

## SECTION 3: PRE-APPLICATION FORM

## A. Organization, project and contact information

<b>Date of application</b>	April 21, 2015
<b>Organization name</b>	Sandy River Basin Watershed Council
<b>Organization address</b>	26000 SE Stark, GE Building, Gresham, Oregon 97030
<b>Organization website</b>	www.sandyriver.org
<b>Project contact</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Title</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Phone</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Fiscal agent</b>	
<b>Project partners Committed partner organizations.</b>	US Forest Service, East Multnomah SWCD, Jubitz Family Foundation, PGE Habitat Fund, Friends of the Sandy River Delta, Reynolds School District, Friends of Trees, Ash Creek Forest Management, Confluence, FedEx, Portland Trail Blazers
<b>Potential partners</b>	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Portland School Dist., Daimler Corp.
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Sandy River Delta Restoration II</b>
<b>Project summary Provide a 20-45-word summary that describes your project.</b>	SRBWC will rally a diverse group of partner organizations, students and community volunteers to extend Sandy River Delta restoration to important riparian and wetland habitats along the newly re-established Sandy River Channel, improving critical habitat for migratory fish and birds and resident reptiles and other wildlife.
<b>Category</b>	X Restoration in natural areas (protected/ larger, intact natural areas)
<b>Project length</b>	X Up to two years
<b>Post project maintenance</b>	X Three years
<b>Habitat type(s)</b>	X Riparian Habitat: Projects above the ordinary high-water mark of the stream and within up to 200' of the waterline, depending on conditions. X Upland conifer/deciduous forest: Enhancement projects implemented in forests outside the floodplain or riparian zone. X Floodplain forests and wetlands (ponds): Projects addressing any of the full range of wetland habitat types, including floodplain bottom hardwood forests.
<b>Acres</b>	Number of acres the project will restore or protect: 25
<b>Site Location</b>	Site address: Sandy River Delta exit 18 off I-84 City, zip code: Troutdale, OR 97060
<b>Estimated funding</b>	Estimated amount requested: \$70,000 Estimated match funds: \$65,000 Estimated in-kind match: \$15,000 Estimated total project budget: \$150,000

## **B. Organizational preparedness (one page maximum)**

The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council (SRBWC) is a leader in collaborative habitat restoration at the US Forest Service Sandy River Delta (project site), where we have worked successfully with non-profit, agency and volunteer partners in habitat restoration on site for over 12 years. We've demonstrated our capacity to attract and administer large grants for environmental restoration, implementing NIN Sandy Delta Restoration, Phase-1, which has resulted in planting of 140,000 floodplain-adapted trees and shrubs and participation from over 500 volunteers representing diverse cultures and communities from the greater Metro region. SRBWC also has developed and completed two major floodplain re-connection projects at Metro's Oxbow Park and adjacent YMCA properties.

Founded in 1997 by watershed residents and land management agencies, the SRBWC works to catalyze community efforts toward watershed-scale restoration. SRBWC participates in a broad Sandy River Basin Partners coalition, where we collaborate with 15 organizations and agencies to restore priority fish and wildlife in the basin. Restoration at the Delta is part of a main-stem watershed priority in the Sandy River Basin Partner's long-term restoration plan, calling for stewardship of an area that is a growing magnet for recreational use and critical habitat for ESA-listed salmonids and diverse populations of birds, reptiles and amphibians. The Delta also is named a Tier-1 anchor habitat for salmonid recovery in the Sandy Basin and for its outstanding potential to support the native fish and related ecosystem communities that once occupied the Lower Columbia basin.

The four-person SRBWC staff focuses on habitat restoration and stewardship of natural areas of the Sandy River and its tributaries. Project Lead, SRBWC Lower Sandy Restoration Coordinator [REDACTED] brings over 35 years of experience managing habitat restoration projects in Oregon and Washington. Weiler will provide on-site coordination, including leading the Community Planting Days that attract hundreds of volunteers from the greater Metro area. With over decades of conservation experience, Executive Director [REDACTED] returned to Oregon in 2010 from the acclaimed Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago, where he served as Natural Resources Director. He will provide overall project administrative management. Project actions integrate efforts of SRBWC staff (project match funding, coordination and implementation), contractors (invasive plant identification and removal, plant list development, help with planting and maintenance), and diverse community volunteers (planting and maintenance).

The SRBWC Board of Directors enthusiastically supports the Delta restoration work and many members participate in Delta events. Our growing partnerships have dramatically expanded community engagement at the Delta with our most recent Planting Day drawing over 100 participants who planted 750 Portland Trail Blazer-donated trees and shrubs. Integrating youth leadership and public educational activities at planting events expands the impact of on-the-ground restoration.

The SRBWC is uniquely poised to complete Delta restoration because of our coordinating role among public and private partners to achieve mutual goals. Active project partners include the US Forest Service, East Multnomah SWCD, Jubitz Family Foundation, Mt. Hood Community College, Friends of the Sandy River Delta, Friends of Trees, Ash Creek Forest Management, Reynolds School District, and Confluence. Corporate partners PGE Habitat Fund, FedEx and Portland Trailblazers have contributed volunteers and matching support. SRBWC has a 5-year contract with the landowner, USFS, to conduct habitat restoration work. No permits will be required. Except for wood raft placement in two ponds, no in-water work will occur.

## C. Project description (two pages maximum)

### Project Need & Goals

There is enormous, increasing public interest in fully restoring the 1-500-acre Sandy River Delta landscape. After BPA funded Delta land acquisition and early stabilization, SRBWC and partners have stepped in to successfully secure grant monies for restoration and outreach, and now seek support to continue and complete the next phase of our work. The Sandy Delta’s land manager, US Forest Service is fully committed to re-establishing native ecosystems at the Delta, and corporate entities such as FedEx, PGE Habitat Fund, Embassy Suites, Wells Fargo and Portland Trail Blazers are contributing significant volunteer effort and matching funds. We believe that our unique formula of habitat restoration combined with cultural and environmental education ensures a sustainable future for the site, watershed and region.

Goal 1	Goal 2
<p><i>Preserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat at the Sandy River Delta and support larger conservation initiatives such as the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS), Regional Conservation Strategy (RCS), Watershed Action Plans or other local community plans.</i></p>	<p><i>Increase people’s awareness of the need protecting and managing the Sandy River Delta. Engage people in learning about, protecting and managing natural areas at the community level.</i></p>
<p><b>Project Outcomes:</b>  <i>*Conserve core habitats and the habitats between them (RCS)</i>  <i>*Maintain, restore riparian and wetland habitats (OCS)</i>  <i>*Remove invasive species and enhance native vegetation (RCS, OCS, Sandy Delta Plan, Biodiversity Plan)</i>  <i>*Reduce hazards to wildlife (RCS)</i>  <i>*Restore ecological processes and functions in natural areas (OCS, Sandy Delta Plan)</i></p>	<p><b>Project Outcomes:</b>  <i>*Provide opportunities for visitors and community volunteers to both participate in restoration activities and join in on educational offerings including restoration training, interpretive walks to the Maya Lin Bird Blind, and sign viewing.</i>  <i>*A sense of wonder, stewardship and place.</i></p>

All proposed restoration activities implement the USFS Sandy Delta Plan, which has guided restoration since 1995. Based on historic vegetation and hydrologic conditions, the Plan directs land managers to implement the goals and policies of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan toward recovery of sustainable, functional Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats.

### Project Narrative

Since 2002, the Forest Service and partners have brought over 1,000 acres of the Sandy River Delta under management for restoration of native, Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats - riparian forest, wetland, oak savanna and prairie. Project actions will restore 25-acres along the Sandy River East channel that was reconnected by a dam removal in 2013, and which contains wetland scrub and riparian forest characterized by black cottonwood and willows. Developed by an interdisciplinary team of natural resource specialists, proposed actions represent a top priority of Forest Service and the next phase of sequential Delta habitat restoration, following up on the channel reconnection.

Himalayan blackberry, reed canary grass and garlic mustard have been identified as invasive weeds to be eliminated. The yellow-billed cuckoo, an endangered species sighted at the Delta, is in decline due to dwindling high-quality riparian and wetland habitats; its federal listing notice states that “invasive exotic plants have contributed to their decline.” US Fish & Wildlife biologists encourage the proposed propagation of native riparian species, including willow for benefit to the cuckoo and other neotropical migratory birds. The Delta’s other wildlife species and the listed salmonids that use the waters around the Delta for migration and rearing also benefit from restored forests and wetlands, and the forested wetlands and ponds in the project area are key habitat features for native painted turtles.

Year-1 of the three year project begins with integrated pest management of noxious and invasive weeds, using a combination of spot spraying using a USFS-approved herbicide and hand cutting/pulling treatments. Volunteers and staff will close targeted social trails that are causing erosion and install turtle basking wood rafts in Spring, 2016. Year-2 includes weed control treatments in June, July, and October. In 2017, volunteers and professional planting crews will plant 16,800 bare root trees and shrubs, followed by weed control treatments in June, 2017. Year-3, not covered by this grant, will begin the first project maintenance treatments. SRBWC staff will evaluate and report on project actions every sixth months. The Sandy River Delta Plan calls for “2-meter square quadrant sampling plots.” We will visually inspect the entire project area for the presence of invasive weed species.

### **Outreach & Underserved Communities**

Community engagement is one of the strongest aspects of the Sandy Delta Restoration project. With our partners, we are involving hundreds of local students and adult volunteers in tree planting, instilling a sense of place about this special natural area through interpretive tours and training. Project outreach integrates recruitment through SRBWC’s and Friends of Trees’ web sites and social media, with signage, on-site interpretive tours and Delta field trips.

Thanks to these efforts, more than 200,000 visitors annually are learning about, and hundreds participating in habitat restoration and stewardship activities through our successful Community Planting Days. Already this year, our field adventures to the Delta have involved 250 upper elementary and junior high school students, faculty and parent chaperones. College Possible, a program that prepares low- income high school students for college, has joined Delta stewardship events to fulfill community service and natural resource objectives. Project partner, Ash Creek Forest Management pursues diversity goals in its hiring and employee advancement, promoting underrepresented groups in natural resources management.

The Delta is located near Troutdale, where median incomes are at regional averages. Communities nearest the project area and in easternmost neighborhoods of Portland, however, show greater ethnic diversity than much of the Metro region and include substantial disadvantaged populations. Communities participating in volunteerism also represent diverse and economically disadvantaged populations, particularly of youth. The nearby Reynolds School District’s population has a poverty rate of 31%. Demographics indicate the prevalence of underserved communities in the area surrounding the Delta: only three of 17 adjacent public school districts have free or reduced school lunch eligibility below 60%, averaging 72% with a range from 54-94% eligible.

### **Partnerships**

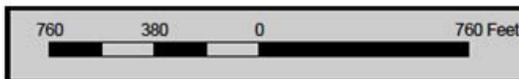
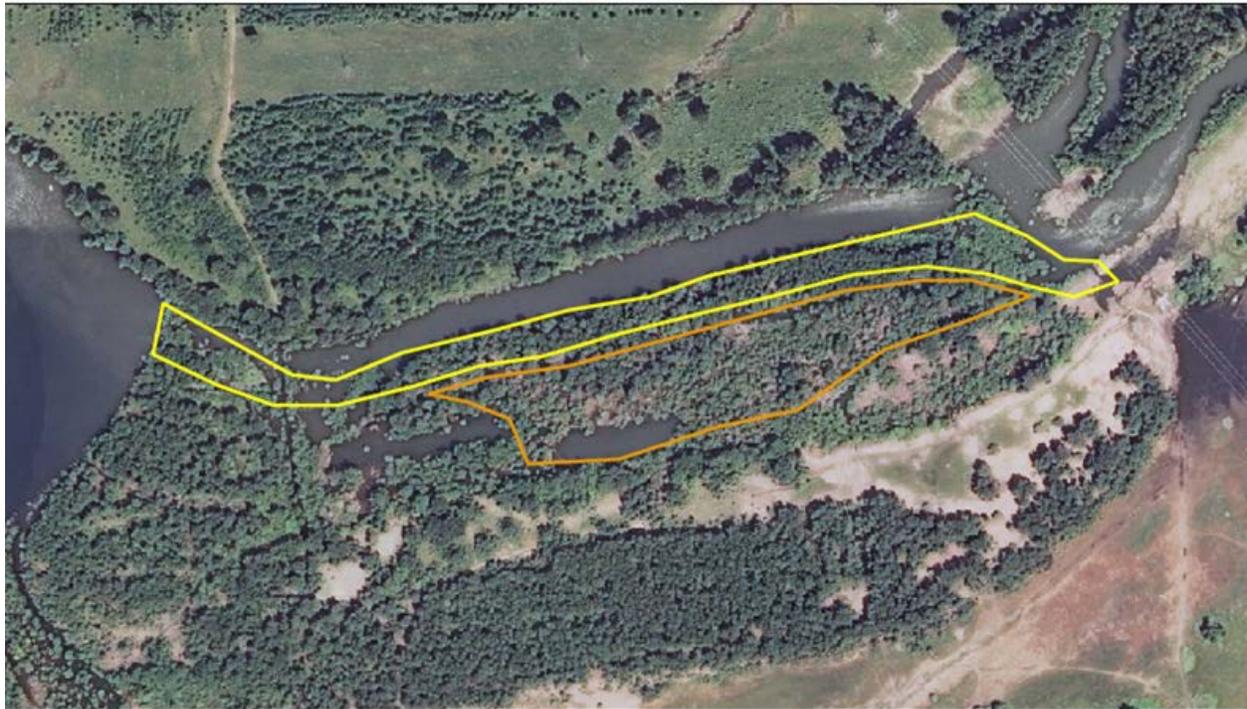
The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council (SRBWC) is a partnership: individuals and organizations working cooperatively to improve the health of the watershed for fish, wildlife and people. We coordinate efforts with diverse private and public sector partners to produce the greatest benefits for the watershed. SRBWC has participated in the Sandy River Delta habitat restoration partnership since 2012, overseeing the restoration of the 90-acre Toucan Wing, the planting of 140,000 native trees and shrubs, and the creation of the Acorns to Oaks Environmental Education Program, which so far involves Troutdale and Portland public schools. SRBWC will continue to add great partners to our Delta Restoration work, while strengthening our existing relationships with US Forest Service, East Multnomah SWCD, Jubitz Family Foundation, PGE Habitat Fund, Friends of the Sandy River Delta, Reynolds School District, Friends of Trees, Ash Creek Forest Management, Confluence, FedEx, Portland Trail Blazers. Partnering with the Blazers is increasing public awareness and Delta volunteering. During the 2015 playoffs, the Blazers ‘3s for Trees’ initiative will contribute 30 trees for every successful three point shot.

#### D. Location and project reach (two pages maximum)



*Sandy Delta location (above) and reconnected channel proposed project area (below)*

### New Sandy Channel Edge and Channel Ponds





Maps from the Regional Conservation Strategy viewer. Above, the Sandy River Delta (outlined in dark green) and project area (light green) are assigned High/Highest Riparian Habitat values. Below, the project area lies entirely within Highest Value (dark purple) designation.

Learn About High Value Habitat In Your Area

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Welcome
Viewer
About
FAQ
Docs & Maps

SELECT AN AREA: Custom Drawing

### Layers & Legend

- Local - Highest Value
  - Highest Value
- Local - High Value
  - High Value
- Local - Full Spectrum
- Regional - Highest Value
  - Highest Value
- Regional - High Value
  - High Value
- Regional - Full Spectrum