

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fiscal Year 2014  
Handshake Program Application**

**Please review instructions before completing application!**

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Corps Lake/Project Name:**Dorena Lake, Willamette Valley Projects**

Handshake Proposal Title:**Bikes to Blooms Partnership**

Corps POC Name:**Melissa Kirkland, Natural Resource Specialist Or Wes Messinger, Botanist**

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**A. Eligibility checklist:**

1. Will the Handshake funds be spent on Corps facilities and resources that are being fully maintained by the Corps? \*  Yes  No
  
2. Will the Challenge Partnership agreement be with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? \*  Yes  No
  
3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved lake project OMP? \*\*  Yes  No

*\*If "No" to any of the above questions the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps' challenge partnership authority.*

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**B. Handshake Funding Program Request (maximum \$30,000): \$27,500**

**C. Cooperative Agreement Bonus:** Challenge Partnerships that include a Cooperating Association with which your project/district has entered into a Cooperative Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. You must include a copy of the signed agreement with your proposal. (Reference Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for information on cooperating associations).

**D. Incentive Points Category:** Check the box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score for partnering with three or more partners. A summary of the partners' contribution to the Handshake Project should be included in the financial worksheet below.

- Application includes 3 partners (25 bonus points)
- Application includes 4 partners (40 bonus points)
- Application includes 5 partners (50 bonus points)
- Application includes \_\_\_\_\_ partners (50 bonus points for the first 5 partners plus 10 points for each additional partner)

**E. Describe your partnership and the proposed project:**

Your project will be evaluated on the following categories: Sustainability, Partnership Value, Recreation Benefit, Environmental Stewardship Benefit, Communication and Education Value, and Innovativeness. Please address each in your description.

**Description:**

Incentive Category-Multiple partners

If this Handshake proposal is awarded, there will be a minimum of 4 non-federal partners participating in the Challenge Partnership Agreement. They are the City of Cottage Grove, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Al Kennedy Alternative High School, and the Cottage Grove Coalition for Bike Safety. The Eugene District, BLM and the USDA Forest Service Dorena Genetic Resource Center (FSDGRC) will also participate in this Challenge Partnership agreement.

Summary - This proposed Handshake project focuses on restoration of Willamette Valley upland prairie remnants and enhancement of the recreation experience for users of the Row River Trail (RRT or “the Trail”).

If awarded, Handshake funds would be used to purchase propagation materials for growing native plant species destined for 13 acres of prairie restoration at Bake-Stewart Park and the adjacent East Wildlife Mgmt. Area. Funding would also be used for the design and installation of up to 6 interpretive panels and the construction of an interpretive kiosk at the Corps’ Bake Stewart Park.

Demonstrated need - The unique upland prairie plant communities of the Willamette Valley and surrounding foothills have all but disappeared due to development and agricultural conversion. The prairies and associated oak habitats support a suite of declining grassland and oak-dependent bird species, contribute substantially to pollinator diversity, and support many mammal species including elk, deer and black bear. They are thus a top priority for conservation and restoration in Western Oregon. Remnant patches of this habitat are scattered around Dorena reservoir and on nearby BLM and private lands. Corps and BLM botanists have been working together to restore these sites, while the Watershed Council and local land trusts negotiate conservation easements on private sites. The remnant prairies around Dorena Lake are ideal sites for RRT users and other recreationists to enjoy wildflower viewing, bird watching, and other nature-based recreation, and to engage the community in hands-on restoration activities. Unfortunately, these sites are not entirely accessible or viewable from the main trail and interpretive resources are lacking. In addition, the RRT does not connect to or provide direct access to the 7 recreation sites nearby, where camping, swimming, and fishing are popular.

Background - The Row River Trail is a multi-use accessible paved path (rails-to-trails) that connects the City of Cottage Grove to the Corps’ Dorena Lake (see vicinity map.) The 16-mile trail (owned and managed by both BLM and the City) follows the entire length of Corps owned shoreline of the lake. The Trail passes a number of recreation sites: day-use areas, boat launches, popular swimming areas and fishing spots.

The Trail is designated a National Recreation Trail, and is the major portion of an Oregon Scenic Byway. Attracting estimated 100,000 visitors annually, the trail is promoted as a regional and national attraction. The City of Cottage Grove has benefitted from increasing use of the trail, especially as the City makes the transition from a timber-based economy to a diversified economy that includes recreation and tourism.

In alignment with the NWP District Recreation Strategy, the WWP is closing Bake-Stewart Park to motor vehicles. The closure greatly enhances the bike-friendly quality of the park, and in 2012 the Corps constructed a meandering spur from the RRT, past a wildflower viewpoint and into the park.

The Bikes to Blooms Partnership - Projects described in this Handshake Partnership proposal are the first phase of a long-term plan for habitat restoration and Row River Trail improvement. In 2012, the Corps invited a variety of local agencies and organizations to form the Bikes to Blooms Partnership. If awarded, this Handshake funding would be especially valuable, truly acting as “seed” to energize the growth of the greater Bikes to Blooms

Partnership vision. Accomplishment of these actions would strengthen the working relationships in this young partnership. It would increase partner confidence and motivation, and inspire collaborative strategies to leverage future external funding. Most notably, it would clearly demonstrate Corps commitment to the partnership.

Bikes to Blooms Partners are the City of Cottage Grove, the city Chamber of Commerce, Lane County-Public Works, Coalition for Bike Safety (an ad hoc volunteer group); the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Al Kennedy Alternative High School, Eugene District-BLM, USDA Forest Service Dorena Genetic Resource Center, and the Native Plant Society of Oregon. Partnership goals are restoration of upland prairie remnants; enhancement of wildflower appreciation; connection of the RRT to nearby recreation sites; improvement of trail safety; community involvement in natural resource stewardship, and outdoor environmental education for local students.

#### Additional Project Details:

Restoration activities involve removal and manual/herbicide treatment of invasive species followed by planting native perennial forbs and grasses. An estimated 17 acres of upland prairie will be restored at Bake Stewart Park, East Wildlife Area and Dorena Prairie. The Al Kennedy Alternative High School students will propagate approximately most of the native plant material at their greenhouse. Site planting will be accomplished by Kennedy's student crews, partners, and local volunteers. Manual treatment of invasives will be accomplished by county work crews, Kennedy's student crews, and community volunteers. Limited spot herbicide application will be accomplished by licensed Corps staff or private contractor.

Interpretive signs would be installed at Cottage Grove Trailhead Park, Mosby Creek Trailhead, East Wildlife Area, Dorena Prairie, along Bake-Stewart bike spur and within the Bake-Stewart Park. (The Dorena Prairie is fortuitously located adjacent to Schwarz Park campground, an ideal setting for a variety of interpretative activities.) Interpretive signs content: nearby habitats, wildflower identification, biodiversity, safety practices, and stewardship concepts. In addition, detailed maps with trail routes and recreation sites, amenities, interpretive and scenic lake viewpoints would be produced and displayed at Trailhead Park, Mosby Trailhead and Bake-Stewart Park.

Sustainability - Interpretive panels would be fabricated using high pressure laminate (estimated 10-year life) High pressure laminate panels are also vandalism resistant. Wood supportive structures would be constructed with decay resistant cedar and protective finish. Minimal sign maintenance would be a shared partnership responsibility 2) Invasives treatment is currently routine at these upland prairie sites. Continued treatment of invasives as part of the Environmental Stewardship IVM program promotes health and diversity of the restored prairie communities.

#### Partnership Value -

Partner 1: City of Cottage Grove (\$9500) The city will provide a financial contribution to the graphic design and fabrication of the interpretive signs and in-kind support to the development of interpretive signs.

Partner 2: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (\$4000) The Watershed Council will provide in-kind support to development of interpretive signs; and Council volunteers will help with restoration activities.

Partner 3: Al Kennedy Alternative High School (\$14,000) High School students will propagate the majority of plants required for the restoration efforts, and the student crew will provide labor for removal of invasive plants.

Partner 4: Coalition for Bike Safety (\$2,500) Will provide volunteers for removal of invasives and will support the design and safety narrative for the interpretive panels.

Partner 5: Eugene District, BLM (\$19,000) The Eugene BLM will continue to cooperate with the Corps in prairie restoration near Dorena Lake, and BLM will support the design planning and written narrative for interpretive panels.

Partner 6: USFS Dorena Genetic Resource Center (\$1,000) will provide technical support and native species propagation expertise to the Kennedy High School propagation project.

Environmental Stewardship Value - 1) Restoration of upland prairie habitats is central to current Willamette Valley Project Environmental Stewardship priorities. Planting a diversity of native prairie species such as woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), and rose checkermallow (*Sidalcea virgata*) will improve plant diversity and abundance. Restoration and invasive plant control will improve habitat and nesting site quality. Native plant abundance and diversity is essential to the survival of native bees and other pollinators. These and other insects both enhance the plant community and provide a critical protein source for nesting bird species. 2) Partnership projects that engage community volunteers and students build community appreciation and awareness of shared responsibilities to restore and protect nearby natural resources. These projects are tools that we can use to inform the public of the often urgent need for investment in habitat restoration and conservation.

Recreation Benefit - 1) This project would benefit a wide spectrum of recreational users: nature lovers, bicyclists, walkers, joggers, skaters, bird-watchers, hikers, mountain bikers, fishers, and family picnickers. will all benefit from the enhanced habitat and opportunity it provides. 2) This project would provide perfect opportunities to broaden user-awareness of the importance of upland prairie as well as natural resources in general. The restoration of prairie, enhancement of habitat, and the installation of interpretive signs will improve recreation experiences and entice more visitors. Education about wildflowers and wildlife habitat will enrich recreation experiences and boost appreciation of the natural features along the trail and elsewhere around the lake. Improved habitat quality would increase the likelihood of wildlife sightings from the trail. 3) Safety message displays would illuminate potential hazards and lessen the likelihood of accidents at road crossings. Awareness of multiple trail uses would reduce potential user conflicts (e.g. bicycles vs. pedestrians).

Communication and Education Value - 1) The interpretive resources included in this proposal would promote awareness of and actively engage the community in understanding the principles and concepts of the Corps' environmental stewardship goals as well as appreciation for access to recreation opportunities. Trailside viewpoints and interpretation strengthen the environmental education value of the entire area. 2) Restoration would include community volunteers and local high school students. Participants would get hands-on experience with weed management and restoration planting. These experiences clarify the value of protecting prairie habitats and the investment of labor involved in supporting restored native plant communities.

Innovativeness - 1) Restoration and recreation are not customarily linked closely with each other. The concept that restoration would contribute to increased recreation use is a distinctive way to meet management objectives. The project activities are aimed at providing sound land stewardship practices and environmental values to recreationists and the local community residents, students and businesses. 2) Partnering with Kennedy High School and Conservation Corps not only gives students outdoor learning experience, it provides them with a sense of ownership and accomplishment as they help meet our stewardship objectives. 3) RRT promotion as a destination for outdoor recreation for bicycling, hiking, running, horseback riding, in-line skating, and other trail uses is the City strategy to build local tourism. Improvements to the Row River Trail corridor and recreation qualities at Dorena Lake will not only support the City's needs, these actions would similarly increase and diversify recreation use at Dorena Lake. Maps at trail access points would emphasize recreation destinations at the lake, underscoring them in the minds of those already familiar, and introducing opportunities to new visitors.

**The Corps will:**

Provide staff time for oversight and coordination among partners throughout the scope of the project. This includes time for planning, and coordination of prairie restoration activities at Bake-Stewart Park and East Wildlife Area; development and contract administration for design, and installation of interpretive signs. This includes map production, photography, and narrative text for the signs; and for demonstrations and training during on-the-ground restoration activities.

The Handshake funding would be used for plant propagation materials including trays/containers; soil, fertilizer, and seed (\$9000); the costs of a graphic designer and panel fabrication (\$16,000); and the costs for design, materials and installation of the Bake Stewart kiosk (\$2,500).

**The Partner(s) will:**

Partner 1 - City of Cottage Grove will provide a financial contribution to the graphic design and fabrication of the interpretive signs; in-kind support to gather historic information, and assist with design and narrative for the interpretive panels; City staff will help with planting at restoration areas, taking advantage of the opportunity for hands-on training in restoration techniques.

Partner 2 - Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council will provide in-kind support to the design planning and written narrative for interpretive panels. Watershed Council volunteers will help with removal of invasives and will assist with restoration planting.

Partner 3 - Al Kennedy High School students will propagate most of the plants for restoration efforts, as well as labor at the restoration sites for removal of invasive plants and planting native species.

Partner 4 - The Coalition for Bike Safety will provide volunteers to help with removal of invasive vegetation encroachment and will donate time to support the design planning and safety narrative for the interpretive panels.

Partner 5 - Eugene BLM will continue to work with the Corps in restoration efforts at the BLM and Corps prairie habitat. In addition, the BLM will support the design planning and writing general narrative for interpretive panels.

Partner 6 - FS Dorena Genetic Resource Center will provide native species propagation expertise to the Kennedy High School. Support from FSDGRC is uniquely valuable because germination rates may naturally be low for some species and native species seed germination protocols can be especially challenging.

## Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Willamette Valley Projects

Work Project Title: Bikes To Blooms Partnership

POC Name: Wes Messinger, Botanist or Melissa Kirkland, Natural Resource Specialist

Address: 26275 Clear Lake Rd                      City: Junction City                      State: OR    Zip Code: 97448

Telephone: 541 - 688 - 8147 x

Location on Project: Fern Ridge Office

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Partner Organization 1: City of Cottage Grove

POC Name: Amanda Ferguson, City Planner

Address: 400 E. Main Street                      City: Cottage Grove                      State: OR    Zip Code: 97424

Telephone: 541 - 942 - 5501 x

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Partner Organization 2: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council

POC Name: Pam Reber, Council Coordinator

Address: 28 S. Sixth Street, Suite A                      City: Cottage Grove                      State: OR    Zip Code: 97424

Telephone: 541 - 767 - 9717 x

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Partner Organization 3: Al Kennedy Alternative High School

POC Name: Mike Ingman, Principal

Address: 1310 South 8th Street                      City: Cottage Grove                      State: OR    Zip Code: 97424

Telephone: 541 - 942 - 1962 x

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Partner Organization 4: Coalition for Bicycling Safety

POC Name: Don Strahon, Volunteer

Address: c/o 400 E. Main Street                      City: Cottage Grove                      State: OR    Zip Code: 97424

Telephone: 541 - 913 - 4470 x

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Partner Organization 5: Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management

POC Name: Cheshire Mayrsohn, Botanist

Address: 3106 Pierce Parkway Suite E                      City: Springfield                      State: OR    Zip Code: 97477

Telephone: 541 - 683 - 6407 x

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Partner Organization 6: USFS Dorena Genetic Resource Center

POC Name: Lee Riley, Operations Forester

Address: 34963 Shoreview Road                      City: Cottage Grove                      State: OR    Zip Code: 97424

Telephone: 541 - 767 - 5700 x

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Partner Organization 7:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 8:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 9:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Proposed start date of work: Jan-13

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: Restoration of estimated 13 acres of upland prairie habitat at Dorena Lake; graphic design, fabrication and installation of up to 6 interpretive signs (including kiosk at Bake-Stewart Park). Content to include educational information to enhance understanding and appreciation of wild flowers and other natural resources surrounding the lake, as well as a detailed map of the Row River trail (paved multi-use) access to Dorena Lake recreation sites, viewpoints and trailheads and amenities.

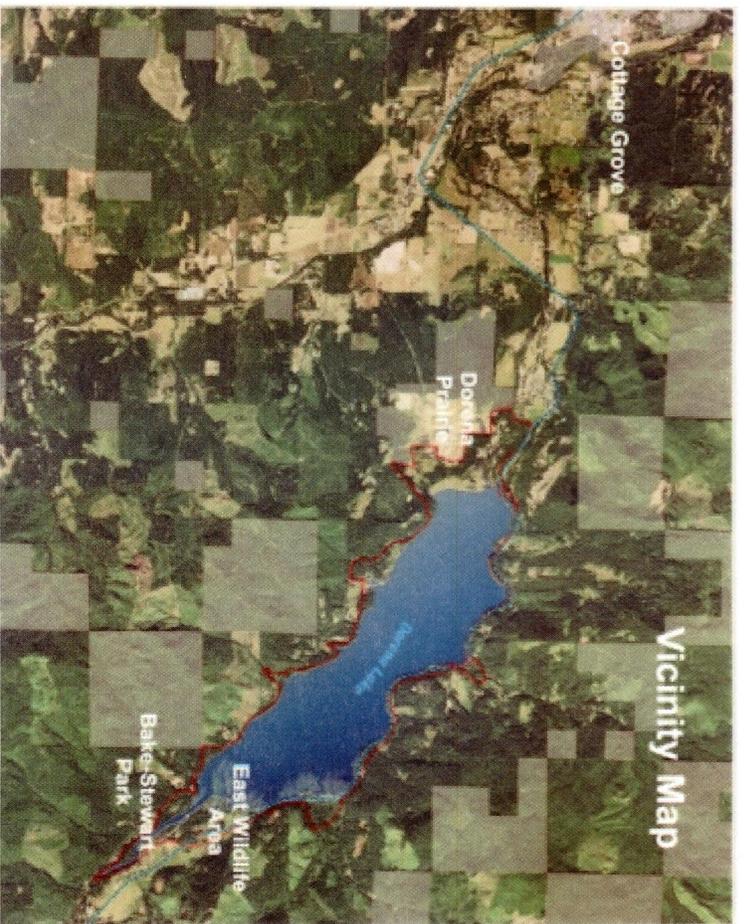
Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

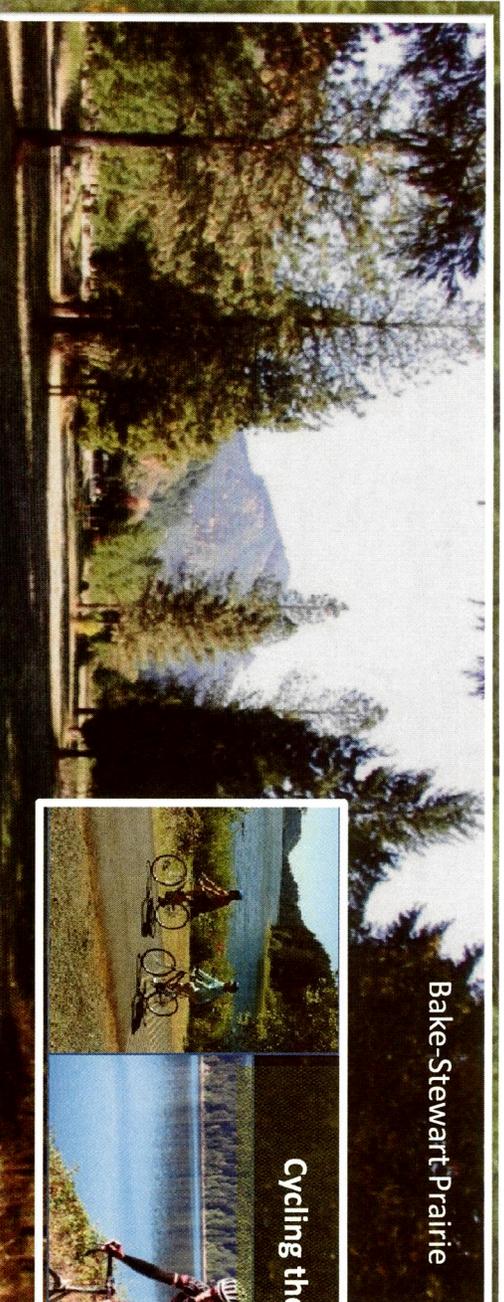
	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$20,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$1,000	\$9,000	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$3,000	\$13,000	\$2,500
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$7,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)		\$18,500	\$0		\$1,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>	<b>\$27,500</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	21.2%	27.8%	9.6%	4.0%	14.6%	2.5%

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Total
Salaries	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,500
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Personal Property	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,500
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$99,000</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	19.2%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

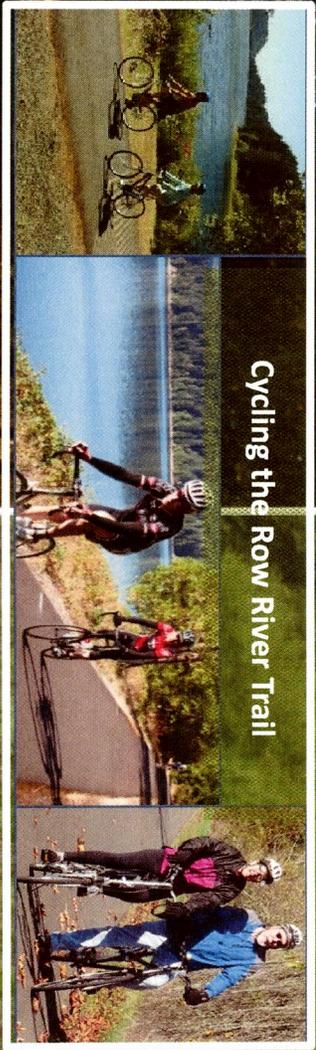
Explanations: Handshake Other: Graphic design \$12,000; interpretive panel fabrication \$4000; Bake-Stewart Park kiosk materials and installation \$2,500 . Partner 3 Other: greenhouse overhead costs

Note: Corps salary expenses will be spread over 2 fiscal years of project implementation.





Bake-Stewart Prairie



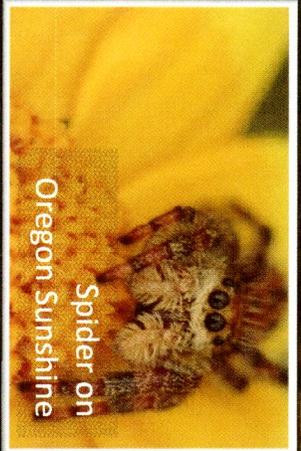
Cycling the Row River Trail



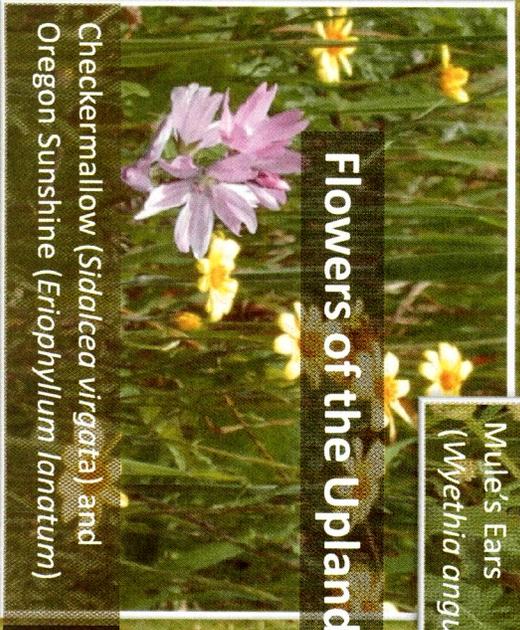
Common self-heal  
(*Prunella vulgaris*)



Mule's Ears  
(*Wyethia angustifolia*)

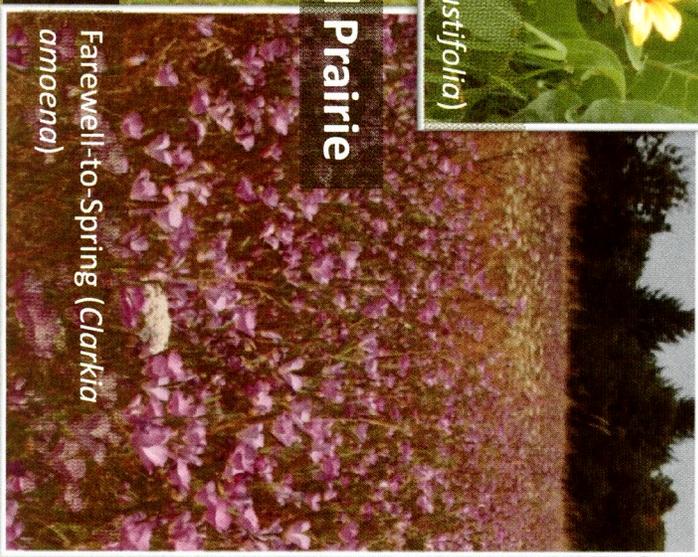


Spider on  
Oregon Sunshine

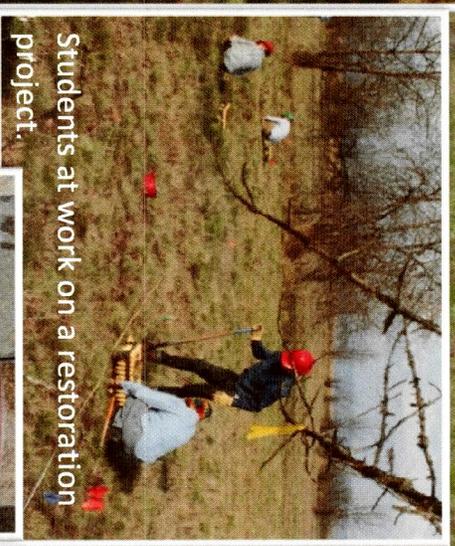


Flowers of the Upland Prairie

Checkermallow (*Sidalcea virgata*) and  
Oregon Sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*)



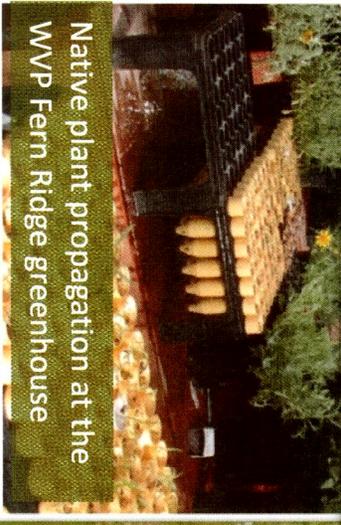
Farewell-to-Spring (*Clarkia  
amoena*)



Students at work on a restoration  
project.



Native seed collection



Native plant propagation at the  
WVP Fern Ridge greenhouse