



Project Description Narrative

The purpose of the project description is to clearly define goals and activities linked to the identified need consistent with the organization's mission.

Project/Program Description (3 pages maximum, no smaller than a 12 point font)

- Please describe in detail how this project will address the identified unmet need.
Explain to what degree this project/program will address the root causes of the problem versus symptoms; does this project enhance clients self sufficiency and does this project have a leadership development component for clients?

The proposed project seeks to address the unmet need of incorporating traditional ecological knowledge by way of tribal participation into oak and prairie habitat restoration and stewardship in the Long Tom Watershed. We believe addressing this unmet need has potential to increase land access for tribes and improve current habitat restoration practices. We intend to explore opportunities to incorporate traditional knowledge and increase land access for native people through meaningful two-way dialogue and collaborative problem solving with committed and interested landowners. The proposed project will include 30 one-on-one interviews with area tribal members and staff, public and private landowners, and restoration practitioners to improve our understanding of existing challenges to knowledge incorporation and land access, strengthen relationships between LTWC and area tribes, and frame three workshops. The workshops will focus on incorporating traditional ecological knowledge into active oak and prairie habitat restoration and stewardship. We will hold two workshops on the Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve, a 293-acre private property that supports mixed species woodlands, savanna, and upland prairie (held in a conservation easement by McKenzie River Trust); another workshop will be held at Zumwalt Park, a 74-acre public property that supports oak, prairie, and conifer woodland habitat managed by Lane County and the Friends of Zumwalt Park.

Lane County and the Friends of Zumwalt Park are interested in improving the quality of remnant savanna and prairie in the park. LTWC received an OWEB restoration grant to work with the landowners on the Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve to restore 65 acres of open oak woodland, 15 acres of oak savanna, and enhance 20 acres of prairie remnants which support great native plant diversity. The project is starting in 2017, and the landowners have interest in engaging tribal members on the property.

The insight and knowledge shared during the interviews and workshops will inform development of a formal agreement to enable long-term tribal access on the two sites. A summary report will capture the project's efforts. Six tribal youth will receive stipends to help with the interviews, workshops, and final summary report to gain experience in habitat stewardship, which combines traditional ecological knowledge with restoration science. LTWC will hire a consultant to help carry out the project. We hope the conversations held and ideas shared and captured inform a model relationship / agreement that is transferable to other private and public lands to increase tribal land access and engagement in habitat stewardship. As a result of the project, we hope other community organizations engaged in oak and prairie habitat restoration identify involvement of native people as a priority in their work.

- Identify who and how clients will benefit from this project, including the *demographics and numbers to be served*.

Primary clients; secondary benefactors; others

Native people, members of area tribes, landowners, and restoration practitioners will benefit from the project by participating in conversations that seek to forward ecological understanding and cultural awareness. LTWC and other organizations working to restore and steward oak and prairie habitat have much to learn from native people and traditional ecological knowledge. First, we need to understand appropriate ways to engage, come together, and learn from one another. Next, we need to learn how to pair traditional ecological knowledge with restoration science. Finally, we need to understand how to establish long-term land access for tribes on public and private lands to participate in restoration planning, stewardship, harvesting, burning, and other cultural practices. The interviews and workshops proposed will enable this learning and understanding to occur. As a result, we hope to increase land access for tribes on two sites in the Long Tom Watershed and develop a mechanism to enable access on other sites.

- **Goals and Measurable Objectives**

Describe both the qualitative and quantitative outcomes to be achieved from this proposed project. (See the evaluation & measurable outcomes guidance on [SMCF's web site](#).)

Project goals include facilitating opportunities for native people to: access oak and prairie habitat on private and public lands; meaningfully participate in habitat stewardship and cultural practices; facilitate dialogue among tribes, tribal staff, and public and private landowners to understand opportunities to formalize land access; and pair traditional knowledge with restoration practices to improve habitat health. Specific objectives are to:

- Engage an estimated 90 native people, including six youth, to participate in 30 in-person interviews and three workshops on habitat restoration sites.
- Facilitate land access opportunities and conduct workshops on 275 acres of private land (Andrew Reasoner) and 74 acres of public land (Zumwalt Park).
- Learn how native people would like to participate on public and private sites. Feedback and evaluations from interviews and workshops will be summarized in a report, which will include a model for formalizing relationships between landowners and tribes.
- Engage partner organizations and landowners in conversations with tribes to encourage continued collaboration to increase land access opportunities.

- **Project Timeline**

Please outline the project's timeline. The project timeline needs to include the starting and ending date and a schedule of important activities/milestones that are to occur during the project period. See [examples](#).

February 2017 to January 2018. Feb-May: outreach to area tribes and Native leaders, hire contractor and native youth, conduct 30 interviews, plan workshops. June - Oct: hold 3 workshops at project sites. Nov - Jan: complete follow-up interviews & summary report.

- **Marketing Strategy**

Do you have a marketing plan – yes or no; explain how the target population will access your program services; describe your other outreach efforts.

We plan to work with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and other tribes, along with Native leaders in Eugene and Springfield. LTWC has relationships with tribal natural resources staff who are committed to helping us connect with tribal members and other staff. The landowners have connected us with the Chifin Native Youth Center in

Springfield and we have a relationship with the Eugene 4J Natives Program. The tribes and youth programs will take the lead on identifying youth to participate in the project – to assist with interviews, workshops and summary report. The consultant will further outreach efforts through one-on-one interviews, receiving more referrals as relationships and trust are built.

- **Community Support and Partnerships**

Describe the level of community support for the proposed project; describe the strength of your organization’s community partnerships

The project has significant support from CTGR and other tribes; two local native youth programs; McKenzie River and Green Belt Land Trusts; Kathy Lynn, University of Oregon Tribal Climate Change Project; Doug and Linda Carnine (Andrew Reasoner landowners) and their colleagues; Lane County & U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (public landowners); and Friends of Zumwalt Park. LTWC has a successful history of partnering with a wide variety of public agencies, municipalities, private landowners, and NGOs. Natural resources staff from three tribes also participate on our technical advisory team.

- **Project Evaluation**

Please describe your project’s evaluation process and the evaluation tools to be used; describe how you will collect information and data for evaluating the effectiveness of the project. *(This should be more than simple number counting.)*

We will evaluate the project in two ways. First, we will ask for feedback on the content and utility of the three workshops, incorporating feedback to improve each one. Second, we will develop a mechanism to facilitate increased land access (e.g. MOU or agreement) for native people on public and private land. The success of the project will be based on our ability to develop this mechanism. In addition, we will evaluate the project based on participation and our ability to facilitate meaningful dialogue that contributes to increased land access opportunities and incorporating traditional knowledge into oak and prairie habitat restoration and stewardship. We will summarize the project results in a report.

- **SMCF Grant Category**

Please check **ONE** category and describe how this project aligns with one of SMCF’s funding categories

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Culture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Problem Gaming | |

- **Does your organization have a current written strategic plan, business plan and fundraising plan?**

Yes or no? Is this proposed project specifically included in your strategic plan? Does the business plan address the sustainability of this project? Does your organization have a current fundraising plan that includes this project? Explain.

LTWC has a five-year Strategic Plan and a one-year 2016-17 Work Plan (which includes a Business and Fundraising Plan). The Strategic Plan identifies LTWC’s commitment to engaging stakeholders to *determine specific issues and audiences / participants for a diversity of watershed sectors / stakeholders*. Oak and prairie habitats are identified as Council priorities within the Strategic Plan, which further outlines a goal to improve watershed health by *capitalizing on and expanding the natural resource knowledge* of all members, partners, landowners, and interested citizens. It’s also the Council’s goal within the plan to leverage support for projects from a diversity of funding sources.