

Cash overhead consists of various cash expenses paid out during the year that are assigned to the farm and not to a particular operation.

Property Taxes. Counties charge a base property tax at the rate of 1% on the assessed value of the property including land, equipment, buildings, and improvements. In some counties special assessment districts exist and charge additional taxes on property. For this study, county taxes are calculated as 1% of the average value of the property. Average value equals new cost plus salvage value divided by 2 on a per acre basis. Land value is assumed to remain unchanged.

Insurance. Insurance for farm investments varies depending on the assets included and the amount of coverage. Property insurance provides coverage for property loss and is charged at 0.82% of the average value of the assets over their useful life. Liability insurance covers accidents on the farm and costs \$983 for the entire farm or \$3.51 per producing acre.

Office Expense. Office and business expenses are estimated at \$65 per producing acre. These expenses include office supplies, telephones, bookkeeping, accounting, legal fees, and miscellaneous overhead expenses

Land. Land values for row crop land in the region range from \$3,500 per acre to \$12,000 per acre. Prices are affected by location, soil type, and water availability. In this study the silage is grown on rented land (see Land Rent). Irrigation System. An irrigation district supplies water, though growers may supplement this with well water in some areas. The amount of water used to irrigate sorghum will vary in the San Joaquin Valley. District and well water costs were combined to obtain an average cost for water. The permanent irrigation system consists of buried mainline. This part of the system is already in place when the land is purchased/rented; therefore, no costs are shown.

Equipment. Farm equipment is purchased new or used, but the study shows the current purchase price for new equipment. The new purchase price is adjusted to 60% to indicate a mix of new and used equipment. Annual ownership costs for equipment and other investments are shown in the Whole Farm Annual Equipment, Investment, and Business Overhead Costs table. Equipment costs are composed of three parts: non-cash overhead, cash overhead, and operating costs. Both of the overhead factors have been discussed in previous sections. The operating costs consist of repairs, fuel, and lubrication and are discussed under operating costs.

**Non-Typical Ranch Consulting LLC.**

101 SE 3rd  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
PH 541-980-2252

<p><b>Bill To:</b> Western Rivers Conservancy 71 SW Oak St., # 100 Portland, OR 97204 Attn: Josh Kling</p>
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*Estimate*

**Number:** 25  
**Date:** 11/22/2016

<p><b>Ship To:</b> Western Rivers Conservancy 71 SW Oak St., # 100 Portland, OR 97204 Attn: Josh Kling</p>
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Description	Rate	Total Hours Acres	Amount
Spring 2017 Estimate of spraying 109 acres, Rattray Ranch, John Day River	\$ 25.00	109.00	\$ 2,725.00
Estimate of Chemical provided for Pest Management	\$ 2,750.00	1.00	\$ 2,750.00
Spring 2017 Estimate of field mowing	\$ 10.00	109.00	\$ 1,090.00
Fall 2017 Estimate of spraying 109 acres, Rattray Ranch, John Day River	\$ 25.00	109.00	\$ 2,725.00
Estimate of Chemical provided for Pest Management	\$ 2,750.00	1.00	\$ 2,750.00
Fall 2017 Seed Cost Estimate	\$ 10.00	109.00	\$ 1,090.00
Estimate of Seeding	\$ 25.00	109.00	\$ 2,725.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
<b>Sub. Total</b>		547.00	<b>\$ 15,855.00</b>
<b>Reimbursements</b>			
Scott Coe hours	\$65.00	30	\$1,950.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,950.00</b>
<b>NOTES -</b> Estimates are based on current costs			
		<b>Total</b>	\$ -

Thank You,  
Scott Coe

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,805.00</b>
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## APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS

Access & Habitat Program  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97302

I/We,

Western Rivers Conservancy  
Polkland, Oregon, hereby make application for financial assistance under the terms and conditions of the Access and Habitat program in the amount of \$ 25,190.  
The total cost of the project is \$ 25,190, as shown in Section 20.

I/We understand that if this project is approved for funding by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, before we receive project funds we will be required to:

- Sign a Grant Agreement containing the terms and conditions upon which funds will be released including submission of necessary permits;
- Obtain landowner and maintenance agreements if needed;
- Sign a certification to comply with state, federal and local regulations if needed;
- Submit a completion report to the Board on project performance.

I/We understand that if this application results in an access grant, ODFW will publicize my/our property via printed documents and internet for the purpose of helping hunters locate private lands that may be open to hunting. I/We will cooperate with ODFW to post signs indicating public hunting access at the project location.

I certify that either:

- I am the sole landowner of the Property where the Access and Habitat Project will occur
- I am an authorized representative of the landowner of the Property where the Access and Habitat project will occur.
- I am leasing the Property from the landowner and the lease allows me to enter into this agreement.
- I have the legal authority to enter into a grant agreement for this Access and Habitat project because:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(fill in details – for example: the project is on three parcels; one is owned by me, one is owned by my wife, and one is owned by our family farm business).

Grantee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_



# Oregon

Kate Brown., Governor

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

Heppner District Office  
54173 Highway 74  
PO Box 363  
Heppner, OR 97836  
Voice (541) 676-5230  
FAX (541) 676-9075  
[www.dfw.state.or.us/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/)

June 9, 2017

Access & Habitat Board  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302



Dear A&H Board Members:

This letter is in regards to the Thirtymile creek Restoration proposal. I have been working with Western Rivers Conservancy with their purchases of land and restoration efforts since 2008 when they purchased the privately owned Murtha Ranch which is now Cottonwood Canyon State Park. This project which is similar to one ODFW completed on the abandoned farm fields on the Murtha Ranch will greatly improve the wildlife habitat values in the area and improve public hunter satisfaction. All of the benefits of improving these fields for wildlife will be fully utilized by the public hunter since this land will be conveyed to the Bureau of Land Management. I believe that this is a very worthwhile project and will have positive impacts on upland birds, deer, elk, bighorn sheep as well as many other non-game species.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns on this proposal or on the comments in my letter.

Respectfully,

Steve Cherry  
District Wildlife Biologist

## Access and Habitat Program Project Evaluation Form



**Program Objective:** The Access and Habitat Program's motto, "Landowners & Hunters Together for Wildlife," conveys the program's basic mission to foster partnerships between landowners and hunters for the benefit of the wildlife they value. The program also seeks to recognize and encourage the important contributions made by landowners to the state's wildlife resource.

**Project Name:** Thirtymile Creek Restoration      **Project #:** 2017-13

	Access Acres	Habitat Acres	Habitat Category: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">4</span>	Total Score: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 10px;">24</span>
"Welcome" Private	8,327		(range: 1-6; see flow chart on page 4. Not applicable to access-only projects)	Total Possible: 36
By-Permission Private	80			
Inaccessible Public*	0			
Accessible Public*	78,000			

Instructions:

Project Type	Complete these sections			
	General Criteria	Access Criteria	Habitat	Criteria
Access Only	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Habitat Only	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
Access & Habitat	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>

Mark 1 point in the corresponding "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met. Example: for question 2, if partnerships include 4 sports groups, award points for the first 2 criteria. Do not mark more than 1 point per box. Point schedule is designed to weigh access-only and habitat-only projects equally.

Definitions:

**Inaccessible Public\*:** Access will be provided through private land to public land that is completely landlocked (surrounded) by private land, legally precluding public hunting access. Total area includes only public land within the boundary of private ownership.

**Accessible Public\*:** Access through private land will improve accessibility to public land. Public land may be extremely difficult to access otherwise, but is not legally surrounded by private land. Total area includes only public land that is closer (in linear distance) to the landowner's access point(s) than any other public access point.

\* Access to public land MUST be provided on a "Welcome to Hunt" basis

General Criteria

(mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met)

1. *Habitat Condition*

Score 1 point only if the property contains the resource in sufficient abundance/quality to support target species referenced in questions 11, 15, 16 and 19 (during at least one season of the year). For habitat projects, use the predicted future condition. Justify your score.

Food:	Transitioning former agricultural fields to native grasslands	1	1	n/a	1
Water:	John Day River and its many tributaries runs through or adjacent to property	1	1	n/a	1
Cover:	Shrub steppe habitat	1	1	n/a	1

Project Score	Access Fee Assessment		
	Private Land	Inacc. Public	Acc. Public
1	1	n/a	1
1	1	n/a	1
1	1	n/a	1

2. *Partnerships*

Partners contributing financial or in-kind support:

- 1 or more Sports groups.....
- 3 or more Sports groups.....
- Educational programs / non-governmental organizations.....
- Other government agencies or ODFW programs (i.e. OWEB, R&E).....

0	1	n/a	1
0			
0			
1			

		Access Fee Assessment			
		Project Score			
3. <i>Matching Funds</i>	Total matching funds (monetary and in-kind)	1			
	> 1% matching funds.....	1	1	n/a	1
	> 25% matching funds.....	0			
4. <i>Damage</i>	Project would mitigate current damage to private property:	0			
	Wildlife damage occurring on private property.....	0			
	Landowner participates in ODFW damage control programs.....				
<b>General Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>General Possible</i>		12	5	5	5

**Access Criteria** - Applies to **private land** access that would be provided under the proposed project.  
(mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met)

5. <i>Public Land</i>	Project located in Wildlife Management Unit with <50% public land.....	1	1	n/a	1
6. <i>Private access</i>	Private land access type:	1			
	Project would provide access to private land.....	1			
7. <i>Public access</i>	Access through <b>private</b> lands would:	1			
	improve access to public land.....	1			
8. <i>Special Access</i>	Project would provide special youth or disabled hunter access opportunities.....	0	0	n/a	0
9. <i>Species Permitted</i>	Species groups include big game, waterfowl, upland birds, turkey, and predators/varmints.	1	1	n/a	1
	2+ species groups available and permitted.....	0	0	n/a	0
	4+ species groups available and permitted.....				
10. <i>Under-rep. Species*</i>	Project provides access to under-represented species in the watershed.....	1	1	n/a	1
11. <i>Harvest Restriction</i>	Landowner would not restrict sex or species permitted for lawful harvest.....	1	1	n/a	1
12. <i>Season Restriction</i>	Landowner would not restrict access to any hunting season(s).....	1	1	n/a	1
13. <i>Dispersion</i>	Property would provide access to animals pushed off of publicly accessible land during hunting season.....	1	1	n/a	
<b>Access Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Access Possible</i>		12	8	8	7
<b>Payment Fee Total</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>10</b>

\* lists of under-represented species will be created by A&H state coordinator and approved by A&H Board

<b>Habitat Criteria</b>	(mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met)	Project Score																														
14. Department Priorities	Project is located within target area and will benefit target species identified in any of these Department programs: Mule Deer Initiative, Sage Grouse Initiative, Black-tailed Deer Plan Implementation.....	0																														
15. Location importance:	Applies to species that the habitat work will benefit. Question structured to equally weigh big game and game bird projects - score "1" if either item in each bracket is true: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <table border="0" style="border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">{</td> <td>Area populations &lt; 90% of management objective (deer and elk).....</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; width: 40px;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">or:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">{</td> <td>Project will increase wintering populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>   <table border="0" style="border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">{</td> <td>Area populations &lt; 75% of management objective (deer and elk).....</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center; width: 40px;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">or:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">{</td> <td>Project will increase breeding populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div>	{	Area populations < 90% of management objective (deer and elk).....	1		or:		{	Project will increase wintering populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....		{	Area populations < 75% of management objective (deer and elk).....	1		or:		{	Project will increase breeding populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....														
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16. Conservation Strategy	Project addresses Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) concerns: Project action benefits Strategy Habitat or Strategy Species..... [above] <b>AND</b> action occurs in Conservation Opportunity Area (COA).....	1 1																														
17. Critical Habitat	Applies to the specific GAME habitat that the project will maintain or enhance. Use accompanying flow chart and definitions to determine habitat category. Definitions are slightly amended from OAR Division 415 to be game-specific. Project meets requirements of Habitat Categories 1-4..... Project meets requirements of Habitat Categories 1-2.....	1 0																														
18. Habitat Connectivity	Project will help facilitate local animal movement (fence removal, etc.)..... Project will help establish or maintain a wildlife habitat corridor or otherwise reduce fragmentation on landscape level.....  <u>Description of habitat connectivity benefit (required):</u> _____ _____	0 0																														
19. Habitat Impact	Describes the predicted impact that the project will have on the habitat. Habitat work must benefit game species. Project will increase the habitat quantity/quality >25% per unit treated..... Project will increase the habitat quantity/quality >50% per unit treated.....  <u>Description of habitat impact:</u> _____  <u>Restoration of 109 acres of former agricultural lands to native grasslands in the lower John Day River Canyon.</u> _____	1 1																														
20. Population Impact	Describes the predicted impact that habitat improvements (excluding external variables such as weather, etc.) will have on game species on the project site. Provide estimates for all targeted species.  Local abundance of at least one targeted game species should increase >25%.....  <u>Estimated Abundance</u> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Species</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Pre-treatment</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Post-treatment</th> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mule Deer</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Upland Bird</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment			Mule Deer					Upland Bird																				1
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	<b>Grand Total</b> Total Possible	24 36																														
21. Miscellaneous	Describe other project details that may help with prioritization or fee assessment (i.e. current market value of similar hunting leases in the vicinity)..... <b>NO POINTS</b>  _____  Population Impact- Improvements to nesting/rearing habitat for Upland Game Birds will be improved by converting acreage to permanent perennial grassland(s). Improved forage conditions for big game will be enhanced through the incorporation of perennial grasses. _____																															



## Access and Habitat Project Evaluation - Appendix

### Under-represented Species

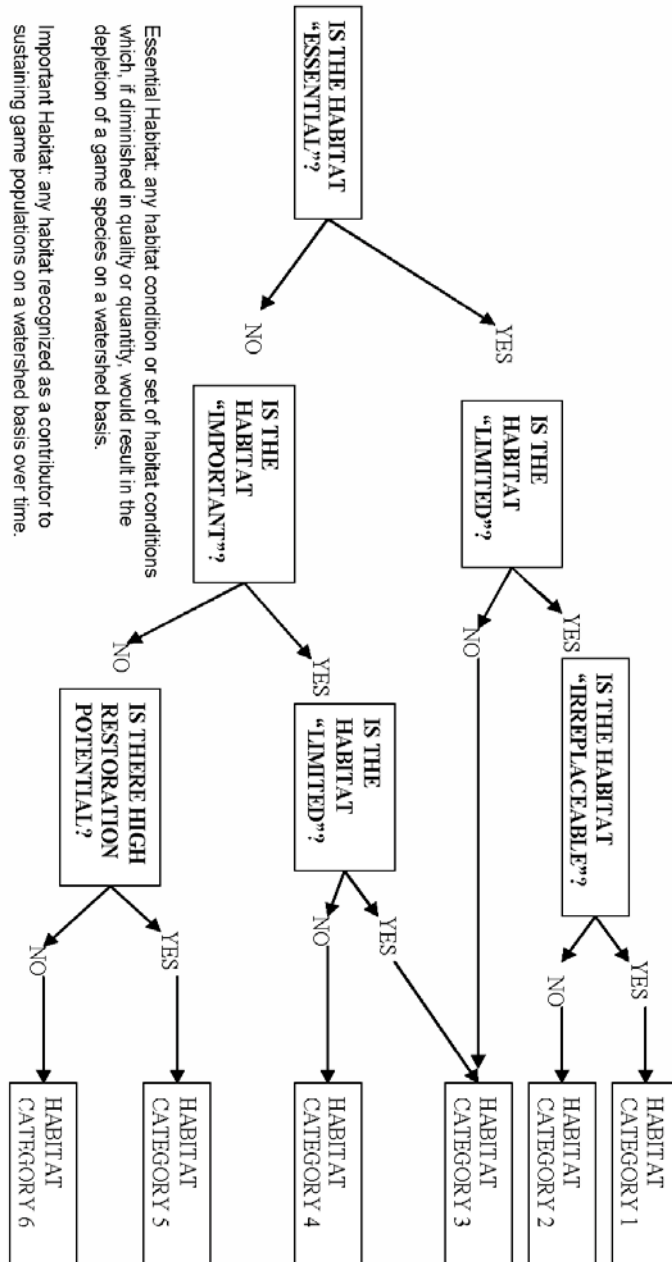
**Definition:** game species that exist in the watershed district in huntable numbers, but that the general public does not have reasonable hunting access to (via public land, current A&H properties, etc.)

Watershed	Species
Malheur	pheasant, waterfowl, turkey
South Willamette	waterfowl, turkey, valley quail
North Coast	predators, waterfowl
Grande Ronde	upland game birds
Rogue	dove, waterfowl

Watershed	Species
Deschutes	waterfowl, valley quail, chukar, dove
John Day	upland game birds
Umpqua	waterfowl, dove, turkey
Klamath	waterfowl, quail
North Willamette	waterfowl

### A&H Habitat Category Flow Chart

Note: These definitions have been amended from OAR Division 415 to be game-specific and applied on a watershed basis. Habitat Category designations made on this Evaluation Form are for Access & Habitat Program use only, and do not have any legal implications associated with OAR 415.



**Essential Habitat:** any habitat condition or set of habitat conditions which, if diminished in quality or quantity, would result in the depletion of a game species on a watershed basis.

**Important Habitat:** any habitat recognized as a contributor to sustaining game populations on a watershed basis over time.

**Limited Habitat:** an amount of habitat insufficient or barely sufficient to sustain game populations on a watershed basis over time.

**Irreplaceable Habitat:** successful in-kind habitat mitigation to replace lost habitat quantity and/or quality is not feasible within an acceptable period of time or locations, or involves an unacceptable level of risk or uncertainty, depending on the habitat under consideration and the game populations that are affected. "Acceptable", for the purpose of this definition, means in a reasonable time frame to benefit the affected game species.

**Payment Tables**

**Table 1: Proposed Per-acre Access Payment**

Total Score:	Private Welcome to Hunt (\$/acre)	Private By- Permission (\$/acre)	Inaccessible public land (\$/acre)	Accessible public land (\$/acre)
	100%	60%	40%	20%
1-3:	\$0.60	\$0.36	\$0.24	\$0.12
4-6:	\$1.20	\$0.72	\$0.48	\$0.24
7-9:	\$1.80	\$1.08	\$0.72	\$0.36
10-11:	\$2.40	\$1.44	\$0.96	\$0.48
12-13:	\$3.00	\$1.80	\$1.20	\$0.60

**Table 2: Proposed Total Access Payment Calculator**

Access Type	Score	\$/Acre	Acres	Payment
Private Welcome	11	\$2.40	8,327	\$19,984.80
Private Permission	11	\$1.44	80	\$115.20
Inaccessible Public	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Accessible Public	10	\$0.48	78,000	\$37,440.00
<b>Total Payment:</b>				<b>\$57,540.00</b>



# ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

## Regional Advisory Council Project Proposal Review

**ODFW Region / A&H Regional Council:** East Region / Northeast Council

**Project Proposal Title:** Thirtymile Creek Restoration 2017-13

**Applicants(s):** Western Rivers Conservancy

**Date of Council Review:** June 13, 2017

**Type of Project:** Access \_\_\_\_\_ **Habitat**  X  **Other Damage**

**Motion:** Morgan Olson made a motion to approve the project as proposed. John Groupe seconded the motion.

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Morgan Olson	Chairman	Yes
Vicki McClaran	Landowner Representative	Yes
Joseph Patnode	Landowner Representative	Absent
Larry Snyder	Landowner Representative	Yes
Tim Campbell	Hunter Representative	Yes
Vacant	Hunter Representative	Absent
John Groupe	Hunter Representative	Yes

**Disposition of Vote:** Motion passed 5:0

**Project Strengths:**

- This project area is a high priority for the Heppner Wildlife District as it provides access to a substantial portion of difficult to access BLM lands in a Wildlife Management Unit that is heavily skewed towards private ownership- 11% public lands. The project will improve access to 78,000 acres of difficult to access BLM lands ultimately benefitting all forms of recreation. Access to these public lands has been sparse, with the only real avenue for access to the lower John Day River canyon being by boat. This project will assist in the effort to provide additional access points to this highly desired location.
- The project will restore 109 acres of former agricultural lands to native grasslands converting them to year-round wildlife habitat benefitting upland game birds and big game alike.
- The wide variety of wildlife that will benefit from this project, coupled with the recreational values of the area, make this project a highly desirable asset to the A&H Program and its many users.

**Project Concerns:**

- None