



PROJECT COMMITTEE

In person and teleconference meeting

March 16, 2017

Attendees:	Attending by phone:	Guests:	Staff
Dave Cummings	Craig Johnston	Susan Barnes	Tim Greseth
Susan Foster	Meg Townsend	Jennifer Bohannon	Pam Simser
Marcia Hartman			
Gordon King			
Bill Shake			

Project Committee meeting was called to order at 11:45.

Jennifer Bohannon, ODFW's Wildlife Restoration Coordinator, introduced herself and talked about the Western Pond Turtle which is an Oregon Conservation Strategy species and candidate for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Western pond turtles have been state listed in Washington. The Oregon Conservation Strategy was first published in 2006 and updated just last year. It is no longer a printed document but resides entirely online at oregonconservationstrategy.org. The Strategy is a blueprint for what needs to be done to recover sensitive species such as Western pond turtles.

Susan Barnes, ODFW's Habitat Conservation Biologist, talked about the Western Pond Turtle competitive state wildlife grant. Oregon has two native turtles; Western Pond and Painted Turtles; both are listed as sensitive species.

The Competitive State Wildlife Grant program is administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Oregon is applying, in this round, along with Washington and California for ~\$500,000 in funding to support recovery of Western pond turtles. While the applicant states are working together to share information and strategies, the grant request includes objectives that are specifically for pond turtles in Oregon.

ODFW approached the Foundation and has asked us to partner with them for this grant. They are seeking \$30,000 in match funding support over a three-year period from the Foundation. There's also the possibility that the Foundation will play a role in the administration of project activities here in Oregon. The prospective role, beyond funding, is still to be determined.

Additional match funding is coming from the Port of Portland and Cities of Salem and Eugene. The Audubon Chapter in Salem is providing in-kind support among several other organizations (mostly public).

MINUTES December 8, 2016 –

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as recorded from the December 8, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

PROJECT FUNDS - \$214,774 are unrestricted for grant making purposes. The 2017 approved Project Committee budget was reviewed and discussed.

OLD BUSINESS –

- **Clackamas Boat Ramp** – Brad Staples checked with Todd Albury, ODFW, and there's been no additional progress regarding the Clackamette boat launch.
- **Buttermilk Creek Habitat Enhancement** – the OWEB review team rated our project #5/10 projects reviewed which puts it above the funding cut line. This means there's a reasonably good chance it will be funded by OWEB.
- **Upper Sunshine Creek Habitat Enhancement** - the OWEB review team rated our project #1/10 projects reviewed which means that it will most likely receive funding.
- **Long Prairie Re-vegetation** - the OWEB review team declined to recommend funding for this project. Lincoln County SWCD will reapply in the spring OWEB cycle in our place.

NEW PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Project 17-01 Harborton Frog Shuttle (Ongoing)

This is a project that was funded previously and requires ongoing funding. Donations to the Harborton Frog Shuttle project will be solicited and administered by the Foundation.

We're also producing a video about this project. It should be ready for viewing by the end of this month.

Project 17-02 Wetlands on the Sprague

The Islands on the Sprague project is the restoration of a 15.56 acre parcel located downstream from the Klamath Lake Land Trust 316 acre project that the Foundation helped to fund in 2014 and 2016. The Sprague River meanders through this new property in such a way as to provide ½ mile of waterfront with a small island and several wetland areas, making it an excellent and cost-effective restoration project. Restoration includes fencing to exclude cattle, planting of native trees, shrubs, and seeding with a mix of native grasses. KLLT is requesting \$5,000 in funding to purchase assorted native riparian plants.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the project as requested. Motion carried.

Project 17-03 2017 Youth Outdoor Day

The purpose of this event is to give kids the opportunity to learn about wildlife and habitat conservation, fishing, hunting, and other outdoor sports. Sessions offered include sporting clays and archery clinics, waterfowl calling; duck decoy painting, dog training, songbird nest box building, fishing pond, GPS 101, and the basics of wilderness survival. This year's YOD is a scaled down version of the event held last year. The Department expects to serve approximately ½ as many kids as in 2016. As in years past, the Foundation will serve as the lead and fiscal sponsor for YOD. ODFW has requested \$2,000 in funding for the 2017 Youth Outdoor Day event.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the project as requested. Motion carried.

Project 17-04 Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase I)

In 2010 the area around Halfway, Oregon experienced a flood event that caused significant damage to infrastructure and highlighted, to many residents, the poor health of their riparian areas. The Powder Creek Watershed Council has been working with six landowners to restore a 2 mile section of Clear Creek; which is designated as critical habitat for bull trout (an Oregon Conservation Strategy sensitive species). Recently an engineering firm completed restoration plans that include revegetation of bare banks, fencing to prevent browse, placement of fish habitat structures, replacement of fish barriers caused by diversion dams, improvement of livestock watering, and the stabilization of stream banks with buried wood debris. The first phase of this plan will restore approximately .6 stream miles on two properties. The Powder Basin Watershed Council is requesting \$5,000 in funding from the Foundation.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the project as requested, contingent on OWEB grant approval. Motion carried.

Project 17-05 American Bullfrog Age and Growth

This project will use histological methods to collect data on three of the most important parameters of bullfrog population dynamics: 1) growth rate, 2) age at reproductive maturity, and 3) potential longevity of Oregon bullfrogs. This data is needed to successfully manage bullfrogs for the conservation of native amphibian populations and freshwater wetland habitats statewide. Rombough Biological is requesting \$9,500 to cover histology fees and some consumable supplies.

Defer voting on this project. Tim will ask ODFW's biologist to review, approve the described process and document how the data will be used in by the Department and others. Once the information is received, it will be distributed via email and the Committee will vote via email.

Project 17-06 Bonneville Hatchery Volunteer Host Internet Access

This project will be funded by ODFW monies that OWF manages on their behalf. The funds are derived, by agreement with the Department, from sales at Bonneville Gift Store (nee Spruce Gifts & Provisions). Although the Department has already approved the funding for this project, under our agreement requests are subject to a review by OWF's Project committee. The Department is requesting \$2,000 to provide internet access for volunteer hosts at two different locations on the Hatchery grounds.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the project as requested. Motion carried.

Project 17-07 Lingcod Pot Development Project

In a collaborative effort, The Nature Conservancy's Oregon and Washington chapters, along with fishermen and researchers, have launched an effort to address the needs of the fishing community and species recovery off the coasts of Washington and Oregon. The cornerstone of this work is a new innovative fish pot, designed by fishermen to target lingcod and reduce the risk of catching overfished species such as Yelloweye Rockfish. The aim of this effort is to show, through collaborative research, that the fish pot safely targets lingcod without catching overfished rockfish species and Pacific halibut while still being an affordable and economically viable alternative for fishermen. The Nature Conservancy, Oregon chapter, is requesting \$10,000 to cover boat time (for testing of the fish pots).

Motion was made and seconded to decline the project as requested. Motion carried.

Project 17-08 Food Habits Study of Sierra Nevada Red Fox and Fisher

The purpose of this study is to collect and analyze scat to determine food habits of the Sierra Nevada red fox and fisher in Crater Lake National Park. OSU Cascades wildlife students will participate in field and lab work. Each scat sample will be preserved for genetic testing. Remaining scat material will be collected for content analysis using an established protocol. OSU Cascades is requesting \$5,000 that will be used to hire a Wildlife Biologist, under contract, to train and then oversee the activities of student volunteers.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the project as requested. Motion carried.

Project 17-09 Expanding Access to Environmental Education in Southern Oregon

The goal of this project, per the applicant, is to expand access to environmental education in Southern Oregon by providing 350 low-income youth and adults with free conservation and environmental education programs. Wildlife Safari is requesting \$5,000 from the Foundation to cover the cost of field trips.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the project as requested. Motion carried.

Request that Oregon Wildlife Foundation be recognized on all materials.

Project 17-10 Chemult Passing Lanes Wildlife Undercrossing

This project will design and construct a wildlife undercrossing at MP 179.8 on Highway 97 as part of the ODOT Chemult passing lanes project. ODFW is requesting \$10,000 that will, in part, leverage \$225,000 in Pittman Robertson funding. ODOT is contributing the balance of the funds to the project ~\$265,000.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the project as requested, subject to receiving pending grant requests. Need to understand how the Foundation will be recognized. Motion carried.

Meeting concluded at 1:37 pm.

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ALL MEETINGS ARE THURSDAY FROM 11:30-1:00 AT THE OREGON WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OFFICE.
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THEIR OWN LUNCH.

2017 MEETINGS:

- 6/22/2017
- 9/14/2017
- 12/7/2017