



## 2015-2017 BIENNIAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

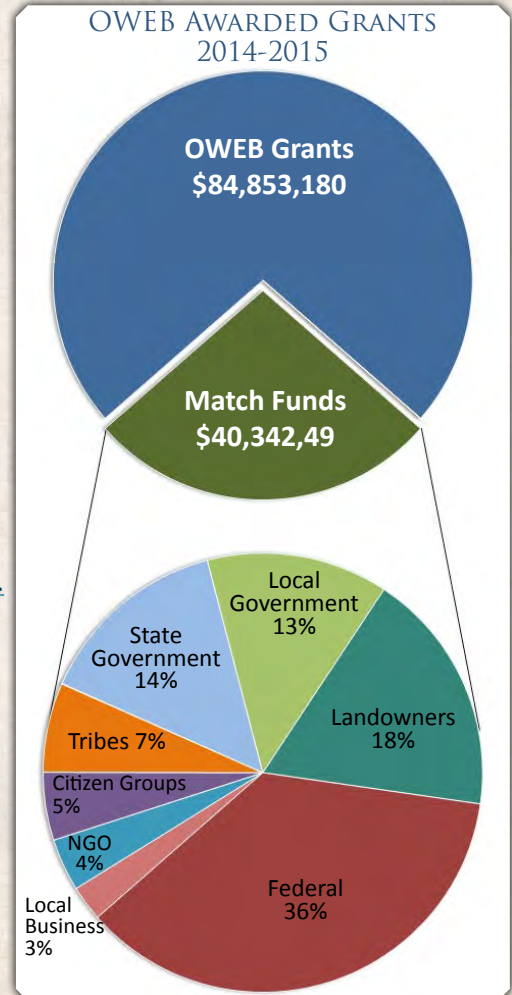
From rural landowners to urban residents, Oregonians value watersheds as a key to our quality of life in Oregon. This care and commitment helps drive on-the-ground projects that aim to improve water quality and restore habitat for native fish and wildlife. Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, or 'Oregon Plan,' has guided these efforts. The Oregon Plan provides a statewide framework for restoration and conservation of the state's watersheds and fish and wildlife habitats, while at the same time supporting local economies and enriching Oregon's communities through local, voluntary restoration. Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 541.972, the Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2015-2017 biennium. This Executive Summary of the Biennial Report highlights key investments and accomplishments over the past two years; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners and agencies; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) about future work. The full report can be found online (<http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Pages/BiennialReport.aspx>) and includes information about each region of the state, as well as additional details about the activities and accomplishments summarized below.

### 2015-2017 INVESTMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total funding for watershed enhancement projects in Oregon was over \$125 million during the 2015-2017 Biennium. This total includes funding provided by OWEB from the Oregon Lottery, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. PCSRF, funded by NOAA Fisheries, remained an important contributor to Oregon's restoration efforts. Significant funding to match these dollars is provided by other funders, agencies and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding throughout the state.

Partners under the Oregon Plan are as important and diverse as the actions they undertake to benefit salmon and watersheds.

These partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, tribes, local businesses, individuals, and all levels of government, each contributing to collaborative investments designed to support priority actions across the state.



Grants awarded by OWEB, the amount of matching funds contributed by grant participants, and the percentage of match funds contributed by different categories of participants.

Watershed Metric	OWRI	BLM	USFS	Total	Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/14 to 12/31/15 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), maintained by OWEB; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).
Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings)	313.7	61	116.4	491.1	
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement)	160.2	-	-	160.2	
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible	165	23	148.3	336.3	
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	138	26	52	216	
Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	18	-	-	18	
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	62	-	-	62	
Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding)	76,394	-	-	76,394	
Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created)	2,758.7	-	-	2,758.7	
Miles of Road Closures	17.9	4	169.6	191.5	
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control)	58.2	351	106	515.2	
Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments	628.2	-	-	628.2	

## COORDINATED AGENCY ACTIONS

State natural resource agencies that support the Oregon Plan recognize the value of shared approaches. Collaboration across these agencies continued throughout the 2015-2017 biennium on several key interagency initiatives, including (but not limited to):

- The Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership ([SageCon](#)), which brings together landowners, agencies and interest groups to identify and address threats to sagebrush habitats and the species that rely on them, implementing the [Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan](#) (2015);
- The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, a collaborative effort among multiple state and federal agencies that aims to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving natural resource outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation and reporting;
- Agricultural landowners engaging in innovative and results-oriented water quality improvements with assistance from Oregon Department of Agriculture's Strategic Implementation Areas initiative;
- Ongoing implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (led by the Oregon Water Resources Department) and the state's Federal Forest Health Program (led by the Oregon Department of Forestry);
- The first update to the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) in 2016; and
- Initial implementation of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's [Multi-Species Coastal Management Plan](#) for salmon and other native fish.

Additional information about coordinated actions around the state focused on monitoring water quality and quantity, fish populations, and habitat, are described in the [Biennial Report](#), along with details about other Oregon Plan agency programs.

## FROM THE OWEB BOARD



**OWEB** To date during the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB has invested significant effort in turning past recommendations into reality, awarding over \$13 million in operating capacity grants; over \$45 million in Open Solicitation grants; nearly \$14 million in Focused Investment Partnerships; launching a new online grant application system; and continuing to support monitoring and reporting on all aspects of the Oregon Plan.

The OWEB Board now is embarking on an update to its 2010 Strategic Plan, which provides an opportunity for the agency to strategically look at its programs and granting decisions, and consider how best to address new challenges and seize upon new opportunities over the long term.

## OWEB BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to invest in local organizational capacity via OWEB's Operating Capacity grant-making and locally driven, high-priority projects—including working lands approaches on both forestry and agricultural lands around the state—through Open Solicitation grants, along with effectiveness monitoring of these investments.
- Make programmatic investments that contribute to the conservation and recovery of native fish and wildlife and their habitats through coordinated, large-scale programs. Examples include:
  - Invest in future Focused Investment Partnerships and associated monitoring and tracking of progress by these partnerships.
  - Continue OWEB's commitment to greater sage-grouse habitat restoration by investing \$10 million between 2015 and 2025.
  - Assist with the implementation of the federal recovery plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon by supporting development of strategic action plans in support of coho restoration work.
- Support the Clean Water Partnership, a Governor's Office initiative, by developing partnerships with other state and federal agencies to improve the use of water-quality data to inform conservation and restoration investments and develop tools to improve water quality and streamside health on agricultural lands. For example:
  - Agency staff continue to participate in the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, which brings together federal and state agencies to evaluate the effects of conservation and restoration investments on water quality and watershed condition.
- Support Oregon's forest health by administering grants to forest health collaboratives in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Work to retain key staff positions that support OWEB's partnership investments and quantification of conservation outcomes.
- Support Oregon's working farms and ranches in coordination with agriculture and conservation organizations to identify approaches to keep working lands in agriculture while supporting fish, wildlife and other natural resource values.