

March 19-20, 2008 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update #C4: Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory
Electronic Improvements

Background

OWEB maintains the single largest database of restoration actions in the Northwest with over 9,000 projects logged to date. That database, known as the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory, or OWRI, has been the primary vehicle for capturing and tracking data related to voluntary restoration actions in Oregon since 1995. Within the last year, OWEB staff have worked with outside assistance to give the public the ability to access and submit OWRI data through the Internet.

Purpose

The OWRI captures very detailed information about the type, cost, number, participation, and location of projects throughout Oregon each year. The database serves as the backbone for the production of the Oregon Plan Biennial Report, Reports to Congress, and for OWEB's effectiveness monitoring program.

While the OWRI has been a significant resource for those users that have known about it, publishing the database on the Internet has provided a vast improvement for the audience served. The Board was presented the results of this work at the March 2007 meeting. To recap, the primary objectives of the modifications are as follows:

- To improve access to the data.
- To allow for the overlay of data in a map-based environment.
- To allow users to define their questions.
- To reduce staff workload for routine data requests.

OWRI data online may be accessed at: http://oregonexplorer.info/owri_vistool/Intro.aspx.

The next phase of the electronic improvements to the OWRI has focused on the submittal of the actual data forms to OWEB. On an annual basis OWEB staff receive approximately 700 to 900 multi-page forms from grantees and the many other parties who conduct volunteer restoration actions under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Those forms, most often filled out electronically, had to be printed out and mailed to OWEB where staff entered the data into an electronic database. This process was time consuming, allowed for data entry errors to occur, and used a significant amount of staff time and paper resources. Moving to a more automated process allows for a higher quality product and quicker customer feedback. The primary objectives of this phase are:

- To provide for timely customer feedback.
- To initiate OWEB investment in e-government tools.
- To reduce duplicative work requested of grant applicants and other customers.
- To reduce the use of paper.
- To move in the direction of smart electronic forms (Turbo Tax model).

The Internet address for electronically submitting OWRI data is:
www.oregon.gov/OWEB/MONITOR/OWRI_online.shtml.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information about the electronic improvements to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory, please contact Renee Davis-Born, at renee.davis-born@state.or.us or 503-986-0029. For information about the OWRI database, please contact Bobbi Riggers, bobbi.riggers@state.or.us, or 503-986-0059.