



MEETING NOTES

02.04.22

Topic: NEEF Grant Opportunity & UNPP

ATTENDEES

Alison Manwaring, USFWS
Cal Lee Davenport, USFWS
Eric Stauder, Phoenix School
Morgan Fay, ECEC
Marjory Hamann, ECEC
Ken Carloni, Yew Creek Land Alliance
Tuula Rebhahn, TUI
Kathryn Prive, TUI
Rhonda Black, Umpqua SWCD
Ian Grinter, BLM

NEEF (National Environmental Education Foundation) Overview

- Maximum of 4 grants will be awarded nationwide (minimum ask \$50K)
- They are looking for “shovel ready” habitat restoration projects as well as community engagement
- 12-month window to spend the funds. Potentially a short lead time between notification of award and implementing project

- We feel that Phoenix School/UNPP has a good chance of success due to prior work with NEEF and strong partner engagement
- Goal with this meeting is to identify areas of need from federal partners and UNPP, so Eric/Phoenix school can build an LOI for NEEF

Initial ideas to meet grant requirements (from Eric)

- Small crew of youth/restoration workers to do projects on the ground, such as bee surveys, invasives removal, seed collection and run it out of ECEC or Phoenix School
- Funding for Food to Farm crew to do pollinator work
- Public land element: Potential sites include Dog Prairie (FS) or Hemlock Lake/Yellowjacket Glade
 - Eric has done pollinator surveys here in the past

Partner contributions/needs

ECEC has a youth employment program that hires 15-20 youth to caretake site (nursery, garden, butterfly pavilion) as well as a landscaping crew. They are also participating in the Wings Across America program to distribute milkweed plants (1600 plants/year)

BLM would be interested in getting some bee surveys done

- Need to reach out to BLM wildlife biologists - Liz or Rex
- Get Jeff Everett involved so that bee surveys meet region-wide survey priorities

Alison - Need to clearly define proposed “acres restored”

- In the fall/winter a planting project could take place on North Bank (BLM)
- Could also include milkweed planting using ECEC plants

Kathryn - Bee surveys and seed collection are the best bet for utilizing funds with short lead time. Not enough funds to do a full restoration project.

Previous NEEF grants have funded youth crews

\$50 K would fund 12 weeks of 8-person youth crew

- Are there enough projects/acres for a crew to work on over this time?
- Eric’s coordination time is already covered. He has cost sheets for crew labor.
- Already have 5-6 crews set up. NEEF grant could cover 1 crew lead
- NEEF grant could also support UNPP coordination (utilize collected seed, coordinate planting, other activities that support the Phoenix youth crews/nursery?)

Phoenix School has native plant nursery, plans for a flight room for butterfly program

- Growing out native plants could be another way to use NEEF funds while incorporating UNPP goals
- UNPP goals include developing native plant grow-outs, nurseries - include UNPP coordination budget with NEEF proposal to assist in meeting these goals
- Forest Service will also have input

Private as well as public lands can be included in the proposal

UNPP Goals (from federal proposal - “template” document that will be adapted to apply for funding opportunities with BLM, USFWS and FS as they are announced)

UNPP Goals 2022 - 2023

1. Establish fiscal sponsorship [potentially through ECEC] in order to fund partnership coordination; secure funding for two years’ work from agency partners and/or private foundations.
2. Address the supply gap by increasing availability of native seeds and container stock to meet restoration needs across the three ecoregions of the Umpqua basin, from < 1,000 to > 7,000 feet elevation.
3. Develop UNPP leadership and Strategic Plan.
4. Hold bi-annual meetings for UNPP partners as well as members of the public that provide a forum for partner updates and guest speakers highlighting developments in the native plant world.
5. Develop a priority plant materials needs assessment, focused on fire-impacted landscapes and threatened habitats such as oak savannas and grasslands.
6. Perform community outreach to recruit growers, promote the use of native plants for habitat restoration on private lands, and hold annual plant and seed sales open to the public.

Next steps/Action Items

- Tuula to send out draft of UNPP Federal Grant Proposal Template to the group
- Cal Lee and Ian to connect Eric with appropriate staff at their agencies to coordinate projects and bee surveys
- Tuula to assist Eric with developing LOI and preliminary budget to plug UNPP into project goals under NEEF proposal
- Tuula to set up a follow-up meeting with Clint and Crystal from USFS