



- [Close Window](#)
- [Print This Page](#)
- [Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

Protecting the Oregon Owyhee Canyonlands - Grant

Grant Name	Protecting the Oregon Owyhee Canyonlands - Grant	Today's Date	12/15/2023
Staff Size	36	Organization Name	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Total Membership	135,000	Annual Operating Budget	\$8,651,373.00
BIPOC-led	No	Operating Budget Year	
C-Suite Staff		Tax Status/Organization Type	501c3 Organization
Notes			

Project Information

Project/Campaign Name	Protecting the Oregon Owyhee Canyonlands	Project Address	
Project Location (State or Territory)	OR	Amount Requested from Alliance	\$50,000.00

Proposal Questions

1. Purpose/History Of Organization	<p>Established in 2002, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is the largest coalition of conservation groups and individuals working together to advance policies and programs that conserve fish and wildlife habitat; increase funding for conservation programs; and provide sustainable access to the outdoors. With a mission to guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish, the TRCP represents 63 organizational partners and 125,000 individual members.</p> <p>The TRCP is headquartered in Washington, DC with offices in Denver and Missoula, and a western field team that advances on the ground conservation campaigns in AK, OR, ID, MT, WY, CO, NM, and NV. The TRCP is unique in its coalition approach, with field organizers who are skilled at building consensus among diverse public lands' stakeholders, as well as in its federal-level expertise which allows us to tackle complex conservation issues with complementary local, state, and federal strategies.</p>	7. Measurable On-Ground Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon's Senate delegation passes legislation that reflects the conservation priorities of the Sportsmen for the Owyhee coalition, Burns Paiute Tribe, wilderness groups, and other conservation stakeholders. • A strong companion bill is introduced in the House by Congressman Bentz that will serve as a benchmark to begin negotiating a successful conservation bill that both Wyden and Bentz agree to support. • Local officials publicly support the need to protect the Owyhee. • At least 400 hunters and anglers demonstrate support for Owyhee protections and • Federal legislation is passed that protects one million acres of the Owyhee canyonlands as Wilderness.
---	---	---	---

2. Final Success	By March 2025, at least one million acres of Wilderness and 25 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers within Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands are permanently protected from development.	8. Evaluate Your Progress	The TRCP will evaluate progress through the achievement of the above outcomes and goal. We track communications metrics internally (including reach and performance of social and earned media). The number of actions taken, strength and number of letters of support submitted, and coalition engagement will help gauge our progress and inform campaign tactics throughout the grant period.
3. Location Details	Oregon's Owyhee region is an outdoor recreationist's paradise. This 4.6-million-acre expanse of public lands is among the most remote in the Lower 48 states. More than 200 species of wildlife live amongst the sagebrush and bunchgrass, and the Owyhee region was identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as one of just six sage-grouse strongholds left in the West. The significance of this landscape is heightened as we witness the impacts of climate change and look to intact land as a tool to mitigate these impacts, while also protecting critical biodiversity. In the Intermountain West, extreme drought, changing precipitation patterns, reduced mountain snowpack, more frequent fires, and an increase in invasive species are affecting habitats that wildlife species depend on. In addition to a warming climate, increasing development and unmanaged recreational pressures threaten ecosystem health.	9. TCA Funding Plan	The TRCP will use the proposed funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support TRCP staff time and travel to carry out campaign activities, including leadership of the Owyhee Sportsmen's Coalition through. • Provide a \$7,500 re-grant to The Sporting Life Notebook for the proposed event, media deliverables, and fly-in participation. • Promote media content and drive public engagement. • Travel to D.C. with key partners to demonstrate support for Owyhee protections.
4. Strategy & Timeline For Final Success	<p>Timeline: Protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands has long been a priority for the conservation community. Since 2019, Senator Wyden has introduced several iterations of The Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act. The most recent version, introduced in June 2023, would designate more than one million acres as Wilderness, and includes provisions to restore ecosystems within the region and improve grazing flexibility and management for permittees. A Senate hearing took place in July and on December 14th the bill was passed out of Committee with bipartisan and unanimous support. For the first time, the bill now awaits a potential end-of-session public lands package and a vote by the full Senate floor.</p> <p>In the past year, some groups in the conservation community began advocating for a concurrent proposal to secure protections for the Owyhee as a national monument through an Antiquities Act proclamation. The monument option is most likely to become serious if Congress fails to act, and legislation is preferable because it can offer more prescriptive management direction and serve the interests of multiple stakeholder groups, including</p>	10. JEDI Efforts and Impact	The TRCP has established relationships with multiple groups across the country that focus on addressing inequities within their communities and providing opportunities for access to the outdoors. These groups include the Minority Outdoor Alliance, The Sporting Life Notebook, Colorado Treks, Outdoor Afro, and Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. The TRCP engages with these groups to learn what kinds of support and partnership would be most beneficial. Our efforts have included helping to strengthen funding through grant application review and opportunities, elevating media reach, and to partnering in events. For example, in 2023 the TRCP provided financial and in-kind support to Impact Outdoors New Mexico for a program that gave 60 veterans an opportunity to participate in a hunting or fishing trip in Colorado and New Mexico. The TRCP also reviewed and worked with Impact Outdoors NM on grant applications and sponsored their attendance at a regional conservation conference.

conservation, ranchers, Tribes, and sportspeople. Because a monument can be created solely through the signature of the President, the pressure of this action could incentivize the Oregon House and Senate delegation to come to an agreement on legislation. This exact scenario led to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area in southeast Oregon in 2000. Already, the pressure of a monument designation has spurred Oregon's 2nd District Congressman Clif Bentz to begin drafting a House Owyhee companion bill, which is expected to be introduced early in 2024. The TRCP is one of the few conservation groups that are engaged with Bentz as he develops his version of the bill. While the House and Senate bills will be different from each other, we are hopeful agreement on the legislation can be reached in the coming year, leading to its passage by January 2025. While TRCP is focused on a legislative outcome, we are working closely with monument advocates behind the scenes, and the next twelve months are a pivotal window in which protections can be secured.

Strategy: The Owyhee canyonlands are located primarily in Malheur County, one of the most conservative counties in the nation, and support from moderate and conservative voices is key to a durable conservation win. The TRCP co-leads the Owyhee Sportsmen's Coalition, a group of eleven leading conservation and hunting/angling groups and businesses that has established itself as one of the leading voices in the region. Through public and decision maker outreach, the coalition has strengthened awareness and support for protections from within the sporting, business, and recreation community, built trusted relationships with the Burns Paiute Tribe and Oregon's delegation, and mitigated opposition from interests including the ranching community and local elected officials.

The TRCP's strategy is to continue to demonstrate support from moderate and conservative stakeholders to give decision makers the political cover they need to advance and endorse protections (and making it politically costly to oppose them). Our coalition will continue to work closely with the environmental community, hunters and anglers, Tribes, ranchers, and Malheur County leaders to build and demonstrate broad public support for protections.

Goal: By March 2025, more than one million acres of public lands and 25 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers within Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands are permanently protected from

development.

Activities (April 2024 – March 2025):

- Meet with local county commissioners, decision makers, and leading landowners to maintain and build support for protections and prevent opposition.
- Collaborate with the Burns Paiute Tribe to ensure their priorities are represented in protection proposals.
- Demonstrate broad public support for protections from regional hunting and fishing business and individuals.
- Work with the Oregon congressional delegation to advance protection proposals within the Senate and ensure a serious companion bill is introduced and advanced in the House.
- Educate and activate local hunters and anglers through original online content, including social and traditional media.
- Co-host a backcountry pack raft trip to the Owyhee with diverse partners that will result in a national podcast, social media, and two national journal articles about the region's values and the conservation opportunity.
- Organize a D.C. fly-in for partners to meet with members of Oregon's delegation and other influential decision makers during the fall 2024 fly-in. Create and hand deliver an Owyhee educational materials to educate D.C. leaders on the beauty of this wild landscape.

5. Key Decision Makers

Senator Wyden has been a champion for the Owyhee since 2019 and his staff have worked overtime this session of Congress to ensure the Owyhee Bill meets the needs of local stakeholders and has the political support necessary to pass in a public lands package before the end of the session in January of 2025. Our coalition has a strong relationship with Senator Wyden and his team, and we are respected by his staff for our credibility among the sporting community and knowledge of the geographic and political landscape. We will continue productive conversations with Wyden's team throughout the proposed grant period.

The district represented by Congressman Bentz is the seventh largest district by geographic area in the nation and one of the most conservative. The Congressman grew up in the Owyhee and is deeply familiar with the land and the people. Until recently, Bentz has refused to engage on the bill, but the public launch of the monument campaign in September 2023 prompted his team to begin work on a House companion bill. The TRCP was the only conservation stakeholder invited to meet with Bentz's team to discuss the bill in a December 2023 fly-in, and while there are remaining gaps between his bill and the protections we desire, the TRCP has a

11. Confidential Items

We recognize the importance of the National Monument proposal in the Owyhee and support the efforts of groups who are working on the Monument. At the same time, we have built a relationship with Congressman Bentz and others who openly oppose a National Monument and we feel that our collective influence and the brand of the 'Owyhee Sportsmen' is best utilized by publicly promoting the legislation to maintain access to Bentz and others at this time. We continue to support the National Monument campaign behind the scenes and are ready to publicly support the Monument if needed during the final 12 months of Congress to ensure this landscape is protected one way or another by the end of 2024.

seat at the table with the Congressman and our role is critical in shaping a successful legislative outcome. Our approach will be to continue to serve as a liaison between Congressman Bentz's office and Senator Wyden's office in an effort to shape a final bill that both can agree to and the conservation community can consider a victory. We will also work to deliver support to the Congressman from conservative stakeholders for conservation actions.

6. Elevate Voices

As described in the attached partnership letter, the TRCP has a strong relationship with Durrell Smith, co-founder of the Minority Outdoor Alliance and The Sporting Life Notebook. Proposed funding will include a re-grant to the Sporting Life Notebook for Durrell to document a packraft trip to a remote, stretch of the Owyhee river in May 2024. From the trip, Durrell will develop a suite of media deliverables that will be shared by MOA and TSLN and the Owyhee Sportsmen's Coalition to broaden and strengthen awareness and advocacy (content will drive to action taking platforms as timing allows) and push back on cultural stereotypes about who can enjoy the outdoor experience. The TRCP will invite Orvis, Patagonia, Alpacka Rafts and other partners and influencers on the trip to maximize the public reach of resulting media. In-addition, re-grant funds will support costs for Durrell to participate in the fall 2024 DC fly-in to advocate for Owyhee protections.

With funding from the current TCA grant, the TRCP is working with Chad Brown of Soul River Inc. and Love is King to plan a guided 5-day float trip down the lower Owyhee River in April 2024. Chad is a respected BIPOC conservation leader, both in Oregon and nationally, and an impactful advocate for the Owyhee. The trip will pair five BIPOC staff who are beginning a conservation career at the Forest Park Conservancy with five experienced BIPOC conservation leaders who are also alumni of previous Love is King trips to build mentor/mentee relationships as well as an understanding of the urgent conservation need. Proposed funding will help drive media and participant engagement during the remainder of the year.

These trips and events are co-led by organizations that represent historically underrepresented groups. These partnerships help strengthen organizational partnerships and expand the reach of media and engagement opportunities to a diverse audience.

Created By Kendra Davis, 12/15/2023, 12:23 PM

Last Modified By Kendra Davis, 12/15/2023, 12:23 PM

Copyright © 2000-2024 salesforce.com, inc. All rights reserved.