



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item E: Bridge Funding  
April 28-29, 2015 OWEB Board Meeting**



### I. Introduction

OWEB has provided Special Investment Partnership (SIP) funding for the Deschutes (2008), Willamette (2008) and Upper Klamath (2012). Staff request the Board consider bridge funding to continue investments in these partnership programs until funding decisions are made by the Board regarding the new Focused Investment Partnership program in January 2016. This funding provides no guarantee of future Focused Investment Partnership funding, but eliminates a gap in funding in the first six months of the 2015-2017 biennium.

### II. Background

OWEB began its current SIP investments in 2008 with the Deschutes SIP, a four-way implementer partnership to provide habitat and passage for Chinook salmon and steelhead above the Pelton-Round Butte dam complex. The Willamette SIP followed later that year, and began as a largely funder-driven initiative in targeted areas along the Willamette River mainstem and in the 13 sub-watersheds that comprise the Model Watershed Program. Finally, in 2012, the Board approved the Upper Klamath SIP, a multi-practitioner effort to re-establish, improve, and sustain the ecological and hydrologic connectivity of aquatic ecosystems in the Upper Klamath Basin.

In late 2012, staff and the Partnerships Board Subcommittee developed a process for increasing partnership program transparency and understanding. To this end, staff and the subcommittee, working with the various program partners, developed three tools: 1) a Partnership Report template to describe each partnership and its status; 2) a Partnership Needs Assessment; and 3) a timeline for implementation of the proposed new process for partnership investments. These templates were provided to the Board at its January 2013 meeting. Staff presented the Partnership Reports at the March 2013 meeting, and one-year partnership reports at the July 2014 Board meeting.

In 2013, the Board began a process to develop the new Focused Investment Partnership program. The program was initially designed to result in funding decisions at the July 2015 Board meeting, but a need to spend additional time on priority-setting resulted in moving the decision back six months to the January 2016 Board meeting.

### **III. Bridge Funding Request**

When the Board established the process for developing priorities and selecting Focused Investment Partnerships for funding, the timeline to complete this process resulted in a six-month lag between the end of the biennium and the time when new Focused Investment Partnerships will be selected. As a result, current SIP partners would be left without the opportunity to apply through either the Regular Grant program or to participate in a new Focused Investment Partnership during that time. The Focused Investment Board Subcommittee has discussed this challenge and proposes that the Board consider a one-time investment of 25 percent of each partner program to carry those programs through the first quarter of the 2015-17 biennium. The total cost of this bridge-funding would be a one-time addition of \$1,950,000.

### **IV. Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Board award up to \$1,950,000 from the 2013-15 Spending Plan to provide bridge funding for the Deschutes, Willamette, and Upper Klamath Special Investment Partnerships as described in Section III of this staff report, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate grants and agreements, with an award date of July 1, 2015 to be used for any grant agreement(s).