

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20002

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative 2022

Applicant: South Willamette Solutions

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$64,999

Total Cost: \$149,800

Application Description The Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC) is a community-based forest collaborative group that works in the upper Middle Fork Willamette watershed to bring people and organizations together for healthy forests and communities. The SWFC works with the Willamette National Forest Middle Fork Ranger District, Oregon Department of Forestry, Lane County, local community leaders, conservation groups, industry, small business and local citizens. This project will fund facilitation and coordination to 1) facilitate SWFC collaboration committees to develop and advance zones of agreement, 2) increase community and partner outreach in support of the ZOAs, and 3) continue to increase the pace and scale of restoration in the Upper Willamette area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides clear details on the activities planned by the collaborative.
- The application provides a clear discussion of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the steps the collaborative took to overcome associated challenges.
- The collaborative has history of successful work on a large project on federal land.
- The U.S. Forest Service provides strong match and is clearly engaged in the collaborative.

Concerns

- The application was not clear on the timeline for pending federal Environmental Assessments, and if that might impact the ability of the collaborative to accomplish their work.
- It is unclear if the partner list provided in the application is current.

Concluding Analysis

This collaborative is effectively engaging with the U.S. Forest Service and increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration in their geography. It will be important for the organization to continue work towards diversifying their funding in order to sustain efforts in the years to come.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$64,999

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$64,999

Staff Conditions

Prior to first grant payment, the grantee must submit the most current membership of the collaborative.

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20011

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: SOFRC/RFP Governance & ZOA project

Applicant: Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC)

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: \$66,033

Total Cost: \$78,033

Application Description This project is in the Rogue Basin of Southwest Oregon. There is a need to develop collaborative governance agreements for the Rogue River–Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (RBCFLR) project, expected to be awarded in 2022 and to run through 2032. Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) and members of the Rogue Forest Partnership (RFP) collaborated extensively to write the CFLR proposal, based in part on the assessments and vision developed in the SOFRC-sponsored Rogue Basin Strategy (Metlen et al., 2017).

. SOFRC proposes to work with the RRSNF in establishing a durable, inclusive, and effective collaborative engagement structure. SOFRC would invite diverse participation in a formal committee to organize collaborative involvement in planning, implementation and planning for the CFLR projects. Specifically, the work will include drafting and implementing a robust charter that will serve all interested partners, supporters, and the RRSNF. The RRSNF expects to draw capacity from the RFP, and the partners need to have a strong foundation at the beginning of the CFLR project.

Zones of Agreement are needed with the RRSNF to refine the implementation of collaborative projects including the RBCFLR and agreements are needed on several topics, e.g. :1) expansion of stewardship agreements or contracts to include units that have more than marginal product value. 2) increase the use of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), stewardship agreements and contracts. 3) expansion of restoration and prescribed fire .

The Medford BLM is about to release a large programmatic EA for District wide vegetation treatments. SOFRC seeks to work with the BLM to smooth the integration of this important document by promoting work around communities, possibly in a ten-year action plan. Partners include the RFP, RRSNF, BLM, The Nature Conservancy, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a well-established collaborative with strong organizational capacity.

- The collaborative has a history of successful project implementation.
- The application clearly outlines roles and responsibilities of collaborative members.
- The proposed scope of work in the application outlines manageable tasks for the collaborative to address.
- The collaborative employs an experienced facilitator.

Concerns

- The application presented an ambitious timeline considering the potential challenges that may be present in working in certain landscapes and ownership.
- The application could be improved by a discussion of existing funding gaps and overlap as this region has been successful in obtaining large amounts of forest restoration funding in recent years.
- The lack of engagement with county governments is a concern.

Concluding Analysis

This is a well-established collaborative that is clearly able to implement projects on-the-ground. The collaborative is engaging in controversial issues, which is both a strength, and a potential concern if these issues ultimately slow down the other important work the collaborative is engaged in.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$66,033

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$66,033

Staff Conditions

NA

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20012

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Wasco-Hood River Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Wasco

OWEB Request: \$49,500

Total Cost: \$102,300

Application Description Wasco-Hood River Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative proposal will accelerate the pace, scale, and complexity of forest management and restoration projects in Hood River and Wasco Counties. A century of fire suppression and decades of stakeholder conflict have led to degraded forest conditions and a wildfire crisis in Oregon. Forest collaborative partners propose to develop Zones of Agreement and accelerate implementation of all-lands forest restoration and management activities in high-risk areas as identified by the Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment and State of Oregon. Project partners include Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Warm Springs Tribe, Wamic Fire Department, Wasco County Board of Commissioners, Northern Oregon Motorcycle and ATV Club, White River Watershed Council, North Wasco School District 21, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District, WKO/High Cascade, Bark, Green Diamond Resource Company, Hood River Watershed Group, and Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is straightforward and easy to understand the activities proposed.
- The application details engagement with local partners, and highlights a good working partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.
- The application notes that the two forest collaboratives are working on addressing challenging topics.

Concerns

- The application could be strengthened with a more robust discussion of how the project work leads to an increased pace and scale of forest restoration.
- The application articulates the barriers to prescribed fire, but does not illustrate how Zones of Agreement would eliminate or reduce those barriers.
- This is one application serving two forest collaboratives, and it is unclear how the two groups are communicating successes and challenges.

Concluding Analysis

The Wasco and Hood River forest collaboratives have an established model of sharing a facilitator and fiscal sponsor. The collaboratives have demonstrated good community engagement and support and a track record of success. The collaboratives are encouraged to continue building their relationship with one another, and sharing how the model is effective at advancing the goals of both organizations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$49,500

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$49,500

Staff Conditions

NA

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20013

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative Capacity Grant

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: \$38,500

Total Cost: \$42,676

Application Description The Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative (WRCFC) seeks to increase the pace, scale and effectiveness of restoration in Curry County by creating a Zones of Agreement document focusing on post-fire restoration. Catastrophic wildfires in Oregon are projected to increase in intensity and frequency in the future, and with the impacts of the 190,000 acre Chetco Bar Fire in 2017 still being felt, the WRCFC has identified post-fire recovery as a priority within the group. Together with the United States Forest Service and a diverse group of regional organizations, the WRCFC will engage board members and the public in eight discussions on goals, priorities and specific actions related to post-fire restoration. The WRCFC is committed to an inclusive environment and open dialogue to ensure that all views are represented in the discussion. Notes from the discussions will be used to create a final Zones of Agreement document that will fast-track post-fire recovery projects from the United States Forest Service and provide a platform for securing grant funds for complimentary projects. Together, these actions will help the WRCFC work towards a shared vision for the Southern Oregon Coast, provide benefits for fish, wildlife and recreation, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of forest ecosystem restoration across a landscape.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is straightforward and easy to follow.
- The collaborative is engaged in post-fire restoration and response, and could be seen as a model to follow as wildfire becomes more prevalent across the landscape.
- The collaborative contributed to moving forward forward a large project on federal land, and has experience engaging with the U.S. Forest Service successfully.

Concerns

- The application could be strengthened with a more detailed scope of work and timeline identified.
- It is unclear if the membership list provided reflects the current membership of the collaborative.
- The application could be improved with inclusion of stakeholder engagement activities that demonstrate a recognition of the potential social challenges present.

Concluding Analysis

This collaborative has enjoyed success in the past, but reviewers struggled with the vague scope of work provided in the application and if the right stakeholders are at the collaborative table. Ultimately, the collaborative focus on post-fire restoration could provide a demonstration for others moving forward.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$38,500

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$38,500

Staff Conditions

- Prior to first grant payment, the grantee must submit a revised scope of work that provides clear details on the activities that the collaborative intends to implement in the 2021-2023 biennium.
- Prior to first grant payment, the grantee must submit the most current membership of the collaborative.

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20014

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Harney County Forest Restoration Collaborative

Applicant: High Desert Partnership

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: \$64,348

Total Cost: \$64,349

Application Description The Harney County Forest Restoration Collaborative (HCFRC) is committed to implementing restoration projects to improve the declining state of sustainability on the southern Malheur National Forest, 600,000 acres of dry pine forest which lies in the north end of Harney County, and associated public and private lands. Since first convening in 2008, HCFRC has seen about 279,223 acres of Forest projects approved under NEPA, without any litigation to date. Restoration of forest health has increased in urgency in light of the multiple megafires and wildfires that have caused devastation across Oregon. There is currently a backlog of approved restoration projects waiting to be implemented, and HCFRC is challenged with finding solutions in how to implement this work in a timely fashion despite economic and capacity related obstacles, while also ensuring the continued viability of the collaborative. The objectives of this work are to increase the rate of implemented projects so that it contributes to the local economy; to assess outcomes of implemented projects; and to expand communications and outreach. With the support of High Desert Partnership (HDP) and facilitator Jack Southworth, during this grant period the collaborative will convene regularly to review and update our Zones of Agreement (HCFRC's "Common Ground Principles") and monitoring strategy, and continue to evaluate the ecological, economic, and social outcomes of implemented projects to inform future projects. HCFRC project partners represent a wide range of interests, and include Harney County, industry representatives such as Iron Triangle LLC, Grayback Forestry, and Malheur Lumber, Burns District BLM, local ranchers & farmers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Western Environmental Law, Oregon State University, and the Emigrant Creek Ranger District (Malheur National Forest).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a well-established, active collaborative with a track record of successful work and community engagement.
- The application provides ample examples of community support for the collaborative.
- The discussion in the application around diversity, equity and inclusion topics is appreciated, as is the engagement with the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Concerns

- The application could be strengthened by a more robust and detailed discussion of previous accomplishments, proposed activities, and strategies for overcoming identified challenges to success.
- The project timeline in the application is overly general.
- It is unclear how grant deliverables will be used by U.S. Forest Service in managing the local national forest.

Concluding Analysis

The collaborative is clearly engaging the community in discussing federal forest management in a relatively simple forest ecosystem. The application lacks some details on how products will be used, and has a general timeline. The applicant is encouraged to focus the proposed activities and engage with the U.S. Forest Service on how deliverables will be used by the agency.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$64,348

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$64,348

Staff Conditions

NA

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20015

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Northern Blues Forest Collaborative: Climate Change Zones of Agreement

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: \$36,921

Total Cost: \$54,021

Application Description Building off of the success of the recently adopted Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (NBFC) Operating Principles and overarching Zones of Agreement, the NBFC is seeking funding to develop Zones of Agreement addressing the impacts of climate change on our national forests. Zones of Agreement are mechanisms that help collaboratives elevate their work beyond the constraints of building consensus at a broader landscape level - thus providing greater efficacy and benefit to the quality, scale, and pace of forest restoration work. The current Zones of Agreement was designed to align areas of common agreement and consensus on ecological, economic, and social topics/issues relevant to the stewardship of the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests in NE Oregon. Funding for this project will bring in respected and credible independent researchers and work with US Forest Service staff specializing in climate change in order to introduce new and emerging data through a carefully developed curriculum. The primary goal of this curriculum is to help inform the conversations and move the groups closer to reaching consensus and ratifying concrete Zones of Agreement on climate change. In the past year, the NBFC has rebranded itself to be a leader in providing a platform for scientific information to be shared and understood, while also working with a diverse group of stakeholders to develop the social license needed to continue working towards healthy forests.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes a strong, straightforward scope of work
- The collaborative has grown stronger by working through previous challenges over the last few years.
- The application describes the collaborative is engaged on climate change issues. Understanding the effects of climate change on the forest, and how that will connect to forest management is important.
- This proposal builds on previous work by the collaborative. This work is timely and dovetails well with the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.
- The application articulates well the link between stakeholder engagement efforts and Zones of Agreement development.

Concerns

- It is unclear how entities other than the applicant will help carry the effort, particularly the administrative load.
- Limited county support for the collaborative could pose challenges.

Concluding Analysis

The collaborative is clearly successful in developing Zones of Agreement, and has recently adopted new operating principles. These are past successes to build on as the collaborative engages in challenging discussions on new Zones of Agreement addressing climate change impacts to the national forest.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$36,921

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$36,921

Staff Conditions

NA

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20018

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership Collaborative Support

Applicant: Lake County Resources Initiative

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: \$21,224

Total Cost: \$30,162

Application Description 1. This project will take place on the entirety of the Fremont-Winema National Forest boundaries located within Lake and Klamath Counties.

2. With the integration of the forest collaborative into the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP), there is an increased need for capacity to support ongoing collaborative activities, coordinating the annual field tour and meeting, and developing a collaborative governance document. The structure in which we currently operate provides many benefits and opportunities to support the pace, scale, and quality of projects on the Fremont-Winema National Forest, but has also highlighted our need for a dedicated, part-time employee to support ongoing operations.

3. Proposed Work: Lake County Resources Initiative (LCRI) will hire and employ a part-time employee starting April, 2022 through March, 2023 to manage the following activities...

- a. Attend monthly KLFHP meetings to record notes, lead meetings as needed, develop meeting agendas, and distribute meeting notes, notices, agendas, and other information to KLFHP members in a timely and consistent manner.
- b. Implement a communication strategy to bolster participation, promote information sharing, and consolidate information and resources in an easily accessible location to members and the public.
- c. Coordinate and plan the collaborative's annual field tour and corresponding meeting. Tasks associated with this include...
 - i. Agenda Development
 - ii. Development of "pre" and "post" event surveys to monitor impact
 - iii. Coordinate presentations and guest speakers
 - iv. Coordinating transportation logistics
 - v. Meal planning
 - vi. Other tasks as appropriate
- d. Development of a collaborative structure document or incorporation of deliverable into the KLFHPs existing bylaws.

4. Project Partners: Member organizations formally committed to provide assistance with this project: The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, and the Fremont-Winema NF.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes the all-lands emphasis of the collaborative.
- The collaborative intends to utilize a targeted field trip for the membership.
- The collaborative has enjoyed past successes through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

Concerns

- The application did not include the required economic and ecological objectives.
- The application would have been strengthened by inclusion of discussion on the impacts of the 2021 Bootleg Fire.
- The application included only limited committed partners.
- The application only contained limited objectives for the collaborative.

Concluding Analysis

While the collaborative has had some past success, the application lacked key details on the ecological and economic objectives of the organization. Additionally, the application included limited committed partners and did not describe engagement with the tribes. While a targeted field trip and annual meeting is important, these activities do not appear to be enough to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

NA

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NA

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20019

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative Capacity Building

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: \$71,548

Total Cost: \$87,748

Application Description Identify project location

The Siuslaw National Forest located within eight Oregon counties (Benton, Coos, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Polk, Tillamook, and Yamill)

Briefly state project need

The newly formed OCCFC was established with the goal of engaging stakeholders earlier in the NEPA process in order to help avoid future objections and potential litigation. To ensure the long-term success of the OCCFC the group needs to establish a more defined working relationship with the Forest Service through project engagement, develop Zones of Agreement, and continue to diversify and expand membership.

Describe proposed work

We will (1) establish guidelines for engaging early in the NEPA process with our Forest Service partners, (2) develop ZOA to increase efficiency for restoration of wildlife habitat and support of a rural timber economy, and (3) expand and diversify OCCFC membership. All of these will ensure the long-term success of the OCCFC through an increase in pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration on the Siuslaw National Forest.

Identify project partners

Representatives from diverse organizations including: Cascade Pacific RC&D, Integrated Resources Management, Oregon Wild, Portland Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Corvallis, Hampton Lumber, AFRC, Oregon State University, Sustainable Northwest, and private citizens. Partner agencies, including Tribal Governments with ceded land on and tribally owned land adjacent to the Siuslaw NF (specifically the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians with outreach to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians), Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. .

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes a clear scope of work for the collaborative, and demonstrates strong partnership support for the organization.
- While it is early in the formation of the collaborative, the organization appears to to have established a road map with the U.S. Forest Service.
- The application describes a goal of engagement with tribes.
- The proposed science talks described in the application can be a way to provide for early agreements amongst collaborative members.

Concerns

- The application could be strengthened with more detail on the collaborative's future goals.
- The application is unclear on how external speakers will facilitate Zone of Agreement work.

Concluding Analysis

The application describes a strong foundation for a new collaborative. The organization appears to be on a path to sustained success with strong partnership participation. It is recommended that the collaborative spend some time learning from similar organizations that have experience in wet forest collaboratives, including those in Western Washington.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$71,548

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$71,548

Staff Conditions

NA

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20020

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Clackamas Basin Wildfire Recovery CSP Collaborative ZOA

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: \$34,689

Total Cost: \$64,972

Application Description 1) This proposed project is focused on areas within the USFS Mt Hood- Clackamas Ranger District devastated by Riverside, & Lionshead fires in 2020 & Bull Complex fire in 2021.

2) Over 164,000 acres within the district were burned during 2020-2021 wildfires. The area has >100 miles of National Wild & Scenic River designations along with remarkable economic, recreation, wildlife, drinking water (source for 10% of Oregonians) & habitat for ESA listed fish species that show increasing counts. Recovery is imperative.

3) The project is designed to increase Clackamas Stewardship Partners (CSP) forest collaborative's decision-making capacity to increase the pace, scale & effectiveness of restoration projects on wildfire-impacted USFS lands in the Clackamas Basin. As a forest collaborative, the CSP provides input on forest management activities in the Clackamas Ranger District. Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC) staff will compile available Riverside, Lionshead & Bull Complex wildfire impact & recovery information for presentations to CSP members in accessible formats. While many CSP members & public participate in Zoom meetings & receive emails, some do not have these technological resources available. Identifying both fire recovery challenges & opportunities will expand CSP members' knowledge for effective participation in current & future USFS activities. In addition to Basin-specific wildfire information, other Northwest USFS recovery efforts will be surveyed to produce a generalized wildfire recovery calendar to inform CSP members, to anticipate recovery steps & to prepare for CSP's effective participation in recovery planning & implementation in stewardship of the Clackamas Ranger District & watershed. CSP will develop Zones of Agreement to guide decision-making & support for USFS management actions.

4) Project Partners: USFS & CSP members-CSP: BARK, Clackamas Co, CRBC, High Cascade, Interfor, OHA, PSU, public, RMEF, Trout Unlimited, SWCD, water providers

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application articulates that the collaborative is focused on wildfire issues, a very important topic with the potential to inform other collaboratives also working on activities related to wildfire.

- The collaborative is working in an ecologically complex area with a lot of community interest in federal forest health issues.

Concerns

- The application does not clearly outline the proposed work, which makes it difficult to assess if the application meets the objectives of the grant offering.
- The application does not adequately document partner involvement making it difficult to determine if the right stakeholders are engaged, including the U.S. Forest Service.
- The application is unclear if the amount of time budgeted for a facilitator would be adequate in this ecologically complex geography.

Concluding Analysis

It was difficult to determine if the proposed activities in the application were a good fit for the grant offering without an adequate scope of work. The applicant is encouraged to develop an application for a future grant offering that addresses this, and the other concerns, noted in the application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

NA

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NA

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20021

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Central Oregon Shared Stewardship Alliance

Applicant: Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$77,297

Total Cost: \$144,746

Application Description COS2A's project encompasses the federal, state, county, and private lands in Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties.

This project addresses the need for high-level coordination and collaboration among conservation partners to collectively prioritize forest restoration and fuels reduction projects. Without coordinated, prioritized collective action, we are left to engage in projects on a more-or-less opportunistic basis. This "Swiss cheese" approach is inadequate to meet the very-real threat of large-scale, high-severity facing our forests and communities today.

COS2A offers an alternative: A coordinated information and resource exchange network coupled with a process for jointly prioritizing forest restoration needs. COS2A's objectives are to:

- Enhance coordination, collaboration, and information sharing among conservation partners,
- Identify priority geographies where shared values and high restoration priorities overlap across the Central Oregon landscape,
- Increase our collective opportunity to secure funding for landscape-scale projects, and
- Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our partnerships.

We will develop governance documents for COS2A. Members will use available geospatial data sets to map shared restoration priorities. We will overlay human dimension data on the forest restoration needs, and solicit social science input to develop integrated strategies for addressing these issues. We will identify potential partners working with each priority area, and develop a communication protocol for sharing information.

Deliverables include: A list of priority geographies and associated conservation partners, a method for iteratively renewing that list of priorities, a suit of strategies for proactively addressing human dimensions of conservation, and a communication protocol for connecting partners with each other. Additionally, the COS2A will have governance documents in place. Partners are listed in the participating agency section below

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes motivation for the collaborative to implement landscape scale forest restoration.
- The development of governance documents would assist in guiding the collaborative's work.

Concerns

- While collective all-lands collaboratives do have a role on the landscape, it does not meet the intent of this grant program which is federal forest health.
- The application does not articulate roles and responsibilities clearly, and there are organizational concerns presently.
- The application did not demonstrate an awareness of work undertaken by Ochoco and Deschutes forest collaborative groups.
- The application did not articulate an understanding of existing barriers to success, or provide a good description of indicators of successful project work.

Concluding Analysis

The application describes an all-lands collaborative working across landownerships, which is not the focus of this federal forest collaboration grant offering. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with other forest collaboratives in the area in developing their role on the landscape.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

NA

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NA

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20022

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

Applicant: Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: \$84,980

Total Cost: \$156,554

Application Description Location: Deschutes National Forest with special focus on Garrison

DCFP will enhance its health and vitality, using information collected via an organizational assessment to restructure and revitalize our group. We will then create a decision-support tool that highlight collaborative priorities in common restoration scenarios. We will engage members and key stakeholders in mapping the roads and trails system on the Garrison project. Using the resulting spatial, qualitative, and photo data, in conjunction with DCFP's existing recommendations and Wildlife Habitat Fragmentation Tool, we will clarify collaborative priorities in complex social and ecological scenarios with inherent management trade-offs, enhancing support for fuels reduction and restoration projects by reducing individual objections, thus increasing the pace and scale of restoration.

Using implementation monitoring, we will enhance trust among collaborative members and between the DCFP and FS. This includes multi-monitoring field trips and our spatial heterogeneity pilot project, which compares pre-treatment LiDAR data with post-treatment phoDAR data, coupled with qualitative interviews to identify the most effective and efficient designation methods for enhancing spatial heterogeneity while also meeting other treatment objectives.

We will engage in online and in-person outreach to increase public understanding and support for prescribed fire and forest restoration treatments. Also, will engage key members of the impacted recreation community in our mapping effort and social learning process, with the goal of enhancing dialogue between DCFP and these community groups.

Partners: Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation, Deschutes National Forest, OSU Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is technically sound, and provides good details on existing issues faced by the collaborative and proposed activities during the biennium.
- The application proposes appropriate actions with detail on collaborative processes.
- This is a mature, long-standing collaborative group with strong science and administrative support.
- Proposed activities build on and enhance existing Zones of Agreement (ZOA), and will also explore refining ZOA.

Concerns

- The activities and timeline identified are ambitious. It is unclear if the timeline in the application is sufficient to complete the tasks proposed.
- Impending staff transition raises concerns around the capacity to successfully carry out the work proposed.
- The application would have been strengthened by additional clarity on how new ZOA are developed, and the connection between proposed actions and ZOA development.

Concluding Analysis

This is a mature, long-standing forest collaborative. The collaborative has an established track record of success, and a clear understanding of the activities necessary for future achievements. Concerns around the capacity of the collaborative and an overly ambitious timeline given staff transition should be mitigated by the strength of the collaborating partners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$84,980

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

\$84,980

Staff Conditions

Prior to first payment, the collaborative must provide a plan on how the organization intends to maintain the capacity to implement the activities described in the application.

Federal Forest Collaborative-2021 Forest Collaborative Cycle

Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 222-8008 -20023

Project Type: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Name: Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative

Applicant: Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: \$84,697

Total Cost: \$133,782

Application Description 1)Ochoco National Forest (ONF)

2/3)In the wake of COVID-19, OFRC has experienced record low participation and unprecedented capacity constraints, which inhibits our ability to accomplish our work in a timely, effective manner and to tackle large-scale, socially complex topics that support work on the ONF. A collaborative restructuring process will support OFRC in addressing the barriers to our long-term work, re-engaging our membership, prioritizing our work and staffing, and strengthen partnerships.

Objections to forest vegetation treatments near category 4 streams have significantly slowed NEPA completion on the Forest. OFRC has been drafting Riparian ZoA using science and social values to support effective and timely restoration work in these important habitats, but COVID-19 and capacity constraints have impacted the completion of this work. With a revamped staffing plan and funding, we will prioritize completing our riparian ZoA.

Our ability to support forest vitality into the future is hamstrung by a lack of agreement and understanding of how to manage the dry forest in the face of climate change. Social disagreement is high regarding a range of climate-associated tradeoffs and there is a need to engage the collaborative in understanding current climate science as related to the ONF and developing a social learning process to support their engagement on this issue going forward.

There is an enormous backlog of prescribed fire on the ONF, and OFRC is interested in ensuring this important component of forest restoration is not delayed. We will work with our partners to identify barriers to large-scale prescribed fire on the ONF, and learn from the successes of other forest partners in the region to understand what innovative opportunities exist to increase the scale, timing, and effectiveness of prescribed fire on the ONF.

4) Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation, Ochoco National Forest, OSU Extension, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The collaborative has a demonstrated history of past successes.

- The application notes a focus on Category 4 streams, and the development of Zones of Agreement for riparian habitats offers benefits.

Concerns

- The application does not clearly identify the problem to be treated, or make a clear connection between project activities to desired outcome.
- The capacity of the collaborative is declining with fewer accomplishments to point to in recent years.
- Declining community engagement and participation present a challenge to the collaborative.
- The application did not articulate the level of engagement with U.S. Forest Service; and a lack of adequate engagement would present a challenge to project success.

Concluding Analysis

The collaborative has enjoyed past success, but concerns on the current capacity of the organization and declining community participation point to a lack of the momentum necessary to complete the large scope of work contained in the application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

NA

Review Team Recommended Amount

\$0

Review Team Conditions

NA

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

NA

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

\$0

Staff Conditions

NA