

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Background

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“Trustees”) are seeking proposals to restore habitat for wildlife killed or injured by a 1993 diesel spill near Yoncalla, Oregon. Approximately 6,100 gallons of diesel fuel were released, heavily impacting 6 miles of Yoncalla Creek and Elk Creek. Local wildlife populations were injured by the event. In addition to immediate remedial actions taken to clean up the spill, the responsible party (Southern Pacific) was assessed natural resource damages under ORS 468B.060. A settlement agreement was reached to provide funding for mitigation projects, as administered by the Trustees through the Yoncalla Creek Spill Restoration Fund (“YCSRF”). Approximately \$150,000 in restoration funding is available through YCSRF in 2021.

Eligible Projects

The purpose of the YCSRF is to fund restoration actions (projects) that directly benefit wildlife affected by the spill. Funding priorities for 2021 include northwestern pond turtle, northern red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog and/or American beaver. Restoration projects that directly or indirectly benefit other priority species (see [Appendix 1](#)) will also be considered.

To qualify for funding, projects must occur within an eligible subbasin ([Figure 1](#)). Preference will be given to projects within the area most impacted by the spill (Umpqua Subbasin including Yoncalla Creek, Elk Creek and upper Umpqua River).

Projects must restore wildlife habitat. Habitat restoration is broadly defined as on-the-ground project activities that enhance or protect existing habitat; restore former or degraded habitat; or create new habitat in suitable areas for priority species. Restoration also includes administrative measures that protect habitat from land-use threats such as fee title land purchase, conservation easement, water right purchase and permanent instream water right transfer, or other formal conservation agreement.

Projects may be on private or public land. Project applications may be submitted by individual landowners, groups of landowners, conservation organizations, government agencies, and others.

Some examples of eligible projects include:

- Wildlife habitat protection through fee title acquisition, water right purchase, permanent or long-term conservation easement, instream flow restoration through permanent instream transfer, or a conservation/efficiency project involving reliable senior water rights;
- Restoration of ponds, riparian areas or other aquatic habitats;
- Reconnection of riparian off-channel and floodplain habitats;

- Restoration or protection of nesting/breeding sites, basking sites, cover habitat, overwintering areas, and travel corridors;
- Installation of exclusion fencing to protect aquatic habitat;
- Upland protection and restoration that also benefits riparian species and habitats;
- Removal of bullfrog, bass, and other invasive aquatic species.

Funding Considerations and Restrictions

Trustees will solicit proposals for eligible projects, evaluate project applications, and select projects to be funded. Trustees may request a site visit before finalizing the award decision.

Successful applicants will be reimbursed on a quarterly basis for eligible project costs, unless prior arrangements are made with the Trustees. Request for up-front funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Reimbursable costs must be documented with receipts/invoices for supplies/services. Include an itemized list of costs by category (labor, services, supplies, administration fees, etc.) and document individual hours worked.

The following considerations and restrictions apply to Yoncalla Creek Spill Restoration Funding:

- Applicants are encouraged to work with a conservation agency or conservation-oriented sponsor.
- Restoration funds are nonfederal funds that can be used to match federal dollars.
- Restoration funds cannot be used on research or general species surveys. However, they can be used to monitor the success of a restoration project (i.e., pre- and post-restoration monitoring).
- Restoration projects cannot be used to meet other state/federal requirements (e.g., habitat created using Yoncalla funds cannot be used to meet Section 404 wetland mitigation requirements).

Project Selection Criteria

Trustees will use the following criteria to evaluate projects:

- Mitigation of current threats to priority species/habitats;
- Anticipated project benefits to priority species;
- Effects of project on overall habitat connectivity;
- Vicinity of project to spill location (is the project within a first or second priority subbasin);
- Inclusion of measures for permanent/long-term habitat protection;
- Completeness of project narrative and budget;
- Adequate monitoring and/or management plan;
- Project costs are reasonable relative to potential restoration benefits;
- Timeline and feasibility of proposal;
- In-kind contributions and project partner engagement and experience;

- Priority habitat or species not benefited by prior or concurrent projects.

Project Application

Use the checklist below to help complete your [Project Application](#):

- Project Information
- Applicant Information
 - 501c3 designated status letter
- Project Permits (if applicable)
- List of Project Partners
- List of Affected Species
- Project Narrative
 - Part A or B (as relevant to your project)
 - Management/Monitoring Plan
- Project Map/Aerial Imagery/Site Photos
- Letter(s) of Support (optional)
- Timeline
- Budget

Project Monitoring & Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will submit annual progress reports during the project implementation phase and a final summary report when the project is complete. Post-implementation monitoring reports will be submitted annually, and a summary report is expected once monitoring is complete. Restoration outcomes shall be monitored by successful applicants for at least 5 years post-implementation.

Project Submission

Deadlines for submission are March 1st and September 1st¹. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by May 1st and November 1st, respectively. An award letter with project terms and conditions will be issued to successful applicants. Proposals are to be submitted by email to odfw.ycsrf@state.or.us.

¹ The fall award period is contingent on unawarded funds. Please verify availability of funds before completing a fall YCSR application.

YCSRF PROJECT APPLICATION

A. Project Information

Project Name:			
Project Area (acres or linear feet):		Total YCSRF Request Amount:	
Township:	Range:	Section(s):	
Latitude/Longitude:		Datum:	Tax Lots:
County:		Nearest City:	
Subbasin Name: (see map on pg. 5)			

B. Applicant Information

Primary Contact Name:		Phone Number:	
Organization:			
<i>If 501c3, provide a copy of your Federal IRS 501c3 designated status letter with your application</i>			
Applicant Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Landowner	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Trust	<input type="checkbox"/> SWCD	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
Street Address:		Mailing Address:	
Email:			
Website:			

C. Project Permits

For more information, see the [State Water-Related Permits User Guide](#).

The following permits are needed to complete this project (please indicate current permit status/timeline):

No permits are needed for this project.

D. Project Partners

Provide a list of project partners. Indicate their anticipated role in the project. Include prior experience of the applicant or partner organization as relevant to the application.

E. Affected Species

Please identify the priority species for your project (include up to 10). Identify, briefly, how the project will address habitat needs for each species. Provide an estimate of the number of animals (<10, 10-50, 50-100, 100+) that will benefit from your project using known occurrence/survey data or historical population sizes for restoration sites. See [Appendix 1](#) for the full list of eligible mitigation species.

	Species	Habitat Needs Addressed:	# of Animals
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

F. Project Narrative

Attach a summary (1-3 pages) of the project/property. Include the following information as relevant to your project:

- What are the historical and current land uses? Include adjacent property land uses as relevant.
- Describe the habitat types associated with the project/property. Indicate historical, current, and desired future conditions.
 - For upland habitats, indicate if project/property will improve riparian habitat quality (e.g., reduce sedimentation, reduce water temperature, increase flow volume).
 - Include other landscape features as relevant.
- Describe the level of risk to species or species' habitats. Threats may be anthropogenic (e.g., habitat conversion or development, resource extraction) or environmental (e.g., invasive species, species extirpation, loss of connectivity, poor habitat quality).

- Are invasive species present? How will invasive species be addressed? (state weed list available [here](#))
- Will the project/property improve habitat connectivity (e.g., adjacent to protected lands or high-quality habitats, protection of upland areas needed for terrestrial life-history stages of priority species)?
 - Are there any Conservation Opportunity Areas associated with the project site? (browse ODFW Conservation Strategy COAs [here](#))
- Include a description of any sequencing or phasing of project efforts. What phase(s) are YCSRF funds going towards? What plans are in place to secure funding for future phases?
- Include a map, aerial imagery, and photos of the proposed project site. The project area is to be clearly delineated on the map or photo. Indicate restoration areas, important wildlife habitats, material staging areas, and other project design features as relevant to your project.

Include Part A for Easements, Acquisitions, Instream Flow Restoration, and Other Conservation Agreement Proposals:

- Describe the conservation agreement. Who will hold the property/easement /water right? What is the duration of the agreement?
 - Fee title acquisitions and long-term or permanent easements should be owned/held and managed by an organization that can provide dedicated conservation stewardship. Provide documentation demonstrating a high level of certainty that the proposed conservation values/actions will be achieved.
- Describe the overall vision for the property, including the purpose and goals for the site, and a management strategy/plan for the property. How will implementation of the proposed conservation agreement achieve the purpose/goal for the site? Please refer to maps as necessary.
- Describe capacity to implement long-term (10+ years) operation and maintenance tasks. Include any past experience in managing conservation properties. Is there additional fiscal capacity such as an endowment, stewardship funding, or other long-term funding to support management needs?

Include Part B for On-the-ground Restoration Projects:

- Describe objectives for restoration and desired future condition.
- What are the proposed project actions to protect, restore, or create new habitat? What habitat deficiencies will be addressed?
- Include a monitoring plan with measurable outcomes and how/when that information would be obtained. Project applicants should monitor restoration outcomes for at least 5 years post-implementation (or until restoration objectives are achieved). The plan should include adaptive management strategies to address potential risks to restoration outcomes (e.g., invasive weeds, recreational disturbance, extreme weather, etc.).

G. Letters of Support – Optional

Applicants are encouraged to attach a letter of support to their application from a natural resource professional (e.g., agency, tribe, watershed council, non-governmental organization, etc.). The letters should explain how the proposed project/property will improve habitat for priority species.

For projects/properties on private lands, include a letter of support from the current landowner(s) stating that they are aware of and support the grant application.

H. Timeline

In the space below, please provide a timeline that includes project milestones and anticipated completion dates. Also include dates for submission of implementation and monitoring reports.

I. Budget

Please detail the anticipated costs associated with your project. Use the table provided in [Appendix 2](#), or attach a spreadsheet with equivalent information.

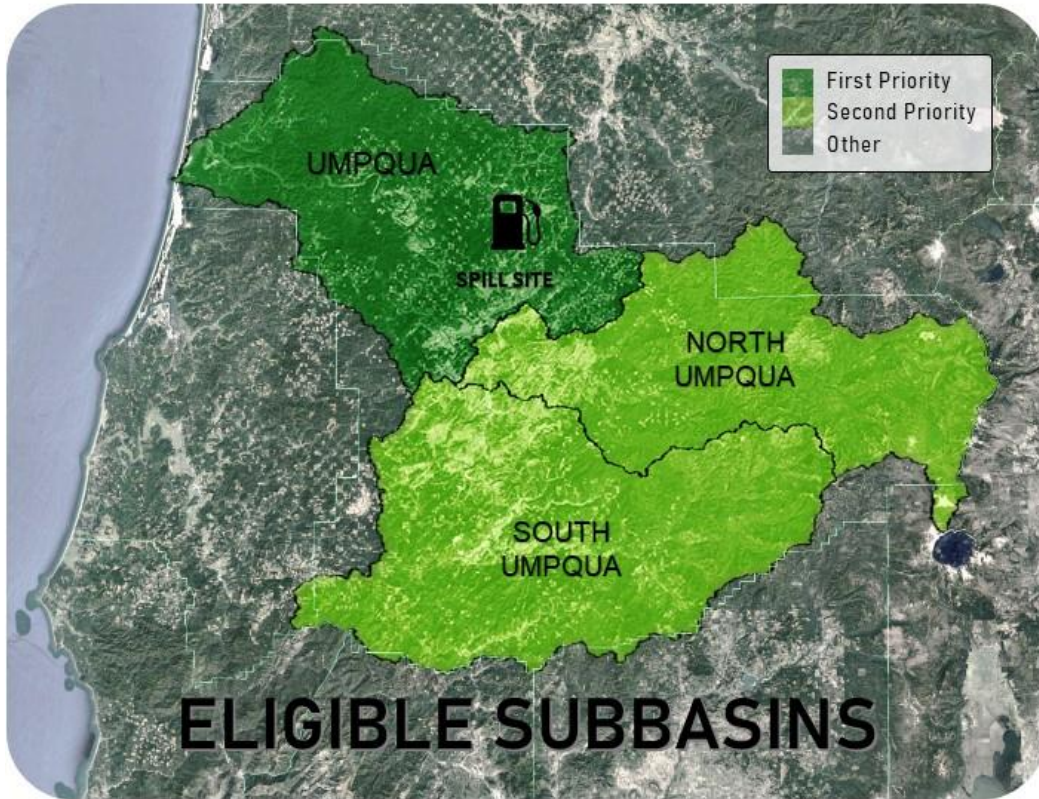
For property acquisition projects, include acquisition costs, limited due diligence costs, and operations and maintenance costs for this project. Include indirect costs as applicable. Other eligible costs include labor, contracted services, materials/supplies, travel costs, equipment rental fees, and permit fees. Include methods for cost estimation in the notes section.

Funding Request:

Applicants will be reimbursed on a quarterly basis for eligible project costs, unless prior arrangements are made with the Trustees. Request for up-front funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- I will submit invoices on a quarterly basis for project costs; or
- I request the following accommodation:

Figure 1. Map of Eligible Restoration Locations for YCSRF Funding.



Appendix 1. List of Mitigation Species.

This list identifies species prioritized for habitat protection or restoration through YCSRF. Species with high priority for funding are those occurring at the spill site that have not been adequately addressed by previous mitigation projects, with higher magnitude of mortality documented post-spill, a special conservation status, and/or habitat needs associated with riparian or aquatic habitats. See [Appendix 3](#), or contact the Wildlife Conservation Biologist for this region (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: Jade Keehn, 541-857-2403) if you have additional questions about the types of projects that would benefit these priority species.

- Highest Priority:
 - Northwestern Pond Turtle
 - Northern Red-legged Frog
 - Foothill Yellow-legged Frog
 - American Beaver
- High Priority:
 - Coastal Giant Salamander
 - Rough-skinned Newt
 - Northern Pacific Treefrog
 - River Otter
 - Muskrat
 - Great Blue Heron
 - Green Heron
 - American Dipper
 - Belted Kingfisher
 - Native Ducks and Geese
- Moderate Priority:
 - Coastal Tailed Frog
 - Southern Torrent Salamander
 - Native Sparrow sp.
 - Ringtail
 - Western Skink
 - Garter Snake sp.
- Low Priority:
 - Clouded Salamander
 - Dunn's Salamander
 - Long-toed Salamander
 - Northwestern Salamander
 - Northern Flicker
 - Spotted Towhee
 - Wood Thrush
 - White-tailed Deer
 - Pallid Bat
 - Townsend's Big-eared Bat
 - Coyote
 - Gray Fox
 - Red Fox
 - White-footed Deer Mouse
 - Jumping Field Mouse
 - Gopher Snake
 - Ring-necked Snake
 - Native amphibian, other
 - Native reptile, other
 - Native bird, other
 - Native mammal, other

Appendix 2. Budget Template.

Budget Item	YCSRF Request (\$)	In-kind/ match amount (\$)	Match Source	Secured?	Notes
Total YCSRF Request:			Total Project Cost:		

Appendix 3. Additional Resources.

DEQ SITE SUMMARY REPORT FOR YONCALLA DIESEL SPILL. Available from:

<https://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ECSl/ecsdetail.asp?seqnbr=1353>

STATE WATER-RELATED PERMITS USER GUIDE. Available from:

https://www.oregon.gov/DSL/WW/Documents/water_related_permits_user_guide_2012.pdf

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NOXIOUS WEED POLICY AND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM. Available from:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/NoxiousWeedPolicyClassification.pdf>

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS.

Available from: <https://oregonconservationstrategy.org/conservation-opportunity-areas/>

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE GUIDANCE FOR CONSERVING OREGON S NATIVE TURTLES INCLUDING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. Available from:

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/docs/ODFW_Turtle_BMPs_March_2015.pdf

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONSERVING THE FOOTHILL YELLOW-LEGGED FROG. Available from:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=157562&inline>

U.S. FOREST SERVICE FOOTHILL YELLOW-LEGGED FROG CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT IN CALIFORNIA. Available from:

https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr248/psw_gtr248.pdf

INTERAGENCY SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES PROGRAM CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT FOR THE FOOTHILL YELLOW-LEGGED FROG (*RANA BOYLI*) IN OREGON. Available from:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/documents/planning-docs/ca-ha-rana-boylii-2009-04-22.doc>

NORTHERN RED-LEGGED FROG RESTORATION CASE STUDY (PEARL 2013, RESPONSE OF NORTHERN RED-LEGGED FROG (*RANA AURORA*) AND OTHER AMPHIBIANS TO WETLAND HABITAT CREATION AT WINTERGREEN FARM, OREGON). Available from:

<http://www.wintergreenfarm.com/sites/default/files/LongTomReportOnAmphibians2013.pdf>

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BEAVER RESTORATION GUIDEBOOK: WORKING WITH BEAVER TO RESTORE STREAMS, WETLANDS, AND FLOODPLAINS. VERSION 2.01.

Available from: <https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Documents/2018BRGv.2.01.pdf>