



Oregon

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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February 27, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Lauri Aunan, Grant Program Manager
Karen Leiendecker, Eastern Oregon Regional Program Representative

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item F: OWEB Grant Award Recommendations
Region 5, Eastern Oregon
March 19-20, 2008 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Eastern Oregon Regional Review Team recommendations, land acquisition grant applications, and staff recommendations for funding.

II. Background and Summary

Applicants submitted 60 applications for a total request of \$7,933,122. The Regional Review Team (RRT) recommended 34 applications for approximately \$4.7 million. Because the demand for funding far exceeds available funds, staff recommended 25 applications for a total award of \$2,643,592: \$2,127,951 for Restoration, \$409,506 for Monitoring, \$46,907 for Technical Assistance, and \$59,228 for Education and Outreach.

III. Regional Review Team Recommendations

The Eastern Oregon Regional Review Team (RRT) met in Baker City on December 11 and 12, 2007, to review the applications received in this grant cycle. All applications were reviewed for technical merit and given a “do fund” or “no fund” recommendation by the RRT. The RRT then prioritized the applications recommended for funding.

The Region 5 RRT recommended for funding two Technical Assistance applications and five Education/Outreach applications. The RRT also recommended for funding six Monitoring applications, three of which were reduced in amount.

The RRT recommended for funding 20 Restoration applications total, five of which were reduced in amount.

IV. Acquisitions – Pocket Ranch (208-109)

The Nature Conservancy submitted an application requesting \$550,000 (total project cost of \$1,100,000) toward purchase of a conservation easement on 5,817 acres of Columbia Basin grassland (Palouse Prairie) and lower montane riparian woodland in Wallowa County, near Joseph, Oregon. The project is located near Little Sheep Creek in the Imnaha River watershed.

Staff requested due diligence materials in November of 2007, but they have not been received. Staff and the Board Subcommittee recommend the Board defer consideration of the application pending receipt and review of the due diligence materials.

V. Staff Recommendations

A. Capital Applications

Region 5 received an unusually high number (41) of capital applications this grant cycle, causing the demand to far exceed available funds.

- *Acquisitions.* Staff recommend deferring application 208-109 pending receipt and review of the due diligence materials.
- *Restoration.* Staff recommend funding 14 of the 20 RRT- recommended Restoration applications. Because the demand for capital funding far exceeds the available funds, this recommendation means that six applications would not be funded.

Staff recommend significant funding reductions to application 208-5122, Willow Creek Water Quality Restoration Phase II. OWEB and numerous other partners previously funded Phase I, which has engaged landowners on several large-scale projects including irrigation changes, riparian protections, and plantings to reduce erosion, sediment, and high bacterial counts in the Willow Creek drainage of the Malheur basin. The RRT recommended funding the full amount of the Phase II application (\$1,976,608) while recognizing that OWEB likely would not be able to fund the full request. Fully funded, the application would treat 4,665 acres and involve 31 separate projects. Staff recommend funding at a level of \$1 million. The Willow Creek Working Group is currently working with Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and OWEB monitoring staff to develop a comprehensive monitoring strategy.

B. Non-Capital Applications

- *Technical Assistance.* Staff recommend funding both of the RRT-recommended Technical Assistance applications.
- *Education and Outreach.* Due to limited non-capital funding, staff recommend funding four of the five RRT-recommended Education and Outreach applications. The one application not recommended by staff has merit, but the limitation of non-capital funds makes it impossible to meet these needs.
- *Monitoring.* Due to limited non-capital funding, staff recommend funding five of the six RRT-recommended Monitoring applications. The one application not recommended by staff has merit, but the limitation of non-capital funds makes it impossible to meet these needs.

Attachment A shows the applications, funding amounts, conditions (if any), and priority rankings recommended for funding to OWEB staff by the RRT. The table also indicates, by means of shaded entries, the OWEB staff recommendations to the Board. For some applications, the

amount shown in the table is the staff or RRT funding recommendation rather than the amount requested in the application.

Attachment B shows those applications not recommended for funding at this time by the RRT and OWEB staff.

Staff recommend the Board approve the staff funding recommendation as contained in Attachment A to this report.

Attachments

- A. Applications Recommended for Funding
- B. Applications Not Recommended for Funding

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Education Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
App #	Application Name	Total Amount	Priority
208-5099	STELLAR	17,996	1
208-5086	Malheur Noxious Weed Booklet Development	12,850	2
208-5116	2008 Annual Watershed Field Days	13,873	3
208-5085	LUBGWMA Clean Water Neighborhood Program	14,509	4
208-5095	Education for Environmental Stewardship	39,475	5
Total Education Applications Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$98,703	
Total Education Applications Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$59,228	

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
App #	Application Name	Total Amount	Priority
208-5064	Grande Ronde Basin Gauging Stations Operation	95,099	1
208-5089	Constructed Wetland Effectiveness Monitoring - Luther Wetland Intensive Project	12,751	2
208-5106	Bi-State WS Management Initiative Hydrology and Fisheries Monitoring Modeling Project *	132,467	3
208-5082	Umatilla TMDL and Wildhorse Monitoring *	125,274	4
208-5076	Migratory Assessment of Spring Chinook Salmon in Lostine River Using Radio Telemetry *	43,915	5
208-5073	Brownlee Subbasin - Pine Creek Monitoring	115,181	6
Total Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$524,687	
Total Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$409,506	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
App #	Application Name	Total Amount	Priority
208-5083	Simmons Dike Removal Feasibility Study	24,907	1
208-5094	Wilson Cattle Wetland Restoration	22,000	2
Total Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$46,907	
Total Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$46,907	

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Acquisition Application Receiving a Positive Rating for Ecological Merit by the RRT
And Recommended for Deferral by OWEB Staff
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

App #	Application Name	Total Amount Requested
208-109	Pocket Ranch Conservation Easement	550,000

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

App #	Application Name	Capital Funds	Non-Capital Funds	Total Amount	Priority
208-5108	Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership Noxious Weed Control	45,100		45,100	1
208-5102	Middle Fork John Day Channel Relocation and Riparian Restoration *	266,381		266,381	2
208-5112	Drewsey Reclamation Ditch Fish-Friendly Diversion Project	110,000		110,000	3
208-5100	Muleshoe Creek Upland Improvement	20,007		20,007	4
208-5090	Hawk Irrigation Enhancement Project	100,997		100,997	5
208-5091	Ridgeview Water Quality Improvement Project	33,741		33,741	6
208-5084	Lower Umatilla River Bank Stabilization and Bio-engineering Project	24,534		24,534	7
208-5109	Wallupa Bridge Replacement	134,232		134,232	8
208-5078	Milk Ranch Restoration	19,103		19,103	9
208-5115	Eagle Creek Restoration Project *	166,220		166,220	10
208-5111	Devine Ridge Restoration Project	75,441		75,441	11
208-5122	Willow Creek Water Quality Restoration Phase II *	1,000,000		1,000,000	12
208-5114	Soldier Creek Forest Health Project	79,487		79,487	13
208-5068	Martin's Lookout Mountain Range Management	52,708		52,708	14
208-5104	Middle Fork John Day River Instream Habitat Improvement Project *	177,614		177,614	15
208-5118	2008 Deer Creek Culvert Replacement *	101,832		101,832	16
208-5080	Freeman Spring Developments	13,838		13,838	17
208-5075	Kelsay Creek Fencing Project	27,997		27,997	18
208-5074	Camp 9 Ranch/Mud Creek Riparian Enhancement	61,745		61,745	19
208-5113	Dry Creek Fish Passage *	40,672		40,672	20
Total Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$3,528,257		\$3,528,257	
Total Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$2,127,951		\$2,127,951	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Education Applications NOT Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

App #	Application Name	Total Amount Requested
208-5087	Malheur Reduced Tillage Education and Demonstration	79,012
208-5101	Meeting Climate's Challenges, John Day Basin	31,110

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Monitoring Applications NOT Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

App #	Application Name	Total Amount Requested
208-5092	Walla Walla Basin Photo Point Monitoring	11,117
208-5110	Pre/Post-Restoration Monitoring of 2 Headwater Projects in Middle Fork John	136,920

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Applications NOT Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

App #	Application Name	Total Amount Requested
208-5071	North Pine Creek Crossing	50,000
208-5107	Wal' a wa -Tamkaliks Side Channel Engineering	49,601

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Restoration Applications NOT Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 22, 2007 Grant Cycle

App #	Application Name	Total Amount Requested
208-5065	Clear Creek Fish Passage and Riparian Enhancement	410,620
208-5066	Succor Creek Push-up Dams Removal	139,531
208-5067	Bishop Wetland Restoration	134,100
208-5069	Powder River Water Quality Enhancement Project - Phase 4	366,780
208-5070	John Day Basin Juniper Control 2008	60,000
208-5072	Meadowbrook Riparian Improvements	60,297
208-5077	Rudio Creek Water System	52,848
208-5079	K Bar M Wildlife Habitat	28,770
208-5081	Knox Fence and Water System Project	38,461
208-5088	Berret Water Control Improvement	37,700
208-5093	Medicine Creek Bank and Headcut Stabilization	34,067
208-5096	Morgan Water Conservation & Runoff Elimination	50,367
208-5097	Westfall Malheur River Water Quality Improvement	32,270
208-5098	Native Grass Restoration	58,613
208-5103	Lower Rudio Creek Restoration	289,181
208-5105	2008 Upper Joseph Creek Restoration	56,430
208-5117	Thompson Creek Uplands Improvement	37,085
208-5119	Mountain Creek Fish Passage	32,250
208-5120	Painted Hills Culvert Replacement	79,615
208-5121	Opal Butte	414,400