



**Clatsop Plains
Elk Collaborative**

Declaration of Cooperation

**Oregon Solutions
September 1, 2021**

Acknowledgements

Oregon Solutions greatly appreciates all those who generously gave their time to accomplish this project and achieve this Declaration of Cooperation.

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Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative Declaration of Cooperation

Preface

In April 2019, Oregon Governor Kate Brown designated the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative as an Oregon Solutions project following a request initiated by the cities of Gearhart and Warrenton. The governor designated Mayor Henry Balensifer (Warrenton) and Mayor Jay Barber (Seaside) as co-conveners of the project and Oregon Solutions formed a project team of twenty-six members, consisting of key stakeholders, state and federal agency staff, local community and government leaders, academics, Governor’s Regional Solutions staff, and area nonprofit representatives to focus on the goals of: *reducing conflict between elk-human interactions, increasing safety, and promoting cohabitation between elk and people in the Clatsop Plains area.*

Purpose of the Declaration of Cooperation

The Declaration of Cooperation outlines the commitments and actions of the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative (the project team). It is designed to align resources that create sustainability towards the project team accomplishing their goals, which are outlined in their recommendations and commitments, forming the general structure for a Clatsop Plains Elk Management Plan. The project team intends to use this Declaration of Cooperation to engage the public and provide them with meaningful information about effective ways they can participate in the implementation of the project team’s recommendations.

The results of this Declaration of Cooperation are expected to provide ongoing data and resources which can be used by local jurisdictions, governmental and private sector entities, and other project members in support of their commitments and actions. The Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative also used a collaborative process to develop a “tool kit,” that can be used by other communities in Oregon as a model for how they might approach human/wildlife conflict issues within urban and other land interfaces.

ABOUT OREGON SOLUTIONS

About Oregon Solutions

Oregon Solutions is the state of Oregon’s program to help communities address community-based problems and opportunities through sustainable solutions. We do this by creating a neutral forum for collaboration where businesses, governments, nonprofits, community-based organizations, sovereigns, and other stakeholders can align resources and pool efforts to achieve desired results.

Oregon Solutions Process

Oregon Solutions’ engagement starts with an assessment. When invited, Oregon Solutions begins an assessment to explore whether and how a collaborative approach might be structured to address a particular community issue. The assessment is composed of a series of one-on-one or small group interviews. If an assessment finds there is a project that can be conducted by Oregon Solutions, it will go before the governor for consideration of a designation as an Oregon Solutions project.

The Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative

The Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative project team was formed in response to the needs of the Greater Clatsop Plains area to identify a better co-habitation approach between people and elk. Much like the region's proactive response to living in a tsunami zone, this project team seeks to develop a comprehensive, multi-sector approach for living in longstanding elk habitat.

To frame its work, the project team developed the following **purpose statement**:

The community in and around the greater Clatsop Plains study area seeks to reduce elk-human related conflicts. We have expressed a sense of urgency and willingness to work collaboratively to identify management solutions and implementation strategies. The purpose of this collaborative is to find viable ways to improve public safety, and reduce property damage through outreach and education and a community-wide approach to reducing urban elk interactions while maintaining healthy and viable herds as a valuable cultural and natural resource.

To best approach its work, the project team organized itself into a steering committee and four subcommittees (elk management, human management, land use, and data). The full project team met seven times over the current duration of the project. Subcommittees met on a monthly basis from fall 2019 through spring 2020. The subcommittees developed recommendations to achieve the goals within the purpose statement.

COVID-19

Work of the project team was paused for four to six weeks at the onset of COVID-19 so team members could attend to more urgent community matters. The team ultimately adjusted to the changed environment, and subcommittees were reconstituted so team members could continue their work to reach agreement on a series of commitments and recommendations.

Due to the changes and reductions in many agency and organizational budgets from the impacts of COVID-19, funding sources that would have been traditionally available to the project to achieve its goals no longer exist. As a result, some commitments made by project team members may be delayed in their implementation. These will be assessed on a case-by-case basis as organization and agency budgets recover.

Common Understandings

The full project team has developed common understandings from their work together throughout the Oregon Solutions process. These understandings have helped shape the work of the project team and will guide the actions, implementation, and community engagement of the resulting management plan after the completion of the Oregon Solutions

project. Central to these understandings and to the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative is the livability and safety of residents and visitors as well as the necessity to develop a unified, cross-jurisdictional approach for the implementation of actions, to the greatest extent possible. These shared common understandings are as follows.

Status quo is not an option. The number and density of people who live in and visit the Clatsop Plains area are rising. Elk numbers, especially in urban areas, are also rising. If the status quo remains and no action is taken, the number of elk will exponentially increase and negative interactions and outcomes between elk and people will increase as well. This includes the risk to the health and safety of both elk and humans, from motor vehicle collision injuries/fatalities and direct encounters with aggressive elk to increased potential for attracting large predators, such as cougars, and the spread of disease among elk herds. The project team recognizes that the status quo is not working and there is a resulting urgency to the efforts of this collaborative.

Patience and action are needed. The Clatsop Plains communities have been struggling to cohabitate with elk herds in urban areas. After years of growing concern, the project team acknowledges that communities are eager for action. It is hoped that the work of the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative and this Declaration of Cooperation will be a turning point toward effective, comprehensive approaches to the problem. Through the group's work, the project team has achieved better clarity on what is necessary to meet the goals of the purpose statement. The group has found that there are few appropriate and effective actions that are capable of producing immediate results. Actions that have the best chance of producing immediate results will be prioritized, but it will likely be three to five years to see significant impacts from the project commitments.

There is no panacea. It is the confluence of various strategies in elk and human management, land use policies, and sustained action within these strategies, that will yield the highest likelihood for success. No one tool will serve to solve all problems.

A unified approach for people is needed. It is understood that flexibility is necessary, but it is understood that speaking with a coordinated voice and taking unified actions will result in the most effective and impactful outcomes for both elk and the Clatsop Plains communities. Communities will benefit from a unified approach by setting clearer and better expectations for everyone and with easier entry points to participating in the project's goals. It is clear that human behavior can and does cause harm to elk and communities alike, including negatively impacting their neighbors (feeding elk, landscaping that attracts elk, higher potential for traffic collisions, and others) which might require elk to be lethally removed as a result of increased safety hazards. This creates the need for a *community culture* where individuals, businesses, and communities see themselves as responsible for changing some of the ways they live in the Clatsop Plains. The community is called upon to work together to adapt their lives within the Clatsop Plains area to both relieve pressure on elk habitat and make urban areas less attractive for elk. This will be paramount for both short and long-term success.

A unified approach to elk is needed. Of course, elk do not acknowledge jurisdictional boundaries. In order for any regulations or guidelines to have measurable and positive impacts, there needs to be *unified and consistent coordination across the jurisdictions* when

considering regulatory measures, best practice guidelines, and other management strategies. There also needs to be an ability for local jurisdictions to adapt ordinances and guidance to address community needs. Development of a communication and notification protocol, as regulations and guidance are being proposed, will ensure a multi-jurisdictional collaborative approach.

Balanced perspectives on elk are needed. There is a general understanding that there will be some urban presence of elk and that they may continue to pose a nuisance from time to time. The project team notes that people of goodwill can disagree about what to do about this elk population. They also acknowledge that perceptions, feelings, and experiences with Clatsop Plains elk are diverse and complex, as is resolving elk and human interaction. Noting this, for the greatest possible positive outcome for Clatsop Plains communities, the group believes that elk should not be seen as either a pest or as something to be wholly protected. Elk are a part of the Clatsop Plains ecological landscape as well as an attraction to visitors. Given that livability and safety are central to this project, the needs of humans and elk should be considered before actions are taken.

The impact of urbanization must be considered. We understand that elk within urban areas of the Clatsop Plains may need to be reduced from time to time for safety reasons or because of socially unacceptable levels of property damage. We also understand that a significant cause of increased interactions between humans and elk in the Clatsop Plains area results from factors related to urbanization, including elk and human population growth, fragmentation of elk habitat, and landscaping activities that promote forage that elk find desirable. Furthermore, increased road and foot traffic resulting from a larger volume of visitors to the North Coast, coupled with the increase in urban elk, poses a larger risk to motorists, pedestrians, and elk alike. Human activity and development have served to concentrate elk within islands of suitable forage and cover on the fringe of—and often within—developed areas. The frequency of negative human/elk interactions over time has decreased the elk’s social acceptance for many residents. The socially acceptable number of elk for Clatsop Plains communities will become clearer over time as the impacts of the management actions are felt.

Tough choices are ahead. Creating the best conditions possible for elk and people will require some tough choices. Wildlife management strategies will likely need to be employed to reduce the elk population in the short and long term. This will likely require initial measures such as expanded hunting and culling to reduce the elk population. Culling will require local jurisdictions to pass ordinances granting appropriate permission. It is the project team’s expectation that all meat from culling will be donated to local food banks for community benefit, as is required by law. The project team does not anticipate their being an immediate or significant difference in the current situation (safety and co-habitation) without the inclusion of culling in the project commitments. Culling also has its limitations and is seen as only one part of a holistic management approach.

Everyone has a part to play. Individuals play a role in creating the best conditions possible for human/elk relationships, as well as state and local agencies. There is no one agency or entity that has full responsibility for the management and outcomes of human/elk issues in the urban areas of the Clatsop Plains. At the same time, the project team acknowledges a

responsibility to help communities become better informed and take ownership where possible. The project team believes working to remove barriers to meaningful community participation and engagement to reduce the presence of elk in urban areas will increase safety and lead to improved cohabitation.

Recommendations

The project team organized its work through the following subcommittees: elk management, human management, land use, and data. Recommendations were developed in each of the subcommittee areas (except the data subcommittee) related to achieving the overall goals of the project's purpose statement. The project team has agreed to the recommendations below.

Elk Management Subcommittee

- Develop fencing options for mass elk exclusion from select areas.
- Develop and implement an elk behavior modification plan.
- Use deterrents to detract elk from select areas.
- Use attractants to attract elk to select areas.
- Develop and establish elk movement corridors.
- Evaluate and expand ODFW hunting options.
- Increase targeted use of hazing and hazing permits.
- Conduct culling requested by jurisdictions and donate meat to the Oregon Food Bank system.
- Use targeted removal of individual problem elk to reduce habituated elk that pose an immediate threat to public safety.

Human Management Subcommittee

- Complete jurisdictional passing of no feeding ordinances.
- Develop comprehensive no feeding guidance.
- Develop and disseminate resident education materials on how to reduce interactions with elk.
- Work with residents on using best practices for elk appropriate landscaping and pet care.
- Develop and implement K-12 education materials, in coordination with local schools, to teach children about the history of elk in the Clatsop Plains, elk biology, and how to live with elk as residents of the Clatsop Plains.
- Develop and disseminate visitor educational materials in collaboration with relevant partners.
- Develop creative and effective fencing options for homeowners.
- Develop and disseminate guidance on maintaining a safe distance from elk.
- Establish new signage and investigate placing rumble strips at highly trafficked elk crossing areas on US Highway 101. Explore the development of signage that is reactive to the presence of wildlife.

Land Use Subcommittee

Establishing and preserving elk movement corridors, habitat, and buffer areas:

- Through partnerships, identify, consolidate, and maintain, in an undeveloped state, targeted land used for elk travel.
- Review subdivision ordinances.
- Establish wildlife habitat buffers or transition areas between urban communities and elk habitat.
- Use enhanced forage to attract elk to select areas for viewing and using corridors.

Legislative and regulatory revisions:

- Integrate land use recommendations into the Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan update process.
- Review the density transfer plan of Clatsop County.

Resident and jurisdiction education actions:

- Coordinate with private landowners who may be converting forest land to residential land on potential elk conflicts.
- Provide notice if future purchasers' properties are in a wildlife movement area.
- Encourage flexibility while striving for a unified approach.
- Identify human/wildlife transect areas and send public notices to ODFW.
- Develop local fencing guidance in coordination with the development of fencing options and adjust ordinances as needed.
- Identify and create wildlife viewing areas.
- Educate residents and decision makers on the relationship between land use planning and wildlife interactions.
- Improve local jurisdictions' understanding of statewide processes and permitting relating to land conversion, particularly in municipalities.

Data Collection Subcommittee

- Increase collection and analysis of elk movement data to create and protect elk movement corridors and inform other land use actions.
- Track elk movement on both sides of Highway 101 to better understand landscape usage.
- Create a GIS layered map to inform other land use actions.

Project Team Commitments and Declaration

In order to achieve the goals outlined in the purpose statement of the project, the members of the project team commit, individually and together, to implement the elk management plan through the current recommendations, and to explore new ideas as new information arises. The members of the project team agree to support one another and advocate for each other in achieving the following commitments, collaboratively addressing challenges, involving the public through robust education on the management plan and opportunities to participate, and speaking with one voice to provide clarity and stability to the public.

This Declaration of Cooperation is not a binding legal contract. It is a declaration of good faith and commitment to collaboration of the undersigned parties to meet the spirit and goals of the project through individual and collective action.

City of Warrenton

- Review and, if necessary, amend laws related to unhealthy elk-human interactions, such as feeding, petting, and enticement.
- Increase enforcement of no feeding ordinance.
- Conduct public hearings and cooperatively work with Oregon State Police (OSP), ODFW, and relevant agencies on developing and implementing a population management plan, including elk harvests.
- Consider adoption and implementation of land use policy recommendations that reduce elk/human interaction.
- Collaborate on fencing design appropriateness for the Clatsop Plains area and for individual communities.
- Collaborate on elk and ecologically appropriate landscaping, and other mechanisms, for deterring elk in urban areas within Clatsop Plains.
- Help identify and troubleshoot land development issues with the need for wildlife corridors in mind.
- Consider changing local fencing ordinance to accommodate updated elk fencing designs for residents.
- Assist in developing and distributing new educational materials and guidance on elk safety.
- Support Clatsop County in educating residents and decision makers on relationship between land use planning and wildlife interactions.
- Partner with appropriate entities to help link elk movement corridors through Warrenton to parks and state lands.
- Review development policies as they relate to elk and work with property owners and agencies to consider land use changes that would alleviate pressure on elk habitat.
- Identify wildlife transect areas within Warrenton, and then determine need for new policy or policy changes.
- Collect more precise data on elk contact with residents and provide that information to ODFW.
- Consider updating policies on firearms and hazing to align with the elk management plan.
- Discuss with Spruce Up Warrenton, or another community organization, the creation of a regional Elk Festival.

Henry Balensifer III, Mayor: _____ Date: _____

City of Seaside

- Consider appropriate ordinances and Land Use issues related to elk/human interactions and safety.
- Invite representative members from the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative to provide an informational presentation to the Seaside City Council and the Seaside Parks Advisory Committee.
- Create digital tourism-focused educational brochures and materials on elk, in coordination with other jurisdictions, including the visitors guide and the city of Seaside web page. Educational materials will include safe distancing from elk, taking photos of elk, stopping a car on the highway or road to observe elk, seasonal elk issues (calving and rutting seasons), and other topics.
- Coordinate with the Oregon Coast Visitors Association, Astoria, and Cannon Beach on collaborative marketing materials related to elk education.
- Explore creation of an elk information kiosk next to the Seaside sign.
- Reach out to chamber of commerce, service clubs, seaside business association, and others, to do a presentation on the elk project. Communicate around how they can contribute to the elk project.
- Use vacation rental dwelling compliance officer to work with vacation rentals, creating and making available materials to be placed in vacation rentals and to give to renters.

Jay Barber, Mayor: _____ Date: _____

City of Gearhart

- Review and collaborate with other jurisdictions on regulations relating to the hazing of elk that are damaging property or endangering a person’s safety.
- Consider actions to “right size” the Gearhart herd(s). This includes consideration of passing city council resolutions supporting culling of elk outside of city limits on appropriate land in unincorporated Clatsop County.
- Consider whether to revise the city’s fence code section to deter elk from entering property.
- Consider whether to revise the city’s fence code sections, to allow Gearhart to Golf Link to participate in a “double fence” experiment.
- Collaborate on ecologically appropriate landscaping, and other mechanisms, for deterring elk in urban areas within Clatsop Plains.
- Support Clatsop County in educating residents and decision makers on relationship between land use and wildlife interactions.
- Partner with appropriate entities to study whether elk movement corridors can be utilized in Gearhart, particularly in parks and on state lands.
- Review current subdivision ordinances to consider land use amendments (space requirements, wildlife buffers, and others) that might alleviate pressure on elk habitat.
- Collect more precise data on elk contact with residents and provide that information to ODFW.

Paulina Cockrum, Mayor: _____ Date: _____

Clatsop County

- Pass a county no feeding ordinance for areas west of Highway 101.
- Assist in the guidance and education of residents and visitors for elk safety, landscaping, and best practices for pets. Support the development of content, printed materials, and community outreach.
- Conduct community outreach and education for residents regarding elk fencing options.
- Identify land to be maintained in an undeveloped state for the purpose of creating wildlife corridors, open space requirements for subdivisions, and other practices that will decrease pressure on elk habitat. Build necessary partnerships for support and implementation.
- Review subdivision ordinances, develop an educational campaign, and work with private property owners to build support for requiring minimum open space requirements and regulations that provide adequate elk habitat and forage within and between adjacent developments.
- Integrate land use issues identified by the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative into the Clatsop County Comprehensive Plan update process. Use the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative Declaration of Cooperation as consideration and guidance for zoning code discussions (open space requirements, locations, designs) and density transfer discussions.
- Develop and implement an informal process of coordinating with and notifying developers and private landowners of the presence of elk in areas they may be converting from a more natural area to a residential or commercial area.
 - Ensure developers and land owners are aware of wildlife buffers and other land use recommendations from the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative.
 - Provide an additional disclaimer of elk presence over the counter and on building permits. Provide area mapping of wildlife areas in conjunction with notifications.
 - Work with real estate agents and build support for notifying potential buyers of the presence of wildlife where they are buying or setting up businesses.
- Work with real estate agencies and the business community to add wildlife (elk) area advisory statements and notifications for over the counter transactions, on the bottom of permits, and on property records. Add wildlife (elk) designation areas to Clatsop County maps and public viewing website.
- Provide all notices for conditional use permits to ODFW, for use in making comments outside of big game habitat.
- Assist in education and outreach in Warrenton and Gearhart to inform the public and local officials on the relationship between land use planning and wildlife interactions.
- House and administer a GIS layered map for the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative.
- Review the density transfer program and adjust as needed to disperse density transfers throughout appropriate areas of unincorporated Clatsop County.
- Support requests for culling permits made by cities within the Clatsop Plains area that would be conducted on unincorporated land outside of city limits when the elk

are understood to be biologically attached to the city making the request. This does not require a formal resolution.

- Consider passing a formal resolution for a culling permit from ODFW when requests are made by private entities relating to those elk on unincorporated land that are not biologically attached to a city.

Mark Kujala, Clatsop County Commission Chair: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

- Conduct increased public outreach and education on all issues related to elk management in the Clatsop Plains.
- Create and distribute no feeding guidance.
- Provide guidance to jurisdictions that have not yet passed a no feeding ordinance.
- Continue phase two of research on double fencing design. Create an experimental design to be tested in partnership with Gearhart Golf Links.
- Provide technical advice to landowners, jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations that would like to implement the use of elk attractants and deterrents.
- Increase collaring for data collection used to identify and create elk movement corridors.
- Provide technical assistance in the creation of an elk behavior modification plan.
- Research and advise on aligning interpretations of no shooting and discharge of firearms rules in city limits. Work with jurisdictions on alignment and consistent application of hazing where possible.
- Adapt hunting options to new information on seasonally problematic elk that come into areas where they could be hunted through increasing tag numbers or creating special hunting seasons.
- Provide guidance and technical support to local governments for development of culling plans. Collaborate with project team members on best methods and locations for culling.
- Inform project team members on ODFW\Oregon State Police protocols and activities regarding targeted removal of problem elk. Discuss proactive ways for dealing with elk that exhibit problem behaviors but do not yet present an immediate safety risk.

Bernadette Graham-Hudson, West Region Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

- Support and review ordinance changes, including fencing rules, that may also involve building code or other land use requirements, and vegetation ordinances addressing elk attractants, deterrents, and landscaping. Ordinance changes may also trigger Post-Acknowledgement Plan Amendment processes through which DLCD can provide input to local jurisdictions to ensure compliance with the statewide planning goals.
- Review and edit materials involving no feeding guidance and options, safe distance guidance, and resident, K-12, and visitor education.
- Liaison on any actions related to identifying and consolidating and/or maintaining land used for elk movement in an undeveloped state, reviewing subdivision ordinances, and reviewing density transfer plans.
- Engage with comprehensive plan review Goal 5 expert to develop clear and objective standards for how the Clatsop Plains Elk Project GIS map information will be used in land use decision making and integrated within the comprehensive plan review. Areas of special attention will include collecting and analyzing elk movement data to establish and protect corridors as well as tracking elk and elk movement on both sides of Highway 101 to better understand landscape usage. Assist, as needed, in integrating elk recommendations into Clatsop County's Comprehensive Plan review.
- Support Clatsop County and ODFW in coordinating with private landowners who may be converting forestland to residential land, providing notice if future purchasers' properties are in a wildlife movement area, and identifying human/wildlife transect areas, and support Clatsop County's efforts to send public notices to ODFW.
- Provide input and participate in public and local government education on the relationship between land use planning and wildlife interactions.
- Assist jurisdictions that want to pass local codes which install time restrictions on the conversion of forest land to residential or commercial use.

Patricia L. Snow, DLCD Coastal Program Manager: _____ Date: _____

Lisa Phipps, DLCD Regional Solutions Team: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

- Modify ODOT elk data collection procedures within the Clatsop Plains (Highways US 101, US 101B, US 104, and US 105) to consistently and accurately record the pickup location to the nearest one-tenth milepost.
- Investigate and pursue additional mitigation measures to reduce vehicle speeds and potential elk/vehicle collisions within the Clatsop Plains.
 - Research and implement, if possible, additional low-cost passive and active warning measures.
 - Pursue a university partnership to research wildlife detection technologies and systems capable of coping with the complexities of the Clatsop Plains environment. The desired outcome of the research would be a detection system that could be used for a dynamic warning system able to alert drivers of the presence of wildlife on or near the roadway. The wildlife detection system could also be used by other agencies, (e.g., ODFW and National Park Service) for improved natural habitat wildlife detection, identification, and tracking.

Sonny Chickering, Region 2 Manager: _____ Date: _____

National Park Service (Lewis and Clark National Historical Park)

- Seek funding for continuing studies and collect more detailed data for elk movement. Seek other technologies in addition to collars, such as camera traps, satellite tags, and others as they become known.
- Provide guidance to park visitors about not feeding and maintaining safe distances from elk.
- Support Oregon State University Extension in developing a backyard habitat program by providing technical guidance. Seek involvement of the North Coast Watershed Association.
- Provide elk-specific education materials and interpretation to park visitors through materials created and provided by the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative as well as existing National Park Service materials.
- Provide “Nature Matters” speakers series, hosted in collaboration with the North Coast Watershed Association, the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Association, and Fort George Brewery, as a venue for presentations to the public on the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative’s mission and goals.

Jon Burpee, Superintendent: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (Fort Stevens)

- Conduct interpretive and management plan education and outreach on elk for visitors and locals by developing and providing interpretive panels, pamphlets, and expert presentations.
- Add elk messaging in the Fort Stevens reservation system that details the Clatsop Plains Elk Project management plan and reinforces the park’s existing Oregon administrative rule against harassing or feeding wildlife.
- Provide signs, developed by the project team, in areas where elk are known to congregate and cross in the park, restricting people from stopping their cars.
- Enhance forage habitat for elk at Fort Stevens.
- Use park land to partner in conducting research on elk deterrents and attractants, elk corridor and movement strategies, fencing options, and hazing.
- Coordinate on the use of Fort Stevens land as part of elk movement corridors.

Lisa Sumption, Director: _____ Date: _____

Justin Parker, North Coast Dist. Manager: _____ Date: _____

Vanessa Blackstone (Formerly with Oregon Parks and Recreation—Fort Stevens)

- Develop and assist in implementing an Elk Behavior Modification Plan for the Clatsop Plains project area.
- Partner with OSU Extension, ODFW, OSP, Ken Ramirez (animal training expert), and others to assist in the creation and implementation of an Elk Behavior Modification Plan.

Vanessa Blackstone, Wildlife Ecologist: _____ Date: _____

Oregon State Police (OSP)

- Partner with jurisdictions to improve and encourage consistent enforcement of no feeding ordinances.
- Work with ODFW and jurisdictions to conduct outreach and education, for residents and businesses, on the Clatsop Plains Elk Management Plan and OSP's role in enforcing laws connected to the plan.
- Assist ODFW in educating residents and visitors about the dangers of feeding wildlife and the increased chance that elk will become subject to targeted lethal removal because of habituation through feeding. Conduct education in schools.
- Collaborate with ODFW and jurisdictions on aligning legal interpretations rules relating to hazing, shooting, and discharge of firearms in city limits. Work with jurisdictions on consistent application and enforcement of hazing.
- Create more detailed data and additional metrics on vehicle collisions in partnership with ODOT. Coordinate with ODOT to get more consistent data on elk collisions for GIS mapping
- Enforce any additional state highway signage or laws that may result from this project which require reduction in speed or restrictions on stopping to view wildlife.
- Continue to coordinate with ODFW for targeted removal of elk determined to be an immediate threat to public safety.
- Provide emergency response perspectives in discussing proactive ways that elk may be dealt with when they exhibit problem behaviors but do not yet present an immediate safety risk.

Sgt. Joe Warwick, Oregon State Police Officer: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Military Department (Camp Rilea)

- Camp Rilea serves the primary purpose of military readiness and, to the best of the Oregon Military Department's ability, will manage elk and elk habitat at Camp Rilea and cooperate with proper authorities, as appropriate, for their requests to cull and perform other types of lethal removal of elk.
- Serve on advisory committee in creating and implementing the elk behavior modification plan, especially in the use of attractants, deterrents, and hazing. Use these tools to enable the movement of elk onto Camp Rilea land.
- Act with project team members to integrate Camp Rilea into a planned elk movement corridor.
- Work with ODOT on the placement of mitigation measures to reduce speed and reduce potential collisions with elk at elk crossing areas along Camp Rilea's frontage to US Highway 101.
- When other options are not available, and as a last resort, provide refrigeration space for unprocessed elk after culling process.
- Pursue Army Compatible Use Buffer program opportunities to partner with landowners and project team members in identifying and purchasing land for habitat conservation, elk movement corridor, and preventing development of critical open areas.
- Provide ODFW access to Camp Rilea for data collection and darting and collaring elk.
- Support GIS mapping and analysis with in-house staff time.

Todd Farmer, Deputy Director of Installations: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

- Increase education, communication, and coordination on land use conversion within the Forest Practices Act. Assist jurisdictions that want to pass local codes that install time restrictions on the conversion of forestland to residential or commercial use.
 - Make sure notifications comply with the Forest Practices Act.
 - Distribute literature to individuals who file a notification of operation within the project area about existing and new rules and restrictions that may apply to landowner activities.
 - Talk with local officials about past issues regarding land use conversion in those jurisdictions and the potential effectiveness (or not) of any new proposed rule.

Dan Goody, Astoria District Forester: _____ Date: _____

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST)

- Provide ongoing administrative project support, for two to three years, for the Clatsop Plains Elk project. Help coordinate communication, hold quarterly meetings, create agendas, write meeting minutes, and track progress on project goals.
- Assist with grant writing for elk movement corridors and habitat preservation.

Denise Löfman, Executive Director: _____ Date: _____

North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC)

- Help identify and establish elk movement corridors.
 - Work to protect these areas from development by establishing them as public land, open spaces, or private nature reserves if necessary and possible.
 - Explore taking ownership of land to help establish elk movement corridors.
- Partner with municipalities and Clatsop County to “Identify, consolidate, and maintain in undeveloped state land used for elk movement through partnerships,” “Review subdivision ordinances,” and “establish wildlife habitat buffers or transition areas between urban communities and elk habitat” to reduce presence of elk in urban spaces. Work with developers when they are complying with open space requirements and endangered species requirements that can also benefit elk movement and habitat, including receiving land from donors.
- Provide access and use of NCLC land in elk data collection, including collaring and pellet surveying. Make staff biologists available to assist with these efforts.
- Make staff available for GIS mapping work.
- Work with schools, and the general public, in elk education by offering field trips and “walk in the land” guided nature tours through NCLC land.
 - Partner with the North Coast Watershed Association, OPRD, and National Park Service on interpretation. Review signage for facts and relevance.
- Explore the establishment of a wildlife viewing area on NCLC land.
 - Initial viable sites to explore include: Reed Ranch, the Neocoxie Forest, and Gearhart Glen.
 - Partner with local land owners or municipalities in resolving potential access issues and space usage.

Katie Voelke, Executive Director: _____ Date: _____

Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Services

- Integrate the participation of graduate and post-doctoral students at strategic points to build capacity for the implementation of project goals.
- Assist in the construction of an elk guidance document and comprehensive FAQs sheet that answers common questions about wildlife management in general and in urban areas. Work with project partners to solicit questions from local jurisdictions.
- Partner with the OSU Master Gardeners program, and local plant nurseries and landscaping companies, on designs and guides that emphasize aesthetically pleasing, ecologically native plants that are undesirable to elk.
- Assist in holding educational workshops with local gardening clubs, businesses, and residents to adopt the use of elk appropriate plants and landscaping.
- Assist in the creation of an elk behavior modification plan.
- Create a naturalist/interpreter program related to elk.
- Work with state and national parks on interpretation as well as local indigenous communities in traditional ecological knowledge contributions.
- Create an elk section on OSU's coastal extension webpage that includes the comprehensive FAQs sheet.
- Design and implement research on one or more of the following items: space use patterns of local elk herds, impacts of an elk behavior modification plan, points of highway crossing for local elk herds, resident and visitor values/knowledge/attitudes/behaviors regarding elk and willingness to adopt/change behaviors in relation to elk presence and behavior.

Anita Nina Azarenko, Vice Provost for Extension and Engagement/Director of the Extension Service, Interim: _____ Date: _____

Dr. Dana Sanchez, Associate Professor, Extension Wildlife Specialist:
_____ Date: _____

Greenwood Resources

- Make use of attractants like enhanced forage to enrich elk habitat on the east side of US Highway 101.
- Coordinate with local jurisdictions and land conservation organizations in integrating Greenwood Resources land into wildlife corridor plans.
- Allow hunting on Greenwood Resources property in conjunction with efforts to reduce the presence of elk on the west side of US Highway 101. Partner with the Oregon Hunters Association and ODFW.
- Assist in developing and delivering education on the intersection of forestry and elk management.
- Collaborate with OSU Extension, and others, in research to better understand the connection between elk behavior, elk numbers, elk habitat, and elk migration.
- Offer Greenwood Resources property for conducting research and habitat modeling.
- Offer space as needed to continue development of fencing design options.
- Integrate the work of the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative into the Greenwood Resources Wildlife Management Plan.
- Support efforts in retaining timberland and reducing the conversion of timberland to residential use.
- Develop an official program and space for viewing elk.
 - Use current permit system for access to Greenwood Resources land.
 - Offer educational materials that exhibit how forest management practices can benefit conservation and wildlife. These materials would be available for self-guided elk-viewing tours (walking and biking) on specified areas of lands managed by Lewis and Clark Timberlands.

Kat Olson, Lead Silviculturist: _____ Date: _____

Gearhart Golf Links

- Post and redistribute elk educational material.
- Formulate questions and gather guest experiences on elk for research purposes.
- Educate golfers on aspects of the project implementation that relate to their conduct and experience on the golf course.
- Support local and county efforts in land use changes that seek to reduce the presence of herds in urban areas, including fencing used for elk movement corridors.
- Act as a bridge to important community relationships, including other golf courses, in helping to understand and gain support for the implementation of project recommendations.
- Work with ODFW to apply fencing research to golf course grounds. Use the northeast portion of the golf course as a test site for double fencing or use another location, depending on suitable aesthetics.

Jason Bangild, General Manager: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Hunters Association (OHA)

- Supply OHA members and equipment for costs and work associated with habitat management and manipulation, establishing elk movement corridors, fencing, and elk attractants/deterrents.
- Establish a fund under OHA's 501c3 status to collect and distribute money related to project costs, vetted and approved by OHA through a proposal process and matched funding system. OHA has committed an initial \$5000 to this fund.
- Serve on advisory committee in creating and implementing an elk behavior modification plan
- Coordinate with ODFW and landowners on hunts in strategic locations to encourage elk to remain on the east side of US Highway 101.
- Pilot discussions on new and expanded hunting options with ODFW, OSP, and local jurisdictions.
- Publish articles in OHA membership magazine (state) and newsletter (local) to educate and inform OHA membership on the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative and its implementation.
- Develop a field dressing/rendering curriculum and program that can educate and be used by volunteers to reduce costs associated with culling operations.

Fred Walasavage, Oregon Hunters Association State Board Chair

(John R. Putman, Authorized Agent): _____ Date: _____

John Putman, Northwest Director: _____ Date: _____

Regional Solutions

Continue to assist with state agency coordination and integration as needed for collaborative governance, technical assistance, information sharing, and regulatory considerations in support of the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative, aligning state and regional priorities with the recommendations and commitments of the project.

Jennifer Purcell, North Coast Team Coordinator: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Senator Betsy Johnson

As both an elected representative and a private citizen, support the agreement of the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative and to work through whatever unanticipated issues may arise in its execution. Drawing on prior experience as an Oregon Solutions Convener and Project Team member, make sure all stakeholder voices continue to be valued and heard.

Senator Betsy Johnson, District 16: _____ Date: _____

Oregon Solutions

- Highlight the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative project on the Oregon Solutions website and in other promotional materials.
- Act as project manager, for one year, in a second phase of the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative. The scope of work will target support for budget creation and tracking, project implementation work plan creation and coordination, and procurement of project funding.
- Perform post-project evaluation and share a summary of what was learned from the evaluation with the project team.

Karmen Fore, Director: _____ Date: _____

Phase Two

The Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative has agreed, through the approval process of this Declaration of Cooperation, to participate in a phase two of this project. All signers have agreed to participate in phase two, which will take place over the course of approximately twelve months and will primarily entail the creation of a detailed work plan, launch of the implementation of near-term objectives, establishment of and further work with community and other project partners, and seeking of funding options for unfunded budget items related to their commitments.

Reconvening

Oregon Solutions will reconvene the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative in twelve months to eighteen months after phase two has been completed in order to evaluate progress, support the team in addressing any outstanding issues, and assist in the development of any potential additional phases of the project.

Appendix A: Background

The Greater Clatsop Plains area of northwest Clatsop County is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the city of Seaside to the south, the Columbia River to the north, and the Oregon Coast Highway 101/Lewis and Clark Road to the east. The area was historically occupied by Roosevelt elk, which are detailed as an important food source in both indigenous records as well as Lewis and Clark expedition records. Over the span of 100 years, the once plentiful Roosevelt elk were extirpated in Clatsop County as the result of years of uncontrolled market hunting and trade.

In the early 1970s, Roosevelt elk began to recolonize the Greater Clatsop Plains area. Several hundred elk now live in the area, and thrive on an array of public and private land. In the last century, communities within the Greater Clatsop Plains have also changed from natural resources-based to tourism-driven economies. All the while, the area has continued to be developed for residential and commercial purposes.

Human-elk conflicts have been present on the Greater Clatsop Plains since the elk returned in the 1970s. But these interactions and conflicts have increased with the corresponding growth in both elk and human populations and ongoing land development. This has resulted in the habituation of elk in urban communities, meaning these elk no longer avoid humans at distances that curtail dangerous interactions. Elk habituation has led to tensions and concerns for both human and elk safety. Concern has also grown because of an increase in inappropriate human behavior around elk (e.g., approaching too close, taunting and harassing, and intentionally and unintentionally feeding the elk); property and land damage caused by elk; elk aggression toward people (especially during calving and rutting seasons); and, elk/vehicle collisions.

All of these changing factors have resulted in divergent opinions and emotions about the presence of elk. Some residents and visitors enjoy the elk and see them as a value-added natural resource that speaks to the biological diversity of the region, whereas others have a diminished tolerance for the elk in the wake of human/elk conflicts and have grown to view them, primarily, as a public safety hazard.

In response, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has, for many years, assisted Greater Clatsop Plains landowners with advice, hazing permits, and lethal and non-lethal removal of individual problem elk. ODFW has also worked with area cities on public education about how to reduce elk habituation and has advised cities on management actions to reduce the elk population. But in a region where public opinion about the elk is strongly divided, it has been difficult for the agency to proactively manage elk. As a consequence, a cohesive management strategy has yet to be achieved. It has also become clear that no single entity has the authority or capacity to develop and implement such a plan, so a collaborative approach by all stakeholders was necessary.

Appendix B: Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative Members

Paul Atwood, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, District Wildlife Biologist

Mark Baldwin, City of Warrenton Commissioner

Mayor Henry A. Balensifer III, City of Warrenton Mayor (Co-Convener)

Jason Bangild, Gearhart Golf Links, General Manager/Director of Golf

Mayor Jay Barber, City of Seaside Mayor (Co-Convener)

Vanessa Blackstone, Wildlife Ecologist

Carla Cole, National Park Service, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Acting Chief of Resources

Todd Farmer, Oregon Military Department, Camp Rilea Deputy Director, Installations

Stacey Garrison, Oregon Military Department, Camp Rilea Installations Division (AGI)

Dan Goody, Oregon Department of Forestry, Astoria District Forester

Gail Henrikson, Clatsop County Director, Community Development

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Oregon State Senate, District 16

Chris Knutsen, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Coast Watershed District Manager

Denise Löfman, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, Executive Director

Mark Morgans, Greenwood Resources, Director of North American Operations

Kat Olson, Greenwood Resources, Lewis & Clark Timberlands Lead Silviculturist

Justin Parker, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Fort Stevens, OPRD North Coast District Manager

Lisa Phipps, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Regional Solutions Team

Sgt. Jim Pierce, City of Warrenton Police, Police Sargent

Jae Pudewell, Oregon Department of Transportation, Regional Solutions Team

Jennifer Purcell, North Coast Regional Solutions, Gov. Kate Brown Regional Solutions Team Coordinator

John R.Putman, Oregon Hunters Association, Northwest Director

Dr. Dana Sanchez, Oregon State University Extension Services, Wildlife Management Specialist

Chad Sweet, City of Gearhart, City Administrator

Katie Voelke, North Coast Land Conservancy, Executive Director

Sgt. Joe Warwick, Oregon State Police, Fish & Wildlife Division, State Police Sargent

Ty Williams, Oregon Department of Forestry, District Operations Coordinator

Subcommittee Members

Steering Team

Mayor Henry Balensifer III, City of Warrenton

Mayor Jay Barber, City of Seaside

Gail Henrikson, Clatsop County

Carla Cole, National Park Service

Paul Atwood, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Chad Sweet, City of Gearhart

Elk Management Sub-Committee

Paul Atwood, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jason Bangild, Gearhart Golf Links

John Putman, Oregon Hunters Association

Kat Olson, Greenwood Resources

Sgt. Joe Warwick, Oregon State Police

Vanessa Blackstone, Wildlife subject matter expert

Steve Meshke, Clatsop County

Mark Baldwin, City of Warrenton

Dr. Dana Sanchez, Oregon State University

Human Management Sub-Committee

Chad Sweet, City of Gearhart

Jay Barber, City of Seaside

Denise Löfman, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

Lisa Phipps, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

Gail Henrikson, Clatsop County

Stacey Garrison, Oregon Military Department

Dr. Dana Sanchez, Oregon State University

Land Use Management Sub-Committee

Lisa Phipps, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

Gail Henrikson, Clatsop County

Denise Löfman, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

Chris Knutsen, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Paul Atwood, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jae Pudewell, Oregon Department of Transportation

Ty Williams, Oregon Department of Forestry

Mayor Henry Balensifer, City of Warrenton

Data Sub-committee

Mayor Henry Balensifer, City of Warrenton

Jae Pudewell, Oregon Department of Transportation

Carla Cole, National Parks Service

Chris Clatterbuck, National Parks Service

Appendix C: Team Ground Rules

- We agree to approach problems with humility and adaptability. We will inevitably make mistakes, and we will learn from these mistakes, make corrections, and not place blame.
- We commit to openly communicate ideas, potential contributions, and concerns, and also commit to engage in respectful, active listening to each other.
- We recognize that we each have a unique perspective and contribution to make, whether it is expertise, labor, money, in-kind services, etc.
- We recognize that we must endeavor to involve any person or group who could influence and support our ability to achieve our goals.
- We agree to creatively explore solutions.
- We agree to focus on taking specific, concrete steps towards long-term, systematic outcomes.

Appendix D: Map of the Project Area

