



OREGON TRAILS FUND TRAIL STEWARDSHIP CAPACITY INFO SHEET



OVERVIEW

The Oregon Trails Fund (OTF) is a Travel Oregon program, developed and funded in partnership with the U.S Forest Service (USFS), that aims to bolster Oregon's competitive advantage as a world-class outdoor recreation destination and provide exceptional trail experiences. In 2023, Travel Oregon will grant funds* to increase capacity of Oregon trail organizations to support stewardship projects (regenerate, restore, maintain, develop) on new or existing USFS trails, and/or provide volunteer and trail ambassador programming to help provide enjoyable trail experiences for a diversity of visitors and recreation users. **Funds are sourced from USFS and Travel Oregon's Destination Development team and are separate from Travel Oregon's Competitive Grant Program.*

FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$438,978 is available through OTF. This includes allocations to specific categories, as detailed below. Travel Oregon anticipates granting six to 10 projects across the state, with at least one project in each of Oregon's tourism regions with USFS land. Categories include:

- Trail crew capacity (paid staff/contractors): \$162,000
- Volunteer management: \$193,257
- Trailhead ambassador coordinator(s): \$23,857
- Volunteer supplies: \$13,000
- Trail tools: \$21,337
- Volunteer safety gear: \$25,528

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

- Projects must be led by an Oregon-based non-profit organization that is actively collaborating with the USFS on trail stewardship projects.
- Projects must be shovel-ready and able to be completed by September 30, 2024.
- Projects must be located within Oregon's US National Forests, National Scenic Areas, and/or Grasslands. Criteria for determination can include forests and/or trail areas that:
 - a. Have been affected by wildfire or drought
 - b. Are experiencing high visitation pressures
 - c. Increase community livability
 - d. Provide new tourism experiences
 - e. Serve historically and currently underserved and under-resourced communities
- Project expenditures must align with the following OTF categories:
 - a. Trail crew capacity (paid staff/contractors)
 - b. Volunteer management
 - c. Trailhead ambassador coordinators
 - a. Volunteer supplies
 - b. Trail tools
 - c. Volunteer safety gear
- Project budgets must include a minimum 25% staff match or a volunteer time match.



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PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The Oregon Trails Coalition has been contracted by Travel Oregon to assist in determining trail capacity, volunteer management, and/or trail ambassador needs across the state, and to identify viable projects. To support this effort, the Oregon Trails Coalition will convene a short-term Trail Stewardship Capacity Committee made up of Oregon Trails Coalition, Travel Oregon, USFS Region 6 Office, Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and REL. Upon preliminary project identification, Oregon Trails Coalition will then work directly with trail organizations to complete Project Readiness Assessments. Travel Oregon will review complete Assessments and grant funds to six to 10 organizations (grantees).

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023: Trail Stewardship Capacity Committee convenes to identify areas of greatest need and trail organizations providing trail stewardship capacity projects in those areas. Trail organizations and Regional Destination Management Organizations (RDMOs) may also share needs and potential projects directly with Oregon Trails Coalition.

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2023: Oregon Trails Coalition works with eligible trail organizations to conduct Project Readiness Assessments.

PROJECT READINESS ASSESSMENT TO INCLUDE:

- Project description and timeline. Projects must be completed by September 30, 2024.
- Project geographical location, including names of forests and trails. Projects must be located within Oregon's US National Forests, National Scenic Areas, and/or Grasslands.
- Project budget worksheet* aligned with OTF eligible categories and showing a minimum 25% trail ambassador staff or volunteer time match. *Worksheets provided.
- Project lead entity contact information
- USFS land manager letter of support.

APRIL-MAY 2023: Travel Oregon reviews Project Readiness Assessments, determines final projects to grant funds to, and makes award announcements. Upon award, grantees may begin work on projects. Trail organizations who are awarded a grant will enter into a contract with Travel Oregon, which includes an agreement to complete the project as approved.

JUNE 2023-OCTOBER 2024: Project implementation must be completed by September 30, 2024. Key reporting deadlines include: A mid-project report conducted by Oregon Trails Coalition with each grantee by Jan. 30, 2024. A preliminary project completion assessment will be conducted with Oregon Trails Coalition by Oct. 1, 2024. Final written project reports submitted to Oregon Trails Coalition by Oct. 15, 2024. Travel Oregon will review all final reports.

INQUIRIES? PLEASE CONTACT:

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