

# Upper Deschutes Conservation Fund (UDCF) Report

Date: February 22, 2024

## Committee Composition

The UDCF Advisory Committee is comprised of three members, with one representative from each of the following agencies: the USFWS – Bend Field Office, the Deschutes Watershed District of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Deschutes National Forest.

ODFW: Corey Heath

USFS: Holly Jewkes

USFWS: Bridget Moran

The UDCF Technical Committee is comprised of employees from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Service (ODFW), the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

ODFW: Kalysta Adkins

USFS: Jason Grizner

USGS: Chris Pearl

USFWS: Claudia Funari, Jennifer O'Reilly

## Meetings

The UDCF Advisory Committee began meeting in the summer of 2021 and mainly communicate over email for grant approval and recommendations.

2023 - 6/30/2023

The UDCF Technical Committee began meeting in the summer of 2021 and have met regularly in the winter and fall seasons each year. Meetings for the UDCFTC in 2021, 2022, and 2023:

2021 – July, November, December,

2022 – January, February, and November

2023 – January, February, March, November

2024 – February, June (Planned), November (Planned)

## Projects Funded

Two projects have been funded by the UDCF in the last two years with the same two projects being recommended for continued funding in 2023 (Table 1). The first project, which focused on predatory bullfrog removal in the Little Deschutes River, was funded in the fall of 2021 for work in winter 2021 and throughout 2022 and then funded again in 2023. Removal of predatory bullfrogs at concentrated areas near breeding sites is designed to relieve predation pressure on all life stages of OSF and hopefully increase survival of individuals that to increase population numbers. As stated above, the UDCFTC recommended continuation of this work due to it highly successful results removing bullfrogs from populations areas along the Little Deschutes and indications that Oregon spotted frog are responding positively (more egg masses) at some of those breeding sites; work in 2023 included additional areas of bullfrog removal and Oregon spotted frog egg mass surveys at associated bullfrog removal sites.

The second project focused on predatory fish removal, mostly brown bullhead (a non-native fish) in Crane Prairie Reservoir in the summer 2022 and 2023. This project also funded stomach content analysis to investigate intensity of predation at breeding sites in Crane Prairie. Removal of predatory fish at concentrated areas near breeding sites is designed to relieve predation pressure on all life stages of OSF and increase survival of individuals that to increase population numbers. As stated above, the UDCFTC recommended continuation of this work in 2023 due to it highly successful results removing brown bullhead at Crane Prairie; work in 2023 included trapping of bass and trout for stomach content analysis to help determine their predation threat to Oregon spotted frogs. USGS was given funds to analyze DNA of stomach contents but as of January 2024 they have not completed the analysis.

At the end of 2023, the UDCF funded a proposal with the Sunriver Nature Center to remove invasive emergent vegetation from known OSF breeding sites at the Sunriver Nature Center and within Sunriver resort properties. This project will be implemented throughout 2024.

Projects expected to be funded in 2024 will likely involve restoring hydrology for overwintering and breeding site at Dead Slough and contributing funding to a restoration plan for targeted sites along the Upper Deschutes. The Little Deschutes Bullfrog Removal Project is expected to be funded for multiple years to ensure bullfrog reduction and investigate OSF breeding response to bullfrog removal.

Table 1 Summary of Project Funding by the Upper Deschutes Conservation Fund

Project Name	Project Type	Year Funded	Grant Purpose	Amount Funded	Entity Funded	Partners	OSF population/site supported	HUC 8 Sub-basin
Brown bullhead Predation and the Effects of Removal on Oregon Spotted Frog Breeding Populations at Crane Prairie Reservoir, Oregon	Predatory Fish Removal (bullhead)	2022	For genetics work on samples collected	\$33,424.00	OSU Sponsored programs	USGS, ODFW, OSU	Crane Prairie	Upper Deschutes
Brown bullhead Predation and the Effects of Removal on Oregon Spotted Frog Breeding Populations at Crane Prairie Reservoir, Oregon	Predatory Fish Removal (bullhead)	2022	For bullhead removal, stomach sample collection, and reports	\$10,910.00	USGS- Ft. Collins Science Center	USGS, ODFW, OSU	Crane Prairie	Upper Deschutes
Bullfrog Control Project Little Deschutes	Predatory Bullfrog Removal	2021	To perform bullfrog control activities, data collection, and reporting	\$50,000.00	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	3 Rivers Environmental	Little Deschutes	Little Deschutes
Brown bullhead Predation and the Effects of Removal on Oregon Spotted Frog Breeding Populations at Crane Prairie Reservoir, Oregon	Predatory Fish Removal	2023	For genetics work on samples collected	\$48,972.00	OSU Sponsored programs	USGS, ODFW, OSU	Crane Prairie	Upper Deschutes
Brown bullhead Predation and the Effects of Removal on Oregon Spotted Frog Breeding Populations at Crane Prairie Reservoir, Oregon	Predatory Fish Removal	2023	For bullhead removal, stomach sample collection, and reports	\$16,492.00	USGS- Ft. Collins Science Center	USGS, ODFW, OSU	Crane Prairie	Upper Deschutes
Bullfrog Control Project Little Deschutes	Bullfrog Removal	2023	To perform bullfrog control activities, data collection, and reporting	\$68,509.00	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	3 Rivers Environmental	Little Deschutes	Little Deschutes
Sunriver Invasive Plant Removal	Invasive Plant Removal	2023	To perform invasive plant removal to restore and enhance breeding sites	\$30,400	Sunriver Nature Center	Sunriver Nature Center	Sunriver	Little Deschutes

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Bullfrog Control Project	Bullfrog Removal	2024	To perform bullfrog control activities, OSF breeding surveys, data collection, and reporting	\$71,435	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	3 Rivers Environmental	Little Deschutes	Little Deschutes
<b>Total Amount Awarded to Date*</b> <b>\$330,142.00</b>								

## Fund Balance

Fund balance as of 02/08/24 (prior to Bullfrog Control Project funding on February 22, 2024):

**\$220,199.62**

Fund balance as of 02/22/24 (after Bullfrog Control Project funding on February 22, 2024):

**\$220,199.62 - \$71,435 = \$148,764.62**