Attachment C

Willamette SIP Needs Assessment
Summary for Board Review

The Willamette Special Investment Partnership (WSIP) comprises two separate, but related programs: The Mainstem Willamette and the Model Watershed programs.

Desired Ecological Outcomes

Mainstem

- Increased channel complexity and length
- Improved connectivity between the river and its floodplain
- Expanded geographic extent and improved health of floodplain forests

Model Watersheds

- Enhanced riparian corridors and floodplains
- Enhanced in-stream and stream-associated habitat
- Enhanced flow and water quality

Expected Interim Objectives/Outcomes

Mainstem Objectives
Build the capacity of local organizations
Improve the ability to implement restoration and protection in the anchor habitats
Conduct specific evaluation of processes that can be used to target restoration actions
Increase floodplain reconnection
Increase and improve the extent and condition of floodplain forests
Increase side channel length and complexity
Implement large-scale validation and effectiveness monitoring

Model Watershed Objectives
Build the capacity of participating councils
Conduct outreach to landowners to determine interest.
Enhance riparian corridors and related floodplains
Enhance in-stream habitat
Enhance flow or water quality
Implement uniform monitoring across model watersheds

Focus Area

Geographic Focus

The WSIP currently encompasses the length of the Willamette River from its confluence with the Coast and Middle forks downstream to its confluence with the Columbia River. Along its length, the partners have identified 12 anchor habitats, which have their origin in The Nature Conservancy's synthesis mapping project of conservation opportunity areas. Essentially, the anchor habitats are located at major tributary confluences and river sections where there are opportunities to re-connect the river to its historic floodplain. The effort relies on the *Willamette River Basin Planning Atlas's* "Slices Framework," which creates a spatial context for consistent and simultaneous analysis of the floodplain and its human systems. The WSIP is currently working to define critical areas to allow the WSIP to focus limited funds on program objectives in priority habitat areas. Staff will update the Board at its September 2013 Board meeting.

Necessary actions

Mainstem

While mainstem actions are collaboratively funded, Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) tends to focus on funding capacity, outreach, and research, whereas the WSIP and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) focus on restoration and monitoring. In the list below, MMT has a particular interest in the collective impact piece and WSIP and BPA in the other four actions. Specific actions to be funded by the partners and identified during that process will be to:

- Explore a process for achieving "collective impact" to examine the feasibility of regional collaboratives to assess local anchor habitat conditions (MMT);
- Restore floodplain forest along the Willamette mainstem (MMT, BPA, WSIP);
- Reconnect the Willamette mainstem to remnant side channels (MMT, BPA, WSIP);
- Reconnect the floodplain with adjacent active channels (MMT, BPA, WSIP); and
- Conduct research and monitoring (MMT, BPA, WSIP)

Model Watersheds

While each Model Watershed has a comprehensive restoration program, WSIP funds *only* riparian restoration in the Model Watersheds. All other Model Watershed work is eligible for funding through OWEB's Regular Grant Program. In the list below, the first three actions are eligible for WSIP funds.

- Manage invasive species in riparian areas (MMT, WSIP)
- Revegetate riparian areas (MMT, WSIP)
- Install livestock exclusion fencing in riparian areas (MMT, WSIP)
- Restore and maintain adequate stream flows (MMT, OWEB)
- Increase hydraulic diversity and wood in key stream reaches (MMT, OWEB)
- Reconnect side channels, alcoves, and remeander straightened streams (MMT, OWEB)
- Reconnect floodplains /wetlands (MMT, OWEB)
- Remove artificial fish barriers and sediment transport barriers (MMT, OWEB)

Implementation Partners

Mainstem

Land trusts (Greenbelt Land Trust, McKenzie Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy)	Tribes (Grand Ronde, Siletz, and Warm Springs)
Watershed councils (Calapooia and Luckiamute)	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Local government (Benton SWCD, Cities of Albany, Salem, and Portland)	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Non-profit conservation groups (Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah, Willamette Riverkeeper)	Academia (Oregon State University, University of Oregon)
For-profit enterprises (River Design Group)	U.S. Geological Survey

Model Watersheds

Calapooia Watershed Council (Middle Calapooia and Courtney Creek subwatersheds)	Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (Lost and Little Fall creeks subwatersheds)
Long Tom Watershed Council (Ferguson, Bear, and Coyote creeks subwatersheds)	North Santiam Watershed Council (Valentine Creek and Bear Branch subwatersheds)
Luckiamute Watershed Council (King's Valley subwatersheds)	South Santiam Watershed Council (Hamilton and McDowell creeks subwatersheds)
Marys Watershed Council	

Three of the watershed councils — Calapooia, North and South Santiam — have combined their outreach and technical staff to achieve cost efficiencies. They are regarded, therefore, as a single model watershed.

Funding Partners

At present, the Mainstem partnership has three core funding partners: OWEB, MMT, and BPA. The latter has two habitat-related programs in the Willamette Basin: Willamette River Habitat Protection and Restoration Program (shown as "BPA BiOp" in the table below) and Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (shown as "BPA Wildlife Mitigation"). The Model Watershed Program is funded mainly by MMT and OWEB, and is managed by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Budget Categories – 2013-2015 Biennium

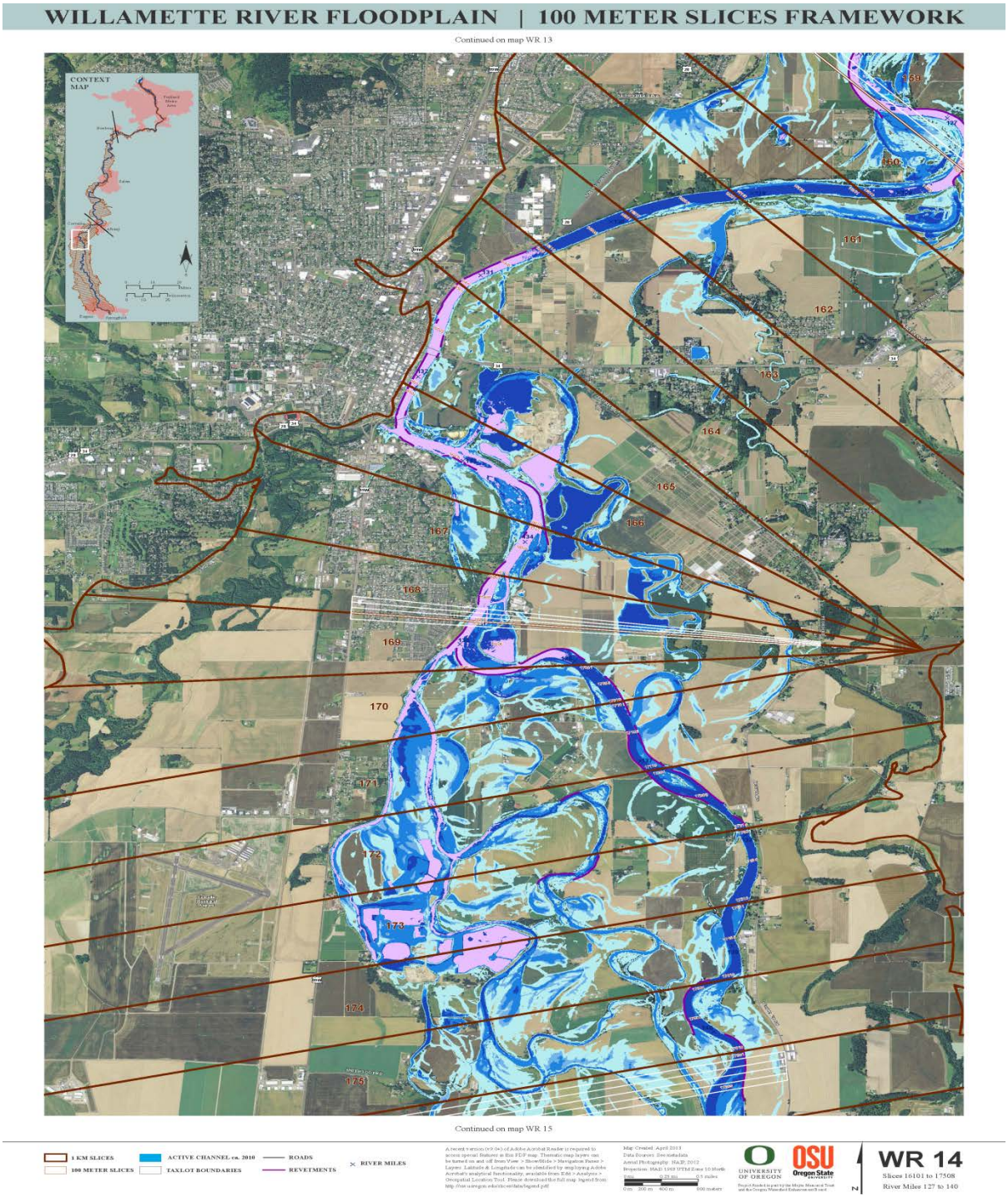
Mainstem

OWEB Grant Category	Lead Organization(s)	Core Funding Partners			
		OWEB Requested Investment	MMT	BPA BiOp	BPA Wildlife Mitigation
Partnership Capacity	MMT	√	√		
Outreach	Watershed groups (WGs)/BEF		√		
Technical Assistance/Research	WG, Land trusts (LTs)	√	√		
Restoration	WGs, LTs, BEF	√	√	√	
Land Acquisition	LT's, BPA/ODFW			√	√
Monitoring	OWEB, BPA, BEF	√		√	
Total		**$2,000,000**	**$1,300,000**	**$1,600,000**	**$1,200,000**
OWEB staff recommendation		**$2,000,000**			

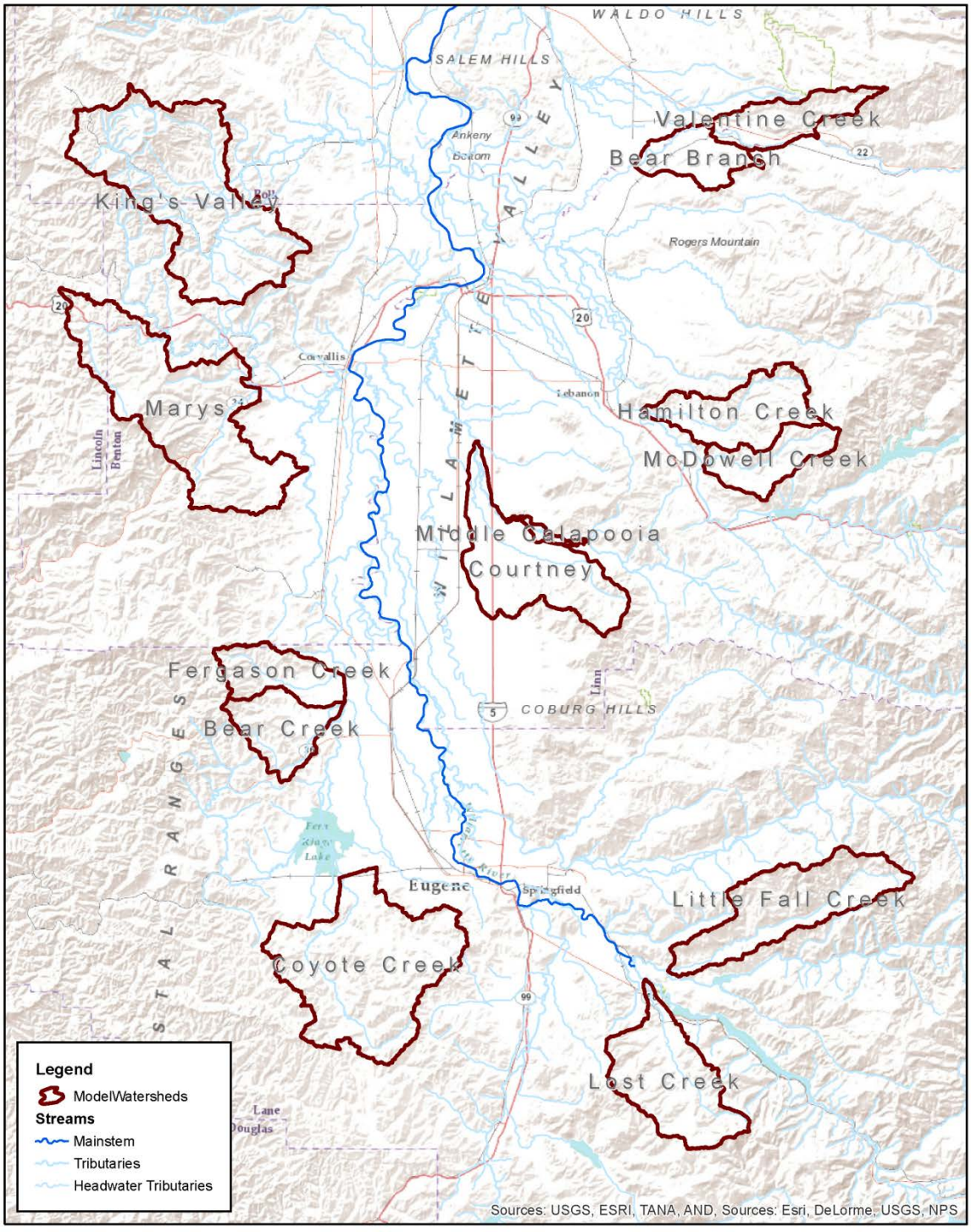
Model Watersheds

OWEB Grant Category	Lead Organization(s)	Core Funding Partners		
		OWEB Requested Investment†	MMT	BEF
Partnership Capacity	BEF		√	
Outreach	BEF		√	√
Technical Assistance	BEF		√	
Restoration	model watersheds	√	√	√
Land Acquisition				
Monitoring	BEF/model watersheds		√	
Total		**$1,000,000**	**$1,400,000**	**$120,000**
OWEB staff recommendation		**$1,000,000**		

† WSIP funds only riparian restoration in the Model Watersheds; all other Model Watershed work is eligible through OWEB's Regular Grant Program.



The WSIP currently is working to define critical areas to allow the program to focus limited funds on program objectives in priority habitat areas. The effort is grounded in the *Willamette River Basin Planning Atlas's* "Slices Framework," which creates a spatial context for consistent and simultaneous analysis of the floodplain and its human systems. Above is a map from the Slices Framework, which includes a portion of the Long Tom Confluence-John Smith Islands Anchor Habitat and covers roughly the area from Kiger Island downstream to Corvallis. Red, diagonal lines, shown at right angles to the floodplain's center axis, represent 1-km slices of the Willamette River floodplain and cover the extent of what is known as the "pragmatic floodplain." The magenta and blue overlay shows the extent of the two-year inundation zone, which simply means that in any given year there is a 50 percent probability of flooding in these areas. The white diagonal lines appearing in slices 168 and 176 identify general areas of cold-water refugia.



Willamette
Model Watersheds

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

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