

### **OWEB Oregon Explorer Proposal – August 2006 OSU Libraries and INR \$75,000**

#### OWEB Staff Project Description

The Oregon Explorer will provide web-based access to comprehensive natural resources information by 1) providing on-line access to the OWEB Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory, with tools for searching and creating graphs and reports from this database, 2) developing a prototype online reporting tool for the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory, 3) offering training sessions for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, 4) creating the Oregon Explorer framework that serves as the primary link to statewide information to support natural resources decision-making, and 5) enhancing existing web portals for the Willamette, North Coast and Umpqua basins. Oregon Explorer will ensure that Oregonians have integrated access to natural resources data, tools, and expertise.

INR and the OSU Libraries propose to:

- 1) Provide on-line access to the OWEB Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), with tools for searching and creating graphs and reports from this database.

With the OWEB funding, INR and the OSU Libraries will make the OWRI accessible through a GIS, map based tool that displays the locations of projects in the OWRI and allows users to obtain detailed information on any project from the map. We will also build tools that allow users to create charts and graphs from the data, based on the primary questions identified by OWEB staff, watershed councils, and other targeted users. These tools will be made available both through the Oregon Explorer statewide portal and individual basin portals. We will also include information on the Oregon Explorer from the Registry of Conservation Actions database currently being developed cooperatively by the Defenders of Wildlife, the Institute for Natural Resources, and the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife. All projects from the OWRI will be incorporated into the Conservations Actions database.

- 2) Prototype an online data-entry tool for the OWRI.

INR and OSU Libraries will work with collaboratively with OWEB to identify several categories of high-priority information within the OWRI to focus on for development of a prototype data entry tool. The data entry tool development occurring as part of the Registry of Conservation Actions project will be useful in assisting the OWEB, INR, and OSU Libraries team in developing a very user friendly data entry tool. When the Registry of Conservation Actions site is completed, all of the information included in this database will be available through the Oregon Explorer.

- 3) Offer training sessions to watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other interested users.

The Oregon Explorer and the Registry of Conservation Actions are being developed to meet both basic and advanced uses in mind. The map and data entry tools in these resources can include extensive, complex and detailed information. Because of this, joint OWEB-OSU Libraries training for users of the sites will focus in particular on online entry tools, mapping tools and capabilities, and production of graphs and charts using reporting tools. These trainings will be offered to watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, extension staff, interested state and local agency staff, and other potential users.

- 4) Build the Oregon Explorer home page and preliminary architecture (or “back end”) of the Explorer framework, including basic information about the state’s 12 water basins, eight ecoregions, and all Oregon counties, and expand information in the prototype Oregon Explorer pages (<http://oregonexplorer.info>, accessible online as of 11/1/2005). The OWEB information will be touted and made available along with other new and refined site content at the proposed public release of this site, Oregon’s Statehood Day, February 24, 2007.

The template for the Oregon Explorer page is online, but many of the features are not functional yet. The newly developed searching tools are not implemented, the ability to save files to the library (via OSU’s Scholar’s Archive) is not functional, and the primary pieces of information on Oregon’s basins, counties and ecoregions are only partially populated. If funded, we will enable the searching and library uploading tools, and sufficiently populate the geographic place pages with enough data to address the majority of the questions the public might have. This content will be based on information priorities that have been identified by various needs assessments and user trainings conducted by OSU Libraries as part of the Oregon Explorer effort. In addition, information from the existing basin portals and in-development subject portals (i.e., wildlife and wildfire risk) will be displayed through the Oregon Explorer site. The objective here is to show the depth and breadth of information about Oregon which can be provided at a site.

- 5) Enhance the existing, basin-level prototype web portals—the North Coast Basin Explorer (<http://northcoastexplorer.info>), the Umpqua Basin Explorer (<http://umpquaexplorer.info>), and the Willamette Basin Explorer (<http://willametteexplorer.info>).

Since development of the Willamette Explorer pilot natural resources digital library, additional improvements have been made and continue to be made as part of the growth of the Oregon Explorer project. With OWEB funding, INR and the OSU Libraries will add all the new tools to each of the existing sites:

- Menus of the sites will be updated to match those of the Oregon Explorer, and will be able to provide a broader selection of information.
- New search tools will allow users to select data from numerous sources simultaneously, including images, documents, spreadsheets, journals, books, and articles.
- A data entry tool allowing any user to share and permanently store information at the OSU Libraries (a library submission tool which relies on OSU Libraries’ ScholarsArchive@OSU online repository) will be added to all sites.

- The tools developed for the North Coast Explorer that allow users to upload data to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's NRIMP's Data Clearinghouse will be enabled on the Willamette, Umpqua and statewide Oregon Explorer portals.
- In Spring of 2007, the user-friendly interface for accessing the Pacific Northwest Water Quality Exchange database will be included on each site.
- The data developed in the Wildlife and the Wildfire Risk Explorers will be made available to the existing basin portals, as will any completed information on land use or sustainable agriculture that is being compiled for upcoming Explorer projects. Similarly, as new subject matter portals are developed, their information will automatically be accessible to the basin portals.

<b>Budget - Imagery Portal Scoping and Development</b>						
<b>Phase 1 - Oregon Explorer</b>		FTE	Monthly Salary	Benefit Rate	Project Months	Project Cost
	Project Manager	0.65	\$ 2,261	0.73	1.5	\$ 5,867
	Web Developer	1.00	\$ 2,915	0.65	2.0	\$ 9,620
	Programmer	0.75	\$ 3,936	0.55	2.5	\$ 15,252
	Project Advisor, Outreach	0.45	\$ 3,060	0.25	2.0	\$ 7,650
	Asst. Programmer	0.63	\$1,750	0.11	2.5	\$ 4,856
	Project Advisor	1.00	\$4,836	0.49	0.2	\$ 1,441
subtotal - salaries						\$ 44,686
Service Contract- John Ame (for science writing)						\$ 5,000
Service Contract - Edge Design (for web design)						\$ 1,000
Service Contract - U. Oregon InfoGraphics Lab (for maps and design)						\$ 7,500
Service Contract - The Other Firm (conservation actions portal)						\$ 7,500
Supplies						\$ 1,100
Travel						\$ 1,000
Other						\$ 400
Total - direct expenses						\$ 68,186
OSU Overhead @ 10%						\$ 6,819
<b>Total Phase 1 Oregon Explorer Costs</b>						<b>\$ 75,005</b>