

Funded Project Summaries

Projects that Received Grant Awards from The Local Innovation Fund in January 2006

The Juniper Group – Western Juniper Commercialization Study for the Prineville Area

The Juniper Group will conduct a feasibility study for the commercialization of western juniper to encourage market support for increased juniper removal in the Deschutes Basin. Increasing juniper removal in the right areas will increase water flows in salmon-bearing streams, allow the re-establishment of site-appropriate native vegetation, and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk.

Mary's River Watershed Council – Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Food

The Mary's River Watershed Council and the Food Systems Coalition plan to develop a replicable, collaborative approach to promoting the purchase of local produce grown in a watershed friendly manner in the Willamette Valley. The project will connect farmers with certification systems such as Food Alliance, and educate schools, local restaurants, grocery stores, and consumers about the benefits of buying local, watershed-friendly produce.

South Coast Watershed Council and The Wetlands Conservancy – Sustainable Cranberry Production and Marketing

The South Coast Watershed Council and The Wetlands Conservancy will work with South Coast cranberry growers to improve management practices to reduce water pollution and protect and restore wildlife habitat and rare plant communities. This project will investigate branding the more sustainably grown cranberries to provide continuing market support for sustainable management practices, and train local restoration crews in bog management practices to increase local employment.

Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District – Mt. Hood Communities Forest Health and Woody Biomass Utilization

The Clackamas Collaborative Group Partners brings together two local working groups that have formed to bring together diverse and sometimes conflicting stakeholders to collaboratively discuss and agree upon future sustainable management of the Mount Hood National Forest and private woodland resources. In particular, the group will discuss using USFS stewardship contracting and countywide fire reduction projects on federal and private lands to provide economic and watershed benefits to the county using USFS stewardship contracting retained receipts as an ongoing source of watershed restoration funding. The group is also discussing increasing the economic return from small diameter wood and woody biomass gleaned from thinning projects through creation of a model log sorting and utilization yard to better market value added wood products.

Coquille Watershed Association

This project will develop a sustainable work plan for a long-term, family wage, highly skilled restoration work crew to do salmon habitat and watershed restoration work in the Coquille Basin. The watershed benefit is twofold: 1) having a highly skilled restoration workforce with local knowledge will increase the likelihood of success for watershed restoration projects, and 2) employing a local restoration workforce will increase understanding about salmon and watershed health in the community. The council intends this project to serve as a model for other watershed councils to develop restoration crews in their basins.

Ecosystem Workforce Program and Siuslaw Basin Partnership – Developing a High Quality Restoration Industry in the Siuslaw Basins

Create an action plan to develop a local workforce for salmon, forest, and watershed restoration projects in the Siuslaw Basin. The watershed benefit is twofold: 1) having a highly skilled restoration workforce with local knowledge will increase the likelihood of success for watershed restoration projects, and 2) employing a local restoration workforce will increase understanding about salmon and watershed health in the community. The partnership intends this project to serve as a model for other watershed councils to develop restoration crews in their basins.

Lower Rogue Watershed Council – Rogue River Estuary Sand and Gravel Mining and Salmon Habitat Restoration Project

This project proposes to continue a local sand and gravel operation serving the community's needs in Curry County in a way that minimizes impacts to the environment and the community, improves salmon habitat in the Rogue River Estuary, and provides community outreach and education about watershed health. This project will provide for enhanced salmon habitat restoration during the gravel mining operation, will provide for community education about the importance of salmon habitat in the estuary, and will provide an opportunity for research about the hydrology and habitat importance of the estuary. These funds will support surveying and modeling the hydrology of the estuary, a biological assessment, design for restoration in conjunction with gravel mining, and public outreach and education.

McKenzie Watershed Council-Sand and Gravel Industry Habitat Restoration Incentives at the Confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers

The McKenzie Watershed Council's McKenzie River Subbasin Assessment ranked the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers as the highest priority for river channel, riparian, floodplain and wetland habitat enhancement in the McKenzie River Watershed. Most of the sand and gravel resources for the local community are derived from floodplain mining in the Confluence Area. This funding proposal would allow the council's Confluence Area Project Steering Committee to work with the sand and gravel industry, regulatory agencies, and stakeholder groups to develop an accepted framework for using incentives to integrate floodplain mining with fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. This proposal would assist in funding a part-time staffing position for ongoing stakeholder facilitation, habitat enhancement planning, and project management. The mining companies would donate equipment and personnel to the habitat enhancement projects, and bear much of the cost. The partners in this project hope that it will provide a model for integration of habitat enhancement into sand and gravel mining operations, and provide a vehicle to streamline the permitting process for habitat enhancement in conjunction with mining operations in a way that has wider applicability in the industry.