

FULL APPLICATION FORM**A. Organization, project and contact information (two page maximum)**

Please complete the organization, project and contact information below using no more than two pages.

Date of application	June 20, 2014
Organization name	Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
Organization address	19255 SW Pacific Highway, Sherwood, OR 97140
Organization website	www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org
Project contact	
Name	██████████
Title	██
Phone	██████████
Email	████████████████████
Fiscal agent If different than the lead organization.	
Project partners Provide committed partner organizations.	US Fish and Wildlife Service-Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Clean Water Services, Friends of Trees, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Cascade Education Corps, The Reser Family Foundation (funding committed)
Potential partners Provide potential partner organizations.	Northwest Youth Corps
Project title	South Riverboat Forest Restoration Project
Project summary Provide a 20-45-word summary that describes your project.	The project will restore 60 acres of high quality riparian habitat and adjacent forest along the Tualatin River. Community engagement and environmental education will be incorporated into restoration activities. Completed restoration will permanently link the project site to adjacent properties currently undergoing similar habitat restoration.

<p>Category Under which project category does your project best fit? (Select one only).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Community stewardship in developed areas</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration in natural areas</p>
<p>Length of project</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> One year</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Three years</p>
<p>Estimated funding</p>	<p>Estimated amount requested: \$25,000</p> <p>Estimated match funds: \$43,966</p> <p>Estimated in-kind match: \$109,416</p> <p>Estimated total project budget: \$178,382</p>
<p>Pre-application materials</p>	<p>In order to highlight any changes for our review committee, please check below if you have revised or changed the below sections:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organizational preparedness</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project description: narrative, goals, partnerships</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Location and project reach</p>

B. Attachments

Please attach the following documents.

Pre-application materials (updated or revised, as necessary)

- Organizational preparedness (maximum one page)
- Project description: narrative, goals, partnerships (maximum two pages)
- Location and project reach (maximum two pages)

Full application attachments

- Organization 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter, if applicant is not a school or government agency (maximum one page).
- Letter stating permission to use property by land owner or manager, if applicable (maximum one page) – **Note: permission included in Letter of Support from Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge**
- Three letters of support by active partners (minimum three letters)
- Project budget worksheet and narrative (see page 11) (maximum two pages)
- Evaluation measures and outcomes report (see page 12) (maximum two pages)
- Scope of work (see page 16) (maximum two pages)
- Optional: Additional photos, designs or maps (see page 17) (maximum two pages)

PRE-APPLICATION: Organizational preparedness (one page maximum)

Organizational preparedness

- Founded in 1993, the mission of The Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (Friends) is to support the development and management of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) located in Sherwood, Oregon. The Friends conserve, restore and protect refuge habitat, and provide wildlife-dependent education and recreation. As an organization we have been successful in recruiting and training volunteers to help with a variety of Refuge activities including: habitat maintenance and restoration, environmental education programs, trail roving, and staffing of the Refuge's Wildlife Center. In fact, our organization was just awarded the 2014 Friends of the Year Award by the National Wildlife Refuge Association. The stability of our organization is demonstrated by our successful grant-funded project implementation record and our ability to support multiple paid staff positions to implement projects on the Refuge for several years.

Bonnie Anderson, board member and administrative assistant for the Friends, is the primary grant contact person and will facilitate communication between partners, assist with project outreach, and manage the grant budget. She performs these same activities for all programs administered by the Friends organization, so she is well-qualified to handle these duties. Mary French, recently appointed to the Friends Board as the Habitat Restoration Chair, supervises monthly work parties focused on habitat restoration and maintenance of Refuge lands. She has a proven track record of community outreach, recently recruiting 50-100 Columbia Sportswear employees to participate in a Refuge work party. The Friends are also in the process of hiring a full-time Habitat Restoration and Biological Coordinator to expand the scope of habitat restoration work at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge.

Project planning will be based on the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan published in 2013. Project implementation and maintenance expertise for the restoration will be provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Clean Water Services. The staffs from both organizations bring a wealth of experience implementing and maintaining habitat restoration projects in the Tualatin River Watershed. Pete Schmidt, Refuge Biologist, has worked at the Refuge for US Fish and Wildlife Service for the past 13 years and has supervised all habitat restoration on the Refuge within that timeframe. Anil Devnani, Water Resources Project Manager for Clean Water Services, has a proven track record of successful riparian restoration projects within the Tualatin River Watershed. A local contractor with experience conducting habitat restoration in the watershed will be employed to conduct maintenance and planting.

The Friends organization is well-equipped to reach out to a diverse audience. We have conducted demographic analyses of the schools within a 25 mile radius of the refuge. This information has been used to reach out to diverse and underserved schools in an effort to engage these youth in environmental education at the Refuge. The Friends also reach out specifically to the Latino community for the annual Refuge Bird Festival, placing ads on Univision and creating Spanish language outreach materials. Additionally, project partners have been strategically selected for their ability to reach out to communities within the Tualatin River Watershed and beyond.

- The pre-application has been reviewed and approved by designated members of the Friends Board, as well as Refuge management.
- The South Riverboat parcel is owned and managed by the Refuge, one of the primary project partners.
- No permits are required for the proposed project.

PRE-APPLICATION: Project description (two pages maximum)

Project narrative

- **Addressing a Need – Restoration of a High-Priority Habitat:** The South Riverboat Forest Restoration Project is important for the Friends because we have recently taken a more active role in obtaining funding for habitat restoration on Refuge lands. The project will contribute to a region-wide goal among multiple private and public partners to restore watershed health in the Tualatin River Basin. This project has been identified as a high priority by the Refuge, but funding to contract planting is needed to initiate the restoration. While the Refuge is located just outside the urban growth boundary, the Nature in Neighborhoods grant coordinator confirmed that our project is eligible because it “demonstrates a significant public benefit through increased community stewardship of sensitive habitats of regional importance and/or provides significant public benefit through a regional approach to increasing habitat in urban areas.” The Refuge serves over 130,000 visitors per year, most of whom reside within the Portland metropolitan area. Benefit will accrue to native plant communities, fisheries, wildlife, the local economy, and a community of people who enjoy, study, and steward natural areas in the watershed.
- **Target Habitat Types – Riparian and Mixed Conifer Forest:** The delineation of future restored habitat types within the South Riverboat parcel (see inset of Map 1 in Section D) is already detailed in the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The plan involves returning the site to historic conditions by restoring 23 acres of riparian forest and 37 acres of mixed conifer forest for a total of 60 acres. Non-native trees and shrubs have already been removed from the site, so much of the site preparation has already been completed. Clean Water Services will plant 23 acres of riparian forest, and 10 acres will be prepared and planted by Friends volunteers and community partners. Public planting events will be conducted in January-March of 2015 and/or 2016, depending on site preparation status. A similar schedule will be employed for planting the mixed conifer forest. Clean Water Services will plant the riparian area in January-March 2016. Post-installation maintenance, monitoring, and reporting of project success will continue for 5-20 years. Responsibilities for project maintenance and reporting will be shared by the Friends, Refuge, and Clean Water Services.
- **Public Outreach Activities:** Volunteers and students will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on restoration and monitoring. The Friends will organize maintenance and planting work parties and will conduct community outreach to increase participation. Friends of Trees coordinate public planting events and build capacity within the Friends of the Refuge organization by training crew leaders. Cascade Education Corps will bring at-risk students to the site to assist with planting and maintenance. Trained Friends volunteers will be involved in vegetation and wildlife monitoring.
- **Implementation Methods and Best Practices:** Invasive species removal has already been conducted on a large portion of the site by US Fish and Wildlife Service staff. Additional invasive plant removal through spot spraying and mowing will be conducted to prepare the site for planting. The selection of species to be planted will be based on local examples of intact riparian and mixed conifer forest, and planting densities will follow guidelines from the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Clean Water Services. Similarly, plant establishment monitoring and maintenance will follow Refuge and Clean Water Services protocols, as both organizations have a wealth of experience with habitat restoration in the watershed.

Goals

- The South Riverboat Forest Restoration Project addresses both the restoration and public engagement goals of the Restoration in Natural Areas grant program. The project provides an

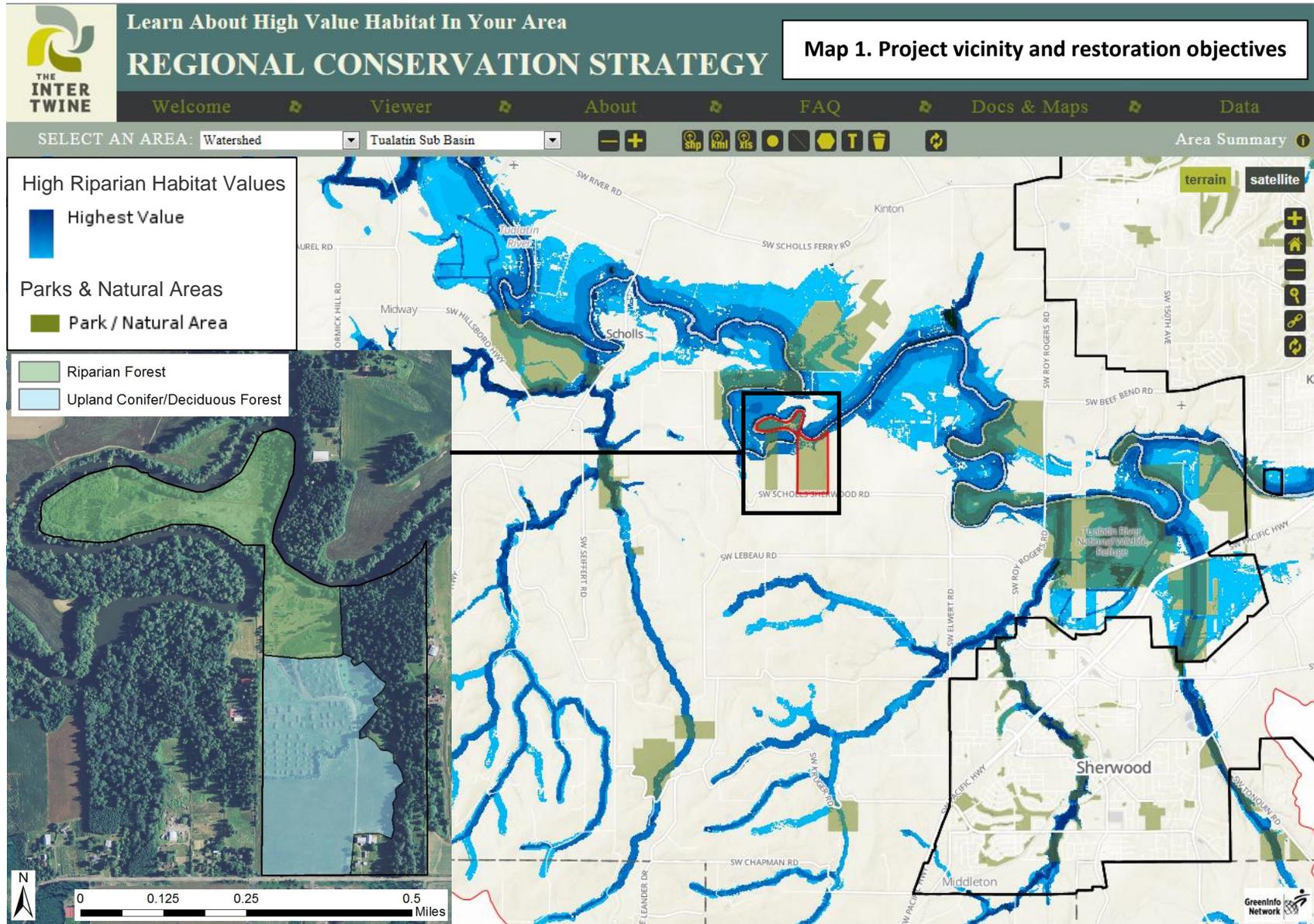
excellent opportunity to implement a partnership approach to community involvement in the restoration of ecological processes and functions in a high value habitat area along the main stem of the Tualatin River. People from throughout the Metro area will be able to connect with nature both through one-on-one volunteer opportunities, education programs, and the expansion of local partnerships with a focus on the stewardship of natural areas in the watershed. This restored natural area will be protected and managed in perpetuity by the Refuge and will complement other habitat types that support native fish, wildlife, and plants throughout the Refuge. This project will also result in increased habitat connectivity with a range of other habitat types currently undergoing restoration in the immediate vicinity (see Map 2 in Section D). Similar efforts are underway on hundreds of acres of public and private lands throughout the Tualatin River Basin, making the South Riverboat project part of a meaningful, landscape-scale effort to connect the Tualatin River corridor. Other important benefits include removing invasive species and increasing shade along the river to reduce water temperatures, which is especially important in light of climate change.

- The mission of The Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is to support the development and management of the Refuge. The Friends' strategic plan was recently updated to include a greater emphasis on procuring grant funds to initiate habitat restoration based on the recently completed Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. In addition to restoring important riparian and mixed conifer forest habitat, completing restoration on the South Riverboat project will help the Friends build the capacity to pursue larger restoration grants in the future.
- The Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) identifies the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge as a special area within Willamette Valley-Tualatin River Conservation Opportunity Area. The OCS identifies riparian areas as a high-priority habitat for the Willamette Valley, and the project site is also located within an area designated as high value riparian habitat by the Regional Conservation Strategy (see Map 1 in Section D). The proposed project will restore this important habitat, along with adjacent mixed conifer forest, which follows the prescription outlined in the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan completed in 2013. This habitat type supports a wide variety of species, including Neotropical songbirds, and the National Audubon Society has identified the Refuge as an Important Bird Area.

Partnerships

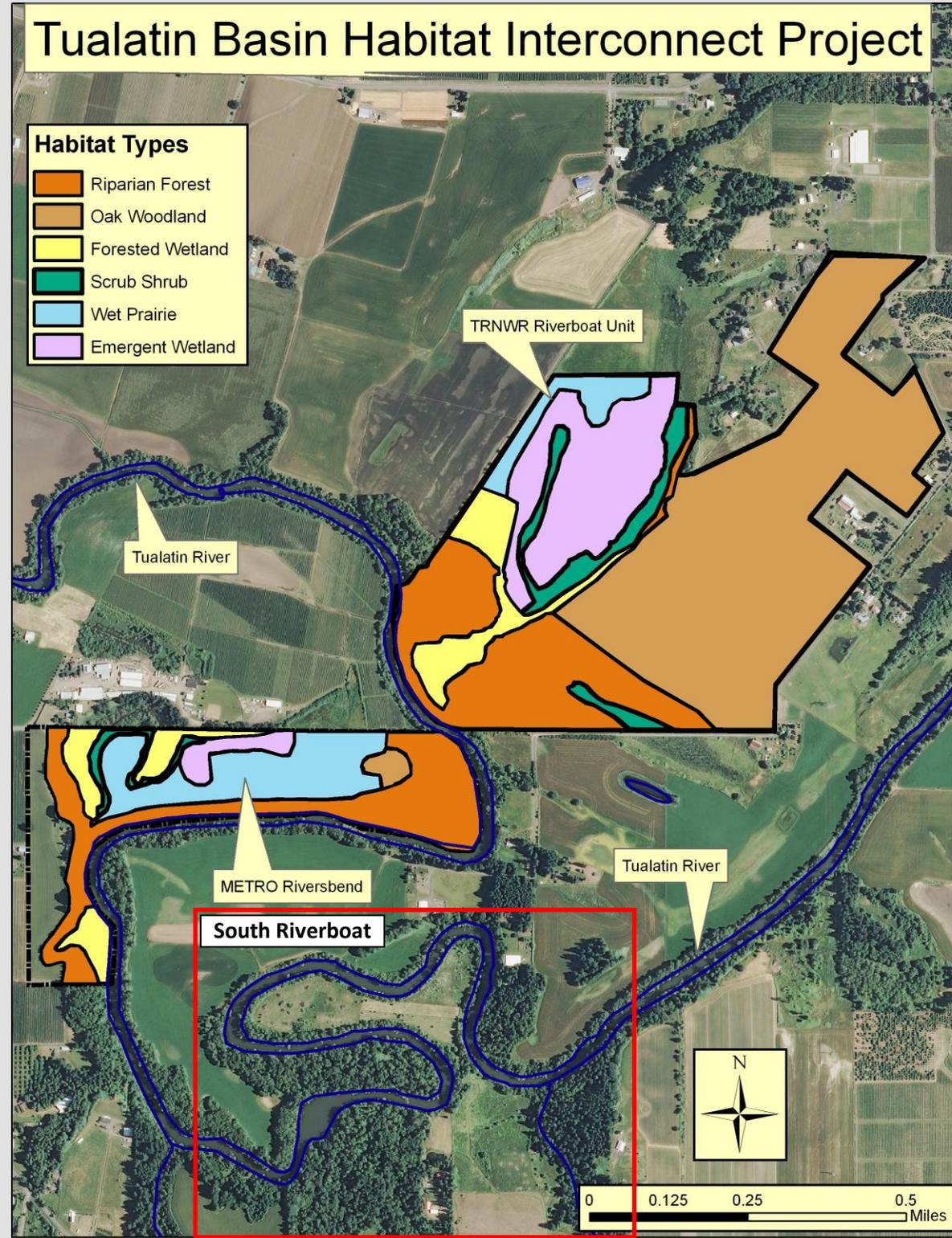
- The Friends and US Fish and Wildlife organizations already maintain relationships with the project partners. All confirmed and proposed project partners have been strategically selected for their expertise in restoration within the watershed and their community involvement focus. This strategy is proving to be effective in expanding the project reach into the community and laying the foundation for continued partnerships in the future. Additionally, The Reser Family Foundation has awarded the Friends a \$10,000 grant to purchase native plants for restoration on the South Riverboat parcel.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (committed) administers its lands and waters for the conservation, management, and restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats. Clean Water Services (committed) restores riparian habitat throughout the Tualatin Watershed to shade aquatic corridors and decrease water temperatures. Tualatin Riverkeepers (committed) is committed to restoring watershed health throughout the basin and has been directly involved in many restoration projects. Friends of Trees (committed) has planted nearly 500,000 trees in the region by bringing communities together to volunteer. Cascade Education Corps (committed) and Northwest Youth Corps (possible) both provide opportunities for youth to engage in environmental stewardship. The Reser Family Foundation (funding committed) supports environmental projects that result in broad public benefit in Oregon.

PRE-APPLICATION: Location and project reach (two pages maximum)



Map 2. Location of the South Riverboat parcel (outlined in red) in relation to similar habitat restoration being conducted in immediate project area.

Map produced by Ash Creek Forest Management, LLC



C. Project Budget Worksheet and Narrative (two pages maximum)

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Grant funds will be used primarily to provide contract labor to install native trees and shrubs on 27 acres of riparian forest and adjacent mixed conifer forest. Additionally, grant funds will provide salary for project administration and reporting. Matching funds will provide plants and associated planting materials. All project match funds for both years have already been secured. In-kind match will also be provided to conduct site preparation and follow-up maintenance, contract labor for planting and maintenance, and donation of additional plants. Volunteer labor will be donated to install plants, monitor plant growth and survival, and monitor wildlife response.

BUDGET CHART

Activity	Amount requested		Match funds Year 1 must be secured		In-kind match	Total project budget
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2		
Personal services List salaries and administration costs	\$1,000	\$1,000			\$10,200 (USFWS)	\$12,200
Volunteer labor Calculate at \$22.14/hour					\$22,532 Planting and monitoring	\$22,532
Professional services List activity and amount		\$23,000 Contract planting			\$37,164 Contract planting and maintenance (CWS)	\$60,164
Materials & supplies List items, quantities, prices			\$27,173 To purchase tree tubes, bamboo stakes, herbicide (USFWS) \$10,000 Plant materials (Reser)	\$6,793 To purchase tree tubes, bamboo stakes, herbicide (USFWS)	\$39,520 Plant materials (CWS)	\$83,486
Total	\$1,000	\$24,000	\$37,173	\$6,793	\$109,416	\$178,382

USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service-Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

CWS – Clean Water Services

Reser – The Reser Family Foundation

Budget Explanation

Personal services	Administrative Salary – Grant request	Years 1 and 2	Friends of Refuge Administrative Assistant salary and benefits @ [REDACTED]/hour for grant and restoration oversight.
	USFWS Salary – In-kind match	All years	Maintenance Worker salary @ \$ [REDACTED]/year for site preparation and plant maintenance.
Volunteer labor	Volunteer planting and monitoring – Match	All years	Volunteers will install plants on 10 acres of riparian forest, and conduct plant and wildlife monitoring on the restoration site. Volunteers will be recruited through the Friends of the Refuge, Friends of Trees, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Cascade Education Corps, and other venues.
Professional services	Contract planting – Grant request	Year 2	Grant funds will be used for contract plant installation on 27 acres of riparian and upland forest restoration. Approximately 38,000 plants will be installed.
	Contract planting and maintenance – In-kind match	All years	In-kind funds have been secured from Clean Water Services for planting and maintenance of 23 acres of riparian forest. CWS will install approximately 60,000 bare root plants and 10,000 plugs and bulbs.
Materials and supplies	Funds to purchase tree tubes, bamboo stakes, herbicide – Match	Years 1 and 2	Match for tree tubes, bamboo, and herbicide has been secured from US Fish and Wildlife Service. USFWS will provide funds for approximately 25,000 tree tubes @ \$0.60, 165,000 bamboo stakes @ \$0.10, and 18 gallons of herbicide @ \$137/gal.
	Plant materials – In-kind match	All years	In-kind match for plant materials has been secured from Clean Water Services. CWS will provide approximately 60,000 bare root plants and 10,000 plugs and bulbs.
	Plant materials – Match	Year 1	Match for plant materials from a \$10,000 grant awarded by the Reser Family Foundation to purchase approximately 17,000 plants.

D. Evaluation Measures and Outcomes Reporting (two pages maximum)

EVALUATION OUTCOMES NARRATIVE

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge has 550 acres of additional riparian and associated upland mixed forest designated to be restored and maintained, so information from this project will be of great value to future work. Infrastructure is in place to evaluate project outcomes based on habitat restoration and community engagement goals. US Fish and Wildlife Service and Clean Water Services utilize standard monitoring to evaluate restoration success. Friends of the Refuge tracks volunteer and youth participation across programs. Specific reporting plans are discussed below.

EVALUATION MEASURES CHART

Purpose: Our project purpose is to utilize local partnerships to benefit fish and wildlife in the Tualatin River Watershed through targeted restoration to provide habitat and increase connectivity, community outreach on the importance of habitat restoration, and engagement of diverse youth audiences.

Goals	Goal 1	Goal 2
	Restoration of a 60-acre natural area in the Tualatin River Watershed designated as high priority fish and wildlife habitat by Regional and Oregon Conservation Strategies.	Engage a diverse community in hands-on habitat restoration activities and educate refuge visitors and youth about the need for protecting natural areas.
Strategies	<p>Focus on a geographic area where other restoration work is underway to improve regional habitat connectivity.</p> <p>Work on an accessible protected site so that restored ecological processes and functions can be maintained in perpetuity.</p> <p>Focus on multiple key habitats and species by restoring an area transitioning from riparian to upland habitat.</p> <p>Increase river shading to decrease water temperatures and support climate change adaptation initiatives.</p> <p>Build capacity of Friends of Refuge to expand habitat restoration program.</p>	<p>Utilize Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Center for project outreach.</p> <p>Work with partners to promote restoration work, particularly public planting events, through social media.</p> <p>Encourage one-on-one interactions with volunteers throughout restoration effort (planting/maintenance/monitoring).</p> <p>Incorporate habitat restoration work into Environmental Education program already run by Friends of the Refuge.</p> <p>Focus on engaging youth to build new generation of environmental stewards.</p>
Activities	<p>Conduct site preparation for multiple years (already underway).</p> <p>Plant native shrubs and trees to restore natural vegetation structure.</p> <p>Mow and spot spray project site annually for at least first 5 years to control invasive plant species.</p> <p>Utilize partners and volunteers to monitor</p>	<p>Engage community in restoration by hosting at least 4 public planting events.</p> <p>Conduct project outreach through both walking and paddling tours.</p> <p>Utilize partner expertise to train leaders within Friends of Refuge organization.</p> <p>Train and supervise volunteers to conduct project monitoring surveys.</p>

	<p>project success annually (methods below).</p> <p>Conduct adaptive site maintenance for 5-20 years to ensure project success.</p>	<p>Create project poster to be displayed in Wildlife Center and other venues as an outreach tool.</p>
Project reach	<p>Project site borders 1.25 miles of the main stem Tualatin River.</p> <p>Target habitats to restore are riparian and associated upland forests. Target species benefiting from restoration include Neotropical birds (e.g., willow flycatcher, olive-sided flycatcher) and aquatic mammals (e.g., American beaver, mink).</p>	<p>Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge attracts 130,000 visitors annually, mostly from Portland metropolitan area.</p> <p>Friends of Refuge reaches out to diverse and underserved youth (particularly Latino community) in west metro area through education program and annual Bird Festival.</p>
Data collection tools and methods	<p>Plant survival and growth monitoring.</p> <p>Photo records from permanent photo-points.</p> <p>Pre- and post-restoration wildlife surveys (e.g., bird point counts, nest boxes, small mammal trapping).</p> <p>Observations and anecdotes.</p>	<p>Track new or expanded projects, partnerships, funding commitments and/or leader recruitment resulting from project.</p> <p>Track volunteer registration, Wildlife Center visitation numbers, and student participation in education program.</p> <p>Collect informal feedback from volunteers and partners.</p>
Outcomes	<p>Plant 60 acres (riparian – 23, upland – 37) with native trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Plant site at density ranging from 1,450-2,600 plants per acre.</p> <p>Treat 60 acres for non-native plant species.</p> <p>Achieve 70% survival rate for new plantings.</p> <p>Restore riparian buffer along 1.25 miles of the main stem of the Tualatin River.</p> <p>Connect project to an additional 400 acres of protected land within a 1 mile radius.</p>	<p>100 volunteers involved in restoration work.</p> <p>20,000 people reached annually through Wildlife Center.</p> <p>1,500 youth reached annually through education program.</p> <p>Network of new partnerships leading to development of new projects.</p> <p>Capacity of Friends of Refuge to participate in project implementation increased.</p>

E. Scope of Work (two pages maximum)

SCOPE OF WORK

The project planning phase has already been completed by US Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Restoration work will be implemented by all project partners, contractors, and community volunteers. Friends of the Refuge will coordinate volunteer involvement with project partners and other community organizations. Project maintenance will be conducted primarily by US Fish and Wildlife Service and Clean Water Services. Friends of the Refuge will train volunteers to conduct project monitoring and will coordinate outreach activities with assistance from all project partners. The specific scope of work is detailed in the chart below.

Schedule & Timeline:	Phase & Activity: <i>What activities will occur at each phase of the project? What are you expecting to achieve? What are the key deliverables and/or milestones of each phase of the project?</i>	Responsible person or partner:
<i>When?</i>	Project planning	<i>Who?</i>
Completed	Selecting the site: The site is within Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. This site was identified in the recently completed Comprehensive Conservation Plan for restoration to riparian and mixed conifer forest. It is located in 'habitat patches and corridors,' identified by Metro and a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) per both the Willamette Synthesis and Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife analysis for implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy. The site provides habitat connectivity among several conservation properties in the vicinity within the Tualatin River floodplain.	Lead: USFWS
Completed	Developing the desired future condition: The site is situated along the Tualatin River and was in agricultural production for decades. Since acquisition, Refuge staff and partners have been working to prepare the site for restoration. Historic records and adjacent lands indicate this property will support the desired habitat types. In January 2010 a Wildlife and Habitat review was conducted to evaluate the property and included conservation experts from the local community, including Metro scientists.	Lead: USFWS
Completed	Developing a plan: FOR, USFWS, and other project partners have a long and successful history of restoring riparian and mixed conifer forest. Plants will be installed in rows at densities of 1,450-2,600 plants per acre with approximately 3-4 shrubs:1 tree. Row planting will allow active maintenance until plants are well-established. Trees will be protected from rodents and browsing with plastic tree tubes.	Leads: USFWS, CWS
<i>When?</i>	Implementation	<i>Who?</i>
As required prior to planting	Ordering materials: Some plant materials will be provided by CWS, and others will be purchased locally from local stock. Plants will primarily be bare-root, but may also be small containers or plugs.	Lead: FOR, CWS
In progress	Preparing the site: Site preparation has been in progress for many years by USFWS with assistance from FOR. Non-native trees and shrubs have been removed and herbicide has been applied to begin clearing non-native	Leads: USFWS, CWS, FOR

	grasses. CWS has recently contracted with a local company to begin detailed site preparation with directed herbicide applications.	
Winter 2014-2015, 2015-2016	Planting: The project will be planted in three sections: 1) CWS will plant 23 acres of riparian forest, 2) Volunteers recruited by all partners will plant 10 acres of riparian and mixed conifer forest, and 3) grant funds will hire a local contractor to plant an additional 27 acres of riparian and mixed conifer forest.	Leads: FOR, FOT, CWS (with support from all partners)
Throughout project	Minimize adverse impacts: Best management practices include ensuring that personnel and equipment entering the site are weed free. No fueling of vehicles is allowed in the floodplain. Mowing will be the primary means of weed management until plants are established with minimal use of USFWS approved herbicide.	Leads: USFWS, CWS
<i>When?</i>	Maintenance	<i>Who?</i>
Beginning spring 2015 and continuing for a minimum of 5 years.	Post-project maintenance: CWS has a 20-year commitment for maintenance on their projects. USFWS will maintain the site in perpetuity. Primary means of maintenance during the first 5 years will be mowing to reduce competition and spot spraying as necessary. Inter-planting will be conducted in areas that exceed 30% mortality as indicated by monitoring.	Leads: USFWS, CWS
<i>When?</i>	Reporting	<i>Who?</i>
As required	Monitoring: Friends volunteers will monitor the site for survivorship and growth attributes, and wildlife response (compared with current, pre-restoration, wildlife monitoring results). Permanent photo points will document changes in habitat structure. Short-term project success will result from working within budget, completion of site preparation, and successful and timely installation of plants. Long-term project success will be establishment of a minimum of 70% of installed plants to achieve desired habitat type results, and positive wildlife response. Reports will include final planting densities, native species installed, expense report, photos of the site pre- and post-restoration and installation and monitoring activities, monitoring results, and volunteer and youth participation numbers.	Lead: FOR
<i>When?</i>	Outreach	<i>Who?</i>
Upon receipt of grant and at periods throughout the life of the project	FOR will incorporate the restoration project into existing youth education programs and will also provide an education component for CEC. Both FOR and TRK will have regular articles in their newsletters and other media describing the project and inviting local citizens to become involved. FOT will also help promote the public planting events. Local volunteers will have the opportunity to work on-site both during the planting/maintenance phase and for monitoring for years to come. Biological research through local universities and other educational institutions is encouraged to both further the understanding of restoration activities and to provide a connection to nature within the local community. FOR will create a project poster to be displayed in the Refuge Wildlife Center and other venues.	Lead: FOR (with support from all partners)

FOR – Friends of Refuge, USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service, CWS – Clean Water Services, TRK – Tualatin Riverkeepers, FOT – Friends of Trees, CEC – Cascade Education Corps



United States Department of Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge Complex
19255 SW Pacific Hwy
Sherwood OR 97140
Ph: 503-625-5944 Fax: 503-625-5947

June 11, 2014

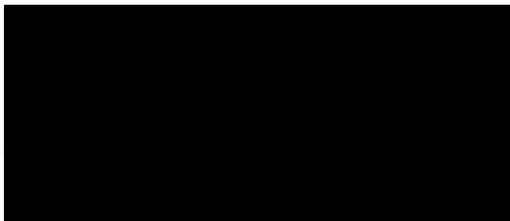
Metro – Natural Areas Program
Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grants
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grant Review Team:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is pleased to support the proposal from Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (FOR) to restore and maintain 60 acres of high value riparian and associated upland habitat along the main stem of the Tualatin River. In addition to restoring this abandoned farmland for the benefit of native fish, wildlife, and plants, the project will build on restoration work being conducted by USFWS and Metro in the immediate vicinity to increase habitat connectivity within the Tualatin River corridor. As the landowner of the proposed project site, the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge gives full permission to FOR to pursue the South Riverboat Forest Restoration Project.

In support of this project, USFWS will provide substantial staff time and expertise to lead the two-year habitat restoration effort in accordance with the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan. We will also work with FOR to train volunteers in long-term maintenance and monitoring for the project. Additionally, USFWS is committed to permanently maintaining the restored project site. Finally, USFWS will use expertise as an urban refuge to conduct project outreach and education to our increasingly diverse pool of visitors, mostly from the Portland metro area, that now numbers 130,000 annually.

FOR has been a terrific partner organization and was recently recognized as 2014 Friends Group of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association. USFWS fully supports FOR's efforts to increase their capacity of conduct habitat restoration at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Thank you for considering funding this important project, which will strategically add to an interconnected landscape of restored habitat in the Tualatin River Watershed and connect people with nature in their own backyard. Please contact me at [REDACTED] with questions.



June 12, 2014

Nature in Neighborhoods Grants Committee
Metro
600 NE Grant Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

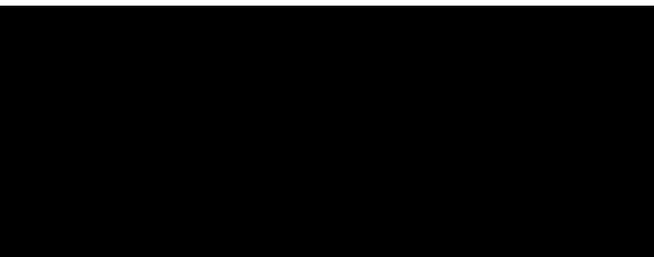
Dear Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grant Review Committee:

It is with great excitement that Clean Water Services (CWS) submits this letter of support for the South Riverboat Forest Restoration Project proposed by Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. This project is an exemplary example of a collaborative effort between several partners to meet multiple community-based goals and objectives aimed at improving watershed health at a scale, and in a location, that makes efficient use of limited restoration dollars.

Clean Water Services is a water resource management utility that is committed to protecting water resources in the Tualatin River Watershed. Approximately 542,000 people enjoy clean water and healthy rivers and streams as a result of its innovative wastewater and storm water services, water quality and stream enhancement work, and other efforts. CWS also conducts a watershed enhancement program aimed at improving and protecting water quality, water quantity and species habitat.

Clean Water Services' participation in the proposed project will focus mainly on restoration of the 23 acre main stem riparian forest. The approach will consist of intensive site preparation activities aimed at controlling nonnative herbaceous and woody vegetation. Once adequate site preparation has been achieved, the area will be seeded with a native grass mix (to provide species diversity and cover as the woody vegetation becomes established) and planted with a high density of native trees and shrubs. Following planting, establishment/maintenance and monitoring activities will commence and continue for a minimum of 20 years. Establishment/maintenance will entail competition and cover reduction around individual plants, interplanting, and control of nonnative vegetation. Monitoring metrics will consist of stem counts, species diversity, and aerial cover of native and nonnative, herbaceous and woody vegetation. All activities and materials (i.e. plants, seed, herbicides, and contracted services) associated with restoration of the main stem riparian area will be paid for by CWS and considered an in-kind contribution as allowed under the terms and conditions of the grant.

As proposed, the South Riverboat Forest Restoration Project has the ability to bring the community together in defined roles that complement each other's strengths and work towards a larger vision of watershed health and regional conservation. I strongly urge the committee to fully fund the proposed project. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.





June 19, 2014

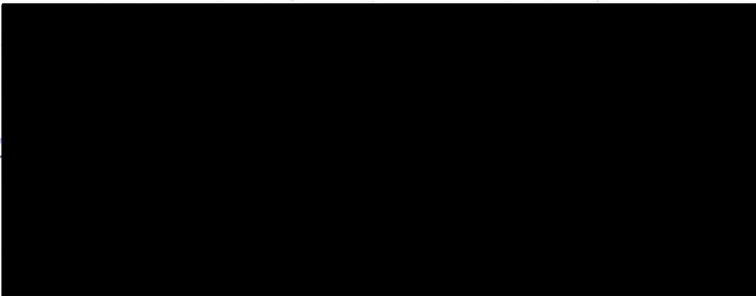
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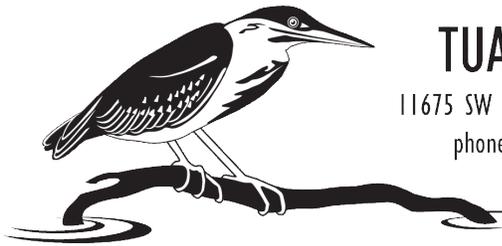
Dear Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grant Review Team:

Friends of Trees (FOT) is pleased to support the proposal from Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (FOR) to accomplish restoration and maintenance of 60 acres of high value riparian and upland forest along Tualatin River corridor to benefit native fish/wildlife/plants. Through this project there will be four public planting events, an increase capacity of Friends of Refuge organization to conduct future restoration work in support of Refuge mission, and public engagement to highlight restoration work to Portland metro residents (130,000 visitors per year in Refuge Wildlife Center).

In support of this project, FOT will take the lead on coordinating two volunteer plantings per season (four volunteer plantings total). At these plantings we will provide crew leaders, volunteers, and outreach to the surrounding community. In addition, we will provide expertise to build capacity within Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge organization to conduct future restoration on refuge. This will be partially accomplished by FOR volunteers attending our volunteer Crew Leader training and assisting at the plantings.

FOT's mission is to bring people in the Pacific Northwest together to plant and care for city trees and green spaces. We have been partnering with a diverse array of public agencies, other non-profits, and volunteers on natural area restoration projects for nearly two decades. We have three full-time staff dedicated to our Green Space Initiative program which implements over 40 volunteer planting events and 10 volunteer maintenance events involving over 2,000 volunteers each season.





TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

11675 SW Hazelbrook Road • Tualatin, Oregon 97062

phone 503-218-2580 • fax 503-218-2583

www.tualatinriverkeepers.org

June 10th, 2014

Dear Metro NIN Restoration Committee:

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) strongly supports The Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in its Metro NIN Restoration grant application. The South Riverboat Forest Restoration Project furthers TRK's water quality goals through floodplain and riparian habitat preservation and restoration in the Tualatin River watershed. The area will also foster habitat connectivity with TRK restoration work nearby and builds on our shared goals of utilizing volunteers for on the ground restoration, educating both adults and youth on the value of restoration in riparian habitat.

TRK is a community-based 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1993 to protect and restore the Tualatin basin. With 650 member families and a volunteer corps of 500 with specialties in land use and water policy, fisheries and wildlife science, TRK is regarded as the leading, independent voice for clean water in the Tualatin basin. Deepening synergies with Friends of the Refuge will no doubt help us accomplish our mission more effectively.

TRK will also publish success of this work on its social media, as well as during river tours, and inform volunteers of planting events with Friends of the Refuge. Please don't hesitate to contact me further should you have any questions relating to our support and thank you for your consideration of their proposal.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



June 11, 2014

Metro – Natural Areas Program
Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grants
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grant Review Team:

Cascade Education Corps (CEC) is pleased to support the proposal from Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (FOR) to expand their habitat restoration efforts in the Refuge. We are especially supportive of the inclusion of public engagement and community partnerships in these efforts, recognizing that the impact of this work is significantly amplified through outreach, education, and citizen stewardship.

In support of this project, CEC will partner with FOR to provide on the ground support for invasive species removal, native planting, and maintenance efforts within the two-year project timeline. During this time, we will draw on the resources and expertise of the Friends to provide conservation and science education to participating students, both during work projects as well as during other dedicated times.

The Cascade program is a community-based alternative education program that provides students with job and life skills training, science education, and work experience through the conservation corps model. We partner with various community agencies and organizations on habitat restoration and trail projects throughout the Tualatin and Willamette River watersheds. This proposed collaboration with the Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge aligns with our program goals of community stewardship, experiential outdoor education, and place-based nature connection. A large majority of the restoration work that students do is within the Tualatin watershed, and the Refuge is a regional gem that provides valuable habitat to wildlife in our area. Working with FOR would provide students the opportunity to directly contribute to and connect with this place, and would greatly enhance our ability to meet our program goals.

Please strongly consider this proposal in your decision-making process. It would provide incredible benefits to the wildlife, citizens, and youth of the Tualatin River watershed that will echo through our community long after the two years are over.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]