



Agenda | May 5, 2022
River Park Center
Second Floor Conference Room
123 Emma Road, Basalt CO 81621

4:00 PM	• Outreach/Education/Grants
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Colorado Rocky Mountain School Osprey Nest Boxes and Poles – Kayo, teacher and Mick Olden, biology student

5:00 PM	• Adjourn
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Upcoming Meeting Dates



Agenda | May 5, 2022 4:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87371910011?pwd=YjlrUTE5TVdiTk9BR1Q1YWt3Wmt4UT09>

Meeting ID: 873 7191 0011

Passcode: 141710

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,87371910011#,,,,*141710# US (Houston)

Time	Administrative Items
	Outreach/Education/Grants
4:00 PM	Colorado Rocky Mountain School Osprey Nest Boxes and Poles – Kayo, teacher and Mick Olden, biology student
5:00 PM	Adjourn

Upcoming 2022 Regular Meetings May 19, Jun 16, Jul 21, Aug 18, Sep 15, Oct 20, Nov 24, Dec 15

Agenda items are subject to change – Times are approximate and are also subject to change

Dear Pitkin County Healthy Rivers,

Our names are Mick Olden (9th Grade Biology Student) and Kayo Ogilby (Science Teacher) and we are applying for a grant of \$5,200 on behalf of TEAM OSPREY, a collaboration between the freshman biology class at the Colorado Rocky Mountain School (CRMS), Mary Harris of the Roaring Fork Audobon Society, Genevieve Villamizar, and Nancy Peterson (two passionate local Carbondale residents). This grant would provide us with the money to add four more poles and nesting boxes to the Roaring Fork and Crystal River Valleys in the greater Carbondale area. We are in continued communication with Xcel Energy to install the poles and nesting boxes and are also in communication with several landowners in the area to evaluate potential nesting sites.

Organization background:

In 2017 you helped fund our Osprey cam for our nest relocation project (THANK YOU!) that successfully provided a nesting alternative for a pair of ospreys attempting to build a nest on top of an Excel Energy transformer tower on highway 133 in Carbondale. That project has provided a safe nesting box and an osprey cam for the school and greater community for 5 years now and we feel like it has helped achieve two of our original goals: 1. Providing a suitable nesting site for ospreys, and 2. helping people connect with nature. Those ospreys have become a beloved mainstay for our community and their return every year is met with great joy.

Project description:

As the osprey population has continued to rebound in the Roaring Fork Water Shed, birds have continued to be met with the challenge of finding suitable nesting sites. Due to development in the valley which has led to a reduction in cottonwood and other suitable tree cycles that lead to standing dead and other potential nesting sites for osprey, birds struggle to find nesting sites and continue to try to build on electric poles, stadium lights, and any other human-made structures that might serve their purpose. This often leads to trouble for both the birds and people.

We are proposing a project to install nesting poles and nesting boxes, in sequential installation cycles over the course of several years, to substitute the lack of natural sites with human-made ones. We propose adding 4 artificial nesting sites in this first cycle. We have already put the word out to landowners and the CRMS biology classes will use Google Earth to make a map of suitable sites to install these boxes based on research into the ideal nesting distribution of Ospreys.

It has not escaped our attention that these nesting boxes may end up being used by other birds such as Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles, and we see that as a good thing.

Budget and Grant Money:

The funds we are requesting for this project would allow us to purchase the materials needed to build four more nesting boxes and pay for poles and installation fees for erecting the poles.

Budget Breakdown:

Nesting Box Building Materials	\$300/Box x 4 =\$1200
Pole, Installation Fees and Labor	\$1000/Nest x 4 = \$4000
	Total: \$5,200

Because of the community-based nature of this project and the visibility of nesting boxes with active osprey inhabiting them we believe the outcomes and accountability of these funds will be easily measurable and transparent.

As has been the case with previous problem based units in the science department at CRMS, including phase one of this project in 2017, future biology classes will inherit the upkeep of this project and will be happy to present and report to the Pitkin County Healthy Rivers board on the ongoing status of the project.

Property Addresses of Nesting Sites:

To Be Determined by CRMS Biology Class Research in collaboration with Roaring Fork Audobon Society. As mentioned above, the CRMS biology students will construct a map that includes each property owner that has expressed interest in housing a nesting box and pole and then will decide on candidates based on research on appropriate nest site distribution as well as vetting of properties to make sure they are safe and appropriate. We have received inquiries for about 15 properties in the greater Carbondale area so far. This work will happen in April and May of 2022.

Closing:

We want to thank you for giving us this wonderful opportunity to apply for a grant to continue to fight for the rebound of ospreys and other birds of prey in the Roaring Fork Water Shed. This continues to be a delightful and valuable learning experience and we highly value the way it has connected us with the greater community as well.

Sincerely,

Mick Olden (Current 9th Grade Biology Class Member)

Kayo Ogilby (CRMS Science Department Chair)

In collaboration with TEAM OSPREY (Mick Olden, Kayo Ogilby, Mary Harris, Genevieve Villamizar, and Nancy Peterson.