

Focused Investment Partnerships *Definition, Criteria and Solicitation Approach*

The OWEB Board will establish a process for identifying and updating a set of Focused Investment Priorities that have clear significance to the state. Within those priorities, the Board will solicit for Focused Investment Partnerships, one of several forms of focused investments.

Focused Investment Partnership Definition

A Focused Investment Partnership is an OWEB investment that:

- Addresses a Board-identified Focused Investment Priority of significance to the state;
- Achieves clear and measurable *ecological outcomes*;
- Uses integrated, results-oriented *approaches* as identified through a *strategic action plan*;
- Is implemented by a high-performing *partnership*.

OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership investments will be made in two categories:

- 1) Focused Investment Partnership Implementation - For an investment with an existing strategic action plan that is ready for implementation, a Focused Investment will be made by OWEB for a defined dollar amount over a limited time. Partnerships may apply subsequently for a different Focused Investment Partnership program in the same or a different Board-identified Focused Investment Priority.
- 2) Focused Investment Partnership Capacity-Building - The Board will also provide two-year funding for partnerships who are prospective FIP applicants to strengthen their capacity and to strengthen strategic action plans for a Focused Investment priority.

Criteria Categories *The definition is further refined by criteria in the following categories that will be used by the OWEB Board to select investments.*

Focused Investment Partnerships will have both limited funding and duration. As such, groups selected for a Focused Investment Partnership will need to demonstrate that their Focused Investment Partnership programs meet a high standard of achievement. Board investments will be determined within the following criteria categories:

- 1) Significant, clear and measurable *ecological outcomes* that address a Board-Identified Focused Investment Priority.
- 2) The partners must have an existing *strategic action plan* that employs integrated, results-oriented *approaches*. The strategic action plan will:
 - a) Clearly define the measurable ecological outcomes as identified above, ensuring they are reasonable given resources and constraints.
 - b) Clearly articulate achievable goals, an identified geography and a realistic scale and time period for the program.
 - c) Identify the metrics, milestones and established benchmarks for success for the outcomes.
 - d) Utilize an adaptive management approach. This includes measuring and monitoring progress including monitoring procedures to evaluate the success of goals and objectives described in the strategic action plan.
 - e) The plan must also include communication strategies with funders and others regarding the plan's progress toward implementation.

The strategic action plan and any associated OWEB requests for funding must be realistic in terms of conservation impact, outcomes, partnerships and effectiveness monitoring.

- 3) The applicants must clearly demonstrate the *Partners* involved are necessary and sufficient to implement the program outlined in the strategic action plan. Partners must have formed a productive partnership that includes:
 - a) Defined relationships that clearly describes the roles and responsibilities of each partner.
 - b) Demonstrated capacity to:
 1. Take on their identified roles and operate under a common vision;
 2. Implement conservation work at a scale larger than a single project;
 3. Realistically accomplish the identified ecological outcomes.
 - c) A clear link that shows the outcomes are within each organization's mission and scope
 - d) A demonstrated strong record of conservation achievement by the partners individually and collectively.

The partnership must also leverage OWEB funding with other resources. This may be achieved by recruiting funding partners, or by accessing other resources critical to implementation.

Solicitation Approach

OWEB is developing three processes for Focused Investment Prioritization, Partnership Capacity and Implementation solicitation. The priority selection process will be completed before solicitation for programs can begin. The program selections (2&3 below) will run simultaneously.

- 1) A Board process for identifying and updating a set of Focused Investment Priorities that have clear significance to the state, drawing from proposals by groups, organizations, state and federal agencies, individuals, OWEB, the Governor's office, Oregon Tribes, and others. Proposed priorities should be based on sources such as the state's Conservation Strategy, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, Governor's priorities, the Agricultural Water Quality Program, the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, recovery plans, etc. The Board will review priorities each biennium to consider adding new priorities and ensure the existing priorities continue to be important.

Process for selecting each of the OWEB Focused Investment Partnership types:

- 2) Capacity-Building - A process for selecting among proposals for investments up to two years that support existing partnerships within Board-identified priorities to:
 - a) Enhance or strengthen a strategic action plan for a Focused Investment Priority; and/or
 - b) Strengthen the capacity of existing partnerships. Applications must:
 - Demonstrate a strong commitment of the partners to meet the Focused Investment criteria in the future, and
 - Clearly identify how this funding will help them achieve the steps to meet Focused Investment Partnership criteria.

NOTE: Receipt of Capacity funding does not guarantee Focused Investment Implementation funding from OWEB.
- 3) Implementation - A process for selecting applications for Focused Investment Partnerships funding as outlined in the criteria, in which applicants must:
 - Identify the Focused Investment Priority the proposal addresses
 - Provide a strategic action plan
 - Demonstrate partnership capacity