

March 19-20, 2008 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update #C1: Oregon 150 Update

Background

The Board approved an investment of \$1 million to fund a grant offering addressing Oregon's symbol species in conjunction with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of Oregon's sesquicentennial celebration. The Board delegated authority to distribute the funding to the OWEB Director. This report provides an update on the status of the grant solicitation and response.

Progress to Date

On January 2, 2008, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) posted grant application forms for the Oregon 150 grant offering on their web site. The application forms were developed in consultation and collaboration with OWEB program and fiscal staff. The deadline for submitting applications was February 25, 2008. ODFW received 12 applications for a total of \$750,000.

OWEB and ODFW staff have coordinated roles and responsibilities for application processing and project management. ODFW has developed a review process that uses taxon specialists (one each for Chinook Salmon, Western Meadowlark, American Beaver, and Swallowtail Butterfly), ODFW staff, OWEB regional review team members, and OWEB staff. The review process is described in Attachment A. The draft review criteria are described in Attachment B.

Review of the applications will be conducted during the month of March. A suite of recommended projects will be presented to OWEB Director Byler by April 15, 2008, for funding.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information about the Oregon 150 review process or evaluation criteria, please contact Ken Bierly, at ken.bierly@state.or.us or 503-986-0182.

Attachments

- A. Oregon 150 Review Process and Timeline
- B. Oregon 150 Draft Review Criteria



Celebrating and Conserving Oregon's Natural Heritage
Oregon 150 Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Restoration
Review Process and Timeline, 2/06/08

Timeline:

Feb 25th: deadline

Feb 26 – 27th: ODFW distributes copies to taxon experts, review team and OWEB

Late Feb – Early March: OWEB enters application information into database, provides data to ODFW

March: optional field trips (reviewers have option to visit project site, but not mandatory)

March 26th: review deadline for taxon experts

March 27th-28th: send taxa reviews to rest of review team

April 8th or 11th: review team meets, ranks proposals and makes recommendations

~April 10-15th: Ken, Michael and Peg finalize recommendations; Tom makes final decisions

~April 15th: inform applicants

Taxon experts:

- One each: American beaver, western meadowlark, Chinook salmon and Oregon swallowtail.
- Only review proposals for individual taxon.
- Provide review via e-mail. Invited to review team meeting, but attendance not required.
- Provide input on strengths and weaknesses of each project relative to benefits to Oregon symbol species and appropriateness of actions for species. Ranks proposals based on biological considerations only.
- ODFW to provide guidance regarding the balance between benefits to species and broad habitat benefits.

Review team:

- Reviewers provided spreadsheet and scoring criteria.
- Reviewers each assigned to be lead on 6-8 proposals and back-up on 6-8 proposals. Maximum assigned to any one person = 15. Lead: knows proposal in and out and prepared to lead a discussion at review meeting. Back-up: familiar with proposal and prepared to lead a discussion if lead gets sick.
- Reviewers are provided all proposals, but reading proposals other than those assigned will be optional.
- Reviewers assign score, provide feedback on strengths and weaknesses. Note: ODFW will summarize information and provide to OWEB (who will provide to applicants).
- Team meets in person to discuss and rank proposals, make tentative decisions. ODFW will record discussion of strengths/weaknesses and recommendations, and will provide to OWEB.



Celebrating and Conserving Oregon's Natural Heritage
Oregon 150 Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Restoration
Draft Review Criteria

This grant program focuses on habitat-based actions that benefit Oregon Symbol species; American beaver, western meadowlark, Chinook salmon and Oregon swallowtail butterfly.

Please use the following categories to evaluate applications. The bulleted criteria are examples of elements you may wish to consider. They are not intended to be strict criteria that are assigned individual points or weighed against each other. A total of 60 points is available.

**Directly addresses an Oregon Symbol species and implements identified priorities:
25 points**

Some example considerations include:

- Project objectives are clearly beneficial to Oregon symbol species and/or their habitats. Proposed actions are appropriate for the identified symbol species. *(Note: Projects that benefit the species' habitat but are less beneficial to the species will be considered but will score lower.)*
- Project has immediate, practical and measurable conservation benefits.
- Project implements specific actions listed in the Conservation Strategy, in particular project objectives are clearly beneficial or relevant to Strategy habitats and/or Key Conservation Issues. Secondly, project implements priority identified in the OWEB Restoration Prioritization Framework or other planning effort.
- The project occurs within a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA). *(Note: projects outside of COAs are considered but score lower)*.
- The project connects well with other conservation work in the watershed or ecoregion and, if a continuation, builds on the experience of previous work.

Technical feasibility: 15 points

Some example considerations include:

- Description of objectives, methods and benefits are adequate and clear. Application provides enough detail to evaluate project approach and chances for success.
- Project has clear, feasible objectives and tasks. Tasks tier well to objectives.
- Methods are appropriate to achieve objectives.
- Objectives can be met within the grant period (2 years). The proposed project schedule is well thought out and appears to be realistic. The proposed project will have made some progress towards objectives by February 14, 2009.
- The project designer is experienced and qualified. Project planning and design take into consideration natural events and conditions (see question 5).

- The applicant has considered alternatives and selected the most effective and reasonable alternative (see question 6).
- Completion inspection is by the appropriate entities. The right elements are being maintained at the right frequency by the right people (see questions 10 and 11).

Partnership and financial considerations: 15 points

Some example considerations include:

- Application has multiple partners involved. Partners are diverse.
- The right parties and partners are involved. Affected or interested stakeholders and partners are engaged as appropriate (e.g., a restoration project at a state park involves Oregon Parks and Recreation Department as a partner or supporter).
- The budget shows sufficient detail for all categories, and unit quantities and costs appear to be reasonable, appropriate, and consistent with local market rates. Personnel and fiscal administrative costs are reasonable.
- A high proportion of Oregon 150 (Lottery) funds go “to the ground” (i.e., is paying for materials, labor or other direct restoration costs rather than the manager’s personnel costs). *Note: administrative overhead is limited to 10%.*
- The applicant has sought at least 25% match. Match is realistic and appropriate. Applications for which cash match is included should score higher. In-kind match is realistic and appropriate (not padded). Applications with a higher level of match should score higher. Applications which document that >50% of match is secured should score higher.

Project impacts and context: 5 points

Some example considerations include:

- Project fits well with existing work by connecting to similar or larger efforts, by sharing information, by addressing conservation gaps, or by complementing existing work. Does not duplicate existing work.
- Project has community support (at a minimum, it is not controversial).
- The project meets basic expectations for educating and raising public awareness. The project will raise awareness about Oregon’s Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, etc.
- Based on application taken as a whole or any experience/information you may have, there is a strong indication that the applicant can implement a project with a high likelihood for success (for example, strong multiple-partner support for the project; secured and adequate match; applicant’s past performance, experience or expertise relative to project, etc.).