



# Oregon

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## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item K: Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds 2013-2015 Biennial Report  
January 27-28, 2015 OWEB Board Meeting**

#### **I. Introduction**

This report provides an update on the development and distribution of the 2013-2015 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Biennial Report).

#### **II. Background**

ORS 541.972 requires OWEB to submit a report that assesses the statewide and regional implementation and effectiveness of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislative Assembly. The report must address each drainage basin in the state and include watershed and key habitat conditions, an assessment of data and information needs, an overview of state agency programs and voluntary restoration activities, a summary of Board investments, and recommendations from the Board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan. The 2013-2015 Biennial Report was due on January 15, 2015, and was submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It will also be available electronically for interested individuals.

#### **III. Composition of the 2013-2015 Biennial Report**

Staff developed a similar approach to completing the 2013-2015 Biennial Report as was followed for the last report completed in early 2013. The report consists of two major structural components: First, as required by the Legislature, a two-page Executive Summary available both electronically and in hard copy (Attachment A); second, the full report is produced electronically and is accessible through OWEB and other agencies' websites.

As with the last report, the online version of the 2013-2015 Biennial Report includes access to data and information about all of the 15 Oregon Plan reporting basins through web-based resources such as the maps and tools. (Previous biennial reports are also available through the OWEB website at <http://www.oregon.gov/oweb>.)

One significant area of report development each year includes the work with the other agencies providing key information about Oregon Plan accomplishments (Attachment B). A specific enhancement made by staff in this year's production of the report includes reaching out all agencies listed in statute as an Oregon Plan partner. Information obtained during these

discussions provides a much more comprehensive view of other agency contributions to the Oregon Plan beyond what past reports have attempted.

Staff has also reorganized and streamlined the report structure so that users have a more seamless experience when viewing and using the online version. Staff also combined static maps and near real-time data in the electronic version of the report, information for the last six months of the biennium will updated through June 30, 2015.

Finally, the six short regional videos depicting landscapes, challenges and accomplishments and landowners—a popular item developed for the first time with the 2011-2013 report—are included in the current report as they continue to characterize the broad geographic areas of the state.

#### **IV. Ideas for the Future**

While the production of the Biennial Report is both driven by a statutory mandate and a significant endeavor, staff proposed to continue work collaboratively with agencies and other contributors to further automate and connect our information systems. In particular, this coordination can occur through the use of innovative tools and displays, so that report production becomes a living process. By connecting information systems and utilizing technological advancements in data systems, it is possible to begin allowing users to build their own reports about accomplishments under the Oregon Plan. This approach allows for better data integration, access to more real-time information, and flexibility for seekers and users of information and data to customize their own view of a meaningful report.

Staff anticipate this work on cross-agency coordination of information systems will continue to make advancements in both reducing the amount of time needed to generate reports and satisfying more users' information needs, while improving the capabilities of the state agencies to report on their accomplishments under the Oregon Plan. The Board will be updated as these approaches are pursued through cross-agency teams focused on initiatives such as Enterprise Monitoring, the Clean Water Partnership, Oregon Plan Monitoring, Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, and many others.

#### **V. Staff Recommendation**

This report is an information item only.

#### Attachments

- A. 2013-2015 Oregon Plan Biennial Report Executive Summary



## 2013-2015 BIENNIAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# THE Oregon Plan

## FOR SALMON AND WATERSHEDS

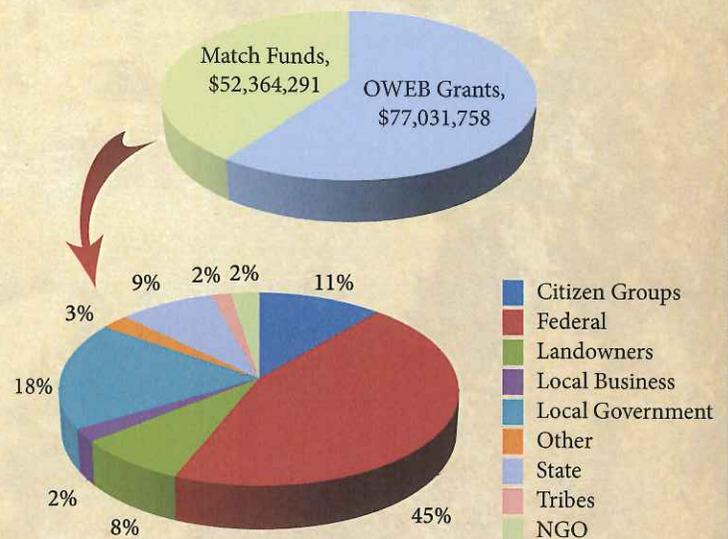
The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds has galvanized Oregonians working to restore watersheds by improving water quality and habitat for native fish and wildlife since 1997. These efforts support local economies and enrich Oregon's communities. Pursuant to ORS 541.972, the Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan) and provides the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) observations about increasing the effectiveness of the plan's implementation. This Executive Summary highlights priority areas, key accomplishments over the past two years, and new focus areas for the future. The full online report can be found at <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Pages/BiennialReport1315/OPBR13-15.aspx>. It includes information about each region of the state, more detailed information about the activities and accomplishments described herein, and online resources and tools.

### 2013-2015 INVESTMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While the overall decline in revenues continued this biennium, total funding for watershed restoration projects in Oregon remains strong at \$129 million. This total includes grant funds awarded through OWEB and other contributions from partner organizations. Partners under the Oregon Plan are as important and diverse as the actions they undertake to benefit salmon and watersheds. These partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, local businesses, individuals, tribes, and all levels of government each contributing to collaborative investments designed to support priority actions across the state. Funding provided to all major watersheds in Oregon can be found at: <http://bit.ly/14RJWaO>.

Some watershed restoration actions are focused on issues unique to each region of the state such as loss of estuary functions on the coast and sage-grouse habitat declines in central and eastern Oregon. Other actions are undertaken across many regions such as removing barriers to fish migration and re-establishing forested river banks. More information about watershed restoration needs and accomplishments can be found at: <http://1.usa.gov/17EnvH6>.

### OWEB Awarded Grants 2012 - 2013



### Oregon Plan Accomplishment Highlights 2012-2013

Miles of streams where fish habitat was improved	178
Miles of stream reopened to fish migration	191
Miles of riparian areas treated along streams	583
Acres of wetlands created or improved	1115
Total volunteer hours spent restoring watersheds	42,146

## COORDINATED AGENCY ACTIONS

The 2013-2015 biennium was a time of increasing collaboration across state agencies. In particular, advancements were made in watershed planning, monitoring and implementation focused on salmon recovery, water quantity and water quality programs, while establishing new initiatives for sage-grouse and forest health. New revenues provided by the Legislature, combined with recharged energy to join forces and creatively utilize all aspects of existing funded programs, allowed this to occur. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund remained an important contributor to these efforts and Oregon's share of these competitive grant dollars increased during the biennium.

Agency accomplishments are significant and include: the development and adoption of Agricultural Water Quality Focus Areas with Soil and Water Conservation Districts, drafting of plans for sage-grouse conservation, implementation of a federal Forest Health Program, continued implementation of the State's Integrated Water Resources Strategy and the completion of a multi-species management plan for important fish in coastal basins. Implementation of high priority actions called for in Salmon Recovery Plans, Total Maximum Daily Load Plans, Agricultural Water Quality Management Plans, and others, continued at a high pace. The proposed removal of the Willamette Valley's endemic Oregon chub, from the federal endangered species list during the biennium, is as poignant an example as any of the success of Oregon's coordinated agency actions.

Looking ahead, the agencies anticipate making great strides in challenging natural resource issues through these programs and new Governor's priorities such as the Clean Water Partnership and Healthy Forests and Farms. More information about agency actions can be found in the full report at <http://1.usa.gov/1u3BrPs>.

## FROM THE OWEB BOARD

### A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT STRATEGY

With the passage of Ballot Measure 76, a new horizon was established for the most significant funding source in the State of Oregon supporting conservation and restoration work in local communities. The Board adopted an investment strategy in 2013 to coincide with this new horizon that is focused on four primary themes: supporting local infrastructure, continued open competitive grant

investments, strategic grant investments in Board priority areas, and enhanced monitoring and reporting investments.

### Board Recommendations:

- Continue the progress made in improving the strength of local delivery organizations while striving for self-sufficiency and diversification.
- Ensure a robust suite of grant programs with regular offerings to continue high priority watershed improvement actions.
- Develop a framework for Focused Investment Partnerships and implement highest priority actions through collaboration.
- Continue strategic investments in monitoring and effectiveness monitoring using partnerships to leverage capacity and accomplishments.



### GOVERNOR KITZHABER'S 10-YEAR VISION FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The concurrent development of the Governor's Vision and the OWEB Board's Long-term Investment Strategy allows for important synergy and leveraging to advance high priority actions in Oregon's watersheds. OWEB has been a strong supporter of key initiatives through the implementation of priority actions tied to the Governors 10-Year Vision and the Oregon Plan including: Sage-Grouse Conservation and Planning, Federal Forest Health, Water Quality Monitoring, Salmon Stronghold Development and Conservation.

### MOVING FORWARD

Upon reflection of 15 years in direct support of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, the OWEB Board finds that protecting key natural resource areas, restoring critical habitats, re-establishing ecological function and process, supporting local communities, and monitoring and reporting results truly takes a team approach. Collaboration and partnership is central to the Oregon Plan and the Board recommends continued investment in existing partnerships while using creativity and innovation when establishing new ones. The Board suggests that the Oregon Plan will continue to be as successful as its' adaptive management and partnerships are strong.

To receive a print copy of the Oregon Plan Executive Summary or to learn more about the 2013-15 Oregon Plan Biennial Report, contact OWEB at 503-986-0178 or visit [www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB).



Scan this code with your smartphone to play video of the Oregon Plan.