

NORTHWEST ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE STRATEGIC PLAN – 2021

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 – McGowan Grant – Walker. 2017 – ongoing.

Send out announcement and request for applications on our Facebook page, website, and appropriate listserves and other venues. Forward applications received to the whole Board to choose. Administer the grant award.

Task 2 – Amphibian Projects – Guderyahn, Smithers, Corkran. 1991 – ongoing.

Research, surveys, and training. Annual projects include Vancouver Critter Count and training at Clark County Stream Stewards.

Task 3 – Land/Water Management Plans – Kee. 1991 – ongoing.

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

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 – Bird Projects – Flick, Dickinson, and Corkran – ongoing.

Volunteer on bird surveys and provide training as requested. Includes banding at St. Cloud MAPS station and for the Purple Martin Project, training in banding techniques, leading birding excursions, participating in Breeding Bird Surveys and other community science projects, and providing bird identification help and training.

Task 6 – Anna’s Hummingbirds at Oaks Bottom – LaBelle. 2017 – ongoing.

Monitor hummingbird nests and provide reports and photos for the NERI website.

Task 7 – Bluebird Project – Corkran. 1988 – 2001 study, 2002 – ongoing, monitoring.

Continue monitoring nest box use. Replace old boxes as needed. Summarize data annually. Try to analyze bluebird productivity with grassland types, and compare productivity of the two bluebird species.

Task 8 – Knappa Area Restoration and Research – DeLorenzo. 2000 – 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 9 – Turtle Projects – Holley and Smithers. 2018 – ongoing.

Research (including thesis projects), surveys, and training. Train volunteers and monitor turtles at Sandy River Delta. Train volunteers and conduct native turtle nest searches at sites in the Metro region.

Task 10 – Tracking Forest Health – Hayes and Corkran. 2004 – ongoing.

Assist with monitoring wildlife, especially birds and amphibians, and with ongoing habitat restoration projects at Hyla Woods private forestlands in the Coast Range.

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Task 11 – Wetland Wildlife Watch (WWW) – Corkran. 1987 – ongoing.

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

Task 12 – Book sales on the website – Guderyahn, Hatch, Corkran. 2016 – ongoing

Sell *In One Yard: Close to Nature* and *Birds in Nest Boxes*, via the PayPal shopping cart on the website. Advise that *Amphibians of OR, WA and BC* is available, and *Reptiles of the Northwest* will be soon, and encourage people to purchase these at local nature stores.

Task 13 – High-Elevation Stonefly Surveys – Blevins and Fallon – 2018 – ongoing

Conduct surveys in high-elevation glacial- and snow-melt streams for stonefly species that depend on these habitats, and publish results.

Task 14 – Pika Project – Devlaeminck. 2015 – ongoing

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

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, Holley, Ritson, Corkran

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

Task 3 – Amer. Pika identification and field techniques – Devlaeminck

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

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 community science opportunities, and guide volunteers to other projects through the website and Facebook – 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: list of projects and resulting reports, presentations, and publications. Maintain records 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 up-to-date list of reports annually via the website and email. Corkran

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

Task 4 – Provide a brief annual summary via email, website, and Facebook, of each project, including activities, number of people trained, and presentations made about NERI projects and related topics, after the end of each field season. Provide link to

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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 announcements)

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

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. Advertise and announce opportunities in small regional newspapers. Add diversity, equity, inclusion statement to website and mission statement.. All associates

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

Task 4 – Build relationships with other organizations, including supporting relevant conferences and workshops, and offering student scholarships to them. 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, 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 – 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. Continue Memorial Day Weekend juniper-logging party at the Kee ranches. Send out invitation to all associates. Kee, Corkran, Walker