

APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS

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

I/We, Steve Wise of Ashland, Oregon, hereby make application for financial assistance under the terms and conditions of the Access and Habitat program in the amount \$\$4,363 per year (13,089 for a 3-year agreement).

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: Steve Wise Date: 6/16/25

Position: Executive Director, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Application for Grant Funds

1. **Project Title:** Rogue River Preserve Habitat Enhancement and Turkey Hunting
2. **Applicant:** Steve Wise Phone: 541-482-3069
Grantee: Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (As will appear on contract/payments)
If private nonprofit, attach IRS letter of 501(c) (3) status
Address: PO Box 954
City/State/Zip: Ashland, OR 97520 **Phone:** 541-482-3069
Email: Kristi@landconserve.org

Cooperator(s): ODFW, OHA
3. **Location:** ODFW Southwest Region
Watershed District / Wildlife Management Unit: Rogue Watershed, Evans Creek (29)
County: Jackson Township/Range/Section:
4. **Type of Project:**
Habitat Improvement Access Damage
5. **Number of acres of habitat to be improved:** Up to 9 acres riparian terrace or up to 15 acres oak woodland, decadent buckbrush mowing, or mounded prairie grassland restoration or a combination between the two depending on contractor costs.
6. **Number of acres of access to be provided:**
336 acres
Welcome to Hunt By Permission Other _____
7. **Proposed Start Date:** 10/1/2025
8. **Proposed End Date:** 9/30/2028
9. **Estimated Cost of Project:** \$ 73,839 (over 3 years)
10. **Access and Habitat Fund Request:** \$13,089 (over 3 years)
11. **Briefly explain what the project proposes to do:**

Project will occur on Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) managed land known as the Rogue River Preserve (RRP). The project will allow access to a limited number of adult and youth turkey hunters through the Hunt by Reservation system for spring turkey seasons. Habitat work will tackle up to 3 acres of riparian enhancement (mostly blackberry control) and re-establishment of native vegetation per year, or 3-5 acres of oak, buckbrush, or grassland enhancement per year (paid to SOLC to reimburse contractors). Functional and accessible riparian areas support game and non-game species. Oaks, buckbrush, and native grasses support ungulate grazing and upland bird forage. All of

these habitats at Rogue River Preserve support game and non-game species such as blacktail deer, Roosevelt elk, turkey, quail, waterfowl including wood ducks, grey squirrel, mourning dove, and Oregon Conservation Strategy species including Lewis's Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Oak Titmouse, and Northwestern Pond Turtle.

12. **Habitat and Landscape:** Describe the habitat and landscape of the project area.

The Rogue River Preserve is in the Shady Cove Foothills Conservation Opportunity Area, specified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW 2016) and is included in a recent western landscape analysis of private lands resilient to climate change by The Nature Conservancy (TNC-Buttrick 2015).

Conservation Values at Rogue River Preserve:

- Relatively intact, rare, and threatened habitats, including but not limited to approximately 140 acres of floodplain gallery forest, 40 acres of vernal pools and mounded prairie, 88 acres of oak woodland and savanna, 25 acres of Chapparral (includes buckbrush), and approximately 60 acres of meadows;
- Approximately 1.6 miles of Rogue River frontage and 0.6 miles of riverfront around the properties 16-acre island, and an active, hydrologically connected floodplain with associated sloughs, wetlands, small streams, and springs;
- Riparian and wetland areas outside of the floodplain, including approximately 1.5 miles of seasonal streams and 2.3 miles of seasonal swales;
- Rare and at-risk species, including but not limited to OWEB priority species such as coho salmon, Chinook Salmon, summer and winter steelhead, Lewis's Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Oak Titmouse, and Northwestern Pond Turtle;
- Significant biodiversity, including but not limited to more than 300 species of vascular plants and 100 species of birds
- Frequent usage of a small herd of Roosevelt elk, blacktail deer, and wild turkey

13. **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.

Rogue River Preserve is owned by the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy and held in a Conservation Easement by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. In the Rogue District, ODFW wildlife staff frequently work with and call upon land conservancies to address conservation needs related to development and mitigation needs for land use planning issues related to winter range development. SOLC has a history of allowing very limited public access for turkey hunting in support of ODFW's youth turkey hunt clinic by granting special access to Rogue Valley OHA members to mentor youth turkey hunts. The property hosts a number of educational tours monthly and has its own volunteer base and staff that actively engage in ongoing restoration efforts throughout the year. The Rogue District's Wildlife Habitat program is planning to support habitat work out here over the next several years with funds from the Pittman Robertson program (no more than \$5,000 per year). The additional habitat dollars being sought with an A&H grant will help support

these habitat efforts and investment as well as utilize hunters to help control ecological damage caused by a growing wild turkey population in the Rogue Valley.

14. **Past A&H History:** Describe any past Access & Habitat project, especially if the proposed project deals with continuation or amendment to a past project.

This would be a new project to the SW Area. Recently, A&H lost a large hunt by permission property that was comprised of 10,000 acres which allowed adult and youth access (13 hunters per year), and also completed habitat enhancement yearly in deer winter range. That project received approximately \$10,000 annually. This project would help to bring back a private hunt by permission project to the Rogue Valley.

15. **Hunter Use Data:** New Projects: Must give estimates of expected usage and how usage will be assessed. Old Projects: Use Access Area Permit data, vehicle or pedestrian counts, hunter interviews, etc.

Hunters will be required to fill out a post hunt questionnaire which will include amount of days hunted, harvest success, and to rate their experience.

If approved, this project will give opportunities to:

- Spring Turkey Season: April 15-May 31 – minimum 4 Hunt by Reservations during the season (Each reservation is 2 days, likely weekends).
 - Youth weekend (weekend before general spring season opens) will be dedicated to OHA mentoring youth hunters.
- Usage Data: Minimum of 4 Hunt by Reservation spring turkey hunts will result in up to 8 hunting days. As up to 6 hunters may be hunting per reservation, there could be up to 48 opportunity days for hunters through the Hunt by Reservation program. “Soft Start” for year 1 (2026) will be for only 2 Hunt by Reservations, plus the dedicated mentored youth turkey weekend.
- Objective for public hunting access is to provide a quality experience through the Hunt by Reservation system so number of hunters will be limited to 1 group (up to 4 youth and 2 adult) on property at a time and spread throughout the season to avoid habituation of birds to hunting pressure.

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

- (a) What is the objective of the proposed project?

The objective of this project is to provide a quality hunt opportunities for both youth and adults on a private property in the Rogue Valley of SW Oregon. Turkey hunts will be to help reduce impact of these animals on this ecologically sensitive preserve. Habitat work will help in restoration efforts on this conservation easement property. This project will help to bring multiple stakeholders together showing the benefit of hunter dollars in the investment in quality habitat conservation and restoration.

- (b) How will the project benefit wildlife habitat?

The habitat work accompanying the hunting access will have benefits for both game and non-game wildlife species. The project will help with restoration efforts at Rogue River Preserve by controlling noxious weeds in a contiguous floodplain gallery forest which will help with disturbance resiliency and water quality protection, restore native meadow grasses and forbs in mounded prairie to improve forage quality and enhance biodiversity, reduce fuels and competition around oak trees and other large legacy wildlife trees (big leaf maple, black oak, Oregon ash) to increase acorn production for forage and structural diversity for wildlife habitat, and reduce buck brush decadence to increase forage quality for blacktail deer and elk.

(c) Select species that will benefit from **habitat** improvements:

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

(d) 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)

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

Up to 24 days will be accessible to turkey hunters per year. 12 Hunters will gain access through the hunt by reservation system. Each hunter can bring up to 1 additional adult and 2 youth with them for a total of up to 48 hunters will be allowed to access the property. The Evans Creek Unit has 49% public access and has a thriving turkey population. Very little terrestrial public lands hunting access exists on the valley bottom of the Rogue Valley, except for the Denman Wildlife Area. There are small acreages of BLM managed lands in the nearby vicinity but those are either extremely impacted by hunters or are landlocked, preventing most public access.

(f) Select species for which public **access** will provided:

Big Game

- Deer
- Elk
- Bear
- Cougar
- Pronghorn
- Bighorn Sheep
- Mountain Goat

Upland Bird

- Chukar
- Mountain Quail
- Valley Quail
- Pheasants
- Forest Grouse
- Turkey
- Gray Partridge

Migratory Game Bird

- Ducks
- Geese
- American Coot
- Wilsons Snipe
- Mourning Dove
- Band Tailed Pigeon

Sage Grouse

Other: Coyote

(g) If damage related, how will the project alleviate/eliminate the problem?

Increasing the number of turkey hunters at Rogue River Preserve will help to mitigate the damage that these introduced species have on native plants and animals.

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

- From Grants Pass, Take highway 234 east, turn left (north) onto Rogue River Drive toward Dodge Bridge County Park, Parking lot for RRP is 0.6 miles from turn-off from highway 234.
- From Medford, take highway 62 north toward Eagle Point, turn West onto Highway 234, take first right (north) after crossing the Rogue River onto Rogue River Drive toward Dodge Bridge County Park, parking lot for RRP is 0.6 miles on right after turn-off from highway 234.
- Additional parking is 0.4 miles north at the corner of Ironwood Drive and Rogue River Drive (1 vehicle).

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

Procedure for Hunting Access:

• Spring Turkey Season

- Bag limit: 1 male turkey or 1 bearded turkey per day
- Hunt Years: 2026, 2027, 2028
- Hunt by Reservation = 2 consecutive hunt days (sat-sun), with 1 day ahead allowed for scouting (Fri-no weapons allowed while on premises).
- **Special Landowner Restrictions:**
- Only 1 turkey per hunter will be allowed to be harvested per reservation, regardless of number of tags possessed by each hunter.
- Annual spring youth only weekend will be reserved for ODFW Youth Hunt Turkey clinic participants (up to 2 youth hunters) who are mentored by OHA volunteers.

- Hunters must ensure their boots, decoys/decoy bags, hunt pack, and clothing is free from seeds/debris before entering the Rogue River Preserve. Show up with clean equipment!

Hunt Logistics:

Available hunt days will be identified 6 weeks before hunt begins. Landowner (SOLC) will work with ODFW SW Regional A&H Coordinator and Hunt By Reservation Coordinator to specify which days are open to hunting before hunt by reservation system applications are to be accepted for each hunt. All effort will be made to avoid active restoration activities and public tour operations during hunt reservations. Fortunately, most of SOLC's stewardship activities are during weekdays except for a few planned activities/tours that will occur on weekends with plenty of advance notice in order to avoid a conflict with a hunt reservation.

All turkey hunt opportunities would be from Hunt By Reservation System. Hunters will apply for opportunities per the framework of the Hunt By Reservation system.

Hunter(s): For RRP access, a turkey hunter will need to be successful in the Hunt by Reservation System. A hunter selected by the Hunt by Reservation System lottery will be allowed to bring up to 1 additional adult hunter with them for their weekend, who must be registered as accompanying the winning hunter. Up to 2 additional youth hunters or mentored youth will be allowed to accompany each adult hunter and must be registered as accompanying the winning hunter through the Hunt by Reservation system. There will be 1 Hunt by Reservation group (1 person to up to 6 persons) permitted on the RRP property per winning reservation. All individuals on the premises must be registered in the Hunt by Reservation system and possess a valid permit when on the premises. **Special Landowner Restrictions: Youth, regardless of mentorship status, must be supervised by adult when on premises at all times, no camping, no fires, no littering (pick up shells), only driving on improved access road to designated parking spots, all hunter's clothing, boots, and gear must be free of seeds/biological debris before entering the premises; Only 1 turkey permitted per legal hunter per reservation A single hunter may not harvest 2 turkeys over a single 2-day reservation.**

While on the RRP property, a permit shall be displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle and a permit carried with the hunter and their registered hunting partner.

All names of hunters and their party selected by the Hunt by Reservation system will be given to ODFW and forwarded to OSP Troopers and there would be mandatory reporting of hunt survey for all hunters that access the RRP property. ODFW will share names of hunters with Southern Oregon Land Conservancy as well as hunt success and photos.

Maps:

ODFW will make special map showing which roads are open for parking, and where hunters can access from walk-in only access. Map will also include designated safety zone, restrooms, and designated interpretive trails. Map will also designate special

restrictions for hunters including No camping, no fires, no littering (pick up shells), only driving on improved access roads.

Security: Utilize combo locks for access to hunters. ODFW would purchase the locks and change between hunters/seasons. All gates closed after entering or exiting the property. No camping or fires allowed, vehicle access only to specified parking areas. ODFW and OSP may patrol during the hunt. ODFW will install game cameras at roads to ensure proper persons are accessing hunt at ODFW's or landowner's discretion. Hunter will check in/out with landowner or ODFW Biologist when hunt is done and off property (whichever preferred by landowner).

Landowner Liability Protections:

Landowner would be protected from Liability by Oregon's Recreational Immunity Law (ORS 105.682).

Landowner is welcome to have hunters sign additional liability waivers if they choose, but recreational immunity law should be adequate.

Insurance Requirements of Landowner:

Landowner must show proof of General Commercial Liability coverage for minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in Aggregate. If this coverage does not exist, talk with ODFW biologist. Proof of insurance is required for Access payments.

Procedure for Habitat Work:

Habitat work will be performed by contractors who will need to possess suitable liability insurance to cover the work they are performing (consult with ODFW A&H program for minimums necessary).

Landowner will submit receipts and Request for Funds Reimbursement (RFR) paperwork after habitat work is completed to SW Regional A&H Coordinator (located in Rogue District Watershed). Payments will be processed once receipts are shown to ODFW.

Habitat work will tackle up to 3 acres of riparian enhancement (mostly blackberry, Japanese knotweed, scotchbroom, and other non-native vegetation control) and re-establishment of native vegetation per year; or 3-5 acres of oak, buckbrush, or grassland enhancement per year (paid to SOLC to reimburse contractors).

Habitat work will be accomplished when hunting opportunities are not scheduled. All habitat work must have some benefit to game species, consult with ODFW for ideas. This work can also benefit non-game species but should not be primary focus of restoration efforts.

Habitat projects for reimbursement may include:

- Tarping of meadow plots (1/16-1/8 acre) to kill noxious vegetation to improve forage quality of meadows...focusing on medusa head rye and yellow starthistle control, and other non-native annual grasses. Can include purchases of tarps.

- Seeding of recently tarped meadow plots and burn piles with native seed mix of understory species (perennial bunch grasses, forbes, wildflowers to improve browse and forage for deer/elk, small game species such as rabbits, grey squirrel, dove)- Indirect benefits will be to non-game species and pollinators).
- Noxious vegetation treatments using mechanical and chemical means for blackberry, star thistle, scotch broom, Japanese knotweed, English ivy, medusahead rye, skeletonhead, dyer's woad, and other noxious weeds in riparian terrace and upland grassland habitats to improve cover and forage quality (See map 10 and 11).
- Irrigation and maintenance of native riparian plantings to improve wildlife cover, access, and forage quality.
- Oak restoration work can include small diameter conifer and brush cutting (<8" dbh) around 2x dripline of oak trees for ecological thinning, trimming or mowing of buckbrush adjacent to oaks, piling of generated slash for later burning.
- Trimming or mowing of Ceanothus cuneatus (buckbrush) in chaparral habitat to 18 inches tall to reduce woody decadence and stimulate new growth and improve nutritive value to deer and elk.
- Habitat dollars can also help pay for preparation for prescribed fire (fire line construction) and for insured contractors to support mop-up duties post prescribed burn. All these activities must be done under the direction of a Certified Burn Manager and have prior ODFW and A&H coordinator approval. At this time, A&H Dollars cannot be used to pay for contractors to participate or support the actual prescribed fire ignition or prescribed fire activities other than mop-up duties, vegetative cutting preparation. All fire line construction work must adhere to SHPO standards and Inadvertent Discovery Plan if being reimbursed through state dollars, as well as be pre-approved by ODFW.

Habitat projects will be funded on an annual basis in the amount of \$4,000 from:

- Year 1: Oct 1 2025-Sept 30, 2026
- Year 2: Oct 1, 2026-Sept 30, 2027
- Year 3: Oct 1, 2027- Sept 30, 2028
- If applicant wishes to complete a larger project, using more than \$4,000 they must do so within the first 2 years.

19. **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.

Vegetation treatments will adhere to industrial fire precautions. Riparian work will possess adequate riparian landscape plan from Jackson County, OR reviewed and approved by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff.

20. **Scheduling:** What is the estimated project schedule?
- a. Habitat Work Start Date: October 1, 2025 or executed grant agreement
Habitat Work Completion Date: September 30, 2028

Access Agreement Start Date: April 1, 2026

Access Agreement End Date: May 31, 2028

b. List major project activities and time schedule for each:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time (month/year)</u>
ODFW Youth Turkey Clinic	Weekend before youth spring turkey weekend 2026-2028
Youth Turkey Weekend	April 2026-2028
Hunters apply for Hunt By Reservation Spring turkey seasons	March-April 2026-2028
Hunters notified for Hunt By Resevation Spring turkey opportunities	March -April 2026-2028
Hunter summary/evaluation	Post hunts 2025-2027
Habitat Work (see question 18 above)	Year-round 2025-2028

21. **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).

	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1.	SOLC	Staff time to solicit bids, set up habitat projects, manage contractors, manage volunteer work parties, inspect work, invoice contracted habitat work	\$6,000
2.	ODFW	Hunt Administration	1,500

3.	ODFW Rogue Wildlife Staff	Annual Youth Turkey Clinic	1,500
4.	OHA-Rogue Valley	Annual Youth Turkey Clinic, mentor hunt(s)	1,000
5.	SOLC Volunteers	Habitat work-small scale restoration including fencing, noxious weed pulling, education and outreach	10,000

Have any conditions been placed on the funds listed above which may affect the completion of the project? If so, identify and explain. YES NO

Any habitat work completed must be approved by criteria set forth in the Conservation Easement for Rogue River Preserve, held by OWEB, be approved by ODFW and SOLC board.

22. Project Maintenance and Monitoring:

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

The landowner will continue to maintain their roads and fencing, and vegetation management. Rogue River Preserve will be held in a Conservation Easement for perpetuity.

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

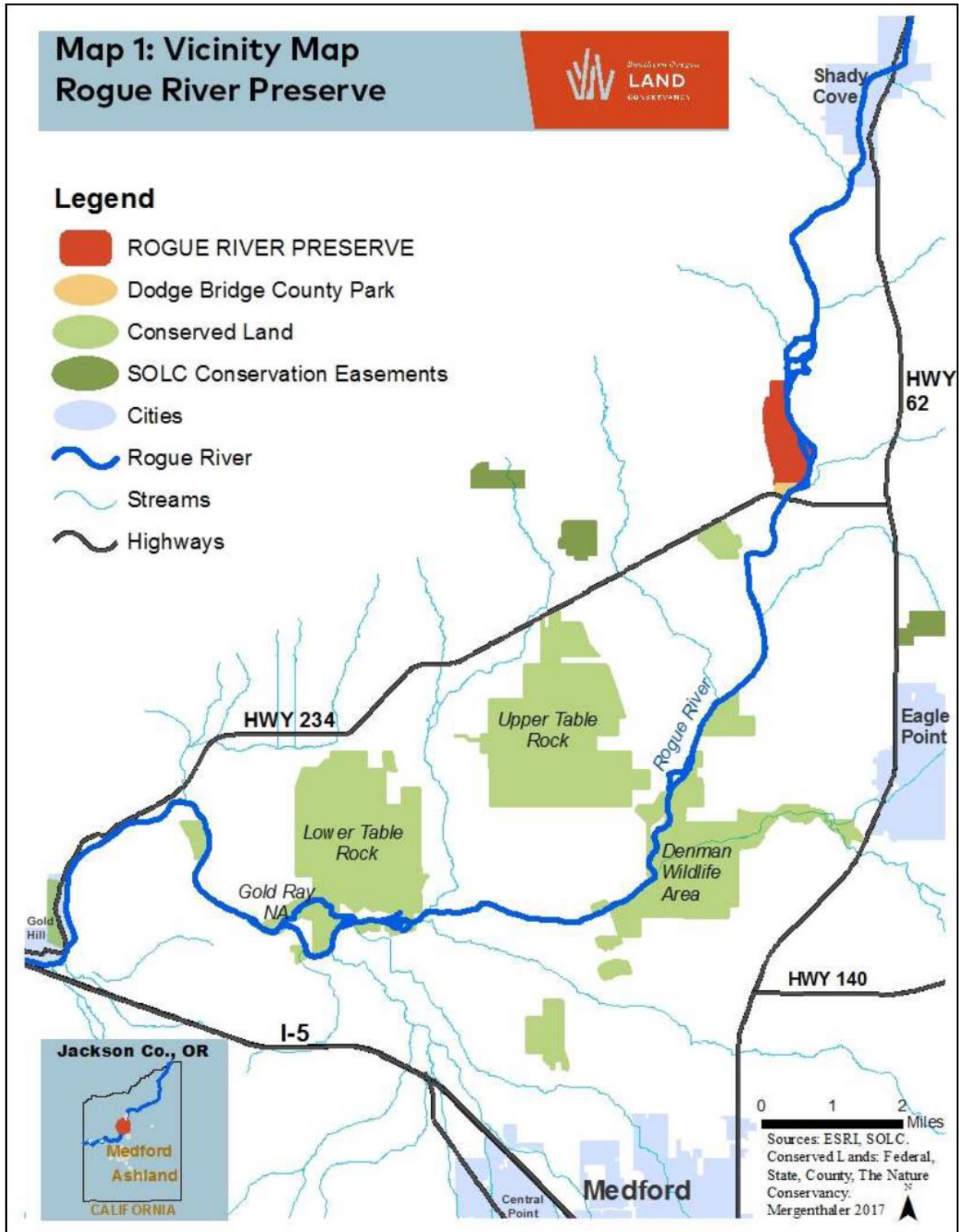
Hunter Access will be monitored throughout the season by post hunt surveys conducted by ODFW Rogue District staff. ODFW and OSP may patrol area and talk to hunters, checking permits. Landowner may speak with hunters. Hunter success and comments will be gathered at the end of each season for as long as the hunts are offered. Hunt statistics will be monitored annually from mandatory hunter harvest reporting.

SOLC staff will monitor vegetative treatments with yearly physical and photo point monitoring. OWEB conducts an annual monitoring of the property as part of its terms for the Conservation Easement. ODFW SW Regional A&H coordinator will inspect habitat work annually with SOLC staff.

Project Budget Narrative: (Provide details; describe in-kind funding; provide narratives here of non-itemized entries in your worksheet.)

Project Budget (Provide as much detail as possible)			
Totals automatically round to the nearest dollar. Please do not include cents.			
Expense Category	A&H Funds	Cost Share In-Kind/ Cash (Match) ¹	Total Project Cost
ADMINISTRATION: Personnel and benefits @ ___%			
SOLC admin-habitat work	\$ 0	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
ODFW Hunt Admin (signs, hunter selection, admin, hunter communication)		\$1,500	\$1,500
ODFW Wildlife Staff youth turkey clinic		\$1,500	\$1,500
OHA volunteer youth turkey clinic		\$1,000	\$1,000
SOLC Volunteers – yearly habitat work		\$10,000	\$10,000
SUBTOTAL (1)	\$ 0	\$20,000	\$ 20,000
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS²			
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SUBTOTAL (2)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SUPPLIES			
Locks-ODFW	\$	100	\$ 100
Signage-ODFW		\$150	\$ 150
SUBTOTAL (3)	\$	\$ 250	\$ 250
CONTRACT SERVICES (itemize)³			
Contracted services for habitat work (may include herbicide application, manual removal of noxious vegetation, irrigation, vegetation cutting treatments including slash/pile, mowing, tarping, pile burning)	\$4,000	\$	\$ 4,000
SUBTOTAL (4)	\$4,000	\$	\$4,000
EQUIPMENT (itemize)			
	\$	\$	\$
SUBTOTAL (5)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Access Payment	\$ 363	\$ 0	\$ 363
SUBTOTAL (5)	\$363		\$363
PROJECT TOTALS (1 year)	\$4,363	\$ 20,250	\$ 24,613
(3 years)	13,089	\$ 60,750	\$ 73,839

Attachment 1: Rogue River Preserve (Source RRP Mgmt Plan page 57)



Attachment 2: Rogue River Preserve Hunting Access & Safety Zones:

Safety zones will be established 150 yards from the private residence to the north as well as the Rogue River Preserve volunteer caretaker's residence as well as 25 yards along the driveway through the riparian terrace and their shed and field, and Visitor restrooms/parking lot.



Attachment 3: Hunter Access Payment Tables for turkey hunting. Overall score of the proposal is 9.

Rogue River Preserve Hunt & Habitat				0
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	8	\$1.80		\$0.00
Private Permission	8	\$1.08	336	\$362.88
Inaccessible Public	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Accessible Public	N/A	\$0.36	0	n/a
Total Payment:				\$362.88

Map 10: Noxious Weeds Rogue River Preserve

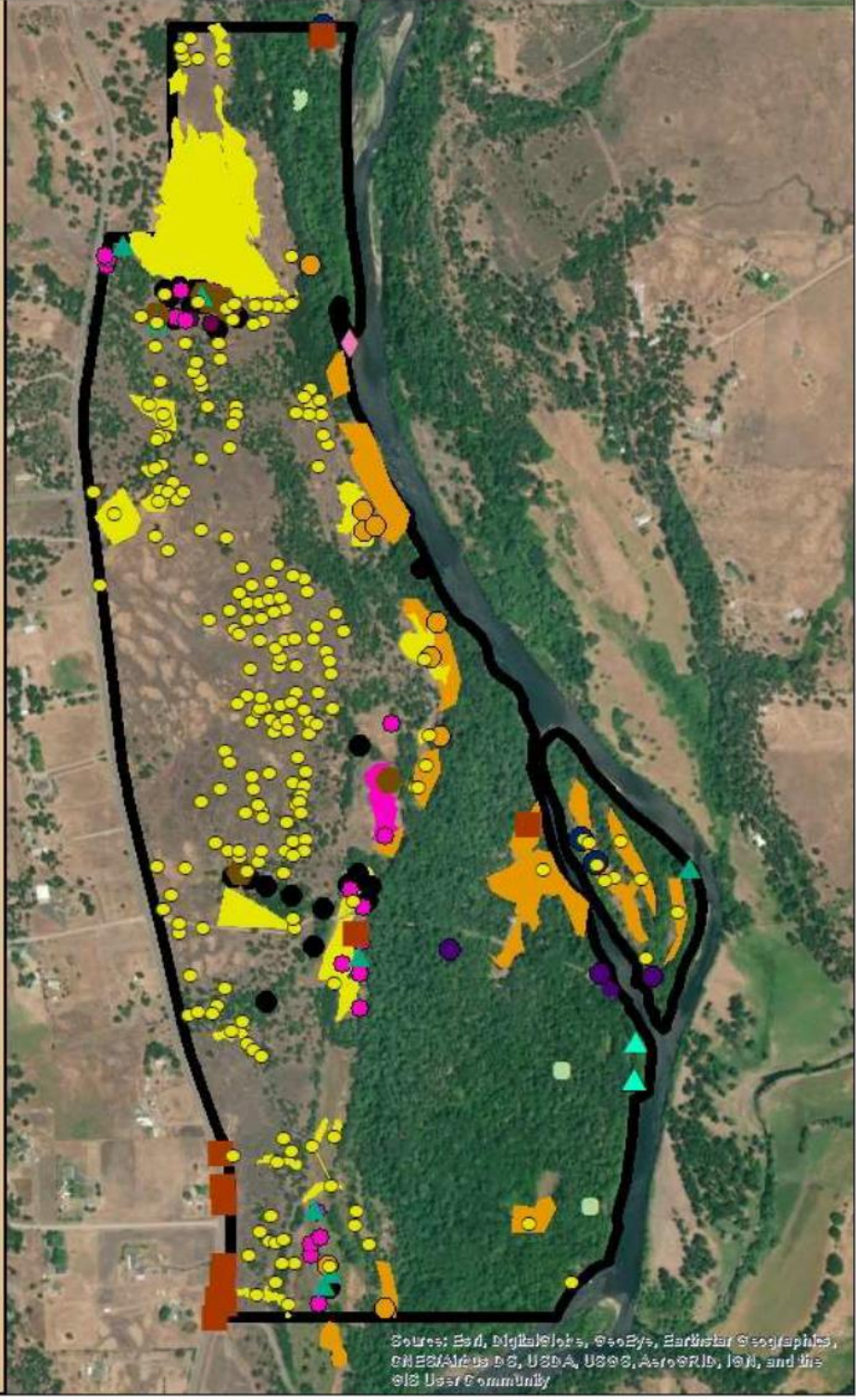


Legend

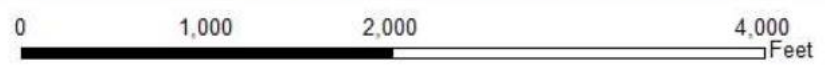
- CESO3
- ▲ CIVU
- CHJU
- CYSC4
- ◆ DIFU
- HEHE
- ◇ LYSA
- ▲ POCU6
- ROCA
- ROEG
- RUAR9
- VIMA
- CESO3
- CYSC4
- HEHE
- ROCA
- VIMA
- Property
- ISTI

CESO3: Yellow starthistle
 CIVU: Bull thistle
 CHJU: Skeletonweed
 CYSC4: Scotch broom
 DIFU: Teasel
 HEHE: English ivy
 ISTI: Dyer's woad
 LYSA: Purple loosestrife
 POCU6: Japanese knotweed
 ROCA: Dog rose
 ROEG: Sweetbriar
 RUAR9: H. blackberry
 VIMA: Vinca

Source: ESRI, Jackson Co.,
 SOLC.
 Mergenthaler 2020



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics,
 CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the
 GIS User Community



Map 11: Management Priorities Rogue River Preserve



Management Priorities

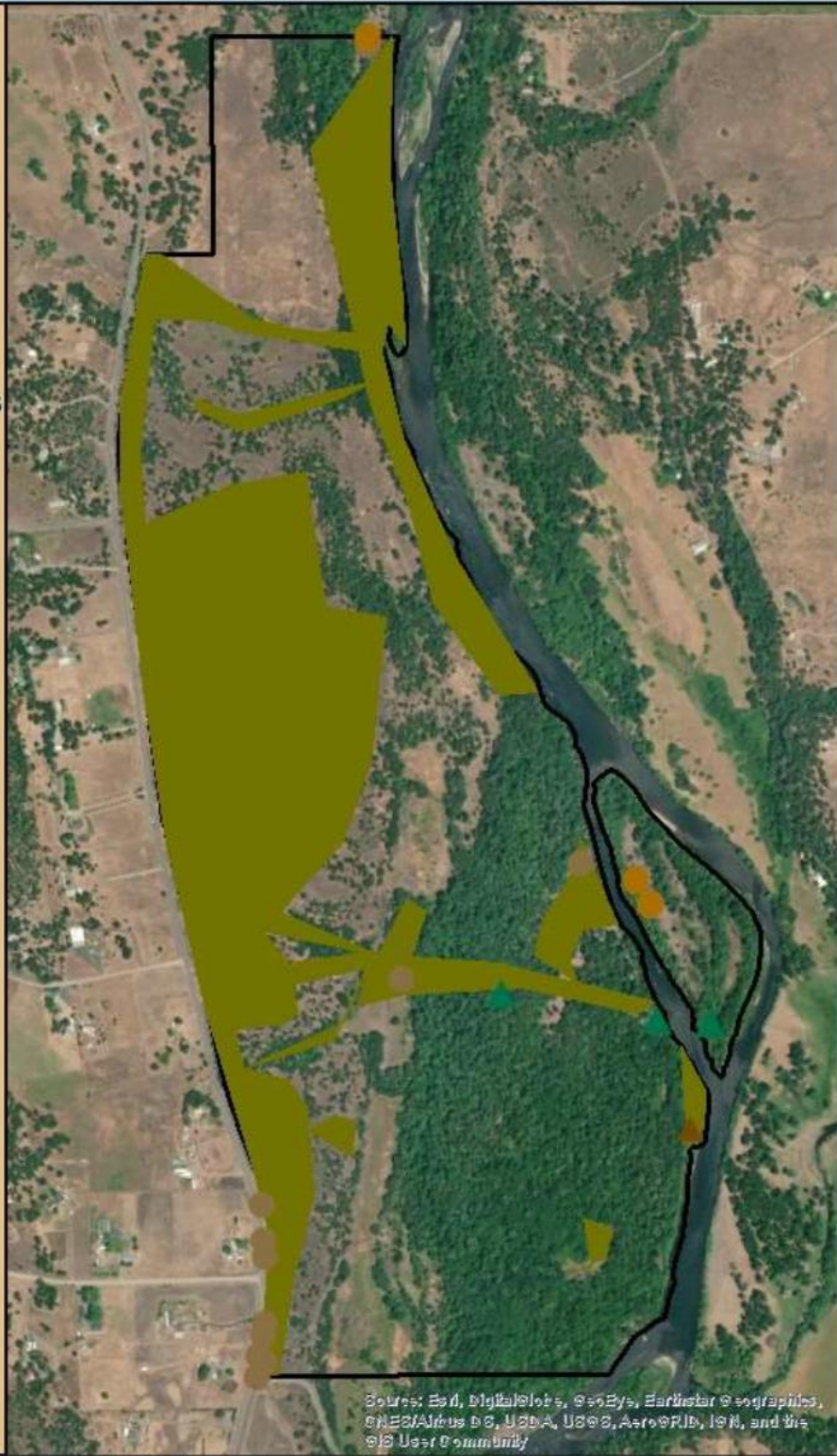
- CHJU
- HEHE
- ISTI
- POCU6
- Priority CYSC4
- Vegetation Management



Priority vegetation management includes along roads, key waterways, vernal pools, and disjunct or uncommon noxious weeds.

- Skeletonweed (CHJU)
- Scotch broom (CYSC4)
- English ivy (HEHE)
- Dyer's woad (ISTI)
- Japanese knotweed (POCU9)

Data: Jackson Co., SOLC.
Mergenthaler 2019.
In-house use.



Sources: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

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: Rogue River Preserve Hunt & Habitat **Project #:** _____

	Access Acres	Habitat Acres	Habitat Category: 3	Total Score: 21
"Welcome" Private	0		<i>(range: 1-6; see flow chart on page 4. Not applicable to access-only projects)</i>	Total Possible: 36
By-Permission Private	336			
Inaccessible Public*				
Accessible Public*				

Instructions:

Project Type	Complete these sections			
	General Criteria	Access Criteria	Habitat	Criteria
Access Only	X	X		
Habitat Only	X		X	
Access & Habitat	X	X		X

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:	early seral forest openings from variable density thinning
Water:	Natural springs, pond
Cover:	high stem density mid seral forest stands, some manzanita thickets

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

2. *Partnerships*

Partners contributing financial or in-kind support:

1 or more Sports groups.....	1			
3 or more Sports groups.....	0			
Educational programs / non-governmental organizations.....	1			
Other government agencies or ODFW programs (i.e. OWEB, R&E).....	1			

Project Score	Private Land	Inacc. Public	Acc. Public
1	1	n/a	n/a
0			
1			
1			

3. <i>Matching Funds</i>	Total matching funds (monetary and in-kind) > 1% matching funds..... > 25% matching funds..... > 50% matching funds.....	Project Score	Access Fee Assessment		
		1	1	n/a	n/a
1					
1					
		10	5	0	0
		<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>

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	n/a
6. <i>Private access</i>	Private land access type: Project would provide access to private land..... Private land access would be on a "Welcome to Hunt" basis.....	1 0			
7. <i>Public access</i>	Access through private lands would: improve access to public land..... provide access to otherwise inaccessible public land.....	0 0			
8. <i>Special Access</i>	Project would provide special youth or disabled hunter access opportunities.....	1	1	n/a	n/a
9. <i>Species Permitted</i>	Species groups include big game, waterfowl, upland birds, turkey, and predators/varmints. 2+ species groups available and permitted..... 4+ species groups available and permitted.....	0 0	0 0	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
10. <i>Under-rep. Species*</i>	Project provides access to under-represented species in the watershed.....	0	0	n/a	n/a
11. <i>Harvest Restriction</i>	Landowner would not restrict sex or species permitted for lawful harvest.....	0	0	n/a	n/a
12. <i>Season Restriction</i>	Landowner would not restrict access to any hunting season(s).....	0	0	n/a	n/a
13. <i>Dispersion</i>	Property would provide access to animals pushed off of publicly accessible land during hunting season.....	1	1	n/a	
		4	3	0	0
		<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>
			8	n/a	n/a

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

Habitat Criteria	<i>(mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met)</i>	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: 40px;"> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em;">{</td> <td>Area populations < 90% of management objective (deer and elk).....</td> <td style="text-align: center;">or:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Project will increase wintering populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; width: 50px;">0</td> </tr> </table> </div> <div style="margin-left: 40px; margin-top: 10px;"> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em;">{</td> <td>Area populations < 75% of management objective (deer and elk).....</td> <td style="text-align: center;">or:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Project will increase breeding populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; width: 50px;">0</td> </tr> </table> </div>	{	Area populations < 90% of management objective (deer and elk).....	or:			Project will increase wintering populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....		0	{	Area populations < 75% of management objective (deer and elk).....	or:			Project will increase breeding populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....		0	
{	Area populations < 90% of management objective (deer and elk).....	or:																
	Project will increase wintering populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....		0															
{	Area populations < 75% of management objective (deer and elk).....	or:																
	Project will increase breeding populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....		0															
16. Conservation Strategy	Project addresses Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) concerns: Project action benefits Strategy Habitat or Strategy Species..... [above] AND action occurs in Conservation Opportunity Area (COA).....	<table border="1" style="width: 50px; margin-bottom: 2px;">1</table> <table border="1" style="width: 50px;">1</table>																
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.....	<table border="1" style="width: 50px; margin-bottom: 2px;">1</table> <table border="1" style="width: 50px;">0</table>																
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> COA has already been established, fencing removal to create meadow standards and buckbrush removal in riparian terrace will facilitate more available habitat for wildlife to feed/bed/seek cover. Very	<table border="1" style="width: 50px; margin-bottom: 2px;">1</table> <table border="1" style="width: 50px;">1</table>																
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>Ecological thinning, creation/maintenance of early seral vegetation, promote native meadow species, promote oaks and buckbrush, restore riparian area</u>	<table border="1" style="width: 50px; margin-bottom: 2px;">1</table> <table border="1" style="width: 50px;">0</table>																
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%.....	1																
	<u>Estimated Abundance</u>																	
	Pre- treatment Post-treatment																	
	Species																	
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>													<table border="1" style="width: 50px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Habitat Total</table> <table border="1" style="width: 50px;"><i>Habitat Possible</i></table>				
		7																
		12																
		21																
		<i>36</i>																
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)..... NO POINTS <u>Increasing opportunity for hunt by reservation in Rogue Valley. Habitat work will be in a conservation opportunity area (Siskiyou Crest).</u>																	

Access and Habitat Project Evaluation - Appendix

Under-represented Species

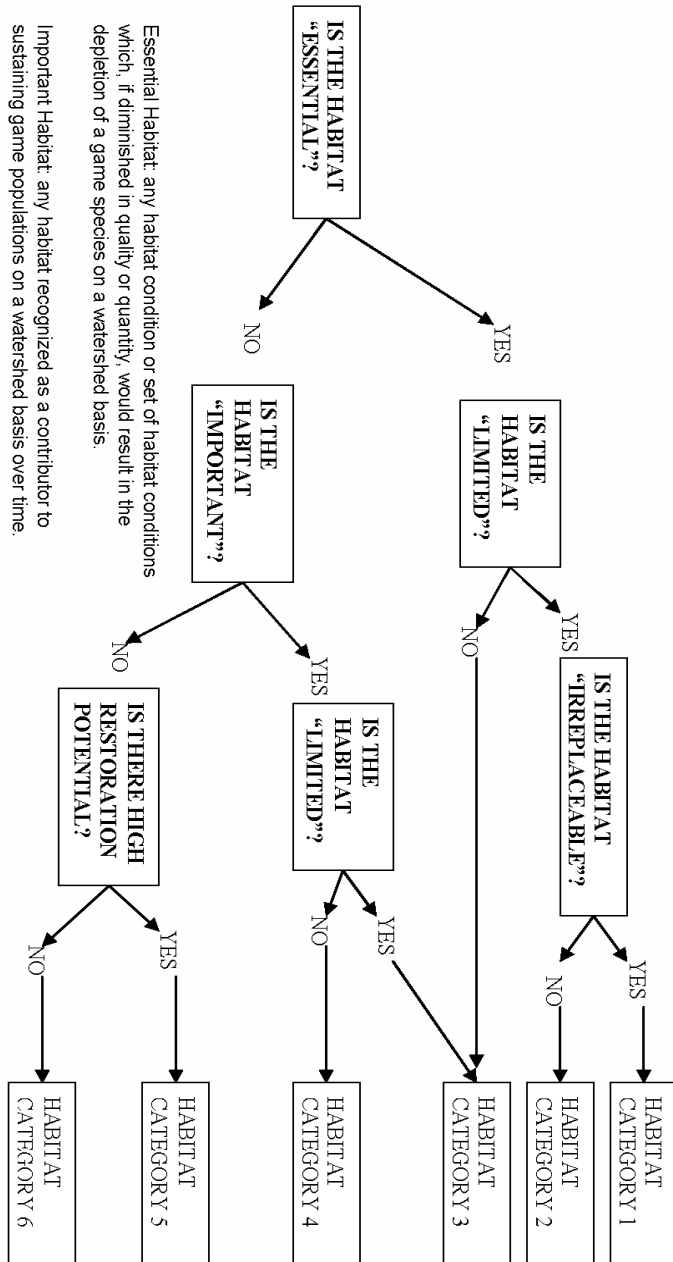
Definition: game species that exist in the watershed district in huntable numbers, but that the general public does not have reasonable hunting access to (via public land, current A&H properties, etc.)

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

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.

A&H Habitat Category Flow Chart



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	8	\$1.80		\$0.00
Private Permission	8	\$1.08	336	\$362.88
Inaccessible Public	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Accessible Public	N/A	\$0.36	0	n/a
Total Payment:				\$362.88



ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Regional Advisory Council Project Proposal Review

ODFW Region / A&H Regional Council: Southwest

Project Proposal Title: Rogue River Preserve

Applicants(s): Steve Wise (Executive Director, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy-SOLC); Krisi Mergenthaler (Stewardship Director, SOLC)

Date of Council Review: 6/6/2025

Type of Project: Access Habitat Other (*specify*) Damage

Motion:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Rob Schab	Chair	yes
Joe Vargas	Landowner Representative	yes
Bill Jackson	Landowner Representative	NP
Suzi Armstrong	Landowner Representative	yes
Brian “Kent” Perkins	Hunter Representative	yes
Zach Davis	Hunter Representative	NP
Red Schlichting	Hunter Representative	yes

Disposition of Vote: Motion passed 5-0. Bill and Zach both had excused absences

Project Strengths: This location is a mecca for relatively unpressured birds and a great opportunity to see what the Rogue Valley used to look like prior to development and parcel partitioning in the 1800’s through present. Council agrees there will be interest from the public out here. The area is heavily used by deer and elk as well, and has one of the most in-tact riparian forests in the upper Rogue Valley, which should be supported, and it is also supporting numerous other state sensitive species. SOLC has a steady stream of volunteer labor that helps with its habitat stewardship activities throughout the year and has also shown good examples of how they are controlling and beating back noxious weeds.

Project Concerns: Early drafts of the proposal was originally for fall turkey hunting. Discussions between ODFW and SOLC have taken place about even a potential youth deer opportunity in fall. Fear there is more support by the Board and it’s public membership for pursuing turkey might never realize a youth deer opportunity. Up until recently, the thought of public hunting at one of these SOLC managed properties was pretty unheard of. Ultimately, SOLC was a little apprehensive about going full forward with a large number of hunters in year one (spring 2026). Hunt by Reservation program will be key in successfully implementing a public access project here. They were concerned about fall hunts potentially spooking off the semi-residential elk herd that frequents the property in the winter months.

Council Member Comments: Originally the habitat component was 2x the amount currently being asked, but due to the reduction in fall turkey hunting and no big game opportunity the council decided to cut it in half. Council was ok with a soft start as requested by the SOLC. Council sees this as an opportunity to begin a relationship with SOLC and hopefully increased opportunities will develop on Rogue River Preserve and possibly with other SOLC managed properties or neighbors. Could be a good showcase to show how hunting dollars contributes toward conservation and habitat enhancement. Ryan shared what he learned from SOLC staff: “Turkey hunting currently seems better supported by SOLC Board and it’s public membership because they consider them introduced species. There may need to be some changes to their management plan if we will ever realize a deer opportunity.” Council is just happy that we currently have an “In” to show how the A&H program can benefit the property and begin a good relationship of showcasing hunting and conservation.