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## PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

### Section 1. General administrative information

**Title of project**

Recruit, Train, Organize & Support River Stewards

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**BPA project number:** 20108

**Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy):**

**Multiple actions?**

**Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding**

Oregon Trout

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**Business acronym (if appropriate)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal contact person or principal investigator:**

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**NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses**

7.6b.6

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**FWS/NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses**

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**Other planning document references**

The Oregon Plan, Lower Columbia Estuary Long Term Monitoring Strategy, Willamette Basin Restoration Plan, Lower Columbia River Mangement Plan, Mckenzie River Action Plan.

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**Short description**

Working to recruit, train, organize and support individuals practicing river stewardship in sub-basin communities. This grass- root program strives to empower citizens with knowledge and tools to actively protect and enhance their local watershed.

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**Target species**

Multi-Species

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### Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

**Subbasin**

Lower Columbia Mainstem, Willamette, Sandy, Fifteen Mile, Deschutes, Hood, John Day, Grande Ronde, Umatilla, Malheur.

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### Evaluation Process Sort

CBFWA caucus	Special evaluation process	ISRP project type
Mark one or more caucus	If your project fits either of these processes, mark one or both	Mark one or more categories
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anadromous fish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident fish <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-year (milestone-based evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed project evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed councils/model watersheds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information dissemination <input type="checkbox"/> Operation & maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> New construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research & monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation & management <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat acquisitions

### Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

**Umbrella / sub-proposal relationships.** List umbrella project first.

Project #	Project title/description

#### Other dependent or critically-related projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9607	Mckenzie River Watershed Coordination	Supports education/outreach objectives
8056	Holistic Master Watershed Stewards	Similar Objectives

### Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

#### Past accomplishments

Year	Accomplishment	Met biological objectives?
1995	Hired full time coordinator for program	
1996	Initiated program in Rogue, Umpqua, and North Coast basins.	
1997	Expanded program to include Mid Coast, John Day, Klamath, and Willamette Basins	
1998	Began organizing in Lower Columbia, Sandy, Deschutes, and Grande Ronde	

#### Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Recruit River Stewards; Five for each fifth field HUC in service area.	a	Present program materials, objectives and criteria to watershed councils, media, school groups and interest groups.
		b	Identify active stewards in target area.
		c	Target key individuals for

			recruitment.
		d	Hire basin coordinator and form advisory committee for service areas
		e	Design recruitment materials to specific watershed issues and objectives.
		f	Enroll 3 individuals for every stewardship assignment.
2	Train recruits in principles of stewardship	a	Provide stewardship curriculum
		b	Provide workshop trainings for each module.
		c	Award certificate for course completion.
3	Organize network participants to maximize effectiveness	a	Assign journeyman to mentor contact for additional guidance.
		b	Delegate key responsibilities to appropriate stewards.
		c	Organize local caucus for discussion of issues and election of watershed council delegates.
		d	Cultivate and acknowledge partner organizations.
		e	Hold annual rendezvous
4	Support journeyman and stewards in local activities.	a	Provide support for fundraising
		b	Continue to cultivate new recruits.
		c	Expand partnerships and delegate roles, responsibilities.
		d	Provide continuing education opportunities.
		e	Respond to critical issues

### ***Objective schedules and costs***

<b>Obj #</b>	<b>Start date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>End date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>Measureable biological objective(s)</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>FY2000 Cost %</b>
1	1/1999	6/2000		Fifteen recruits for each 5th field HUC	10.00%
2	1/2000	12/2000		Staffing	40.00%
3	3/2000	12/2000		Train Class of 2000	10.00%
4	3/2000	12/2000		Local Organization and support	15.00%
4	10/2000	10/2000		Awards	2.00%
5	1/2000	1/2000		On-going Support	8.00%
6	1/2000	1/2000		Administration	15.00%
				<b>Total</b>	100.00%

### **Schedule constraints**

Funding

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### **Completion date**

On Going & Permanent

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## Section 5. Budget

FY99 project budget (BPA obligated): \$0

### *FY2000 budget by line item*

Item	Note	% of total	FY2000
Personnel		%53	40,000
Fringe benefits		%16	12,000
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		%11	8,000
Operations & maintenance		%0	
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		%0	
NEPA costs		%0	
Construction-related support		%0	
PIT tags	# of tags:	%0	
Travel		%7	5,500
Indirect costs		%14	10,250
Subcontractor		%0	
Other		%0	
<b>TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST</b>			<b>\$75,750</b>

### *Cost sharing*

Organization	Item or service provided	% total project cost (incl. BPA)	Amount (\$)
Lower Columbia Estuary Program	Training Support	%4	5,000
Packard Foundation	Personnel Support	%13	15,000
Symantec Corporation	General Support	%9	10,000
Alton Jones Foundation	General Support	%9	10,000
<b>Total project cost (including BPA portion)</b>			<b>\$115,750</b>

### *Outyear costs*

	FY2001	FY02	FY03	FY04
<b>Total budget</b>	\$119,225	\$122,800	\$126,485	\$130,280

## Section 6. References

Watershed?	Reference
<input type="checkbox"/>	

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## **PART II - NARRATIVE**

### **Section 7. Abstract**

Project proposes to recruit, train, organize and support individuals practicing river stewardship in Oregon sub-basin communities. This grass- root program strives to empower citizens with knowledge and tools to actively protect and enhance their local watershed. It is unique in that it tailors learning to fit the individual and strives to maximize community influence. River Stewards within the program enjoy the support and power of full time assistance and support for activities that address limiting factors within their watershed, and recognition within and outside their community for leadership.

### **Section 8. Project description**

#### **a. Technical and/or scientific background**

To protect and recover ecosystems we must mobilize and engage local individuals to take responsibility and action. Without grass root support and expanding biotic literacy we will never realize healthy, functioning watersheds.

Healthy watersheds are now recognized as vital to all living creatures, including man. Protecting intact, functioning ecosystems is considered the most valuable action we can undertake in our efforts to realize sustainable populations of fish and wildlife. However, recovery planning must also strive to restore degraded habitat in conjunction with no net loss of biotic integrity. Neither one of these goals can be reached without grass root support, and broad understanding of ecosystem functions. The Riverkeeper Network strives to deliver biotic knowledge in theory and application. We choose to work with the individual to shape his or her experience to fit unique skills, community standing, and their local watershed so that limiting factors are being addressed and leadership is demonstrated.

#### **b. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs**

Popular understanding of science and technology in society has always been constrained by the ability of resource professionals to deliver our evolving knowledge base in an effective format. All too often new breakthroughs in scientific investigation or our understanding of the biotic world are lost in an avalanche of information bombarding citizens. Moreover, coordinated efforts throughout the region are limited in their ability to transfer information uniformly to communities spread across the landscape.

We believe an essential component to overcoming these barriers involves engaging citizens in local communities and working with key community members to develop resident expertise. Expertises not only appropriate for that given watershed, but broader contextual knowledge enabling these stewards to act as bridges to neighboring communities.

The Riverkeeper Network strives to deliver essential biotic information tailored to the individual. We strongly believe that traditional mass education and communication techniques are limited in their ability to effectively generate deep-seated support or understanding in many communities. Furthermore, attempts to intercede with outside expertise can often create hostility and resistance to important recovery work. We believe the answer lay within the community and with an approach that recognizes and cultivates resident experience and community relationships. This approach is unique in that it relies heavily on developing interpersonal relationships and trust.

#### **c. Relationships to other projects**

Categorically, any projects funded and implemented in the aforementioned subbasins will benefit from this program. We fundamentally believe the key to the success of protection and recovery efforts hinges upon

local ownership and understanding. We are striving to provide a service that cultivates partnerships and local capacity. For this very reason we call this program a network, such that it's aim is to create a means for cross-pollination, support and understanding. Oregon Trout does not "own" this network, our intent is only to facilitate and nurture this key component.

**d. Project history** (for ongoing projects)

The Riverkeeper program was a conceptual component of Oregon Trout when the organization was first founded in 1983. However, resources for full time staffing were not available until December of 1995. Since that time the Riverkeeper network has grown to include over 500 recognized members in 50 watersheds throughout the state.

Currently, network members service 14 basins. Service area includes watersheds in the Rogue, Klamath, Umpqua, Mid Coast, North Coast, Upper and Lower Willamette, Deschutes, John Day, Lower Columbia, Sandy, Hood, Grande Ronde, and Malheur basins. Within this area over 50 individuals have achieved status as River Stewards, 20 are serving as mentors to the network and 40 more have journeyman status. The balance of network members is comprised of field team members and research associates.

Partnerships in the program service area have been a key component in reaching or organizing objectives. Network members are active participants on over a dozen-watershed council, several 1010 committees, many planning forums, and several are serving as community leaders.

**e. Proposal objectives**

This proposal is a request for support of an existing program. Its primary intent is to help support our efforts to recruit, train, organize and support Individual River Stewards in communities within the Oregon portion of the Columbia basin. To some extent the Riverkeeper program has already accomplished these goals in its previous three year history, however we are striving to double the number of River Stewards within the region to reach our goal of five stewards for every fifth field HUC.

**f. Methods**

Each of the key objectives for the program involves several generic tasks, then follow through tasks tailored to specific individual needs, community dynamics, and watershed issues.

In all cases, recruitment comes first, and presents one of the most difficult challenges. Recruitment first requires a marketing plan, one that considers variables unique to each subbasin. Using a template marketing strategy program objectives and criteria will be presented to watershed councils, school groups, interest groups and other community forums through a blend of media, personal contacts, unique actions and presentations. This approach coupled with personal contacts, surveys and historical data will enable us to identify active stewards in the community and subsequently identify key individuals for recruitment.

At this juncture we intend to employ sub-region coordinators to work directly with key partners, community leaders and individuals to deliver detailed information on the advantages of working in association with the Riverkeeper Network. Four subregion coordinators will be employed to cover 1) Lower Columbia, 2) Lower Mid-Columbia 3) Lower Snake, and 4) Upper Willamette. Their initial task will be to recruit 15 candidates to each watershed within these sub-regions.

The next task will be to train recruits. Sub-region coordinators will play a key role along with the Program Director. Curriculum materials will be presented both in work sessions and on the ground experience, and will be available carte blanc to recruits so they can proceed with training at their own pace. During training they are considered a journeyman within the network and have the option to choose a mentor for assistance during their tenure. Once they have received credit in each of four modules they are awarded a certificate of completion.

Network organization relies heavily on decentralized, locally based guidance. Sub-region coordinators, journeyman and stewards are expected to help organize a local fish and wildlife caucus to discuss issues and elect delegates to serve on local watershed councils as representatives on their behalf. Sub-region coordinators and the Program Director will share responsibility in providing technical support, communications and guest speakers for caucus meetings.

Recognition of service is also an essential function. Each year members select their choice for the Steward of the Year, and Watershed Advocate of the Year. Network members are encouraged to attend a yearly rendezvous to celebrate achievements and share stories from their experiences, as well as, present the awards for that year.

Responsibility for the support objective falls largely on the shoulders of the program director and to some degree the sub-region coordinators. Key responsibilities include, but are not limited to, fundraising for proposed projects, continuing education opportunities, on-going recruitment, technical guidance and outside sourcing, response to critical issues, and communications.

#### **g. Facilities and equipment**

**Training Facilities:** The Riverkeeper program utilizes existing facilities for trainings. Colleges, community centers, high school classrooms and park facilities have provided ample space and resources for workshops and meetings.

**Monitoring Equipment:** Specialized-monitoring equipment used for trainings is available through Oregon Trout, DEQ, USGS, and the Lower Columbia Estuary Program. No additional expenditures are expected for equipment.

**Laboratory Facilities:** Monitoring activities are typically facilitated through agency labs and academic resources available in most communities. Some tasks are contracted through consulting laboratories such as macro-invertebrate or stable isotope analysis when called for under monitoring plans.

#### **h. Budget**

The budget presented reflects the Riverkeeper Networks reliance on staffing and communications. Transfer of information and knowledge, in the context we've presented here depends on the quality of staff and the utilization of cost-effective communication techniques. Adequate funding in both areas is instrumental to success in the near term.

## **Section 9. Key personnel**

Geoff Pampush, Executive Director. Mr. Pampush holds BS in biology from the University of Notre Dame and an MS in Wildlife Ecology from Oregon State University. Mr. Pampush directed land conservation programs for the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land, served as the principal legislative lobbyist for both organizations, was a founder of Emerald Blue Project, an environmental grantmaking organization, and was a founder of the Oregon Water Trust, the first organization dedicated to the acquisition of instream water rights for fish and wildlife. Mr. Pampush served as the Conservation Chair of Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber's transition team.

Jim Myron, Director of Conservation. Mr. Myron is an expert on fish conservation policy, water policy, and public land grazing. He has served as a policy analyst and state legislative liaison for Oregon Trout

and WaterWatch of Oregon since 1988. Mr. Myron assumed the duties of Conservation Director for Oregon Trout in June 1995. Over the years, he has published numerous articles, editorials, and position papers on conservation topics throughout the Pacific Northwest.

*Steve Hinton, Riverkeeper Program Director.* Mr. Hinton holds BS in Biology with minors in microbial genetics and zoology from Washington State University, and he holds an MS in Public Policy from Georgia Institute of Technology. Mr. Hinton has worked as Research Technician in the field of applied environmental microbiology, and has provided technical services to a variety of conservation projects.

## **Section 10. Information/technology transfer**

The core principle of this proposal is the delivery and transfer of information and knowledge. Oregon Trout strongly believes the strategy presented will provide an effective means to deliver biotic knowledge to local communities. We hope you will concur with our methods and trust that your input will be forthcoming. The Riverkeeper Network will grow accordingly.

**Congratulations!**