

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-110	Project Type:	Acquisition
Project Name:	Mill Creek Ridge Acquisition		
Applicant:	Columbia Land Trust		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Wasco
OWEB Request:	\$260,000.00	Total Cost:	\$454,500.00

Application Description

Columbia Land Trust (CLT) requests \$260,000 to purchase a 143 acre property near The Dalles, in the Hood River Basin, in Wasco County. This property is related to a prior application (OWEB # 211-113) that was withdrawn prior to a final decision. The prior application was for two properties adjacent to the property addressed here – one of the previous two properties was purchased by CLT and funding was obtained from a private foundation to purchase the second property as well. The funding for the second property will serve as the local match for this acquisition, if approved.

The property is located in the Mill Creek Ridge Conservation Area that is within the Wasco Oaks Conservation Opportunity Area, identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. The application states that the property also contains habitats, plant communities or species identified in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan, The Dalles Watershed Action Plan and the Eastern Oregon Bird Conservation Plan.

The total cost of the project, including the Lumper property (which will be purchased using funding from the Penstemon Fund) is \$454,500.

The application states that the property contains 25 acres of oak woodlands and 37 acres of Ponderosa pine woodland both of which are OWEB priority ecological systems. The property contains ephemeral or intermittent streams.

The application states that Lewis' woodpecker and Ash-throated Flycatcher, both OWEB priority species, have been documented on the property. The application also includes the Western gray squirrel, White Meconella and Steelhead (Middle Columbia River) as species that will benefit from the project; however, they have not been documented on the property.

The application indicates that the proposed project will: protect a large intact area, secure a transition area, protect a site with exceptional biodiversity, and improve connectivity of habitat.

The application states that CLT will allow public access to the properties "in a manner that is appropriate to the conservation values of the site." The application discusses tours, scientific research, and a future public trail along the ridge, although not in detail. CLT conducted 3 tours on other parts of this ridge in 2011.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The RRT felt this property had high ecological value due to interconnected habitats, species and connection to adjacent properties. In evaluating the ecological value of this project members took in to consideration the CLT's long term plan for this region. Members also noted the property is in relatively good condition.

RRT members pointed out that the property could be threatened by potential wind energy interest.

The RRT felt that the area's wildflowers and birds would be a significant attraction for the public, and that nearby schools could easily use the properties for outdoor learning. Ultimately, the RRT concluded that good educational outcomes are dependent on CLT's ability to successfully promote the properties and provide educational opportunities. It was noted that the proposal does not emphasize educational value.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

High Ecological and Medium Educational value.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-112	Project Type:	Acquisition
Project Name:	Maxwell Easement Acquisition Phase #2		
Applicant:	Oregon Rangeland Trust		
Basin:	LAKES	County:	Lake
OWEB Request:	\$550,000.00	Total Cost:	\$1,952,000.00

Application Description

Oregon Rangeland Trust requests \$550,000 to purchase a 2,600-acre conservation easement on a working cattle ranch in Lake County, near Lakeview. ORT has twice submitted conservation easement acquisition applications for the same ranch (OWEB #209-108); one was withdrawn because of a no-due-diligence response, and one was a no-fund (OWEB #210-105); both times it was determined that the project was not a priority for the Board. Since then, 400 acres of the ranch have been placed under a conservation easement held by ORT funded by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). This easement is referred to as Phase #1 of the Maxwell Ranch Easement Acquisition Project (Phase #1). The current application is for Phase #2 of the Maxwell Ranch Easement Project (Phase #2). It seems that most sensitive areas have already been protected and restoration actions taken via the Phase #1 conservation easement. The application states that the Phase #2 easement won't significantly catalyze additional restoration activities.

Another 520 acres of the ranch land has been sold, although the application doesn't state to whom or for what purpose.

A primary goal of this project is to sustain ranching operations. The application states that the Maxwell Ranch property faces development pressure, infestations of invasive species, and that its streams are degraded and there are barriers to fish passage on the streams. The application states there are efforts to improve riparian conditions and eliminate fish passage barriers within the Phase #1 easement. The application goes on to state that Phase #2 seeks to protect the ranch in perpetuity from residential development and/or mismanagement by future owners. It also states that without the easement the property is likely to enter into a pasture lease program which would not provide the landowner with the necessary resources to continue and maintain restoration and conservation efforts on the property.

A major change since the past application (OWEB #210-105) and the current one is that the project partners have shifted their land management approach from primarily riparian fencing to primarily restoration and sustainable grazing. The application states that full grazing exclusion in riparian areas was determined not to be a cost efficient or effective way to ensure the goals of the project are met. The application does not have a clearly defined approach to address riparian and stream management.

The application states that the total cost of this project is \$1,952,000. The estimated purchase price for the conservation easement is \$1,800,000. Additional funding for the project will be sought from NCRS and the landowner will make an in-kind contribution for the property.

The property contains Oregon Valley Land tracts. These are 10-acre parcels, remnants of a large holding that was subdivided in 1908.

Discussions with the landowner were started in 2005. The application states that an appraisal was conducted in 2009 and that the "anticipated price" of \$1,800,000 is based on that appraisal and the value of the 10-acre Oregon Valley Land tracts. It states a new appraisal is needed to determine the purchase price for the easement.

ORT plans to apply to the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program of the Natural Resource Conservation Service for match funds for the easement.

The application states that the property contains 602 acres of freshwater emergent marsh and 117 acres of lowland riparian forest and shrubland. The application also states that the property contains 6 miles of stream, although this figure varies throughout the application. The acreage figures are unchanged from the previous application, thus it seems likely that some of the marsh and riparian acreage stated above is already protected as part of the Phase #1 easement.

The application infers that the project will benefit the following OWEB priority species: inland redband trout, Goose Lake lamprey, Goose Lake sucker, and Goose Lake tui chub, American bittern, greater sandhill crane, long-billed curlew, long-eared owl, snowy egret, Swainson's hawk, willow flycatcher, Wilson's phalarope, yellow-headed blackbird, and white-tailed jackrabbit.

The application states that the project will protect a large intact area, part of which is threatened by potential development, restore function, improve connectivity of habitat, and complement an existing network of sites. Fee title ownership of the property will not change.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Several RRT members questioned the ecological value of the forested portions of the property in this project. Concern was raised about the project's reliance on a grazing plan for restoration activities when the application did not include a proposed grazing plan. Members pointed out that the project does not guarantee any water quality benefits. In addition, the RRT noted that the proposed match from the Farm and Ranchlands Protection program is not likely to be available due to the current program focus in Oregon.

Wayne Elmore, a highly respected range scientist, is proposed by ORT to create the grazing plan. RRT members expressed concern about how the project would be monitored and how subsequent changes could be made if the goals of the grazing plan were not met. They note that control of reed canary grass by grazing has not been successful elsewhere.

Team members pointed out that parts of areas 1 (east half) and 6 seem the most valuable for an easement, but that the forested portions of the property provided far less ecological value.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Low Ecological and Low Educational value.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-115	Project Type:	Acquisition
Project Name:	Fourmile Creek Priority Flow Restoration		
Applicant:	Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust		
Basin:	KLAMATH	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$275,152.00	Total Cost:	\$406,552.00

Application Description

The Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust requests \$275,152 for the lease and purchase of water rights that have been granted in three separate certificates in the Fourmile Creek watershed. The project will involve 1.73 cfs of flow (415.8 acre feet of water) from Cherry Creek and Tiger Lilly Springs, a tributary to Cherry Creek. The Cherry Creek acquisitions are proposed to be leased for 30 years with an option to purchase at the end of the lease period. The project also includes a proposed permanent acquisition of 2.1 cfs (499.2 acre feet) from Fourmile Creek. The Fourmile Creek water right has a priority date of 1955, but there is no senior diverter downstream. The water rights have been leased for in-stream use during the last few years. The priority ecological objectives in the priority reach are to maintain connectivity and improve water quality by restoring cold water instream. The increased flow is expected to benefit several species of native fish, including bull trout, redband rainbow trout, and Lost River and shortnose suckers. The increased flow will also benefit an 8-mile secondary reach and provide inflows to the Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge on Upper Klamath Lake.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The regional review team recognized the value of any additional flow that could be protected in-stream. Both Cherry Creek and Fourmile Creek have been identified by a number of studies as having flow limitations to native fish production. The increased protected flows will retain greater connection between Upper Klamath Lake and the headwaters of Cherry Creek, which is a cold water stream important for native fish and other species. The reach is identified as a high priority for flow restoration in the Oregon Plan Streamflow Restoration Priorities, as mapped by ODFW and WRD. The reviewers recognized that the addition of approximately 1,000 acre feet to protected flow into Upper Klamath Lake was an important step in meeting the 30,000 acre feet target set by the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement. The reviewers recognized that the Cherry Creek water right was only proposed for protection for 30 years, however the significant priority date and the likelihood of a permanent transaction was considered by the review team to have significant value. The reviewers recognized both the ecological and community information value of the transaction. The transaction is occurring along with a number of restoration actions by the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust to help address aquatic habitat considerations. These water rights are important for maintaining wetlands that are important rearing habitat for suckers. .

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

High Ecological Benefit

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-117	Project Type:	Acquisition
Project Name:	Olson Fifteenmile Purchase		
Applicant:	The Freshwater Trust		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Wasco
OWEB Request:	\$100,000.00	Total Cost:	\$143,849.00

Application Description

The Freshwater Trust proposes to acquire seven water right certificates that involve 0.96 cfs of flow in an approximately 20 mile primary reach of stream, extending from the historical point of diversion, past the confluence with Eightmile Creek and to the mouth of Fifteenmile Creek. Approximately half (0.48 cfs) are senior (1875) water rights and (0.48 cfs) are junior water rights. The applicant requests \$100,000 from OWEB for the purchase. The landowner is planning to switch from irrigated agriculture to forest production. The property has been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for some time and the water rights have been donated to instream use during its CREP enrollment. The water right was identified by an analysis performed for OWEB to identify the water right leases in the CREP program that would provide the greatest ecological benefit if converted to permanent instream flow. This right was identified as a unique opportunity in that analysis. The transaction would involve a legal transfer of the rights to in-stream use. The Freshwater Trust has a purchase agreement with the landowner. The price is within the range determined by an independent evaluation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The Central Oregon Regional Review Team (RRT) recognized the value of any additional flow that could be protected in-stream. Fifteenmile Creek has been identified by a number of studies as having flow limitations to steelhead production. Fifteenmile Creek supports the easternmost population of winter steelhead. The reach is identified as a high priority for flow restoration in the Stream Flow Restoration Prioritization mapping by ODFW and WRD. The RRT recognized that only half of the water right could be protected in dry years, however the RRT felt the project had significant value because of the priority date and because it's a permanent transaction. This is the first permanent transaction in the watershed and could inform other landowners of their options. The RRT recognized both the ecological and community information value of the transaction. The transaction is occurring along with a number of temporary transactions by The Freshwater Trust to help address flow considerations.

Fifteenmile Creek steelhead fall under the Middle Columbia Steelhead Recovery Planning effort that was recently completed. In reference to the Fifteenmile steelhead population, the Recovery Plan specifically states that "Some middle and lower mainstem reaches [in the watershed] become uninhabitable during low flow summer periods. We infer that these habitat changes have truncated spawn timing and somewhat limited juvenile rearing diversity," and that "low flows and elevated water temperatures result in a narrower window for successful smolt outmigration as well as truncation of adult spawn timing."

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

High Ecological Benefit

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4021	Project Type:	Outreach
Project Name:	Beaver Management Outreach Program		
Applicant:	Klamath Watershed Partnership		
Basin:	KLAMATH	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$44,713.00	Total Cost:	\$91,873.00

Application Description

The Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP) proposes to conduct a number of workshop and field tours for landowners and land managers in order to increase understanding of the role of beavers in water quality and quantity. The workshops will emphasize how landowners can manage beaver related issues on their property. One of the products of this outreach effort will be to identify and share information about available beaver habitat for the future relocation of nuisance beavers. This work is being done in collaboration with the Fremont National Forest and will be the foundation for a 10-year Klamath Basin-wide beaver re-introduction effort.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The KWP has an outreach person who is doing an excellent job of working with landowners on a variety of restoration issues. This proposal would expand these outreach efforts to include an increased awareness and appreciation of beavers and their role in the habitat, an acceptance of the "damage" they create, and the identification of potential relocation sites for nuisance beavers. Overall, reviewers felt that these objectives are valuable for the watershed. The project would be particularly successful if some landowners allow the relocation of beavers to their property. If that happens, reviewers noted that ODFW has guidelines for relocating beaver and these should be incorporated in this outreach proposal.

Reviewers questioned the level of match attributed to landowners, but the project has sufficient match without that line item. It was not clear to reviewers how a website will support the objectives of changed attitudes and lead to landowner recruitment for future beaver relocation sites; they noted that landowner outreach needs to be face to face in Klamath County. However, the website will help track the beaver project and they saw that as a benefit. Finally, the applicant should have broken out the project costs as asked in question 11.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. The final completion report should include; 1. A table detailing the "outputs": how many landowner meetings, how many workshops/number of attendees, number of site tours/attendees. 2. Data regarding the success of the project: how many landowners contacted the KWP and volunteered to provide habitat for relocated beaver, "beaver friendly" landowner signs or other participation acknowledgement, etc. to demonstrate progress success.

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Recommended Amount

\$44,713.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
\$44,713.00

Total Recommended Board Award

\$44,713.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4028	Project Type:	Outreach
Project Name:	Fifteenmile Creek Lease Bank Outreach Project		
Applicant:	The Freshwater Trust		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Wasco
OWEB Request:	\$9,004.00	Total Cost:	\$16,612.00

Application Description

This project is to inform and recruit landowners in the Fifteenmile watershed to attend locally held meetings about water right leasing and banking to increase instream flows. Several studies and plans identify the need to improve water quality and habitat conditions in the Fifteenmile watershed to improve conditions for ESA listed steelhead. A management objective has been identified of increasing instream flow at the mouth of Fifteenmile Creek to 50 percent of resettlement conditions, which is estimated to be 7 cfs in August.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

This builds on the work being done to analyze the use of water in the basin. This is important for the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan. The review team agreed that it would be good if the project included tours of a landowner property where water conservation has occurred. This is probably the start of something that may take a while to see if it will work, i.e., be attractive enough to make a difference in water quality and quantity. The Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District has done a lot in the basin working together with the Fifteenmile Watershed Council and it may be good to have a new entity come in and talk about opportunities. It seems to be "fertile ground" and good timing for this type of activity.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund.

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Recommended Amount
\$9,004.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
\$9,004.00

Total Recommended Board Award

\$9,004.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4036	Project Type:	Monitoring
Project Name:	Wetland restoration and the Rare Oregon Spotted Frog in the Klamath Basin		
Applicant:	Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust		
Basin:	KLAMATH	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$226,055.00	Total Cost:	\$415,056.00

Application Description

This project would build on several years of monitoring Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF) populations at two locations in the Upper Klamath Basin. The OSF is a State Sensitive-Critical and Candidate for Federal listed species. The Crane Creek site underwent restoration in 2009 and OSF studies have been on-going and the Jack Creek site is proposed for restoration in 2012. Pre-treatment monitoring will continue there followed by post-treatment to determine population response to these habitat restoration projects. Treatment of completing species and OSF response will be monitored as well. These studies will guide future OSF restoration/recovery efforts.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The review team agreed that the proposal is well written. The work on Jack Creek may provide useful information. The USGS does very good work in the Klamath Basin. The budget has been reduced. The OSF is a candidate species for listing by the USFWS and studies on the spotted frog are generally lacking.

While reviewers supported the concept and need for monitoring related to the spotted frog, they had concerns with the overall proposal. Reviewers first discussed the proposed monitoring at the Crane Creek site. Unfortunately, in this area, bullfrogs have moved in and are eating the spotted frogs. Once the bull frogs moved in, the study design lost its ability to distinguish causes and results - it is not clear that that portion of the study would be valid with respect to spotted frog populations and restoration actions, unless the entire bull frog population is eliminated. Reviewers were not comfortable recommending the Crane Creek site for monitoring funding under the circumstances.

Reviewers then discussed the idea to fund only the Jack Creek site. After discussion they concluded that for a small footprint, the proposed monitoring had a high cost. They spent some time discussing whether they could recommend funding for the Jack Creek site only at a reduced cost, but concluded that the budget and schedule lacked sufficient detail about tasks and costs for them to feel comfortable recommending funding. If the application is resubmitted, reviewers indicated they would consider a revised project for the Jack Creek portion of the current proposal, with more detailed breakout of tasks and costs and more information about the duties of the project leader and the field staff collecting data and how that affects the budget.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

The OPMT acknowledged the importance of this native species coupled with sensitive-critical listing with the State of Oregon and a candidate species for protection under the federal ESA. There is very little information on the Oregon Spotted Frog populations and almost no information on how these species respond to wetland restoration. The team appreciated the fact that pre-restoration has already been collected for one of the sites. It has traditionally been very difficult for projects such as this to compete for funding. There was discussion about support from local groups on this monitoring effort and is regionally important issue.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium

Certainty of success: Medium

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4041	Project Type:	Monitoring
Project Name:	Groundwater Footprint in Mud Springs Watershed		
Applicant:	Jefferson SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Jefferson
OWEB Request:	\$24,600.00	Total Cost:	\$49,400.00

Application Description

This study would attempt to study groundwater and geologic conditions that might be responsible for nitrates entering Mud Springs, a tributary to Trout Creek, an important spawning stream for steelhead in the Deschutes Basin. Several recent years of water quality testing have not determined the source of nitrates in north Jefferson County. While it has been assumed they were the result of agricultural practices, it appears there are nitrates inherent in one or more geological layers. This study would attempt to determine if the geology is the source, instead of agriculture, of the nitrates showing up in springs at the north end of Jefferson County that flow into the Deschutes River and its tributaries.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

This proposal would attempt to look at soils that may naturally be high in nitrates to determine if they are the cause of some of the nitrates found in springs and creek water samples. It could determine if the cause of the nitrates are natural or anthropogenic.

Several of the review team members expressed how difficult it was to understand what the applicant was proposing to do. The review team believes it should be possible without this study to tell what types of nitrates they are (to see if they are coming from the soil) then study to determine where those soils are. If it is determined nitrates are in the soil, it still would not be known whether agricultural practices put them there. Contrary to the application, it was noted that this is not part of the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Action Plan. Although reviewers appreciated that this issue is a concern, and supported the goal of finding an answer, critical pieces of the application were not there to give the confidence that the study would yield the answer to the question they are asking although the project has merit. In addition, reviewers felt that this application may be more of a research project than a monitoring project and wanted a clear connection of actions that can help address the water quality issues.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

The OPMT recognized the need for understanding groundwater processes in this basin and additionally for the need to identify where and at what levels nitrates are entering the groundwater system. The team struggled with proposed monitoring and how potential results may change or focus current management practices and inform potential restoration opportunities. The team discussed information that may currently be available and how or if that information was integrated into the proposed monitoring.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium

Certainty of success: Medium

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4042	Project Type:	Monitoring
Project Name:	Crooked River Water Quality Monitoring Enhancement		
Applicant:	Crooked River WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Crook
OWEB Request:	\$34,590.00	Total Cost:	\$102,106.00

Application Description

This project helps expand an initiative of the Crooked River Watershed Council to better characterize basin scale water quality conditions. The monitoring strategy will be revised through coordination with resource agencies and critical sites will be identified and added to the basin network. An on-line GIS framework for project information and data will be shared between agencies in the watershed. This will help document the long term effects of watershed restoration activities.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The project will better characterize water quality in the Crooked River basin and it is a different basin with a lot of influences. The better it is understood the better it will be for the TMDL work and for siting future restoration projects. It will help better understand urban and rural influences. This application shows a lot more coordination with other partners/agencies than previous similar applications. It is more strategic than earlier iterations and it is going to be web-based. It will tie into the reintroduction effort as well.

It was noted that the Bureau of Reclamation funding is not certain at this time. It is a good project and it is giving good information. The budget has increased to \$53,090. They should have included OWRD as match also. This will help the City of Prineville - and it would have been helpful if the city had written a letter of support. As this is only asking for funding for two years, it would be good if they could have addressed how they expect to continue the program at the end of the two years. It would also be stronger if they had shown a link to other aquatic or terrestrial data bases - this may develop over time.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Increased.

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Recommended Amount

\$53,090.00

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

The OPMT appreciated the applicant's previous monitoring efforts and the applicant has accomplished excellent monitoring work. The applicant has worked to improve their monitoring efforts and data collection techniques over time and that was reflected in the discussion. There is good coordination with DEQ and now good connection with ODA. The monitoring data will be used to support the development of a TMDL in this basin and is readily being used by other groups.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High

Certainty of success: High

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund Increased.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
\$53,090.00

Total Recommended Board Award

\$53,090.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4020	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Hess Wetland Protection and Irrigation Efficiency (Phase II)		
Applicant:	Steven Hess - Hess Ranch		
Basin:	KLAMATH	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$24,619.00	Total Cost:	\$34,541.00

Application Description

This is a piping, irrigation efficiency project on property adjacent to the Sprague River downstream of Beatty in Klamath County. This is a request for Phase II. The first phase replaced ditches and flood irrigation with gated pipe to better control irrigation water and reduce overland flow and tailwater going into the Sprague River. This project would pipe water around a spring and wetland and add gated pipe for pasture areas outside the wetland.

Of the 4,050 feet of open flood irrigation ditches in the project area, there are 1,050 feet that interact with the spring and wetland. Sediment transported through these ditches go into the wetland. The proposal is to pipe 1,050 feet of ditch and install 3,000 feet of additional gated pipe to reduce the amount of water used and the mobilization of sediment that enters the wetland.

OWEB funds would be used to purchase materials. Partners include the landowner, the USFWS and the consultant managing the project - Ranch and Rangeland Consulting.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers agreed that moving from flood irrigation to pipe is positive, and thought that the project schedule was well thought out. However, the review team had difficulty seeing the need for this project. It appears that the gated pipe would be at the top of a slope that, as it flattens out into the Sprague River floodplain, is several hundred yards from the river. The lands between the existing ditch and river are, to some extent, sub-irrigated and irrigated by the flood irrigation. It does not appear the nutrients or sediment that may come from the current irrigation is detrimental to the river or the pasture lands. If there are wetlands in this area, it seems like a wetland is supposed to deal with sediment issues and nutrients. It is not clear that the current system would harm and may, perhaps, even benefit the wetland.

The landowner contribution is quite low for this amount of gated pipe. It does not appear that this phase is necessary to enable the full benefit of the first phase. There is no guarantee that there would be an associated water savings. The application talks about a phase III but it is not clear what that would be. The first phase was closer to the river and more likely to result in tailwater entering the river. There is a very small potential for resource benefit and, although the review team felt the use of gated pipe is beneficial over flood irrigation, there is not a clear ecological benefit.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4022	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Silver Lake Irrigation District Pipeline		
Applicant:	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council		
Basin:	LAKES	County:	Lake
OWEB Request:	\$696,538.00	Total Cost:	\$1,186,879.00

Application Description

This proposal is to pipe two miles of an eight mile long ditch that provides water to farmers in the Silver Lake basin in Lake County. The two miles of ditch is estimated to lose 15 cfs through leaks. With the saved water being stored in Thompson Reservoir and a more efficient delivery system, water from irrigation and from Silver Creek will have a more consistent benefit to the Paulina Marsh which is important to wetland birds and wildlife.

Currently, the Silver Lake Irrigation District relies on water stored in Thompson Reservoir which fills in some years but not in all years. If the delivery system is more efficient, less water will be needed from the reservoir and it can go into the winter at a higher level, thus increasing the probability that the reservoir will be full in the spring. Certainty of irrigation water ensures that the marsh will receive irrigation tailwater that creates the habitat for wading birds and waterfowl. Also, if the reservoir is full during the winter, the excess water will go down Silver Creek and into the marsh and, potentially, Silver Lake. If the irrigators are able to draw water late in the irrigation season, this water is carried in Silver Creek and thus provides water quality and habitat benefits late in the summer.

OWEB funds would be used for all phases of the project. Partners include the Silver Lake Irrigation District, North America Wetland Conservation Association, Ducks Unlimited and the ZX Ranch (a member of the irrigation district).

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The review team appreciated the cash match from the ranch and the irrigation district, finding that very positive.

Reviewers spent some time getting to a common understanding of the application, finding that the application as written lacked enough details for them to understand the watershed benefits clearly. The application indicates that the irrigation district is open to allowing 25 percent of the water to benefit Silver Creek at the end of the irrigation season. Thompson Reservoir can store enough water for about two irrigation seasons. There is no minimal pool requirement in Thompson Reservoir. It does not fill predictably. Silver Creek is about dry when they are holding water back for storage. If the project moves forward, it is important to have a clear dedicated flow required at specific times and conditions to ensure an ecological benefit. Any water in Paulina Marsh is a benefit to wildlife.

A percentage of the saved water should be made available to Silver Creek in the winter and water allowed to go to the marsh in the spring. It may be that an amount of water could be released in the spring for a brief period of time to benefit the marsh prior to irrigation season and maybe a little water could be required to be released in Silver Creek during the winter months.

After their discussion, the review team concluded that the project could have significant watershed benefits, but found the lack of details in the application problematic. The application should have included information on the amount of cfs that would be saved as a result of the project; information about the times of year that water is needed in Silver Creek and Paulina Marsh; maps that show the project components and where they are to be located; and better diagrams of the project design. Reviewers commented that for this level of request to OWEB, the application should have provided much more detail and information for them to feel confident in the project.

The review team also agreed that before this type of OWEB investment is made, there should be a plan for conserved water that addresses ecological values - both in the creek and at Paulina Marsh. If the application is resubmitted to OWEB, it should include an engineering report estimating water losses and estimate of water savings, along with an approved water management plan, to be codified as necessary by OWRD or by written agreement between ODFW, OWRD and the irrigation district. Although the project is expensive, it is a good value for the amount of water saved. It may need an instream transfer to bind the project to a specific transfer of water instream.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4027	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	South Fork Sprague - Deming Ranch Fish Passage		
Applicant:	Deming Ranch Land & Cattle LLC		
Basin:	KLAMATH	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$169,642.00	Total Cost:	\$968,883.00

Application Description

This project would build a new channel for 1.3 miles of the Sprague River in the upper south fork just east of Bly in Klamath County. The river has been straightened and bermed so high flows are constrained to the channel causing erosion that contributes phosphorous and nitrogen to Upper Klamath Lake influencing algae growth and water quality. The project also removes a fish passage barrier. The Sprague River supports redband trout and ESA listed shortnose and Lost River suckers.

The river on this ranch has been heavily grazed by livestock. A recent change in ownership is bringing about changes in livestock management. The new channel will restore sinuosity and floodplain connection while also providing fish passage past a channel blocking weir. The area of the new channel will not be grazed in order to aid in the establishment of riparian vegetation. The new channel will be constructed with appropriate pool, riffle ratios and instream habitat structures to maintain them.

OWEB funds would be used for contracted services and materials. Partners include, the landowner, the USFWS, Oregon Wild and the Ruby Habitat Mitigation Fund.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers thought this project would have outstanding resource benefit, and ties into previous restoration projects in the area. Some of the partners for this project are also working with the downstream landowner and it is anticipated that the project would continue on downstream but plans are not completed. The adjacent downstream landowner has a 95 percent design finished for their place. The downstream landowners below the immediately downstream landowner are open to considering similar restoration work. They are watching to see how this project works. The applicant is committed to demonstrating that good watershed management and livestock operations are compatible. The design firm has done work in the area and is professionally respected. The contractor has done work with Wildlands and has experience. There are a lot of funding partners. The cost is very reasonable.

This may reduce the amount of land available for livestock but it is expected that there would be an increase in productivity. This project ties in well with other restoration work completed in the Sprague River basin.

Ecosystem Process and Function

The project will restore floodplain connectivity, reduce erosion, increase sub-irrigation, establish a healthy riparian zone and improve instream habitat.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Condition: Every diversion in this reach of the river that will be part of this project be required to have a method of measuring flow.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount	EM Portion	PE Portion
\$169,642.00		

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund. This project was included on the Klamath Special Investment Partnership (SIP) project list approved by the OWEB Board in January 2012. Funding would be through the Klamath SIP, not the regular grant program.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount	EM Portion	PE Portion

Total Recommended Board Award

\$ 0.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4029	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Harbor Isles Condominium Owners Association Lake Fringe Wetland Restoration		
Applicant:	Harbor Isles Condominium Owners' Association		
Basin:	KLAMATH	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$45,000.00	Total Cost:	\$133,200.00

Application Description

This project would add log and rock type structures to 550 feet of riprap shoreline at the south end of Upper Klamath Lake in order to address erosion issues while providing rearing habitat for redband trout and ESA listed shortnose and Lost River suckers.

The structures would create small wetland areas as well as provide hiding cover for juvenile fish. Riparian vegetation will be planted on the structures and in the riprap to aid in shading and bank stabilization. Efforts to address similar habitat/shoreline management issues have recently been constructed just south of this property. Early indications are that they are successful. The structures proposed will use less rock as elevated lake temperatures have been identified as a water quality limiting factor and rock transfers thermal units from the sun to the water.

OWEB funds would be used for contracted services and materials. Other partners include the USFWS and the landowners.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers noted that this location in the lake has very poor water quality and fish habitat, and is in need of habitat improvement, including wetland habitat. The current and prevailing winds push larval suckers into this portion of the lake. Reviewers also saw benefit in outreach to landowners that would result from this project.

The team spent some time discussing the designs for the work. The application was not completely clear and designs lacked detail. It was noted that the review team received supplemental design drawings which show how the design has been changed to provide more large wood. Some of the review team questioned whether the existing riprap would be removed. If it would be removed and replaced with the wood/rock structures then it would be better for water quality and fisheries. The new structures would provide some vegetation. After discussing the designs, reviewers concluded that they were comfortable, since the USFWS will oversee final design and implementation, and the application says they will apply lessons learned from the previous similar projects.

There is a little urgency to do this since the landowners are willing to do it at this time. It has been hard to get all of the condominium owners to reach consensus logistically.

Ecosystem Process and Function

This proposal provides refugia for juvenile rearing of native fish species including redband trout and ESA listed shortnose and Lost River suckers.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
\$45,000.00

EM Portion

PE Portion

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund. This project was included on the Klamath Special Investment Partnership (SIP) project list approved by the OWEB Board in January 2012. Funding for this project would be through the Klamath SIP, not through the regular grant program.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount

EM Portion

PE Portion

Total Recommended Board Award

\$ 0.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4030	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Willow Creek, Molony		
Applicant:	Chinook Environmental Services		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Jefferson
OWEB Request:	\$216,000.00	Total Cost:	\$342,200.00

Application Description

This project would put one mile of Willow Creek in Jefferson County in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), develop two off-stream water sources for livestock and cut 1,763 acres of juniper to improve upland range conditions and infiltration. The ephemeral stream is inhabited with native redband trout. Willow Creek flows into Lake Simtustus on the Deschutes River between the Pelton and the Round Butte Dams.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The review team expressed how difficult it was to understand the proposed work and the ecological benefits through reading the application, which was very unclear and lacking in detail to the point where some reviewers considered it an incomplete application. Considering the site, its location, the reservoir and other land uses, it is not clear what the watershed benefit would be. It is further not clear how the property was historically managed and how that would change. The review team expressed concern over the abundance of non-native, invasive grass species on the site. The productivity of the site is poor, even in the previously treated juniper areas. The application does identify grazing as a historically detrimental factor to rangeland health. The landowner contribution is low.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4032	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Ernst Ranch Habitat Restoration		
Applicant:	Wasco SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Wasco
OWEB Request:	\$204,012.00	Total Cost:	\$364,350.00

Application Description

This project in Dry Creek would place 10 instream structures to aggrade the stream channel and improve fish habitat, raise three sections of gravel road out of the floodplain, install two bridges, install one open-bottom culvert and three drainage culverts and decommission two upland roads to eliminate sedimentation into the creek. Dry Creek is a tributary to Fifteenmile Creek in Wasco County.

Fifteenmile Creek is home to ESA listed steelhead, part of the ESA listed steelhead included in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan. The landowner is one of the first (if not the first) to enroll in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the late 1990s. Since then he has put several check-structures in the stream to aggrade the stream and create additional fish habitat. He has built about nine bridges so vehicles no longer drive across the stream. Beaver moved into the upper part of the creek about eight years ago and have continued to expand their activities greatly expanding the open water and riparian areas. The landowner is working with conservation organizations to own and manage the area for agriculture and fish and wildlife preservation in perpetuity. The landowner has hosted many tours of the watershed and improvements in past years.

OWEB funds would be used for contracted services. Other partners include the landowner, Wasco County SWCD, ODFW and Whitman College.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The landowner has done a lot on this property, through previous work, to improve instream and riparian conditions while continuing the agriculture production. This property is the top of this watershed. This is a thorough application with a good description of the objectives. It is important for the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan even though it is a secondary stream, since fish hold and rear in Dry Creek because of improved habitat from previous restoration projects. The segment downstream of the applicant's property is in bad shape because the water goes subsurface in the summer but it recently enrolled in CREP.

The review team spent some time discussing the proposal to add gravel to the roads to raise them. The watershed benefits to graveling the roads are to reduce sediment runoff from bare dirt into the creek. It was questioned whether raising the roads might create a berm and disconnect the creek from its floodplain; and whether a permit would be needed for increasing the height of the road.

Ecosystem Process and Function

This work continues to support the beaver activity, increases water storage, riparian habitat, instream habitat complexity and addresses sources of water quality negative impacts.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Condition: Determine whether permits are needed for raising the road; review the road raising activity in the field to minimize any floodplain interference.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
\$204,012.00

EM Portion

PE Portion

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions. Conditions: The grant agreement will require written confirmation from the appropriate agency regarding whether permits are needed for raising the road, and will require review of the road raising activity to minimize any floodplain interference.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
\$204,012.00

EM Portion

PE Portion

Total Recommended Board Award

\$204,012.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4033	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Badger Creek Fish Passage		
Applicant:	Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA)		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Wasco
OWEB Request:	\$216,326.00	Total Cost:	\$296,388.00

Application Description

This project would modify two low-head concrete irrigation diversion structures to allow up and downstream fish passage and screen the irrigation diversions in Badger Creek just above its confluence with Tygh Creek in Wasco County. Restored passage will open up 20 miles of habitat in Badger Creek to native redband trout. Tygh Creek flows into the White River which flows into the Deschutes River but there is a natural barrier that prevents anadromous fish from moving upstream.

A recently funded project will eliminate the fish passage barrier and install a fish screen at the upper part of Badger Creek. This project will eliminate the final two fish passage and unscreened diversions on Badger Creek. Horizontal fish screens from the Farmers Conservation Alliance, manufactured in Hood River, will be installed at both of the diversions. Because anadromous fish are not present, past efforts to secure funding for passage and screening have been unsuccessful. An aggraded and roughened channel will be designed to basically make the concrete dams disappear.

OWEB funds would be used for project management, construction and materials. Other partners include the Farmers Conservation Alliance, the Wasco SWCD and the landowners of both of the structures.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers agreed this is a very important area and addressing these fish passage barriers would have important benefits. However, it was pointed out that another project is being developed downstream of these two diversions that, if funded, would eliminate the need for one or both of these diversions. In addition, the downstream structure is pretty high and it is not certain that a roughened channel is workable or the best solution for upstream passage at that site. There was concern the application did not include enough information to be certain this is the best alternative. Bypass and roughened channels require maintenance to be effective over the long term, and the team wondered who would maintain the channel.

After discussion, the review team concluded that the application did not include enough design information to be confident the roughened channel is the right fix. It is a lot of material going instream. Given the dynamic nature of the stream, there was concern about who would be responsible for maintenance. The site design work isn't done, only an example of it is in the application. Due to the extent of work necessary for particularly the lower project, there needs to be more detailed design information for both sites, for both the screens and the dams. The application should also explain the reasons for selecting the screen and diversion designs and should answer the question whether the screen will be adequate for the design of the channel dam. Reviewers would like to see a letter of support from ODFW.

The review team did agree that it is a necessary project. The screen and passage are interdependent. The review team encourages the applicant to confer with the Wasco County SWCD about the planned activity below this project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4034	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Fifteenmile Watershed Stream Ford Eliminations		
Applicant:	Wasco SWCD		
Basin:	HOOD	County:	Wasco
OWEB Request:	\$64,942.00	Total Cost:	\$88,630.00

Application Description

This project would construct three bridges to eliminate vehicle stream crossings in the ESA listed steelhead streams of Eightmile Creek, Fifteenmile Creek and Dry Creek in Wasco County. The vehicle crossings potentially impact redds and add sediment and other pollutants into the streams through the action of driving across the streams. Final project design for each structure will be completed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service with labor and equipment being provided by the landowners.

OWEB funds will be used for contracted services, materials and project management. Other partners include Wasco County SWCD, NRCS and the landowners.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

This type of work and these sites are a priority for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. These streams are part of the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan. The project would decrease sediment and disturbance to steelhead which are known to spawn within the project sites. The project would also reduce the risk of chemical contamination of water. The review team noted that the bridges are designed to withstand a 50 year flood event but fail in a 100 year flood event and need to be put back in place.

Ecosystem Process and Function

This project would eliminate damage to ESA listed steelhead redds and eliminate chemical contamination potential from these three sites on this important steelhead stream.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount	EM Portion	PE Portion
\$64,942.00		

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount	EM Portion	PE Portion
\$64,942.00		

Total Recommended Board Award

\$64,942.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4035	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Rock Creek Piping Phase I		
Applicant:	Wasco SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Wasco
OWEB Request:	\$266,489.00	Total Cost:	\$1,114,853.00

Application Description

This project would install 9,295 feet of 34" HDPE pipe in the Rock Creek Irrigation District's main feed canal. The project will save 1 cfs of 1870 senior water right in Threemile Creek currently being lost in the ditch and 0.5 cfs will be converted to an instream water right. The stream is over-appropriated and goes dry below the irrigation diversions in July. The project is located in the White River watershed of Wasco County.

Threemile Creek contains a population of redband trout genetically unique in the basin. The Rock Creek Irrigation diversion is the upper-most on Threemile Creek with three other districts taking water below. The fish population above the diversion is in excellent condition. The analysis of water loss and piping design has been completed. This first phase is on a steep portion of the ditch with the most documented system loss of 1 cfs.

OWEB funds will be used to purchase pipe. Other partners include the USFS, Rock Creek Irrigation District, the Deschutes River Conservancy and the Wasco County SWCD.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers complimented the irrigation district on its substantial contribution to this project. This is the oldest priority water right and putting 0.5 cfs instream is a benefit. Reviewers did note that they would have liked to have seen more detailed information in the application.

The review team focused the discussion on the relative benefit of the 0.5 cfs, The stream currently goes dry in most years so there may not be any fish in this reach when the 0.5 cfs would be there. The future phases of the project are not represented as having significant water loss/savings so it appears unlikely that the 0.5 cfs could be enhanced. It is not certain that the 0.5 cfs would make it the eleven miles to Wamic.

The review team recognized that the irrigation district is putting a lot of match toward this project. The review team appreciated that it is a senior water right and the 0.5 cfs would help maintain riparian vegetation, however, it was not evident that this would provide any instream benefit.

Ecosystem Process and Function

The project would benefit the riparian zone and therefore the wildlife that use the riparian zone for feeding and/or nesting habitat.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Condition: A flow meter will be added to the diversion and a water right certificate will be required documenting the instream transfer.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
\$266,489.00

EM Portion

PE Portion

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding lines.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount

EM Portion

PE Portion

Total Recommended Board Award

\$ 0.00

**October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)**

Application No.:	212-4037	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower McKay Restoration		
Applicant:	Crooked River WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Crook
OWEB Request:	\$112,228.00	Total Cost:	\$209,923.00

REVIEW PROCESS

Staff Recommendation to the Board

This application was not reviewed by the Region 4 Review Team. It is a project that aids in accomplishing the re-introduction of anadromous fish above the Pelton/Round Butte Dam complex and therefore falls under the Upper Deschutes Special Investment Partnership to be prioritized and evaluated by the SIP Collaborative.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4038	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Conant Basin Watershed Restoration		
Applicant:	Crooked River WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Crook
OWEB Request:	\$299,400.00	Total Cost:	\$943,215.00

Application Description

This project would treat a number of degraded conditions in an entire sub-watershed to the Crooked River about 25 miles east of Prineville. Four ranches and the BLM would cut 3,000 acres of invasive juniper with approximately 1,600 acres to be have fire re-introduced, 700 acres will be re-seeded, several weed species will be treated on a total of 400 acres with monitoring and additional treatment twice a year for two years, 11 off-stream water developments will be completed, large wood will be placed in the incised channel to affect stream aggradation and the lower portion of the creek channel will be taken from a ditch and restored to its historic dimension pattern and profile.

The project area has legacy over-grazing characteristics. Without the riparian vegetation and beaver dams to hold the stream in hydrologic equilibrium, and the increase of juniper limiting infiltration, the system has cut down severely. The project should restore the vitality of perennial grasses and shrubs important to infiltration and increasing base flows and both fish and wildlife habitat. The area is adjacent to the Maury Wildlife Management Unit, a focus for the Mule Deer Initiative.

OWEB funds would be used for all parts of the project. Other partners include the landowners, NRCS EQIP, NRCS CREP, ODFW, BLM, ODF, the Crooked River Watershed Council and the Crook County SWCD.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers appreciated the well-written application and liked that the project is at the landscape scale and involves all area landowners. The review team appreciated that it was most of a sub-basin and complemented other recent work. However, they had concerns with many of the components of the project as proposed, and questions about the overall watershed benefits.

Some members of the review team felt that the fish and wildlife benefits were overstated in the application because there are no fish in the stream, no sage grouse in the area and the proposed burning would remove all habitat that sage grouse would use. The map focuses on the juniper work, but does not show all project components, such as the fencing locations.

It was discussed that by putting the stream back into its historic channel in the alluvial fan where it connects to the Crooked River there would be a better connection to the Crooked River and that should create some habitat for fish in Conant Creek. It was suggested OWEB should do projects like this in areas where the streams do support resident fish or wildlife populations.

Reviewers also questioned many of the project costs. The cost for burning seems high on a per acre cost. The \$10,000 for the culvert replacement seems high. It was recommended they not use containerized plants due to the higher costs. It is unclear what the \$100,000 match for CREP is? If that is the money the landowner would receive, the review team was not sure if that should count as match.

Reviewers would have liked to see photographs and more information in the application describing the watershed problems that the project will address, and a map that located all components of the project. They also would have liked to have seen letters of support.

While the project would help restore watershed function, reviewers were not comfortable recommending it for funding at this time, without a more clear understanding of the watershed benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4039	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Drews Creek Fish Passage/Screening		
Applicant:	Jack and Beverly Sparrowk		
Basin:	LAKES	County:	Lake
OWEB Request:	\$166,080.00	Total Cost:	\$523,193.00

Application Description

This project would provide fish passage and screening at the only remaining barriers on Drews Creek above the Drews Creek Reservoir, west of Lakeview about 25 miles. Two of the barriers are irrigation diversion weirs and the third is a seasonal push-up dam, all on the Drews Valley Ranch. A fourth weir has adequate fish passage but screening will be installed as part of this project.

Drews Creek provides spawning habitat for large adfluvial adults of resident Goose Lake Redband trout, Goose Lake Tui Chub, pit roach, pit sculpin, Goose Lake sucker and Goose Lake lamprey. The ranch owners have been working with ODFW for several years to complete designs and implement the construction and installation of the passage and screening improvements. The ranch is under a conservation easement established in 2003. The landowners have been very active in managing and monitoring the impacts of their livestock operation on upland and riparian conditions to ensure an upward trend in the health of these systems.

OWEB funds would be used for construction. Other partners include the landowners, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, ODFW, Ducks Unlimited and the USFS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

It was pointed out that Drews Creek has a full contingency of Goose Lake fishes. The habitat goes from good to excellent as it gets above this project for redband trout and suckerfish. The creeks are looking better under the landowner's management. The barriers are real and this would open up 14 miles of habitat for important fish species. There is a good amount of matching funds.

Ecosystem Process and Function

The project eliminates man-caused fish passage barriers and allows important Goose Lake fish to move up and down Drews Creek to respond to water quality changes (temperature) and eliminates fish entrainment in irrigation diversions.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Conditions: The diversions will have measuring devices and that fiscal administration be reduced to \$5,000.00.

Regional Review Team Priority

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
\$155,982.00

EM Portion

PE Portion

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Conditions: The grant agreement will require installation of a measuring devices on diversions. Fiscal administration is reduced to \$5,000.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
\$155,982.00

EM Portion

PE Portion

Total Recommended Board Award

\$155,982.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4043	Project Type:	Restoration
Project Name:	Malott Tail Water Recovery Project		
Applicant:	Crook SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Crook
OWEB Request:	\$154,526.00	Total Cost:	\$268,952.00

Application Description

This project is a resubmit from the April 2011 application cycle. It was recommended for funding but it fell below the funding amount line. It is north of Powell Butte between Prineville and Redmond. It would create a pond to capture irrigation tailwater so it can be pumped to a new pivot sprinkler irrigation system. The owner would purchase the irrigation equipment. This will result in less water being used than the flood irrigation method now used on the 400 acres and less tailwater leaving the property.

Currently, both natural overland flow and tailwater runoff the property and contribute to flows in Dry Canyon which flows into the Crooked River near O'Neil junction. During normal summer low flow periods, this is considered a source of pollution due to nutrients, elevated temperature and low dissolved oxygen. This project would be monitored to document changes in flow and water quality leaving the property so other farm/ranch operations may be recruited to do similar projects.

Partners include the landowner, Central Oregon Irrigation District, the Crook County SWCD and the Crooked River Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

This project is a resubmit from the April 2011 application cycle. It was recommended for funding but it fell below the funding amount line. The proposed project will significantly control tailwater runoff and provide water quality benefits to the Crooked River. The application provided good water quality data showing temperature problems. This project would serve as a demonstration to try to get others to do similar projects that might have an overall impact on tailwater discharge in the Dry Creek and subsequently in the Crooked River system. The landowners are leaders in agriculture in Crook County.

Reviewers spent time discussing the budget and noted that OWEB does not, and should not, fund pivot systems but only getting the water to the pivot. Components that are for the pivot, including wire to pivot, should be taken out of the OWEB request.

Ecosystem Process and Function

This project will significantly reduce tailwater discharge from the landowner's agricultural practices that are known to degrade water quality in the Crooked River (nutrients and temperature).

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Conditions: OWEB will not pay for the installation of the pivot or other project costs associated with change in the irrigation application system.

Regional Review Team Priority

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
\$139,276.00

EM Portion

PE Portion

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

Staff reviewed the budget with the applicant to address the review team concern and eliminated one budget item relating to the new pivot irrigation system, thus reducing the grant request by \$15,250.00.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund Reduced with Conditions.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
\$139,276.00

EM Portion

PE Portion

Total Recommended Board Award

\$139,276.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4023	Project Type:	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Upper Sprague Irrigation Efficiency		
Applicant:	Klamath Watershed Partnership		
Basin:	KLAMATH	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$27,147.00	Total Cost:	\$55,277.00

Application Description

This project will evaluate opportunities and technologies that would improve the efficiency and fish passage of an existing irrigation diversion weir on the North Fork Sprague River in the Upper Klamath Basin. The weir diverts up to 60 cfs and serves five large ownerships. The North Fork Sprague is home to redband trout and ESA listed suckers and bull trout. The project will look at on-farm irrigation efficiencies with the goal of reducing the amount of water diverted so it would be feasible to install a fish screen. Meetings will be held with landowners and technical folks to analyze options and to build support for possible future projects that would lead to reconstruction of the weir.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Review team members agreed that the existing diversion weir is a problem that needs to be addressed. The review team agreed that the North Fork Sprague River is an important fishery. They liked the concept of the application, but concluded that it was not developed enough, and lacked critical information, to recommend funding at this time.

This technical assistance application is for design and landowner recruitment. Reviewers noted that the USFWS and ODFW are working on a fish screen design for this diversion. It is a good idea and it should be coordinated with agencies looking at the headworks. It is not clear how the properties are currently irrigating, which is important to understand in evaluating potential benefits. While the application is for landowner recruitment, there are only five landowners and it would have been better if they had been contacted in advance to determine if they have an interest in a future possible project(s).

Reviewers thought that the project management costs and administrative costs were high and not supported by what they saw in the application.

In order to relate this project to an ecological benefit, the application should have spoken to the potential for any water savings to be transferred instream. It is not clear that there is any potential for that to happen. The application would also have been stronger if it had mentioned the possibility of installing flow measurement devices as part of any future conservation project. The application was really unclear if piping the ditch is even being considered. It was also not clear who would be evaluating the system and potential savings.

Reviewers support the concept, but concluded that the application is not ready for funding at this time.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4024	Project Type:	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lower Crooked River Riparian Zone Enhancement, Ranch at the Canyons		
Applicant:	Ranch at the Canyons		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	County:	Deschutes
OWEB Request:	\$46,703.00	Total Cost:	\$64,043.00

Application Description

This project would result in 90 percent designed plans for riparian restoration and weed treatment for 2.3 miles of the lower Crooked River contiguous to Smith Rocks State Park. The project will also design improvements to three existing springs and address stream-bank erosion and irrigation tailwater discharge issues. This work is being done in conjunction with the Ranch assessment of opportunities to improve wildlife habitat on the entire 1,700 acre property.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

This application was previously submitted and was not recommended for funding.

The review team appreciated that the scope of this project has been narrowed to focus on the riparian areas and lower terrace land. There are bank erosion and invasive species issues that are proposed to be addressed by this revised proposal. There was still some reservation about the need for bird surveys but it was pointed out that there may be a need to schedule any implementation work with raptor nesting activity - this might be a factor in the value of the bird survey.

While reviewers appreciated the applicant addressing some of their previous concerns, they found that there were still questions that led them to be concerned about recommending funding at this time. The application still did not discuss the source of the tailwater and how it would be addressed. They wondered why there was a need to look in the canyon to find out what plants will grow; that information should be readily available. The budget was ambiguous, with costs and tasks not broken out, and costs for project management seemed very high. Reviewers wondered whether the Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, Crooked River Watershed Council or OSU Extension could do some of this work more cost-effectively. It was noted that some of the match may be double counted.

In the end, reviewers did not feel comfortable recommending funding at this time.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4025	Project Type:	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Fishhole Creek Enhancement Plan		
Applicant:	Klamath Watershed Partnership		
Basin:	KLAMATH	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$49,759.00	Total Cost:	\$170,619.00

Application Description

This project will assess the conditions and opportunities for stream function and condition improvement projects on 18 miles of Fishhole Creek, a tributary to the South Fork Sprague River in the Upper Klamath Basin. The objective is to identify and prioritize streambank restoration needs and to develop 30 percent design detail for specific sites. Also to be studied are barriers to fish passage. The stream is home to redband trout. Water temperature and flow modification have been identified as contributing factors for impaired water quality. In some areas, there has been substantial channel modification.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers appreciated that the application described the reach by river mile and recognized that the focus on the lower river is important. The applicant has identified the specific stream/watershed sections and the work needed in each of those.

However, reviewers had concerns about the application and the budget. Specifically, the budget contained many lump sums with no detail. It was not clear what OWEB would be paying for in contracted services. Reviewers would have liked to see more detail about how contractors would be chosen, and by whom. Reviewers would have liked to see letters of support. There was concern that several agencies were listed as providing match, but the agencies had not been contacted about the project.

The review team was very concerned that it is not clear who will do the analysis. The team concluded that the application is not ready for funding at this time.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4026	Project Type:	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Landowner Recruitment for the Upper Klamath Lake Water Transactions Program		
Applicant:	Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust		
Basin:	LAKES	County:	Klamath
OWEB Request:	\$31,108.00	Total Cost:	\$62,180.00

Application Description

This project would enable the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust to work at recruiting landowners to participate in the water transactions program they developed to put water back into Upper Klamath Lake. Technical reviews of water rights and agricultural operations will be completed to determine if an instream transfer is the best use of the resource. As part of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, there is general acceptance of efforts to put additional water in the lake to meet the Biological Opinions for the protection and recovery of ESA listed suckerfish and anadromous fish down-river.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The review team noted this is an important element of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement. The Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust has been very successful in initiating this work in this area. They have taken a very controversial issue, shared it with landowners and the community and then implemented it through developing agricultural practices and relations with area landowners. The applicant has an excellent track record.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund.

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount	EM Portion	PE Portion
\$31,108.00		

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount	EM Portion	PE Portion
\$31,108.00		

Total Recommended Board Award

\$31,108.00

October 17, 2011 OWEB Grant Cycle Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	212-4040	Project Type:	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	The Dalles Local Wetlands Inventory and Riparian Study		
Applicant:	City of The Dalles		
Basin:	HOOD	County:	Wasco
OWEB Request:	\$40,000.00	Total Cost:	\$80,000.00

Application Description

This project would map and describe wetlands in the urban growth boundary of The Dalles. Wetlands are now threatened by industrial and commercial development. Upon completion of the inventory, The Dalles will adopt the Local Wetlands Inventory and prepare a Goal 5 protection program. The Oregon Freshwater Assessment Methodology will be used.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

The review team recognized that the inventory has value in identifying resources which may lead to protection or restoration. The team appreciated that this is important work and is necessary, but spent time discussing whether the proposal is appropriate for OWEB technical assistance funding, which focuses on efforts that lead to, or are likely to lead to, watershed restoration projects. The application indicated in the answer to question 7 in Section II that a restoration application was not planned to be submitted as a result of this technical assistance project. As presented, the application provides no indication that this project would result in watershed restoration work.

Some reviewers concluded that without a restoration focus – for example, identifying a specific fish or wildlife species or watershed problem that the city or others would address – this application was not appropriate for OWEB funding. Other reviewers thought that the wetland inventory would guide protection as part of the city's comprehensive land use plan, and that was appropriate for OWEB funding.

The review team considered the map submitted with the application and concluded the project could be done in a lot less time. They also questioned the budget, which was a lump sum lacking any detail or unit costs and tasks. They also questioned the lack of detail on the match funding and what it really consists of. After discussion, while there was some support for the project, the majority of the review team did not support funding the proposal as presented.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund.