



Important Information

Regarding Grant Applications Submitted after July 1, 2011 for OWEB staff, Regional Review Teams, Grantees and Partners

Background

Ballot Measure 76, passed by Oregon's voters in November 2010, is effective on July 1, 2011. In the long-term, the ballot measure opens the door to new possibilities regarding OWEB's grant program. OWEB views the 2011-2013 biennium as a time of transition.

During this transition, OWEB will work with stakeholders to consider and explore:

- long-term funding and policy priorities
- simplifying OWEB budget categories including the consideration of greater flexibility for indirect and direct costs
- continuing to streamline grant applications
- continuing to move toward more on-line processes and tools

Measure 76 provides for grants to implement the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and Oregon's native fish conservation and recovery plans. Generally, OWEB expects that it will continue to fund the same kinds of projects and activities as it has in the past. However, grantees and stakeholders should be aware of some important changes.

This document is a brief reminder of existing rules and processes while also describing immediate changes.

Contact

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Ballot Measure 76

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General Information

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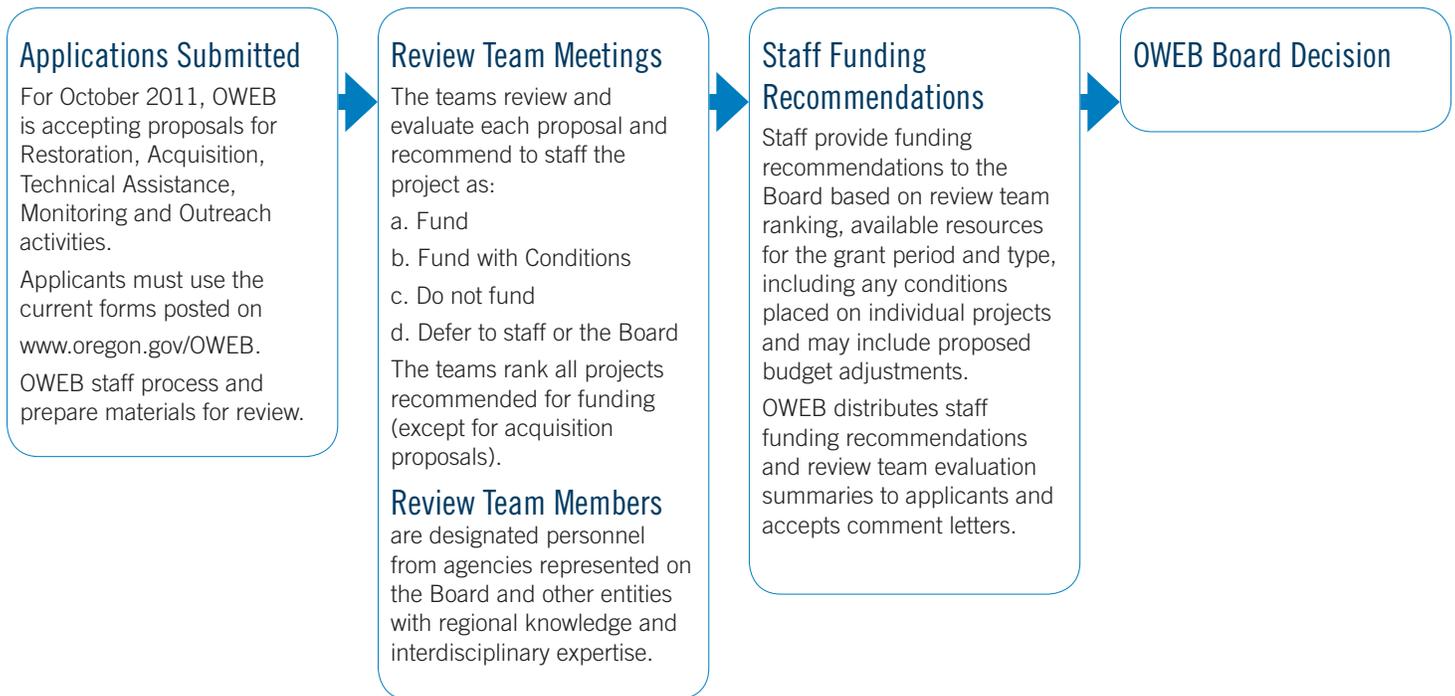
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What has not changed

Grant Process

From application submission to Board decision, the process has not changed



Rules

Rules regarding grant proposal costs and activities that still apply.

Ineligible Activities for Restoration Grants

These activities continue to be ineligible for restoration grants

Any costs for a watershed improvement project that consist solely of construction of a water storage structure for an out-of-stream use not related to watershed restoration or protection. ORS 541.375(8), OAR 695-010-0040(1)

Any costs for a fish screening project eligible for funding through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish screening program. OAR 695-010-0040(2)

Any costs related to a watershed improvement project constructed solely to comply with a state or federal agency enforcement order, legal judgment or mitigation requirement. OAR 695-010-0040(3)

Any costs associated with routine project maintenance costs. OAR 695-010-0040(4)

Any costs related to a water conservation project, unless there is a measurable in-stream flow benefit, groundwater benefit or water quality improvement. OAR 695-010-0040(5)

Applicable rules, continued

Rules, continued

Ineligible Costs for Restoration Grants

These costs continue to be ineligible for restoration grants

- First aid kits (eligible in Council Support and Outreach grants only)
- Pro-rated expenses (e.g., office supplies, rent, utilities)
- General training for staff
Exception: training necessary to implement a particular project and only used for that project
- Computer support
Exception: accounting programs used for the Fiscal Administration for a project
- Any costs associated with an individual license or permit such as pesticide application license or Oregon State engineering stamp

Ineligible Costs for Technical Assistance Grants

These costs continue to be ineligible for technical assistance grants

- General training for staff or volunteers
- Website development
- Monitoring
Exception: Rapid Bioassessment (RBA) Proposals. These should be submitted as monitoring applications. However, since OWEB has not provided guidance to grantees, RBA proposals submitted as a technical assistance grant will be accepted.
- Farm, ranch, or forest plans required to be developed as a condition of federal or state agency funding or other program requirements (for example, NRCS requirement of a farm plan for EQIP funding or ODF requirement of a forest plan).
- Fish screens
- Landscape design
- Support for permit processing alone
- Support for site inspections alone
- OWEB watershed assessments
Note: This refers to the full assessment using OWEB's Watershed Assessment Manual. Action plans, reach assessments, and other reach or stream-specific assessments and action plans are eligible for technical assistance.
- Equipment or software for general use
- Projects required as a condition of a local, state, or federal permit, order, or enforcement plan (e.g., mitigation projects, management projects required by permit from ODA).

Changes Effective July 1, 2011

ALL GRANTS	
<i>Previously</i>	<i>Effective July 1, 2011</i>
Grants were awarded under Ballot Measure 66, passed by Oregon voters in 1998.	Grants effective July 1 and after will be governed by Measure 76. In the short term, OWEB will continue to follow its existing rules and policies regarding grant types, eligible and ineligible grant activities and costs.
	Grants awarded previously under Measure 66 will continue to be managed under the requirements and restrictions of Measure 66.
	In the longer term, OWEB will engage stakeholders in discussions about how to enhance effectiveness and transparency in its grant programs. For example, OWEB has convened a Council Support Workgroup and a Land Acquisition Workgroup to look at possible changes to these applications and processes.
Oregon law prohibited release of grant funds prior to issuance of all permits and licenses for the project funded by the grant.	Senate Bill 342 allows OWEB to release portions of a grant for those parts of a project that do not require a permit. OWEB is developing guidance for the October 2011 grant cycle.
Institutions of higher learning sometimes entered into Interagency Agreements with OWEB.	For grants awarded under Measure 76 funding, institutions of higher learning will no longer enter into Interagency Agreements with OWEB and will instead be regular grantees. As such, they must follow the regular grant application and agreement procedures including requirements such as the 25% match and up to but no more than 10% fiscal administration costs.

For more information, contact Lauri Aunan (503) 986-0047 lauri.g.aunan@oweb.state.or.us

EDUCATION/OUTREACH GRANTS	
<i>Previously</i>	<i>Effective July 1, 2011</i>
OWEB offered Education/Outreach grants.	Due to changes directed by Measure 76, for the October 2011 grant cycle, we expect to offer "Outreach" grants that are <i>related directly</i> to efforts to protect or restore fish or wildlife habitat, improve water quality, or protect land for future generations. OWEB is preparing guidance for eligible and ineligible outreach activities.
	Applicants will answer one additional question in the grant proposal.

For more information, contact Carolyn Devine (503) 986-0195 carolyn.devine@oweb.state.or.us

RESTORATION GRANTS WITH AN OUTREACH COMPONENT	
<i>Previously</i>	<i>Effective July 1, 2011</i>
Outreach activities have always been eligible within restoration grants. However, because of very limited non-capital Lottery funds, they were typically not funded or funded at a very low level.	Outreach activities are still eligible within restoration applications. Ballot Measure 76 eliminates the distinction between capital and non-capital funds, allowing funding of Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Outreach grants out of one "conservation grant fund." Regional review teams will evaluate the appropriateness of proposed outreach activities with respect to their necessity for success of the restoration project, budget, and other factors.

For more information, contact your Regional Program Representative, <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/WSHEDS/offices.shtml>

RESTORATION GRANTS THAT INCLUDE PORTABLE EQUIPMENT

Previously

Portable equipment costing over \$250 that supported a restoration project was required to be funded with non-capital Lottery dollars, and subject to a restrictive OWEB rule on equipment ownership.

Due to the very limited availability of non-capital Lottery funds, inclusion of these items in a Restoration grant required Board approval to expend non-capital dollars.

It also required special grant agreement conditions on ownership of the equipment.

Effective July 1, 2011

OWEB rules still apply. Equipment purchased with OWEB funds must “reside with a watershed council, SWCD, tribe, local government, state agency, institution of higher learning or school district. These entities will make the equipment available to others at no cost, other than nominal operation and maintenance costs.”

OWEB generally recommends that portable equipment needed for a restoration project should be paid for with non-OWEB (matching) funds. If that is not possible, regional review teams will evaluate whether the equipment

- Is necessary for project success
- Is an appropriate budget request
- Has the potential for the perception of misuse of public funds for private benefit. For example, use of OWEB funds to pay for a kayak or a pickup truck is likely to lead to perception of misuse of public funds for private benefit. If OWEB funds equipment of this nature, the grant agreement will include special conditions with respect to this administrative rule.

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GRANTS

Previously

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) weed grants were administered by ODA. Because they were not administered by OWEB:

- ODA weed grants could be used to match funds for OWEB grants (and vice versa).
- Grantees could not access information about their grant using OWEB’s Online Grant Management System (OGMS).
- Overdue reports in one program did not influence grant agreements or amendments in the other.

ODA administered capacity grants to soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs).

Effective July 1, 2011

ODA weed grants funded on or after July 1, 2011, will be OWEB grants. OWEB administrative rules apply. The two agencies are working on the specific details. The goal for the 2011-2013 transition biennium is to keep program changes to a minimum.

- ODA weed grants may not be used for match for OWEB grants (and vice versa).
- After September 2011, new grantees will be able to access information about their weed grant using OWEB’s online program, OGMS.
- OWEB will not enter into new grant agreements or amend existing grant agreements for time extensions and award amounts if the grantee has any overdue final grant reports.

SWCD capacity grants for 2011-2013 will be OWEB grants. ODA, OWEB, SWCDs and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts are working together on the details of this change. The goal for the 2011-2013 transition biennium is to keep program changes to a minimum.

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