

May 15-16, 2007 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #C1: Research Grants Update

Background

At the May 2006 Board meeting, staff proposed a formal research proposal grant process that has clear criteria, utilizes the appropriate scientific expertise for evaluating requests, and minimizes impacts on current staff workload. Board members unanimously approved the process. Since then, OWEB has used the Sea Grant program at Oregon State University to assist in the administration of the research grant solicitation and review process.

Research Grants Review Process

Sea Grant solicited research pre-proposals for the 2007-2009 biennium and received 33 preliminary concept papers by the September 22, 2006, deadline. A subcommittee of the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) prioritized the pre-proposals based on their potential to address research questions that are relevant to OWEB's Research Priorities, the Oregon Coast Coho Recovery Plan priorities or existing management needs or uncertainties, or are expected to produce findings that are tangible and useful for near-term management purposes. The OPMT subcommittee forwarded their analysis and recommendations to OWEB staff. Based on these recommendations, OWEB staff requested full proposals from 14 of the applicants. Four of the proponents were asked to work together to develop a single proposal, and a fifth declined the opportunity to submit a full proposal. A brief description of the 14 pre-proposals and their respective status is found in Attachment A.

Sea Grant completed the external review of the project proposals requested by OWEB in mid-April. A review of each application was conducted by two to five experts in the natural resource sciences from around the nation and several countries. Each reviewer provided a written evaluation and overall qualitative score at the conclusion of the review. Qualitative scores were then converted to a numeric value. Each application was considered within the following categories: overall *Rationale* for the proposed work, *Scientific or Professional Merit*, *Innovativeness*, *Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators*, and *User Relationship* (overall utility to end users).

All of the proposals were given scores by each reviewer in the *Good*, *Very Good*, and *Excellent* brackets except one that was given a *Fair* score. Averaging scores among reviewers reveals that 8 of the 10 applications fall into the *Very Good* rank with the remaining two considered *Good*.

Staff Review

Since the conclusion of the Sea Grant review process in April, staff have been processing reviewers' comments and scores in preparation of selecting a portion of the proposals for future Board consideration. Current requests through the Research Grant Solicitation slightly exceed \$4.6 million. The research account presently contains \$3.6 million of both capital and non-capital dollars. After the Legislature passes the 2007-2009 budget, staff will evaluate current priorities for research and report to the Board in September with recommendations on how to proceed.

Staff Contact

Contact Greg Sieglitz at greg.sieglitz@state.or.us or 503-986-0194 with questions about OWEB's research grant process.

OWEB Research Grant Cycle Full Proposal List Feb 2007
updated 3/6/07

Attachment A

Title	PI	Brief Summary	Product	Topic	Amt Requested Final Proposal	Cap	Non-cap
Oregon plan effectiveness: Watershed scale research in Western Oregon	Johnson	Trask/Hinkle/Alsea	improved understanding forest harvest on downstream fish bearing streams	effectiveness	\$499,384	\$426,106	\$73,279.50
Evaluating the role of dam removal for salmon and sucker recovery in Oregon	Tullos	Dam removal	develop and evaluate a monitoring framework for short and long term effects of dam removal	dam removal	\$426,354	\$385,134	\$41,220
Coast Range Beaver studies	Hoffman	Beaver/coast	information on beaver pop and habitat dynamics , dev protocols	species	Not submitted	N/A	N/A
Fiber-optic observations of stream function and condition: demonstration and application.	Selker	Fiber optic/temperature	test new technology/ validation management tools	Indicator	\$641,756	\$596,756	\$45,000
Recovery of Wild coho salmon in Salmon River basin	Jones	Salmon R/coho recovery	information on hatchery influence on coho life history in Salmon R life history	hatchery/wild	\$749,335	\$742,305	\$7,030
Effects of Tide gates on juvenile coho movement and residence time in Estuarine habitats	Giannico	Tide gates/coho	Information on coho residence time, habitat utilization in estuary and movement through tidegates (206-244 - habitat use no pit-tagging or residence time, habitat focused)	effectiveness	\$267,121	\$234,180	\$32,941
Reconstructing water temperatures in Oregon streams through analysis of growth increments in long-lived pearlshell mussels	Black	Mussel temperature reconstruct	method development to link long-term temp to land use histories	indicator	\$47,649	\$45,899	\$1,750
Linking coldwater refuges into a framework for river and floodplain restoration	Gregory	Willamette/temperature	maps of potential restoration locations	landscape	\$628,311	\$627,311	\$1,000
Identifying relationships between coho salmon abundance and trend, and land-use/land cover changes in the Oregon Coastal Province.	Burnett	Coho/land use	model, map of predicted coho salmon abundance and habitat conditions.	landscape	Combined	N/A	N/A
Assessing the relationships between landscape dynamics, riparian conditions, and aquatic resources.	Wondzell	Landscape/riparian/habitat model	model testing using upland/riparian condition to assess salmonid habitat quality	landscape	\$745,711	\$727,491	\$18,220
Identifying habitat restoration priorities for multiple species in dynamic riverine environments	Beechie	Habitat restoration prioritization	modeling tools , applied examples	landscape	Combined	N/A	N/A
Mapping Riparian Vegetation and Salmonid Habitats in Oregon from Field and Remotely-sensed Data.	Kagan	Riparian mapping	method development for integration of remote sensing data and stream condition	landscape	Combined	N/A	N/A
Development of physiological health criteria to assess habitat quality in degraded and recovering/restored stream systems	Heppell, Scott	Physiological criteria John Day	develop physiological indicators of habitat quality linked to vital rates	indicator	\$244,763	\$233,363	\$11,500
Integrated Dynamics landscape and coho salmon model	Lawson	Landscape coho model	test and combine models to evaluate different landscape scenarios	landscape	\$352,914	\$324,541	\$28,373
			Total Requested from OWEB		\$4,603,298	\$4,343,086	\$260,313.50

* This is a preliminary breakdown of cap and non-cap and could change.