East Drew Creek Restoration Project
ODFW–OERP APF Draft Narrative

Project Goal

The East Drew Creek Restoration Project will prepare approximately 0.5 miles of East Drew Creek and its confluence with Drew Creek for restoration by developing a comprehensive Construction-Ready Restoration Package. The Understory Initiative will lead an interdisciplinary team to assess existing watershed conditions, identify limiting factors, evaluate restoration alternatives, and develop engineered restoration plans that restore stream, floodplain, riparian, and adjacent upland processes. The project will complete the technical investigations, restoration design, engineering, permitting coordination, implementation sequencing, planning-level construction cost estimates, and technical specifications needed to move the project into implementation. At project completion, East Drew Creek will have a partner-supported, construction-ready restoration package that can advance directly into final permitting, implementation funding, and on-the-ground restoration.

Project Description

The Understory Initiative (TUI) will lead the development of a comprehensive Construction-Ready Restoration Package for approximately 0.5 miles of East Drew Creek and its confluence with Drew Creek on Forest Reclamation property in the Tiller Watershed of the South Umpqua River Basin. Working with the landowner, agencies, Tribal partners, and an interdisciplinary technical team, TUI will advance the project from watershed-scale concepts to a construction-ready restoration project through ecological assessment, restoration design, engineering, permitting coordination, and implementation planning.

East Drew Creek is a fish-bearing tributary within the South Umpqua Basin where historic timber harvest, road construction, mining, wildfire, and other land uses have altered stream and floodplain processes. The project will restore ecological processes by evaluating stream complexity, floodplain reconnection, riparian function, native vegetation, and watershed processes while developing engineered restoration alternatives.

TUI will coordinate fisheries biologists, fluvial geomorphologists, hydrologists, engineers, botanists, foresters, surveyors, and other specialists to complete field investigations, restoration alternatives, engineered restoration plans, implementation sequencing, planning-level construction cost estimates, technical specifications, and permitting documentation. The final deliverable will be a Construction-Ready Restoration Package capable of advancing directly into permitting, implementation funding, and construction.

Budget Narrative

ODFW funds will support the technical work needed to prepare East Drew Creek for restoration implementation. Funding will be used for project management, partner coordination, field assessments, restoration planning and design, engineering support, permitting coordination, GIS and mapping, technical specialists, and development of the final Construction-Ready Restoration Package.

The budget was developed from the work required to move the project from concept to construction-ready. Costs are based on anticipated staff time, current consulting rates for specialized restoration professionals, and estimated travel, field supplies, mapping, and other project expenses needed to complete the work. The result will be a construction-ready restoration project with the technical information, engineering, permitting strategy, and implementation documents needed to pursue future restoration funding.

Measurable Project Objectives

Objective 1

Measurable Objective: Complete baseline site assessments and identify restoration opportunities.

TUI: Lead project management, reporting, partner coordination, existing data review, GIS, and field coordination. Technical specialists: complete survey, geomorphic, hydrologic, fisheries, vegetation, wetland and soils assessments; identify limiting factors and restoration opportunities. Deliverables: Existing Conditions Assessment, Baseline GIS/Mapping, Restoration Opportunities Assessment. Timeline: Months 1–12.

Objective 2

Measurable Objective: Evaluate restoration alternatives and complete restoration design.

TUI: Coordinate interdisciplinary design workshops and integrate partner review. Technical specialists: evaluate restoration alternatives, develop engineered restoration plans, restoration prescriptions, and treatment designs including process-based restoration approaches. Deliverables: Alternatives Analysis, Preferred Alternative, Engineered Restoration Plans. Timeline: Months 10–22.

Objective 3

Measurable Objective: Complete engineering, permitting, and implementation planning.

TUI: Coordinate agency consultation and permitting. Technical specialists: complete planning-level engineering, technical specifications, construction cost estimates, implementation sequencing, and permitting documentation. Deliverables: Engineering Package, Cost Estimate, Technical Specifications, Permitting Strategy. Timeline: Months 18–30.

Objective 4

Measurable Objective: Complete interdisciplinary review and prepare the project for construction.

TUI: Facilitate partner and agency review and finalize design. Technical specialists: complete constructability review and incorporate final revisions. Deliverables: Final Technical Review, Partner-Supported Restoration Design, Construction Readiness Review. Timeline: Months 24–34.

Objective 5

Measurable Objective: Deliver the Construction-Ready Restoration Package.

TUI: Compile all technical products, complete reporting and closeout. Technical specialists: provide final supporting documentation. Deliverables: Construction-Ready Restoration Package, Draft Scopes of Work, Monitoring and Adaptive Management Recommendations. Timeline: Months 30–36.

Compliance & Permitting

The project will identify required permits, initiate agency coordination, and prepare the documentation needed to support future permit applications. Anticipated coordination includes the landowner, Oregon Department of State Lands, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ODFW, cultural resources, and other agencies as required. The project will deliver a permitting strategy and supporting documentation to facilitate future implementation.

Pending or Planned Leverage

The proposed planning effort is fully supported by the requested ODFW funding. Upon completion, the Construction-Ready Restoration Package will position East Drew Creek to pursue future implementation funding from state, federal, Tribal, and private restoration programs. If implementation funding is delayed, the completed package will remain ready for future permitting, contracting, and construction.