



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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**Virtual Board Meeting**  
**January 23-24, 2024**

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Meeting Agenda  
January 23-24, 2024

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Tuesday, Jan 23, 2024

**Business Meeting – 8:30 am**

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The public is welcome to listen to the virtual meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa\\_OA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA). Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Zoom/Phone:**
  - **Jan 23:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, ID number: 862 7295 6118 and passcode: 517012. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86272956118?pwd=MndWSWdOTFhwRXo4K3ZXL0FhVVNOZz09>, passcode: 517012
  - **Jan 24:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, ID number: 844 9586 9060 and passcode: 746389. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84495869060?pwd=NzhDdkxWbXFvNlZpSzBkUFFSeEtvUT09>, passcode: 746389

The board materials are available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/2024-Jan.aspx>

*For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.*

**Public comment**

OWEB welcomes written or verbal public comment on any agenda item that is not marked with an asterisk. Agenda items with an asterisk (\*) are not open for public comment because they were the subject of a formal public hearing that included a comment period.

All written comments and requests to make verbal comments to the board can be submitted on our website at <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/public-comment.aspx>. The deadline for submitting written comments and requests to make verbal comments is **4:00 pm Thursday, January 18, 2024**.

Written comments will be provided to the board before the meeting.

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment periods (**Agenda Items C, J, and M**).

Please provide the following information:

- Your first and last name
- The topic/item letter of your comment
- Whether you plan on coming to the meeting in person or virtually (where available)
- If calling in, provide the phone number you will use when calling the meeting.

**A. Board Member Comments (8:35 am)**

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide updates on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

**B. [Review and Approval of Minutes](#) (10:15 am)**

The minutes of the October 2023 meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

**C. General Public Comment (10:20 am)**

This time is reserved for the board to hear general public comments and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. *Information item.*

**D. [Directors Updates](#) (10:55 am)**

Acting Executive Director Stephanie Page and staff will update the board on agency business. *Information item.*

**E. [Committee Updates](#) (11:25 am)**

Representatives from board committees will provide written updates on committee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

**F. [Tribal Report and Government to Government Relationships](#) (1:05 pm)**

Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho and OWEB Board Member Kelly Coates will deliver a presentation regarding government-to-government relationships between OWEB, the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe, and present the agency's 2023 Annual Tribal Report. *Information item.*

**G. [Zumwalt Telling the Restoration Story](#) (1:50 pm)**

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will update the board on the coordinated monitoring efforts taking place at Zumwalt Prairie Preserve. *Information item.*

**H. [Rulemaking 101 and Authorization to Initiate Focused Investment Partnership \(FIP\) Rulemaking](#) (2:30pm)**

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide a brief OWEB '101' presentation focusing on rulemaking and will request the board authorize rulemaking for the FIP program to begin in the winter of 2024. *Action item.*

**I. [FIP Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request](#) (3:15pm)**

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will provide an update on the Bonneville Environmental Foundation's ongoing work related to the FIP program and request the board approve funding for this work. *Action item.*

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

**Business Meeting – 8:30 am**

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**J. General Public Comment (8:35 am)**

This time is reserved for the board to hear general public comments and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. *Information item.*

**K. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Private Forest Accord Grant Program (8:55 am)**

ODFW Private Forest Accord Grant Coordinator Andy Spyrka and Habitat Division Administrator Sarah Reif will present on the ODFW Private Forest Accord Grant Program, a new grant program established during the 2022 Legislative Session. *Information Item.*

**L. Strategic Plan Refresh Update (9:45 am)**

Restoration Grants Manager Eric Williams will provide an update on the OWEB Strategic Plan refresh currently underway. *Information Item.*

**M. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) Appointments (12:15 pm)**

**NOTE:** Verbal public comment specific to this agenda item will be heard at approximately 12:25 pm

**Staff Presentation**

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator Taylor Larson and Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager Renee Davis will review the submitted applicants for the OAHC commission vacancies and recommend these applicants to the OWEB board for appointment to the commission. *Action item.*

**Public Comment**

This time is reserved for public comment on the OAHC commissioner appointments. Only comments about this specific item will be accepted during this portion of the meeting. Any written comments about this agenda item must be received by OWEB staff by **Jan 18, 2024, at 4 p.m.** to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. **Verbal comments should be limited to three minutes.**

**Board Deliberation of OAHC Commissioner Applicants**

The board will consider the applicants submitted for membership as OAHC commissioners. *Action Item.*

**N. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Good Neighbor Grant Funding Approval (12:45 pm)**

Federal Programs Specialist Heidi Hartman and Monitoring and Reporting Program Manger Courtney Shaff will discuss the BLM Good Neighbor grant program and request the board proactively approve receipt of additional federal funds from BLM. *Action Item.*

**O. Other Business (1:00 pm)**

This item is reserved for other matters that may come before the board. *Information item.*

## Meeting Rules and Procedures

### Meeting Procedures

Generally, agenda items will be taken in the order shown. However, in certain circumstances, the board may elect to take an item out of order. To accommodate the scheduling needs of interested parties and the public, the board may also designate a specific time at which an item will be heard. Any such times are indicated on the agenda.

Please be aware that topics not listed on the agenda may be introduced during the Board Comment period, the Executive Director's Update, the Public Comment period, under Other Business, or at other times during the meeting.

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that board members may meet for meals when OWEB meetings convene.

### Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and 7 are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into 2 categories – general business and action on grant awards.

### General Business

A general business quorum is **6 voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least 6 voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

### Action on Grant Awards

Per ORS 541.360(4), special requirements apply when OWEB considers action on grant awards. This includes a special **quorum of at least 8 voting members** present to act on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if 3 or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

### Executive Session

The board may also convene in a confidential executive session where, by law, only press members and OWEB staff may attend. Others will be asked to leave the room during these discussions, which usually deal with current or potential litigation. Before convening such a session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

### More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Nicole Bettinardi, OWEB Board Liaison, at 503-428-1804 or send an e-mail to [Nicole.BETTINARDI@OWEB.oregon.gov](mailto:Nicole.BETTINARDI@OWEB.oregon.gov). If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Nicole Bettinardi as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours before the meeting.

## **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership**

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### **Voting Members**

Barbara Boyer, *Board Co-Chair, Board of Agriculture*  
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*  
Elizabeth Agpaoa, *Board of Forestry*  
Gary Marshall, *Public*  
Vacant, *Environmental Quality Commission*  
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*  
Kelly Coates, *Public (Tribal Representative)*  
Lindsay McClary, *Public*  
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*  
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*  
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*

### **Non-voting Members**

Aaron Curtis, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*  
Chris Allen, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*  
Amy Hendershot, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*  
Dan Brown, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*  
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest Service*  
Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*  
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*

### **Contact Information**

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290  
Tel: 503-428-1804  
Fax: 503-986-0199  
[www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB)

**OWEB Acting Executive Director** – Stephanie Page

[Stephanie.PAGE@OWEB.oregon.gov](mailto:Stephanie.PAGE@OWEB.oregon.gov)

**OWEB Board Liaison and Executive Assistant**– Nicole Bettinardi

[Nicole.BETTINARDI@OWEB.oregon.gov](mailto:Nicole.BETTINARDI@OWEB.oregon.gov)

### **2024 Board Meeting Schedule**

January 23-24 – Virtual  
April 22-24 – Baker City  
July 23-24 – Springfield  
Oct 22-23 – TBD

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our website:

[www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB).

## The Approach We Take

We believe that every endeavor is guided by a set of commitments not just about the “why” and the “what,” but also the “how.” These are the ways we are committed to engaging in our work. This is our approach. These principles modify everything we do.

Our work is characterized by...

### Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

- Involving the community members at all levels
- Promoting community ownership of watershed health
- Collaborating and authentically communicating
- Bringing together diverse interests
- Building and mobilizing partnerships

### Using best available science supported by local knowledge

- Basing approaches on the best available science
- Advancing efficient, science driven operations
- Addressing root sources and causes
- Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
- Catalyzing local energy and investment

### Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- Aligning investments with current and potential funding partners
- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

### Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

- Providing evidence of watershed change
- Measuring and communicating community impact
- Increasing appropriate accountability
- Incorporating flexibility, adaptive management – when we see something that’s not working, we do something about it

### Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- Specific, targeted engagement
- Ensuring information is available and accessible to diverse audiences



## OWEB Staff Culture Statement

We are dedicated to OWEB’s mission and take great pride that our programs support watershed health and empower local communities. Our work is deeply rewarding and we are passionate about what we do. Our team is nimble, adaptable, and forward-thinking, while remaining grounded in the grassroots history of watershed work in Oregon. With a strong understanding of our past, we are strategic about our future. We believe in working hard while keeping our work environment innovative, productive, and fun. We are collaborative, both with each other and with outside partners and organizations, and place great value in continually improving what we do and how we do it.



The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) provides grants to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

Eligible applicants include not-for-profit organizations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Tribes, Watershed Councils, political subdivisions of the state that are not state agencies, schools, community colleges, Oregon State institutions of higher education, and independent not-for-profit institutions of higher education. State and federal agencies are not eligible grantees but are often partners on OWEB-funded projects. In addition to those listed below, OWEB may offer grant types based on legislative priorities.



Land Acquisition

### Water Acquisition

Projects that acquire interests in water from willing sellers. Acquisitions result in legally or contractually protected instream flow to maintain or restore streamflows for the benefit of watersheds and habitats for native fish or wildlife. Eligible applicants are entities qualified to develop valid water rights transactions and oversee the desired outcomes.



Coho Habitat Restoration

### Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs)

Landscape-scale restoration investments that address board-identified Focused Investment Priorities of significance to the state. Successful FIPs achieve clear and measurable ecological outcomes; use integrated, results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and are implemented by a high-performing partnership. Funding supports partnerships with up to \$12 million over 6 years. Initiatives must support limiting factors outlined in a federal recovery and/or state conservation plan(s). Funds are awarded through project-level grants in restoration, technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, monitoring, and land and water acquisitions.



Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish (FIP)

### Land Acquisition

Projects involving the purchase of interests in land from willing sellers. Projects must maintain or restore watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. Interests in land include fee simple title and conservation easements.

### Monitoring

Projects that monitor, gather, analyze, and share watershed data with the public. May describe current watershed conditions, establish trends about watershed conditions, or evaluate specific before-and-after effects of a restoration or acquisition project.

### Restoration

Projects that protect or restore watershed functions for instream, riparian, upland, and wetland or estuarine habitat.

### Stakeholder Engagement

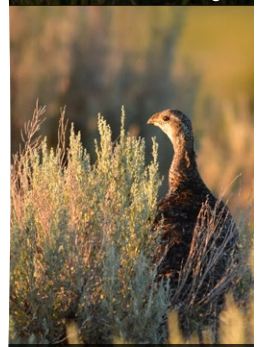
Projects that communicate and engage with landowners, organizations, and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefits of a specific eligible restoration, acquisition, or resource assessment/planning project(s) within an identified geography. Education projects are not eligible.

### Technical Assistance

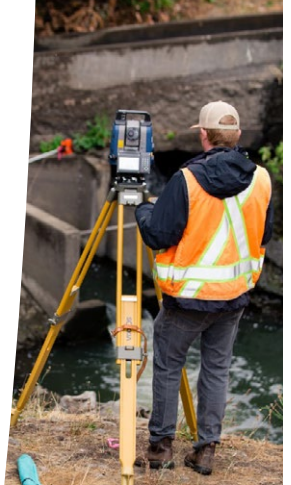
Projects that develop a technical design or implementation plan for restoration, including consideration for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.



Seine Net Monitoring



Sage Grouse Conservation Stakeholder Engagement



Fish Passage Technical Assistance



## Small Grants

Easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program. Awards up to \$15,000 for restoration practices principally carried out on private lands.

**Who may apply\*:** Watershed Councils, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, or Tribes may apply for a small grant on behalf of any of the following entities: Landowner, not-for-profit institution, private, state, or independent institution of education, or local, state, or federal agency.

## Forest Collaboratives

Projects that increase restoration efforts on federal forests statewide by enhancing and strengthening the effectiveness of local collaboratives. This grant program was developed by OWEB and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

**Who may apply\*:** local collaborative groups engaged in forest restoration and/or stewardship on federal forests in Oregon (forests managed by the US Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management). Eligible grantees must have 501(c)3 status or a signed agreement with an eligible fiscal sponsor. This can be a non-profit community-based organization, unit of local government or Tribal government.

## Weed Board Grants

(Oregon Department of Agriculture)

On-the-ground projects to control weeds and state-listed noxious weeds. Projects may include survey, outreach, monitoring, or research if required to complete the control portion of the project.

## Coastal Wetlands

These federal grant funds are awarded to OWEB to use in local grant investments for restoration partners to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands. All projects must have long-term protection in place to ensure conservation (such as a termed easement).



Small Grant Restoration



Forest Collaborative



District & Council Outreach

## Council Capacity

Grants that help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people and communities in their watershed to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration and protection of native fish or wildlife habitat and natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.

**Who may apply\*:** Watershed councils that meet OWEB's eligibility criteria (OAR 695-040-0030)

## District Capacity

Grants that support Oregon's 45 soil and water conservation districts to work with landowners in their communities to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

**Who may apply\*:** Oregon's 45 soil and water conservation districts.

## Partnership Technical Assistance

Grant investments that help support existing partnerships to create or enhance and existing strategic action plans, to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, and to support partnership capacity.

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Technical Assistance (CREP TA)

Grants that help local partners deliver the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a federal-state partnership that restores streamside areas on agricultural lands. CREP TA grants support grantee costs for staffing, travel, outreach, technical planning, and project implementation.

**\*Note:** some grant offerings have different eligibility requirements described here.



**OWEB 2023-2025 GRANT FUNDS SPENDING PLAN**

January 2024 Board Meeting

	GRANTS	2023-2025 Spending Plan (Board Approved July 2023)	Total Previous Additions	January 2024 Additions	2023-2025 Spending Plan Total	Awarded to Date	January 2024 Proposed Awards	TOTAL Awards To-Date & Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards
1	<b>Open Solicitation:</b>								
2	Restoration*	33,500,000			33,500,000	8,998,845		8,998,845	24,501,155
3	Technical Assistance				-	-		-	-
4	Restoration TA	4,897,000			4,897,000	929,070		929,070	3,967,930
5	CREP TA**	1,525,841			1,525,841	1,525,841		1,525,841	-
6	Engagement	2,000,000			2,000,000	298,552		298,552	1,701,448
7	Monitoring grants	4,500,000			4,500,000	2,235,398		2,235,398	2,264,602
8	Land and Water Acquisition	6,500,000			6,500,000	-		-	6,500,000
9	Weed Grants	3,250,000			3,250,000	3,250,000		3,250,000	-
10	Small Grants	2,800,000			2,800,000	2,800,000		2,800,000	-
11	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1,000,000			1,000,000	280,000		280,000	720,000
12	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,972,841</b>		-	<b>59,972,841</b>	<b>20,317,706</b>	-	<b>20,317,706</b>	<b>39,655,135</b>
13	% of Total Core Programs	45.45%			45.44%				
14	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	42.54%			42.54%				
15	<b>Focused Investments:</b>								
16	John Day Partnership	4,000,000			4,000,000	4,000,000		4,000,000	-
17	Baker Sage Grouse	2,348,000			2,348,000	2,348,000		2,348,000	-
18	Warner Aquatic Habitat	1,857,000			1,857,000	1,857,000		1,857,000	-
19	Rogue Forest Rest. Partnership	1,800,000			1,800,000	1,800,000		1,800,000	-
20	Clackamas Partnership	2,309,000			2,309,000	2,309,000		2,309,000	-
21	Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network	2,715,000			2,715,000	2,715,000		2,715,000	-
22	East Cascades Oak & Fire Partnership	2,433,000			2,433,000	2,433,000		2,433,000	-
23	Siuslaw Coho Partnership	4,000,000			4,000,000	4,000,000		4,000,000	-
24	Coos Basin Coho Partnership	3,859,000			3,859,000	3,859,000		3,859,000	-
25	Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative	3,922,000			3,922,000	3,922,000		3,922,000	-
26	New FIP Solicitation	11,000,000			11,000,000	-		-	11,000,000
27	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	500,000			500,000	-	320,000	320,000	180,000
28	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,743,000</b>		-	<b>40,743,000</b>	<b>29,243,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>29,563,000</b>	<b>11,180,000</b>
29	% of Total Core Programs	30.87%			30.87%				
30	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	28.89%			28.89%				
31	<b>Operating Capacity:</b>								
32	Capacity grants - Watershed Councils (WC)	9,486,708			9,486,708	9,204,267		9,204,267	282,441
33	Capacity grants - Soil & Water Conservation Dist (SWCD)	8,307,135			8,307,135	8,307,135		8,307,135	-
34	Statewide org partnership support	525,000			525,000	525,000		525,000	-
35	Organizational Collaboration	-			-	-		-	-
36	Partnership Technical Assistance	1,000,000			1,000,000	-		-	1,000,000
37	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,318,843</b>		-	<b>19,318,843</b>	<b>18,036,402</b>	-	<b>18,036,402</b>	<b>1,282,441</b>
38	% of Total Core Programs	14.64%			14.64%				
39	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	13.70%			13.70%				
40	<b>Other-Prior Committed Funding:</b>								
41	CREP Costshare	750,000			750,000	750,000		750,000	-
42	Governor's Priorities	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000		1,000,000	-
43	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	330,000			330,000	330,000		330,000	-
44	Strategic Implementation Areas	1,500,000			1,500,000	1,500,000		1,500,000	-
45	Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership	350,000			350,000	350,000		350,000	-
46	*Klamath Post Dam Removal Watershed Restoration/KRRC-Contingency	8,000,000			8,000,000	8,000,000		8,000,000	-
47	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,930,000</b>			<b>11,930,000</b>	<b>11,930,000</b>	-	<b>11,930,000</b>	-
48	% of Total Core Programs	9.04%			9.04%				
49	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	8.46%			8.46%				
50	<b>TOTAL Core Programs</b>	<b>131,964,684</b>		-	<b>131,964,684</b>	<b>79,527,108</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>79,847,108</b>	<b>52,117,576</b>
51	<b>General or Other Funds:</b>								
52	Water Acquisitions	9,039,958			9,039,958	509,875		509,875	8,530,083
53	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,039,958</b>			<b>9,039,958</b>	<b>509,875</b>		<b>509,875</b>	<b>8,530,083</b>
54	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	6.41%			6.41%				
55	<b>TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan</b>	<b>141,004,642</b>		-	<b>141,004,642</b>	<b>80,036,983</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>80,356,983</b>	<b>60,647,659</b>
56	<b>Other Designated Funds/Programs</b>								
57	Or Dept of Fish & Wildlife-PCSRF (Federal Funds)	6,443,988			6,443,988	6,443,988		6,443,988	-
58	Or Dept of Forestry-Forest Collaborative (Other Funds)	500,000			500,000	500,000		500,000	-
59	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission-Intensively Monitored Watersheds (Other Funds)	300,000			300,000	300,000		300,000	-
60	Bureau of Land Management - Good Neighbor Authority (Federal Funds)			15,000,000	15,000,000		15,000,000	15,000,000	-
61	Natural Resource Conservation Service - Farm Bill Technical Support (Federal Funds)	743,110			743,110	743,110		743,110	-
62	PacifiCorp Interim Measure 11 (IM11) (Other Funds)	-	6,433,500		6,433,500	6,433,500		6,433,500	-
63	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,987,098</b>	<b>6,433,500</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>29,420,598</b>	<b>14,420,598</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>29,420,598</b>	-
64	<b>OWEB Spending Plan and Other Designated Funds/Programs</b>	<b>148,991,740</b>	<b>6,433,500</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>170,425,240</b>	<b>94,457,581</b>	<b>15,320,000</b>	<b>109,777,581</b>	<b>60,647,659</b>

\* Additional funds allocated to Restoration activities through the KRRC Post Dam Removal Restoration

\*\* Funding includes \$325,841 from NRCS for CREP-TA program



OREGON  
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Agenda Item A

## **Board Member Updates**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024

This item is reserved to any updates from each board member  
(verbal only)



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
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Agenda Item B

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

October 23 - 25, 2023, Board Meeting

Hybrid Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa\\_OA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA).)

### **OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT**

Agpaoa, Elizabeth  
Allen, Chris  
Boyer, Barbara  
Brandt, Stephen  
Brown, Dan  
Buckmaster, Bruce  
Coates, Kelly  
Curtis, Aaron  
Hendershot, Amy  
Labhart, Mark  
Marshall, Gary  
McAlister, Liza Jane  
McClary, Lindsay  
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie  
Murray, Eric  
Reeves, Meg  
Shively, Dan

### **OWEB STAFF PRESENT**

Bettinardi, Nicole  
Charette, Amy  
Charpilloz Hanson, Lisa  
Ciannella, Greg  
Davis, Renee  
Duzik, Katie  
Grenbemer, Mark  
Hartman, Heidi  
Hartstein, Eric  
Hatch, Audrey  
Hoffert, Denise  
Menton, Coby  
Page, Stephanie  
Redon, Liz  
Shaff, Courtney  
Williams, Eric

### **OTHERS**

Arnold, Jennifer  
Beamer, Kelley  
Greenfield, Mark  
Harrison, Alexis  
Kendrick, Karsyn  
Kerber, Jeff  
Kreiner, Andrea  
Placido, Elaine  
Rao, Sneha  
Ryan, Katie  
Walz, Kristen

## Monday, October 23, 2023

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The meeting was called to order at 2:15pm by Liza Jane McAlister: [Recording](#)

### A. Strategic Plan (Timestamp = 0:4:15)

Executive Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, Restoration Grants Program Manager Eric Williams, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch, and Principal Consultant Steve Patty with Dialogues in Action presented on the progress of OWEB's strategic plan update and sought the board's input for next steps. *Information item.*

## Tuesday, October 24, 2023

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The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Barbara Boyer: [Recording](#)

### B. Board Member Comments (Timestamp = 0:0:48)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided updates on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. Public and tribal board members also reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on various watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

### C. Review and Approval of Minutes (Timestamp = 1:34:43)

The minutes of the July 25-26, 2023, meeting were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board approve the minutes from the July 25-26, 2023, meeting. Gary Marshall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### D. General Public Comment (Timestamp = 1:35:24)

This time was reserved for the board to hear general public comments and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. *Information item.* Written public comments are available on the OWEB [public comments page](#).

- Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
- Andrea Kreiner, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- Kristen Walz, North Fork John Day Watershed Council
- Katie Ryan, The Wetlands Conservancy

### E. Directors Updates (Timestamp = 2:02:45)

Executive Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson and staff updated the board on agency business. *Information item.*

### F. Committee Updates (Timestamp = 2:29:40)

Representatives from board committees provided updates on committee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

### G. Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Uses (Timestamp = 3:25:35)

Monitoring and Reporting Manager Courtney Shaff and guest presenter Conservation and Recovery Program Manager (acting) Alexis Harrison with the Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife (ODFW) updated the board about ODFW programs that will be supported by Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds during the 2023-25 biennium. *Information item.*

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm by co-chair Liza Jane McAlister.**

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

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**The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Liza Jane McAlister: [Recording](#)**

**H. General Public Comment (Timestamp = 0:01:56)**

This time was reserved for the board to hear general public comments. *Information item.*  
Written public comments are available on the OWEB [public comments page](#).

- Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

**I. Spring 2023 Open Solicitation Grant Offering Board Awards (Timestamp = 0:07:14)**

Restoration Grants Program Manager Eric Williams, North Coast Program Representative Katie Duzik, Southwest Oregon Program Representative Mark Grenbemer, Willamette Valley Program Representative Liz Redon, Central Oregon Program Representative Greg Ciannella, Eastern Oregon Program Representative Coby Menton, and Mid-Columbia Program Representative Amy Charette presented on the Spring Open Solicitation grant offering, including highlighting projects from each region. *Action Item.*

Item I Public Comment (timestamp = 01:56:59)

Written public comments available on the OWEB [public comments page](#)

- Sneha Rao, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Elaine Placido, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2023 Open Solicitation Grant offering staff report with the addition of \$150,000 for grant application 223-1028-23003 for continuation of current project goals. Mark Labhart seconded. After board deliberations, the motion and the second were withdrawn.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2023 Open Solicitation Grant offering staff report with the addition of \$50,000 for grant application 223-1028-23003 for continuation of current project goals for one year. The motion was not seconded; motion failed.

Lindsay McClary moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2023 Open Solicitation Grant offering staff report. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**J. Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Learning Project III (Timestamp = 03:16:33)**

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, Partnerships Coordinator Denise Hoffert, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and guest presenter Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting updated the board on the FIP Partnership Learning Project III. *Information Item.*

**K. PacifiCorp Interim Measure 11 Funding (Timestamp = 05:03:02)**

Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager Renee Davis, Drought Program Specialist Heidi Hartman, and Regional Program Representative Greg Ciannella provided an overview of OWEB's role as fiscal agent for PacifiCorp Interim Measure 11 funding, and requested the board approve receipt of \$6,433,500 in grant funding from PacifiCorp for nutrient reduction projects in the Klamath Basin to provide water quality improvements in the mainstem Klamath River, as described in the amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board approve receipt of \$6,433,500 in grant funding from PacifiCorp for water quality improvement projects in the Oregon portion of the Klamath Basin, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an effective date of October 25, 2023. Bruce Buckmaster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**L. Co-Chair Election (Timestamp = 05:20:59)**

The current term of OWEB Board Co-Chair Barbara Boyer ends in 2023. Board members developed a policy for adopting a co-chair election process and voted to elect a Co-Chair for a two-year term. *Action item.*

Motion #1. Meg Reeves moved the board adopt the words in the draft language presented to the board with respect to the election of the co-chairs, amending the third paragraph to reflect the discussion, including the language "The tribal representative is strongly encouraged to serve as a co-chair. No more than one co-chair may be a representative from a state board or commission." Lindsay McClary seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The full text of the draft language is included in Appendix A.

Meg Reeves nominated Barbara Boyer to serve as co-chair. Barbara was determined to be eligible, willing to serve, and accepted the nomination. Jamie McLeod-Skinner nominated Kelly Coates to serve as co-chair. Kelly was determined to be eligible, but declined the nomination at this time.

Motion #2. Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved to close the co-chair nominations. Lindsay McClary seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion #3. Mark Labhart moved the board elect Barbara Boyer to serve as co-chair for the remainder of the next two years. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**M. Other Business (Timestamp = 06:08:50)**

This item was reserved for other matters that came before the board. *Information Item.*

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm by co-chair Barbara Boyer.**



## **Appendix A - Board Co-Chairs Election Draft Language**

OWEB's statute requires election of a chair from among the voting board members. The policy of the OWEB board is to implement the statute by electing co-chairs among the voting members.

Each co-chair may serve a maximum of 2, 2-year terms. To ensure continuity of board leadership and transfer of information from outgoing, experienced co-chairs, the board co-chairs will serve staggered two-year terms that are offset from each other by 1 year.

The tribal representative is strongly encouraged to serve as a co-chair. No more than one co-chair may be a representative from a state board or commission.

An election for one of the 2-year co-chair terms will take place each July. Staff will remind the board of the upcoming election annually at the April board meeting.

If the co-chair whose seat is up for election wishes to pursue re-election, the co-chair who is not up for re-election will conduct the elections process. The co-chair overseeing the elections process will accept nominations from the floor, encouraging any interested voting members to participate.

A newly elected co-chair will begin their co-chair responsibilities at the end of the board meeting when they are elected.



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Items C and J

## **Public Comment**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024

Submitted written public comment will be published in a supplemental document after the board meeting and posted on

our website here: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/2024-Jan.aspx>



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item D

## **Director's Updates**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



This report provides the board an update about the 2024 short legislative session and the budgeting process for the 2025 long legislative session.

## **Background**

The 2024 legislative session will begin on February 5 and must adjourn by March 10. A limited number of budget requests and policy bills are considered during legislative short session. Additionally, state agencies are beginning to prepare for the next biennial budget cycle for the 2025-2027 biennium.

## **2024 Legislative Session**

At the time of writing this report, specific legislative concepts for the 2024 session have not been released. However, there is an expectation that legislation will be forthcoming on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). Staff will be tracking legislation related to OAHP, and other bills that may have impacts to OWEB, and will update the board at the April 2024 meeting.

## **Legislative Budgeting Process- 2025-2027 Biennium**

Looking toward the next budget cycle, the Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. First, each agency submits a requested budget. The Governor then releases a recommended budget, and the Oregon Legislature approves a final budget.

State agencies will submit requested 2025-2027 budgets later this year. Agencies must specifically request additions to the base budget and justify the need for each addition. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called Policy Option Packages (POPs).

Agencies are also required to submit reduction options. This is typically set at 10% but may be updated as more information becomes available.

The Governor's Office has established the following timeline for agency budgets for the 2025-2027 biennium:

- January 22, 2024. Agencies submit a list of proposed POPs to the Governor's Office and Chief Financial Office (CFO) at the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).
- February 2, 2024. The Governor's Office will provide a response to the submitted POPs and begin monthly budget development meetings with agencies.
- February-March 2024. Agencies start partner/constituency outreach on budgets, and schedule board & commission engagement.
- April-June 2024. Agencies submit POPs due DAS on April 30, and Governor's Office continues to meet with agencies to develop Agency Request Budgets (ARB) for the 2025-2027 biennium.
- July-August 2024. Final POP narrative reviews completed by Governor's Office and CFO, with ARB narrative due on August 30.
- September-December. Governor's Recommended Budget for agencies is developed and released on December 1.

At the April board meeting, staff will bring a list of POPs for inclusion in the 2025-2027 ARB for Board review, and will request Board approval of the list of POPs at the July board meeting.

## Staff Contact

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact

**Stephanie Page**, Acting Executive Director

[Stephanie.page@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:Stephanie.page@oweb.oregon.gov) or 971-345-7004

**Eric Hartstein**, Senior Policy Coordinator

[Eric.Hartstein@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:Eric.Hartstein@oweb.oregon.gov) or 503-910-6201



This report provides the board updates on the 2021-23 biennial report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The report was submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office prior to the January 15, 2024 deadline.

## Background

The mission of the Oregon Plan is to restore the watersheds of Oregon and to recover the fish and wildlife populations of those watersheds to productive and sustainable levels in a manner that provides substantial ecological, cultural, and economic benefits. The State of Oregon developed the plan in the 1990s to address declining salmon runs. In addition to the plan, the state made an unprecedented financial commitment to species recovery and watershed health.

The Oregon Plan consists of four key elements:

- Voluntary restoration actions by private landowners
- Coordinated state and federal agency and tribal actions
- Monitoring
- A scientific foundation

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 541.972 requires OWEB to submit a Biennial Report that assesses the statewide and regional implementation and effectiveness of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The Report, which is submitted to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees, must address each drainage basin in the state and include the following: information about watershed and habitat conditions, voluntary restoration activities, board investments, and recommendations from the board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan. The Report must be submitted by January 15 of each even numbered year, and summarizes the Oregon Plan accomplishments for the prior biennium.

## 2021-23 Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds biennial report

The Report consists of two components: 1) a two-page Executive Summary (see Attachment A) and 2) a full report, providing an overview of investments and accomplishments associated with each basin. The full report is available online [<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/resources/Pages/OPSW.aspx>] and includes links to in-depth natural resources datasets and more information from thirteen state agencies implementing the Oregon Plan.

In the 2021-2023 biennium, OWEB awarded over \$112 million in grant funding. During this biennium, significant match funding was reported from a variety of sources, including tribal, federal, state and local, private and non-profit organizations.

The Report describes metrics for watershed restoration activities, including comparable information from federal agencies, where available.

Coordinated actions to address Oregon Plan priorities continued throughout the 2021-23 biennium, including collaborative efforts to address climate change, post-fire recovery, and respond to drought.

Board recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Oregon Plan reflect priorities emerging from the substantive conversations to update OWEB's strategic plan.

**Staff Contact**

**Audrey Hatch**, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator

[Audrey.Hatch@OWEB.oregon.gov](mailto:Audrey.Hatch@OWEB.oregon.gov) or (971) 345-7002

**Attachments**

- A. Executive Summary, Oregon Plan 2021-223 biennial report



January 23-24, 2024 OWEB Board Meeting

## Executive Director Update D-5: Klamath River Post-Dam Removal Watershed Restoration Update

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This report provides the board with an update on the status of OWEB's investment in Klamath River Post-Dam Removal Watershed Restoration costs associated with work by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC).

### Background

PacifiCorp previously owned four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, three in California and one in Oregon (J.C. Boyle dam). PacifiCorp and the Oregon Public Utilities Commission determined that it is in the best interest of the company and its customers to stop operating the dams rather than spending substantial amounts of money on improvements needed to continue generating power. KRRC is a private, independent nonprofit organization formed by signatories of the amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSAs). Signatories of the amended KHSAs – including the States of Oregon and California, local governments, Tribal nations, PacifiCorp, irrigators, and several conservation and fishing groups – appointed KRRC to take ownership and oversee the removal of the four Klamath River dams. Funding was committed in the amount of \$450 million for removal and watershed restoration.

As KRRC implements the dam removal, former reservoir areas will become exposed and require restoration and stabilization of bare sediment deposits for long-term water quality, ecological benefits, and restoration of natural river functions and processes. Restoration work also will be needed at upland sites, where dredged material generated by regrading of slopes will be deposited, and at the mouths of creeks entering the former reservoir pools. KRRC submitted a Reservoir Area Management Plan to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the responsible entity for principal federal regulatory review of the project. The Reservoir Area Management Plan describes measures for restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management of the former reservoir areas and high-priority tributaries, including actions specifically planned for the former reservoir area upstream of J.C. Boyle dam, the section of the project located in Oregon.

During the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission review, a question was raised about whether existing contingencies provide a high enough level of certainty that the work will be completed on time and within budget. In response to this concern, the states and PacifiCorp agreed to provide up to \$45 million in additional financial support for the project, divided equally among the three entities. On October 26, 2022, the OWEB Board committed \$15 million over a period of 3-5 years for Klamath River post-dam removal watershed restoration costs incurred by KRRC.

Multiple funding sources administered by OWEB will be utilized for this commitment. The initial grant award, made and delegated by the board in October 2022, was \$4.053 million. An additional \$8 million was committed and delegated by the board in the 2023-2025 spending plan at the July 2023 board meeting. The remaining \$2.947 million will be included in future board spending plans. In late 2022, OWEB and KRRC finalized a partnership agreement that affirms the intent of OWEB's investment in Klamath River post-dam removal watershed restoration and describes the framework, scope, tasks, and timeline for the overarching \$15 million in funding.

OWEB has created a KRRC-specific grant offering that includes a project-level grant application and associated guidance documents for use by KRRC to propose specific activities that would utilize the OWEB's post-dam removal watershed restoration funding. Grant applications submitted by KRRC will mirror the restoration actions for the J.C. Boyle area as outlined in the Reservoir Area



Management Plan and will adhere to minor additional requirements included in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's final order.

## Status Update

In March 2023, work officially began on dam removal. OWEB and KRRC staff are in regular communication about timing for grant applications to be submitted and aligning anticipated funding sources to restoration actions—examples include floodplain restoration and reconnection and revegetation, to name a few—that will be included in grant applications. KRRC, working with RES (KRRC's restoration contractor) expects to submit a grant application in mid-2024.

In terms of recent progress related to the broader Klamath dam removal project:

- Copco No. 2 Dam was removed in September 2023, with channel grading, initial restoration, and erosion control continuing through October. This dam removal restores flows to the historic Ward's Canyon reach between the previous Copco No. 2 Dam and Iron Gate Dam for the first time in nearly a century.
- RES, the Yurok Tribe, and Shasta Indian Nation have cleared trees in Ward's Canyon to ensure the reach is safe for whitewater rafters, kayakers, and boat-based anglers to navigate the river once all dams are removed.
- KRRC continues to prepare for reservoir drawdown to commence in mid-January 2024. Kiewit (KRRC's construction contractor) is finalizing all necessary roadway and infrastructure improvements. RES continues biological and water quality monitoring, as well as preparation for initial restoration activities following reservoir drawdown.
- KRRC anticipates a phased Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval approach for dam removal itself, with the Commission approving removal activities at J.C. Boyle and Copco No. 1 Dams in time to allow for reservoir drawdown to commence in mid-January and approving the removal of Iron Gate Dam in spring of 2024. This allows time for the 2024 water year to be analyzed to finalize the Iron Gate Dam breach schedule, ensuring public safety during dam removal.
- In preparation for reservoir drawdown, KRRC continues to focus on outreach and public safety notifications to ensure community members and the public are aware of the construction schedule and impacts. KRRC is also working closely with local law enforcement and emergency response entities to ensure a comprehensive emergency action plan is in place for reservoir drawdown and dam deconstruction.
- Reservoir drawdown is expected to take 3-5 months, depending on the amount of water entering the system from the spring snow melt and runoff. The deconstruction of J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1, and Iron Gate Dams are scheduled to be complete by October 2024; restoration activities will commence immediately and continue for the next several years.

Quarterly reports will be provided to the board at each meeting.

## Staff Contact

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact **Renee Davis**, Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager  
[renee.davis@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:renee.davis@oweb.oregon.gov) or 971-345-7231.



## Executive Director Update D-5: Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program Update

This report provides the board updates on the ongoing work to develop and implement the Drinking Water Source Protection grant program, as directed by House Bill (HB) 2010 (2023).

### Background

During the 2023 legislative session the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2010, the ‘omnibus’ water package. The bill directed OWEB to establish a new drinking water source protection land acquisition grant program. The intent of this program was to provide grants to water suppliers to protect source areas for drinking water supplies. The bill also allocated \$1 million in General Funds to the program; this funding was combined with an additional \$4 million in Lottery Bond funding—through HBs 5030 and 5506—for the drinking water source protection program established in HB 2010. In total, \$5 million is available to support the new grant program. Additionally, OWEB received funding (General Fund) and position authority for a 0.88-FTE Natural Resources Specialist (NRS) 4 position to help support program development and administration.

At the July 2023 meeting, the board approved initiation of rulemaking for two grant programs, including the Drinking Water Source Protection program. This process includes convening a rules advisory committee (RAC) composed of potential grant applicants, reviewers, and others most likely to be impacted by the administrative rules that govern the grant program. Staff proposed to develop the rules in accordance with the draft schedule below.

<b>Rulemaking Action</b>	<b>Dates/Deadlines</b>
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	July 2023
Draft Rules Developed	Winter 2024
RAC Meetings to Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	Winter/Spring 2024
Draft Rules Revised Based on RAC Feedback	April 8, 2024
Notice Filed with Secretary of State	April 8, 2024
Public Comment Materials posted online	April 8, 2024
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	April 8, 2024
Secretary of State’s Bulletin	April 8, 2024
Public Comment Period	April 8-May 6, 2024
Public Hearing(s)	April 2024
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	May/June 2024
Board Adoption of Rules	July 2024

## Status Update

Staff continue work on program scoping and development as outlined below:

- Recruitment of candidates through State of Oregon's recruitment process for state employees, followed by hiring of NRS 4 position that will be responsible for coordinating the Drinking Water Source Protection grant program. This position is anticipated to begin in January 2024.
- Formation and convening of a rules advisory committee (RAC) comprised of subject-matter and technical experts, including representatives from local water districts and municipalities, land trusts and other non-profit organizations that engage in land transactions, and technical and grant-making experts from state and federal agencies. The RAC will convene for its first meeting on January 10, 2024.
- Analysis of legal and statutory direction, foundational information regarding source-water delineations for drinking water supplies, and fund-source (i.e., Lottery Bond) considerations to inform rulemaking, in coordination with contact counsel and other state agencies.
- Drafting of 'strawperson' administrative rules for the program for consideration by and discussion at scheduled RAC meetings.
- Scoping of existing data and information related to drinking water source protection to help inform program development. Based on the results of this scoping, a public outreach survey may be developed to gather information about community needs.

The board and, as appropriate, relevant board committees will receive periodic updates about progress on program development and rulemaking.

## Staff Contact

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact **Renee Davis**, Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager, [renee.davis@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:renee.davis@oweb.oregon.gov) or 971-345-7231.



January, 23-24, 2024 OWEB Board Meeting  
**Executive Director Update D-6: Strategic Plan Update**

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This report provides the board with updates on the implementation progress of the 2018-2028 strategic plan. In addition, this report shares OWEB's current thinking on a timeline and process for an update to the strategic plan, per Governor Kotek's expectations of state agencies.

## Background

In June 2018, the board approved a new, ten-year strategic plan. Beginning with the July 2022 board meeting, staff began providing quarterly reports using a new template.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between October 2023 and January 2024.

During this quarter, OWEB has been gathering information on areas of focus for the upcoming 2024 Strategic Plan refresh—including a series of in-depth staff meetings and partner interviews, a board work session in October, and continuing presentations and discussions with the board at upcoming meetings—leading toward a new, completed Strategic Plan by June 2024. The 2024 plan will have woven throughout the priorities emphasizes on equity, climate, and innovative action.

The January 2024 update reflects varied efforts to evaluate and improve upon restoration, capacity, partnership, and monitoring practices. The recently completed Partnership Learning Project Part III describes challenges and solutions for restoration initiatives that expand into partnerships. OWEB joined other state agencies, tribes, and local collaboratives on an implementation summit for the 20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy. Conservation practices on working lands are under evaluation by an economic consultant for OWEB, seeking out interests in the relationship between working lands and conservation outcomes. OWEB also participated in collaborative meetings — to discuss how to best use data and project results to enhance restoration effectiveness — with the John Day Partnership and Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, and with Investment Partnerships (FIPs) and Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Emphasis on climate was implemented this quarter through the added evaluative Climate Criteria in grant applications, beginning with the Fall 2023 Open Solicitation grant cycle. The Climate Criteria have also been incorporated into the review team evaluation process.

## Staff Contact

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact

**Courtney Shaff**, Monitoring and Reporting Manager

[Courtney.Shaff@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:Courtney.Shaff@oweb.oregon.gov) or 971-345-7012

## Attachments

- A. OWEB Strategic Plan Report January 2024

# OREGON Watershed Enhancement Board



## 2018-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | January 2024



Mission: To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.



## Priority 1

Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds



Brainstorming session for Strategic Plan Priorities at OWEB All-Staff Meeting.

OWEB continues gathering information on areas of focus for the upcoming **2024 Strategic Plan refresh**—including a series of in-depth staff meetings and partner interviews, a board work session in October, and continuing presentation and discussion with the board at upcoming meetings—leading toward a new, completed Strategic Plan by June 2024.



OWEB completed the **2021-2023 Oregon Plan Biennial Report**—synthesizing information about the agency’s restoration funding, match funding; watershed metrics, inter-agency initiatives, and a summary of ongoing monitoring and information gathering needs under the Oregon Plan. The Report includes information from each of the agency’s reporting basins



## Priority 2

Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians



Airblast sprayer, photo by the Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District.

In the Hood River basin, OWEB provides support for a **Pesticide Stewardship Partnership**, through the [Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District](#) including a workshop in Spanish which helps farm workers learn ways to apply less pesticides.



[Link to the Partnership Project III report.](#)

Bonneville Environmental Foundation completed **Partnership Learning Project Part III**, a report that describes challenges and solutions as restoration initiatives continue efforts to expand their circles of engagement.

- [Part I](#)
- [Part II](#)



## Priority 3

### Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds



OWEB visited the JC Boyle Dam Removal site at the last Board Meeting.

Community and agency collaborative efforts in Klamath Basin have focused on **addressing water quality and quantity issues**.

- Producer listening sessions convened by Sustainable Northwest.
- Collaborative water quality monitoring through the [Klamath Basin Monitoring Program](#).
- OWEB continues to administer an agreement with the Klamath River Renewal Corporation to support restoration efforts following the removal of JC Boyle dam in Oregon. The OWEB board visited the dam as part of its October 2023 meeting in Klamath Falls.



20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy Summit. Photo by ODF.

OWEB joined other state agencies, tribes and local collaboratives to participate in a Shared Stewardship Landscape Resiliency Summit to plan the early implementation of a [20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy](#).



## Priority 4

### Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio



Ochoco Preserve Restoration Phase 2, photo by Deschutes Land Trust.

**Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding** was used to help organizations address drought resilience, water quality and quantity, and fish passage. A few of these projects include:

- [Upper Sandy-Zigzag River Tributaries Restoration](#)
- [Ochoco Preserve Restoration Phase 2](#)
- [Tioga Falls Habitat Connectivity Project](#)



A [brochure of the Farm Bill](#) is available at the USDA website.

A new **federal cooperative agreement is in place with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** to support extension of the [current Farm Bill](#) implementation in local communities. As a part of the agreement, OWEB is administering the federal funds as grants to local communities.



## Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health



[Seely Farm, recipient of an Oregon Agricultural Heritage grant.](#)

OWEB engaged an economic consultant to explore the **valuation of different conservation practices on working lands.**



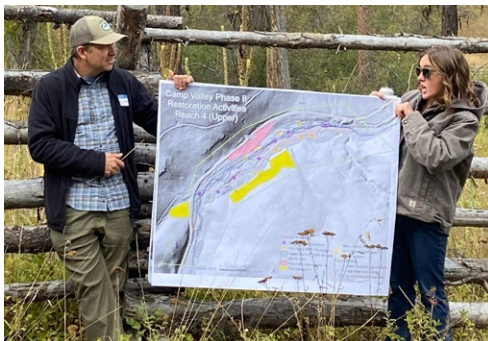
[Senator Merkley looking at the new pipe-cutting machine.](#)

OWEB's **Drought program continued to focus on working lands** to benefit water quality, instream flow, soil health, community engagement at the grassroots level, and how to assist production at the farm level. In October, OWEB staff participated in an Irrigation Modernization Celebration in Terrebonne also attended by Senator Merkley, where he helped operate a new pipe-cutting machine and branded one of the pipes to commemorate the project.



## Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness



[A field tour of completed projects at Camp Creek and the Middle Fork John Day River followed the meeting.](#)

A **collaborative meeting** between the **John Day Partnership** and the **Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)** was held in Fall 2023. Practitioners and scientists reviewed data and project results together and discussed how to use the results and enhance restoration effectiveness.



[Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network site visit.](#)

Monitoring meetings were held with each of the 3rd cohort of Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs). These meetings developed emerging needs and processes for **reporting progress over the 6-year lifespan of each initiative.** Additionally, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation team is helping these FIPs refine their Progress Monitoring Framework to show an in-depth depiction of how conservation actions lead to near-term and longer-term outcomes.





# Priority 7

## Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds



**Climate and Water Resources**

**Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria in Grant Applications**  
 The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is now including **Evaluative Climate Criteria** in our grant applications, starting with the Fall 2023 Open Solicitation Grant Offering. This means that OWEB technical review teams will consider applicants' responses to climate-related questions as part of their evaluation of OWEB grant applications.  
 For more information about how to respond to the new criteria, watch the [webinar](#).

**Observed and Projected Changes in Climate, Habitat, and Species by Region**

**NORTH COAST**  
 Climate  
 Habitat & Species

**SOUTH COAST**  
 Climate  
 Habitat & Species

**WILLAMETTE**  
 Climate  
 Habitat & Species

**CENTRAL OREGON**  
 Climate  
 Habitat & Species

**EASTERN & COLUMBIA BASIN**  
 Climate  
 Habitat & Species

**Resources**

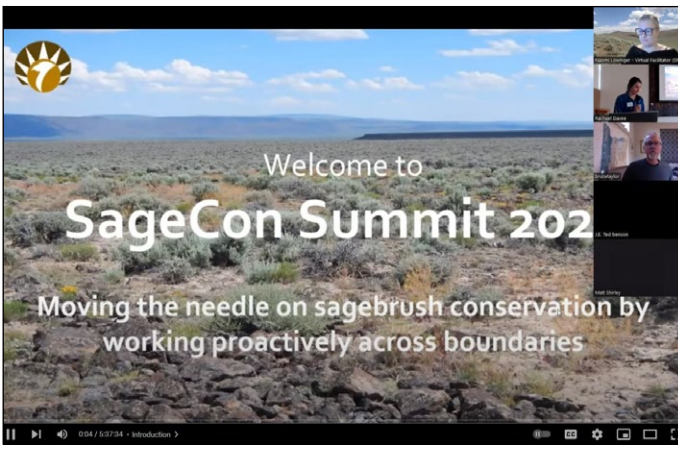
- [Climate Resilience](#)
- [Climate-Related Technical Resources](#)
- [Grant Guide: Climate-Related Application Criteria](#)
- [Climate-Related Criteria Virtual Training Presentation Slides](#)

**Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disproportionately Impacted Communities**

- Examples of adaptation strategies and actions
- Types of benefits, including carbon sequestration and adaptation, resulting from projects
- Where environmental justice communities are located in Oregon

OWEB **added Evaluative Climate Criteria** to grant applications, starting with the Fall 2023 Open Solicitation grant cycle. OWEB's online application system was updated significantly to incorporate new climate questions, and climate criteria have been incorporated into the evaluation process for the agency's grant offerings.

Information about Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria may be found on the [Climate and Water Resources webpage](#).



[SageCon Summit 2023](#)

At the annual **SageCon Summit in Fall 2023**, the use of technology to improve restoration planning and implementation was a theme. Throughout the event, practitioners and scientists discussed how to work together more efficiently to track conservation progress across the sagebrush landscape.



accomplishments  
 highlighted in quarterly update

April  
 July  
 October  
 January

## Strategies Chart Apr. 2023 - Jan. 2024

### 1 Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

1.1 Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments.

1.2 Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches.

### 2 Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations.

2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table.

2.3 Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)

### 3 Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

3.1 Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding.

3.2 Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity.

3.3 Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships.

### 4 Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

4.1 Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision.

4.2 Align common investment areas with private foundations.

4.3 Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector.

4.4 Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources.

### 5 The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

5.1 Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

5.2 Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners.

5.3 Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands.

5.4 Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands.

5.5 Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations.

### 6 Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

6.1 Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts.

6.2 Invest in monitoring over the long term.

6.3 Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring.

6.4 Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners.

6.5 Define monitoring priorities.

6.6 Develop and promote a monitoring framework.

### 7 Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

7.1 Invest in landscape restoration over the long term.

7.2 Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economics.

7.3 Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission.



OREGON  
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ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item E

## **Committee Updates**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



January 23-24, 2024, OWEB Board Meeting

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee Update

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### Committee Members

Kelly Coates and Dan Shively (co-chairs), Bruce Buckmaster, Liza Jane McAlister, Chris Allen, Aaron Curtis

### Meeting Summary

The DEI and EJ committee met on December 5, 2023.

Jessi Kershner, Climate Coordinator, provided the committee with an update on the work of the Environmental Justice Council. A focus area for the Council has been the environmental justice mapping tool created through HB 4077 (during the 2022 regular Oregon legislative session). Four possible uses for the mapping tool were identified and the Council was asked to prioritize the uses. The Council is developing a work plan for engagement over the next year and plans to hold public meetings around the state. Agencies are required to submit an annual report to the Environmental Justice Council in early January and OWEB staff will share the report once it is submitted.

OWEB staff updated the committee on efforts to reach out to non-traditional partners. Staff have committed to engaging with three new non-traditional partners each quarter. Staff shared appreciation for the organizations' time to meet and explained that OWEB's commitment is to build long term relationships and develop future partnerships.

During the last quarter, OWEB staff have connected with the following organizations:

- People of Color Outdoors
- Seeding Justice
- Environmental Equity Committee meeting of the Racial Justice Council
- Say Hey (networking event organized by Partners in Diversity)
- Verde
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- DEQ Environmental Justice Coordinator and Chair of the Environmental Justice Council (Oregon Just Transition Alliance)

Committee members reviewed the latest draft DEI resolution which incorporated feedback from the Racial Justice Council Environmental Equity Committee and the state Office of Cultural Change. The committee recommended sharing it with the full board and posting to the OWEB website. The updated statement and resolution are attached and will be presented to the full board for discussion at the January 23-24, 2024 board meeting.

Eric Williams, Restoration Grants Manager provided a brief overview of OWEB's Strategic Plan update, including revised priorities and what to expect at the January board meeting.

Topics for the next meeting:

- Engagement with non-traditional partners and government-to-government outreach
- OWEB DEI resolution – continue any discussions needed after January board meeting
- Update on Environmental Justice Council
- Update on the Strategic Plan

**To Be Presented at the January 2024 Board Meeting By:**

Kelly Coates and Dan Shively

**Staff Contact**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact

**Stephanie Page, Acting Executive Director**

[stephanie.page@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:stephanie.page@oweb.oregon.gov) or 971-345-7004.

**Attachments**

- A. DRAFT OWEB Equity Statement and Resolution update 12.5.23

## **[DRAFT] Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Environmental Justice Resolution**

### Background

WHEREAS the intersection of impacts from climate change, biodiversity loss, and the movement for social justice has increased our awareness of the need for transformational change. Our conservation and restoration work has shown us the interdependence of all species, and that action or inaction in one area affects the outcome in others. In keeping with OWEB's mission "to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies," our work must fully integrate and balance environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

WHEREAS a multi-dimensional diversity of people, including ethnicities, identities, backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, cultural values and practices, local and indigenous environmental knowledge, and values of nature all contribute to the collective wisdom and stewardship needed for achieving long-term sustainability and resilience in our watershed restoration and conservation work. The voices of all Oregonians have value.

WHEREAS while everyone lives in a watershed, not all Oregonians or their communities are starting from the same place due to historic and current embedded biases in society's structure and institutional systems of oppression. These include inequities in policies, practices, processes, and the distribution of resources, benefits, and burdens. In order to realize fairness in access and outcomes, different levels of support are needed, including the redistribution of resources, power, and opportunity for empowerment of those most impacted.

WHEREAS the most severe and immediate impacts of climate change disproportionately affect the communities who are the least able to prepare for and recover from these impacts. Many communities rely on healthy watershed ecosystems for their health and livelihoods and are therefore uniquely vulnerable to changes in their environment caused by climate change. Other communities which have traditionally been underrepresented, underinvested, and underserved bear additional environmental burdens which intensify their risks. These communities are diverse in many ways, including their ethnicities, cultures, nations of origin, race, immigration status, and levels of income. They all deserve environmental justice of equal protection, fair treatment, and involvement in decision-making regarding policies affecting their environment without discrimination.

WHEREAS we acknowledge the dispossession of indigenous communities of land ownership, Oregon's history of racism, and systemic injustices that have excluded many Oregonians from the benefits and opportunities afforded others.

WHEREAS OWEB's culture of continuous improvement allows us to self-examine and recognize some of our structural biases and institutional policies, practices, and processes that help perpetuate inequities; that while some of these may fall outside of our authority, they do not absolve us of our need for change. Achieving our mission demands we consider all actions within our authority to restore and protect, and as our name implies improve the health of our watersheds for the well-being and benefit of all.

WHEREAS we acknowledge that diversity, equity, and inclusion are interconnected, that none can thrive without the presence of the other, and that together with environmental justice they must be front and center in all of our board decisions, policy making, processes, and practices, as these considerations are

essential for the restoration, protection, and long-term sustainability of our ecosystems, their wildlife populations and communities.

## Resolution

**Be it resolved** that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will:

1. Integrate and prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice in all of our board decisions, policy making, processes, and other practices by:
  - a. Eliminating disparities in distribution of resources and benefits between landowners and non-landowners.
  - b. Increasing project types to accommodate the needs of urban communities.
  - c. Identifying and implementing incentives for investing in Environmental Justice Communities.
  - d. Building a more inclusive grant-making process to reflect a broader diversity of applicants, grantees, and types of partners in project development and stewardship, including community-based organizations and other private sector groups, businesses, and organizations that have not traditionally been engaged in this work.
  - e. Increasing & improving methods and diversifying targets of outreach and access to information so that all Oregonians can become aware of OWEB and the support we can provide.
  - f. Allowing for the tailoring of projects and processes to address locally expressed inequities and priorities while keeping in mind that some community-identified solutions may differ from what we prioritize yet still yield co-benefits beyond that of a singular outcome.
  - g. Identifying and implementing methods to strengthen public involvement, improve access to information, provide more inclusive decision-making opportunities, and increase community engagement that values the needs, priorities, and solutions expressed by the community, as well as their time and resources making it possible to participate.
  - h. Recognizing and incorporating the inextricable link between cultural and biological diversity as part of our community-based conservation, including the varying cultural values of and relationships with nature and the holistic approaches of indigenous peoples and local communities.
  - i. Recognizing the unique role federally recognized tribes in Oregon have in the conservation, stewardship, and restoration of natural resources; and with their permission and counsel, work to incorporate their tribal knowledge, experience, cultural, and spiritual values into our grant-making processes.
2. Motivate grantees to enlist, train, and fairly compensate partners in project development from local labor and businesses to strengthen local economies and skills.
3. Continue to challenge our perspectives and positions; recognize and overcome our biases; look for ways we are limiting awareness of OWEB and access to resources from those outside our sphere; and work to counteract and dismantle institutional racism while advancing racial equity. Translate these findings into changes in policy, processes, and practices.

**It is further resolved** that the above resolutions will be implemented through applicable strategies within OWEB's authorities. Strategies include but are not limited to:

1. Participating at least annually in intercultural competency and racial justice workshops, including training for all staff and Board Members.
2. Rulemaking to reduce the match requirement for some grant types.
3. Amending OWEB's application and grant-making processes to be easily accessible, time-considerate, inclusive of a broader range of effective land-stewardship practices, and vigilant to the needs of vulnerable and traditionally underserved communities, including providing training and assistance.

4. Remediating the dispossession of Tribal land ownership through our Acquisition Grant program where possible.
5. Developing an annual agency Diversity Equity, Inclusion, and Environmental Justice Action Plan, which includes agency-level goals, actions, and measures of success.
6. Amending budget and budgeting process to address inequities in the distribution of resources, including the limited types of grants and projects available for traditionally underrepresented, underserved, and climate-vulnerable communities.
7. Improving OWEB's communications to meet the needs of Oregon's diverse population and updating the website to be intuitively navigable, user-friendly, and resource-rich, including tools and guidance for translating this resolution into action.

## Definitions

**Diversity:** Honoring and including people of different backgrounds, identities, and experiences collectively and as individuals. It emphasizes the need for sharing power and increasing representation of communities that are systemically underrepresented and under-resourced. These differences are strengths that maximize the state's competitive advantage through innovation, effectiveness, and adaptability.

[Source: State of Oregon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2021)]

**Inclusion:** is a state of belonging when persons of different backgrounds, experiences, and identities are valued, integrated, and welcomed equitably as decision-makers, collaborators, and colleagues. Ultimately, inclusion is the environment that organizations create to allow these differences to thrive.

[Source: State of Oregon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2021)]

**Equity:** Equity acknowledges that not all people, or all communities, are starting from the same place due to historic and current systems of oppression. Equity is the effort to provide different levels of support based on an individual's or group's needs in order to achieve fairness in outcomes. Equity actionably empowers communities most impacted by systemic oppression and requires the redistribution of resources, power, and opportunity to those communities.

[Source: State of Oregon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2021)]

**Environmental justice:** means equal protection from environmental and health risks, fair treatment, and meaningful involvement in decision-making of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration status, income, or other identities with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies that affect the environment in which people live, work, learn and practice spirituality and culture.

[Source: Oregon Environmental Justice Council / HB 4077 (2022)]

**Environmental justice communities:** include communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, tribal communities, rural communities, remote communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities.

[Source: Oregon Environmental Justice Council / HB 4077 (2022)]





## Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster and Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Co-Chairs), Dan Brown, Stephen Brandt, Kelly Coates, Lindsay McClary, Eric Murray, Meg Reeves, Dan Shively

## Meeting Summary

The Water and Climate Committee met on December 13, 2023.

OWEB staff, as well as Steve Mrazik, Watershed Section Manager at Oregon DEQ, shared information about the different ways in which OWEB and DEQ coordinate and collaborate across topics such as policy development and implementation, funding, and monitoring and data reporting. DEQ grant programs that have a nexus to OWEB were also discussed. OWEB staff plan to highlight coordination and collaboration with other state agencies at upcoming Water & Climate committee meetings.

Jessi Kershner, Climate Coordinator, provided the committee with an overview of the resources that were developed to aid applicants in responding to the new climate criteria. Jessi took committee members on a tour of the new Climate & Water Resources tab on OWEB's website and shared information about the climate trainings that were conducted in Fall 2023.

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch provided a brief overview of OWEB's Strategic Plan update, including revised priorities and what to expect at the January board meeting.

Committee members discussed intersectional topics from other board committees. Stephanie Page, Acting Executive Director, provided an update on HB 3409 and the Natural & Working Lands Fund. Jessi Kershner shared information about the Environmental Justice (EJ) Council's EJ mapping effort, including the opportunity for OWEB to suggest possible use cases for an EJ mapping tool. Renee Davis, Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager, discussed the new Drinking Water Source Protection grant program at OWEB, including updates on the rulemaking process. Lastly, committee members also discussed the possible creation of a summary document highlighting complementary funding mechanisms available through other state agencies.

Committee members worked through two process questions, one related to the position of public comment in the agenda and the other related to the format of the meetings. The committee also briefly looked at upcoming agenda items, including a presentation from WRD on the Integrated Water Resources Strategy in March 2024.

## To Be Presented at the January 2024 Board Meeting By:

Bruce Buckmaster and Jamie McLeod-Skinner

## Staff Contact

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact **Jessi Kershner**, Climate Coordinator  
[jessi.kershner@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:jessi.kershner@oweb.oregon.gov) or 971-701-3175.



## Committee Members

Barbara Boyer and Dan Brown (co-chairs), Molly Kile, Liz Agpaoa, Chris Allen, Mark Labhart, Liza Jane McAllister, Lindsay McClary

## Meeting Summary

The Grants Committee met on December 7, 2023.

Staff previewed action items for the Board's January meeting, including authorization for a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) to address the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) rules and an action item to award funds for a FIP Effectiveness Monitoring Grant with Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

The preferred timeline for FIP rule adoption is to coincide with launching the Cohort 5 FIP solicitation in January 2025. The RAC will address substantive program elements including board-identified ecological priorities, how match is accounted, and whether the FIP/Open Solicitation overlap rule should remain in place. Staff will provide updates to the Grants Committee at the June and September committee meetings.

The FIP Effective Monitoring grant will include program assessment to inform rulemaking, support for direct assistance to FIP partnerships, and a gathering of FIP partnerships for a workshop in Fall, 2024.

Staff updated the Committee on the Strategic Plan refresh, noting that draft strategies will be presented to the board for each of the six priorities the board reviewed at the October meeting.

Co-chair Brown reminded committee members of the upcoming February 7 and March 12 committee meetings to develop funding recommendations to the board for Cohort 4 FIP grant awards in April.

## To Be Presented at the January 2024 Board Meeting By:

Dan Brown and Barbara Boyer

## Staff Contact

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact **Eric Williams, Restoration Grants Manager** [eric.williams@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:eric.williams@oweb.oregon.gov) or 971-345-7014.



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item F

**Tribal Report and Government  
to Government Relationships**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Ken Fetcho, Tribal Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item F – Government to Government Relationships  
January 23-24, 2024, Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the executive order, state law and agency policy that describes the Government-to-Government relationship OWEB has with the federally recognized tribes in Oregon. This report will demonstrate specific examples of that relationship included in the agency's 2023 Annual Tribal Report.

The 2023 Annual Tribal Report has been submitted to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and the Governor's Office. The annual report describes how OWEB has engaged and fostered relations with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe.

At the January 23-24 OWEB board meeting, OWEB Board Member Kelly Coates and OWEB staff will deliver a presentation regarding government-to-government relationships between OWEB, the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe. OWEB staff will also present the agency's 2023 Annual Tribal Report.

### II. Background

On May 22, 1996, Executive Order EO-96-30 was developed with tribal input and signed by Governor John A. Kitzhaber officially recognizing state-tribal government-to-government relations. This EO also ordered the following actions.

- The Governor's Office must convene an annual meeting with representatives of the state and the nine federally recognized tribes.
- Each state agency must develop a tribal policy that promotes dialogue with tribal governments.
- Each state agency must provide training to staff to better recognize Indian issues and to understand and respect the legal status of tribal governments.

During the 2001 Legislative Session Senate Bill 770 was enacted (ORS 182.162-168), codifying key elements of EO-96-30. This legislation added the requirement that each state agency provide an annual tribal report to the Governor and LCIS on the activities of the state agency under ORS 182.162 to 182.168.

### III. **OWEB Tribal Policy**

OWEB first established its Tribal Policy in 2007 and revised it in 2018 with tribal input. The revisions provide additional clarity on how OWEB will involve and include tribal members and governments in the development and implementation of policies and programs administered by the agency.

OWEB recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the tribes and their respective authorities on reservation, tribal, ceded lands and established usual and accustomed areas and their co-management authorities over certain resources on non-tribal lands. The goal of this policy is to maximize tribal relations and collaborative efforts and to resolve potential concerns by enhancing exchange of information, ideas, and resources.

This Tribal Policy includes, but is not limited to, the following additional elements.

- The OWEB Board will include a tribal representative and OWEB will assist the Governor to reach out broadly to Tribes to seek interested volunteers to participate on the Board.
- OWEB will engage tribes and seek early tribal involvement in policy development and implementation.
- OWEB will provide training to staff to ensure that all staff are aware of the sovereign nature and authorities of tribes and improve their capacity to promote collaboration with tribes.

### IV. **Annual Tribal Report**

ORS 182.166 (3) requires OWEB to submit an annual report by December 15 detailing the agency's engagement with the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon.

The 2023 Annual Tribal Report includes a summary of how OWEB engaged with the federally recognized tribes in Oregon. The report describes how OWEB has included tribes in the decision-making process early and often. Examples include:

- OWEB makes a concerted effort to include tribes on all of its technical review teams that make funding recommendations on grant applications that have been received.
- Helena Linnell, Biological Planning and Operations Manager for the Coquille Indian Tribe was recruited to participate in the Climate Resolution Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) developed three climate criteria, which were adopted by the OWEB board in July 2023.

Staff continue to take a concerted effort to address recommendations that were in the 2021 tribal assessment report, including the following actions in 2023.

- OWEB staff organized a meeting with tribes regarding granting practices to discuss a number of the recommendations. During this meeting staff addressed the administrative barriers that were raised and spent time discussing how OWEB can support the tribes' interest in incorporating indigenous knowledge into OWEB projects. At this meeting tribes also provided feedback on training topics to include in the future.
- A major barrier to accessing OWEB land acquisition that emerged from this assessment was language in the conservation easement and grant agreement. In

2023, OWEB started focused conversations with each tribe's natural resources staff to discuss OWEB's land acquisition grant program, understand each tribe's interest in this grant program and discuss any questions or concerns they might have to help identify barriers to tribes accessing these funds.

OWEB management and staff attended multiple training opportunities to improve their capacity to promote collaboration with tribes in 2023, including the following.

- In April, the Restoration Grant Program manager and 5 additional OWEB staff attended the weeklong Cultural Resources and Archaeology Awareness Training that was hosted by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in The Dalles.
- OWEB's tribal liaison and Central Oregon Regional Program Representative attended included the Peer-to-Peer Learning Tribal Summit. The Summit provided a historic opportunity to gather with the goal of increasing tribal inclusion in landscape-scale restoration initiatives through peer-to-peer learning.
- The Restoration Grant Program Office Specialist and the Publications Specialist attended a Cultural Competency in Indigenous Knowledge workshop that was sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership.

Maintaining Government-to-Government relations also includes attending forums where the state natural resource agencies and tribal natural resources departments can discuss topics of mutual interest. OWEB's tribal liaison continued to attend the State/Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup quarterly meetings in 2023 to provide timely information regarding OWEB's activities and seek early tribal involvement in the design of OWEB policies and decisions that may affect their interests.

OWEB's efforts to engage tribes and address barriers to accessing these funds is working. **Since 1998, OWEB has awarded \$12,192,810 in grants to tribal governments.** Across all grant programs, OWEB provided \$2,100,221 to tribes in 2023, which is an increase of approximately \$430K from last year and the most we have provided to tribes in a single year. Tribes are critical partners in watershed restoration in Oregon and often contribute vital match funds to grant projects. In 2023, 12 completed grants included tribal contributions. Across all grant programs, tribes provided \$1,682,209 in cash and \$76,683 of in-kind support to OWEB grants in 2023. This participation as a direct grantee and a partner on other grantees projects underscores the importance of tribal involvement in watershed enhancement across Oregon.

## V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

### Attachments

- A. Executive Order 96-30
- B. Oregon Revised Statute 182.162 to 168
- C. OWEB Tribal Policy
- D. 2023 OWEB Tribal Report

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO - 96 - 30

STATE/TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

There are nine federally recognized Indian tribal governments located in the State of Oregon. These Indian tribes were in existence prior to the formation of the United States of America, and thus retain a unique legal status. The importance of recognizing the relationship that exists between the tribes and state government can not be underestimated.

As sovereigns the tribes and the State of Oregon must work together to develop mutual respect for the sovereign interests of both parties. The relationships between our governmental structures can only be built through trust and mutual respect .

The purpose of formalizing the government-to-government relationship that exists between Oregon's Indian tribes and the State is to establish a process which can assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater good of all of Oregon's citizens, whether tribal members or not.

IT IS ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

1. That the Governor's Legal Counsel, or such other person as the Governor may from time to time designate, shall be accountable to the Governor for the implementation of this Executive Order and be responsible for convening an annual meeting where representatives of the State and the nine federally recognized Oregon tribal governments will work together to achieve mutual goals.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO - 96 - 30

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2. That the head of each Cabinet level department who is either appointed by the Governor or who reports to gubernatorial appointees and is made subject to this Order by the Governor ( hereinafter “department”) shall be accountable to the Governor’s office for adopting a departmental State/Tribal Government statement that:
  - a. Recognizes that Oregon Indian tribal governments are interested in the development of state policy that affects tribal interests (hereinafter “state policy”) and recognizes the desirability of dialogue between tribal governments and the state, with regard to those state policies;
  - b. Identifies key personnel of the department as a “key contact[s]” responsible for coordination with tribal governments;
  - c. Establishes a process for the identification of those state policies by designated tribal representatives and key contacts ;
  - d. promotes dialogue between Oregon departments and tribal governments on those state policies ; and
  - e. That advances the government-to-government relationship by notifying staff and employees of this Executive Order.
3. Through the process established under this Executive Order the key contacts and designated tribal representatives shall identify issues of mutual concern arising from state policy. The departments and each tribal government shall make reasonable efforts to design solutions and develop programs to achieve mutual goals in relation to state policy.



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Page Three

4. That each department shall recognize the opportunity to use a number of tools to achieve mutual cooperation including but not limited to use of cooperative agreements with Indian tribal governments as provided for in ORS 190.110 when it is appropriate to do so.
5. That each department shall provide key managers with periodic training which enables them to better recognize Indian issues and to understand and respect the legal status of tribal governments and of American Indians as citizens of Oregon who also have their own unique and distinct culture. It is important as well for the tribes to develop tribal training so its members will better understand the workings and process of state government. It is the hope of the state that these training's will enable the tribes and the state to learn about each other's cultures and improve our mutual ability to communicate our interests more clearly. The key contact and designated tribal representatives shall consult on the scope and content of training as well as the coverage of its cost.
6. That the departments shall work cooperatively to accomplish the goals of this order.

It is the hope of the state and the tribes that this executive order will result in improving the quality of communication between our sovereign governments. The tribes and the state recognize that this order cannot and is not intended to create a forum for resolution of all issues between the tribes and the state. Nor is it meant to replace presently existing lines of communications. Both the tribes and the state recognize that issues that are the subject of litigation or that are likely to become the subject of litigation are inappropriate for discussion in this process.

Nothing in this order shall require the state or any of its agencies to violate or ignore any laws, rules, directives or other legal requirements or obligations imposed by state or federal law including but not limited to state Public Records laws, Public Meetings laws and provisions of the state Administrative Procedures Act.

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This document has been adopted for the sole purpose of enhancing communication and mutual cooperation between the State of Oregon and the tribal governments and is not intended to, and does not, create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any other right or benefit or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a party against the State of Oregon, its agencies or instrumentality's, its officers or employees, its subdivisions or any other persons.

Done at Salem, Oregon this 22nd day of May 1996.

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GOVERNOR

Attest:

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SECRETARY OF STATE

**RELATIONSHIP OF STATE AGENCIES WITH INDIAN TRIBES****182.162 Definitions for ORS 182.162 to 182.168.** As used in ORS 182.162 to 182.168

(1) "State agency" has the meaning given that term in Oregon ORS 358.635.

(2) "Tribe" means a federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon [2001 c. 177 §]

**Note:** 182.162 to 182.168 were enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but were not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 182 or any series therein by legislative action. See preface Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

**182.64 State agencies to develop and implement policy on relationship with tribes; cooperation with tribes.** (1) A state agency shall develop and implement a policy that:

(a) Identifies individuals in the state agency who are responsible for developing and implementing programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

(b) Establishes a process to identify the programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

(c) Promotes communication between the state agency and tribes.

(d) Promotes positive government-to-government relations between the state and tribes.

(e) Establishes a method for notifying employees of the state agency of the provisions of ORS 182.162 to 182.168 and the policy the state agency adopts under this section.

(2) In the process of identifying and developing the programs of the state agency that affect tribes, a state agency shall include representatives designated by the tribes.

(3) A state agency shall make a reasonable effort to cooperate with tribes in the development and implementation of programs of the state agency that affect tribes, including the use of agreements authorized by ORS 190.110 [2001c.177 §2]

**Note:** See note under 182.162

**182.166 Training of state agency managers and employees who communicate with tribes; annual meetings of representative of agencies and tribes; annual reports by state agencies.** (1) at least once a year, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commission on Indian Services, shall provide training to state agency managers and employees who have regular communication with tribes on the legal status of tribes, the legal rights of members of tribes and issues of concern to tribes.

(2) Once a year, the Governor shall convene a meeting at which representatives of state agencies and tribes may work together to achieve mutual goals.

(3) No later than December 15 of every year, a state agency shall submit a report to the Governor and the Commission on Indian Services on the activities of the state agency under ORS 182.162 to 182.168. The report shall include:

(a) The policy the state agency adopted under ORS 182.164.

(b) The names of the individuals in the state agency who are responsible for developing and implementing programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

(c) The process the state agency established to identify the programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

(d) The effort of the state agency to promote communication between the state agency and the tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and tribes.

(e) A description of the training required subsection (1) of this section.

(f) The method the state agency established for notifying employees of the state agency of the provisions of ORS 182.162 to 182.168 and the policy the state agency adopts under ORS 182.164. [2001 c. 177 §3]

**Note:** See note under 182.162.

**182.168 No right of action created by ORS 182.162 to 182.168.** Nothing in ORS 182.162 to 182.168 creates a right of action against a state agency or a right of review of an action of a state agency. [2001c. 177 §4]

**Note:** See note under 182.162

**182.170** [1959 c.501 §7; repealed by 1959 c.501 §10]

**182.180** [1959 c.501 §8; repealed by 1959 c.501 §10]

**182.190** [1959 c.501 §9; repealed by 1959 c.501 §10]

182.200 [1959 c.501 §10. Repealed by 1959 c.601 §10]



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
OWEB Revised Statement of State-Tribal Relations Policy  
Effective: March 26, 2018  
Approved By: Meta Loftsgaarden  
Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

## Purpose

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 182.162 to 182.168 requires state agencies to promote relations with Tribes. State agencies are to develop and implement policies to include Tribes in the development and implementation of state programs that affect Tribes. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) first established its Tribal Policy in 2007. This revised policy replaces the original policy and provides additional clarity on how OWEB will involve and include Tribal members and governments in the development and implementation of policies and programs administered by the agency. OWEB recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Tribes and their respective authorities on reservation, Tribal, ceded lands and established usual and accustomed areas and their co-management authorities over certain resources on non-Tribal lands. The goal of this policy is to maximize Tribal relations and collaborative efforts and to resolve potential concerns by enhancing exchange of information, ideas, and resources.

## Definitions

### A. Annual Report

The annual report by OWEB to the Governor and to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services on Tribal relations as required by ORS 182.166.

### B. Authorities

The Oregon Administrative Rules and Regulations and ORS that govern the actions and responsibilities of OWEB.

### C. Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)

The Commission created by statute in 1975 to improve services to Indians in Oregon. Its 13 members are appointed jointly by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House to a two-year term. LCIS members select their own officers to serve one-year terms of office. LCIS serves as the main forum in which Indian concerns are considered. It serves as a conduit through which concerns are channeled to the appropriate entity, as a point of access for finding out about state government programs and Indian communities, and a catalyst for making reforms when change is needed.

### D. Natural Resources Workgroup

The Tribal-State workgroup established during meetings under Governor Kitzhaber's Executive Order 96-30. That Executive Order was later codified by Senate Bill 770 in 2001 as ORS 182.162 to 182.182. The Natural Resource Workgroup was created in order to improve communication between the State of Oregon and Tribes regarding natural resources protection and management. The workgroup consists of key state agency contacts, a representative from each of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes, and a representative from the Governor's Office.

### E. Tribes

An Oregon Tribal Government, their Tribal Council, Board of Directors, and/or other authorized representatives that are recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation. The 9 federally recognized Tribes in Oregon are:

- Burns Paiute Tribe;
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians;
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community;
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians;
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation;
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon;
- Coquille Indian Tribe;
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; and
- Klamath Tribes.

OWEB also works with the federally recognized Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho based on that Tribe's ceded lands in Northeast Oregon.

#### **F. Programs**

The programs that OWEB implements to execute Oregon Administrative Rules.

#### **G. Tribal Liaison**

The OWEB employee who is responsible for facilitating, promoting, and ensuring communication between OWEB's program managers and Tribes.

### **Statutory Authorities**

OWEB is a state agency with statutory authority to administer constitutionally dedicated funds for the purpose of protecting and enhancing Oregon's fish and wildlife habitats. The responsibilities of the agency include:

- Managing a grant program for watershed protection and enhancement;
- Assisting in the development and implementation of watershed scale restoration efforts; and
- Coordinating the efforts of watershed councils throughout the state.

OWEB is led by a policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the interests of the public at large, Tribes, state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and federal land management and natural resource agencies. The Board Tribal Representative is recommended by the governor and approved by the Senate. In advising the governor on the Tribal appointment, OWEB will reach out broadly to Tribes to seek interested volunteers to participate on the Board. The Tribal Representative seat on the Board is not intended to represent all of the Tribes' interests nor is it intended to replace the obligation OWEB has to include Tribes in the decision-making process.

OWEB provides grants and services to citizen groups, organizations, Tribes, and agencies working to restore healthy watersheds in Oregon. OWEB actions support the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, created in 1997. Funding comes from the Oregon Lottery as a result of citizen initiatives in 1998 and 2010, sales of salmon license plates since 1997, federal salmon recovery funds, and other sources.

### **Mission**

The mission of OWEB is "To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies."

## **Approach and Priorities**

Created in 1999, OWEB has embraced a community-based problem-solving approach to carry out statutory responsibilities. This has occurred in response to the need to maximize the use of available resources and identify ways to achieve environmental gains in the most efficient manner. The agency has four operational programs: Board and Policy, Grant Management, Business Operations, and Technical Services. Each program is headed by a manager responsible for honoring the relationships between OWEB and Tribes.

## **Tribal Government Participation in OWEB Policy Development and Implementation**

It is the policy of OWEB to:

- Involve the appropriate level of Tribal decision-maker in the notification and decision-making process;
- Provide timely, accurate information regarding agency activities to Tribes including legislative, administrative, policy, and technical data and actions; and
- Promote innovations in communication by employing a Tribal Liaison and seeking early Tribal involvement in the design of a policy, program, and/or process implicating Tribal interests;

OWEB will provide to key Tribal contacts notice of policy and planning efforts, and communicate with Tribes in considering and addressing identified issues of concern. Examples of specific involvement by Tribes include, but are not limited to, solicitation of information concerning proposed land or water acquisitions, participation in grant review teams, and adoption of or changes to administrative rules.

## **Tribal Relations Protocol**

The following OWEB commitments describe the approach to be taken to create and maintain strong Tribal relations:

- OWEB will maintain a Tribal Liaison who will be responsible for facilitating Tribal relations with Tribes;
- The OWEB Director, Tribal Liaison, and Board Tribal Representative will meet at least annually to discuss any known issues;
- The OWEB Tribal Liaison will actively participate as a member of the State Agency Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup and other Tribal State Workgroups or Clusters as deemed appropriate;
- OWEB will maintain organization information and contact sources and will provide updates annually to the key Tribal contacts;
- OWEB will support the exchange of relevant information and data collected by its staff or by a Tribal government to maximize relations and collaborative efforts and to resolve potential concerns;
- OWEB will ensure that all staff are aware of the sovereign nature and authorities of Tribes, their consequent self-governing attributes, and the basic organizational structure of Tribal governments;
- OWEB will provide training and other information exchange appropriate for agency staff to improve their capacity to promote collaboration with Tribes and execute the provisions of this Policy;
- OWEB will support and participate in cooperative efforts among the Tribal, federal, state, and local governments as well as non-governmental parties environmental and related concerns that may cross jurisdictional boundaries;
- OWEB will seek representatives from Tribes to participate on advisory committees and review teams; and
- OWEB will consider and utilize advice, guidance and recommendations when appropriate from the LCIS, the Board Tribal Representative, and staff on Tribal government matters, affairs and issues pertaining to them.



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

2023

# Annual Tribal Report



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360, Salem, OR 97301-1290



## Agency Overview

► **Key Contact**

Stephanie Page, Acting Executive Director  
971-345-7004

[Stephanie.Page@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Page@oweb.oregon.gov)

► **Tribal Liaison**

Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator  
971-345-7108

[Ken.Fetcho@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:Ken.Fetcho@oweb.oregon.gov)

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that administers grants to organizations for voluntary conservation actions. Grant-funded projects improve overall watershed health and provide on-the-ground habitat restoration and conservation across the state. Agency responsibilities include:

- Grant management and administration for watershed protection and enhancement; and
- Assistance in the development and implementation of watershed-scale restoration initiatives; and
- Coordination and support for locally-led initiatives throughout the state to achieve voluntary cooperative conservation outcomes.

OWEB is led by an 18-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public, federally recognized tribes, five state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and six federal land management and natural resource agencies.

OWEB works with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to address watershed-scale restoration needs. OWEB operates grant programs that tribes can apply for to fund a variety of watershed management, protection, and restoration projects. Tribes can leverage those funds to meet their natural and cultural resource restoration goals and objectives.

On October 11, 2023, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek announced that OWEB’s Executive Director, Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, was selected to be the next director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Director Charpilloz Hanson began her new role on December 1, 2023. Deputy Director Stephanie Page will serve as OWEB’s Acting Director beginning December 1st. Tribal partners can expect the same level of tribal engagement and customer service during the transition in agency leadership.



## Tribal Policy

In 2018, OWEB revised its [tribal policy](#) by working with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and tribal input. In 2023, OWEB's leadership and tribal liaison continued to work together to communicate the intent of OWEB's Tribal Policy and identify opportunities for staff to work effectively with tribes.

## Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes

OWEB works closely with tribes and involves them in programs and decision-making processes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency's interactions during 2023 with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe.

## OWEB Board and Grant Programs Tribal Participation

### Board Membership

The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. We have been extremely grateful for the tribal representation on the OWEB Board since 2000. The tribal representatives that have participated as Board members since 2000 are listed in the table below.

Board Member	Tribe	Period of Time Served
<b>Delores Pigsley</b>	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	01.01.2000 – 06.30.2001
<b>Bobby Brunoe</b>	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs of Oregon	09.10.2001 – 06.30.2005 07.01.2005 – 06.30.2009
<b>Eric Quaempts</b>	Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation	07.01.2009 – 06.30.2013 07.01.2013 – 01.31.2017
<b>Jason Robison</b>	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	03.15.2017 – 07.28.2021
<b>Kelly Coates</b>	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	11.20.2021 – present

▲ *Figure 1. Summary of OWEB Board tribal representatives from 2000 to present.*

The position is currently occupied by Kelly Coates, Natural Resources Program Director of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

Additionally, board member Lindsay McClary serves in a public voting position. Lindsay is the Restoration Ecologist/Fish & Wildlife Policy Analyst for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and her term began on March 1, 2022, following Senate confirmation. We are extremely grateful to have two bright and energetic tribal professionals participating on the OWEB Board. Kelly and Lindsay help identify opportunities for collaboration and ensure the OWEB board and staff are aware of their responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests.



▲ Photo 1 (left to right). Kelly Coates, Courtney Shaff, Lindsay McClary, Representative Salinas, Sean Clements, and Annie McColaugh, Director of Federal Affairs for Governor Kotek.

In November 2023, Kelly Coates, Lindsay McClary, and Courtney Shaff traveled to Washington DC to speak with federal agency leaders, Senators, and Representatives about the importance of federal funding for watershed and salmon restoration. OWEB shared the benefits and successful results of federal investments – including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) – in Oregon’s watershed restoration projects.



▲ *Photo 2. Pre-restoration conditions along Granite Creek, located in Grant County.*



▲ *Photo 3. Post-restoration conditions completed in 2023 by the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation along Granite Creek to increase channel complexity and floodplain connection.*

## Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

OAHP was established by the Oregon legislature in 2017 to provide voluntary incentives to support practices that maintain or enhance both agriculture and natural resources such as fish, wildlife, and water quality on agricultural lands. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (commission) oversees the program and makes funding and policy recommendations to the OWEB Board. The commission consists of 12 members who are appointed by the OWEB Board—including one member selected by the OWEB Board who is a representative of tribal interests. This position is currently vacant because the previous tribal representative, Nathan Jackson, who manages the K Bar Ranches Corporation for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, voluntarily stepped down to move his family to Colorado.

In 2023, the legislature allocated money to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund to support grant making for the first time. In April, OWEB awarded the first nine OAHP grants (totaling \$4.3 million) to support the purchase of conservation easements and the development of conservation management plans. The program did not receive additional grant funding in OWEB’s 2023-2025 Legislatively Adopted Budget.

OWEB actively reached out to tribes to recruit a new tribal representative on the commission. As this report is being finalized, one Tribe has applied to OWEB for consideration. Once the application period closes on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, OWEB will review the applications to decide who they will appoint as the next tribal representative.

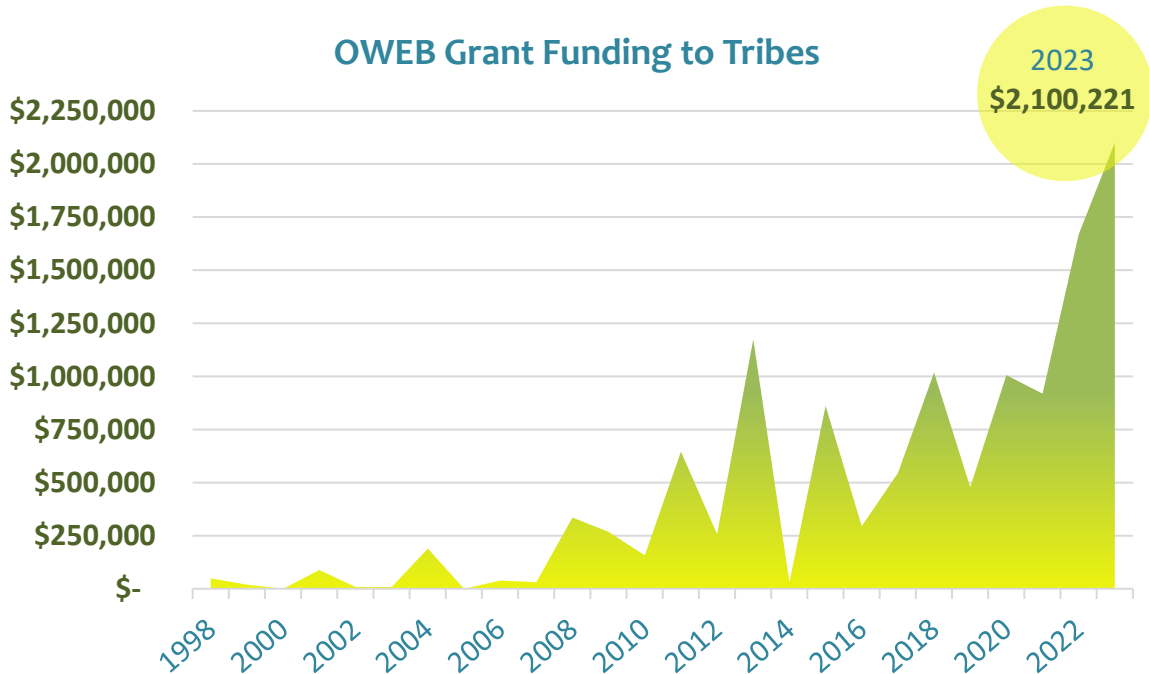


▲ *Photo 4. OWEB’s Coby Menton visits an OWEB funded restoration project along the Wallowa River with Montana Pagano from the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Program.*

## Grant Program

### Grant Applicants

OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes [ORS 541.375(1)]. **Since 1998, OWEB has awarded \$12,192,810 in grants to tribal governments.** Across all grant programs, OWEB provided \$2,100,221 to tribes in 2023, which is an increase of approximately \$430K from last year. See graph below of annual OWEB funding provided to tribes since 1998.



▲ *Figure 2. Annual OWEB grant funding provided to tribes from 1998 to 2023.*

In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of, or partners with, local watershed councils. Oregon law describing watershed councils (ORS 541.388) specifically identifies “federally recognized Indian Tribes” as potential members of these local organizations. Tribes are critical partners in watershed restoration in Oregon and often contribute vital match funds to grant projects. In 2023, 12 completed grants included tribal contributions. **Across all grant programs, tribes provided \$1,682,209 in cash and \$76,683 of in-kind support to OWEB grants in 2023.**

### Small Grant Program

In OWEB’s Small Grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35), tribes are eligible to be members of Small Grant Teams in each of the state’s 28 Small Grant areas. These Small Grant Teams have access to \$100,000 per biennium to recommend grants of up to \$15,000 each for watershed restoration projects. Other team members include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.

Small grant teams are in the process of composing and organizing the teams for the 2023-2025 biennium. Tribes with reservation, tribal, ceded lands, or usual and accustomed areas located partially or entirely within the team's area are invited to participate on the small grant teams. Once all of the small grant teams are reorganized for the 2023-2025 biennium representatives from all nine of the federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe are slated to participate on the majority of the 28 Small Grants Teams. Some tribes sit on several Small Grant Teams and some Teams have more than one tribe participating.

### Open Solicitation Grant Program

OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Open Solicitation Grant Program. During 2023, five grants totaling \$764,172 were awarded to tribes:

- **Two grants totaling \$75,813** to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- **Two grants totaling \$470,631** to the Nez Perce Tribe
- **One grant for \$217,728** was provided to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation have also applied in the most recent grant cycle, for which awards have not yet been made.

OWEB's Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with appropriate tribal staff. They meet with interested tribes before grant application submission and throughout the life of each grant to ensure tribes can meet their goals and objectives. Tribes often partner with watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) by helping manage the projects and at times receive funding to implement projects as contractors. In 2023, 23% of the applications that were reviewed had tribal participation. Tribes participate in applications in several ways. They may be applicants, provide cash match funds, be landowners, contractors for project implementation, partners, board members of the applicant's organization, or supporters of the applicant (such as writing letters of support). In 2023, applications with tribal participation have a success rate of 78% (are funded) compared to applications without tribal participation which have a 62% success rate. This data demonstrates that projects that include tribal participation have a higher chance of being funded and are likely to make a meaningful impact on the health of our watersheds and communities in Oregon.

### Open Solicitation Grant Program – Regional Review Teams

Applications received through OWEB's Open Solicitation Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprised of state, federal, and tribal natural resource professionals. All six regional review teams have at least one tribal natural resource professional participating in the review process. In 2023, seven tribal agency representatives participated in OWEB Regional Review Teams, including representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

## Land Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB's land acquisition grant program provides funding for projects that acquire interests in land from a willing seller to address the conservation needs of priority habitats and species. OWEB notifies all tribes after receiving a land acquisition application to solicit input in the decision-making process. In addition, all tribes are notified when a public hearing date is set to include them in this part of the review process. Finally, OWEB notifies all the tribes once a funding recommendation has been made by OWEB staff allowing tribes to provide additional input before the OWEB Board's funding decision.

The Phipps Meadow property is an important OWEB investment—made through the land acquisition grant program in 2023—for land conservation and future restoration efforts. With an OWEB grant in the amount of \$818,550, the Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) has purchased the 278.74-acre property in Grant County, 18 miles east of Prairie City. Phipps Meadow includes 1.58 miles of the John Day River, including the headwaters of the Middle Fork, and 108 acres of surrounding wet meadow. The Middle Fork of the John Day River provides spawning and rearing habitat to Mid-Columbia steelhead, Mid-Columbia chinook, and bull trout. BMLT plans to work with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Forest Service to restore and protect the property's riparian habitat, improve channel connectivity and complexity, raise the meadow's water table, improve soil health, and thin the overgrown pine uplands. In September 2023, OWEB Executive Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson along with OWEB staff Amy Charette and Ken Fetcho, attended a field tour of this property to see the newly acquired land and hear from the partners on how they plan to proceed with stewarding and restoring this valuable property into the future.



▲ *Photo 5. Local partners discuss restoration potential along the Middle Fork John Day River at Phipps Meadow*

In 2023, OWEB started focused conversations with each tribe's natural resources staff to discuss OWEB's land acquisition grant program. OWEB staff would like to better understand each tribe's interest in this grant program and discuss any questions or concerns they might have to help identify barriers to tribes accessing these funds. It is anticipated that OWEB will continue to meet with all the tribes into the Spring of 2024 to gain their feedback, and

then meet internally with OWEB’s Executive Team to reflect on the feedback we have received to inform next steps. The intent of this work is to increase tribal access to OWEB’s land acquisition grant program in the future.

### Water Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB’s water acquisition grant program provides funding for programs or projects that acquire an interest in water from a willing seller to increase instream flow. Like the land acquisition grant program, OWEB notifies tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received and once a recommendation has been made. This allows multiple opportunities to provide input during the decision-making process.

### Focused Investment Partnership Program

In 2023, tribes continued to participate in the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program. Implementation funding provides opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively on long-term, landscape-scale programmatic restoration initiatives. These initiatives create measurable outcomes within priority areas that were identified by the OWEB Board.



▲ *Photos 6. Photos from a largescale floodplain restoration project that was initiated by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians in 2023 in the Siuslaw River Estuary.*

The OWEB Board has \$11 million available in its 2023-2025 spending plan to award new FIP initiatives during this biennium. OWEB hosted pre-application consultations with



partnerships interested in submitting applications for this grant program. Applications were due to OWEB on October 16, 2023 and five FIP applications were received. Two of those applications from high-performing partnerships included tribes as core partners. A total of two tribes are involved in these partnerships. The Burns Paiute Tribe participates in the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs participate in the Hood River Basin Collaborative. These applications will be reviewed by a technical review team composed of tribal, state and federal agency experts. Lindsay McClary, from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is participating on the expert review team to review and evaluate all of the FIP applications that were received and that will be awarded by the OWEB Board in April 2024.

Once FIP initiatives are awarded to high-performing partnerships, tribes that are part of the partnerships may pursue and receive grant funding from OWEB. During 2023, 4 grants totaling \$1,077,785 were awarded to tribes:

- **Two** grant **totaling \$277,785** awarded to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- **One** grant for **\$400,000** awarded to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- **One** grant for **\$400,000** awarded to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians– their first OWEB grant.

### **Focused Investment Partnership Technical Assistance Program**

In 2019, the OWEB Board approved a new grant program which evolved from the previously offered Development FIP grant program. The new Partnership Technical Assistance grants offer two tracks:

1. **Partnership Development** to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan and governance documents.
2. **Partnership Capacity** to support Strategic Action Plan coordination and implementation.

Partnership Technical Assistance applications were received in December 2022 and were awarded by the OWEB Board in April 2023. Nine applications were received by the deadline, requesting a total of \$1.09 million. Four applications applied for Capacity funding and five applications applied for Development funding. Applications were submitted from three of OWEB's six regions. Five partnerships received grant funding and three of these funded partnerships include tribes as partners.

- **Upper Grande Ronde Partnership** includes the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- **Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership** includes the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- **Umpqua Oak Partnership** includes the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

### **Post-Wildfire Immediate Response and Recovery Grant Program**

Ongoing efforts to provide funding to the 2020 wildfire areas were expanded. Part of House Bill 5006 (2021) provided OWEB with a total of \$19.75 million in funding for grants to support natural resource recovery in areas impacted during the 2020 fire season. Funding was intended to support on-the-ground implementation activities focused on upland and

riparian replanting and floodplain restoration. Eligible applicants included tribes, among other entities. As of November 2023, 23 projects have been funded for 12 of the 14 fire areas. In addition to tribes partnering with applicants to help scope and implement projects, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs applied as lead applicant for a project and received an OWEB grant in the amount of \$199,470 to aid in post-fire recovery at the Little Sweden site in the Beachie Creek Fire area.

Additionally, during the 2022 Oregon Legislative Session, OWEB received a total of \$5 million in funding to provide grants to support natural resource recovery in areas impacted during the 2021 fire season. Funding was intended to support on-the-ground implementation activities focused on natural resource recovery in upland, riparian, and instream habitats. Eligible applicants include tribes, among other entities. As of November 2023, two projects have been funded for 3 of the 14 fire areas. Both projects include tribal participation.

Both 2020 and 2021 Post-fire Recovery grant programs utilized General Funds from the 2021-2023 biennium. In June 2023, legislative approval authorized carryforward of the funding into the 2023-2025 biennium. All funds obligated to existing grant agreements have been extended to June 30, 2025. No additional funding cycles are anticipated to occur for either program.

### **Drought Recovery Grant Program**

OWEB developed the Drought Relief Grant Program that distributed \$10,476,698 in General Funds to address ongoing impacts of drought in Oregon. OWEB conducted extensive outreach with local partners, including tribes, reaching out to over 45 different groups, to assist in designing the Drought Relief Grant Program. The program focused offerings on:

- Soil conservation and invasive weed control on irrigated land in Jefferson County
- Off-channel livestock water and riparian habitat protection in Klamath County
- Irrigation modernization
- Drought resilience in Jefferson and Klamath Counties

OWEB staff participates in a monthly Klamath Livestock Water Working Group that meets to discuss solutions to provide livestock water wells and improve streamside vegetation through a collaborative approach. The group is comprised of representatives from agencies, non-profits, and the Klamath Tribes.

An interagency agreement between OWEB and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council supported the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative (DBWC) in the development of the draft Upper Deschutes River Basin Water Management Plan. The Plan provides a shared vision and implementation guidance for water allocation in the Upper Deschutes Basin. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon was one of the original co-conveners of the DBWC and remains active as one of three chairpersons convening the group.

The collaborative work of the DBWC in the Upper Deschutes Basin has also played a critical role in many of the projects funded through the Drought Relief Grant Program, including: two large-scale irrigation modernization projects, a water bank transaction program, and an

economic and appraisal study focusing on improving irrigation resiliency for the North Unit Irrigation District.

Two engagement grants focused on drought resilience in Klamath County focused on the Sprague and Wood River watersheds to improve agricultural resiliency, river recovery, and relationship building. The work from these grants led to the development of the Sprague River Collaborative, which the Klamath Tribes is an active member, as well as the collaborative development of a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) restoration grant made available through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The USFWS grant focuses on voluntary, incentive-based restoration, identifies the critical role of tribal lands, and stresses the importance of supporting tribal knowledge and sovereignty.

### **Other Grant Program Involvements**

The Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) is a long-term, large-scale monitoring effort to evaluate watershed restoration projects. OWEB participates on the steering team and assists with securing funding for several aspects of the program. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs continues to be a key participant in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW and received \$19,000 in funding this year to continue their important work in this long-term watershed monitoring effort.

OWEB staff also participates in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for mitigation of the loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to the construction of 13 dams and reservoirs on major tributaries to the Willamette River from 1946-1964. Members from Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP, as they all have historic hunting, fishing, and trading areas in the Basin.



▲ Photo 7. Restoration along Middle Fork John Day River, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, May 2, 2023.

## Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

### Tribal Liaison

In conformance with OWEB's tribal policy, OWEB's designated staff person, Ken Fetcho, continues to operate as a tribal liaison for the agency. The tribal liaison is responsible for ensuring that OWEB's programs and policy development adhere to our tribal policy. This includes coordinating program and policy notices to tribal natural resource key contacts and providing training to staff as appropriate.

In 2023, OWEB's tribal liaison continued to notify OWEB employees of the provisions of ORS 182.162 to 182.168 and its tribal policy to emphasize the importance of OWEB's tribal policy to new employees and board members. Starting in 2019, each new employee and board member is briefed on the tribal policy and receives a copy of the current Annual Tribal Report. In addition, the tribal liaison presented at the January 2023 Board meeting to discuss the provisions of ORS 182.162 - 182.168 and highlight the accomplishments that were summarized in the 2022 annual tribal report. These provisions are also discussed at all-staff meetings when the request for information is released to write the annual tribal report and when the final report is presented to staff to celebrate the work we have done to engage tribes in OWEB's decision-making processes. OWEB staff and OWEB Board member Kelly Coates are planning to present at the January 2024 Board meeting an overview of the Government-to-Government relationship OWEB has with the Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon.

The tribal liaison continued to meet with Calla Hagle, the Natural Resources Director of the Burns Paiute Tribe, to explore the potential for planning training for OWEB staff that would occur in the future. The purpose of the training is to learn more about the Burns Paiute Tribe and learn how OWEB can be a better partner in areas of mutual interest. OWEB is interested in learning more about how the Burns Paiute Tribe government is structured, their cultural and natural resource priorities, and how that might influence how they pursue our funding. This training was originally scheduled to occur in October 2023 but was rescheduled to 2024.

## Oregon Water Data Portal

In 2023, OWEB continued work with several other state agencies on the Oregon Water Data Portal (OWDP). This is a project funded by the Oregon Legislature to help improve access to statewide data and information to make water and water infrastructure decisions. A [report summarizing Phase 1](#) of the project, including tribal listening sessions, was provided to the Oregon Legislature in early 2023. Phase 2 work is building upon outcomes from the listening sessions and will include additional opportunities for tribal engagement. For more information see the [OWDP Website](#).

## Cultural Resources Protection

OWEB continues to emphasize the importance of grantees and grant project managers complying with regulations that protect cultural resources. OWEB grants pay for the expenses needed to comply with cultural resource regulations and to legally implement watershed improvement projects. In 2023, OWEB continued to work with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to negotiate a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Grant Program to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in Oregon. OWEB has participated in monthly meetings with NOAA and their contractor to discuss comments NOAA has received and how to address them as we work toward a final PA. OWEB anticipates signing the PA no sooner than July 1, 2024 and looks forward to implementing this PA in partnership with NOAA, SHPO, THPOs and our grantees.

To begin communicating the new review process for OWEB, we hosted an informational [webinar](#) for our grantees and interested applicants on September 21, 2023. The purpose of the webinar was to begin to describe the process to comply with the terms of the PA and to hear from our grantees what their questions are to help clarify the new process.

Additionally, OWEB with PCSRF funding from NOAA has created a new position to hire a Cultural Resources Specialist to coordinate this new process and document compliance with the PA. Interviews for this position will be held in December 2023 and we look forward to having this position on board in early 2024 to assist our agency. We envision this position working closely with our grantees, SHPO, and THPOs to ensure our restoration grantees are following state, tribal, and federal laws to protect cultural resources. This effort will provide

an opportunity to help OWEB further foster our relationships with the tribes in Oregon as we work on a topic that is of the utmost importance to tribal governments.



▲ Photos 8 (above). Photos of OWEB staff attending a field trip to visit She Who Watches and (below) OPRD staff teaching the class how to throw an atlatl.



In April 2023, OWEB staff attended the weeklong Cultural Resources and Archaeology Awareness Training that was hosted by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in The Dalles. This training focused on assisting staff in understanding the importance of cultural resources protection to tribes. OWEB’s Restoration Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams and 5 staff members attended this important training. This training program was designed to provide

an overview of cultural resources and archaeological issues as they affect lands in Oregon. An especially important aspect of the training is that it was held with tribal partners to broaden the cultural awareness of state employees and provide information on the tribal consultation process. Additionally, the training recognized both precontact and historic sites, and addressed the importance of cultural resources and archaeological preservation, along with applicable federal and state regulations.

## Assessment of Grant Practices Impact on Tribes

In October 2021, OWEB partnered with a Portland State University (PSU) graduate student to perform an assessment of how OWEB's granting practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive grant funding to meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

Results from this assessment are summarized in a [final report](#). The findings in the report were developed directly from interviews conducted with staff from each of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon, as well as the Nez Perce Tribe. Using these findings, the PSU student developed recommendations to address barriers identified through the assessment. In evaluating the recommendations, OWEB's leadership and tribal liaison determined that several of the recommendations could be addressed through communication and meeting to discuss the details more thoroughly.

In April 2023, OWEB staff organized a meeting with tribes regarding granting practices in response to recommendations in the assessment report. During this meeting tribes provided feedback on the future topics to discuss and included training topics on overall OWEB grant management. OWEB plans to work on offering this training in 2024 and hopes to include tribes in the process to attend the CONNECT conference. This conference is supported by OWEB and is often attended by Watershed Councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and Land Trusts. We are hoping to offer scholarships to increase tribal participation to help build relationships across partners to increase the scope and scale of restoration across the landscape.

## Climate Resolution and Rule Making

In January 2022, OWEB's board adopted a [Climate Resolution \(OWEB Resolution 01-2022\)](#). The resolution states that OWEB will:

Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation in their budgeting, investing, and policy-making decisions by:

- Funding climate-smart adaptation and resilience for Oregon's watersheds, natural resources, people, and communities.
- Funding projects that include meaningful emissions reductions, carbon sequestration, and protection of carbon storage in enhancing watershed health and habitat restoration.
- Valuing project co-benefits and assessing the long-term sustainability of projects and acquisitions.
- Learn and apply diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), and environmental justice principles when making funding decisions to address challenges arising from climate change to traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities.
- Engage traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities in processes to craft meaningful solutions that are integrated into funding decisions.

At the July 2022 board meeting, the OWEB board approved the agency to start the rulemaking process to add these criteria into its grantmaking rules. The agency successfully

recruited Helena Linnell, Biological Planning and Operations Manager for the Coquille Indian Tribe, to participate in the Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC met from December 2022 through April 2023 and developed three climate criteria, which were adopted (with small modifications) by the OWEB board in July 2023. Criteria were added to OWEB's grant applications for the Fall 2023 open solicitation cycle. Tribes were invited to attend virtual and in-person trainings that were held across the state in the Fall 2023 to learn how to address these new criteria when writing grant applications to OWEB.

## Small Grant and Drinking Water Source Protection Rule Making

In June 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2010 that—combined with other legislation—allocates \$5 million to establish a new drinking water source protection land acquisition grant program at OWEB. At the July 2023 meeting, the OWEB Board approved the rulemaking process to begin for this newly established program.

This rulemaking process will include establishing a full scope of rules for the program—including but not limited to grant eligibility, grant application standards, evaluation criteria, and reporting requirements. [HB 2010](#) is available for viewing here if you would like to review the bill language. OWEB is in the process of inviting the federally recognized tribes in Oregon to serve as a member of the Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) for OWEB's newly established Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program to develop administrative rules that likely will be brought before the OWEB Board for consideration at its July 2024 meeting. Given the importance of water to the Tribes, we are hoping to have tribal representation to ensure tribal issues and concerns are included in this important grant program.

At their July 2023 meeting, the OWEB Board initiated rulemaking for OWEB's Small Grant Program. This rulemaking will include looking at broadening the eligibility in applying for small grants, as well as serving on the small grant teams. OWEB may also look at small grant project types and conduct some minor updates to the rules. OWEB formed a (RAC) to provide input on how these potential changes can be incorporated into the Small Grant Program administrative rules. All tribes were invited to participate on the RAC because tribal participation in the Small Grant Program includes all the 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe. Annaliese Ramthun with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is participating on this RAC. We value her time and input into this process, which will continue into 2024.

## Renaming the Stakeholder Engagement Grant Offering

OWEB Board member Lindsay McClary raised the issue of the term 'stakeholder' in the stakeholder engagement grant offering during a Grants Committee meeting. She explained that historically, the term "stakeholder" refers to someone staking a claim to land, which can be offensive to tribal communities, reflecting colonial history. The committee agreed that OWEB should consider changing the name of the grant offering to something more appropriate. After discussion, the committee suggested calling the grants simply



“Engagement Grants” as this reflects the purpose and intent of the grant type and is inclusive of any type of engagement necessary for implementing eligible restoration or acquisition projects.

While board approval was not needed to name grant offerings, the committee decided to provide this recommendation for discussion at the October 2023 board meeting. There was consensus from the board on the name change, and staff implemented this new name change with the next Engagement Grant offering. The name will be changed in administrative rules as each section of rules referencing this grant type is subject to rulemaking updates.

## Peer-to-Peer Learning Tribal Summit

The tribal liaison participated in a collaborative team to assist Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the Intertribal Ecosystem Restoration Partnership in planning a Peer-to-Peer Learning Summit that was hosted in Sunriver November 14-16, 2023. OWEB was a proud sponsor of this event by providing a small sponsorship of \$1,000 to support the event and sent two staff to attend the Summit. The Summit invited tribal, nonprofit, and agency leaders to gather with the goal of increasing tribal inclusion in landscape-scale restoration initiatives through peer-to-peer learning. Speakers and panelists shared success stories, best practices, and lessons learned, supported by participant discussions.

The Summit provided a historic opportunity to establish a framework to support ongoing collaboration among tribes based in Oregon, tribes with ancestral geography in Oregon, and agencies and organizations working across the state to build ecosystem and community resilience to the mounting impacts of climate change, and empower partnerships to co-manage, co-invest, and collaborate on large, landscape-scale initiatives.



▲ *Photo 9. Tribal youth being honored at the Peer-to-Peer Learning Summit hosted by Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the Inter-Tribal Ecosystem Restoration Partnership.*

The Tribal Liaison also continued to attend the State/Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup quarterly meetings in 2023 to provide relevant updates to tribes and to better understand issues of importance to the tribes.

## Meetings with Tribes

In August 2023, Director Charpiloz Hanson, Deputy Director Page, and Liaison Fetcho met in person with natural resource program staff from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to tour their tribal lands and visit restoration projects that have been implemented on tribal and neighboring partners' lands. The visit included a tour of several restoration projects completed by the tribe including fish passage projects, instream habitat enhancement, and streamside vegetation restoration. The visit also included a tour of some lands recently restored to the tribe that burned during the Milepost 97 fire in 2019. This two-day meeting was valuable in establishing relationships with the Cow Creek natural resources staff and helping OWEB better understand the challenges and solutions to implementing watershed restoration projects across tribal, public and private lands.



▲ *Photo 10. Former Executive Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson (center) and current Acting Executive Director Stephanie Page (third from the right) on a field trip of tribal lands with Kelly Coates and natural resource staff from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, August 2023.*

We hope that establishing these relationships and exchanging information is mutually beneficial so we can continue to foster and develop relations between OWEB and each federally recognized tribe in Oregon. In order to promote engagement with tribes, OWEB staff have developed a [new Tribal Engagement webpage](#) to share information. OWEB is open to receiving feedback from the tribes on the language we are using and the items that are posted on this webpage. Please let us know if you have any feedback, so we can ensure it reflects our shared values on this important topic. OWEB looks forward to continuing to meet with the tribes on their lands in 2024 to visit their watershed enhancement projects and continue to learn.



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item G

**Zumwalt Telling the  
Restoration Story**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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*Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priority #1: Broad Awareness and Priority #6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item G – Zumwalt Telling the Restoration Story  
January 23-24, 2024, Board Meeting

### I. Background

OWEB's targeted *Telling the Restoration Story* grant offering helps grantees evaluate existing data from watershed restoration projects and produce outreach materials that describe the outcomes. Outreach materials include fact sheets, videos, and online content such as StoryMaps. The audience includes board members and legislators. Each grantee also develops materials that can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Nine projects have been completed under this offering so far, with projects highlighted/presented at several Board meetings and available on OWEB's website. Currently, five 'Telling the Restoration Story' projects are being funded with work underway.

### II. Pollinator Habitat in the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve

The Zumwalt Prairie Preserve is located in Wallowa County, near the town of Enterprise, Oregon. It is one of the largest intact remnants of Pacific Northwest Bunchgrass Prairie, purchased by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 2009 with the aid of OWEB funding. Since 2001, OWEB has invested almost \$4 million in the Zumwalt Prairie region, including acquisitions, restoration projects, invasive weed removal, and monitoring grants.

This presentation will highlight results from a recently funded 'Telling the Restoration Story' grant focused on pollinator habitat restoration. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles, and even some flies. These animals are important to rangeland health because they pollinate many plants that are essential to livestock diets. At the same time, managed rangelands provide valuable grassland habitat for a diverse array of pollinator species important throughout the entire Pacific Northwest region.

For this project, Oregon State University (OSU) compiled data from multiple pollinator projects conducted on the Zumwalt preserve over the last 15 years. Additional data from similar habitat at the USFS Starkey Experimental Forest and Range (Upper Grand Ronde Sub-basin) and from TNC's Boardman Preserve were also included in the data synthesis. Results are presented in a technical bulletin that includes topics like the following: 'lessons learned' about regional pollinator and plant diversity; information about the relationships between plants and pollinators, including time-dependent seasonal events such as flowering; and management implications for pollinator habitat.

Outreach products include fact sheets, developed in collaboration with OSU Extension, and online information. A key message is the importance of Pacific Northwest Bunchgrass Prairie habitat for some of the most diverse pollinator communities in the US. The products provide landowners and livestock managers with information on best management practices for grazed habitats, including riparian and woody plant habitats (e.g., aspen and shrub stands). One example practice is targeted, or rotational, grazing.

The outreach products also describe pollinator and habitat diversity and the importance of pollinators and native plants for a general audience.

### **III. Recommendation**

This is an informational item only.



OREGON  
WATERSHED  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item H

**Rulemaking 101 and  
Authorization to Initiate FIP  
Rulemaking**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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*Agenda Item H supports all Strategic Plan priorities.*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item H – Rulemaking 101 and Authorization to Initiate FIP Rulemaking  
January 23-24, 2024, Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

As a part of an ongoing effort to familiarize the board with OWEB grant programs and processes, 'OWEB 101' sessions have been included at board meetings. At the January 2024 meeting, staff will provide a brief 'OWEB 101' presentation focusing on rulemaking. Following the 'OWEB 101' presentation, staff will seek board authorization to initiate rulemaking for the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program (Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 695, Division 47).

### II. Background

Grant programs at OWEB are guided by administrative rules. Rules cover topics such as 'project eligibility', 'application requirements', 'evaluation criteria', 'technical review process', and 'funding decision' for OWEB grant programs/types.

OWEB regularly conducts rulemaking to update existing rules and establish rules for new programs. Recently, the board has authorized the following rulemaking processes.

- OWEB Grant Program (Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 695, Division 005). This rulemaking added climate-related evaluation criteria that apply across OWEB's grant programs.
- Small Grant Program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35). This rulemaking is in progress.
- A new grant program for Drinking Water Source Protection Grants.

Staff envision that a similar pace of rulemaking will continue through this biennium and into the 2025-2027 biennium. For each of these rulemaking endeavors, OWEB will follow similar processes.

The FIP program is an OWEB investment that: addresses a board-identified focused investment priority of significance to the state; achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes; uses integrated, results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and is implemented by a high-performing partnership. FIP funding supports partnerships in pursuing conservation initiatives with up to \$12 million over six years.



Administrative rules for the FIP program were adopted by the board in 2018 (Attachment A).

### III. Rulemaking at OWEB

Rulemaking at OWEB is initiated by the board with a draft timeline provided by staff. Following board initiating rulemaking, staff begin working on draft rule concepts and language, and begin recruiting a rulemaking advisory committee (RAC), which is made up of those that are most likely to be impacted by the proposed rules. Once developed, the RAC meets virtually to review and discuss the proposed rules. RAC meetings are open to the public and both public verbal and written comments are sought for these meetings. At intervals, staff will update relevant board committees (and at times the full board) on rulemaking themes and progress made through the RAC meetings. When a final draft of the proposed rules has been developed, staff file a notice with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office to seek formal public comment on the rules through written comments and via a virtual public hearing. After consideration, OWEB provides a response to each comment provided, including whether the comment resulted in a change to the draft rules. The final draft rules are then brought to the board for consideration to adopt.

### IV. FIP Rulemaking

The board has awarded three cohorts of FIP initiatives, with the fourth cohort set to begin following board awards in April 2024. Much has been learned during the existing FIP program and staff are proposing to open the rule division for potential revisions. These potential revisions include some technical changes and updating, and also some more substantive areas, including:

- The process for determining board-identified ecological priorities for the FIP program.
- Revisiting how required match is accounted for in FIP initiatives.
- Open Solicitation grant program eligibility for projects that are focused on the programs and actions within a FIP initiative.

If the board authorizes rulemaking, staff propose to develop revisions to the FIP rules in accordance with the draft schedule below.

<b>Rulemaking Action</b>	<b>Dates/Deadlines</b>
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	January 2024
Draft Rule Concepts/Language Developed	Winter-Spring 2024
RAC Meetings to Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	May-September 2024
Draft Rules Revised Based on RAC Feedback	October 1, 2024
Notice Filed with Secretary of State	October 1, 2024

Public Comment Materials posted online	October 1, 2024
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	October 1, 2024
Public Comment Period	October 1-October 30, 2024
Public Hearing(s)	October 2024
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	November/December 2024
Board Adoption of Rules	January 2025

**V. Recommendation**

Staff recommend that the board authorize rulemaking for the Focused Investment Partnership program in Division 47.

**Attachments**

A. Division 47 - Focused Investment Partnership Grants Administrative Rules

## **DIVISION 47 - FOCUSED INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**

### **695-047-0010**

#### **Purpose**

The Board shall provide grants, as funds are available, for Focused Investment Partnership initiatives that address Board-identified priorities of significance to the state through either Implementation grants or Development grants.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

### **695-047-0020**

#### **Definitions**

- (1) "Focused Investment Partnership" means an OWEB investment that addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state, achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes, uses integrated and results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan, and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.
- (2) "Focused Investment Partnership Development" means an initiative with an existing partnership that is pursuing enhancement of that partnership, development of a strategic action plan and community engagement in support of the strategic action plan.
- (3) "Focused Investment Partnership Implementation" means an initiative with an existing strategic action plan that is ready for implementation by a high-performing partnership.
- (4) "Initiative" means the program that the partnership will pursue with Focused Investment Partnership funding.
- (5) "Strategic Action Plan" is the long term conservation strategy of a partnership. Plans will include all components identified by OWEB as a part of the application process.
- (6) "High-Performing Partnership" means a collaborating group of organizations with an existing governance structure that includes a formal decision making process resulting in an effective performance history.
- (7) "Core Partners" are the partners identified in the proposal that will bring substantial capacity to a partnership and will lead the implementation effort.
- (8) "Measurable Ecological Outcomes" means quantifiable long-term ecological effects resulting from a series of conservation actions.
- (9) "Expert Review Team" means a team of designated personnel with statewide knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities as appropriate to evaluate Focused Investment Partnership Implementation proposals and Development applications.
- (10) "Technical Review Team" means a team of designated personnel with regional knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities to evaluate Focused Investment Partnership Implementation project-level grant applications.
- (11) "Work Plan" means the proposed actions of the partnership in each biennium of the Initiative. Focused Investment Partnership Implementation partnerships will submit to OWEB an updated work plan in advance of each new biennium.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

### **695-047-0030**

#### **Board-identified Priorities**

At least every five years, the Board shall approve ecological priorities of significance to the State to be addressed by Focused Investment Partnerships Initiatives. Ecological priorities shall be determined with public input and scientific rigor, and shall include maps and narrative describing the desired ecological outcomes for eligible Focused Investment Partnership Initiative activities.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

### **695-047-0040**

#### **Eligibility**

(1) The Board shall only consider a Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative proposal that:

- (a) Addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state; and
- (b) Is to be implemented by a high-performing partnership.

(2) The Board shall only consider a Focused Investment Partnership Development Initiative application that:

- (a) Addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state; and
- (b) Is to be implemented by an existing partnership.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

### **695-047-0050**

#### **Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Proposal and Focused Investment Partnership Development Application Requirements**

(1) Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative proposals shall:

- (a) Be submitted on the most current form using the process prescribed by the Board; and
- (b) Demonstrate that 25% match is sought, and shall be expended within the scope and geography of the Initiative application.

(2) Focused Investment Partnership Development Initiative applications shall:

- (a) Be submitted on the most current form using the process prescribed by the Board; and
- (b) Demonstrate that 25% match is sought.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

**695-047-0060**

**Evaluation Criteria**

(1) Focused Investment Partnership Implementation proposals shall be evaluated on:

- (a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority;
- (b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography;
- (c) The performance history and composition of the partnership;
- (d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes;
- (e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes;
- (f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative; and
- (g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

(2) Focused Investment Partnership Development applications shall be evaluated on:

- (a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority;
- (b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments within the initiative geography; and
- (c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

**695-047-0070**

**Focused Investment Partnership Initiative Expert Review Process**

The Board shall convene expert review teams to evaluate Focused Investment Partnership Implementation proposals and Development applications according to criteria described in OAR 695-047-0060. Expert review teams shall evaluate each application based on the information provided and deliver recommendations to OWEB staff. The results of the expert review process, including evaluations, shall be provided to applicants and the Board.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

**695-047-0080**

**Focused Investment Partnership Initiative Funding Recommendation Process**

(1) For Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiatives:

- (a) OWEB staff shall review the recommendations from each expert review team and make a funding recommendation to a Board subcommittee. The OWEB staff recommendation shall be provided to applicants and the Board.

(b) The Board subcommittee shall interview core partners proposing an Implementation Initiative.

(c) The Board subcommittee shall review OWEB staff recommendations, and the results of the interview of the core partners, and make a funding recommendation to the Board.

(2) For Focused Investment Partnership Development Initiatives, OWEB staff shall review the recommendations from each expert review team and make a funding recommendation to the Board. This recommendation shall also be provided to applicants.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

#### **695-047-0090**

##### **Board Funding Decision**

(1) For Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiatives:

(a) The Board may fund an Initiative in whole or in part.

(b) The Board shall award funds on a biennial basis. Subject to Board evaluation and future appropriations, the Board seeks investment for up to six years for each Initiative. A biennial award will not exceed \$4 million and the full six-year award will not exceed \$12 million.

(2) For Focused Investment Partnership Development Initiatives the Board may fund an Initiative in whole or in part.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

#### **695-047-0100**

##### **Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative Partnership Agreement**

(1) For Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiatives, a partnership agreement shall be executed between OWEB and core partners that shall stipulate the terms of the initiative.

(2) The agreement shall include at a minimum: points of contact, purpose of initiative, scope of initiative, process for submitting project-level grant applications, review process, funding conditions, roles and responsibilities of signatories, and methodology to address any potential changes in composition of the core partnership.

(3) Only organizations that are signatory to the partnership agreement are eligible to apply for project level grants.

(4) Projects in the defined geographic area of the Initiative, and focused on the programs and actions identified in the Initiative's proposal, are ineligible for the grant types listed in OAR 695-047-0110(8) that are offered outside of the Focused Investment Partnership program.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

#### **695-047-0110**

##### **Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative Project-level Grant Process**

- (1) The core partners of a Focused Investment Implementation Initiative shall select projects to implement the Initiative.
- (2) Project applications shall be submitted on current forms on a schedule determined by the partnership and OWEB staff.
- (3) Project applications shall include a matching contribution from other non-Board program funds or in-kind services, notwithstanding OAR 695-005-0030(3).
- (4) Following consultation with the partnership about expertise that is relevant to the Implementation Initiative's focus, a technical review team shall be convened by OWEB. Technical review team members shall have appropriate expertise in the Focused Investment Partnership Initiative subject matter and geography.
- (5) The technical review team shall meet to evaluate project-level applications according to the project's compatibility with the Initiative's proposal and relevant evaluation criteria established in OAR Chapter 695. Representatives of the partnership shall be provided an opportunity to meet with the technical review team during the project evaluation to provide context for proposed projects.
- (6) OWEB staff shall provide the technical review team evaluations to the applicant. Applicants and staff shall address review team comments through an amendment or other agreed upon process.
- (7) Notwithstanding 695-005-0060(2) and (8) initiatives require 25% match, reported at the Initiative-level for the biennium. Each project within the initiative also requires match. Prior to disbursement of Board funds for a project the grantee must provide proof that the matching contribution has been secured for the project. Initiatives that do not meet the required 25% match by the end of the biennium will not be awarded subsequent Implementation Initiative funding.
- (8) Grant types for Focused Investment Implementation Initiatives are Restoration (OAR 695-010), Stakeholder Engagement (OAR 695-015), Monitoring (OAR 695-025), Technical Assistance (OAR 695-030), Land Acquisition (OAR 695-045), and Water Lease and Transfer (OAR 695-046).

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

#### **695-047-0120**

##### **Distribution of Funds**

- (1) Focused Investment Partnership Development Initiative funds shall be distributed through grant agreements executed in accordance with OAR 695-005-0050 and 695-005-0060.
- (2) Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative funds shall be distributed through project-level grant agreements through a process described in the partnership agreement described in OAR 695-047-0100.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

#### **695-047-0130**

##### **Reporting**

- (1) Reporting for Focused Investment Partnership Development Initiatives shall be in accordance with OAR chapter 695, division-005.

- (2) Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiatives shall report to OWEB staff through a collaboratively established process and timeline.
- (3) Reporting for project-level grants shall be determined in each project grant agreement.
- (4) At the end of each biennium, the Focused Investment Implementation Initiative partnerships shall report the following to the Board:
- (a) Demonstrated 25% secured match for the Initiative for the biennium plus any additional investments generated by the Initiative.
  - (b) Initiative progress for the biennium
  - (c) Updated work plan and budget proposed for the next biennium
  - (d) Any proposed changes to the geography, scope, or partners of the Initiative.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018

#### **695-047-0140**

##### **Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules**

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 47 unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's Focused Investment Partnership grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies. Any waiver of the requirements of Division 47 will be reported to the Board at the next Board meeting. The administrative rules for Focused Investment Partnership grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Board and revised as necessary and appropriate.

*Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906

*Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890-541.969

*History:*

OWEB 1-2018, adopt filed 02/02/2018, effective 02/02/2018





OREGON  
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Agenda Item I

**FIP Effectiveness Monitoring**  
**Funding Request**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360

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*Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator  
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item I – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request  
January 23-24, 2024, Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

Staff will request the board approve funding to support Bonneville Environmental Foundation's (BEF) ongoing work related to the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program.

### II. Background

Over the past four biennia, OWEB and BEF have partnered on various aspects of FIP program development, assessment, and tracking. For example, the board has awarded grants for BEF to partner with OWEB and FIPs to engage in a collaborative approach resulting in several products, including a progress monitoring framework for each FIP. Progress monitoring frameworks provide an innovative and technically robust way to measure progress toward outcomes throughout the six-year FIP investments. The key elements of the progress monitoring framework are a theory of change, results chain, and a crosswalk matrix, which have been presented to the board at previous meetings (October 2017; January 2020; March 2021). These tools track and communicate progress and help inform adaptive management of restoration initiatives by FIP partners. In addition, the BEF team has developed guidance materials for partnerships, including 'Governance Documents', 'Adaptively Managing Restoration Initiatives', 'Monitoring Restoration Initiatives', and the 'Partnership Learning Project' which was presented to the board at the October 2023 meeting. This guidance has been shared with FIP partnerships and is available to the public on OWEB's website.

### III. BEF Funding Request

For the 2023-2025 biennium, BEF has requested grant funding to support:

- The coordination and facilitation of a 'FIP Gathering' in 2024, where current FIP initiatives will be invited to participate in a two-day event for sharing and learning from experiences in the FIP program. The agenda for the gathering is being developed, while previous gatherings featured topics such as building partnership resiliency, engagement strategies, discussion of technical tools, and a forum for partnership troubleshooting.
- Direct FIP partnership capacity support through training workshops focused on topics like adaptively managing and monitoring restoration initiatives, individually tailored training for specific partnership needs, and the facilitation of additional peer networking beyond the FIP Gathering.
- Program assessment and evolution of the FIP program, including assisting with defining the structure and content of post-FIP reporting and working with staff to facilitate a program review to adaptively manage and help inform rulemaking in the program.

#### **IV. Recommendation**

Staff recommend the board award up to \$320,000 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2023-2025 spending plan to support the ongoing work of the OWEB-BEF partnership toward continued development and improvement of the FIP program, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 1, 2024.



OREGON  
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Agenda Item K

**ODFW Private Forest Accord  
Grant Program**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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*Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities # 4: Watershed Organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio.*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Stephanie Page, Acting Executive Director  
Andy Spyрка, Private Forest Accord Grant Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item K – Private Forest Accord Grant Program  
January 23-24, 2024, Board Meeting

### I. Background

The Private Forest Accord Grant Program was established in the 2022 Legislative Session. This new program reflects an agreement between timber and conservation groups. The agreement enhances aquatic resource protections in the Forest Practices Act while providing long term regulatory assurances for the timber industry.

As part of the agreement, the Oregon Department of Forestry is developing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and acquiring a federal Incidental Take Permit. These measures address aquatic species potentially impacted by timber harvest and forest practices. The PFA Grant Program will support projects that provide conservation uplift for fish and aquatic wildlife species and habitats covered by the anticipated HCP. It is administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

### II. Interagency Collaboration on the PFA Grant Program

OWEB has been pleased to be a collaborator with ODFW as the agency developed and launched this new grant program following the 2022 Legislative Session. Below are some examples of the interagency collaboration.

- ODFW first reached out to OWEB in 2022 as part of information gathering efforts about other state agency grant administration processes and resources. OWEB staff shared information about OWEB's grant administration systems and processes during that initial scoping effort.
- OWEB staff Mark Grenbemer serves on the Mitigation Advisory Committee that advised ODFW on the rules for the PFA grant program and makes recommendations that provide the most conservation uplift for HCP covered species. OWEB board member Chris Allen also serves on the Mitigation Advisory Committee.

- OWEB has helped distribute announcements about the inaugural PFA Grant Program application opportunity through OWEB's grantee listservs and via social media.

OWEB and ODFW anticipate that the PFA Grant Program and OWEB restoration programs will complement each other. The PFA Grant Program is a potential source of match funding for eligible OWEB restoration grants.

### **III. Program Status**

The PFA Grant Program opened an application cycle on November 6, 2023. The deadline for applications was December 31, 2023. Applications will undergo a threshold review, followed by Regional Review Team review. The Mitigation Advisory Committee will provide review and recommendation to the ODFW Commission regarding funding awards in Spring 2024.

### **IV. Recommendation**

This is an information item only.



OREGON  
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Agenda Item L

## **Strategic Plan Refresh Update**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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Agenda Item L supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Eric Williams, Restoration Grants Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item L – Strategic Plan Update  
January 23-24, 2024, Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

OWEB's strategic plan was adopted in 2018. Consistent with Governor Kotek's directive to state agencies to update strategic plans by June 2024 and recognizing that significant work has been accomplished since the plan was adopted, OWEB has engaged a consultant, Dialogues in Action, to refresh the plan rather than create an entirely new plan. This agenda item is a board work session to provide input for the strategic plan refresh.

### II. Background

The 2018 strategic plan includes foundational elements that remain both meaningful and viable. These include the first four sections of the plan: "Who We Are," "What We Believe In," "The Impact We Want to Achieve," and "The Approach We Take."

At the October 2023 meeting the board reviewed a draft set of revised priorities developed as a result of engagement with board members, OWEB grantees, and OWEB staff. The next step in the process is to develop strategies under each priority that will provide a roadmap for specific actions and timelines to implement the plan.

### III. Status

Working with our consultant, Steve Patty of Dialogues in Action, staff developed a draft set of strategies under each priority for board consideration (Attachment A). At the January meeting, Steve Patty, Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, and Eric Williams, Restoration Grants Manager, will engage the board in reviewing and revising the draft strategies.

Staff will then develop specific tactics with timelines and measures for presentation to the board at the April 2024 meeting, where the board will be asked to adopt the refreshed strategic plan.



#### **IV. Recommendation**

This is an informational item only.

#### **V. Attachments**

A. Draft Strategic Plan Strategies

## Priority 1: Build awareness of the relationship between the people of Oregon and watershed restoration

### A. Elevate the story about how restoration promotes healthy watersheds

Restoration is crucial to the enhancement of watershed health. While OWEB programs provide pathways for critical restoration to occur on the landscape, there is not always effective communication about the importance and outcomes these restoration acts have on the watershed. This strategy focuses on building communication and understanding about restoration work among communities and decision makers, the stories of those engaging in this work, and how restoration maintains healthy and resilient watersheds. We will build on existing programs and processes to gather information that can be used to effectively tell restoration stories and share the importance of the work happening throughout Oregon.

### B. Convene people around watershed work

OWEB is regarded as an effective convener and facilitator that provides connections and resources to restoration partners around specific natural resource topics. To leverage this strength, this strategy focuses on convening partners and sharing important messaging and priorities with partners at all levels. We will engage with partners in a variety of ways, such as through webinars and other platforms, so that information can be shared and restoration successes can be celebrated.

### C. Increase use of OWEB's Engagement grant offering to do community engagement

Community support and participation in watershed restoration work is highly dependent on effective community engagement. Without the ability to connect with communities, the restoration work often lacks the support and understanding necessary to be successful. This strategy will focus on continuing the development of the Engagement grant offering to increase community participation efforts in restoration work. We will focus on expanding the support, trainings, and resources available to partners and support the capacity of districts and watershed councils to share their watershed enhancement success stories. It is imperative to include diverse partners and communities through Engagement and Capacity grantmaking.

## Priority 2: Engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement work

### A. Expand OWEB presence throughout Oregon

OWEB partners appreciate being connected with the agency in-person. Under this strategy, OWEB staff and board members will continue to travel around the state for Board meetings and field visits and make space for face-to-face interactions. OWEB staff will increase the agency's presence at conferences and similar events that attract local watershed practitioners and prioritize spending time with partners locally.

### B. Increase diversity and inclusion through improving access to our programs

Our grantmaking needs to reflect the diversity of Oregonians. We will continue to assess who is engaging in our grantmaking and foster connections to expand the grantee and grantee partner pool. We will assess our eligibility and evaluation criteria to increase inclusion and make the grant application process more accessible and reduce barriers to entry. We will engage with partners to collaboratively assess whether existing evaluation criteria preclude projects on working lands and urban areas that restore and enhance watersheds. We will continue to provide applicants with individual training,

respond to requests for examples of successfully funded projects and connect new applicants with current grantees. We will expand outreach on grant programs and provide simple, clear language for public consumption. We will continue to identify areas where application or grant requirements can be simplified and streamlined.

**C. Engage organizations that have not traditionally been involved in watershed restoration work**

We will grow capacity for delivering strategic restoration programs at the local level by investing in tools and capacity necessary broaden the array of entities engaged. We will learn what resonates with organizations not typically engaged in watershed enhancement to help attract and build ownership in restoration by demonstrating the value to their respective organization's missions and values.

## Priority 3: Strengthen and leverage community capacity to achieve healthy watersheds

**A. Develop supports to sustain the capacity of partners**

Working to improve the health of Oregon's watersheds is most effective when the ability to undertake that work is recognized and empowered at the local level. Finding funding for the human side of a restoration program is difficult outside of the traditional project-by-project approach grantors typically use. Successful restoration requires a concerted effort with stable long-term funding necessary to form relationships with landowners, and to design, implement, and monitor projects. Without stable funding long-term planning cannot effectively occur. Under this strategy, we will expand the reach of capacity funding to provide stable and predictable funding that supports project development. Long-term staff supports for partner organizations are required to sustain viable restoration programs.

**B. Expand training for partners**

Science and technology as well as our understanding of indigenous knowledge and different ways of knowing are always evolving. Restoration practitioners and other human resources are necessary to deliver comprehensive programs. Under this strategy, grant programs will provide opportunities for training in capacity building and other relevant restoration topics, including for nontraditional training opportunities tailored to local venues and opportunities to increase participation and the learning experience.

## Priority 4: Advance learning about watershed restoration effectiveness through coordinated monitoring

**A. Convene, coordinate, translate, and identify gaps in monitoring and learning**

We will continue to invest in specific funding opportunities for monitoring and incorporate effectiveness monitoring throughout the agency's various grant offerings to support shared learning and adaptive management. Many monitoring projects funded by OWEB contribute to established long-term datasets, filling an important role within the state of Oregon. In addition to providing funding opportunities, there is a need to promote existing guidance and 'best practices' to practitioners and partners. This strategy recognizes an emerging need to monitor the effectiveness of restoration in pursuit of climate objectives, and to promote the results of this learning. Through this work, the agency serves in a facilitator role to convene Subject Matter Experts to identify priority monitoring needs and to identify gaps in existing

efforts, continuing to build on the scientific and collaborative framework of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

**B. Learn, share, and support efforts to integrate indigenous knowledge**

Indigenous knowledge and different ways of understanding Oregon's watersheds are emerging and are not yet fully incorporated into watershed restoration effectiveness monitoring. This strategy will find ways to ethically and effectively partner with Indigenous Peoples, for example through supporting participation at technical review team meetings. The results will help create a shared future of healthy lands, waters and communities.

**C. Strengthen knowledge management and learning capital approaches**

In addition to tracking progress and generating data, it is important to provide the information in a meaningful way so that it can reach interested parties and inform future projects. Publicity often centers on the "success story," but practitioners and interested parties also want to know what **\*hasn't\*** worked well, and what lessons have been learned. This strategy will build action-oriented approaches to sharing restoration outcomes and find ways to create space for relevant adaptive management.

## Priority 5: Increase connection of urban and working lands to watershed health

**A. Promote value of multi-benefit watershed projects**

Most OWEB-funded restoration projects happen on working farms or forests. While restoring habitat alters the way land is used for production, it often provides benefits to landowners, operators, and lessees through improved operational efficiencies. Under this strategy, we will showcase working lands in watershed restoration success stories, clearly demonstrate that restoration and production co-exist, and promote success stories where producers speak to the value of restoration.

**B. Build partnerships with groups that work with working lands**

To further our reach, this strategy will develop, or continue building, relationships with groups that work with operators of working lands; some groups we might not have historically worked with very much but have a lot of impact on working lands. We will build on and promote grass-roots connections among existing partners. Engaging local experts knowledgeable about the nexus of restoration and working lands is critical.

**C. Support and fund grantees building or expanding partnerships with urban constituencies**

Although sometimes overlooked, urban areas are critical resources in the watershed landscape both in terms of human relationships and potential effects on wildlife habitat and water quality. Urban areas can both provide valuable natural resource values and expand the constituency that supports continued funding for watershed restoration. This strategy will support and expand partnerships our grantees have with private entities and local governments to develop opportunities for watershed restoration and address environmental justice concerns.

## Priority 6: Take bold and innovative action toward climate resilience

### A. Increase grant making tolerance for bold and innovative action

Restoration is an evolving practice, with on-the-ground activities changing as we test and learn. Stage 0 restoration, a technique now gaining in popularity, would likely have been discarded as an option 30 years ago. This strategy is aimed at increasing our tolerance for projects and ideas that promote bold and innovative action, understanding that there will be risks and failures, but also unexpected successes and benefits. We will showcase examples of bold and innovative approaches, sharing lessons learned and failures, to encourage risk-taking by grantees and promote increased risk tolerance of technical review team members and project managers. We will also look for opportunities to bring in practitioners testing out cutting-edge approaches to stimulate new ideas and thinking among staff and partners. As part of this strategy, we will encourage innovation and the implementation of new practices for climate resilience and carbon sequestration.

### B. Articulate what restoration is already doing to promote climate resiliency

Many OWEB-funded restoration projects promote climate resiliency, whether it's through riparian plantings that help cool streams, floodplain restoration that helps to limit high flows, or juniper removal leading to increased soil moisture and water availability in shrublands and grasslands. Under this strategy, we will clearly demonstrate the ways in which OWEB-funded restoration projects promote climate adaptation and resilience as well as long-term carbon sequestration and storage. We will focus on articulating climate-related benefits of commonly funded project types across different ecosystems so that our partners, board, and others have a better understanding of how on-the-ground restoration projects contribute to a more resilient Oregon in the face of climate change.



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Agenda Item M

**Oregon Agricultural Heritage  
Commission Appointments**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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*Agenda Item M supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health and priority.*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Renee Davis, Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager  
Taylor Larson, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item N – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Appointments  
January 23-24, 2024, Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) oversees the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) and makes funding recommendations to the OWEB board for all applications to be funded through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund. The OAHC is made up of 12 members appointed by the OWEB Board (Attachment A).

Due to expiring term limits and one resignation, there are currently three vacancies on the OAHC. At the January 2024 meeting, staff will provide an overview of the nomination process for the three vacant seats, present the nominated candidates, and request that the OWEB Board appoint candidates to the vacant OAHC seats.

### II. Background

House Bill 3249 established the OAHP and was signed into law in August 2017. In January 2018 the OWEB Board appointed the first 12 members to serve on the OAHC. The initial term lengths were staggered to offset and overlap future appointments. Voting members of the OAHC can serve no more than two consecutive 4-year terms.

Since its establishment, the OAHC has drafted program rules and provided input on program guidance and structure. In March 2023, the OAHC reviewed the first round of grant applications received and made funding recommendations to the OWEB Board, which were awarded in April 2023.

### III. OAHC Seat Representing Agricultural Interests

Staff solicited applications to fill an agricultural seat earlier this year and received one application (Attachment B). The application was shared with the Board of Agriculture and in November 2023 OWEB staff received their formal nomination of James Robert Collins (Attachment C). If appointed to this seat, James would serve through January 2028 and be eligible for a second four-year term.

James would be replacing departing OAHC member Chad Allen, whose second term expires in January 2024. Chad has served on the OAHC since its inception in 2018. Chad was nominated by the Oregon Board of Agriculture to serve on the OAHC to represent the interests of farms and ranches throughout the State.

#### **IV. OAHC Seat Representing Tribal Interests**

OWEB actively reached out to tribes to recruit a new tribal representative on the commission and received one application from Amanda Lowe (Attachment D).

If appointed to this seat, Amanda would serve the remainder of Nathan Jackson's term through January 2026 and be eligible for a second four-year term. Nathan was appointed to the OAHC by the OWEB board in January 2018. This seat representing Tribal interests is appointed directly by the OWEB board. His second term was to expire in January 2026; however, he resigned in August 2023, because he moved out of state.

#### **V. OAHC Seat Representing OSU Extension**

In September 2023 Jeff Reimer was officially nominated (Attachment E). Staff worked with the director of OSU Extension, Ivory Lyles, to secure Jeff's nomination to represent the Extension Service on the OAHC.

Jeff is an applied agricultural economist and would bring expertise in farm viability and transition planning to the commission (Attachment F). If appointed to this seat, Jeff would serve through January 2028 and be eligible for a second four-year term.

Jeff would be replacing Sam Angima, whose second term expires in January 2024. Sam was appointed to the OAHC by the OWEB board in January 2018, representing Oregon State University's Extension Service.

#### **VI. Recommendation**

OWEB staff recommend the OWEB Board appoint James Robert Collins, Amanda Lowe, and Jeff Reimer to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

#### **Attachments**

- A. 2024 OAHC Roster
- B. OAHC Farmer and Rancher Application
- C. State Board of Agriculture Nomination Letter
- D. OAHC Tribal Application
- E. OSU Extension Nomination Letter
- F. Jeff Reimer CV



## OAHP Commission Members 2024

	Name	Recommending Body	Residence City	Interest Represented	Term Beginning	Term Ending	Term Number
1		Board of Agriculture		Farm/Ranch	Jan 2024	Jan 2028	1
2		OSU Extension		OSU Extension	Jan 2024	Jan 2028	1
3	<b>Bruce Taylor</b>	Fish & Wildlife Comm.	Portland	Fish & Wildlife	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	2
4	<b>Lois Loop</b>	Board of Agriculture	Salem	Agricultural Water Quality	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	2
5	<b>Woody Wolfe</b>	Board of Agriculture	Wallowa	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	2
6	<b>Doug Krahmer</b>	Board of Agriculture	St. Paul	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2026	2
7		OWEB Board		Indian tribal	Jan 2024	Jan 2028	1
8	<b>Nancy Duhnkrack</b>	Land Conservation & Development Comm.	Portland	Easements	Jan 2022	Jan 2027	1
9	<b>Ed Contreras</b>	Fish & Wildlife Comm.	Klamath Falls	Fish & Wildlife	Jan 2023	Jan 2028	1
10	<b>Laura Masterson</b>	Board of Agriculture	Portland	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2023	Jan 2028	1
11	<b>Russ Hoeflich</b>	OWEB Board	Portland	Natural Resources	Jan 2023	Jan 2028	1
12	<b>Barbara Boyer</b>	OWEB Board	Yamhill	Ex Officio, non-voting	July 2019	*unspecified	*unspecified



# INTEREST FORM

## Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

### Applicant Information

**Name** James Robert Collins

**Affiliation** SWCC, Wheeler Swcd

**Occupation**

Retired **Rancher**

**Mailing address**

**Town/City** Mitchell

**State** OR

**Zip Code** 97750

**Phone Number**

**Cell or Alternate #**

**fax Number**

**Email**

**Applicant Signature**

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

### Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

## Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I believe in the need for conservation easements. I helped lobby to establish the OAHC through Blue Mountain Land Trust and was one of the individuals who applied early on when they first shopped around the idea and were looking to show case the need in the state. I have been to a conference back in Florida where they showed how much good their state funded conservation easement program was doing several years before OAH was funded and it made me a huge believer in the need for easements but especially the way Oregon is doing this with the major element being Agriculture. I love this fact and fully believe in keeping working landscapes working especially when you can balance in the needs of the ecosystem they are in. It's all about balance of these 2 things in my view. I can also see the absolute need to keep the housing development at bay in the Willamett valley and without this program I'm afraid that some of our critical farm lands could be lost as our ever growing population expands. And with the NRCS dollars available for match I cannot see how this isn't a fantastic plan and a way to fund this program with federal help. I'd love to be part of the team that helps build the future of Oregon's protected agricultural lands.

## Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

I've been on the Wheeler SWCD board for about 12 years, I think. I've been chair of the board now for a couple years as well. I've been on the SWCC board now for about 3 years. I was also a board member for Partnerscapes (a nonprofit national landowner driven organization that primarily focused on advocating for landowners to work with government agencies and agencies to listen to the needs of working landscapes to find balance between profit and conservation) for 3 years. I've been running my family's cattle ranch since about 2007 it's been in the family since 1873. The importance of long term agriculture defiantly isn't lost on me, it's at my core. I believe families that can have a successful business for multi generations have the ability to tell an oral history that is fairly accurate to their property something that would be lost otherwise. These individuals are also uniquely qualified in knowing the ecosystem they live on.

I've done multiple conservation projects on the ranch including over a mile of stream restoration where I did the majority of the labor and implementation of the engineered plans on the creek. Because of this and other projects I have worked with: NRCS, SWCD, Tribes, NOAA, US fish and wildlife partners program, OWEB, FSA, BPA, Malhure Watershed district, Idaho Power, ODFW, ODF, US forest service, Crook County Watershed district, and maybe a few more that escape me. After years of doing conservation work on my ranch and implement projects for some other people in my region I got my contractors license with my goal being focused on doing stream restoration work. That's how I have worked with some of the additional agencies listed above that are not in my region.

## Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Often I have seen absentee landowners purchasing ranches and let them sit to only hunt them. I'm watching these properties lose the management plans that helped keep the juniper population in check but also the ecosystem of the overall ranch can degrade in multiple places/ways without someone living there and loving on it as a caretaker/owner operator does. Also the community suffers as the lack of work dries up in these types of properties. I've seen my local school suffer to restaurants. The trickle down economics of an agricultural community are very real and when you lay land to fallow it can hurt in many more ways than you can imagine.

## References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

### Reference #1

Name DelRae Ferguson  
Affiliation (if any) Friend & work with NRCS  
Mailing Address projects  
City/Town  
State Oregon  
Zip Code  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Alternate #  
Fax #  
Email

### Reference #2

Name Sue Greer  
Affiliation (if any) Friend & worked with on OWEB  
Mailing Address projects  
City/Town  
State Oregon  
Zip Code  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Alternate #  
Fax #  
Email

### Reference #3

Name Dirk Renner  
Affiliation (if any) Friend, worked with US fish & wildlife projects  
Mailing Address  
City/Town  
State Oregon  
Zip Code  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Alternate #  
Fax #  
Email

Please send your completed application via email to [nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov) or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program  
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer Street NE #360  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by Oct 20, 2023 in order to be considered for a position.**



# PROTECTED GROUP STATUS FORM

## Committee/Board Member

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



Name *James Robert Collins* Date *10/19/2023*

Department/Committee Board Name: **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission**

Federal and State laws require the Board to make its programs, activities, and services available to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and sex. The Board is attempting to monitor the selection of and participation by women, minorities, and people with disabilities on its committees, advisory groups, etc.

The following information will be used for statistical reporting only, and is voluntary. **Information obtained will be kept confidential and will be destroyed as soon as the responses on the form are captured numerically.**

### Race/Ethnic Origin:

- Black
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Hispanic (of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin)
- White

### Mark the following which apply to you:

- Female
- Male
- Disabled

I prefer not to respond to these questions.



**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

*Protect. Promote. Prosper.*

635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532  
503.986.4550 | Oregon.gov/ODA

November 21, 2023

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer St NE #360  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

At the quarterly State Board of Agriculture meeting held November 16, 2023, the board discussed the recommendations for commissioner appointments to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC).

It is our understanding the second term for the farmer/rancher representative position currently held by Mr. Chad Allen from Tillamook, Oregon will expire January 1, 2024.

The State Board of Agriculture voted to recommend James Robert Collins from Mitchell, OR to fill the farmer/rancher representative position.

The Board of Agriculture looks forward to working more closely with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. If you have any questions, please contact me or our staff at the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elin Miller".

Elin Miller, Chair  
State Board of Agriculture

cc: Lisa Charpilloz-Hanson, Executive Director, OWEB  
Bill Ryan, Acting Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture





# INTEREST FORM

## Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

### Applicant Information

**Name** Amanda E. Lowe

**Affiliation** Employee of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

**Occupation**

Retired Soil Conservationist

**Mailing address** 46411 Timine Way

**Town/City** Pendleton **State** OR **Zip Code** 97801

**Phone Number** [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number** [REDACTED]

**Email** [REDACTED]

### Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

### Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

## Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I believe I can represent the needs and interest of both agricultural producers and conservationists, due to my years of experience working as an intermediary between the two groups. Through graduate school, I studied communications and education specific to agricultural communities and commodities. I have put this to practice for the last 7 years working in Eastern Oregon with wheat producers and cattle ranchers. The producers understand that ecologically sustainable management decisions will provide them with an economically sustainable operation; my job is to help provide them with the tools, information, and connections necessary to make their plans a reality.

In my current position as soil conservationist for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, my work operates under the First Foods Mission, “to protect, restore, and enhance the First Foods – water, salmon, deer, cous, and huckleberry – for the perpetual cultural, economic and sovereign benefit of the CTUIR. We will accomplish this utilizing traditional ecological and cultural knowledge and science to inform: 1) population and habitat management goals and actions; and 2) natural resource policies and regulatory mechanisms.” Applying this mission to the farm and grazing conservation plans I am responsible for has helped me to develop a whole-system view to conservation and agricultural. A fully functioning ecosystem is capable of sustainably balancing and producing for both sets of management goals.

I’d like to continue to serve the state of Oregon as a member on this commission utilizing my knowledge and experiences in natural resource conservation to actualize climate resilience activities and sustainable use of agricultural lands, while promoting sound science and research principles with the inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge practices.

## Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

In my current role as soil conservationist for the CTUIR, I have gained experience integrating the protection, conservation, utilization and enhancement of Indian lands for the desires of the beneficial owners. I utilize conservation practices consistent with NRCS planning documents, as well as prioritize management actions through ecological touchstones and First Foods priorities as described in the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources Upland Vision document and First Foods Mission.

At the CTUIR, I am a member of interdisciplinary teams responsible for implementing climate change resilient resource protection projects. I lead interdisciplinary team to develop new programmatic rangeland management plan for the CTUIR. In 2020, I initiated and conducted informal consultation with NOAA NMFS and was a contributing author of the biological assessment document for grazing permits.

It is my responsibility to present management plans, activities, and project proposals to CTUIR committees, commissions, and the Board of Trustees. I interpret and administer tribal, state, and federal policy for water resources, cultural resource protection, and soil protection to ensure compliance with relevant Federal, State, Tribal land management policies and regulations, and to explain these policies to tribal landowners and lessees. I also advise landowners and producers on climate resilient agricultural practices to develop soil and water conservation plans on farm and pasture operations.

I create opportunities for involvement of Indian landowners in management of trust assets and administer natural resources as outlined in federal law and regulations as well as tribal law. This includes providing educational and technical information to tribal committees/commissions and other relevant groups that promote sympathetic interests in cultivating natural resource values. I also pursue liaison with other federal, state and local entities to coordinate protection of treaty rights. I frequently collaborate with United States Department of Agriculture to ensure Tribal eligibility and participation in various conservation programs relevant to conserving and enhancing Trust assets and First Foods.

Full resume is attached.

## Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

I believe the primary issue of concern for the future of both agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat within Oregon is the current and impending implications of climate change which all parties are facing. Within the last 2 years in our own local area, we have seen catastrophic and unpredictable flooding events, caused by variations in the historic timing and intensity of rain events. These heavy precipitation events have been followed only a few months later by devastating drought, decreasing crop and forage yields, and leaving both agricultural and wild animals at a loss for feed. The way forward for producers and conservationists, through these variable and unpredictable swings in climate patterns, is to create more resilient systems that are equipped to withstand shifts in weather.

The status of the supply chains and inflation within the U.S. are also causing damaging effects to the agricultural community in Oregon, and challenging the ability of historic farm and ranch operations to stay in business. These operations are not seeing commodity prices keeping pace with input costs, and that challenges their capacity to provide wages to family or employees that can keep pace with the inflating cost of living. It is within the best interests of natural resource conservations, such as myself, to continue to work with these operations and find areas of communal interest, as these working lands provide protection from urban development, and greater loss of habitat.

## References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

---

### Reference #1

Name Eric Quaempts  
Affiliation (if any) Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Mailing Address [REDACTED]  
City/Town Pendleton  
State OR  
Zip Code 97801  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Alternate # [REDACTED]  
Fax # [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

### Reference #2

Name Cheryl Shippentower  
Affiliation (if any) Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Mailing Address [REDACTED]  
City/Town Pendleton  
State OR  
Zip Code 97801  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Alternate # [REDACTED]  
Fax # [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

### Reference #3

Name Sarah Silbernagel  
Affiliation (if any) USDA NRCS & Wallowa County SWCD  
Mailing Address [REDACTED]  
City/Town [REDACTED]  
State [REDACTED]  
Zip Code [REDACTED]  
Phone Number [REDACTED]  
Alternate # [REDACTED]  
Fax # [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

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# PROTECTED GROUP STATUS FORM

## Committee/Board Member

### *Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board*



Name Amanda Lowe

Date 11/17/2023

Department/Committee Board Name: **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission**

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- Hispanic (of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin)
- White

#### Mark the following which apply to you:

- Female
- Male
- Disabled

---

I prefer not to respond to these questions.

## Amanda E. Lowe

Pendleton, OR 97801

### Professional Objective:

To serve my community utilizing my knowledge and experiences in natural resource conservation to actualize climate resilience activities; and to further develop my knowledge and skills within an organization with whom I share the value of promoting sound conservation science and research principles.

### Education:

**Master of Science:** Agricultural and Extension Education, May 2016

University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844

Area of specialization: Adult Education and Communications

Topic of Research: Extension Clientele Preferences in Facebook Strategies Utilized by County

Extension 4-H Programs

Major Professor: Dr. Erik Anderson

**Bachelor of Science:** Agricultural Communication, Public Relations, May 2010

Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164

### Work Experience:

#### **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

**Soil Conservationist:** December 2016 – Present

- Integrates the protection, conservation, utilization and enhancement of Indian lands for the desires of the beneficial owners.
- Utilizes conservation practices consistent with NRCS planning documents, as well as prioritizing management actions through ecological touchstones and First Foods priorities as described in the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources Upland Vision document and First Foods Mission.
- Member of interdisciplinary teams responsible for implementing climate change resilient resource protection projects. Helped lead interdisciplinary team to develop new programmatic rangeland management plan for the CTUIR.
- Initiated and conducted informal consultation with NOAA NMFS and contributing author of biological assessment document for grazing permits.
- Presents management plans, activities, and project proposals to CTUIR committees, commissions, and Board of Trustees.
- Interprets and administers tribal, state, and federal policy for water resources, cultural resource protection, and soil protection.
- Advises and works with landowners and producers on climate resilient agricultural practices to develop soil and water conservation plans on farm and pasture operations.
- Provides for involvement of Indian landowners in management of trust assets and administers natural resources as outlined in federal law and regulations as well as tribal law.
- Provides educational and technical information to tribal committees/commissions and other relevant groups that promotes sympathetic interests in cultivating natural resource values.

- Pursues liaison with other federal, state and local entities to coordinate protection of treaty rights and planning/implementing management systems on intermingled land ownership, including membership on USDA-ARS liaison committee for the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center.
- Collaborates with United States Department of Agriculture to ensure Tribal eligibility and participation in various conservation programs relevant to conserving and enhancing Trust assets and First Foods.
- Ensure compliance with relevant Federal, State, Tribal land management policies and regulations.
- Reviews proposed legislation for impacts to CTUIR natural resource mission
- Lead staff member for the pasture leasing program.

### **Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District**

**CREP Technician:** July 2016 – November 2016

- Worked with NRCS staff for project specification design, monitoring, implementation, inspection and status reviews.
- Utilized NRCS Customer Service Toolkit, ArcMap, and WIN-PST in the documentation and management of conservation plans and technical assistance.
- Conducted Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP2) for analysis of Oregon CREP eligibility and for design of NRCS Conservation Practices.
- On-the-job training from the NRCS State Soil Scientist for field soil testing and soil survey report interpretation.
- Cultivated a working knowledge of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide to create job sheets for contracted practices and to review practice standards.
- Provided professional technical assistance to landowners and managers, regarding natural resource concerns.
- Communicated and worked directly with landowners and operators through face-to-face contact, telephone, and written correspondence.
- Assisted with inventorying and surveying projects to help develop conservation practice designs for implementation.
- Conducted outreach on natural resource issues, water quality, and conservation activities at workshops, seminars, fairs, and conventions.
- Application of numerous environmental and cultural resource laws, regulations and policy in relation to trust responsibilities.

### **University of Idaho – Office of Research Assurances**

**Administrative Coordinator:** August 2015 – September 2016

**Laboratory Animal Technician:** September 2013 – August 2015

- Began employment as a laboratory animal technician; applied for and gained promotion to administrative coordinator.
- Interim coordinator for the university-wide conflict of interest program.
- Worked with team of research compliance staff to ensure university researchers met federal regulations.
- Researched federal regulations and interpreted for coworkers and investigators.
- Provided oral and written communications to investigators on federal regulations.
- Developed and maintained an information and document management system for organizing and cataloging correspondence, contracts, and agreements.
- Supported research compliance committees by processing protocol applications, maintaining records databases, and issuing notifications to researchers. Managed web content and social media presence for the Northwest Knowledge Network, a big data service center.
- Supported the communication and production processes of a project management and research compliance database system.



- Wrote news articles for departmental newsletter.
- Managed colonies of research animals, including mice, rats, guinea pigs, kangaroo rats, and zebra fish, in accordance with research protocols for diverse projects.
- Applied and interpreted federal regulations and university policies to deliver excellent animal care.
- Worked with diverse individuals from varying backgrounds at all organizational levels to ensure successful collaboration.

### **Washington State University – Department of Animal Sciences**

**Animal Care Facility Manager:** September 2011 – September 2013

- Balanced and coordinated workload for multiple facilities and directly supervised 15 employees. Managed facility budget.
- Managed the research swine center and a research animal vivarium, including husbandry of mice, rats, rabbits, chickens, sheep, swine, and cattle.
- Mediated between veterinarians and investigators to ensure best care and use of research animals.
- Performed liaison activities with internal and external researchers.
- Explained meat processing practices to buyers and 4-H youth.
- Interpreted, applied, and explained federal regulations and university policies for the execution of research activities.
- Supported the work of project teams by interpreting and applying research protocols, procuring supplies, and organizing and delegating workloads.

### **National Center for Appropriate Technology**

**Marketing Intern:** May 2009 – August 2009

- Organized outreach and publicity for projects and events.
- Edited and contributed to sustainable agricultural practice publications, communicating complex scientific research for a diverse audience.
- Wrote articles for Web site.

### **Certifications:**

- National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Wildland Firefighter Type 2. 2018 – Present

### **Training:**

- Native American Rangelands Training Initiative, Oregon State University
  - 12 week course on Rangeland Science, covering site evaluation, conservation, and sustainable land management
- The Nature Conservancy Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX), Ashland, OR, May 2019
  - Crew member on Type III Incident; leadership and followership training
- NRCS Conservation Planning Course
  - Coursework and fieldwork on NRCS conservation planning documents for certified planners

### **Community Involvement:**

- Umatilla County Weed Board, Member at Large. 1/2018 – Present
- Umatilla County 4-H Association Board, President. 5/2019 – 5/2020
- Pendleton Little League, Volunteer Coach. 2022



**Oregon State University**  
**Extension and  
Engagement**

**Extension and Engagement  
Extension Service**

Oregon State University  
101 Ballard Extension Hall  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

**P** 541-737-2713 | **F** 541-737-4423  
[extension.oregonstate.edu/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/)

9/19/2023

Taylor Larson  
Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
775 Summer St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Taylor,

This letter is to recommend the appointment of Jeff Reimer to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. He will replace Sam Angima, whose term expires at the end of the year. Dr. Reimer has worked with OHAP before and shows a great understanding of Extension and the need to preserve Ag land. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can provide any further clarification.

Sincerely,

Ivory W. Lyles  
Vice Provost for Extension and Engagement

CC: Sam Angima  
Jeff Reimer

## Jeffrey J. Reimer

Oregon State University, Department of Applied Economics

Email: jeff.reimer@oregonstate.edu

### Employment history

(September 2022 - Present) Interim Head, Department of Applied Economics, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

(2017 - Present) Professor, Department of Applied Economics, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

(2011 - 2017) Associate Professor with Tenure, Department of Applied Economics, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

(2005 - 2011) Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

(2003 - 2005) Post Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

(1999 - 2003) Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University.

(1997 - 1999) Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois.

(1994 - 1997) Economist evaluating the impact of agricultural research and extension programs in Bangladesh, MCC-Bangladesh.

### Education

Ph.D., Purdue University, Agricultural Economics, 2003  
Received department's Outstanding Dissertation Award  
Honoree, Gamma Delta Sigma Honorary Society

M.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Agricultural and Consumer Economics, 1999

B.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Agricultural Economics, 1994  
Received department's Outstanding Senior Award

### Refereed journal articles

44. Reimer, J.J., Annan, K. (2023). Determinants of Softwood Lumber Prices in the U.S. Northwest. To appear in *Forest Science*  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/forsci/fxad020>

43. Fisher, M.G., Reimer, J.J., Lewin, P.A., Wornell, E.J., Weber, B.A. (2023). Working yet Poor: A Quantitative Analysis for the United States. *Journal of Poverty*, 1-19.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10875549.2023.2173116>

42. Reimer, J.J., Langpap, C. (2022). New Developments in Trade Theory and the Food and Beverage Industry. *Journal of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association*, 1(1):4-17. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaa2.5>
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31. Reimer, J. J., Zheng, X. (2017). Economic Analysis of an Aviation Bioenergy Supply Chain. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 77, 945-954. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2016.12.036>
30. Gardebroek, C., Reimer, J. J., Baller, L. (2017). The Impact of Biofuel Policies on Crop Acreages in Germany and France. *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 68(3), 839-860. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1477-9552.12218>
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24. Reimer, J. J. (2014). Water in the International Economy. *Journal of International Agricultural Trade and Development*, 9(1), 21-52. <http://purl.umn.edu/205094>
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11. Reimer, J. J. (2008). Search Costs in Identity-Preserved Agricultural Markets. *Journal of Agricultural & Food Industrial Organization*, 6(1), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.2202/1542-0485.1230>
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5. Sorte, B., J.J. Reimer, G.B. Jones. 2021. *Oregon Agriculture, Food and Fiber: An Economic Analysis*. Published by Oregon State University. 32 pages.  
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## Book Chapters

5. Reimer, J. J. 2020 *Global Production Sharing and Trade in the Services of Factors*. In “Developments in Input–Output Analysis” edited by E. Dietzenbacher, M.L. Lahr, M. Lenzen. Edward Elgar: The International Library of Critical Writings in Economics <https://www.springer.com/series/13474>
4. Reimer, J. J. 2019 *Water in the International Economy*. Ch. 1 in “Emerging Issues in Global International Agricultural Trade and Development” edited by D. Miljkovic. Nova Science <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016024891>
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**Teaching (partial list)**

Course	Title
AEC 311	INTERMEDIATE APPLIED ECONOMICS 1, PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS
AEC 447	AGRI PRICE & MARKET ANALYSIS
AEC 513	MICROECONOMIC THEORY II
AEC 523	PRELIMINARIES FOR QUANTITATIVE METHODS
AEC 543	INTERNATIONAL TRADE

**Graduate students and post-baccs advised (major professor)**

Ken Annan, PhD  
Jessica Osanye, PhD  
Erin Bush, MS  
An Li, PhD 2019  
Ben Rietmann, BS Honors 2018  
Senal Weerasooriya, PhD 2017  
Tom Palley, MS 2016  
Xin Zhang, MS 2014  
Xiaojuan Zheng, PhD 2014  
Tyler West, BS Honors 2013  
Stacy Hatfield, NSF undergrad research 2012  
Saurabh Datta, PhD 2010  
Man Li, PhD 2010  
Xiaojuan Zheng, MS 2010  
Phyllis Mends, Borlaug Fellow 2009  
Sharmistha, Nag, PhD 2009

**Grant support**

My research program has received \$2.5 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation, Global Development Network, and others. A full list is available upon request.

**Media**

I have extensive experience being interviewed by various media outlets regarding my research and economic trends more generally. Examples available upon request.

**Selected Activities, Impact, and Awards**

2021 - 2023, Managing Editor, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (JARE)

2023, Google Scholar: Citations = 1854, h-index = 23, i10-index = 36.

2018, Appointed to Editorial Council, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* (JAAE)

2018, Journal article chosen as “Editor’s Choice” to be featured on journal home page, *Natural Hazards Review*.



2014, Appointed to External Advisory Group, Oregon Tax Incidence Model (OTIM) project, Legislative Revenue Office, Oregon State Legislature, Salem, Oregon.

2013, Outstanding Journal Article for 2013, “The Elasticity of Excess Demand for United States Crop Exports,” *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*

2012, Appointed as Associate Editor, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*

2012, Featured Member of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA).

2010, Featured Member of the *Global Trade Analysis Project*, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University.

2009, Associate Editor, Journal of Agricultural and Food Industrial Organization.

2009, Editorial Council, Journal of Business and Economy.

2003, Outstanding Dissertation Award, Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University.

2002, Honoree, Gamma Delta Sigma Honorary Society.

1994, Outstanding Senior Award, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois.

### **Professional development**

Crucial Conversations. Continuing Education Program, Oregon State University (January–February 2023).

CIMER training (Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research). Continuing Education Program, OSU Graduate School (2022).

Search Advocate Refresher/Update Training. Continuing Education Program, Oregon State University (November 2022).



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item N

**BLM Good Neighbor Grant  
Funding Approval**

Board Meeting January 23-24, 2024



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360

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*Agenda Item N supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**FROM:** Heidi Hartman, Federal Programs Specialist  
Courtney Shaff, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item N – BLM Good Neighbor  
January 23-24, 2024, Board Meeting

### I. Introduction

This report requests the board proactively approve receipt of up to \$15 million additional federal funds from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for aquatic restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and engagement projects distributed across the state.

### II. Background

The Oregon/Washington BLM is responsible for management of over 16 million acres of public lands across the State of Oregon. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. To accomplish this, the BLM frequently works with partners such as state agencies through cooperative agreements.

In April 2022, OWEB staff requested and the board approved receipt of up to \$10 million in federal funds from BLM for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects.

Through our existing Cooperative Agreement, BLM has awarded approximately \$8.7 million to date in federal funds and OWEB has entered into thirty-six separate grant agreements to support restoration, technical assistance, engagement, and monitoring projects.

The cooperative agreement and OWEB's budget provide for the staff capacity to administer the grant agreements. The cooperative agreement includes funding to OWEB for direct and indirect staff costs, and OWEB's legislatively adopted budget includes a staff position funded in part with these federal dollars.

### III. BLM Funding

The current BLM-OWEB cooperative agreement is open through April 2027. BLM anticipates committing the maximum allowable funds (\$25 million) in this agreement before it concludes in April 2027.

BLM adds funds to the agreement 2-3 times a year through agreement funding modifications. First, BLM staff develop projects in coordination with local partners. Then, BLM staff submit a list of staff-selected projects to OWEB along with an agreement funding modification. The specific details about each project are included in the modification. OWEB staff then work with project partners to submit applications through OWEB's online application system, then enter into grant agreements.

#### **IV. Recommendation**

Staff recommend the board proactively approve receipt of up to \$15 million additional funding from the BLM for aquatic restoration, technical assistance, engagement, and monitoring projects over the next three years and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an effective date of January 24, 2024.