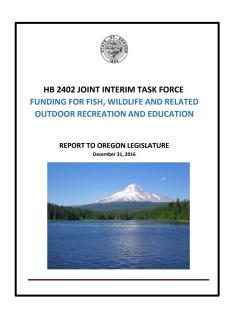
The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund





Background on the Creation of the Fund



2016

- Recommended the establishment of a Fund to provide new revenues to support species listed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.
- The Fund would be to support conservation, research, habitat improvements, and other activities that protect, maintain or enhance the native fish and wildlife of the state.

2019

- House Bill 2829 created the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and establishes the Advisory Committee.
- Directs the fund to focus on the intersection of conservation and outdoor recreation
- Established the fund as a public /private funding model

House Bill 2829

AN ACT

OCRF Mandate

The intent of the OCRF is to increase the Department's capacity to protect and enhance the species and habitats identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and create new opportunities for wildlife watching, urban conservation, community science, and other wildlife-associated recreation.



OCRF Mission and Goals









- Implementing of the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore Strategies.
- Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Investing in science and research to inform decisions regarding fish, wildlife and habitat.
- Restoring healthy ecosystems.
- Connecting youth, families, diverse and underserved communities to the outdoors.
- Helping all Oregonians take voluntary, proactive steps to conserve and protect fish, wildlife and habitat for future generations.

Outdoor Equity



The OCRF is dedicating a significant portion of the available funds to this purpose and will work with these audiences and stakeholders to identify and fund opportunities and projects that mutually support the interests, the intersection, and engagement of underserved communities.

OCRF Advisory Committee

Dr. Karl Wenner, Chair - Klamath Mountains Ecoregion

Mauricio Valadrian, Vice Chair - At-Large

Maret Pajutee - East & West Cascades Ecoregions

Kelly Timchak - Nearshore & Coast Range Ecoregion

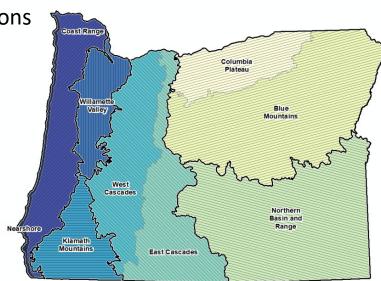
Jane Hartline - Willamette Valley Ecoregion

Mark Stern - At-Large

Dr. Sristi Kamal - At-Large

Vacant - Columbia Plateau & Blue Mountains Ecoregions

Vacant - Northern Basin & Range Ecoregion



OCRF Coalition — Partners in sharing the messages



























ZOO













OREGON

RECYCLERS

Oregon **Outdoors**



















COALITION































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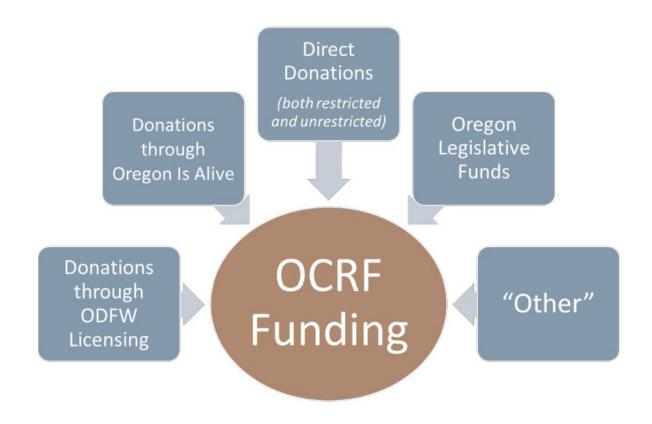






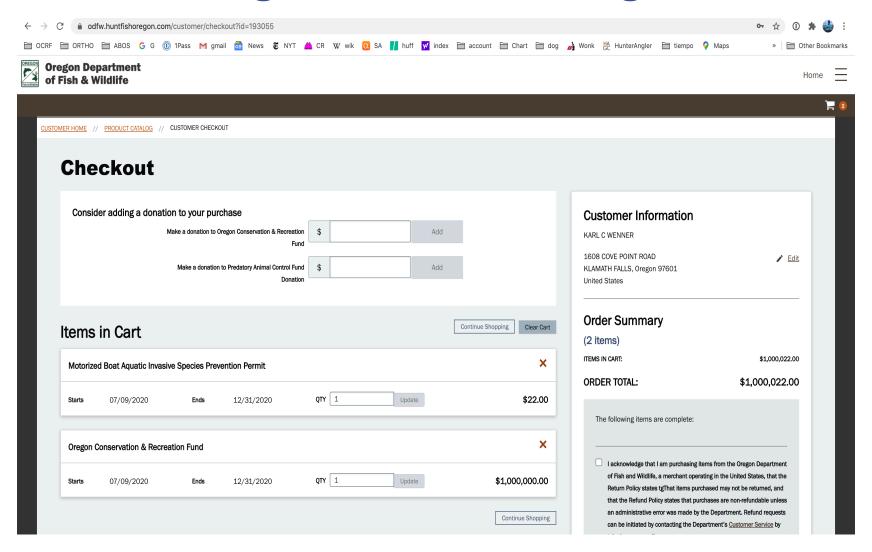
OCRF Funding

A successful example of a public-private partnership, where state General Funds have been used to leverage and match private donations



With recent investments by the Oregon Legislature and Private donations the OCRF is planning on granting approximately \$5 million in the next 2 years

OCRF Funding – ODFW Licensing site



We are currently raising around \$10,000 per month on the ODFW licensing site!

OCRF Granting Structure

The <u>Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee</u> was created to advise the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on expenditures from the Fund.

Two funding mechanisms exist for OCRF to utilize: competitive grants and direct awards

- 1) Competitive granting process (twice a year Dec/Feb and Aug/Oct)
 - Funding levels have been on the scale of \$10K to \$50K
 - *Project timelines of 1 − 3 years*
- 2) Direct awards outside of the competitive fund process

(as needed, and at the discretion of the Committee)

- Special project requests must be brought forward by an OCRF Advisory Committee Member
- Vetted through the OCRF Special Projects Subcommittee
- Voted on for recommendation by the main OCRF Advisory Committee

OCRF Projects

The OCRF started administering grants in early 2020 has awarded 88 grants through 4 funding rounds. Plus, several additional Special Projects Requests.

Last completed round - winter/spring 2022 - The OCRF selected 27 grants out of 60+ applicants, totaling \$1.1M for funding

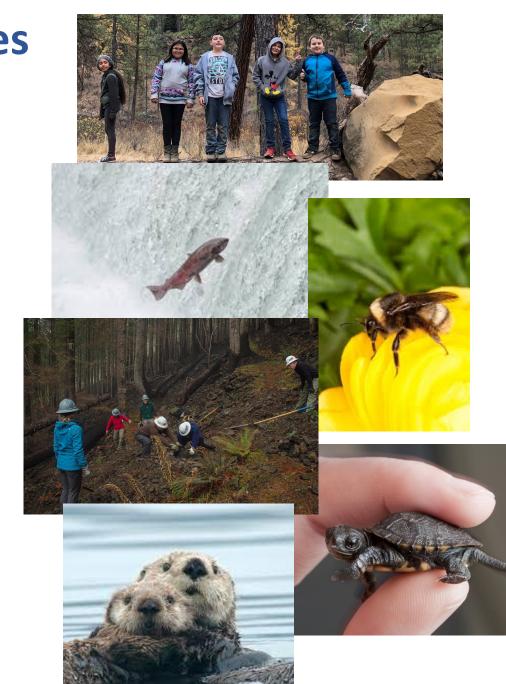
Over 90 total projects funded throughout the State

Grants totaling roughly \$2.5M



OCRF Project Examples

- Research supporting reintroduction of chinook salmon to the Klamath Basin
- Developing an atlas mapping the distribution of the Oregon Bumblebees
- Improving habitat for Western Pond Turtles
- Supporting programs that help remove barriers to the outdoors for people of color
- Designing wildlife friendly trail system in the Ochocos
- Reintroducing sea otters to Oregon coast



OCRF Summer/Fall 2022 RFP – recently closed and projects being evaluated

- Grant applications accepted for approximately 60 days.
- The maximum allowable grant request per institution and/or organization was \$50,000.
- Any public or private non-profit organization may request funds. Private non-profit organizations must have tax-exempt status under the IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).
- A newly required cap on institutional/organizational indirect overhead rates at 20% of the requested project budget.
- Updated project insurance guidelines.
- We received Over 60 applications, \$2.5 million in requests
- Approx. \$1 million in funds available

Future RFP's

Going forward, we anticipate having two funding rounds per year, winter/spring and summer/fall

We expect to have approximately \$1 million to award each round

OCRF Winter/Spring 2023 RFP

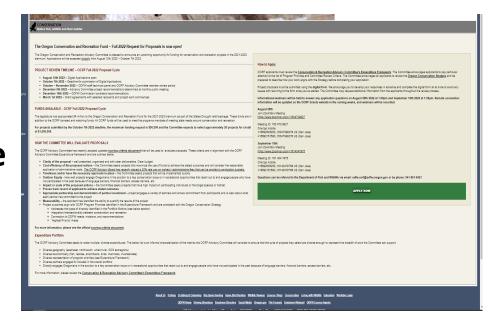
Request for Proposals (RFP)

sometime in February,
2023. Will be announced on website, email list

Informational Sessions – Early in Process, on website

RFP closes in April

Grant announcement in June



OCRF Project Scoring Criteria

Score (75 Total points)	Criterion
6	Clarity of the proposal
6	Cost efficiency of the proposed actions
6	Timeliness and/or have the necessary approvals in place
6	Outdoor Equity
6	Impact or scale of the proposed actions
6	Appropriate / demonstration of partner investment
6	Measurability
3	Applicant "track record"
30	Alignment with OCRF Program PrioritiesIntersection between Conservation and Recreation
**	Addresses a diversity of taxa, geography, and project types

Projects are scored by at least two OCRF Advisory Members as well as are reviewed by a technical panel of ODFW staff

The OCRF seeks to make multiple, diverse expenditures in each funding round

- Diverse geography (east/west, north/south, urban/rural, OCS ecoregions) compared across projects.
- Diverse taxonomically (fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, invertebrates) compared across projects.
- Diverse representation of program priorities (see <u>Expenditure Framework</u>) compared across projects.
- Diverse partners engaged & included in the overall portfolio compared across projects.

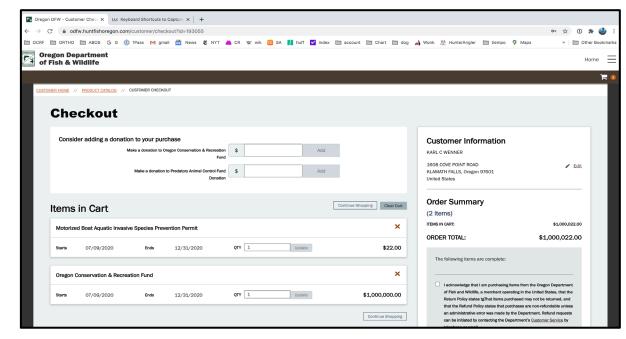


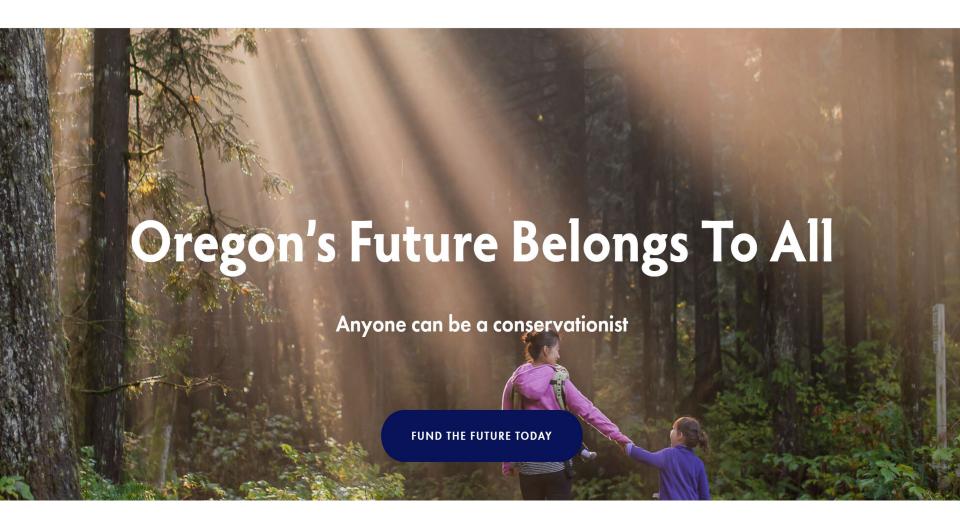
So what can the OCRF do for you?

- Consider applying to one of our funding rounds
- You can find information on the ODFW web site
- Information for next round should be available in January

What can you do for the OCRF?

- Go to our websites and learn more
- Tell your friends and colleagues about us
- Don't forget us when you buy a hunting or fishing license!







For more information please visit:

OregonIsAlive.org





THANK YOU!