

# Federal Forest Collaborative-2023-2025 Forest Collaborative

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

**Application Name:** 224-8008-23221

**Project Type:** Federal Forest  
Restoration Collaborative

**Project Name:** WRCFC Board Development and  
Engagement

**Applicant:** Southern Oregon Forest Restoration  
Collaborative (SOFRFC)

**Region:** Southwest Oregon

**County:** Curry

**OWEB Request:** \$19,800

**Total Cost:** \$29,800

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**Application Description** The Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative (WRCFC), located in Curry and Coos Counties, Oregon, plays a pivotal role in sustainable forest management, environmental conservation, and community engagement. As a dynamic organization uniting a diverse range of stakeholders, the WRCFC has been instrumental in addressing the challenges facing the region's forests and fostering cooperation among key interest groups. However, in recent years, the WRCFC has faced a significant challenge: high turnover among staff of the organizations it represents and a subsequent loss of collaborative board members, which has created a pressing need to revitalize the board engagement and recruitment process. This project outlines a comprehensive approach to enhance the WRCFC's board engagement and recruitment strategies. The overarching goal of this initiative is to strengthen the collaborative's ability to represent and serve the community effectively, safeguard natural resources, and facilitate meaningful collaboration among stakeholders. Project actions include a needs assessment, strategic planning, engagement of current board members, recruitment of new board members, outreach to tribal members, and capacity building.

This project represents a critical undertaking to ensure the Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative continues to play a central role in sustainable forest management and community involvement in Southwest Oregon. The anticipated outcome is a revitalized and diversified board, with increased engagement and representation, capable of effectively addressing the evolving challenges and opportunities in the region. This endeavor holds the promise of not only strengthening the Collaborative itself but also bolstering the conservation and wellbeing of the unique ecosystems on the southern Oregon Coast and the communities that call it home.

## Review Team Evaluation

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### Strengths

- The application included straight-forward objectives that are appropriate for an emerging collaborative.
- The applicant clearly articulated the challenges they are facing as a new collaborative.

### Concerns

- The application lacked some detail including information on the collaborative and previous work, level of community engagement, and strategic planning process and deliverable.
- Some concerns that agency engagement is lacking.
- The application proposes an ambitious scope of work that may not be realistically attainable.
- Reviewer concern about developing a collaborative structure prior to inviting partners.
- The application requests more than the allowable \$20,000 for projects seeking Collaborative Governance support (see page 12 of Guidance: Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative Project Development Application) and does not include a letter of support from USFS.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This collaborative proposes a bundle of work that is appropriate for an emerging collaborative. The application included a good description of current challenges facing the collaborative and describes how the support provided would aid applicant in facing these challenges. However, there were reviewer concerns that the collaborative was proposing too much work given existing challenges and a described level of existing engagement. Additionally, details throughout the application were lacking, making it difficult to understand if the objectives were sound and offered a high degree of success. Applicant is encouraged to focus on engaging new and existing membership and focus their work on attainable objectives.

The original application did not include a letter of support from USFS and the requested amount exceeded the program maximum of \$20,000 for Collaborative Governance projects. However a resubmitted application was received on 1/8/24 that addresses these reviewer concerns. An attached memo documents the submitted application changes and how applicant addressed review comments.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$19,800

### **Review Team Conditions**

### **Staff Recommendation**

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### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$19,800

### **Staff Conditions**



# Federal Forest Collaborative-2023-2025 Forest Collaborative

Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

**Application Name:** 224-8008-23222

**Project Type:** Federal Forest  
Restoration Collaborative

**Project Name:** NBFC: Expanding Zones of Agreement &  
Integration with USFS Planning Process

**Applicant:** Wallowa Resources

**Region:** Eastern Oregon

**County:** Wallowa

**OWEB Request:** \$62,856

**Total Cost:** \$107,952

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**Application Description** Building from the success of their initial Overarching Zones of Agreement (ZofA), and their current ZofA work addressing the impacts of climate change on our national forests, the NBFC is seeking funding to expand their ZofA suite to include riparian/aquatic habitat areas and, eventually, moist mixed conifer forest types (MMC) and wildlife connectivity. Zones of Agreement are mechanisms that help collaboratives elevate their work beyond the constraints of building consensus at the individual project level, to a broader landscape level - thus, providing greater efficacy and benefit to the quality, scale, and pace of forest restoration work. The NBFC's initial ZofA document was designed to align areas of common agreement and consensus on broad ecological, economic, and social topics/issues relevant to the stewardship of the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests in NE Oregon. This established a foundational starting point, from which each subsequent and more specific ZofA document is being built. Funding for this project will bring in respected and credible independent researchers to work with the NBFC and USFS staff specialists, in order to introduce new and emerging data through a carefully developed and directed process of mutual inquiry. The primary goals of this upcoming project will be to complete & ratify the current climate change ZofA, as well as move the collaborative closer to reaching consensus and ratifying a third concrete ZofA document relating to riparian/aquatic areas. In addition, a process will be developed and implemented for introducing current and future ZofA documents to the USFS line staff and specialists in a manner that will enable more reliable integration into their forest planning process. The NBFC is becoming 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

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### Strengths

- This work has potential to launch many other restoration projects in the future.
- The work proposed under this application is timely and appropriate for this collaborative.
- This collaborative has an excellent track record and demonstrated strong engagement with USFS.
- This work engages a strong facilitator that contributes to the success of the collaborative.

- This work will assist the USFS in securing Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) funding.
- The application provided excellent details on the broad engagement needs and does not focus solely on engagement with technical experts only.

### **Concerns**

- The application lacks some detail including the Moist Mix Forest ZOA deliverable, how the applicant proposes to integrate the ZOA in collaboration with USFS, and how this work aligns with CFLRP.
- Additional detail about the active composition of the collaborative, particularly who represents environmental and industry groups, would have strengthened the application.
- The application proposes many things but lacks details on who will be doing the work, how successes will be measured, or how applicant will adapt to challenges.
- The coordination rates listed in the budget appear low and present a risk to the applicant being able to complete the proposed work.

### **Concluding Analysis**

The collaborative has a strong track record of successful engagement and the work proposed under this application has potential to lead to many future restoration projects. Additionally, this work will serve to assist USFS with securing CFLRP funding. However, the application lacked many details that would have strengthened the application and there were some reviewer concerns about the applicant completing all of the proposed work. The applicant is encouraged to focus on the proposed activities and engage with watershed councils or other existing organizations for work in riparian and aquatic environments.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$62,856

### **Review Team Conditions**

### **Staff Recommendation**

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### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NA

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$62,856

## **Staff Conditions**

# Federal Forest Collaborative-2023-2025 Forest Collaborative

Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Name:** 224-8008-23218

**Project Type:** Federal Forest  
Restoration Collaborative

**Project Name:** Mount Hood East ZOA

**Applicant:** Wasco SWCD

**Region:** Central Oregon

**County:** Wasco

**OWEB Request:** \$48,949

**Total Cost:** \$99,686

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**Application Description** The Mount Hood East ZOA 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 (ZOA) to accelerate implementation of forest restoration and management activities in high-risk areas as identified by the Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment, Oregon's 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy, and USDA Forest Service Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

Project partners are primarily located in Hood River County and Wasco County. Collaborative members and partners involved in this project include Mt Hood National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon State University Extension, Oregon State Fire Marshal, 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 Inc., Bark, Thrive Hood River, Green Diamond Resource Company, Hood River County, Hood River Watershed Group, and Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District. Unaffiliated community members and concerned citizens regularly participate in forest collaborative meetings in Hood River and Wasco County.

Existing collaborative agreements focus on restoration and management of dry forests. This proposal will support the creation of ZOA for moist mixed conifer forest types east of Mount Hood. The Moist Mixed Conifer ZOA will build on a recently completed TASS grant focused on reconstructing historic fire regimes with Oregon State University. The collaboratives will also develop project level ZOA focused on the Gibson Prairie Insect and Disease Project

## Review Team Evaluation

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### Strengths

- Two established collaboratives with a history of successful implementation of projects are involved in this project.
- Work proposed is appropriate and builds on previous efforts.

- Reviewers appreciated the planned community engagement activities and objectives of the project.
- Good engagement of appropriate partners.

### **Concerns**

- Proposal would have been improved with additional detail on how the two collaboratives will work together and the roles and responsibilities of each group and how this project work fits within the larger context of work in the area.
- A discussion on why additional project level ZOA were needed would have improved the application.
- Additional information on how and which experts in the field would be engaged would have strengthened the application.
- Reviewers would have liked to see monitoring of project outcomes included.
- No letter of support included in app. No reference to engagement with USFS.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This collaborative plans to build on previous successfully funded work and includes an impressive list of partners and community engagement. The review team believes this work has a high chance of successful implementation and there is a long history of success within the group. There were some concerns that the scope of work was ambitious given capacity challenges and reviewers felt the application would have been strengthened with inclusion of additional details about who is doing the work and specifics on their collaboration. Additionally, there was no mention of tribal engagement. The originally submitted application did not include a letter of support from USFS, however, the applicant resubmitted the application with the included letter of support on 12/8/23. The applicant is encouraged to engage with additional partners and be clear on defining roles to accomplish the work.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$48,949

### **Review Team Conditions**

### **Staff Recommendation**

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### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

N/A



**Staff Recommendation**

Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$48,949

**Staff Conditions**

# Federal Forest Collaborative-2023-2025 Forest Collaborative

Mid Columbia (Region 6)

**Application Name:** 224-8008-23225

**Project Type:** Federal Forest  
Restoration Collaborative

**Project Name:** Blue Mountain Forest Partners Mature and  
Old Tree Zones of Agreement and Strategic Planning Project

**Applicant:** Blue Mountains Forest Partners

**Region:** Mid Columbia

**County:** Grant

**OWEB Request:** \$30,095

**Total Cost:** \$30,096

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**Application Description** Available evidence suggests that mortality of old trees is accelerating on the Malheur National Forest (MNF) in eastern Oregon at the same time as the Biden administration has crafted new policy requiring the conservation of mature and old trees on national forests (EO 14072). To address existing conditions on the ground, the likely need to protect old trees on the MNF by removing some mature trees, and changes in the legal and policy environment at the federal level, Blue Mountains Forest Partners (BMFP) will develop new “Zones of Agreement” (ZOA) to serve as the basis for managing mature and old trees on the MNF in eastern Oregon. Project partners for this work include BMFP members, MNF staff, and other researchers and stakeholders.

BMFP’s most recent strategic plan was completed in 2021. This plan (like earlier ones) relies on MNF staffing levels that are adequate, experienced, and collaboratively engaged with BMFP to plan and implement landscape-level restoration projects. At that time, it was also understood that the MNF would continue to run much of its restoration work through a long-term stewardship contract. However, since then the MNF has experienced a significant increase in staff turnover, significant decrease in staff experience and collaborative exposure, and committed to using other contract mechanisms to execute most of its restoration work. For these reasons, we need to reengage among ourselves and with MNF staff to develop a new strategic plan that better addresses existing conditions and challenges. Project partners for this work include BMFP members, MNF staff, and Dyan Oldenburg (who will lead the strategic planning effort).

## Review Team Evaluation

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### Strengths

- The application was clear on both the programs and process for ZOA and strategic plan work.
- The proposed strategic plan work was particularly well thought out with a clearly defined process and explanation of importance to the work. Undertaking the process with USFS is particularly encouraging.
- The work proposed relates well to on-the-ground realities.

- Roles and responsibilities were clearly articulated in the application.

### **Concerns**

- Some reviewer concerns about ability to complete the work given the ambitious work planned and the low amount of match listed.
- The reviewers urged caution to not be rigid in approaching strategic planning in order to account for a changing environment and USFS staff turnover.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This collaborative offers an articulate and clear proposal that accounts for on-the-ground challenges. The Strategic Plan work in particular, offers promising opportunities for the group to work with USFS to develop processes together for ongoing collaboration in the future. While there were some reviewer concerns about the Strategic Plan work not accounting for changes in staff or other needed adaptation, the review team also noted this work is following a normal Strategic Plan process and offers a high likelihood of success.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$30,095

### **Review Team Conditions**

### **Staff Recommendation**

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### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NA

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$30,095

### **Staff Conditions**

# Federal Forest Collaborative-2023-2025 Forest Collaborative

Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

**Application Name:** 224-8008-23223

**Project Type:** Federal Forest  
Restoration Collaborative

**Project Name:** SOFRC Rogue All-Lands Forum

**Applicant:** Southern Oregon Forest Restoration  
Collaborative (SOFRC)

**Region:** Southwest Oregon

**County:** Jackson

**OWEB Request:** \$55,625

**Total Cost:** \$56,625

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**Application Description** This project is located in the Rogue Basin of SW Oregon.

There is a need to facilitate an all-lands group of organizations to share in developing and supporting federal land projects across the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRS) and Medford Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The intent is to provide a forum for diverse voices across the Rogue Basin to help leverage the USFS Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) project that was awarded in 2022 and expected to run through 2032.

Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) and members of the Rogue Forest Partnership (RFP) are broadening their engagement with collaborative partners within the Rogue Basin based on recommendations and an assessment by the National Policy Consensus Center (NPCC) supported by the OWEB FFR program in 2022-2023. SOFRC is working with the RRS to establish a durable, inclusive, and effective collaborative engagement structure. Based on the NPCC assessment, a group of organizations convened by SOFRC have been meeting since mid 2023 to create this forum. The work, if agreed to, will include developing a robust charter that will serve all interested partners and supporters.

Zones of Agreement are needed to assist the implementation of CFLR and other collaborative federal projects. Discussions and agreements are needed on several topics, e.g.: 1) work with the Medford Water Commission (MWC) to increase thinning and risk reduction activities on RRS the Snowy Butte Project. 2) work with BLM to promote an understanding among stakeholders about the benefit of increasing open forest in intermediate and old growth stands outside of highly suitable owl habitat; 3) renew the MOU between SOFRC BLM, the RRS and potentially Jackson County and 4) staff support for a longitudinal study of attitudes towards forest restoration activities. Partners include the RFP, RRS, BLM, ODF, The Nature Conservancy, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the Medford Water Commission.

## Review Team Evaluation

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### Strengths

- Collaborative structure is appropriate given the unique local challenges and has a long history of success.

- The application includes excellent detail on status of previously funded work and includes a descriptive budget description.
- Demonstrates good partnerships, including tribal partners and BLM.
- Given Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) status, it is appropriate a new group is formed to oversee operations.
- Proposes innovative engagement and outreach tactics that have potential to deliver rewarding long-term results.

### **Concerns**

- Some reviewers had concerns about the success of the proposed post-implementation monitoring of the BLM projects given these are challenging new activities.
- Application would have been strengthened with greater detail on demonstrating need for this work given wide availability of other funding and investments in this area.
- Application lacked some detail including how applicant plans to overcome engagement challenges and details about the proposed ZOA with Medford Municipal Water.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This is a high-functioning collaborative that includes excellent partnerships and coordination in an area that presents unique local challenges. There is demonstrated need for collaboration in southwestern Oregon and this group has a successful track record of implementing work. There were some reviewer concerns about lack of details on certain objectives and how the applicant plans to overcome engagement challenges given the diverse group of partners represented. The applicant is encouraged to focus the proposed activities and test the new approaches for success.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$55,625

### **Review Team Conditions**

### **Staff Recommendation**

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### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

N/A

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$55,625

**Staff Conditions**

# Federal Forest Collaborative-2023-2025 Forest Collaborative

Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Name:** 224-8008-23226

**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:** \$70,648

**Total Cost:** \$166,493

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## Application Description Governance:

DCFP will continue to enhance its strategic focuses by pursuing a work planning workshop as a dedicated way to annually assess the Collaborative's priorities and the primary concerns of Steering Committee stakeholders. The outcome will be a strategic annual work plan that will support the Collaborative's goals and vision. A work planning workshop is an important component for the Collaborative to maintain its health, vitality, and purpose as a mature, long-standing Collaborative.

## Zones of Agreement:

The DCFP will pursue phase two of the Core Habitat Project by constructing a model that identifies priority areas across the landscape that require targeted defragmentation and disturbance reduction treatments to enhance core habitat and movement corridors in order to support wildlife and biodiversity values throughout the Deschutes National Forest. This effort will also entail substantial work with the Deschutes Trails Coalition to develop trust and balance tradeoffs regarding spatially-specific defragmentation work to ensure alignment with the user groups most directly affected by these efforts thereby decreasing the chance for conflict during planning and implementation ultimately informing holistic management practices.

The DCFP will also engage in education and engagement work to build and maintain public understanding of and trust in active forest management practices. The Central Oregon community will be engaged via online avenues, traditional media, and in-person events with the goal of clarifying public misconceptions, addressing public concerns, and providing the science and tradeoffs behind forest management.

Partners: Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation, Deschutes National Forest, OSU Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Deschutes Trails Coalition, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Review Team Evaluation

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### Strengths

- The proposed activities were well articulated and logical.
- Though still engaging with traditional partners, the proposed engagement and outreach with neighbors and the community is thoughtful and important.
- These activities will address important areas of concern on the landscape.
- This is a long standing collaborative and the proposed work will enhance structural improvements to ensure success of the group in the future.

### **Concerns**

- The application would have benefited from a clear explanation of how this work fits with the other available funding in the focal work area.
- Some application details were unclear including, who will be doing the wildlife habitat work and how applicant plans to address the vocal minority that is opposed to restoration.
- Related to this, there is some reviewer concern that applicant is equating outreach with community approval.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This collaborative proposes a clear and logical scope of work that has potential to contribute to positive effects on the landscape. The group proposes thoughtful engagement in an area that requires sensitivity to the various uses and need of the landscape. As this is a long standing collaborative, reviewers noted that the group may be in need of some structural improvements and this work will provide an opportunity for the group to reflect on what changes may be needed to ensure long term success in the future. There were some reviewer concerns about lack of clarity or detail in certain objectives and if the level of community approval needed is realistic for accomplishing this work. The applicant is encouraged to think about how this project may be leveraged against other available funding in the focal landscape to ensure there is a comprehensive strategic approach to this work.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$70,648

### **Review Team Conditions**

### **Staff Recommendation**

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### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NA

### **Staff Recommendation**



Fund

**Staff Recommended Amount**

\$70,648

**Staff Conditions**

# Federal Forest Collaborative-2023-2025 Forest Collaborative

Central Oregon (Region 4)

**Application Name:** 224-8008-23220

**Project Type:** Federal Forest  
Restoration Collaborative

**Project Name:** Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative:  
Scaling-up Trust & Restoration

**Applicant:** Central Oregon Forest Stewardship Foundation

**Region:** Central Oregon

**County:** Crook

**OWEB Request:** \$58,273

**Total Cost:** \$98,476

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**Application Description** OFRC will support the FS to complete the current backlog of 13,802 acres of prescribed (Rx) fire on the Ochoco National Forest (ONF). OFRC will engage in a social learning process to develop Rx Fire Zones of Agreement (ZoA), hosting speakers and fieldtrips to engage members and the public. Working with the FS, OFRC will develop a Rx Fire Strategic Plan, identifying barriers to the large-scale application of Rx fire and listing viable solutions. We will develop an Rx fire outreach plan, identifying target audiences as well as key messages. Outreach will start with a public fieldtrip and an Rx fire webpage on the OFRC website, followed by additional outreach strategies.

After COVID, significant turnover in OFRC membership eroded institutional memory and affected trust among members. To address this, OFRC will engage new and seasoned members in monitoring the application of our Dry Forest and Riparian ZoA in the Mill Creek project. We will use monitoring, fieldtrips, and in-house discussions to refresh members' understanding of the science, policy, and social concerns related to our ZoA and to (re)sign these agreements. ZoA will be update as needed. Photo point and vegetation monitoring plots will be implemented in Mill Creek, using the protocol established for the Wolf Project.

Early in 2025, OFRC will plan a social learning series to develop ZoA related to climate-appropriate dry forest management. OFRC will identify members' questions, and frame-up a timeline with speakers and topics for social learning process to start late in 2025.

## Review Team Evaluation

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### Strengths

- Technical Review Team(TRT) members appreciated the candid discussion of challenges faced by the collaborative.
- Application included good letters of support and match funding.
- Acknowledgement of climate vulnerability and the use climate information to inform management were a strength of this proposal.

- TRT members appreciated the inclusion of prescribed burn and increased engagement objectives.
- Good detail in budget. Reviewers appreciated the inclusion of volunteer hours as it demonstrates community engagement/support.
- The collaborative has a history of successful development of challenging Zones of Agreements.

### **Concerns**

- Application would have been strengthened with detail on the staff involved, and success indicators, of the project objectives.
- Though membership challenges were referenced in the application, there was no discussion of how those challenges might be addressed.
- Application did not provide adequate detail on the social learning objective related to community resistance to prescribed burning.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This collaborative is engaging in important prescribed burning work in an area that faces challenging community dynamics and resistance to prescribed burning. The collaborative has a demonstrated strength in organizational capacity seen by previous successes with challenging ZOA development. The application lacks some details on the specifics of the challenges facing the collaborative as it relates to community engagement and collaborative membership. It will be important for the organization to think about additional collaborative governance structures to effectively overcome stated challenges.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$58,273

### **Review Team Conditions**

### **Staff Recommendation**

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### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NA

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$58,273

### **Staff Conditions**

# Federal Forest Collaborative-2023-2025 Forest Collaborative

Willamette Basin (Region 3)

**Application Name:** 224-8008-23224

**Project Type:** Federal Forest  
Restoration Collaborative

**Project Name:** Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative  
2023

**Applicant:** South Willamette Solutions

**Region:** Willamette Basin

**County:** Lane

**OWEB Request:** \$62,664

**Total Cost:** \$149,805

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**Application Description** The Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC) is a community-based forest collaborative in the upper Middle Fork Willamette watershed that brings people together for healthy forests and communities. Since 2014, the SWFC has grown to become an established place-based collaborative group. SWFC has demonstrated a proven track record of bringing together a diverse range of partners to identify common interests in managing forests with a history of social conflicts.

In 2019, the SWFC steering committee founded South Willamette Solutions, a 501c3 that administers SWFC and Oakridge Air (an EPA funded project). SWS has 4.5 grant funded employees: 2 SWFC and 2.5 Oakridge Air. SWS projects have grown from a collaborative network focused on forest management, restoration, and environmental justice issues with a commitment to continued momentum and growth.

SWFC engages over 90 stakeholders, including various government agencies, local leaders, conservation groups, and citizens, indicating widespread participation and support. The ultimate goal of SWFC is to increase the pace and scale of restoration to improve forest health and resilience in the face of climate change, while benefiting the local economy. This will be achieved by, 1) facilitating SWFC collaboration committees in order to develop and advance zones of agreement, 2) enhance community and partner outreach in support of the ZOAs, and 3) further accelerate the pace and scale of restoration efforts in the Upper Willamette area.

SWFC acknowledges the importance of facilitation and coordination as essential components of its success, recognizing the challenge of securing funding for these crucial functions. Overall, SWFC has made significant progress in building an effective collaborative network focused on forest management and restoration, with a commitment to continued momentum and growth, and this proposal ensures that the work will continue.

## Review Team Evaluation

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### Strengths

- This collaborative has a long track record of successfully implementing work while facing multiple challenges and delays.

- This group has reached agreement on several projects that were ultimately implemented by USFS.

### **Concerns**

- The application included many different acronyms which was confusing to reviewers.
- Some details were lacking throughout the application, including who will be doing the outreach work, composition of subgroups, and the participation level for the meetings. Additionally, the application did not describe why this comprehensive scope of work is necessary.
- There is limited participation and engagement from industry partners.

### **Concluding Analysis**

This long standing collaborative has demonstrated experience working in the area and with industry groups, resulting in successfully bid projects. The group has had successfully implemented projects by USFS and has achieved a cohesive and functioning collaborative despite facing many challenges. The review team felt the application could have been more clear in parts, particularly around clearly describing the need for this scope of work as well as describing the specifics of who and how this work will be accomplished. The applicant is encouraged to be clear about need for this work and engage with industry partners.

### **Review Team Recommendation to Staff**

Fund

### **Review Team Priority**

### **Review Team Recommended Amount**

\$62,664

### **Review Team Conditions**

### **Staff Recommendation**

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### **Staff Follow-Up to Review Team**

NA

### **Staff Recommendation**

Fund

### **Staff Recommended Amount**

\$62,664

### **Staff Conditions**