R & E Grant Application 25-27 Biennium

Project #: 25-012

Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center Renovation

Project Information

Requested Cycle:	25-2
R&E Project Request:	$75,000
Other Funding:	$315,340
Total Project:	$390,340
Spending Start Date:	7/1/2025
Spending End Date:	6/30/2027
Project Start Date:	7/1/2025
Project End Date:	6/30/2027
Organization:	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation (Tax ID #: 93-0797904)

Applicant Information

Name:	Tim Greseth
Address:	2337 NW York Street, Suite 201C Portland, OR 97210
Telephone:	503-255-6059
Telephone 2:	503-939-2257
Email:	tim@myowf.org

Past Recommended or Completed Projects

This applicant has no previous projects that match criteria.

Location Information

Where is it?

The project will occur on public land owned or managed by another party

Landowner Information

Name: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Affiliation: Landowner at Bonneville Fish Hatchery
Address: P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR, 97208-2946
Phone: 503-808-4703

Site Description

Street Address, nearest intersection, or other descriptive location.

70543 NE Herman Loop, Cascade Locks, OR 97014-6663

Directions to the site from the nearest highway junction.

Take I-84 to exit 40. The hatchery is located about 40 miles east of Portland.

Following project completion, public anglers will be allowed the following level of access to the project site:

No access

Please describe what leases, easements, agreements are in place to ensure angler access to the project site, and what is the length of each agreement.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife raises fish at this location to enhance declining fish runs in the Columbia River basin. This is accomplished through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Dominant Land Use Type:

fish hatchery

Project Location

General Project Location.

County: Multnomah
Town/City: Cascade Locks
ODFW Dist: NW
Stream/Lake/Estuary Name: Tanner Creek
Sub-basin: NA
Tributary of: Columbia River

Specific Project Location.

Latitude	Longitude
45.65277778	-122.01722222

Project Summary

Project Summary

Please provide a couple sentence summary of the proposal.

The goal of this project is to effect repairs of and improvements to the Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center at Bonneville Fish Hatchery. The Foundation and the Department worked together to build the Center in 1997.

Overall Project Goals

Describe the primary goals or outcomes of the entire project, including elements not requesting funding from R&E.

Make all necessary repairs to the center's infrastructure, including the small sturgeon pond that's nearby.

improve the habitat within Kelly's Pond for Herman the Sturgeon and its other inhabitants using R&E funds and others donated for this purpose.

update the Center's interpretive and educational messaging for a contemporary audience using R&E funds and others donated for this purpose.

create a building fund for the Center to ensure monies are on-hand for routine maintenance and minor upgrades in the future. We are seeking contributions to establish a Stewardship Fund for the Center at Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

Primary objectives of R&E funding

Please describe the measurable objectives for the R&E portion of the funding request.

address structural and other needs by implementing timely repairs including replacement of the roof, improved access to gutters, replacement of the water attraction spray bar, and construction of a low wall along the small sturgeon pond.

remove accumulated silt and a sunken log from Kelly's pond, redesign and potentially augment the pond's habitat.

Address any other potential hazards to ensure a secure environment for wildlife and visitors.

Current Situation/Justification

Please describe the current situation and explain why this funding is needed.

Oregon Wildlife Foundation and the Department share a commitment to revitalizing, improving and conserving what makes Oregon a special place. Though time has passed since our last collaboration, we aim to renew our connection by working together to repair and renovate the Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center at Bonneville Fish Hatchery.

As you may know, the Department, using R&E monies helped fund the construction of the Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive (Center) in 1997. The Department's support is recognized on a site plaque near the Center's entrance. The Department's original investment in the Center was crucial in starting a dialogue about white sturgeon and their conservation needs in Oregon. Perhaps now, more than ever, Oregonians need places like the Sturgeon Interpretive Center to better understand our wildlife and how they can help ensure their long-term conservation.

Together, we created a place that stirs wonder and piques curiosity. Our collective success now, in raising the funds needed to make essential repairs and improvements to the Center and surround, helps ensure that future generations will understand and support Oregon's wildlife and their conservation needs.

Recreation and Commercial Benefit

This project will provide benefits to:

Recreational fisheries
Commercial fisheries

Explain how this project will contribute to current (and/or potential) fishing opportunities, access, or fisheries management.

White sturgeon populations in Oregon, particularly in the lower Columbia River, have been declining, prompting restrictions and closures in recreational and commercial fisheries. The factors contributing to this decline include decreased juvenile recruitment, potential impacts from marine mammals, changes in food sources, and possible effects of contaminants and climate change.

Bonneville Fish Hatchery, due to it's location within the Historic District, and the presence of the Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center on its grounds, receives approximately a half-million visitors annually.

This level of visitation represents an incredible opportunity to capture the attention of a large group of people and increase their awareness of the need to conserve Oregon's wildlife using white sturgeon as the focal point.

In addition to ensuring that the Center continues as a main attraction within the historic district, our campaign is also focused on improving interpretive messaging and how it's delivered. The Center's current signage, designed for an 'early internet era', needs a refresh to better support our conservation messaging, enhance memorability, accommodate different learning styles, and increase accessibility by the broadest possible audience.

Percent benefit split between Commercial and Recreational anglers:

20 % Commercial
80 % Recreational

Please explain, or justify, how the percentage split was determined:

this is roughly the split between the commercial and recreational fisheries in the lower Columbia River. Given that both are impacted by retention limits, closures, and the possible extirpation of white sturgeon from the lower Columbia River, educational facilities like the Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center, whose messaging supports conservation, benefit all anglers over time.

This project has been identified as an ODFW priority for:

Not identified

Does this project directly support implementation of the ODFW Strategic Plan and/or current Fish Division priorities?

Unknown

Please briefly explain when this was identified as a priority and what process or workgroup was used to identified this as an ODFW priority.

The Center directly supports the Department's strategic plan by 'increasing and diversifying public use and enjoyment of Oregon's fish and wildlife resources', and also helps build public support for broader conservation efforts, which aligns with ODFW's goal of 'expanding support

for fish, wildlife, and their habitats.'

Identify any plan or other document that identifies this priority.
ODFW Strategic Plan

Is this project part of an approved Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) activity?
No

This project is intended to benefit the following species:
White Sturgeon

This project will benefit anglers or fishery by providing:
Education/Outreach

Education/Outreach

This project will:
Teach the public about fish (ecology, life history) and/or fish habitat needs
Teach the public about watershed health and it's relation to the health of fish populations

The main focus of this project is to:
Support established education program
Informational signage/kiosk

Is this education/outreach associated with ODFW efforts?
Yes
ODFW facility

This education/outreach effort will target:
Youth (< 18 years old)
While Bonneville Dam and the Hatchery attracts visitors from all over the world, the majority are from Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Approximately 25% of the Hatchery's visitors are Hispanic or Latino.
Adults (18 years old or more)
Families (Youth and Adult family members/mentors)
Underserved populations
School groups

Number of people targeted by this proposal:
500000

Estimate the average amount of time that each attendee will participate in the proposed effort.
0.25

Explain the duration/frequency of the proposed outreach effort.
Both the number of visitors to Bonneville Fish Hatchery and the amount of time spent at the Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center are estimates based on information previously reported by the Department or elsewhere in Columbia River Gorge related publications.

Will the developed materials be available for use by other organizations or the public(i.e curriculum, teaching techniques, educational strategies, materials)?
No

Project Description

Schedule

Activity	Date	RE Funding
Repairs and improvements to the Center will be completed when and as funding for that purpose is awarded.	3/31/2026	Yes

Permits

Permit	Secured?	Date Expected
General Permit/Letter of Permission - USACE	No	12/31/2025
Section 408 Permit - USACE	No	3/31/2026

Project Design and Description

Please describe in detail the methods or approach that will be used to achieve the project objectives.

Working closely with the Hatchery Manager, other Department staff, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon Wildlife Foundation will secure bids to complete the work described below. Because this is the first time many of these tasks will have been performed, we have identified general approaches that will become more specific as we gather information.

Pond Dredging
The roughly 85,000 gallon outdoor pond that contains Herman the Sturgeon and other native fishes has, over time, accumulated a significant amount of organic material. Hatchery staff estimate that 1.5 - 2 feet of sediment has settled mostly in the south end of the pond. This accumulated material and a (now) sunken log are restricting the space available to Herman and his pond mates.

Our tentative plan is for a contractor, using a submersible hydraulic pump, to remove the sediment into a containment area to the east of the pond. Containment will be accomplished using straw bales and sediment screens. The removed material will then be spread by hatchery staff into low spots on the east side of the Hatchery.

Water Attraction Spray Bar Replacement
Used to help keep the inside of the viewing window clean and clear of debris, the original spray bar no longer works. When operable, the spray bar creates a "sheet" of water that flows across the inner pane of the viewing window. We are exploring ways to repair the spray bar that don't entail draining the pond.

Audio Post Upgrade
The existing audio post plays three pre-recorded messages about Herman, white sturgeon, and the Hatchery respectively. Our plan is to replace the current audio post with a contemporary system that includes more messages and that are easily updated.

In the case of work performed by contractors, the Foundation will work with the Department to oversee completion of that work by an experienced construction manager from our Board of Directors and the Hatchery Manager or whomever they designate.

We do not anticipate the need for engineering or cultural surveys to complete any of the aforementioned projects.

Engineering

Does the project involve capital improvement, engineering, site grading or other construction?

Yes

On ODFW land or managed by ODFW staff

Project Management and Maintenance

What is the life expectancy of R&E funded construction, structures, equipment, supplies, data or fishery?

we are making essential repairs and improvements to a structure dedicated in 1998. We anticipate, with regular inspections and timely maintenance, the Center will endure for an indefinite amount of time.

This capital campaign includes the establishment of a building fund at Oregon Wildlife Foundation to offset future maintenance costs.

Who is responsible for long term management, maintenance, and oversight of the project beyond what is funded by R&E.

The Department, through its IGA with USACE, is responsible for management and maintenance, including inspections, of all structures at Bonneville Fish Hatchery. Routine maintenance of the Sturgeon Viewing & (Interpretive Center), performed by Hatchery staff includes:

Daily
* Cleaning the public side of the viewing window
* Garbage and debris pick-up
* Clearing spider webs

Weekly/Monthly
* Cleaning the water side of the viewing window and removing litter from the pond
* Gutter cleaning
* Clearing floor drains of needles and leaves

Annually
* Pressure washing steps, floor, and ramp
* Servicing the sump pump in the below water viewing area
* Inspecting the building structure for maintenance needs

Collectively, Hatchery staff spend a minimum of 200 hours annually on maintenance of the Interpretive Center. The value of that in-kind contribution is in excess of $14,000 each year

The Foundation, working in partnership with the Department, will assist with the funding of future repairs and equipment replacement through the development of a Stewardship Fund. The Fund will be held by Oregon Wildlife Foundation and managed for long-term returns to help offset the cost of future repairs and minor improvements.

Will the project require ongoing maintenance?

Yes

The Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center, dedicated in 1998, is subject to ordinary wear as well as the sometimes harsh weather in the Columbia River Gorge. Department staff regularly inspect the Center and surrounding facility for cracks, leaks, and other damage that could compromise the integrity of its structures (Center and ponds). Regular maintenance and repair is necessary to ensure the durability of the Center, ponds, and other elements of the facility.

Is there a plan to collect baseline data and to conduct monitoring efforts to measure the effectiveness of the project?

Yes

The Foundation, working in partnership with the Department, was recently awarded a grant from Travel Oregon to create a master interpretive plan for Bonneville Fish Hatchery. As part of that work, which will guide the future development of the visitor experience. Our contractor, Sea Reach, LTD, will collect information from current visitors about their experience, including at the Center. We'll use that survey information to help us make changes to our interpretive signage and assess the impact of those changes on the experience that visitors to the Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center have in the near future.

Project Funding

Funding

Have you applied for OWEB funding for this project?

No

Has this proposal, or similar proposal for this project location, previously been denied by OWEB or other funding source?

No

Other Funding Source	Type	Secured	Dollar Value	Comments
Oregon Wildlife Foundation donors	Cash	Pending	10,000	We have accumulated ~$10k in donations for the Sturgeon Center Capital Campaign so far.
Swigert Family Foundation	Cash	Pending	25,000	We submitted our application in May
Clark Foundation	Cash	Pending	25,000	The Clark Foundation was an original donor/supporter of the Sturgeon Center. Application was submitted in June.
Ferment Brewing	Cash	Pending	2,500	Collaboration with Ferment Brewing - "High Five, Herman" is an IPA brewed by and distributed through their taproom and 4-packs sold at New Seasons, Market of Choice, and Zupans.
Oregon Community Foundation	Cash	Pending	75,000	because of project end date constraints, we will be applying to OCF near the end of our capital campaign.
construction consulting and management.	In-Kind	Pending	3,664	in-kind contribution to date from Nelson Capitol CPM. We anticipate additional in-kind support from the company throughout this project. Their in-kind commitment to this project is $10,000
ODFW	In-Kind	Pending	1,500	project management
		Total	142,664	

Budget

Item	Unit Number	Unit Cost	In-kind or non-cash contributions	Funding from other sources	R&E Funds	Total Costs
PROJECT MANAGEMENT						
Nelson Capital CPM			10,000			10,000
Oregon Wildlife Foundation Development Staff @ 10%			22,550			22,550
		SUBTOTAL	32,550			32,550
IN-HOUSE PERSONNEL						
ODFW Hatchery Staff			1,500			1,500
		SUBTOTAL	1,500			1,500
CONTRACTED SERVICES						
Roof Replacement - Sturgeon Center & Pond				25,000		25,000
Exterior Improvements - Sturgeon Center & Pond				6,500		6,500
Electrical & Lighting - Sturgeon Center & Pond				5,000		5,000
Water Attraction Spray Bar Replacement - Sturgeon Center & Pond					5,500	5,500
Pond Dredging - Sturgeon Center & Pond					65,000	65,000
Log Replacement/Habitat Enrichment - Sturgeon Center & Pond				30,000		30,000
Audio Post Upgrade - Sturgeon Center & Pond				2,000	4,500	6,500
Demolition - Sturgeon Center & Pond				5,500		5,500
Upgrades - Sturgeon Center & Pond				6,500		6,500
Stone Wall Construction - Small Sturgeon Pond				45,000		45,000
New Pipe oFrom Settling Pond - Small Sturgeon Pond				25,000		25,000
Architect/Engineering @ 8%				18,040		18,040
Permits & Fees @5%				11,275		11,275
Legal @ 3%				6,765		6,765
construction contingency @ 20%				45,100		45,100
general conditions @ 5%				11,275		11,275
general requirements @ 5%				11,275		11,275
general contractor fee @ 12%				27,060		27,060
		SUBTOTAL		281,290	75,000	356,290
TRAVEL						
		SUBTOTAL				
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS						
		SUBTOTAL				
EDUCATION/OUTREACH						
		SUBTOTAL				
EQUIPMENT						
		SUBTOTAL				
FISCAL ADMINISTRATION						
		SUBTOTAL				
		BUDGET TOTAL	34,050	281,290	75,000	390,340

Internal Review Results

Review Score: 2.5 out of 5

(1 = Do Not Fund, 2 = Strengthen Proposal, 3 = Recommend with Conditions, 4 = Recommend, 5 = Strongly Recommend)

Specific Review Team Comments

Please add some more details on the construction. For example, $65K is listed in the budget for dredging. But how much material will be dredged, and what will be done with the material?

Has the applicant considered the need for engineering and cultural surveys? Will the time needed to acquire the engineered drawings and the cultural surveys align with the project completion dates?

Specific Review Team Questions

The application states that the hatchery is responsible for maintenance, but no funding is being provided in the budget by the hatchery. Explain why not. Also, there is no in-kind match shown from hatchery, other ODFW personnel or USACE. The application states OWF will work closely with the hatchery manager and USACE, so there should be some in-kind at a minimum.

We included additional information about the Hatchery's commitment of staff time to the annual maintenance and inspection of the Interpretive Center. Conservatively, Hatchery staff spend more than 200 hours a year on routine maintenance and inspection activities with an estimated in-kind value of over $14,000.

In consultation with the Hatchery Manager we've included $1,500 in-kind to the budget, from the Department, for project management services should this proposal be awarded funding support.

The application states the campaign will set up a fund to pay for future work. It doesn't look like any funds are being shown as set aside for this purpose in the budget. Is this a separate effort?

Oregon Wildlife Foundation is establishing a Stewardship Fund for the Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center. Our plan for contributions to the Fund are two-fold: 1) we will solicit, as a part of this capital campaign, donations to the Fund, and 2) we are dedicating 'gifts at checkout' from our store during the month of June and donations received at Herman's birthday party to the Sturgeon Interpretive Center Stewardship Fund. This year, we netted just over $2k in donations at checkout that are dedicated to our capital campaign for the Center. Annual donations, on this order, should enable us to stay on top of needed repairs and maintain or even grow our Fund balance over time in accumulated earning are taken into account.

The budget does not list any contributions from the hatchery. Has the possibility of match funding or in-kind funding from the ODFW hatchery been explored?

As mentioned above, the Hatchery contributes to the maintenance and upkeep of the Center through an allocation of staff annually that totals over $14,000.

In addition, we've added $1,500 in-kind from the Hatchery for project management services if and as our application for funding support is approved.

All other available monies from the Hatchery itself are dedicated to maintaining it's operation and fulfilling it's core mission.

What other "potential hazards" will be addressed at the site if this project is funded?

This project is part of a larger capital campaign that will make repairs and improvements to the

Sturgeon Viewing & Interpretive Center and nearby pond that houses smaller sturgeon. Improvements at the small sturgeon pond include construction of a low wall to keep both visitors and the fish safe.

A second phase of our capital campaign includes work to improve accessibility within the Center for people with disabilities.

Additional Files

Budget Information

Budget and Scope of Work Narrative	*Budget and Scope of Work Narrative*
OWF Project Budget	*OWF project budget summary*

Maps

Photos

OWF Project Photos	*OWF Project Photos*

Design Information

Management Plans and Supporting Documents

OWF Initial Project Funding To date	*List of initial project supporters*

Permits and Reviews

Partnerships

Public Comment

Administrative Documents

Oregon Wildlife Foundation 501c(3)	*Oregon Wildlife Foundation 501c(3)*
OWF IRS Letter of Determination	*OWF Letter of Determination*
OWF Signature Authorization	*OWF Signature Authorization*

Completion Report

A completion report has not been submitted for this project.