

NORTHWEST ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE STRATEGIC PLAN – 2018

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Northwest Ecological Research Institute (NERI) is to further knowledge of Pacific Northwest natural history through research, training, and dissemination of information.

GOALS, TASKS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Goal 1 - Actively carry out at least five projects each year. Project leaders will write annual reports and/or summaries on all active NERI projects.

Task 1 – Bluebird Project – Corkran. 1988 – 2001 study. 2002 – ongoing.

Replace old nest boxes and reduce size of some sites. Continue monitoring box use. Try to analyze bluebird productivity with grassland types, and compare productivity of the two bluebird species.

Task 2 – Knappa Area Restoration and Research – DeLorenzo. 2000 – ongoing.

Ongoing restoration of native plants and habitat for fish and wildlife. Continue monitoring. Continue inventory of vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant species on the properties.

Task 3 – Amphibian Project – Guderyahn, Smithers, Corkran. 1991 – ongoing.

Research, surveys, and training as requested. Annual projects include Vancouver Critter Count and training at Clark County Stream Stewards. Train turtle monitors at Sandy River Delta.

Task 4 – SW WA Amphibian Monitoring Project – Devlaeminck. 2013 – ongoing.

(SWAMP) Continue providing annual training sessions and organizing volunteers to conduct amphibian egg mass surveys.

Task 5 – Land/Water Management Plan – Kee. 1991 – ongoing.

Provide management recommendations to landowners, as requested. Continue restoration work at the Kee family ranches.

Task 6 – Tracking Forest Health – Hayes and Corkran. 2004 – ongoing.

Assist with monitoring wildlife including birds and amphibians at Hyla Woods private forestlands in the Coast Range.

Task 7 – Wetland Wildlife Watch (WWW) – Corkran. 1987 – ongoing.

Monitor wildlife, including Oregon Spotted Frog, on the Mt. Hood National Forest and maintain nest boxes at Timothy Lake for Portland General Electric. Enter data into databases for Mt. Hood NF and Cornell Ornithology Lab's eBird.

Task 8 – Pika Project – Corkran. 2015 – ongoing.

Participate in Cascades Pika Watch and monitor American Pika populations in the Columbia Gorge and the Cascade Mtns.

Task 9 – Book sales on the website – Guderyahn, Hatch, Corkran. 2016 – ongoing.

Set up a PayPal shopping cart on the website. Sell *In One Yard: Close to Nature* and *Birds in Nest Boxes*.

Task 10 – Restoration Art Installation – Kee – 2016 – ongoing.

Replace ivy with native plants and materials in the form of a salmon and a salamander at a site next to the Coliseum.

Task 11 – Anna's Hummingbirds at Oaks Bottom – LaBelle – 2017 – ongoing.

Monitor hummingbird nests and put reports and photos on the NERI website.

(2018 Strategic Plan)

Task 12 – Linnton Frog Project – Smithers – 2017 – ongoing.

Facilitate dialogue concerning N. red-legged frogs crossing Highway 30 between upland and wetland habitats. Coordinate efforts: Frog Shuttle, frog underpass; breeding habitats above the highway; management of PGE mitigation wetlands below the highway.

Task 13 – Re-publish *Amphibians of OR, WA and BC* – Corkran. 2016 – ongoing.

Work with Lone Pine Publishing to revise and update the book for reprinting.

Task 14 – The Bioblitz Project – Devlaeminck – 2017 – ongoing.

Provide coordination for bioblitzes in the Portland region.

Task 15 – McGowan Grant – Walker – 2017 – ongoing.

Send out application request on our Facebook page and appropriate listserves. Forward applications received to the whole Board. Administer the grant award.

Task 16 – Bird Project – Flick, Dickinson, and Corkran – ongoing.

Volunteer on bird surveys and provide training as requested. Includes banding at St. Cloud MAPS station and the Purple Martin Project, point counts for the OR2020 Project, leading birding excursions and providing identification and banding training.

Task 17 – High-Elevation Stonefly Surveys – Blevins – 2018 – ongoing.

Conduct surveys in high-elevation glacial- and snow-melt streams for stonefly species that depend on these habitats. Focus on the Glacier Peak area of the North Cascades in WA for 2018.

Goal 2 - Provide training in field techniques and/or project development to at least 100 people per year. Try to reach new people.

Task 1 – Amphibian and reptile identification and field techniques – Guderyahn, Devlaeminck, Smithers, Ritson, Corkran

Task 2 – Bird identification and field techniques – Dickinson, Flick, Corkran

Task 3 – Small mammal (American Pika) identification and field techniques – Corkran

Task 4 – Native plant identification, restoration techniques, and land management – Guderyahn, Butler, Kee, DeLorenzo, Devlaeminck

Task 5 – Participate in regional ecoblitzes – Devlaeminck and all associates

Task 6 – Find opportunities for associates to work with students and adults, and to include them in field work and other parts of projects – All associates

Task 7 – Provide citizen science opportunities, and guide volunteers to other community science projects through the website – All associates

Goal 3 - Publicly present the results of each NERI project, and have speakers available on other northwest natural history topics.

Task 1 - Keep NERI archives up to date: lists of projects, resulting reports, and publications. Maintain paper copies at NERI office. Maintain downloadable PDF files of unpublished and non-sensitive reports, and titles and abstracts of other publications, on the website. Corkran, Guderyahn (project leaders hand in copies of annual reports on projects that are active and funded through NERI, and any publications concerning NERI projects).

Task 2 – Provide the up-to-date list of reports annually via the website and email, so that people may order copies at cost. Corkran

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Task 3 – Maintain website, add metrics to keep track of usage, and maintain Facebook page. Add links to jobs and other opportunities (classes, seminars, etc.) that NERI is associated with. Guderyahn, Devlaeminck (all associates provide announcements of relevant conferences and workshops, new photographs, etc.)

Task 4 – Provide a brief annual summary via email and the website of each project, activities, number of people trained, and presentations made about NERI projects and related topics, after the end of each field season. Provide link to strategic plan on website. Corkran (project leaders provide a report on active projects funded through NERI, and a summary paragraph for each active project, with number of trainees, list of presentations, and flyers and announcements)

Task 5 – Look for opportunities to provide speakers on NERI projects and other NW natural history topics. Kee, Guderyahn

Goal 4 – Increase participation in NERI.

Task 1 – Contact others, particularly students, and encourage them to become involved. All associates

Task 2 – Try to increase diversity in NERI through participation in the Intertwine and other networking, including announcements for the McGowan Grant. Find ways to track our progress. All associates

Task 3 – Provide items for the Facebook page that encourage people to join. All associates

Task 4 – Encourage qualified individuals to lead projects. All Board

Task 5 – Build relationships with other organizations, including supporting relevant conferences and workshops. All Board

Task 6 -- Continue to pursue appropriate sponsorship opportunities, including student scholarships, All Board

Goal 5 – Pursue funding for NERI projects, the McGowan Grant, and annual organizational expenses.

Task 1 – Work with all NERI associates to assist in locating appropriate funding sources and in writing grants to fund projects approved by the NERI Board. The Board will review all grant proposals before they are submitted. DeLorenzo, Kee, Corkran

Task 2 – Annually review the finances and determine how organizational costs will be generated. DeLorenzo

Task 3 – Maintain funds sufficient to cover two years of organizational expenses. DeLorenzo

Task 4 – Maintain website capability for donations through PayPal. Guderyahn

Task 5 – Set up separate fund for the McGowan Grant.

Task 6 – Send out email letter soliciting contributions for NERI and for the McGowan Grant, at the end of each year. DeLorenzo and Corkran

Goal 6 – Organize an annual gathering and/or field trip and/or work party

Task 1 – Decide on place and date. Send out invitation to all associates. Kee and Corkran