



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE



The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Focused Investment Subcommittee will hold a special meeting from 9:00am to 5:00pm on January 12 and 8:30am to 2:30pm on January 13, 2016 at the Mission Mill's Dye House, 1313 Mill St SE, Salem, Oregon.

The purpose of the meeting is for the Focused Investment Subcommittee to make funding recommendations to the OWEB Board with respect to applications for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation and Focused Investment Partnership Capacity Building grants. Applicants for Implementation funding will be interviewed by the Board during the meeting.

The agenda is as follows:

Day 1 – January 12, 2016: Implementation Applications

- 9:00-9:10 Welcome and Overview of Meeting
- 9:10 – 10:10 Public Comment – The public is invited to comment on specific Focused Investment Partnership applications received by the Board. Applications can be found online at <http://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/fiscal/nologin.aspx>.
- 10:10-10:40 Staff Presentation
- 10:40-10:50 BREAK
- 10:50-11:20 Coos Watershed Association Interview
- 11:20-11:50 The Deschutes Partnership Interview
- 11:50-12:20 Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partnership Interview
- 12:20-1:15 LUNCH
- 1:15-1:45 Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership Interview
- 1:45-2:15 Sandy River Basin Partners Interview
- 2:15-2:45 McKenzie Collaborative Interview
- 2:45-3:00 BREAK
- 3:00-3:30 Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee Interview
- 3:30-4:00 Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Interview
- 4:00-4:30 Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Partnership Interview
- 4:30-5:00 WRAP-UP AND PLAN FOR DAY 2

Day 2 – January 13, 2016: Capacity Building Applications

8:30-10:00	Subcommittee Discussion and Recommendations on Implementation Applications
10:00-10:15	BREAK
10:15-11:00	Presentation of Capacity-Building Evaluations
11:00-12:00	Subcommittee Discussion and Recommendations on Capacity-Building Applications
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:15	Subcommittee Discussion and Recommendations on Capacity-Building Applications
2:15-2:30	WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS
2:30	Adjourn

Questions? If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Bonnie Ashford, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Bonnie Ashford (503-986-0181) as soon as possible but at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
January 26-27, 2016

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

McMinnville Grand Ballroom

325 NE Third St.

McMinnville, Oregon

Directions: <http://www.macgrandballroom.com/contact.html>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items C and G) anyone wishing to speak to the Board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak, and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

A. Board Member Comments

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update 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

The minutes of the October 27-28, 2015, Board meeting in John Day will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment [approximately 8:45 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

D. Spending Plan Update

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, will provide the Board a brief update on the 2015-2017 Spending Plan. *Information item*

E. OWEB Key Performance Measures (KPMs)

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, will lead the Board in a discussion of revising OWEB's KPMs. The Board will then consider approval of the revised KPMs. *Action item.*

**F. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Technical Assistance (CREP TA) --
Approval to Receive Program Funding**

Juniper Davis, Partnerships Coordinator, will provide the Board an update on the CREP TA grant program. Staff will request the Board consider awarding supplemental funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, allocating recaptured lottery funds in support of CREP TA, and delegating authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds. *Action item.*

G. Focused Investments-Approval of 2015-2017 Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Implementation Initiatives and Capacity Building Awards and Public Comment

Renee Davis, Deputy Director, and Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, will brief the Board on the 2015-2017 FIP solicitation process. The Board will then hear public comment (at approximately 11:15 a.m.) on the 2015-2017 FIP solicitation process, pending Implementation FIP Initiatives, and Capacity Building grant applications. Based on recommendations from the Board Focused Investments subcommittee, the Board will consider approval of 2015-2017 FIP Implementation Initiatives and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into partnership agreements and subsequent grant awards. Also based on recommendations from the Board Focused Investments subcommittee, the Board will consider approval of 2015-2017 FIP Capacity Building grants. *Action item*

H. Governor's Priorities

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, and Richard Whitman, Governor Brown's Natural Resources Policy Director, will describe the Governor's Priorities, which include Working Lands Easements, Greater Sage-Grouse, Coastal Coho, and the Clean Water Partnership. The Board will consider funding requests for these items. *Action item*

I. Willamette River Report Card

Pam Wiley, former Willamette River Initiative Director, and Allison Hensey, current Willamette River Initiative Director, from the Meyer Memorial Trust will provide to the Board a presentation on the 2015 Willamette River Report Card. *Information item.*

J. Willamette Special Investment Partnership (SIP) Accomplishments Report

Renee Davis, Deputy Director, and Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, will present to the Board the Willamette SIP Accomplishments Summary Report, which highlights accomplishments made since SIP investments in the partnership began in 2008. *Information item.*

Informal Reception- 5:15-6:00 p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception sponsored by local partners and stakeholders in the Willamette Valley.

*Location: McMinnville Grand Ballroom
325 NE Third St.
McMinnville, Oregon*

Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment period (Agenda Item K) anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak, and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

K. Public Comment [approximately 8:00 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

L. Legislative Update

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, and Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, will brief the Board on emerging legislative issues. *Information item.*

M. OWEB Agency Request Budget

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, will lead the Board in a discussion on the development of the 2017-2019 OWEB Agency Request Budget. *Information item.*

N. Tribal Update

Juniper Davis, Partnerships Coordinator, will brief the Board on the OWEB 2015 Annual Government-to-Government Report to Tribes that highlights work the agency does with tribes in Oregon. *Information item.*

O. Partners Update to the Board

Representatives from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts will provide the Board an update on their representative organizations. *Information item.*

P. Executive Director Update

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, will update the Board on additional agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

Q. Other Business

Tour – 1:00 p.m.

The Board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of OWEB-funded acquisition and restoration sites in Yamhill County. Transportation will be provided for OWEB Board members and staff. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation.

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 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules: The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business – A general business **quorum is six 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 six** 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 eight voting** members present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if three or more voting members object** to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony: The Board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

A public comment period for pending Focused Investment Partnerships proposals and applications will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 11:15 a.m. The Board will not accept any written materials at that time. Any written comments pertaining to pending Focused Investment Partnerships proposals must be received by January 24, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

General public comment periods will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 8:45 a.m. and Wednesday, January 27 at 8:00 a.m. for any matter before the Board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the Board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

Tour: The Board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to Board members and OWEB staff. If you wish to join the tour, be prepared to provide your own transportation.

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.

Questions? If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Bonnie Ashford, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Bonnie Ashford (503-986-0181) as soon as possible but at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Board of Agriculture member: *Doug Krahmer*
Environmental Quality Commission member: *Morgan Rider*
Fish and Wildlife Commission member: *Bob Webber*
Board of Forestry member: *Cindy Deacon Williams*
Water Resources Commission member: *John Roberts*
Public member (tribal): *Eric Quaempts, Board Co-Chair*
Public member: *Gary Marshall*
Public member: *Will Neuhauser*
Public member: *Randy Labbe*
Public member: *Dan Thorndike, Board Co-Chair*
Public member: *Karl Wenner*

Non-voting Members

Representative of NMFS: *Rosemary Furfey*
Representative of Oregon State University Extension Service: *Stephen Brandt*
Representative of U.S. Forest Service: *Debbie Hollen*
Representative of U.S. BLM: *Mike Haske*
Representative of U.S. NRCS: *Ron Alvarado*
Representative of U.S. EPA: *Alan Henning*

Contact Information

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OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden

meta.loftsgaarden@state.or.us

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board (interim) – Bonnie Ashford

bonnie.ashford@state.or.us
503-986-0181

2016 Board Meeting Schedule

April 26-27 in LaGrande
July 26-27 in Lincoln City or Seaside
October 25-26 in North Bend or Ashland

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications check our web site: www.oregon.gov/OWEB.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Focused Investment Subcommittee

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator

SUBJECT: Focused Investment Partnership: Capacity Building Applications



I. Introduction

In July 2015 the Board adopted a spending plan that included \$1 million for focused investment capacity building awards to support initiatives addressing the Board's adopted priorities.

II. Solicitation Process

In May 2015, staff solicited both capacity building and implementation applications for focused investment initiatives. A July 1, 2015 deadline was established for letters of intent to submit capacity building applications and phase I implementation applications.

Capacity building applications and phase 2 implementation applications were due November 2, 2015. Capacity building applications addressed one or more of the following: elevating the partnership's current level of performance, developing or enhancing a SAP, or addressing community outreach and engagement relative to the partnership's capacity building efforts.

III. Application Review

By the July 1 deadline, OWEB received 26 letters of intent to submit capacity building applications. By the November 2 deadline, OWEB received 23 capacity building applications, requesting almost \$2.5million. The applications address all of the OWEB Priorities and are distributed around the state as shown in Attachment A. All applications were evaluated by an expert review team and by OWEB staff, including regional program representatives, the capacity coordinator, and FIP staff.

The capacity building expert review team (Attachment B) included experts on organizational capacity from various organizations throughout the state. The team discussed each application, focusing on the partnership's readiness and the likeliness of successful completion of the proposed project.

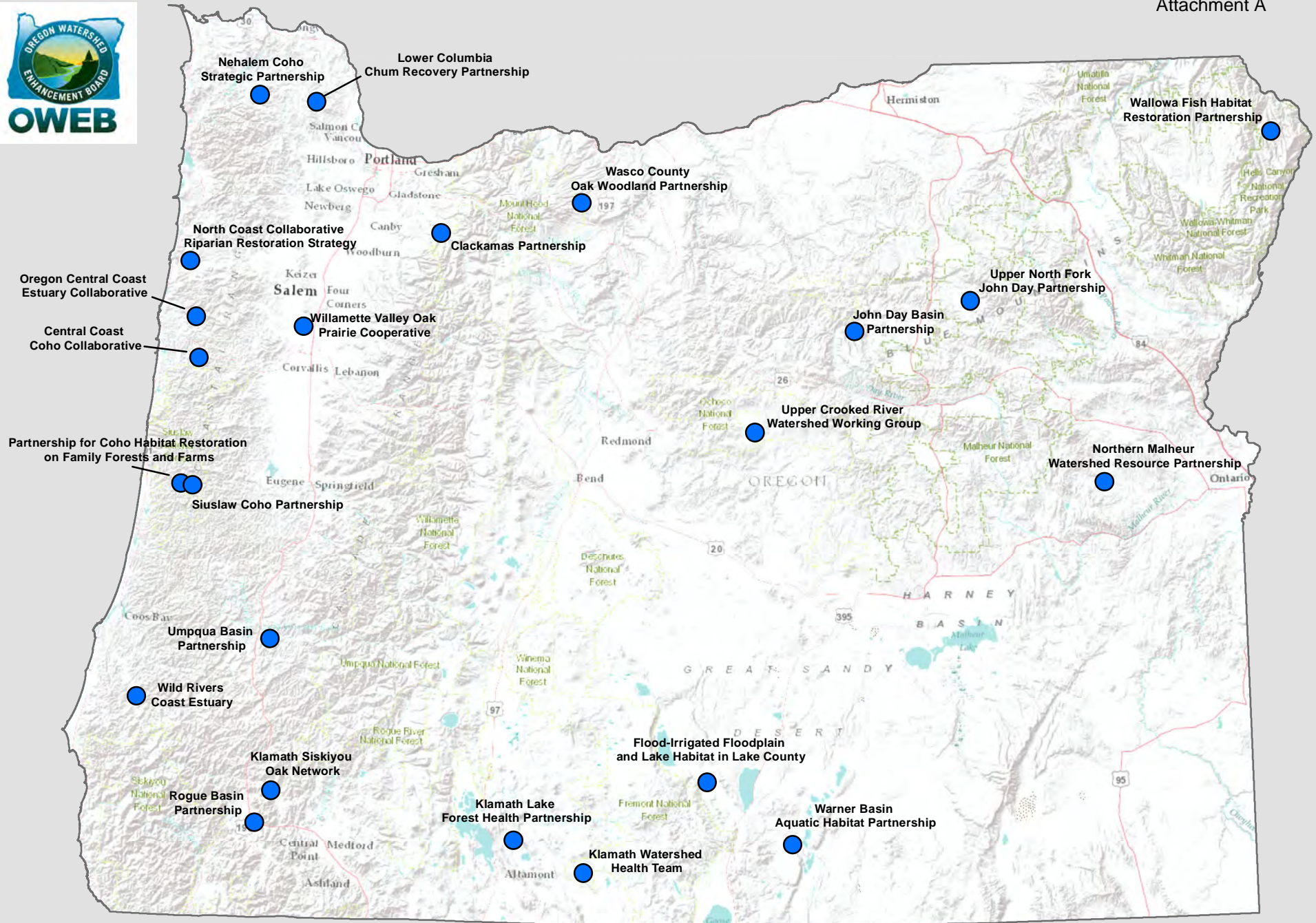
A list of applications, in priority order, and evaluations are provided in Attachments C and D and were provided to applicants and posted on OWEB's website.

IV. Subcommittee Action

OWEB Staff recommends the Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments recommend to the OWEB Board awarding the applications highlighted in gray in Attachment C.

Attachments

- A. Map of FIP Capacity Building Applications
- B. Building Capacity Expert Review Team
- C. List of FIP Capacity Building Applications in Priority Order
- D. FIP Capacity Building Evaluations



Focused Investment Capacity Building Expert Review Team

Name	Organization
Todd Reeve	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Emily Jane Davis	OSU Extension
Yvette Rhodes	Ford Family Foundation
Sybil Ackerman	Oregon Community Foundation
Eric Nusbaum	Oregon Department of Agriculture

2015-2017 FIP Capacity Building Applications

Project Number	Region	Applicant	Project Name	OWEB Request	Priority
216-8300-12524	1	Siuslaw SWCD	Siuslaw Coho Partnership	\$86,020	1
216-8300-12539	6	Confed Tribes Warm Springs	John Day Basin Partnership ^	\$149,613	2
216-8300-12525	2	South Coast WC	Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries *	\$150,000	3
216-8300-12526	2	Rogue Basin Coordinating Council	Rogue Basin Partnership	\$147,483	4
216-8300-12533	3	Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership ^	\$137,696	5
216-8300-12538	4	Lake County Umbrella WC	Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership	\$41,250	6
216-8300-12518	1	The Nature Conservancy	Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative*	\$42,777	7
216-8300-12519	5	Grande Ronde Model WS Program	Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership	\$83,490	8
216-8300-12534	2	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Partnership	\$149,734	9
216-8300-12528	1	North Coast WS Assn	Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership	\$82,500	10
216-8300-12531	1	MidCoast WC	Central Coast Coho Collaborative	\$150,000	11
216-8300-12529	1	Upper Nehalem WC	Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership	\$64,350	12
216-8300-12527	4	Wasco SWCD	Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership	\$29,946	13
216-8300-12540	6	North Fork John Day WC	Upper North Fork John Day Partnership	\$150,000	14
216-8300-12521	3	Greenbelt Land Trust	Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative	\$86,483	15
216-8300-12535	4	Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership	Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership	\$149,516	16
216-8300-12520	4	Klamath Bird Observatory	Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network	\$110,059	17
216-8300-12522	5	Malheur WC	N. Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership	\$95,700	18
216-8300-12523	4	Central Oregon Intergovt Council	The Upper Crooked River Watershed WG	\$145,805	19
216-8300-12537	1	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	North Coast Collaborative Riparian Restoration Strategy	\$75,341	20
216-8300-12530	4	Ducks Unlimited - Chris Colson	Flood-Irrigated Floodplain and Lake Habitat in Lake County	\$95,468	21
216-8300-12532	1	Placeholder	Partnership for Coho Habitat Restoration on Family Forests and Farms	\$143,000	22
216-8300-12536	4	Klamath SWCD	Klamath Watershed Health Team	\$107,425	23
Total FIP Capacity Building Application Recommended by Staff to Focused Investment Subcommittee				\$988,063	

^ Some application costs need further explanation, final recommended award maybe reduced.

* Some application costs may be ineligible, final recommended award may be reduced.

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12518

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative

Requested Amount: \$42,777

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative is a network of estuary conservation and restoration practitioners collaborating to improve the health and resilience of estuaries on Oregon's Central Coast. Our Core Partners for this capacity-building application are: The Nature Conservancy, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Estuary Technical Group of the Institute for Applied Ecology, MidCoast Watersheds Council, Nestucca-Neskowin-Sand Lake Watersheds Council, Salmon Drift Cr. Watershed Council, Siuslaw Watershed Council, The Wetlands Conservancy, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Restoration Programs.

Our long-term goal is protecting and restoring ecologically functional estuaries on the central Oregon Coast. We will use capacity-building funding to complete our strategic action plan, identify a scope of work suitable for a FIP proposal, identify funding for that work, conduct outreach necessary for that work, and develop organizational documents. Funds will be used to help pay for facilitation, travel, and participation by non-profit "Core Groups."

Completion of our strategic plan and outreach will result in coordinated actions among our partners leading to improved ecological health for Oregon's central coast estuaries. Over half of major estuaries in Oregon are located in our area; improving these estuaries will provide significant benefit to OWEB's Coastal Estuaries priority.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The project appears to have been thoughtfully developed.
- The partnership is utilizing a science-driven results chain analysis for the development of its strategic action plan, which is a very reputable process.
- The application provides a good discussion of how the core partnership came to be and a Partnership Charter has been developed.
- Applicant has the in-house resources and expertise to provide facilitation services.

- This is a modest request and a completed SAP would likely lead to future project implementation.
- Partners have quickly shown their ability to collaborate and have not waited for a capacity building grant to begin their work.

Weaknesses

- Partnership challenges were not clearly described in the application.
- Crafting a scope of work for a FIP implementation application is an ineligible expense for a capacity building grant. Only facilitator and partner costs directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application did not clearly describe how success would be evaluated.

Issues of Concern:

- No issues of concern were identified.

OWEB Staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 7

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12519

OWEB Region: Region 5

Partnership Name: Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership

Requested Amount: \$83,490

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

Core partners are Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, The Freshwater Trust, US Forest Service and Wallowa Resources. Building the Atlas is an inclusive process and additional partners will be added should there be interest and if opportunity presents itself.

The Partnership will develop the Restoration Atlas, a strategic action plan to prioritize, vet and implement habitat restoration projects designed to maximize biological benefits identified in existing data and by expert local knowledge in the Wallowa and Imnaha River subbasins.

Capacity building funds will be used to secure the services of a qualified consultant, who will in turn facilitate the Atlas development process, produce technical documents and high level mapping products.

Capacity building funds will lead to focused restoration actions that address the habitat requirements of native aquatic species, with emphasis on Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout in the Wallowa and Imnaha subbasins. Each restoration action collectively identified and prioritized according to score in the Atlas, will result in relevant and quantifiable benefit to identified fish species.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The application is very focused on the proposed outcome (Atlas, a strategic action plan), with detailed budget description.
- The budget request is relatively modest for a strategic action plan that can be utilized by a broad partnership. The budget includes good match.
- Long-standing partnership seeking to replicate similar efforts in the upper Grande Ronde that will provide additional focus for the partners. There is considerable evidence provided that the Atlas will be developed and utilized.
- There appears to be a lot of momentum generated in this basin, and there are unique opportunities to bring restoration funding to implement actions identified in the Atlas.

Weaknesses:

- The application is weak on describing the challenges the partnership faces.
- The application could have better described the integrated nature of the partnership and how developing the Atlas would benefit the partnership.
- While it is acknowledged that the partners have done this before, it should be noted that a lot rests on the facilitation, technical writing, and mapping skills of the contractors to develop a tool that will be effectively used by the partners.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 8

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12520

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON)

Requested Amount: \$110,059

Board Priority Addressed:
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The partnership includes Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO), Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Forest Service (USFS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Through KSON, these agencies and organizations have formed a high-performing partnership with a proven track record of partnership building, landowner engagement, on-the-ground restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management focused exclusively on oak conservation and restoration.

Ecological outcomes identified by KSON include improved function, resiliency, connectivity, and habitat value of oak woodland and chaparral habitats in southern Oregon. These ecological outcomes align directly with the OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat.

KSON partners seek to develop a Strategic Action Plan which will strengthen our ability to achieve ecological outcomes significant to the state, outcomes which are critical to reverse declining trends of oak associated plants and wildlife. The Strategic Action Plan will serve as a road map for oak woodland and chaparral restoration actions, and will establish short, medium, and long term goals to achieve our ecological outcomes over the entire southern Oregon landscape.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The partnership seems to have a history of working together.
- The group has a recently signed MOU.
- The application provided a candid discussion of lessons learned.
- The application clearly described the need for a SAP.

Weaknesses

- The deliverables were poorly described in the application.

- In the application it appeared that KBO is doing all of the work, the roles of the other partners were not clearly described. The application did not make a clear case that KBO was the right partner to lead the SAP development.
- The application proposes to expand to work in the Umpqua basin; however no local partners have yet been identified. Seems unlikely to be successful with a two-year grant.
- Answer to question 10A is vague; unclear what capacities will be targeted.
- Outreach deliverables were unclear; only outreach costs directly related to this capacity building grant are eligible.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 17

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12521

OWEB Region: Region 3

Partnership Name: Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative

Requested Amount: \$86,483

Board Priority Addressed:
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (Cooperative) has representatives from the lower, middle and upper sub-regions of the Willamette Valley. The partners in the Cooperative (Appendix 1) have extensive experience in planning and implementing on-the-ground work to protect, restore and maintain native oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley. The Cooperative proposes to develop a two-tiered Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Strategic Action Plan and formalize an organizational partnership structure to implement goals, objectives, and tasks identified in the Strategic Action Plan. Tier one is a Willamette Valley-wide strategy. Tier 2 is three sub-regional plans developed by existing regional partnerships. This approach produces synergy while maintaining regional identity and flexibility. The Cooperative is applying for funds from OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership Capacity-Building funds to assist in the development of the Strategic Action Plan and strengthen the Cooperative's operational structure. Once the Strategic Action Plan is completed, the Cooperative intends to apply for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Funding. The overarching goal of the Cooperative is to protect, restore, and maintain a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley through a coordinated and strategic approach that leverages resources, focuses on priority project areas and species, and produces substantial ecological returns.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The "local working group" partnerships have strong histories with successful planning and implementation efforts.
- The regional steering committee seems like a good concept.
- The partners are integrating work from existing assessments.

Weaknesses

- Not much detail on community engagement.
- The partnership and proposed geographic scale of work is new; do all these partners need to be involved? Who are the core partners? Are the right partners being engaged?
- The application is unclear on how the capacity building grant will significantly change or increase the different groups' oak habitat work. The added value of the regional approach is not clearly articulated.

- Intertwine is key to the success of the partnership, but its level of involvement is unclear.
- General concern about the size of the geography, the many partners, and the “loose” partnership.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 15

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12522

OWEB Region: Region 5

Partnership Name: Northern Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership

Requested Amount: \$95,700

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Northern Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership consists of nine core entities. Among them are the Malheur Watershed Council, the Vale Oregon Bureau of Land Management, the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Ontario office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USFWS, ODFW, the Burns Paiute Tribe Natural Resources Division, Trout Unlimited, and DEQ.

The partnership seeks to improve rangeland and riparian health to benefit ODFW identified "species of interest" in the Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat. We will hire a contractor to be the Partnership Coordinator to conduct an outreach program, write a strategic action plan, develop a pilot restoration project, and coordinate a natural resource inventory. Our partnership's goals align with OWEB's Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat Focused Investment Priorities and Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. We intend to improve rangeland health and riparian areas to benefit habitat for the sage-grouse, mule deer, antelope, bull trout and red band trout.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- Good discussion of conducting landowner outreach along with the development of a strategic action plan. The application is clear that landowner support is vital for effective restoration action to take place.
- The application identifies challenges to the partnership, and it is clear that this is an effort to bring the necessary entities into the partnership.
- Individually, the partners have a good track record at implementing projects.

Weaknesses:

- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.
- While a number of partners are participating in the initiative, the roles and responsibilities of the various partners and how the partnership operates are not well described.

- A significant part of the budget is dedicated to developing a pilot project/natural resources inventory. While a pilot project can develop interest and momentum for a partnership, it is not clear why these elements are necessary for a successful capacity building initiative.
- There are a number of local issues (e.g., sage grouse and bull trout) where this relatively new partnership can play an important role. However, specific issues and how the partnership is seeking to address them are not well described in the application.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 18

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12523

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: The Upper Crooked River Watershed Working Group (UCRW-WG)

Requested Amount: \$145,805

Board Priority Addressed:
Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

Core partners of the Upper Crooked River Watershed Working Group (UCRW-WG) include the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative, Crooked River Watershed Council, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Wild. UCRW-WG will develop a detailed strategic action plan to coordinate dry forest restoration across jurisdictional boundaries within the Upper Crooked River Watershed, a region prioritize by a multitude of Federal, State and local conservation strategies— including the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Region 6 Terrestrial Restoration and Conservation Strategy. Ecological outcomes include increase diverse in forest structure, age, and composition, increased resilience to high-severity, stand-replacing wildfire, and decreased risk of insect infestation and disease.

During plan development, UCRW-WG will gather data on the current conditions and restoration needs on private lands and integrate these findings with data from existing plans. We will strengthen our partnership and increase member diversity, outreaching to private landowners and other key stakeholders through one-on-one meetings, kitchen table conversations and public meetings. We will also formalize our working agreements and governance structure. Deliverables include formal working agreements, increased membership diversity, a Private Lands Resource Assessment, a prioritization process and a detailed strategic action plan.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- This is a thoughtful application with clear deliverables, metrics, and a good discussion of bringing in others to discuss lessons learned.
- Good breakout on what contracted services are requested.
- The partnership is looking to synthesize existing plans to produce a strategic action plan.
- The right partners for this type of project in this area are involved in the initiative.

Weaknesses:

- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.

- It is unclear which roles each partner will play in the partnership, and it was not well described how the partners have worked together in the past.
- The USFS is listed as offering significant in-kind support, but there are concerns that there may not be sufficient capacity at the district level.
- The application states that FIP funding will be used for data collection to assemble a Private Land Resource Assessment. This is an ineligible cost for FIP capacity building applications (see page 3 of the instructions).
- It would be beneficial to better explain how many landowners are in the focus area, average acreage involved, and how outreach will be conducted accordingly.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 19

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12524

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Siuslaw Coho Partnership

Requested Amount: \$86,020

Board Priority Addressed:

Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP) core partners are: BLM-Eugene District, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, USFS-Siuslaw NF, Siuslaw SWCD, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council. SCP partners possess the qualifications and experience to achieve the SCP's desired ecological outcomes. The desired ecological outcomes of the partnership include increased quantity and quality of instream complexity and rearing and spawning habitats, increased stream connectivity to floodplains, improved riparian habitat, and improvement in water quality characteristics identified as limiting factors for Siuslaw, Siltcoos, and Tahkenitch coho populations.

Capacity-Building funds will be utilized for partners' labor, travel, materials, equipment, contracted services, and grant administration efforts, leading to achievement of the following Capacity-Building goals: Develop governance documents for the partnership; Develop and execute strategic action plans for the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Coho Populations that include strategic outreach plans; Develop a flexible mapping tool to be used in multiple phases of Capacity-Building and Implementation. Funds will be spent in support of SCP Capacity-Building efforts, leading to efficient and effective implementation efforts that result in achievement of the SCP's desired ecological outcomes. Ecological outcomes are in alignment with the OWEB FIP for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast and key limiting factors for the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch coho populations.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The description of the strategic action plan development process is well aligned with the Coho Business Plan process, which the partnership is already involved with.
- The ecological need for the SAP is well stated.
- This is a strong local partnership, which has a history of working well together.
- The proposed streamlining data and uniting various outreach efforts across partners will lead to a more effective partnership and future coordinated restoration implementation.
- Good performance indicators for what the partnership hopes to achieve.
- The discussion of challenges and solutions was well done.

- Budget costs seem reasonable for the deliverables presented in the application, particularly in light of the rigorous strategic action plan development approach used in the Coho Business Plan framework.

Weaknesses

- The application did not clearly describe how success would be evaluated.
- The budget and proposed activities do not clearly align; as a result, it is difficult to determine the amount of money being put toward each deliverable.
- Unclear whether the proposed the development of a strategic mapping tool and outreach plan are directly tied to the development of the strategic action plan or other capacity building efforts.
- Concern that much of the anticipated staff time in the budget will come from the Siuslaw Watershed Council. Reviewers wanted to know which staff they plan to put toward the effort and what their expertise is in terms of developing a strategic action plan that will follow the scientifically rigorous process used for the Coho Business Plan process.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 1

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12525

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partners include: Curry SWCD; South Coast Watershed Council; Lower Rogue Watershed Council; The Nature Conservancy. We will produce a Strategic Plan written to OWEB FIP specifications, produce a Partnership Operations Manual, broaden our partnership base, streamline our data management system, recruit additional funding partners, and begin developing outreach and education program tools with which to promote this estuary initiative for a quarter of the Oregon Coast. Estuaries have been identified as a priority by OWEB, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, The Nature Conservancy, and the Independent Multi-disciplinary Science Team. There are over 20 existing plans for restoring South Coast estuaries.

The proposed ecological outcomes include restoration of estuarine processes and functions, in 10 South Coast estuaries, over a 10 year time-frame. Actions include:

- Measurable water quality improvements to benefit all species (terrestrial, aquatic and avian) including the nearshore environment where estuaries extend off shore.
- Restored salmon refugia, including:
 - Habitat and Floodplain Connectivity
 - Improved Fish Passage
 - Increased off-channel rearing habitat
- Conservation, restoration, or enhancement of freshwater and tidal wetlands.
- Promoting working landscapes and securing estuarine habitats.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is a long-standing successful partnership that has recently recruited new partners.
- The work accomplished on the south coast is impressive and reviewers felt that the entities individually, and as a partnership, have the ability to tackle the work presented in this application.
- The partnership is taking a holistic approach and has addressed challenges and opportunities going forward.

- Good outreach discussion on the challenges of outreach to critical partner sectors, such as the ports and other estuary-based businesses.
- Strong budget with good detail.

Weaknesses

- The answers to Questions 6 and 7 primarily address the partnership's needs around applying for a FIP implementation initiative. Capacity building funds are not intended for this purpose.
- The information on hiring an outside person was generic with no specific scope of work.
- The geography seems large – there are a lot of estuaries in this geography, future implementation will be challenging

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 3

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12526

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Rogue Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$147,483

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) was created to serve as the backbone organization for restoration in the Rogue Basin, and to facilitate collective impact and Rogue Restoration Action Plan delivery. RBP consists of 15 member organizations and over a dozen partner organizations, including agency personnel serving as technical advisors (RBP participant list attached). As part of the Action Plan, RBP members identified several landscape-level critical habitat types in the region, the species they support, the strategies needed to conserve or restore the habitats, and the feasibility of delivering restoration strategies to these habitats over the next decade. The long-term ecological outcome of restoring the Rogue will be clean water at sufficient volumes throughout the year to sustain aquatic and human life and maintain healthy, interconnected, native riparian/floodplain forests and grassland and upland forest habitats dominated by native species. A cornerstone of the Action Plan is to preserve and improve conditions to support focal native fish, which is directly aligned with the OWEB FIP priorities of "Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species" and "Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast." Capacity-Building funds would support RBP in its role as facilitator of Action Plan delivery and would provide capacity for RBP members to coordinate the Action Plan's Implementation Framework.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The proposed deliverables are well thought-out and achievable.
- The measures of success were clearly described.
- The partners involved are strong, and appear to be committed to the process and a collaborative approach.
- The working group approach seems as though it will lead to a focused process, allow greater engagement from partners, and lead to a higher likelihood of success.
- The proposed development of a funding strategy shows the partners are thinking about long-term stability and future SAP implementation.

Weaknesses

- The application proposes to hire two staff, an executive director and a fiscal administrator; the qualifications of these staff are unclear.

- The viability of the executive director position is unclear over the long-term (i.e., how the partnership will continue the position after two years).
- The hours and associated cost for the executive director seem high; only costs for the position directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application clearly described the partnerships past accomplishments; however, there was not much description of what would happen in the future after the completion of the SAP.

Issues of Concern:

- The \$6,000 for events and trainings needs to be clarified to ensure all costs are eligible expenses under a Capacity-Building grant.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 4

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12527

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership

Requested Amount: \$29,946

Board Priorities Addressed:

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership's core partners include Wasco County SWCD, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service. Ecological outcomes for the partnership include reduction of pest and disease vectors, encroachment by competing plant species such as conifers, connectivity with dry transition zones, implementing management practices once addressed by fire, protection of healthy sites and enhance merit of sites that are declining and educating landowners on oak woodland management practices and the ecological importance of oak woodlands. The partnership will develop a new strategic plan to arrive at a clear and concise plan targeting oak habitat management and recovery in the East Cascades of Wasco County. Funds will be used to engage a facilitator who will organize and coordinate meetings, type minutes, maintain contact lists and group correspondence, disseminate information, conduct outreach to landowners, create and maintain a webpage for public information and outreach, and to provide administrative support for the creation of the written strategic implementation plan. The strategic plan will address the key limiting factors (habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation) of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) with a focus on ecosystem function and processes.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Some of the partners have been working together for a long-time.
- This is an inexpensive request that builds off the partners resources.
- The right partners are involved to address the challenges and develop solutions.

Weaknesses

- The need for the capacity building application was not clearly described.
- Not a very big geographic scale.
- Unclear how long the larger partnership has existed and what it has accomplished to date.
- Not much money for a facilitator, can the deliverables be achieved with the requested funding?
- Details on the application deliverables were vague.
- The outreach narrative is very weak; however, there is some discussion of incorporating landowner outreach in to the SAP process.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 13

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12528

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership

Requested Amount: \$82,500

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership includes the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, the North Coast Watershed Association, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Ecological outputs from restoration actions include:

- Decreased erosion along stream banks and in tributaries
- Improved gravel retention
- Increased channel complexity
- Improved floodplain connectivity
- Increased abundance of spawning habitat
- Anthropogenic migration barriers addressed

Ecological outcomes from restoration actions include:

- Increased distribution of chum salmon spawning in response to habitat restoration
- Increased egg-to-fry survival of chum salmon in response to improved habitat quality

Our partnership seeks capacity-building funds to (1) create a Strategic Action Plan detailing locations and projects required to address Chum Salmon limiting factors, (2) attract new partners to our partnership, and (3) engage with landowners through public meetings to garner support (and potentially identify additional projects) for restoration projects.

Columbia River Chum Salmon are a federally-listed species and their recovery is a top priority of the state. Increased capacity will allow our partnership to prioritize and pursue restoration actions toward the objective of reaching delisting criteria for Chum Salmon in the Coastal Stratum.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The application clearly defines the partnership and the deliverables.
- The application clearly describes the need for a strategic action plan focused on chum.
- The partnership appears to be strong and to be the right partners for successful SAP completion and future restoration implementation.

- Reviewers have confidence the SAP will be completed as proposed.
- Budget is mostly reasonable.

Weaknesses

- The overall application outcomes seem overly ambitious.
- Much of the proposed work is already occurring; unclear to some reviewers of the value added from a capacity building grant.
- Big investment in outreach, but unclear how it will inform the development of the strategic action plan.
- Rather than printing and binding three action plans, the partnership is encouraged to post the final plan on an appropriate website and to consider developing a companion 2–4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 10

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12529

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership

Requested Amount: \$64,350

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership (NCSP) seeks to secure a Nehalem Focused Investment Partnership (NFIP) to efficiently and effectively restore 120 miles of essential salmon habitat in cooperation with stakeholders, state and federal agencies and technical advisors, in 8 years. Area of focus is in high priority 6th field sub-basins identified during the "pilot" Nehalem Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) process (complete spring 2016).

Capacity support assures the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Nehalem FIP implementation. A professional facilitator will collaborate with council staff and partners to develop a FIP scope of work that delivers a completed OWEB Nehalem FIP application.

Success of the capacity building effort includes support for targeted outreach to raise stakeholder and community awareness of the need for Coho population recovery. Outreach shares NSAP findings emphasizing the need for protection/restoration of ecosystem/watershed processes that support Coho population recovery. Emphasis includes species life history stages, habitat needs, limiting factors and FIP solutions.

Capacity building utilizes council staff to secure adequate in-kind and funding support for Nehalem FIP implementation.

NFIP aligns with OWEB's focused investment priorities for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast, Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species and Coastal Estuaries in Oregon.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The proposal aligns well with the Coho Business Plan process, which the partnership is already involved with.
- The outreach to industrial landowners is great.

Weaknesses

- It was unclear from the application who are the partners involved. Was it the same group currently involved in the Coho Business Planning process?
- There seems to be a need to elevate the partnership, however this work was not well described in the application.
- The timeline was vague; reviewers expressed concern that not enough time has been factored in to search for and contract with a facilitator.
- Community engagement and measures of success discussion were weak.
- Most of the funding goes to support the two watershed council coordinator positions; it was unclear how this funding will support the proposed deliverables and capacity building of the partnership.

Issues of Concern:

- Not all of the proposed activities are directly tied to the capacity building grant offering. For example, general outreach or developing a FIP application, are not eligible activities under a capacity building grant.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 12

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12530

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Flood-irrigated Floodplain and Lake Habitat in Lake County

Requested Amount: \$95,468

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats
Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partnership of this FIP Capacity-Building application consists of the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ducks Unlimited, and Intermountain West Joint Venture. This partnership represents a decade of collaborative outreach, planning, and conservation delivery of stream and floodplain habitat and function.

The partnership is committed to achieving the singular ecological outcome of increasing climate resiliency and water-use efficiency of Lake County's historic floodplains for the benefit of migratory birds, native fish, and agricultural resiliency.

The partnership will contract with a research firm to facilitate a series of landowner meetings, generate a subsequent survey, and then summarize the analysis of the survey results into a report. The socioeconomic factors identified in the report will inform the development of a Strategic Action Plan that will identify the restoration actions necessary to maintain flood-irrigated habitat on the landscape.

As water becomes increasingly limited, flood-irrigated habitats risk being lost as operators convert to alternative agricultural practices. Understanding operator motivations, operation limitations, and long-term planning, and identifying commonalities among landowners of varying operational scales, assets and liabilities is necessary to implement restoration actions aimed at improving water-use efficiencies in these highly managed systems at a watershed scale.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- This is an interesting proposal, with a unique approach towards community engagement and an understanding of how climate change and water use impacts the floodplain.
- Gathering the information that the partners are proposing might lead to new restoration possibilities in the area and beyond.
- A two-day symposium is proposed for the politically sensitive issues surrounding Lake Abert where common ground amongst the stakeholders may be achieved.

Weaknesses:

- The application states that a significant amount of capacity building funding will be used for social research that in turn would help develop a strategic action plan. While the research is intriguing, this is an ineligible cost (see page 3 of the instructions).
- The roles and responsibilities of the partners are unclear.
- The application would benefit from a better discussion as why maintaining flood-irrigation (which some see as inefficient) is the default solution to floodplain habitat restoration.

Issues of Concern:

- The application objectives do not seem like a good fit for the FIP capacity building application. The partners are encouraged to look at Oregon Water Resources Department Place Based Planning Grant Program as that may be a better fit for what is proposed.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 21

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12531

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Central Coast Coho Collaborative

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Central Coast Coho Collaborative is comprised of the MidCoast Watersheds Council, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and The Wetlands Conservancy. The capacity building funds will allow core partners to solidify current ad hoc partnerships focused on broad sense recovery of Coho Salmon and the ecosystem functions that support them on the Central Oregon Coast. Specifically, the key partners seek to work through a planning process to create population specific strategic action plans by updating existing assessments with new information, including restoration techniques to buffer populations against predicted climate change. In the strategic plan development, partners will undertake a data synthesis/update, geomorphic and physical habitat analysis, and density dependence analysis overlaid with predicted climate change models. Capacity building will support: 1) partner time to develop a memorandum of understanding and participate in a process to develop the strategic action plans; 2) local core team time and travel as necessary; 3) professional services for the partnership to seek outside expertise to facilitate the process, such as providing necessary background work, taking notes, and drafting the plan; and 4) technical assistance with assessment and modeling.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The goals and deliverables are clearly described as are the challenges and solutions.
- The thoughtful discussion on climate change was appreciated.
- The SAP appears to be based on the Coho Business Plan format, which is very technical in nature, and includes collection of new data and analysis of existing data.
- Partners have worked together for many years with several sharing office space, accounting, monitoring and technical teams.

Weaknesses

- No community engagement is planned for developing/enhancing the strategic action plan; this might impact the long-term success of the SAP and the capacity building effort.
- The application is lacking details on partnership staffing and governance.
- The budget lacks details on the justification of costs; the lump sum for the facilitator is unexplained and seems expensive.
- The potential involvement of the Wild Salmon Center is not well explained.
- One of the challenges in this area is engaging private landowners, which is not addressed as a problem in this proposal.

Issues of Concern:

- The Alsea Basin, which is not covered in the partnership, is a major river system within this landscape. Without the inclusion of this basin it is unclear how the SAP and future implementation efforts can be successful.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 11

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12532

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Partnership for Coho Habitat Restoration on Family Forests and Farms

Requested Amount: \$143,000

Board Priority Addressed:

Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partners are Family Forests of Oregon, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Tree Farm System, and the Oregon Board of Forestry's Committee for Family Forestlands, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

This project will achieve improvements in coho habitat by achieving the following ecological outcomes:

- Increasing stream complexity;
- Improving riparian condition;
- Improving fish passage and road condition;
- Improving water quality.

This partnership and eventual project implementation will improve coho habitat, by targeting investments in areas of high intrinsic potential. Family forests and farms dominate the ownership (81%) along reaches with high intrinsic potential, with an estimated 45% of this area either non-forested or recently logged (Burnett et al. 2007). In Oregon's Coast Range, many landowners own a mix of forestland and pastureland. This partnership focuses effort on high intrinsic potential regardless of land use. Funds will be used to expand and enhance the existing partnership, target outreach to landowners, and develop a strategic action plan.

“Habitat management and improvement is key to protecting and enhancing coastal coho; much of the most important coho habitat is on private land; habitat improvement on private land is most likely to occur through incentive-based cooperative partnerships with landowners” (Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan 2007).

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is an excellent group of partners.
- The ecological objectives are appropriate, but the partners need to focus their efforts.
- The proposed activities are appropriate to achieve the desired outcomes.

- The partners have a history of working together, though there are no formal agreements related to this specific proposal.

Weaknesses

- The application appears to be for landowner outreach for future project implementation, which is not an eligible activity under the FIP Capacity-Building grant.
- The geographic scope of the proposal is huge; no map was included, which made it difficult to understand if there was any focus.
- Key partners are missing from the proposal to successfully overcome the described challenges.

Issues of Concern:

- The reviewers were very supportive of the concept of this proposal. However, many of the specific activities described are not eligible for this grant type. The reviewers hope the partnership will outreach to additional partners, such as watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, and continue to pursue project funding and implementation through other funding routes.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 22

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12533

OWEB Region: Region 3

Partnership Name: Clackamas Partnership

Requested Amount: \$137,696

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Clackamas Partnership include Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas Co. Water Environment Services, Clackamas Co. Parks, Clackamas River Basin Council, Metro, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Depart. of Environmental Quality, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, Portland General Electric, and US Forest Service, joined by Greater Oregon City, North Clackamas Urban, and Johnson Creek watershed councils, all of whom have extensive experience planning and completing restoration activities in partnership with one another with resulting benefits to the Clackamas populations of listed salmon and steelhead ("Clackamas Populations").

Ecological outcomes identified by the partnership will address limiting factors of degraded water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, migratory corridor connectivity and fish passage, and invasive species in priority areas presenting habitat for all life stages of Clackamas Populations and in the Clackamas River Basin.

The Clackamas Partnership will develop an enhanced strategic action plan for Clackamas Populations informed by the Lower Columbia River Conservation & Recovery Plan, as the baseline plan, which is organized by strata/population and incorporates other plan strategies. The partnership's strategic action plan will prioritize actions for the recovery of listed species and establish a process for working together to address the OWEB Board-approved Focused Investment Priority for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The partners have a track record of collaboration.
- The outcomes were clearly identified.
- The partners described how they have been working together on various types of projects, but they made a good case for the added-value the Capacity-Building funding will provide.
- A draft MOU was included with the application, demonstrating the partnership is serious and moving forward.

Weaknesses

- It appeared to be more agencies focused, rather than landowner focused. Reviewers were not sure how landowners would be engaged in the future.
- Reviewers recommend that rather than printing copies of the entire plan, the applicant post the plan on an appropriate website, develop a 2-4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan, and print copies of the summary as an outreach tool.

Issues of Concern:

- Reviewers were unclear why two facilitators are needed; it seems like an excessive expense. Reviewers request OWEB staff follow-up with the applicant to determine the need and if the facilitator costs could be reduced.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 5

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12534

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Umpqua Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$ 149,734

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
 Coastal Estuaries in Oregon
 Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
 Dry-type Forest Habitat
 Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
 Produce a strategic action plan.
 Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Umpqua Basin Partnership consists of several nonprofit, private and agency organizations. The following are the core partners: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, Elk Creek Watershed Council, Smith River Watershed Council, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, Roseburg/Coos Bay/Medford BLM, Umpqua National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service. All of the organizations have extensive experience operating in the Umpqua Basin and possess the necessary resources and commitment to implement holistic watershed restoration activities in future.

The ecological outcomes identified by the Partnership include efforts that maintain or enhance holistic watershed processes that benefit: Aquatic habitat for all native species, Coho salmon population recovery, estuarine habitats for native species, Upland habitats for native species and Riparian habitats. -The Partnership seeks to develop an action plan for the entire basin that takes into account the long term ecological recovery of the system for native species. Funds will be used to hire a facilitator and technical contractor to complete the action plan. Additionally, funds will be utilized to pay for nonprofit and key partner staff time, action plan printing and mileage.

The development of the strategic action plan will identify and prioritized restoration efforts throughout the entire basin in a holistic approach, maximizing ecological benefits to the resource. This will allow for contiguous restoration across the checker boarded landscape of the Umpqua.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Seems like a strong committed partnership with a strong leader in the form of the applicant.
- The individual groups have been working together in some fashion for a long time and have been involved in the community.

- The applicant has made noteworthy adaptations to its oversight, governance, management, relationships with others, and role in the watershed.
- The partnership is actively searching for other sources of funding.
- The group has researched other successful groups who have developed a SAP and build partnership capacity. If funded they plan on using a similar process and established facilitator.

Weaknesses

- This is a new partnership with no formal agreements yet in place.
- The basin is large with many partners and moving parts, it is hard to predict the long-term success of this effort.
- Elevating the partnership seems key to its long-term success. The tasks associated with this activity were poorly described.
- Because the larger partnership is relatively new, reviewers wondered whether it will be able to achieve success over the long run.
- The cost for action plan and map printing (\$2,500) seems excessive; the partnership is encouraged to post the final plan on an appropriate website and to consider developing a companion 2–4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 9

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12535

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP)

Requested Amount: \$149,516

Board Priority Addressed:
Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP) core partners are: ODF, Fremont-Winema National Forests, NRCS, Lake and Klamath County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council and OSU) These organizations have extensive experience in restoration projects and outreach in Klamath and/or Lake Counties.

The ecological outcome identified by KLFHP is to increase the health, sustainability and productivity of dry-type conifer forests in Klamath and Lake Counties by implementing restoration treatments in high-priority watersheds. KLFHP will enhance the 2009-2011 Strategic Action Plan for Lake and Klamath Counties based on the components identified by OWEB. The KLFHP has identified the Greater Lobert Focus Area as the priority within the two counties. KLFHP will conduct landowner and community outreach and education; develop a broad communication network among agencies, landowners and other stakeholders; and identify site-specific projects with willing landowners in the Greater Lobert Focus Area. The FIP priorities identify dry-type forests to address habitat conservation and restoration at the landscape scale. Completion of the strategic action plan will allow implementation of treatments leading to ecological outputs on a greater scale than is likely without coordination by KLFHP.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The partnership has all the right entities and is seeking to reinvigorate dry-type forest restoration in the area.
- The proposal calls out roles and responsibilities of the partners. The integration with the Klamath Watershed Partnership is intriguing, and believed to be a good move for the partnership.
- This is a partnership that quietly is able to get work accomplished on the ground.

Weaknesses:

- The discussion of outcomes and metrics of success is lacking in detail.
- The project timeline is compressed (e.g., completing the strategic action plan in spring, 2016).

- There is concern that the application proposes to build the capacity of one organization (Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership) and not the group of partners that are collaborating in this effort. This is evident in the budget, where the bulk of the request is to pay for a single executive director.
- The application states that an existing strategic action plan is not utilized, and there is a concern that there is no mechanism for how an enhancement or revision of this plan would actually be used by the partners.

Issues of Concern:

- It should also be noted that the request for liability insurance (\$2,800) should not be in addition to the 10% grant administration rate as that is an example of an administrative cost.
- While the need for coordination is evident, there doesn't seem to be a plan to sustain the executive director position. In fact, it's mentioned in the application that a staff position has ebbed and flowed with available grant funding. As an alternative, the partnership could have requested funding for facilitation/enhancing the strategic action plan with some funding set aside for partner contributions to meeting and developing the plan. This could be done at a fraction of the cost and produce a plan that has partner buy-in that would be better utilized than the existing document.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 16

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12536

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Klamath Watershed Health Team

Requested Amount: \$107,425

Board Priorities Addressed:

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Klamath Watershed Health Team is made up of various stakeholders coming together with the same goal in mind; restore watershed health in the Klamath Basin to restore flows to springs, streams, and rivers to increase and improve water quality and quantity to benefit fish and wildlife and a way of life in the Klamath Basin. The core group includes Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Area Council. Our mission is to put water back in our rivers, streams, and wetlands and providing sustainable water to our agricultural communities.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The partnership identifies landowner outreach as an important first step in conducting effective watershed restoration.
- With reduced agency capacity, the partners have understandably come together to collaborate.

Weaknesses:

- The application does not provide clear information for all the application questions, at times the application is difficult to follow.
- The roles of the partners in the initiative are unclear. Nearly all of the tasks described by the partners in each budget line item are identical regardless if OWEB funding is requested or if it is a match contribution.
- Details of how a strategic action plan will be produced are lacking and not at all described in the initiative timeline.

Issues of Concern:

- The budget is almost entirely for contracted services, although much of what is included (~\$58,000) appears to better fit within salaries, wages, and benefits as it is for Klamath SWCD staff (the applicant).

- The application proposed to work in two OWEB Board Priority Area, Dry-type Forest Habitat and Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat; however the geographic area of the application does not fall within the Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat priority area.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 23

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12537

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: North Coast Collaborative- Riparian Restoration Strategy

Requested Amount: \$75,341

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The North Coast Collaborative (NCC) consists of three partner types: State and Federal agencies, watershed councils, and non-profit organizations. The councils include the Nestucca-Neskowin-Sand Lake, Tillamook Bay, Lower and Upper Nehalem, Necanicum, and the North Coast Watershed Association. The agencies include the Oregon Departments of: Forestry, Environmental Quality, Fish and Wildlife, and Agriculture; the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the US Forest Service. The nonprofits include the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, North Coast Land Conservancy, and Friends of Netarts Bay - Watershed, Estuaries, Beach and Sea (WEBS). The NCC has identified an area from the Necanicum to Neskowin watersheds as its project area. This also includes Nehalem, Tillamook Bay, Sand Lake, Netarts, and Nestucca watersheds. The NCC is focused on addressing two Focused Investment Priorities: Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast and Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. As a result, the NCC anticipates two long term ecological outcomes: improved water quality and aquatic habitats for native fish species, including Oregon Coast Coho. The first step in this effort is the development of a Strategic Action Plan and the NCC is seeking capacity-building funds to accomplish this.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Partnership appears to envision a reasonable process for completing a strategic action plan in terms of partner engagement, limited outreach, and data collection.
- Strong local partnership, which has a history of working well together, though no formal partnership agreements have been developed.
- Budget seems reasonable.

Weaknesses

- Geography is quite large and possibly unmanageable in a possible, future focused investment.
- The answer to Question 6 did not include a discussion of *why* a strategic action plan is needed, not just why it will be challenging to develop one.
- The budget requests funding for outreach, but the application had no discussion of it and how it will complement the development of a strategic action plan.

- No discussion of how governance documents will be developed.
- Partnership and geographic scope of the proposal felt very broad and reviewers were unsure of the likelihood of success.

Issues of Concern:

- The proposal did not address how the SAP would prioritize projects, development of a prioritization process seems like the biggest challenge this group would face in the development of the SAP.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 20

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12538

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

Requested Amount: \$41,250

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership consists of five core partners- Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, plus the recent addition of a secondary partner, US Forest Service. All of these partners have extensive experience operating in the Warner Basin and possess the resources necessary to implement programmatic conservation work in the future.

The ecological outcomes identified by the partnership include conserving and improving aquatic habitat by restoring habitat connectivity (passage) for native fish species in the Warner Basin, including the Warner Sucker, an ESA listed threatened species and the Warner Lakes redband trout (State of Oregon and BLM sensitive species). Our objective of developing a Strategic Action Plan is to provide guidance for all associated fish passage and screening activities in the Warner Basin that will improve aquatic habitat connectivity, and ultimately reach recovery goals for Warner sucker. The partnership will develop a Strategic Action Plan outlining priority areas and projects within the Basin. Capacity Building funds will be used to hire a contractor to organize meetings with the stakeholder groups and to write the strategic action plan. After the strategic action plan is completed, the partnership intends to apply for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation funding.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- Budget is modest and brings good leverage.
- The partners are well respected in the area and are doing meaningful work with landowners. This is informal at times, but works well in an area where a lot depends on building and maintaining relationships with landowners.
- The partners describe a good understanding of the challenges faced by the partnership.
- The partners have focused on one key issue in the basin, habitat connectivity.
- The process for developing the strategic action plan is well articulated, and identifies clear deliverables. It is obvious that the partners have spent time thinking about their needs.

Weaknesses:

- The budget contains lump sums for the facilitator/writer and it is not clear if this amount of funding will be sufficient.
- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.
- The development of a database is mentioned in the timeline, but not discussed elsewhere in the application.
- The project timeline seems rushed, it may take longer than anticipated to secure the right facilitator and develop an effective strategic action plan. The partners are encouraged to not rush this process in order to complete before the 2017-2019 FIP Implementation cycle.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 6

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12539

OWEB Region: Region 6

Partnership Name: John Day Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$149,613

Board Priority Addressed:
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) formed to accelerate the pace, scale, and impact of watershed restoration across the basin. Core partners that sit on the Steering Committee include the Warm Springs Tribe, Wheeler SWCD, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, The Freshwater Trust, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Land Management. In total, 20 organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as formal partners, and these groups represent the major basin restoration interests and possess the experience to execute programmatic restoration. Ecological outcomes include increased cold water and summer base flows in the system, and fully-functioning ecosystem processes that support a long-term trend of increasing populations of wild summer steelhead, spring chinook, bull trout, and other important native fish. Funds will be used to finish a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) that focuses on the watersheds that are most ripe for restoration and the actions that are most necessary to achieve outcomes. Funds will support contracting to select priority areas, design a monitoring scheme, and estimate costs and support partner capacity to compile data, set localized goals, and finalize the plan. With a complete plan, the JDBP will pursue FIP Implementation funding. Executing the plan will enable restoration in areas listed as highest and second highest priority by OWEB FIP for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is a very well written application and all the right partners are involved.
- The application indicates a mature partnership with broad support, including a Partnership Operations Manual and Partnership MOU.
- The engagement of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation is excellent, and the Tribes contribute substantially to this partnership.
- The process described for enhancing the SAP is well thought-out and should lead to a high quality SAP.
- The application and partnership are clearly focused; the partnership and SAP will concentrate on juvenile steelhead habitat restoration work.

Weaknesses

- It was unclear how this application relates to 216-8300-12540, Upper North Fork John Day Partnership.

- Output #7, estimate the cost and funding needs for an OWEB FIP, seems excessive and needs further clarification.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 2

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12540

OWEB Region: Region 6

Partnership Name: Upper North Fork John Day Partnership

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Upper North Fork John Day Partnership (UNFJDP), working together since 2011, consists of highly effective core partners who steward the sensitive headwaters in the northern branches of the John Day River. The group includes public, private, and tribal core partners: Bureau of Reclamation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Desolation Creek LLC, Malheur National Forest, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umatilla National Forest, and the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Additional partners will be added through Capacity Building. Together, these partners deliver ecologic outcomes, focused on the critical headwaters complex, particularly emphasizing juvenile steelhead, in alignment with OWEB's Aquatics priority. A secondary focus is the Dry Forest priority. The ecologic outcomes will: increase abundance of juvenile steelhead by 20%; replenish groundwater recharge and restore base flows for improved hydrography; measurably increase public understanding of restoration processes; share reports; and support Partners in their collective implementation of restoration actions aligned with area recovery plans. In order to achieve those ecologic outcomes, the Partnership seeks to build capacity, partially with funds sourced from OWEB, to:

1. Contract locally-based group Facilitation,
2. Hire one "Restoration Coordinator," and
3. Enhance the existing Draft Action Plan to form a final document.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The application was well written with clearly described outcomes and deliverables.
- The partnership is focusing on a very important area of the John Day Basin and a SAP would lead to future project implementation.
- The right partners are involved and seem committed to the process.

Weaknesses

- The hours and associated cost for the restoration coordinator and mileage (almost \$30,000) seem high; only costs for the position directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application did not clearly explain why the restoration coordinator could not be housed with other watershed council staff; the separate office location is not centrally located and could lead to communication challenges.
- The viability of the restoration coordinator position over the long term is unclear (i.e., how the position will be supported).
- It is unclear how this project and the restoration coordinator position fit into the overall plan for the watershed council.

Issues of Concern:

- Some proposed activities are ineligible under a FIP capacity building grant, including landowner recruitment for future restoration, design of future restoration projects, and collection of new data.
- The projects relationship to application 216-8300-12539, John Day Basin Partnership, was unclear.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 14

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Focused Investment Subcommittee

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Focused Investment Partnership: Implementation Applications
January 12-13, 2016 Focused Investment Subcommittee Meeting**



I. Introduction

This staff report and associated attachments provide a summary of the solicitation process and applications received to assist the Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments as they consider the Phase 1 and 2 applications for Implementation Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) in preparation for applicant interviews to be conducted at the January 12, 2016 public meeting. Following interviews, the subcommittee will develop a recommendation for the OWEB Board to consider at their January 26-27, 2016 Board meeting for a slate of FIP Implementation awards totaling not more than \$12.75 million.

II. Solicitation Process

In May of 2015, staff solicited both Capacity building and Implementation applications for FIP initiatives (see Attachment A for an outline of the Board approved FIP solicitation process). A July 1, 2015 deadline was established for Phase I Implementation applications. Implementation applicants were required to formally consult with staff prior to submitting an application.

The Phase 1 implementation application addressed the strength of the prospective partnership and required submittal of at least a draft strategic action plan (SAP) consistent with OWEB SAP guidelines.

III. Application Review

By the July 1 deadline, OWEB received 12 Phase 1 implementation applications, the details of which were presented in the staff report for Agenda Item F-1 at the July Board meeting. Phase 1 Implementation applications were reviewed by expert teams organized around the Board-designated priorities for which applications were received. Regional program representatives and FIP staff also reviewed the Phase 1 applications. The Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments met August 4, 2015 and, as outlined in the Board approved process for the FIP solicitation, invited 9 of the 12 applicants to submit Phase 2 applications. The Phase I evaluations are included as Attachment B to this staff report. An invitation to submit was not a requirement to submit a Phase 2 application, but rather an indication of the subcommittee's assessment of the Phase 1 application.

By the November 2, 2015 deadline, OWEB received nine Phase 2 implementation applications, requesting over \$20 million in the current biennium, as shown in Attachment C. As in Phase 1, all Phase 2 applications were evaluated by an expert review team and by OWEB staff, including regional program representatives and FIP staff.

Implementation Application Review Summaries are provided in Attachment D. The Review Summaries include a detailed evaluation of the Phase 2 Application, a summary of the Phase 1 review, and a combined Phase 1/Phase 2 rating. These evaluations were provided to the applicants and will be posted on OWEB's website.

IV. Subcommittee Action

Staff request the Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments consider the Phases 1 and 2 applications and evaluations, along with applicant interviews to be conducted at the January 12, 2016 public meeting, to recommend to the OWEB Board a slate of FIP Implementation awards totaling not more than \$12.75 million.

Attachments

- A. FIP solicitation process
- B. Phase I Implementation Evaluations
- C. List of Phase 2 Implementation applications
- D. Implementation Application Review Summaries

Focused Investment Partnerships: Solicitation Process

Updated April 2015

CAPACITY-BUILDING FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING
May 1-July 1, 2015	May 1-July 1, 2015
Letters of Intent submission period. Due date: July 1, 2015	Phase I application submission period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required pre-application consultation with OWEB staff – Must be completed by May 20, 2015 • Required attachment – completed draft of strategic action plan Due date: July 1, 2015
July 1-August 17, 2015	July 1-August 17, 2015
Staff receives Letters of Intent. Upon receipt, staff will inform applicants of next steps in the process. This stage is not intended to be a pre-screening for applications and will not include any evaluative action.	Staff convenes technical teams designated for each priority area for review of Phase I applications.
	Subcommittee takes information from staff and technical teams, and invites select partners to submit Phase II applications materials, including work plan and budget. Other applicants not invited can submit if they choose, though it will be noted there is limited funding available.
July 28-29 Board Meeting	July 28-29 Board Meeting
Staff updates Board on the Letters of Intent received July 1.	Staff updates Board on Phase I applications received July 1, and provides an update on the status of the review process, including the May pre-application consultations with staff.
August 17-November 2, 2015	August 17-November 2, 2015
Capacity-Building full application submission period. Due date: November 2, 2015	Application Phase II submission period. Due date: November 2, 2015
November 2, 2015-January 8, 2016	November 2, 2015-January 8, 2016
RPRs review Capacity-Building applications and provide feedback to capacity review team and subcommittee for their consideration.	RPRs review applications and provide feedback to technical review teams and subcommittee for their consideration.
Staff convenes state capacity review team to make recommendations to subcommittee through staff.	Staff convenes technical review teams designated for each priority area to complete a technical review of applications in their area and provide feedback.
Subcommittee reviews feedback from RPRs and recommendations from the state capacity review team. Provides final recommendations for funding to Board based on available funds.	Subcommittee receives applications, technical teams and RPRs feedback, and asks any follow-up questions of RPRs and/or technical teams.
	Subcommittee interviews all applicants, negotiates budgets, and recommends Implementation grants for funding based on available funds.
January 2016 Board Meeting	January 2016 Board Meeting
Board reviews subcommittee recommendations and selects Capacity-Building programs for funding. There will be an opportunity for public comment at this time.	Board reviews subcommittee recommendations and selects Implementation programs for funding. There will be an opportunity for public comment at this time.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Partnership

FIP Initiative: Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration (AFAR)

Requested Amount: \$12 million over 5 years, 6 months

OWEB Region: 2

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Dry-type Forest Habitat (primary), Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species (secondary), and Oak Woodland (secondary)

Applicant's Summary: The initiative leverages municipal and federal spending to abate the limiting factors of excessive forest density, fuels build-up, and risk of severe fire in an effort to sustain wildlife and wildlife habitat. AFAR models the "all lands" collaborative — a scientific-based approach with an ecosystem services foundation — as a demonstration program to help increase the pace and scale of forest restoration. The initiative proposes to strategically treat 8,500 acres of private forest settings along with ongoing treatment of 7,600 acres of federal land within a 53,000-acre landscape. Core partners include the City of Ashland, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: The partnership seeks a rich and resilient dry-type forest landscape of open and complex-closed old-growth habitats in appropriate settings and a community engaged in all-lands management to sustain ecosystem function, biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- MOUs and supporting documents establish clear roles and responsibilities and reflect an effective partnership for delivering the current program.
- OWEB funds will leverage an existing NRCS grant for both public and private work.
- Good secured match from City of Ashland (\$350,000/biennium)
- Excellent maps showing ownership, treatments, and wildfire hazards.
- Tables are helpful, showing "minimum" and "optimal" treatment needs.

Initiative

- Initiative is a high social priority.
- Strong example of a public-private partnership that has been under way on public lands for some time.
- The initiative is based on an established template that has worked well for the partnership to date.
- High-functioning partnership with lots of layers; "well-oiled machine."
- The partnership has a proven track record on public lands.
- The USFS is deeply involved in this partnership.
- Good representation from conservation and science-based groups.
- Proposed initiative seems achievable within the proposed initiative duration of five-and-a-half years.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Ecological outcomes should be better articulated, especially a discussion of how treating 8,500 acres will result in achieving outcomes. As written, application appears to have more of a fuels-reduction focus than an ecological focus.
- Application would benefit from a discussion of what a functioning forest should look like within a populated landscape and how ecological outcomes can be achieved while protecting infrastructure.
- Application is weak in outreach details in terms of engaging private landowners and developing agreements. Private land ownerships in this area are typically small in a fragmented landscape, creating challenges for pulling together contiguous parcels. It is unclear if the partners need more time to conduct outreach to private landowners.
- It is unclear in the application if private landowners will be expected to contribute financially or with in-kind support.
- Application appears to request funding only for private lands, but work should span both public and private lands. There may be a need for additional work on public land that is necessary to ensure success on a landscape scale or to identify how that work will be accomplished if it is planned.
- Though work will be mostly hand-work in steep, hard-to-access areas, the cost-per-acre nonetheless seems somewhat high, and the application requests the maximum amount of FIP funding.
- Secondary OWEB priorities that were noted in the application are not adequately discussed in terms of connection to limiting factors and ecological outcomes (e.g., not linked to native fish conservation and recovery plans).
- Application is unclear about whether the initiative involves only non-commercial harvesting.
- The crosswalk between SAP and the Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) is difficult to follow.
- Core partners are different in the SAP than in application — NRCS is listed as a core partner in the application, but not in SAP/CIS. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed as core partner in SAP/CIS, but not in application.
- SAP/CIS is not clear on yearly targets, just that 8,500 acres will be treated over the life of the initiative.
- Governance is not spelled out in the SAP.

Initiative

- Despite a strong partnership, the main challenge will be the ability to deliver on private lands in a timely and strategic manner.
- The ridge-top focus has great appeal, but ridge tops are not very accessible; a fuel break that is not accessible is not a fuel break.
- The applicant could consider better articulating the connection between the initiative and anticipated climate-change effects and other issues of concern (e.g., water quality for municipal drinking water supplies).

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 Implementation application.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Coos Watershed Association

FIP Initiative: Millicoma Forks Coastal Coho Restoration Partnership

Requested Amount: \$6,150,000 over 5 years, 4 months **OWEB Region:** 2

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast (primary); Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species and Coastal Estuaries in Oregon (secondary)

Applicant's Summary: The Millicoma River provides coho anchor habitat and serves as a stronghold for fish populations during periods of poor ocean survival. The initiative's outcomes will strengthen this effect by restoring two 6th-field watersheds by addressing three coho key limiting factors: 1) impeded fish passage at physical barriers, 2) degraded instream habitat complexity; and 3) degraded water quality. With the exception of Glenn Creek on the East Fork Millicoma (identified as "lower priority"), both Millicoma Forks are identified as "highest priority" for OWEB's *Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species* Focused Investment Priority. The initiative proposes to: 1) fix two significant fish passage barriers, opening 33.3 miles of coho and Chinook habitat; 2) construct 19 instream habitat improvement projects to instigate recovery of 30.5 miles of streams and to move them toward becoming "high-quality" habitat; and 3) stormproof 88.6 miles of forest roads, thereby hydrologically disconnecting road surfaces from live streams. Core partners include Coos Watershed Association, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Elliott State Forest, and OSU Extension.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: The initiative's primary objective is to restore natural processes in the East and West fork basins of the Millicoma River to perpetually sustain high-quality coho habitat to meet state and federal recovery goals. The application's stated outcomes include: fish passage will be improved for coho and Chinook; streams will meet DEQ water quality standards for sediment, turbidity, and biocriteria; all road-stream crossings will have the capacity to pass a 100-year storm event; and 85% of surface coverage on the treated roads will be hydrologically disconnected from live streams.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Leverage is substantial.
- The *Supplemental Action Plan for the Millicoma Forks* provides excellent detail about the proposed initiative.

Initiative

- The scale, scope, and pace of the proposed initiative is appropriate and is likely achievable.
- Initiative is linked to major local and regional priorities.
- The proposed initiative has the potential to measurably improve habitat conditions for coho and other fish and wildlife.
- Projects outlined in the application will address key limiting factors for coho, including lack of instream complexity and water quality (sediment).

- The habitat improvements connected with the Millicoma Oxbow Reconnection project will address one of the key limiting factors for coho of lack of instream complexity.
- The Coos Watershed Association (CWA) has been successfully implementing quality restoration projects since 1994. The CWA is a leader in the south Oregon coastal restoration community.
- The CWA is successful at engaging landowners.
- The CWA has designed, funded, and implemented past projects that are very similar to the projects proposed in the Millicoma initiative.
- The partnership has identified specific projects for this initiative through their action planning.
- The partnership has the capacity to begin implementation immediately, which includes completed technical design for the first phase of projects.
- The partners necessary for supporting roles are already at the table and have established a working relationship to help support project identification, design and development, permitting and implementation.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The partnership did not include a crosswalk between the submitted *Coos Watershed Association Model Watershed Program Proposal*, the *Supplemental Action Plan for the Millicoma Forks* and the OWEB SAP template, as required. Without this crosswalk, ecological outcomes and SMART goals and objectives could not be determined.
- The *Supplemental Action Plan for the Millicoma Forks* did not articulate the scientific rationale for project selection.

Initiative

- The partnership was recently created for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the FIP program. Therefore, a determination of whether the partnership is “high performing” cannot be made.
- There is concern that the imminent loss of the CWA’s Executive Director will impact the partnership’s capacity to implement the initiative, regardless of any arrangements made with the new employer.
- While the initiative’s proposed actions were identified as having potential value to coho in the Coos watershed, questions exist as to whether these are high-priority actions for coho recovery more broadly relative to the geographic area of the Board identified FIP priority.
- The fish passage barrier removal element of the initiative’s signature project, the Millicoma Oxbow Reconnection, might be of more benefit to Chinook than coho, and therefore, better analyzed under OWEB’s *Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species* Focused Investment Priority (which evaluates proposed initiatives relative to a broader array of fish species). Fish passage is not a primary limiting factor for coho in the Coos watershed and the fish passage barrier presented at the Oxbow site is not especially high in the ranked categories for statewide fish passage priorities (it is in Group 7).
- Additional information is needed about the current condition of the riparian zone and upland and road impacts, along with information about existing process and function, including the potential for large wood recruitment.
- The proposed road storm-proofing projects are expensive and have a clear economic benefit for the landowner.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: A Phase 2 Implementation application is not invited at this time.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

FIP Initiative: Upper Grande Ronde Initiative

Requested Amount: \$6,922,500 over 5 years

OWEB Region: 5

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Applicant's Summary: The initiative will develop, implement, and monitor fish habitat restoration projects identified as priorities for spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead in the Catherine Creek and Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Atlases. Projects will address limiting factors identified for these species for each Biologically Significant Reach (BSR). Limiting factors were identified by members of the Science Technical Advisory Committee (Science TAC) and are virtually the same as those listed in the OWEB Board's Focused Investment Priority for Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. The Columbia Habitat and Monitoring Program (CHaMP) has 87 monitoring sites in the Grande Ronde Mainstem Focus area. Future CHaMP monitoring will measure the effectiveness of the projects and attainment of project objectives, as well as overall improvements in habitat quality and quantity. Core partners include: Grande Ronde Model Watershed; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Union Soil and Water Conservation District; and U.S. Forest Service La Grande Ranger District.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: 1) improve knowledge of factors affecting survival rate of wild spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead and bull trout; 2) improve habitat quantity for all life stages of spring Chinook, summer steelhead and other native species (lamprey, freshwater mussels, resident trout, etc.) by protecting and restoring watershed processes and function, cold water refugia, and diverse, complex instream and floodplain habitats; 3) increase habitat quality and diversity (large wood structures, side channels, pools) for all life stages of spring-summer Chinook, summer steelhead and other native species; 4) promote and build trust, relationships, and partnerships with private landowners and public land managers to promote long-term ecologically based conservation ethics.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Partner roles and responsibilities are described in detail in the Atlas and Subbasin Plan attachments.
- Good leverage through the annual Biological Opinion (BiOp) funds from Bonneville Power Administration.
- SMART objectives are clear and detailed.
- Good discussion of climate change effects on habitat restoration goals and resilience.

Initiative

- Addresses limiting factors for ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead in the barrier-free Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde.

- Also benefits ESA-listed bull trout, Oregon state sensitive species redband trout, and culturally important lamprey.
- Partnership has prioritized the upper basin based on long-term data and knowledge of the whole watershed, and identified the 11 most critical reaches.
- The core partners have collaborated since 1992, and in that time have implemented more than 400 restoration projects.
- The Grande Ronde Model Watershed provides excellent leadership and has been effective in strategic restoration for more than 20 years.
- Each biologically significant reach was assigned a priority (tiers 1 through 3) based on fish use, habitat condition, and the potential benefit to Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout.
- Effective long-term partnership with long-term monitoring through Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP).
- Most private landowners have already been contacted.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Application does not address the bigger picture issue of the effects of the Snake and Columbia River dams on long-term restoration success in the Upper Grande Ronde. While this issue is beyond the partners' control, it nevertheless, has important bearing on ecological outcomes.
- Leverage is dependent on federal appropriations; however, those appropriations have been secure in the recent past.
- A more effective cross reference between the lengthy 2004 plan and the SAP would have been helpful.
- Evaluating success, adaptive management, and sustainability all need more attention. I

Initiative

- In addition to the CHaMP monitoring protocol, consider implementing PHAMS (physical habitat monitoring strategy – USGS), which would be a good complement to CHaMP. Reach-level fish data would also help to understand migration and mortality. Finally, additional information about pool construction will be important to determining if appropriate actions are proposed in the priority locations.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 Implementation application.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners

FIP Initiative: Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

Requested Amount: \$5,500,000 over 6 years

OWEB Region: 5

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats

Applicant's Summary: The initiative focuses on the wetlands and wet meadows of Silvies River, Silver Creek, Donner Und Blitzen River and parts of McCoy Creek and includes Harney, Malheur and Mud Lakes. Habitats exist primarily in Lake and Harney counties (including Malheur National Wildlife Refuge), with a small portion in Malheur County. The two primary goals of the initiative are to: 1) improve aquatic health of Malheur Lake wetland habitats for waterfowl and other native fish and wildlife by controlling invasive carp; and 2) conserve 10,300 acres of wet meadow habitat for spring migratory waterfowl. Implementation funding will support capacity needs and restoration activities to improve wetland conditions in Malheur Lake and in associated flood-irrigated wet meadows critical to migratory and resident waterfowl. Core partners include High Desert Partnership, Malheur Nation Wildlife Refuge, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Ducks Unlimited, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Audubon Society of Portland, Harney County Court, local ranchers and others.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: 1) Improved waterfowl use, 2) improved water clarity in treated lakes, 3) increased submerged aquatic vegetation, 4) increased abundance of macroinvertebrates available to waterfowl, 5) improved water quality in Malheur Lake for use by redband trout, 6) reduced carp numbers to a threshold that allows the shallow lakes system to support submerged aquatic vegetation; and 7) increased acreage of voluntary conservation for flood-irrigated wet meadows.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The application identifies high-priority wetland and floodplain habitat for migratory and resident bird and native fish species.
- Strong cover letter demonstrating broad support for the initiative.
- Strong expertise and capacity; the right players are involved (local, state, and federal).
- Impressive list of on-the-ground accomplishments.
- Partners are making headway with outreach to private landowners.
- Common interest in maintaining both critical habitat and working lands.
- The initiative is ambitious, but well-considered and strategic.
- List of leveraged amounts is impressive; solid fund raising track record.
- Large NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant request pending (not yet secured).
- The schedule seems very reasonable for the scope of proposed projects.
- Well-written SAP, easy to follow, used OWEB template, hitting nearly every element.
- Detailed explanation for the need of invasive carp control/wetland restoration with defined targets; good maps

- SMART Goals and Objectives in the SAP are extremely detailed with specific actions leading to ecological outcomes.

Initiative

- This is a key area for migratory waterfowl, especially Malheur Lake.
- Proactive thinking about balancing ecological goals with the needs of private landowners.
- Partners are ready and the group is very diverse. Several different subcommittees are tasked with different objectives and have members with high technical skills and experience.
- The initiative is well-defined with an achievable scale to address water quality, privately-owned wet meadow habitat, working lands, migratory waterfowl habitat, and carp.
- Initiative is linked to major local and regional priorities.
- Goals for wet meadows and control of carp are well discussed; applicant has identified priority locations and best management practices.
- Strong momentum; much work on carp is already under way.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- SMART Goals and Objectives in SAP appear to be missing a section on actions related to flooding/wet meadows/carp exclusion (found in funding needs, but not in SMART G & O section).
- Outcomes related to carp are decades away, though this is more of a reality than a weakness.

Initiative

- Some initial confusion over how many total acres are targeted and what amount of that total is intended for restoration and for acquisition (an accompanying letter at the back of the application cleared up the confusion).
- Some concern about the ability to make meaningful change, given the landscape realities of private-lands flood irrigation and the challenges of adequate annual precipitation.
- Carp control is very difficult, thus a question exists about how will it be managed over time. For example, do commercial ideas for carp (fertilizer) pencil out? Are there other viable commercial ideas under consideration? A solid carp management plan is needed.
- The proposed acquisition of 5,300 acres by conservation easement (working lands) is challenging given the current paucity of qualified third-party interests to hold easements. Some concern about how this will affect the ability to complete restoration and achieve identified ecological outcomes.
- The application would benefit by acknowledging that areas within the geography of the initiative include core areas for sage-grouse and that these wetlands play an important role in brood rearing for the species.
- Better identification and prioritization of wetland fringe areas would be helpful.
- This is a highly manipulated environment; partnership is encouraged to address how they will learn more about where the carp are going before jumping in with restoration.
- Climate change will put more pressure on this area than others. There will always be a footprint of wetlands, even under drought conditions. Knowing where these resilient wetlands are will be critical.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 Implementation application.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: McKenzie Collaborative

FIP Initiative: McKenzie River Native Fish and Water Quality Initiative

Requested Amount: \$4,525,000 over 6 years

OWEB Region: 3

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Applicant's Summary: The McKenzie River Native Fish and Water Quality Initiative will support four main goals in five of the seven 5th-field watersheds of the McKenzie River Subbasin: 1) increase instream and floodplain habitat complexity, floodplain connectivity and productivity; 2) improve fish passage; enhance riparian function; and 3) maintain water quality. Key species benefitted include spring Chinook salmon, bull trout, Oregon chub, and Pacific lamprey. Additional benefits are anticipated for Pacific brook lamprey, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and western pond turtle. Core partners include the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC), Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), McKenzie River Trust (MRT), USDA Forest Service, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (UWSWCD), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Geos Institute and Weyerhaeuser.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: 1) Improved habitat for key aquatic species, 2) maintenance of high-quality drinking water, and 3) enhanced public awareness of and support for watershed conservation and restoration.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Partner roles and strengths are clearly described.
- Application proposes nearly 2:1 leverage of OWEB dollars, with many partners bringing funds to the table.
- The outreach targets seem reasonable.
- Very detailed SMART goals and objectives relating to outcomes in the SAP.

Initiative

- The McKenzie Watershed is important for native-fish conservation and recovery.
- Preliminary monitoring results show that juvenile Chinook from the McKenzie have higher survival rates than any other Willamette tributary.
- Long-term, strong partnership, active since 2000; built around EWEB's Voluntary Incentive Program (VIP).
- Extensive landowner involvement (already reached over 700 landowners), primarily through EWEB's VIP program, on several issues, including riparian habitat, septic system maintenance and replacement, and pesticide use.
- Ambitious goals to reduce pesticides by 40 tons.
- Excellent cost-share programs, including VIP incentive payments for riparian land stewardship and funding for pesticide collection.
- Expanding University of Oregon's SLICES framework to the McKenzie makes sense and will provide a good overall framework for restoration in the lower river.

- While the FIP initiative partnership is fairly new, the partners have a long history of collaboration.
- The McKenzie Collaborative/VIP Partnership has been successful in recruiting landowners implementing riparian restoration.
- Based on prior successful collaboration, the partners appear to have the capacity and readiness to implement restoration.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The proposed initiative area seems ambitious.
- Additional detail is needed about the work proposed for the upper basin and how this complements work in the lower basin.
- The effectiveness of restoration actions under the VIP program may be limited, given that some/many participating landowners do not control enough riparian land to achieve large-scale restoration goals.
- SAP should address partnership and/or discussions with Army Corps in addressing fish passage limiting factors.

Initiative

- Need more rigorous science guiding restoration activities, particularly with respect to natural river processes.
- Would like a more refined approach with respect to upper vs. lower watershed. Although good partnerships exist in the lower river, success in the upper river is less certain due to Army Corps operations. In addition, the lower McKenzie has fewer natural processes due to the influences of upstream dams trapping sediment (e.g., the Leaburg Dam traps a large amount of upriver gravel, yet this does not appear to be factored into proposed restoration actions.)
- Would like justification for the gravel augmentation goal on the South Fork, given that Cougar Dam traps gravel above mile 4.5.
- While the VIP program has reached many landowners to date, questions exist about the scale of restoration outcomes from the program relative to the needs for landowner participation (i.e., see comment above in *Application/SAP Weaknesses* section about the landowner lot sizes).
- Questions exist about warmer temperatures in the lower McKenzie (relative to the upper river) and if the initiative has the ability to address this to some degree.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 Implementation application.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee

FIP Initiative: Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties

Requested Amount: \$5,900,000 over 5 years

OWEB Regions: 4, 5 and 6

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Applicant's Summary: Through implementation of the programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAAs) and associated Site-Specific Plans (SSPs) on private lands in eastern Oregon, the partnership will maintain, rehabilitate, and protect approximately 3.1 million acres of sagebrush rangeland. Major focus areas will be promoting and maintaining current contiguous sage-grouse habitat and avoiding further habitat fragmentation, addressing and ameliorating the threat of juniper encroachment, and developing measures to prevent and control wildfire and the spread of invasive plants. The partnership will use funds to provide technical assistance for the development of SSPs and to assist landowners with the execution of restoration activities to improve sage-grouse habitat and rangeland process and function. Core partners include the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts; Baker, Crook, Grant, Harney, Lake and Malheur SWCDs; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Stated Ecological Outcomes: Landscape-level conservation of the sagebrush ecosystem and sage-steppe habitat, providing sustainability for multiple wildlife species while specifically addressing threats to the Greater sage grouse.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The proposal covers a large area of eastern Oregon that includes Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) and identified connectivity corridors between PACs.
- Good discussion of issues related to the conservation need and thoughtful approach toward developing and implementing CCAAs for each county involved.
- Good monitoring section included in SAP with discussion of adaptive management.

Initiative

- An existing model in place in Harney County since 2011 to develop programmatic CCAAs for private rangelands in the county.
- Interest from other counties to do the same in an effort to prevent federal listing of sage grouse. CCAAs for these counties were completed as of March 2015. CCAAs are a powerful tool to prevent further habitat loss.
- Well-established partnership with clear expectations for contributions from each partner entity.
- A collaborative process with oversight from USFWS. CCAAs are significant successes for the partners.
- Many of the right partners are involved in this initiative.

- USFWS and NRCS have track records for implementing beneficial actions for sage-grouse, but not counties.
- Secured NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant (\$5.1 million)
- The initiative is operating at the appropriate scale
- Working with willing landowners only; 30-year enrollment program.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- * The initiative is limited to private land cooperation, which alone cannot achieve lasting, large-scale conservation. More discussion of existing work on federal lands is needed, especially on BLM lands (e.g., how will the two complement each other?)
- * Unclear how funding (all sources) will be distributed across the counties; concern that funding will not be allocated according to areas of greatest need (with the largest threats). Is the partnership pursuing a strategic, targeted approach, and if so, what will the ecological uplift be at the end of the initiative period?
- * A better map is needed (e.g., per the map in the application, Harney County does not appear to be as strategic as Malheur County in its planned actions). The current map is not only difficult to read, it also appears to include areas not associated with PACs or connectivity corridors. An integrated map of both public and private land efforts would be helpful, as well.
- * The proposed work in Harney County needs to align better with the OWEB Board's identified core area. OWEB FIP funding can only be used in PACs or identified connectivity corridors.
- Outcomes seem ambitious (e.g., 90 percent of the threats in over 3 million acres will be removed).
- * A better explanation needs to be provided as to how actions carried out over a relatively small area will result in large ecological outcomes being met.
- * Roles and responsibilities were not discussed in the application, though a "Partner Guide" is mentioned. The absence of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a listed core partner is noteworthy.
- The application is unclear how the initiative will adjust for unanticipated issues like drought and fire.
- The proposal does not describe lessons learned by the partnership.
- Unclear whether outreach is occurring, or will occur, with landowners on high-priority lands. How many landowners have already been signed up? Application could do more to explain how the partnership will attempt to engage reluctant landowners.
- * Unclear what "bite" the application is taking from the SAP. The SAP mentions 3.5 million acres, but the application states the initiative will cover over 3.1 million acres. Also, outputs/outcomes differ greatly between the application and SAP.
- While the partnership seems stable and committed, governance is not spelled out in the SAP.

Initiative

- Partners have varying levels of capacity to implement the initiative. How will the capacity to implement the initiative be built across the partnership?
- A high standard of conservation has been attached to federal lands; there is a need to provide some assurance that the same standards will apply to private lands.
- * Question about the strategic nature of the initiative, given the extent to which county boundaries seem to determine the extent of commitment of the partners. A more strategic and consistent effort across county boundaries is needed.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 implementation application. Subcommittee requests specific items, shown above with an asterisk (*), be addressed in Phase II workplan submission to increase understanding of proposed initiative.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Rogue Basin Partnership

FIP Initiative: Rogue Priority Native Fish Barrier Removal

Requested Amount: \$4,200,000 over 6 years

OWEB Region: 2

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species (primary); Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast (secondary)

Applicant's Summary: The initiative proposes to remove an average of six fish barriers per year that are identified in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2013 Statewide Barrier Prioritization list. The actions identified in the Rogue Priority Native Fish Barrier Removal initiative propose to benefit Chinook, coho, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey by improvements to migratory fish access for spawning and rearing and the correlating improvements to the quality of aquatic areas. The Upper Rogue and Illinois are identified as "highest priority" and the Middle Rogue, Applegate, and Lower Rogue are identified as "secondary priority" for OWEB's *Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast Focused Investment Priority*. The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) was created to serve as the backbone organization for restoration in the Rogue Basin, to facilitate collective impact and delivery on the Rogue Restoration Action Plan. RBP is made up of over 25 member and partner organizations (including watershed councils and non-governmental organizations that have been responsible for previous mainstem and high-priority dam/barrier removals in the Rogue Basin) and agency personnel serving as technical advisors.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: 1) provide migratory fish access to critical spawning and rearing habitats, 2) make higher quality aquatic areas that are projected to be resilient to climate change more accessible, and 3) increase fish species productivity and survival.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Many of the individual partners involved in the partnership have long and successful track records of project implementation.
- The Rogue Restoration Action Plan is very professional and very well-articulated.

Initiative

- The Rogue is an important watershed for native fish, including coho.
- The size of the partnership is testimony to the interest and commitment.
- Addressing the most critical fish passage barriers throughout the Rogue basin has the potential to greatly relieve the stress of one of the Rogue's key limiting factors for steelhead and coho.
- This work can be considered a first line of defense against climate extremes that may become more prevalent in the years to come.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The RBP was recently created, and as a result, the partnership itself does not have a history of collaborative implementation at the partnership level, nor can it show success working together as a cohesive group of partners.
- The ecological outcomes were not clearly identified.
- There were questions about the single focus on barrier removal. An approach that looks at basin-wide limiting factors and then seeks to implement multiple related actions could be more appropriate for the FIP program. The application did not clearly articulate how the partners assessed a broader collection of limiting factors and then arrived at a single-action approach.
- The application identifies nine partners as “member organizations” and another 21 partners as “active participants”. It is unclear from the proposal which entities will be the core implementers and what specific structure will emerge for project implementation.
- Several agencies (e.g., Bureau of Reclamation, Water Resources Department, Army Corps) that are critical to implementing successful fish passage barrier removal projects did not sign the Letter of Participation and are not identified on the List of Entities Participating in the RBP. ODFW and NOAA are also not listed, yet are considered critical partners in the work proposed by the initiative. It is unclear whether they will participate at a secondary level or if they are not engaged in the partnership discussions.
- It is unclear from the application whether the necessary outreach has been accomplished that is needed in order to successfully implement an ambitious barrier removal program.
- Without more information on landowner willingness, technical design needs, and ability to access match funding, it is hard to discern whether the proposed scale is appropriate.
- The Rogue Restoration Action Plan identifies a number of primary limiting factors in the basin, but the application and the Action Plan fail to make a clear argument for why the barrier removal work is the primary focus of the proposed initiative.
- Leveraged funding appears to be substantial, but sources are not identified.

Initiative

- There are efficiencies that can be gained by “batching” like projects, such as barrier projects, and this may be the case in this proposed initiative. However, given the lack of clarity in the proposal about how the partners decided on a barrier-specific focus, it was difficult to determine the justification for the single-action approach.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: A Phase 2 Implementation is not invited at this time.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Sandy River Basin Partners

FIP Initiative: Sandy River Fish Habitat Restoration

Requested Amount: \$11,450,000 over 6 years

OWEB Region: 3

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Applicant's Summary: The Partners developed a basin-wide assessment and a restoration strategy, which prioritize sub-watersheds within the Sandy Basin. The documents also provide a hierarchical approach to addressing the watershed's limiting factors through restoration work. Still Creek, Salmon River and the mainstem Sandy River corridor have been prioritized for habitat restoration for native fish. Reconnecting floodplains and side channels; increasing large wood; improving riparian function; increasing backwater pools, pool and pool tailouts; and reducing confinement to address altered watershed processes were prioritized restoration activities. Aquatic habitat restoration in the proposed initiative will implement a significant portion of the strategy and advance the long-term goal of native fish recovery. Core partners include: Bureau of Land Management, East Multnomah SWCD, The Freshwater Trust, Metro, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Portland Water Bureau, Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, and US Forest Service.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: Increased native fish abundance and productivity in the 1) Salmon River Watershed, 2) Zigzag River, 3) Upper Sandy River Watershed, 4) Middle Sandy River Watershed, 5) Lower Sandy River Watershed, and the 6) Bull Run River Watershed. In addition: 7) Increased community stewardship; 8) expanded recreational fishery; and 9) increased local economic opportunities.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Addresses Chinook, coho, and steelhead recovery plans.
- The partnership has a successful long-term track record, highly quantifiable objectives, and a past history of measuring success.
- Partnership has an excellent track record of successfully leveraging grant dollars, implementing restoration projects in priority locations, and measuring results.
- Partners have a good track record implementing successful restoration projects
- Very detailed application, with numbers based on Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) model outputs and supporting information regarding scale and priorities.
- Good, measurable, specific targets and interim milestones for proposed restoration priorities.
- Using a hierarchical framework to guide implementation:
 - ~ Tier 1 actions: Reconnect Isolated Habitats
 - ~ Tier 2 actions: Restore Long-Term Processes (water quality, nutrients, channel and floodplain function)
 - ~ Tier 3 actions: Restore Long-Term Processes (riparian vegetation)
 - ~ Tier 4 actions: Restore Short-Term Processes (in-stream habitat)

- Outcomes are clear and specific, with numeric % increase targets for abundance and productivity of Chinook, coho, and steelhead.
- Objectives and actions are also clear and specific with numbers of boulders, pieces of large wood including key pieces, length of channel restored, and area of pool and pool tailout for priority watersheds.
- Detailed plans for baseline and effectiveness monitoring.
- Provided monitoring results showing favorability of log jams for juvenile fish and redd sites.
- SAP appears achievable and sustainable.

Initiative

- This is a mostly free-flowing river that can be a salmon stronghold.
- Uses anchor habitat approach.
- Proposed actions address habitat complexity
- 46 habitat traits analyzed for 136 river reaches and used for gap analysis.
- Scale is appropriate; three sub-watersheds prioritized— Still Creek, Salmon River, and the mainstem Sandy.
- 3 of 4 “H’s” already addressed: Hydropower (significant dam removals), hatcheries (comprehensive Hatchery Genetic Management Plan), and harvest (commercial and recreational harvest regulations), leaving Habitat to be addressed in this initiative.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Application did not adequately reflect the high performing nature of the partnership and is sparse in terms of governance.
- Leadership and partner roles are not clear in the application, creating some concern that the initiative is more a collection of agencies and groups operating in a loose alliance rather than as a high-performing partnership.
- The partnership requests nearly the maximum funding amount (\$11.45M), reflecting the high cost of log installations.
- The partnership’s proposed fiscal process should be explained.
- Some concern about whether the proposed actions/outputs will achieve the desired ecological outcome.
- The City of Portland’s connection with the project seems minimal in terms of leveraging dollars for restoration, especially given the relatively low match proposed in the application.
- The recreational fishery objective is not a SMART objective.

Initiative

- Initiative relies on very specific EDT model outputs; while this is a sophisticated model, ground-truthing of model inputs and outputs would strengthen the approach.
- Consider using percentage increase targets rather than specific numbers for both habitat restoration outputs.
- Need more information on the \$1 million levee project to justify its prioritization relative to the cost.
- More information is needed on landowner acceptance of proposed restoration projects.
- Elaborate on how and why the partnership chose the areas it did to work on.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 Implementation application.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: The Deschutes Partnership

FIP Initiative: Habitat Restoration for Anadromous Fish Reintroduction in the Deschutes

Requested Amount: \$12 million over 5 years, 5 months **OWEB Region:** 4

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Applicant's Summary: The Deschutes Partnership will restore the physical and biological conditions necessary for successful reintroduction of salmon and steelhead into 226 miles of historic habitat in Whychus Creek, Metolius River, and Crooked River. The Crooked River is identified as "highest priority" and the Metolius River and Whychus Creek are identified as "second highest priority" for OWEB's *Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species* Focused Investment Priority. There are four core implementing partners: Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Crooked River Watershed Council, Deschutes Land Trust, and the Deschutes River Conservancy.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: Land conservation, stream habitat restoration, stream flow restoration, fish passage, and fish screening to accomplish ecological outcomes centered around restoring the physical and biological conditions necessary for reintroduction of salmon and steelhead in the Upper Deschutes Basin. Other outcomes include outreach, partnership capacity, and effectiveness monitoring.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The applicant provided a useful and realistic table identifying watershed, outcomes, and estimated funding in the application materials.
- The initiative is closely linked to the Mid-Columbia Oregon Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- Limiting factors are well identified and the strategies and actions proposed are generally accurate to address these.
- The outcomes and sub-outcomes articulated in the application are clear and useful for understanding which actions will be addressed.
- Leverage appears to be strong (1:1).
- The partnership's SAP is clearly written and follows the OWEB template.
- The SAP includes an excellent overview of the Focus Area, demonstrating the partnership's understanding of the Upper Deschutes Basin's systems and functions.

Initiative

- The partnership has been working together since 2006 in a collaborative fashion to implement restoration programs focused on reintroduction.
- The partnership has a long and positive track record of developing sound project technical design, implementing restoration programs, and using effective monitoring strategies.
- Core partners have missions that directly align with the reintroduction effort.
- The partnership is adept at breaking down programmatic initiatives into smaller objectives, identifying organizational niches, and implementing projects.
- Leadership within the core partnership has remained relatively consistent, which has allowed the partnership's past work to remain on schedule.

- The partnership has projects queued up and ready for implementation, such as restoration at Whychus Canyon and stream flow restoration with Three Sisters Irrigation District.
- The partnership is able to leverage match funding from a variety of sources: Pelton General Fund, Pelton Water Fund, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- The partnership proposes to implement the next five years of prioritized projects throughout the entire Upper Deschutes Basin and from the full portfolio of strategies identified in its SAP. This mirrors how the partnership has been operating throughout the duration of the DSIP.
- The scope, scale, and pace of the initiative are ambitious. However, from past experience, it is clear that the partnership can deliver what they propose.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The SAP and application need more specifics to understand pressing issues in the Deschutes watershed related to fish return data and how this information influences where restoration and conservation work occurs, federal legislation related to flows in the Crooked River, and how the partnership's work is strategized and coordinated with the specific reintroduction efforts occurring in the basin.
- More information is needed to understand whether the partnership can achieve the ecological outcomes in question, including chances of reintroduction success, impacts of federal legislation and other big-picture items.
- More information is needed on how the partnership proposes to enhance and maintain the capacity of the core partners.
- The application states that the partnership's strategic planning process included a "logic framework," employing Miradi software. However, the SAP contained no description of this process. As a result, though the logic framework is an acceptable model, the application itself does not provide a strong link between the conservation need and the outcomes and actions identified in the SMART Goals. A stronger tie needs to be articulated to better understand how actions and projects have been identified and prioritized so that reviewers can determine whether ecological outcomes are realistic.
- The SAP should include a discussion of influences outside of the Upper Deschutes Basin, particularly issues related to Pelton Round Butte Dam.

Initiative

- Secondary partners do not have a formal role in the partnership beyond participation in the technical review, funding, or implementation of individual projects.
- The OWEB Board-identified priority includes the Crooked River in the "highest priority" area. The Crooked River Watershed Council has a sound track record in implementing fish passage and screening projects, but has less demonstrated experience with engaging landowners in complex stream habitat restoration.
- The partnership has experienced some challenges with communication and coordination. However, recent actions by the core partners indicate their commitment to continuing to address these issues in the future.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 Implementation application

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Upper Klamath Comprehensive Agreement Partnership

FIP Initiative: Upper Klamath Riparian Management Initiative

Requested Amount: \$6,000,000 over 6 years

OWEB Region: 4

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Applicant's Summary: The goal of the initiative is to address the limiting factors for native fish species in OWEB Board-identified highest priority watersheds within the Upper Klamath Basin – Upper Klamath Lake and Sprague River. Actions the partnership will undertake include rectifying barriers to upstream fish passage, eliminating entrainment risks, improving floodplain connectivity, and restoring successional dynamics within riparian areas through improved grazing management, which are required to implement the Riparian Program of the UKBCA. In particular, the initiative focus is on the endangered Lost River sucker and shortnose sucker. Core partners include: the Joint Management Entity and Landowner Entity created by the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement (UKBCA), Klamath Tribes, Trout Unlimited, Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and Klamath Watershed Partnership. The partners represent the key stakeholders and technical implementers for the UKBCA.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: 1) a 10 percent reduction in the external phosphorus load from tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake; 2) enrolling more than 200 stream miles into Riparian Management Agreements to assure that they meet proper functioning condition criteria; and 3) increasing summer distribution of bull trout and redband trout by 10 stream miles (as assessed by presence/absence surveys). These ecologic outcomes address the key limiting factors for ESA-listed shortnose and Lost River suckers, bull trout, and other native fish.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The application complements the current Upper Klamath Special Investment Partnership.
- The scale is appropriate to address the ecological outcomes.

Initiative

- The Comprehensive Agreement provides the structure for decision-making and dispute resolution; the agreement's framework appears to have the capacity to implement restoration.
- Riparian restoration targets are included in a binding legal agreement, which targets 80% riparian landowner participation in restoring lands to "full expression of successional dynamics of the riparian plant community."
- Riparian Management Agreements will be recorded in property deeds of willing landowners, ensuring riparian protection in perpetuity.
- The focused work of this initiative is complementary to work that already is underway in the basin on changes to water use.

- Temperature reductions may be a likely co-benefit from the riparian and floodplain restoration proposed under this initiative.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Unclear whether the capacity exists to provide on-the-ground assistance to landowners at the necessary scale.
- Question about whether the budget is sufficient to complete the proposed work.
- Need more details to justify \$3.4 million for removal of six barriers.
- * Match is almost totally reliant on federal appropriations.
- Concern among some elected officials about the Klamath SWCD not being included as a core partner.
- * The attached Comprehensive Agreement, while thorough and containing many components critical to success of the partnership (e.g., decision-making, implementation, etc.), did not contain a crosswalk to enable a complete analysis against the SAP template.

Initiative

- * Concerns about the stability of the partnership, given recent key staff turnover in partner organizations, communication challenges, sustainable funding if federal funding does not come through, and the trajectory for achieving the desired ecological outcomes.
- Need more specificity about how the proposed outputs will result in the desired ecological outcomes.
- * There is not enough information to determine whether the 10 percent phosphorous reduction target will result in decreased algal blooms in Upper Klamath Lake, given that only 40% of the phosphorus load is from anthropogenic sources.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 implementation application. Subcommittee requests specific items, shown above with an asterisk (*), be addressed in Phase II workplan submission to increase understanding of proposed initiative.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Upper North-Fork John Day Partnership

FIP Initiative: Headwaters Habitat Restoration

Requested Amount: \$7,320,000 over 6 years

OWEB Region: 6

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species (primary); Dry-type Forest Habitat (secondary)

Applicant's Summary: The initiative addresses habitat conservation and restoration needs of inland aquatic habitat for native fish species, as aligned with area recovery plans. Working together since 2011, the partnership consists of members who steward the productive and sensitive headwaters of the North Fork John Day River and their impact on juvenile steelhead. Implementation funds will primarily support on-the-ground actions and stabilize/support the capacity of the partner organizations. Core partners include: Bureau of Reclamation, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, Desolation Creek, LLC, Malheur National Forest, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Umatilla National Forest, Wallowa Whitman National Forest.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: 1) increase abundance of juvenile steelhead by 20%; 2) replenish groundwater recharge and restore base flows for improved hydrography; 3) measurably increase public understanding of restoration processes and outcomes; 4) collect and analyze 30% more data from the specified geography, share reports; and 5) support partners in their collective and individual implementation of restoration actions.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The application identified a number of specific, measureable ecological objectives.
- The discussion of specific limiting factors identified in area recovery plans was well written and useful for review and understanding.

Initiative

- The partnership has been meeting informally for approximately four years.
- The scale of the proposed initiative is appropriate for the FIP program.
- The North Fork John Day is an important area for continued restoration and investment.
- Important headway has already been made in education and outreach; this can provide important leverage for future strategic work in the watershed.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The application does not demonstrate that the lead applicant has a strong track record in leading collaborative implementation.

- It is unclear whether the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs is an active participant in the partnership.
- The application references an “informal process” for partnership management; it does not appear that there is an appropriate structure in place to operate effectively at a programmatic level.
- The timeline for implementation appears not to be realistic, given the up-front needs of project identification, landowner engagement, technical design, and permitting.
- Specific match funding sources were not identified in the application and as a result, it is difficult to determine if the initiative is ready for implementation with leveraged funds.
- In light of the over-allocation of water in the system, it was unclear how the initiative’s efforts to improve groundwater recharge and restoration of in-stream water would meet the desired objectives.
- While the initiative’s focus on restoration of wet meadows is significant to the North Fork John Day system, information is lacking in the application on what strategies and actions will be used to accomplish objectives related to wet meadow restoration.
- Application did not address plans for restoration of dry-type forest. It briefly mentions that 13,000 acres of over-dense forest would be thinned, but there is not additional information.
- The SAP and application do not provide sufficient information to see the links and context for the Outcomes, Goals, and Objectives section.
- The primary measurement identified for tracking the success of the initiative is a commitment to achieving a 20% increase in juvenile steelhead; however, this is likely an inappropriate measure of success for a 5- or 6-year initiative.
- A 30% increase in monitoring data is not an ecological outcome.

Initiative

- Unclear how often the partnership is meeting or what its track record is with coordinated implementation at the partnership level.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: A Phase 2 Implementation application is not invited at this time.

FIP Phase I Implementation Application Review Summary

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Partnership Name: Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group

FIP Initiative: Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

Requested Amount: \$9,390,000 over 6 years

OWEB Region: 3

Board Priority(ies) Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Applicant's Summary: The initiative addresses restoration and conservation priorities for aquatic habitat for native fish species in the upper and middle reaches of the mainstem Willamette River. Work focuses on enhancing seasonally important resources for native fish. The protection and enhancement of cold water resources is the most critical action that can be taken to support native fish during the summer and fall, when flows are lowest and water temperatures are typically highest. In winter and spring, which are peak periods for juvenile fish rearing and high flows, conservation actions that support productive feeding grounds and slow water refuges are the highest priority. Ecological outputs that can best deliver these seasonally important resources include: 1) re-establishing channel complexity and length; 2) re-connecting the river with its floodplain in the historic meander corridor of the Willamette mainstem and the major tributaries; and 3) expanding the geographic extent and improving the health of floodplain forests. Funds will continue supporting these outcomes, which were initiated under the Willamette SIP (funded by Bonneville Power Administration [BPA], Meyer Memorial Trust [MMT] and OWEB). The initiative has 15 core partners: The Nature Conservancy, McKenzie River Trust, Greenbelt Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, the Long Tom, Luckiamute, Calapooia, and Coast Fork Watershed Councils, Benton and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, City of Eugene, Willamette Riverkeeper, Friends of Buford Park, and the Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Recreation. While not every partner will implement projects, all are committed to the initiative's vision of *conservation of seasonally critical resources for native fish within designated priority anchor habitats*.

Stated Ecological Outcomes: Ecological outcomes include improved habitat complexity, connectivity and water quality in the Willamette Basin to support the recovery of Upper Willamette Chinook, steelhead, Pacific lamprey and Oregon chub. These outcomes directly address limiting factors and target species identified in the OWEB Board's Priority for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- Outcomes are well thought out and focused on "anchor habitats" that are clearly defined and provide a science-based prioritization of where to work in a large and complex watershed.
- Leveraging capacity is high, with funding partners MMT and BPA historically providing around \$1.7 million annually for restoration projects that meet the three primary objectives.
- The SLICES framework is an excellent tool for identifying and prioritizing projects. Additionally, although the tributaries currently are not well-integrated, SLICES provides an effective measure of

progress toward restoration goals along the mainstem. Expansion of SLICES up some of the major tributaries is currently under way.

- Includes specific output measures: 3,600 acres of floodplain forest restored; 3,400 acres of floodplain reconnection; and 100 acres of aquatic invasives treated.
- Evaluation section includes details about Implementation Monitoring, Effectiveness Monitoring, and Status and Trends Monitoring.

Initiative

- This basin has excellent scientific data to inform and measure restoration efforts.
- The three objectives support the outcomes of improved habitat to support the recovery of Upper Willamette Spring Chinook, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and Oregon chub.
- The core partners have been working together for several years and have demonstrated capacity to implement such an initiative.
- While the partnership has functioned effectively for a number of years, the partnership agreement included in the application is new. The Nature Conservancy leads the new partnership and the proposal outline shows they will provide good leadership.
- The partnership developed a detailed list of projects through a preliminary solicitation that will further advance gains made through prior investments in anchor habitats.
- The focus on anchor habitats makes sense in such a large and complex system; these areas are the most dynamic with reconnection possibilities and geomorphic restoration potential.

Weaknesses

Application/Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- The SAP does not include SMART objectives.
- Budget for restoring 1,500 acres appears high.
- While the SAP briefly discusses the upper tributary watersheds, it limits its focus to below the Army Corps dams. If the upper tributaries are beyond a six-year scope, the SAP should consider including a general strategy for addressing them along with a timeframe.

Initiative

- The limitations of working within such an altered system are real; consider notching and removing levees and dikes to help attain outcomes.
- The partnership will need to engage the Army Corps of Engineers, given their role in dam management.
- The Phase 2 application should consider organizing the timeline with respect to anchor habitats.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Invite a Phase 2 Implementation application.

Focused Investment - Phase 2 Implementation Applications and Proposed Budgets

APPLICANT	ESTIMATED OWEB FUNDING REQUEST			TOTAL FIP REQUEST	TOTAL EST. LEVERAGE
	BIENNIUM 1	BIENNIUM 2	BIENNIUM 3		
Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Partnership Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Board Priority: Dry-Type Forest Habitat	\$1,660,000	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$7,200,000
Coos Watershed Association Millicoma Forks Coastal Coho Restoration Partnership Board Priority: Coho Habitat Along the OR Coast	\$1,780,000	\$1,540,000	\$2,660,000	\$5,980,000	\$3,780,000
The Deschutes Partnership Habitat Rest. For Resident and Anadromous Fish Board Priority: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$16,203,000
Harney Basin Westland Initiative Partners Harney Basin Wetland Initiative Board Priority: Closed Lakes Basin Wetlands Habitat	\$1,780,000	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000	\$6,250,000	\$10,270,000
McKenzie Collaborative McKenzie River Native Fish & Water Quality Initiative Board Priority: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	\$1,850,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,850,000	\$8,670,000
Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties Board Priority: Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat	\$2,171,000	\$2,355,250	\$473,732	\$4,999,982	\$2,276,500
Sandy River Basin Partners Sandy River Fish Habitat Restoration Board Priority: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	\$2,810,000	\$2,440,000	\$3,700,000	\$8,950,000	\$5,490,000
Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership Upper Grande Ronde Initiative Board Priority: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	\$1,722,000	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000	\$6,915,500	\$44,979,000
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats Board Priority: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	\$2,550,000	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000	\$7,160,000	\$7,060,000
TOTAL OWEB ESTIMATED REQUESTS/LEVERAGE	\$20,323,000	\$21,491,750	\$22,290,732	\$64,105,482	\$105,928,500

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:**
Millicoma Forks Coastal Coho Restoration Partnership
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):**
Coho Habitat and populations along the Oregon Coast
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,780,000	\$1,870,000
Biennium 2	\$1,540,000	\$780,000
Biennium 3	\$2,660,000	\$1,130,000
Total	\$5,980,000	\$3,780,000

4. **Phase 2 Application Strengths:**
 - The proposal correctly references applicable plans, including the NOAA Fisheries' Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Recovery Plan.
 - The application materials demonstrate that the partnership has a good understanding of the system's limiting factors.
 - The prioritization methods used in the Supplemental Action Plan for the Millicoma River Forks are sound; in particular, the prioritization process for instream habitat complexity was well developed.
 - The partnership correctly identified Marlow Road as the key problem for addressing sediment in the West Fork Millicoma River. The application and SAP deal well with the sediment issue in the system. The actions presented in the application dealing with roads will begin to address the limiting factor for sediment.
 - Implementation of the actions in the proposal would move the Millicoma toward the tipping point in terms of high quality habitat. There is a lot of potential for getting the system closer to high intrinsic potential targets and thus significantly increasing coho.
 - The Coos Watershed Association has demonstrated good data collection, monitoring, adaptive management and the ability to implement. The expectation is that this would continue under a FIP Implementation Initiative, including the metrics and monitoring proposed in this application.
 - The budget is realistic and targeted almost entirely toward on-the-ground restoration. Substantial leverage will be brought to the initiative.
5. **Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:**
 - Experts felt that the application did not articulate how the proposed actions would address the broken natural processes in the system, and they felt this was particularly true for the limiting factor of instream complexity.
 - Engineered log jams in the mainstem of the east and west forks could be valuable for short term gains toward instream complexity as a limiting factor, but questions remain as to the longevity of the log jams. Reviewers question whether the restoration actions being proposed for instream complexity will address the underlying broken natural processes in a manner that would solidify the gains as long term.
 - There were questions related to the fish passage component of the proposal which were not as well developed compared to sediment and instream complexity discussions.

- The lead partner, Coos Watershed Association, lacks a permanent Executive Director, raising questions about the stability/capacity of the partnership.

6. Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- The forthcoming change in ownership related to some of the Common School Fund lands in the Elliot State Forest leaves uncertainty related to the potentially new or changed impacts to natural processes in the system.
- Concern remains that paving haul roads, such as Marlow Road, will result in increased timber harvest with unknown consequences to the Coos watershed, including increased sediment.
- There continues to be uncertainty as to why the East and West Forks of the Millicoma were prioritized over other portions of the Coos Watershed.

7. Rating of Phase 2 Application: MEDIUM (+)

8. Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation: The proposed initiative is an appropriate scale, scope, and pace for the FIP program. The proposed initiative has the potential to measurably improve habitat for coho and other fish and wildlife, and the partners have a long history of successful implementation. Concerns centered around the recent departure of the Coos Watershed Association's Executive Director, whether the partnership meets the requirements of the FIP program, and outstanding questions related to the projects that will underpin the initiative application. Additionally, because the SAP was a compilation of two separate documents written at different times and for different purposes, there were disconnects in prioritization rationale, particularly related to why the Millicoma Forks were selected over an area lower in the system and whether the initiative was a greater benefit to coho or Chinook.

8. Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rating: MEDIUM

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:**

The Deschutes Partnership

2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):**

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$4,000,000	\$5,750,000
Biennium 2	\$4,000,000	\$6,566,000
Biennium 3	\$4,000,000	\$3,887,000
Total	\$12,000,000	\$16,203,000

4. **Phase 2 Application Strengths:**

- The proposed geography is reasonable, the partnership is experienced, and the application is well developed.
- Outcomes align with those proposed in the strategic plan and support the Board priority.
- The core partnership entities are capable of implementing and monitoring. The entities have the requisite expertise to deliver the proposed actions and strategies.
- The partnership has good momentum and the proposal would build on their previous work.
- Reviewers believe that many of the restoration actions presented should have long-term benefits (i.e., permanently conserved instream water and restoration on properties that have permanent protections).
- Passage at Opal Springs, which is included in this proposal, is critical to reintroduction success in the basin.
- Reviewers believe that accomplishment of the actions and strategies in this application can “move the dial” toward the achievement of the desired ecological outcomes.

5. **Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:**

- Although the application itself was well written, the proposal lacked sufficient detail in the work plan and budget in order for the reviewers to fully consider the proposed activities.
- In the initiative work plan, the outputs and metrics for water conserved instream, measured as cubic feet per second (cfs), do not align with the stated targets listed as proposed actions, nor do they align with the target of 18.9 cfs stated in the application.
- The discussion of streamflow conservation and the associated cfs targets had Whychus Creek and Crooked River watersheds lumped together, making it difficult to ascertain what would be accomplished in each watershed.
- Reviewers questioned why habitat restoration was not identified as an initiative action to be implemented in the Lower Crooked River.
- The baseline conditions discussion (page 10) was not well developed. The limiting factors, baseline and needs were not tied directly to a planning document such that the statements could be verified. Reviewers could not understand what the overall needs are (i.e., streamflow) and how much progress this proposed initiative will make toward achieving those targets.
- Reviewers believe that outreach needs to be targeted to landowners in critical sections of the basin rather than the proposed general community outreach.

- The requested budget of this partnership continues to be the highest of all the proposals. Although it is acknowledged that the partnership's strategies and actions are ambitious and expensive to implement, reviewers noted that the proposed work plan focused exclusively on reintroduction of ESA-listed species, the success of which is dependent upon actions beyond the partnership's control, and lacked details regarding benefits to other native species.

6. Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- Reviewers continue to have questions regarding the likelihood of successful reintroduction in relationship to impacts from outside of the initiative's proposed geography, particularly issues related to the operation and management of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric.
- Reviewers continue to have questions related to reintroduction efforts within the proposed geography and how the partnership is adapting its strategies to remain current.
- Monitoring and evaluation metrics need improvement. Reviewers would like to see a discussion in the application of how fish are responding in terms of density and abundance, and reviewers believe these types of metrics should be included in the partnership's monitoring strategies.
- Reviewers would appreciate a more robust discussion of other species that use the system and that could benefit from these proposed actions (i.e., bull trout).

7. Rating of Phase 2 Application: HIGH (-)

8. Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation:

The application was well written, limiting factors are well identified, and the strategies and actions proposed are generally accurate to address those limiting factors. The partnership has a long and positive track record of developing sound project technical design, implementing restoration programs, and using effective monitoring strategies. Primary critiques revolved around the lack of specificity in the application for reviewers to adequately understand the likelihood of achieving significant ecological outcomes that can positively impact reintroduction efforts. These questions include but are not limited to: fish return data and how this information influences where restoration and conservation work occurs; federal legislation related to flows in the Crooked River; issues related to the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Complex; and how the partnership's work is strategized and coordinated with the specific reintroduction efforts occurring in the basin.

9. Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rating: HIGH (-)

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:** Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):** Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,780,000	\$2,580,000
Biennium 2	\$1,970,000	\$2,290,000
Biennium 3	\$2,500,000	\$5,400,000
Total	\$6,250,000	\$10,270,000

4. **Phase 2 Application Strengths:**

- The scale of the initiative is appropriate with clear linkages to work on federal land (Malheur National Wildlife Refuge).
- Strong community outreach plan.
- The balance of the budget is well structured with initial focus on technical assistance leading to on-the-ground work as the partners gather information and prioritize work.
- The partners have identified the primary threat in the area (carp) and have clearly identified the actions necessary to control carp in a staged manner.
- The attached carp management plan that was requested with the Phase I evaluation highlights and discusses several actions that the partnership may take to address carp control.
- Good discussion of how adaptive management will be utilized for both carp control and enhancing wet meadow habitats.
- Landowner support for working lands easements appears to be high.
- Work plan is well thought out and clearly covers all elements.
- The partnership is diverse and has been working together for several years.
- The partnership is clearly thinking of the ecological, social, and economic outcomes of their initiative.
- Excellent leverage demonstrated, with innovative sources of funding (e.g., revenue from carp harvest).

5. **Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:**

- The request has increased ~\$750,000 from Phase I to Phase II, yet the acreage identified for wet meadow enhancement has decreased by 3,800 acres.
- A better discussion of why past efforts to control carp (e.g., rotenone treatments) failed would strengthen the application. Particularly lessons learned from these past efforts.
- Securing working lands easements is an important element of the work plan, yet it is not clear who will hold the easements.
- A discussion on accounting for drought in the project area was lacking.
- Installation of piezometers on private land is expensive. Vegetation health would be a preferable surrogate.

6. **Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):**

- There is a concern that high levels of methylmercury exist in the Great Basin, and that this may cause neurological problems with migratory birds (particularly shorebirds). Partners should be aware of this issue, and consider working with USGS to monitor methylmercury and potential impacts to birds in the focus area.
- The incentive for irrigators to transition to sprinkler systems versus updating flood-irrigation infrastructure is a challenge that the partnership faces to maintain surrogate wetlands.
- It will be important for partners to prioritize landowners that are utilizing flood irrigation on flat areas near streams.
- It will be important for the partners to contact the Oregon Water Resources Department Watermaster on all irrigation issues.
- This initiative has particularly strong economic linkages with agriculture and tourism. It would be beneficial for the partners to consider studying the economic value of the work proposed to the local community.

7. Rating of Phase 2 Application: HIGH (-)

8. Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation: Strengths identified in the Phase I evaluation included a strong partnership with impressive on-the-ground accomplishments, demonstrated strategic thinking with the scope of the initiative, an excellent Strategic Action Plan, and clear momentum to continue complex work. Weaknesses identified in the Phase I evaluation included the difficulties associated with effective long-term carp control, the lack of a third-party conservation easement holder in the focus area, and some concern with the ability to make meaningful change given the nature of complex projects and drought associated with climate change. The partnership was invited by the Board Subcommittee to submit a Phase II application.

9. Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rating: HIGH (-)

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:** Upper Grande Ronde Initiative
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):** Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,722,000	\$9,381,000
Biennium 2	\$2,416,500	\$17,795,000
Biennium 3	\$2,777,000	\$17,803,000
Total	\$6,915,500	\$44,979,000

4. **Phase 2 Application Strengths:**

- Well-developed partnerships, including Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Columbian River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, US Forest Service, and Bonneville Power Administration. The Freshwater Trust will assist with acquisitions/water leasing. Partners have been working collaboratively for over 20 years.
- Well-developed priorities that are based on limiting factor analysis and existing recovery plan documents.
- The Atlas document for Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde is an excellent tool. The Atlas utilizes existing scientific data, current research evidence, and current knowledge of local biologists to create a strategic, collaborative, and prioritized habitat implementation plan. The initiative focuses on Biologically Significant Reaches.
- Highly leveraged initiative.
- Good sustainability strategy: adequately fund maintenance and use conservation easements in key locations.
- Good adaptive management process through monthly partner meetings.
- The MOU clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of each of the core partners as they relate to implementation of the Upper Grande Ronde partnership.
- Implementing CHaMP (Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program) for site-scale monitoring and PHaMS (Physical Habitat Monitoring Strategy) for reach-scale monitoring.

5. **Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:**

- It is difficult to determine the context for this work. What has been accomplished to date and what does the monitoring data show? How has the previous work changed the baseline and what is the new baseline?
- Need to better connect the dots in the monitoring data and monitoring plan.
- It is not clear how many landowners are lined up for project implementation.
- The application mentions that BPA and BOR are unable to supply adequate design resources, yet the budget has very little design funds (\$85,000 in biennium 1).
- Need better linkage between proposed actions and limiting factors.

6. **Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):**

- Outreach plan is vague; budget includes \$60,000 for 0.5 FTE outreach position.
- It is unclear whether constructed alcoves will be self-sustaining.
- Will water efficiency projects result in protected in-stream water rights?

7. **Rating of Phase 2 Application:** MEDIUM (+)

8. **Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation:** Strengths identified in the Phase 1 evaluation included clearly defined partner roles and responsibilities, good leverage, clear and detailed objectives, and clearly defined priorities expressed by stream reach with respect to limiting factors. Weaknesses included success evaluation, adaptive management, and sustainability. The Phase 1 evaluation recommended including PHaMS, which the partnership included in the Phase 2 application. The Board Subcommittee invited a Phase 2 implementation application.

9. **Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rating:** MEDIUM (+)

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:**
Sandy River Fish Habitat Restoration (Sandy River Basin Partners)
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):**
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$2,810,000	\$1,770,000
Biennium 2	\$2,440,000	\$2,000,000
Biennium 3	\$3,700,000	\$1,720,000
Total	\$8,950,000	\$5,490,000

4. **Phase 2 Application Strengths:**
 - A clear stronghold for recovery of ESA-listed fish species.
 - Manageable geography, three priority areas.
 - Builds on prior and ongoing efforts.
 - Strong track record of putting work on the ground.
 - The proposed FIP provides a unique opportunity to finish a plan, identify the strengths/weaknesses of the Ecosystem Diagnostic and Treatment (EDT) approach to inform future strategic planning processes based on models, and provide information to establish realistic expectations for timeframes for restoring watersheds.
 - Proposed restoration and project prioritization are grounded in an accepted scientific tool (EDT).
 - The partners are clearly thinking about how to get at watershed restoration.
 - With the removal of Marmot Dam in 2007, this is now a mostly barrier-free system, potentially allowing for real fish gains.
5. **Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:**
 - EDT is a model whose outputs imply a greater degree of precision than can be reasonably expected of a model and should be applied in conjunction with follow-up monitoring
 - While the application includes robust modeling and analysis, it does not appear to “connect the dots” with respect to improving processes. For example, how do the many proposed in-stream wood placements affect sediment recruitment and habitat restoration in dynamic river segments?
 - Why are the current floodplain channels not currently activated, and how will the proposed actions affect floodplain activation?
 - Restoring year-round flow in side channels seems unrealistic given that side-channel flow is typically seasonal.
 - It is unclear, especially in the mainstem Sandy, what maintenance will be required for the proposed actions.
 - Unclear whether this is in fact a high-performing partnership or a loose consortium of independent players. The application does not provide much insight on how the partnership works together (e.g., governance, leadership, decision-making, etc.). What process is used by the subcommittee that identifies and prioritizes projects? How would it manage adaptively in the event of a budget reduction? In the event of a project setback?
 - The adaptive management discussion should include lessons learned, if any, from failed instream wood structures.

- The monitoring plan should include more robust temperature, fine sediment, fish, and in-stream wood effectiveness monitoring.
- The Outreach discussion should include what has occurred to date, especially in the lower watershed, and what lessons, if any, have been learned.

6. **Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):**

- Are the proposed actions the highest priority, the ones that will “move the dial” on fish recovery in this watershed? Reviewers expressed the following two concerns:
 - ~ The lower watershed (mainstem Sandy) is much more problematic from an ecological and social perspective than the upper watershed (Salmon and Still creeks), which is mostly intact. The lower watershed requires attention in the social realm of working to prevent further development in the floodplain and illegal water withdrawals.
 - ~ There appears to be a disconnect between the relative good health of the upper watershed and the needs identified by the EDT analysis.
- The application should address how levees and existing side channels affect river process issues. River dynamism has been important historically to fish production in the Sandy, and may preclude the need for instream wood in some locations.
- Effectiveness monitoring needs to be more rigorous. Past monitoring of instream structures has shown a rise in fish use, but this monitoring did not include fish productivity.
- Ultimately, the review determined that while this Sandy Basin has high potential as an important fish-recovery area, the proposed approach and activities appear to focus on addressing the symptoms, rather than the root causes of limiting factors.

7. **Rating of Phase 2 Application: MEDIUM**

8. **Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation:** The application outlined reasonable and appropriate measurable ecological outcomes that the partnership will pursue in addressing the Board-approved priority. The strategic action plan was strong. Leveraging capacity is high. On the strength of the Phase 1 application, the partnership was invited to submit a Phase 2 application. Though the partners have a long history of collaborating, the application is light on detail about partnership processes and lessons learned. The leadership element is vague.

8. **Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rating: MEDIUM**

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:**
McKenzie River Native Fish and Water Quality Initiative (McKenzie Collaborative)
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):**
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,850,000	\$3,550,000
Biennium 2	\$2,000,000	\$2,320,000
Biennium 3	\$2,000,000	\$2,800,000
Total	\$5,850,000	\$8,670,000

4. **Phase 2 Application Strengths:**
 - The link between limiting factors and proposed work is strong.
 - Good use of existing strategies (e.g., Oregon Conservation Strategy).
 - Match is excellent.
 - Partnership is motivated and diverse.
 - Application clearly calls out barriers (e.g., dams, fragmented landownership preventing Voluntary Incentives Program [VIP] from having significant impacts), and describes activities that present opportunities for the partnership.
 - The proposal offers an opportunity to test how linking drinking water and habitat restoration as dual benefits could engage landowners/communities more effectively.
5. **Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:**
 - Many partnership elements appear to be pending. The partnership is largely untested in the implementation of large-scale projects.
 - Some activities proposed in the application are already under way or are being implemented by others (e.g., hatchery carcass placement).
 - No information is provided on transport capacity, current imbalances, or how plans for instream wood will affect gravel augmentation.
 - A lot of activities are being proposed, which gives the application a shotgun feel, and detail on these activities and a rationale are generally lacking. For example, are there lasting benefits to loading wood into the good habitat above the dams? How valuable is it to augment gravel below Cougar Dam, only to have it trapped at Leaburg Dam lower in the system?
 - More discussion was needed of permanent protections – easements and fee title acquisitions.
 - There is no nexus in the application between watershed health and water quantity.
 - SLICES is an important tool, but probably not at this scale.
 - Outreach plan seems passive overall. Connection of youth-related outreach is vague and unclear how it is a critical element to achieving FIP outcomes.
6. **Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):**
 - Many of the proposed activities, while helpful, are non-sustaining (e.g., loading gravel, instream wood structures, carcass placement), and therefore, offer low confidence that real ecological gains can be had.

- While it is generally a good idea to restore habitat below dams, the goal of restoring 6,000-8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) below Cougar Dam is probably unrealistic. The goal is highly dependent on actions taken by the Corps of Engineers at the dam, which are unlikely to occur anytime soon.
- The VIP program is innovative, but it is unclear how the applicant arrived at the figure of 600 landowners the partnership expects to recruit. Since the program must rely on willing landowners, it seems quite opportunistic.
- The monitoring discussion does not seem to be well-connected to ecological outcomes (e.g., barrier removals). How does the proposed monitoring connect up to moving toward outcomes over time and space?
- The lower watershed is the area of real need where some fish rearing occurs; it should be the focus of all practitioners in the watershed.
- Reviewers felt that without fish passage, the “dial” cannot be moved far in this watershed. The proposed activities, while helpful, cannot restore vital processes; rather, they can only patch a hole.

7. **Rating of Phase 2 Application: MEDIUM**

8. **Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation:** The application outlined reasonable and appropriate measurable ecological outcomes that the partnership will pursue in addressing the Board-approved priority. The partnership has a long history of collaboration and landowner engagement through the VIP. The strategic action plan was strong. Leverage was very strong. On the strength of the Phase 1 application, the partnership was invited to submit a Phase 2 application.

9. **Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rating: MEDIUM**

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:** Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):** Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$2,171,000	\$1,588,500
Biennium 2	\$2,355,250	\$460,000
Biennium 3	\$473,732	\$228,000
Total	\$5,000,000	\$2,276,500

4. **Phase 2 Application Strengths:**

- The geographic focus is improved from the Phase 1 application, and aligns with sage-grouse core areas and ongoing planning efforts.
- Work on private land will augment restoration efforts in adjacent federal land and address threats at a landscape scale.
- Good partnerships with relevant agencies and demonstrated landowner support in focus areas.
- The goals, objectives, actions, and deliverables are clearly defined in the initiative. Proposed restoration actions are appropriate for sagebrush/sage-steppe restoration efforts. The goals are ambitious, but believed to be achievable.
- Partners appear to have the organizational capacity to deliver in the narrowed focus areas.
- Diverse set of match funding is almost entirely secured and the partners have a proven track record at obtaining outside sources of funding.

5. **Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:**

- While the geographic focus is narrowed, the application would benefit from a better explanation as to why these areas were selected by the partnership as opposed to other priority areas in Lake, Harney, and Malheur counties.
- The stated goal of enrolling 40% of privately owned sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat in CCAAs by September 30th, 2017 has unclear ecological benefits, as the rationale for selecting 40% (as opposed to another percentage) was not clearly stated. It is also vague how these private lands will be prioritized.
- An analysis of baseline information is not well described in the application and it is unclear as to who is responsible for monitoring. A lot of monitoring information is available and was not included in the application.
- The description of adaptive management is weak in the application, as no threshold values are identified that would trigger adaptive management. Targets should be clearly defined so that trend monitoring is effective, and there is a way to measure success.
- The level of specificity for the actions should be finer. For example, will the 14,680 acres of juniper removal be spread across the focus areas or concentrated in discrete locations?
- It is unclear the role each partner plays in the initiative, a structural framework of the partnership would strengthen the application. There is also a concern about how the Districts that are not involved in the Phase 2 application, yet still listed in the Strategic Action Plan, will remain a part of the overall partnership.

6. Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- Working lands easements are discussed as a tool in the Strategic Action Plan, but there is a question as to what entity would hold conservation easements in this area.
- Will the determination by USFWS that protection for sage-grouse under the ESA is no longer warranted have an adverse effect on landowner enrollments and completing CCAAs?
- Descriptions of what livestock grazing regimes are compatible with sage-grouse, and at what utilization rates, are important issues for the partners to consider.
- Successful restoration in warmer, drier portions of the sagebrush ecosystem is challenging and the initiative should be structured in a way that high-risk habitats are protected, and knowledge gained from restoration in these areas is shared with other practitioners.
- As the scale and scope of treatments in the sagebrush ecosystem increases, will there be sufficient contractor capacity to meet demand?

7. Rating of Phase 2 Application: MEDIUM (+)

8. Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation: Strengths identified in the Phase 1 evaluation included the discussion of conservation needs and the approach towards developing and implementing CCAAs in the partnering counties. The partnership was seen as strong and involving the right entities. The Strategic Action Plan included a good discussion on monitoring, and significant match was secured for the initiative. Weaknesses identified in the Phase 1 evaluation included the lack of coordination with restoration efforts on federal land, the distribution of funding across the focus areas which appeared broad and not entirely strategic, the unclear process for how landowners will be recruited, and not distinguishing roles and responsibilities of the partners. The partnership was invited by the Board Subcommittee to submit a Phase II application. However, the Subcommittee also requested that certain identified weaknesses with the application be addressed in the Phase 2 application.

9. Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rating: MEDIUM (+)

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:

Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats (Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group)

2. Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

3. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$2,555,000	\$3,860,000
Biennium 2	\$2,430,000	\$2,090,000
Biennium 3	\$2,180,000	\$1,110,000
Total	\$7,160,000	\$7,060,000

4. Phase 2 Application Strengths:

- Application was well written.
- Strong organizational capacity and partnership; signed agreements; strong letters of support.
- Focus is on the highest priority anchor habitats determined through a Nature Conservancy multi-partner effort.
- Good momentum. Builds on previous work and tests whether an anchor habitat approach can produce measureable results/impact on such a large river system.
- Outcomes align with those proposed in the strategic plan and support the Board priority.
- Strong linkages with other, existing basin efforts.
- Incorporation of the SLICES framework into project identification, prioritization, and success tracking at the river reach scale is a plus.
- Solid multiple species benefits.
- Though west side tributaries may not be a priority, practitioners have done significant work at confluence sites.
- Independent review of their monitoring plan.
- Monitoring section lays out hypotheses, which helped reviewers “connect the dots.”
- Many areas are already in protected status (e.g., state parks).

5. Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:

- Specific monitoring metrics and outcomes are lacking. There are no baseline metrics, and therefore, a lack of target setting for outputs. Simple metrics, which appear in the action plan, would have strengthened the application discussion.
- Specifics of the work plan deliverables are unclear.
- Fish monitoring is weak; doesn't appear to be coordinated with ODFW. Doesn't connect to trends in adult fish monitoring and instead seems to defer to what OSU/UO *might* develop.
- Unclear if working only on protected lands. Are all landowners lined up for the first biennium?
- Outreach is not focused on recruiting new landowners since projects are already in the pipeline. What is the opportunity for new projects that arise to enter the pipeline?

6. Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- Considerable work went into identifying the anchor habitats; a FIP investment would help see this work through. Consequently, there is a compelling need to document along the way what worked/did not work and lessons learned.
- Invasive fish species are a growing problem. Not all side-channel restoration is necessarily a good thing as those restored areas can attract invasive, as well as native fish. The partnership would do well to focus such efforts in cold water refuge sites and work to find other such areas.
- The partnership could consider a strategic focus on one anchor habitat, rather than actions spread across multiple anchor habitats.
- The individual practitioners are strong, but the partnership is relatively new and untested. The partnership is encouraged to deepen its working relationships, add new partners as appropriate over time, and put strategic interests above all. Organizational accountability and strong leadership will be key.
- The “right” funding sources are currently at the table and match is strong; however, work on the Willamette is complex and expensive. The basin is rich in resources and the partnership is encouraged to continue cultivating and developing new, significant funding partnerships and other types of partnerships.
- The partnership would benefit from opening a dialogue with private landowners to develop best approaches for a cohesive outreach strategy.

7. **Rating of Phase 2 Application: HIGH (-)**

8. **Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation:** The application outlined reasonable and appropriate measurable ecological outcomes that the partnership will pursue in addressing the Board-approved priority. The strategic action plan was strong, but neglected to identify SMART objectives, which the applicant remedied in Phase 2. On the strength of the Phase 1 application, the partnership was invited to submit a Phase 2 application.

9. **Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating: HIGH (-)**

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:** Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):** Dry-type Forest Habitat
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,660,000	\$3,880,000
Biennium 2	\$2,340,000	\$1,740,000
Biennium 3	\$2,000,000	\$1,580,000
Total	\$6,000,000	\$7,200,000

4. **Phase 2 Application Strengths:**

- The Phase 2 application better describes how ecological outcomes will be met through forest restoration activities.
- Good utilization of existing conservation plans and strategies.
- The discussion of natural range of variability as it relates to fire in this area provides useful context.
- Excellent use of monitoring hypotheses that can be monitored and will lead to adaptive management.
- Tying oak restoration to conifer treatments in the target area is beneficial from an ecological and community outreach perspective.
- 1,000 private acres already enrolled in the initiative is an important first step, and if this level of landowner recruitment is sustained, the partners can easily meet their acreage goals.
- The secured contributions through the City of Ashland utility rate increases dedicated to watershed restoration are critical and demonstrate unusually high community support.
- The leverage from federal partners (e.g., Two Chiefs' Joint Landscape Initiative and U.S. Forest Service) show the initiative is working on a true "all-lands" approach.
- The work plan and budget contain a good mix of restoration action, project development, monitoring, and capacity building.

5. **Phase 2 Application Weaknesses:**

- Landowner and community outreach deliverables are vague. How many landowners need to be involved to make this initiative effective? Will the initiative target landowners with large acreages, numerous small acreage landowners, or both?
- The number of treatment acres funded through an OWEB FIP is unclear.
- While the applicant has reduced the OWEB request, the cost per acre remains high.
- There appears to be some misalignment between the work plan and the budget. For example GIS modeling and prioritization is listed as an action in the 1st biennium, but does not show up in the budget until the 2nd biennium. In the work plan, GIS modeling and prioritization is not listed as an action in the 2nd biennium.
- There are concerns that all the leverage in the 2nd and 3rd biennia are listed as secure and whether federal partners can commit to that.

6. **Phase 2 Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):**

- The tie in to aquatic health would benefit from further discussion. Specifically how will forest restoration in the target area lead to water quality or habitat improvements?
- Lomakatsi is a strong partner with community support. However, as the lead partner on the majority of actions, they will need additional capacity.
- If native seeding is utilized, the partners should monitor effectiveness as this is a controversial action which may not be needed.
- Treating 28% of the landscape is bordering on the threshold of effectiveness and the applicant did not address whether treatments would occur mainly near roads and trails, and minimize treating ridgetops as was suggested in the Phase I evaluation.
- It is encouraged that the partners monitor benefits to wildlife (e.g., Northern Spotted Owl and Pacific Fisher) in treatment areas.
- When prioritization efforts are underway, the initiative would benefit by prioritizing landowner outreach in a way that allows them to target landowners in high priority areas and not treat opportunistically.
- While the ecological focus is tighter in the Phase II application, concerns remain that symptoms are being treated with forest thinning, and the initiative needs to work toward restoring ecosystem functions, so that this work will not need to be repeated every 20 years.

7. Rating of Phase 2 Application: HIGH (-)

8. Summary of Phase 1 Evaluation: Strengths identified in the Phase 1 evaluation included the high functioning partnership, high degree of community support, innovative match, and reasonable actions within the designated timeframe. Weaknesses identified in the Phase 1 evaluation included how forest treatments would lead to ecological outcomes, outreach details, overall cost per acre of the initiative, and whether the partnership could deliver on private lands in a strategic manner. The partnership was invited by the Board Subcommittee to submit a Phase 2 application.

9. Combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 Rating: HIGH (-)



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Key Performance Measure Revisions
January 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff and the OWEB Board Executive Committee have reviewed the agency's Key Performance Measures (KPMs). As a result of that review, and conversations with the Board in July and October, staff and the committee are proposing a revised suite of KPMs. With the Board's concurrence, staff would propose these to the 2017 Legislature as a part of the agency's budget presentation.

II. Background

As part of the agency's Annual Performance Progress Report to the Oregon Legislature, OWEB reports on a number of Key Performance Measures, or KPMs (Attachment A). These metrics are part of an approach to measure performance and outcomes of state government. Measures must:

- Gauge progress toward agency's goals and mission;
- Use standard terminology and definitions;
- Be few in number;
- Identify performance targets to be achieved during the two year budget cycle;
- Use accurate and reliable data sources;
- Measure customer satisfaction;
- Assign an organizational unit responsible for achieving the target; and
- Address comparable information, where possible.

During the budget deliberation process of each legislative session, the Legislature will approve, disapprove, or change/update each agency's proposed biennial performance measures.

Many of OWEB's KPMs and the targets associated with these metrics were developed over five years ago. While some may still be relevant, with the passage of Constitutional Ballot Measure 76 in 2010, much of the way OWEB operates in relationship to its partner agencies has changed. As an example, OWEB used to be responsible for distributing all funding through Measure 66, including funds distributed for staff to

other agencies. With Measure 76, this arrangement changed and OWEB is now the lead agency for the "Grant" fund, but is not responsible for Lottery distributions to other agencies. This change has dramatically impacted the agency's ability to meet a 6 percent administrative cost ratio target as outlined in KPM #1. In addition, many KPMs are dependent on the reporting of other state or federal agencies. While this is a good idea in concept in that it encourages cross-agency communication on outcomes, it can be a challenge in reality. For example, OWEB is reliant on federal agencies gathering information in their databases then extracting information from those databases for OWEB to use in KPM reporting. If agencies do not report information to their databases, replace older data with new data that is more accurate, or report differently than the format needed by OWEB for reporting on KPMs, it impacts OWEB's ability to report on measures, appropriately explain changes in data/trends, and/or achieve targets.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, OWEB staff notified the Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee that the agency will propose updates to its KPMs for the 2017 Legislative Session. Attachment B is the timeline for developing updated KPMs.

III. Proposal

Based on conversations with the Board in July and October and meetings with the Board's Executive Committee, staff have outlined additions, deletions and modifications to the KPMs in Attachments C, which provides the changes and recommendations in table format for Board approval. At the January Board meeting, staff will review these elements with the Board, along with the other tools the agency uses to measure its progress, outputs and outcomes.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board approve revisions to OWEB's Key Performance Measures as outlined in Attachment C as a proposal for legislative consideration during the 2017 Legislative Session.

Attachments

- A. Key Performance Measures
- B. Key Performance Measures Revisions Timeline
- C. OWEB Proposed Key Performance Measures for 2017 Legislative Session

2013-2014 KPM #	2013-2014 Approved Key Performance Measures (KPMs)
1	OPERATIONS--The percentage of total funding used in agency operations.
2	OUTSIDE FUNDING--The percentage of funding from other sources resulting from OWEB's grant awards.
3	RESTORATION--The percentage of OWEB watershed restoration investments that address established basin and watershed restoration priorities.
4	PAYMENTS--The percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days.
5	FISH POPULATIONS--The percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance.
6	PLANT COMMUNITIES--The percentage of improved riparian stream miles of the total number of stream miles in Oregon.
7	WORK PLANS--The extent to which watershed councils funded by OWEB accomplish their work plans each biennium.
8	FISH MONITORING--The percentage of native fish, where monitoring needs have been quantified, that were monitored to a level considered adequate under the Oregon Plan Monitoring Strategy and ODFW's Native Fish Status Review.
9	SALMON HABITAT QUANTITY--The percentage of potential aquatic salmon habitat made available to salmon each year.
10	CUSTOMER SERVICE--Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information.

Key Performance Measure Revision Timeline

April 2015 Board	OWEB Board meeting -- Introduce KPM revision topic Director's Update
May 2015	Prepare materials for staff background and June all staff retreat
June 2015	Staff discussion at all-staff retreat providing ideas and feedback on KPM revisions/additions
June 2015	Legislature approves Agency budgets and KPMs for annual report
July 2015	Convene Executive Committee to begin discussing revisions to KPMs
July 2015 Board	OWEB Board meeting -- Discuss process, including having the Executive Committee as lead on KPM revision process
August 2015	Convene Executive Committee to advise on revisions to KPMs
Sept. 30, 2015	OWEB completes FY 2015 Annual Performance Program Report (APPR) with current KPMs
September	Convene Executive Committee for final review of draft KPMs
Oct. 2015 Board	OWEB Board meeting -- Discuss draft KPMs
December 2015	Executive Committee makes changes based on Board feedback
Jan. 2016 Board	OWEB Board meeting -- Board approval of final KPMs (with April 2016 Board meeting as back-up if needed)
April 30, 2016	OWEB submit revised KPMs and inform DAS/LFO
June 30, 2016	DAS/LFO Analysts provide feedback to agency on KPM revisions
September 15, 2016	OWEB completes FY 2006 APPR with current and new KPMs

OWEB Proposed Key Performance Measures for 2017 Legislative Session

	CURRENT KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PROPOSED KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	Place-holder
A. Protect and Restore Healthy Watersheds and Native Habitats			
1	CURRENT KPM - The percentage of OWEB watershed restoration investments that address established basin and watershed restoration priorities.	REPLACEMENT: Percent of restoration, acquisition or technical assistance funding invested to address habitat for threatened, endangered or species of concern; or concerns identified on 303(d) listed streams.	
2	CURRENT KPM - The percentage of funding from other sources resulting from OWEB's grant awards.	REPLACEMENT: Percent and amount of funding the agency distributes <i>or is leveraged at a programmatic level</i> for restoration, technical assistance and acquisition from sources other than Lottery, PCSRF or Salmon Plate Revenues.	
3	CURRENT KPM - The percentage of potential aquatic salmon habitat made available to salmon each year.	REPLACEMENT: Miles of fish habitat opened as a result of completed fish passage projects funded through OWEB grants.	XXX
4		NEW: Acres of upland habitat restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants.	XXX
5	CURRENT KPM - The percentage of improved riparian stream miles of the total number of stream miles in Oregon.	REPLACEMENT: Number of riparian stream miles restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants.	XXX
6	CURRENT KPM - The percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance.	NO CHANGE: The percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance.	XXX

CURRENT KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE		PROPOSED KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	Placeholder
B. Support Thriving Communities and Strong Economies			
7		NEW: Percent of Oregon communities that benefit from an agency-managed grant program.	
8	CURRENT KPM - The extent to which watershed councils funded by OWEB accomplish their work plans each biennium.	REPLACEMENT: Percent of OWEB-funded watershed councils that demonstrate effective organizational governance and management using OWEB merit criteria.	
C. Agency and Board Efficiency and Effectiveness			
9	CURRENT KPM: Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information.	NO CHANGE: Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information.	
10	CURRENT KPM: Percent of total funding used for agency operations.	NO CHANGE: Percent of total funding used for agency operations.	
11	CURRENT KPM: The percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days.	NO CHANGE: The percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days.	
12		NEW: Percent of open solicitation grants agreements executed within one month after board award.	
D. Current KPMs proposed to be removed			
REMOVED - The percentage of native fish, where monitoring needs have been quantified, that were monitored to a level considered adequate under the Oregon Plan Monitoring Strategy and ODFW's Native Fish Status Review.			



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Juniper Davis, Partnerships Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Technical Assistance (CREP TA) – Request for Additional Funding
January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the Board on Oregon's investment in Technical Assistance (TA) for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and requests the Board delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements to accept up to \$75,000 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to support CREP TA activities. This report also requests the Board allocate up to \$75,000 in recaptured lottery funds to supplement the existing funds available for CREP TA grant agreements and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements.

II. Background

CREP is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. The unique state and federal partnership allows landowners to receive incentive payments and conservation rental payments from the Farm Services Agency (FSA) for establishing long-term, riparian buffers on eligible land. The Oregon CREP was developed initially to address listed salmon streams; the program was later modified to assist in addressing stream water-quality issues (primarily temperature).

The Oregon CREP Agreement requires Oregon to pay for 20 percent of the overall program costs. CREP uses state funding for partial payment (25 percent) of all conservation activities (e.g., fencing, off-stream watering, site preparation, plant materials, planting). In addition to the direct landowner payments for conservation activities, OWEB provides funding for outreach, technical assistance, and program coordination. In recent years, NRCS has also provided funding through OWEB to support this work.

In federal fiscal year 2015, Oregon CREP was successful in enrolling 1,218.5 acres in the program resulting in a total of over 41,000 acres enrolled over the lifetime of the program in Oregon.

III. CREP Technical Assistance and Associated Funding

CREP is managed by a multi-agency/organizational partnership. In addition to OWEB and FSA, the CREP partnership in Oregon includes NRCS, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, and the Oregon Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources.

At the January 2015 OWEB Board meeting, the Board approved receipt of \$100,000 in supplemental funding from the NRCS to improve the local delivery of CREP in Oregon. These funds are being directed toward TA grants for 2016-17, CREP-related trainings, augmenting existing grant agreements to provide additional technical assistance in underserved areas, and the resolution of programmatic barriers in cultural resource review coordination.

Subsequently, at the July 2015 OWEB Board meeting, the Board approved a spending plan that set aside \$750,000 in lottery funds for CREP TA grant agreements for 2016-17. In August 2015 NRCS provided an additional \$150,000, which the OWEB Board approved receipt of at its October, 2015 meeting.

On September 14, 2015, OWEB received 12 CREP TA applications for a total combined request of \$1,132,601. The review team met on October 7, 2015, to evaluate the applications against established criteria. Because the amount of the funding requested (\$1,132,601) exceeded the amount of funding available (\$942,000), the review team assessed the applications using an established scoring system. All 12 of the applications were recommended for funding based on the scoring system.

Subsequently in early November, OWEB and NRCS representatives met to discuss the recommended applications. Due to the strong need for CREP TA throughout the state, the partners recommended moving forward with all 12 proposed applications, including one at a reduced funding level. The funding table is Attachment A to this staff report. In order to fund all 12 proposed applications, OWEB and NRCS will need to contribute up to \$150,000 in additional funding. NRCS agreed to provide an additional \$75,000 in funding provided OWEB could come up with the remaining funding.

In December, OWEB recaptured approximately \$1 million in funding from projects where grantees did not expend all requested funds. This happens regularly, and those funds are generally redistributed into the spending plan. In July, the Board indicated that additional funds made available should be used for specifically identified spending plan line items wherever possible. CREP-TA is a technical assistance grant type in the open solicitation category. Because the request fits within the parameters outlined by the Board, staff request that up to \$75,000 of the recaptured funds be added to the spending plan line item for CREP-TA.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request the Board accept up to \$75,000 from the NRCS for supplemental CREP TA funding, allocate up to \$75,000 of recaptured lottery funds in support of CREP TA, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements.

Attachment

A. CREP TA Funding Table

ATTACHMENT A

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program TA Applications Recommended for Funding by CREP TA Review Team September 14, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Applicant	Project Name	Requested Funding
216-8100			
12271	Umatilla SWCD	Umatilla County SWCD CREP Program	\$107,800
12272	Curry SWCD	Coos-Curry CREP TA 2016-17	\$115,297
12273	Morrow SWCD	Morrow County CREP Technical Assistance	\$23,610
12274	Elk Creek WC	Douglas County CREP Technical Assistance	\$119,180
12275	Sherman SWCD	Sherman County Riparian Restoration	\$39,083
12276	Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust	Southern Oregon Tri-county CREP	\$150,171
12277	Jefferson SWCD	Central Oregon Tri-county CREP Program	\$94,648
12278	Gilliam SWCD	Gilliam County CREP Technical Assistance	\$33,220
12279	Yamhill SWCD	Marion-Yamhill-Polk Riparian Partnership	\$149,335
12280	Wheeler SWCD	Wheeler County CREP TA	\$77,486
12281	Wasco SWCD	Wasco County Riparian Buffers	\$92,267
12282	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Upper Willamette Regional CREP Partnership Years 5&6	\$130,504
12		Total	\$1,132,601

Recommended Award
\$107,800
\$115,297
\$23,610
\$119,180
\$39,083
\$94,890
\$94,648
\$33,220
\$149,335
\$77,486
\$92,267
\$130,504
\$1,077,320



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item G: Focused Investments**
Approval of 2015-2017 Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Implementation Initiatives and Capacity Building Awards



I. Introduction

Staff request the Board delegate authority to the Executive Director to execute partnership agreements and grant agreements to implement FIP Implementation initiatives totaling \$12,770,790 and Capacity Building initiatives totaling \$937,369, as recommended by the Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments. A summary of the process leading to this recommendation is provided below.

II. Board Direction on Focused Investments

In June 2013, the OWEB Board approved its Long-Term Investment Strategy Framework with four major areas of investment: Operating Capacity; Open Solicitation; Focused Investments; and Effectiveness Monitoring. Following an extensive public process, the Board established the following priority areas for focused investments at its April 2015 meeting:

- 1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
- 2) Oregon Closed Lake Basin Wetland Habitat
- 3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
- 4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
- 5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
- 6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
- 7) Coastal Estuaries

In July 2015, the Board adopted a spending plan that included \$12.75 million for Focused Investment Implementation awards and \$1 million for Focused Investment Capacity Building awards to support initiatives addressing the Board's adopted priorities.

III. Solicitation Process

In May 2015, staff solicited both Capacity Building and Implementation applications for Focused Investment initiatives.

Capacity: Applicants were required to submit a letter of intent by July 1.

Implementation: Applicants were required to submit a Phase I application by July 1. Implementation applicants were required to formally consult with staff prior to submitting an application. The Phase I Implementation application addressed the strength of the prospective partnership and required submittal of at least a draft strategic action plan (SAP) consistent with OWEB SAP guidelines.

Capacity Building applications and Phase II Implementation applications were due November 2, 2015.

Capacity: Capacity Building applications addressed one or more of the following: elevating the partnership's current level of performance, developing or enhancing a SAP, or addressing community outreach and engagement relative to the partnership's capacity building efforts.

Implementation: Phase II Implementation applications addressed the proposed work plan and budget to address all or a portion of the initiative's SAP over three biennia.

IV. Application Review

By the July 1, 2015, deadline, OWEB received the following:

Capacity: OWEB received 26 letters of intent to submit Capacity Building applications.

Implementation: OWEB received 12 Phase I Implementation applications, the details of which were presented in the July Board meeting staff report. There were no applications addressing the Coastal Estuaries priority. Phase I Implementation applications were reviewed by expert teams organized around the Board-designated priorities and OWEB staff. The Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments met August 4, 2015, reviewed feedback from experts and staff, and invited nine of the 12 applicants to submit Phase II applications. An invitation to submit was not a requirement to submit a Phase II application, but rather an indication of the subcommittee's assessment of the Phase I application.

By the November 2, 2015, deadline, OWEB received the following:

Capacity: OWEB received 23 Capacity Building applications. All applications were evaluated by expert review teams and OWEB staff. The Capacity Building expert review team included experts on organizational capacity from various organizations throughout the state. The Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments met at a public session on January 12-13, 2016, in Salem to make funding recommendations to the full Board.

Implementation: OWEB received nine Phase II Implementation applications. All applications were evaluated by expert review teams and OWEB staff. Implementation expert review teams were formed around the designated Board priorities. Evaluations were provided to applicants and posted on OWEB's website on January 5, 2015. The Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments met at a public session on January 12-13, 2016 in Salem to make funding recommendations to the full Board.

V. Recommendation

The Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments recommends the Board approve the following investments and delegate authority to the Executive Director to execute partnership agreements and award grants:

Capacity Building: The Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments recommends the Board fund eight FIP Capacity Building applications for a total of \$937,369. Applications recommended for funding are identified by gray shading in Attachment A and the evaluations are provided in Attachment B. Staff propose that \$20,790 of the unspent Capacity Building funds be used to cover the additional Implementation grant needs.

Implementation: The Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments recommends the Board fund six FIP Implementation applications for a total of \$12,770,790. Applications recommended for funding are shown in Attachment C and the evaluations are provided in Attachment D.

Attachments

- A. FIP Capacity Building Subcommittee Funding Recommendations
- B. FIP Capacity Building Evaluations
- C. FIP Implementation Subcommittee Funding Recommendations
- D. FIP Implementation Evaluations

2015-2017 FIP Capacity Building Applications
Focused Investment Subcommittee Funding Recommendation

Project Number	Applicant	Project Name	OWEB Request	Recommended Award Amount
216-8300-12524	Siuslaw Watershed Council	Siuslaw Coho Partnership	\$86,020	\$86,020
216-8300-12539	Confed Tribes Warm Springs	John Day Basin Partnership	\$149,613	\$149,613
216-8300-12525	South Coast WC	Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries *	\$150,000	\$144,106
216-8300-12526	Rogue Basin Coordinating Council	Rogue Basin Partnership*	\$147,483	\$144,483
216-8300-12533	Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership	\$137,696	\$137,696
216-8300-12518	The Nature Conservancy	Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative	\$42,777	\$42,777
216-8300-12519	Grande Ronde Model WS Program	Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership	\$83,490	\$83,490
216-8300-12534	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Partnership*	\$149,734	\$149,184
216-8300-12538	Lake County Umbrella WC	Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership	\$41,250	\$0
216-8300-12528	North Coast WS Assn	Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership	\$82,500	\$0
216-8300-12531	MidCoast WC	Central Coast Coho Collaborative	\$150,000	\$0
216-8300-12529	Upper Nehalem WC	Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership	\$64,350	\$0
216-8300-12527	Wasco SWCD	Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership	\$29,946	\$0
216-8300-12540	North Fork John Day WC	Upper North Fork John Day Partnership	\$150,000	\$0
216-8300-12521	Greenbelt Land Trust	Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative	\$86,483	\$0
216-8300-12535	Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership	Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership	\$149,516	\$0
216-8300-12520	Klamath Bird Observatory	Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network	\$110,059	\$0
216-8300-12522	Malheur WC	N. Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership	\$95,700	\$0
216-8300-12523	Central Oregon Intergovt Council	The Upper Crooked River Watershed WG	\$145,805	\$0
216-8300-12537	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	North Coast Collaborative Riparian Restoration Strategy	\$75,341	\$0
216-8300-12530	Ducks Unlimited - Chris Colson	Flood-Irrigated Floodplain and Lake Habitat in Lake County	\$95,468	\$0
216-8300-12532	Placeholder	Partnership for Coho Habitat Restoration on Family Forests and Farms	\$143,000	\$0
216-8300-12536	Klamath SWCD	Klamath Watershed Health Team	\$107,425	\$0
Total FIP Capacity Building Request			\$2,473,656	
Total FIP Capacity Building Application Recommended by Staff to Focused Investment Subcommittee				\$937,369

*Funding reduced

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12518

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative

Requested Amount: \$42,777

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative is a network of estuary conservation and restoration practitioners collaborating to improve the health and resilience of estuaries on Oregon's Central Coast. Our Core Partners for this capacity-building application are: The Nature Conservancy, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Estuary Technical Group of the Institute for Applied Ecology, MidCoast Watersheds Council, Nestucca-Neskowin-Sand Lake Watersheds Council, Salmon Drift Cr. Watershed Council, Siuslaw Watershed Council, The Wetlands Conservancy, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Restoration Programs.

Our long-term goal is protecting and restoring ecologically functional estuaries on the central Oregon Coast. We will use capacity-building funding to complete our strategic action plan, identify a scope of work suitable for a FIP proposal, identify funding for that work, conduct outreach necessary for that work, and develop organizational documents. Funds will be used to help pay for facilitation, travel, and participation by non-profit "Core Groups."

Completion of our strategic plan and outreach will result in coordinated actions among our partners leading to improved ecological health for Oregon's central coast estuaries. Over half of major estuaries in Oregon are located in our area; improving these estuaries will provide significant benefit to OWEB's Coastal Estuaries priority.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The project appears to have been thoughtfully developed.
- The partnership is utilizing a science-driven results chain analysis for the development of its strategic action plan, which is a very reputable process.
- The application provides a good discussion of how the core partnership came to be and a Partnership Charter has been developed.
- Applicant has the in-house resources and expertise to provide facilitation services.

- This is a modest request and a completed SAP would likely lead to future project implementation.
- Partners have quickly shown their ability to collaborate and have not waited for a capacity building grant to begin their work.

Weaknesses

- Partnership challenges were not clearly described in the application.
- Crafting a scope of work for a FIP implementation application is an ineligible expense for a capacity building grant. Only facilitator and partner costs directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application did not clearly describe how success would be evaluated.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB Staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 7

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund **Amount:** \$42,777

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12519

OWEB Region: Region 5

Partnership Name: Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership

Requested Amount: \$83,490

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

Core partners are Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, The Freshwater Trust, US Forest Service and Wallowa Resources. Building the Atlas is an inclusive process and additional partners will be added should there be interest and if opportunity presents itself.

The Partnership will develop the Restoration Atlas, a strategic action plan to prioritize, vet and implement habitat restoration projects designed to maximize biological benefits identified in existing data and by expert local knowledge in the Wallowa and Imnaha River subbasins.

Capacity building funds will be used to secure the services of a qualified consultant, who will in turn facilitate the Atlas development process, produce technical documents and high level mapping products.

Capacity building funds will lead to focused restoration actions that address the habitat requirements of native aquatic species, with emphasis on Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout in the Wallowa and Imnaha subbasins. Each restoration action collectively identified and prioritized according to score in the Atlas, will result in relevant and quantifiable benefit to identified fish species.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The application is very focused on the proposed outcome (Atlas, a strategic action plan), with detailed budget description.
- The budget request is relatively modest for a strategic action plan that can be utilized by a broad partnership. The budget includes good match.
- Long-standing partnership seeking to replicate similar efforts in the upper Grande Ronde that will provide additional focus for the partners. There is considerable evidence provided that the Atlas will be developed and utilized.
- There appears to be a lot of momentum generated in this basin, and there are unique opportunities to bring restoration funding to implement actions identified in the Atlas.

Weaknesses:

- The application is weak on describing the challenges the partnership faces.
- The application could have better described the integrated nature of the partnership and how developing the Atlas would benefit the partnership.
- While it is acknowledged that the partners have done this before, it should be noted that a lot rests on the facilitation, technical writing, and mapping skills of the contractors to develop a tool that will be effectively used by the partners.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 8

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund **Amount:** \$83,490

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12520

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON)

Requested Amount: \$110,059

Board Priority Addressed:
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The partnership includes Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO), Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Forest Service (USFS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Through KSON, these agencies and organizations have formed a high-performing partnership with a proven track record of partnership building, landowner engagement, on-the-ground restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management focused exclusively on oak conservation and restoration.

Ecological outcomes identified by KSON include improved function, resiliency, connectivity, and habitat value of oak woodland and chaparral habitats in southern Oregon. These ecological outcomes align directly with the OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat.

KSON partners seek to develop a Strategic Action Plan which will strengthen our ability to achieve ecological outcomes significant to the state, outcomes which are critical to reverse declining trends of oak associated plants and wildlife. The Strategic Action Plan will serve as a road map for oak woodland and chaparral restoration actions, and will establish short, medium, and long term goals to achieve our ecological outcomes over the entire southern Oregon landscape.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The partnership seems to have a history of working together.
- The group has a recently signed MOU.
- The application provided a candid discussion of lessons learned.
- The application clearly described the need for a SAP.

Weaknesses

- The deliverables were poorly described in the application.

- In the application it appeared that KBO is doing all of the work, the roles of the other partners were not clearly described. The application did not make a clear case that KBO was the right partner to lead the SAP development.
- The application proposes to expand to work in the Umpqua basin; however no local partners have yet been identified. Seems unlikely to be successful with a two-year grant.
- Answer to question 10A is vague; unclear what capacities will be targeted.
- Outreach deliverables were unclear; only outreach costs directly related to this capacity building grant are eligible.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 17

Board Subcommittee Summary: Unclear why the applicant proposes to expend to the Umpqua Basin. There seems to be enough work for the partnership in the Rogue Basin.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12521

OWEB Region: Region 3

Partnership Name: Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative

Requested Amount: \$86,483

Board Priority Addressed:
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (Cooperative) has representatives from the lower, middle and upper sub-regions of the Willamette Valley. The partners in the Cooperative (Appendix 1) have extensive experience in planning and implementing on-the-ground work to protect, restore and maintain native oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley. The Cooperative proposes to develop a two-tiered Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Strategic Action Plan and formalize an organizational partnership structure to implement goals, objectives, and tasks identified in the Strategic Action Plan. Tier one is a Willamette Valley-wide strategy. Tier 2 is three sub-regional plans developed by existing regional partnerships. This approach produces synergy while maintaining regional identity and flexibility. The Cooperative is applying for funds from OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership Capacity-Building funds to assist in the development of the Strategic Action Plan and strengthen the Cooperative's operational structure. Once the Strategic Action Plan is completed, the Cooperative intends to apply for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Funding. The overarching goal of the Cooperative is to protect, restore, and maintain a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley through a coordinated and strategic approach that leverages resources, focuses on priority project areas and species, and produces substantial ecological returns.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The "local working group" partnerships have strong histories with successful planning and implementation efforts.
- The regional steering committee seems like a good concept.
- The partners are integrating work from existing assessments.

Weaknesses

- Not much detail on community engagement.
- The partnership and proposed geographic scale of work is new; do all these partners need to be involved? Who are the core partners? Are the right partners being engaged?
- The application is unclear on how the capacity building grant will significantly change or increase the different groups' oak habitat work. The added value of the regional approach is not clearly articulated.

- Intertwine is key to the success of the partnership, but its level of involvement is unclear.
- General concern about the size of the geography, the many partners, and the “loose” partnership.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 15

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12522

OWEB Region: Region 5

Partnership Name: Northern Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership

Requested Amount: \$95,700

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Northern Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership consists of nine core entities. Among them are the Malheur Watershed Council, the Vale Oregon Bureau of Land Management, the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Ontario office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USFWS, ODFW, the Burns Paiute Tribe Natural Resources Division, Trout Unlimited, and DEQ.

The partnership seeks to improve rangeland and riparian health to benefit ODFW identified "species of interest" in the Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat. We will hire a contractor to be the Partnership Coordinator to conduct an outreach program, write a strategic action plan, develop a pilot restoration project, and coordinate a natural resource inventory. Our partnership's goals align with OWEB's Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat Focused Investment Priorities and Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. We intend to improve rangeland health and riparian areas to benefit habitat for the sage-grouse, mule deer, antelope, bull trout and red band trout.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- Good discussion of conducting landowner outreach along with the development of a strategic action plan. The application is clear that landowner support is vital for effective restoration action to take place.
- The application identifies challenges to the partnership, and it is clear that this is an effort to bring the necessary entities into the partnership.
- Individually, the partners have a good track record at implementing projects.

Weaknesses:

- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.
- While a number of partners are participating in the initiative, the roles and responsibilities of the various partners and how the partnership operates are not well described.

- A significant part of the budget is dedicated to developing a pilot project/natural resources inventory. While a pilot project can develop interest and momentum for a partnership, it is not clear why these elements are necessary for a successful capacity building initiative.
- There are a number of local issues (e.g., sage grouse and bull trout) where this relatively new partnership can play an important role. However, specific issues and how the partnership is seeking to address them are not well described in the application.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 18

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12523

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: The Upper Crooked River Watershed Working Group (UCRW-WG)

Requested Amount: \$145,805

Board Priority Addressed:
Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

Core partners of the Upper Crooked River Watershed Working Group (UCRW-WG) include the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative, Crooked River Watershed Council, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Wild. UCRW-WG will develop a detailed strategic action plan to coordinate dry forest restoration across jurisdictional boundaries within the Upper Crooked River Watershed, a region prioritize by a multitude of Federal, State and local conservation strategies— including the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Region 6 Terrestrial Restoration and Conservation Strategy. Ecological outcomes include increase diverse in forest structure, age, and composition, increased resilience to high-severity, stand-replacing wildfire, and decreased risk of insect infestation and disease.

During plan development, UCRW-WG will gather data on the current conditions and restoration needs on private lands and integrate these findings with data from existing plans. We will strengthen our partnership and increase member diversity, outreaching to private landowners and other key stakeholders through one-on-one meetings, kitchen table conversations and public meetings. We will also formalize our working agreements and governance structure. Deliverables include formal working agreements, increased membership diversity, a Private Lands Resource Assessment, a prioritization process and a detailed strategic action plan.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- This is a thoughtful application with clear deliverables, metrics, and a good discussion of bringing in others to discuss lessons learned.
- Good breakout on what contracted services are requested.
- The partnership is looking to synthesize existing plans to produce a strategic action plan.
- The right partners for this type of project in this area are involved in the initiative.

Weaknesses:

- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.

- It is unclear which roles each partner will play in the partnership, and it was not well described how the partners have worked together in the past.
- The USFS is listed as offering significant in-kind support, but there are concerns that there may not be sufficient capacity at the district level.
- The application states that FIP funding will be used for data collection to assemble a Private Land Resource Assessment. This is an ineligible cost for FIP capacity building applications (see page 3 of the instructions).
- It would be beneficial to better explain how many landowners are in the focus area, average acreage involved, and how outreach will be conducted accordingly.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 19

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12524

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Siuslaw Coho Partnership

Requested Amount: \$86,020

Board Priority Addressed:

Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP) core partners are: BLM-Eugene District, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, USFS-Siuslaw NF, Siuslaw SWCD, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council. SCP partners possess the qualifications and experience to achieve the SCP's desired ecological outcomes. The desired ecological outcomes of the partnership include increased quantity and quality of instream complexity and rearing and spawning habitats, increased stream connectivity to floodplains, improved riparian habitat, and improvement in water quality characteristics identified as limiting factors for Siuslaw, Siltcoos, and Tahkenitch coho populations.

Capacity-Building funds will be utilized for partners' labor, travel, materials, equipment, contracted services, and grant administration efforts, leading to achievement of the following Capacity-Building goals: Develop governance documents for the partnership; Develop and execute strategic action plans for the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Coho Populations that include strategic outreach plans; Develop a flexible mapping tool to be used in multiple phases of Capacity-Building and Implementation. Funds will be spent in support of SCP Capacity-Building efforts, leading to efficient and effective implementation efforts that result in achievement of the SCP's desired ecological outcomes. Ecological outcomes are in alignment with the OWEB FIP for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast and key limiting factors for the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch coho populations.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The description of the strategic action plan development process is well aligned with the Coho Business Plan process, which the partnership is already involved with.
- The ecological need for the SAP is well stated.
- This is a strong local partnership, which has a history of working well together.
- The proposed streamlining data and uniting various outreach efforts across partners will lead to a more effective partnership and future coordinated restoration implementation.
- Good performance indicators for what the partnership hopes to achieve.
- The discussion of challenges and solutions was well done.

- Budget costs seem reasonable for the deliverables presented in the application, particularly in light of the rigorous strategic action plan development approach used in the Coho Business Plan framework.

Weaknesses

- The application did not clearly describe how success would be evaluated.
- The budget and proposed activities do not clearly align; as a result, it is difficult to determine the amount of money being put toward each deliverable.
- Unclear whether the proposed the development of a strategic mapping tool and outreach plan are directly tied to the development of the strategic action plan or other capacity building efforts.
- Concern that much of the anticipated staff time in the budget will come from the Siuslaw Watershed Council. Reviewers wanted to know which staff they plan to put toward the effort and what their expertise is in terms of developing a strategic action plan that will follow the scientifically rigorous process used for the Coho Business Plan process.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 1

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$86,020

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12525

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partners include: Curry SWCD; South Coast Watershed Council; Lower Rogue Watershed Council; The Nature Conservancy. We will produce a Strategic Plan written to OWEB FIP specifications, produce a Partnership Operations Manual, broaden our partnership base, streamline our data management system, recruit additional funding partners, and begin developing outreach and education program tools with which to promote this estuary initiative for a quarter of the Oregon Coast. Estuaries have been identified as a priority by OWEB, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, The Nature Conservancy, and the Independent Multi-disciplinary Science Team. There are over 20 existing plans for restoring South Coast estuaries.

The proposed ecological outcomes include restoration of estuarine processes and functions, in 10 South Coast estuaries, over a 10 year time-frame. Actions include:

- Measurable water quality improvements to benefit all species (terrestrial, aquatic and avian) including the nearshore environment where estuaries extend off shore.
- Restored salmon refugia, including:
 - Habitat and Floodplain Connectivity
 - Improved Fish Passage
 - Increased off-channel rearing habitat
- Conservation, restoration, or enhancement of freshwater and tidal wetlands.
- Promoting working landscapes and securing estuarine habitats.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is a long-standing successful partnership that has recently recruited new partners.
- The work accomplished on the south coast is impressive and reviewers felt that the entities individually, and as a partnership, have the ability to tackle the work presented in this application.
- The partnership is taking a holistic approach and has addressed challenges and opportunities going forward.

- Good outreach discussion on the challenges of outreach to critical partner sectors, such as the ports and other estuary-based businesses.
- Strong budget with good detail.

Weaknesses

- The answers to Questions 6 and 7 primarily address the partnership's needs around applying for a FIP implementation initiative. Capacity building funds are not intended for this purpose.
- The information on hiring an outside person was generic with no specific scope of work.
- The geography seems large – there are a lot of estuaries in this geography, future implementation will be challenging

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 3

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$144,106

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12526

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Rogue Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$147,483

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) was created to serve as the backbone organization for restoration in the Rogue Basin, and to facilitate collective impact and Rogue Restoration Action Plan delivery. RBP consists of 15 member organizations and over a dozen partner organizations, including agency personnel serving as technical advisors (RBP participant list attached). As part of the Action Plan, RBP members identified several landscape-level critical habitat types in the region, the species they support, the strategies needed to conserve or restore the habitats, and the feasibility of delivering restoration strategies to these habitats over the next decade. The long-term ecological outcome of restoring the Rogue will be clean water at sufficient volumes throughout the year to sustain aquatic and human life and maintain healthy, interconnected, native riparian/floodplain forests and grassland and upland forest habitats dominated by native species. A cornerstone of the Action Plan is to preserve and improve conditions to support focal native fish, which is directly aligned with the OWEB FIP priorities of "Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species" and "Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast." Capacity-Building funds would support RBP in its role as facilitator of Action Plan delivery and would provide capacity for RBP members to coordinate the Action Plan's Implementation Framework.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The proposed deliverables are well thought-out and achievable.
- The measures of success were clearly described.
- The partners involved are strong, and appear to be committed to the process and a collaborative approach.
- The working group approach seems as though it will lead to a focused process, allow greater engagement from partners, and lead to a higher likelihood of success.
- The proposed development of a funding strategy shows the partners are thinking about long-term stability and future SAP implementation.

Weaknesses

- The application proposes to hire two staff, an executive director and a fiscal administrator; the qualifications of these staff are unclear.

- The viability of the executive director position is unclear over the long-term (i.e., how the partnership will continue the position after two years).
- The hours and associated cost for the executive director seem high; only costs for the position directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application clearly described the partnerships past accomplishments; however, there was not much description of what would happen in the future after the completion of the SAP.

Issues of Concern:

- The \$6,000 for events and trainings needs to be clarified to ensure all costs are eligible expenses under a Capacity-Building grant.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 4

Board Subcommittee Summary: This is a big request to fund an executive director; will they be doing all of the work? Staff clarified it is not all for the Rogue Basin Partnership executive director, some will go towards paying for partnership participation in with work groups, which will be developing the details of the SAP.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$144,483

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12527

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership

Requested Amount: \$29,946

Board Priorities Addressed:

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership's core partners include Wasco County SWCD, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service. Ecological outcomes for the partnership include reduction of pest and disease vectors, encroachment by competing plant species such as conifers, connectivity with dry transition zones, implementing management practices once addressed by fire, protection of healthy sites and enhance merit of sites that are declining and educating landowners on oak woodland management practices and the ecological importance of oak woodlands. The partnership will develop a new strategic plan to arrive at a clear and concise plan targeting oak habitat management and recovery in the East Cascades of Wasco County. Funds will be used to engage a facilitator who will organize and coordinate meetings, type minutes, maintain contact lists and group correspondence, disseminate information, conduct outreach to landowners, create and maintain a webpage for public information and outreach, and to provide administrative support for the creation of the written strategic implementation plan. The strategic plan will address the key limiting factors (habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation) of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) with a focus on ecosystem function and processes.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Some of the partners have been working together for a long-time.
- This is an inexpensive request that builds off the partners resources.
- The right partners are involved to address the challenges and develop solutions.

Weaknesses

- The need for the capacity building application was not clearly described.
- Not a very big geographic scale.
- Unclear how long the larger partnership has existed and what it has accomplished to date.
- Not much money for a facilitator, can the deliverables be achieved with the requested funding?
- Details on the application deliverables were vague.
- The outreach narrative is very weak; however, there is some discussion of incorporating landowner outreach in to the SAP process.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 13

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12528

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership

Requested Amount: \$82,500

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership includes the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, the North Coast Watershed Association, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Ecological outputs from restoration actions include:

- Decreased erosion along stream banks and in tributaries
- Improved gravel retention
- Increased channel complexity
- Improved floodplain connectivity
- Increased abundance of spawning habitat
- Anthropogenic migration barriers addressed

Ecological outcomes from restoration actions include:

- Increased distribution of chum salmon spawning in response to habitat restoration
- Increased egg-to-fry survival of chum salmon in response to improved habitat quality

Our partnership seeks capacity-building funds to (1) create a Strategic Action Plan detailing locations and projects required to address Chum Salmon limiting factors, (2) attract new partners to our partnership, and (3) engage with landowners through public meetings to garner support (and potentially identify additional projects) for restoration projects.

Columbia River Chum Salmon are a federally-listed species and their recovery is a top priority of the state. Increased capacity will allow our partnership to prioritize and pursue restoration actions toward the objective of reaching delisting criteria for Chum Salmon in the Coastal Stratum.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The application clearly defines the partnership and the deliverables.
- The application clearly describes the need for a strategic action plan focused on chum.
- The partnership appears to be strong and to be the right partners for successful SAP completion and future restoration implementation.

- Reviewers have confidence the SAP will be completed as proposed.
- Budget is mostly reasonable.

Weaknesses

- The overall application outcomes seem overly ambitious.
- Much of the proposed work is already occurring; unclear to some reviewers of the value added from a capacity building grant.
- Big investment in outreach, but unclear how it will inform the development of the strategic action plan.
- Rather than printing and binding three action plans, the partnership is encouraged to post the final plan on an appropriate website and to consider developing a companion 2–4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 10

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12529

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership

Requested Amount: \$64,350

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership (NCSP) seeks to secure a Nehalem Focused Investment Partnership (NFIP) to efficiently and effectively restore 120 miles of essential salmon habitat in cooperation with stakeholders, state and federal agencies and technical advisors, in 8 years. Area of focus is in high priority 6th field sub-basins identified during the "pilot" Nehalem Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) process (complete spring 2016).

Capacity support assures the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Nehalem FIP implementation. A professional facilitator will collaborate with council staff and partners to develop a FIP scope of work that delivers a completed OWEB Nehalem FIP application.

Success of the capacity building effort includes support for targeted outreach to raise stakeholder and community awareness of the need for Coho population recovery. Outreach shares NSAP findings emphasizing the need for protection/restoration of ecosystem/watershed processes that support Coho population recovery. Emphasis includes species life history stages, habitat needs, limiting factors and FIP solutions.

Capacity building utilizes council staff to secure adequate in-kind and funding support for Nehalem FIP implementation.

NFIP aligns with OWEB's focused investment priorities for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast, Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species and Coastal Estuaries in Oregon.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The proposal aligns well with the Coho Business Plan process, which the partnership is already involved with.
- The outreach to industrial landowners is great.

Weaknesses

- It was unclear from the application who are the partners involved. Was it the same group currently involved in the Coho Business Planning process?
- There seems to be a need to elevate the partnership, however this work was not well described in the application.
- The timeline was vague; reviewers expressed concern that not enough time has been factored in to search for and contract with a facilitator.
- Community engagement and measures of success discussion were weak.
- Most of the funding goes to support the two watershed council coordinator positions; it was unclear how this funding will support the proposed deliverables and capacity building of the partnership.

Issues of Concern:

- Not all of the proposed activities are directly tied to the capacity building grant offering. For example, general outreach or developing a FIP application, are not eligible activities under a capacity building grant.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 12

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12530

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Flood-irrigated Floodplain and Lake Habitat in Lake County

Requested Amount: \$95,468

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats
Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partnership of this FIP Capacity-Building application consists of the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ducks Unlimited, and Intermountain West Joint Venture. This partnership represents a decade of collaborative outreach, planning, and conservation delivery of stream and floodplain habitat and function.

The partnership is committed to achieving the singular ecological outcome of increasing climate resiliency and water-use efficiency of Lake County's historic floodplains for the benefit of migratory birds, native fish, and agricultural resiliency.

The partnership will contract with a research firm to facilitate a series of landowner meetings, generate a subsequent survey, and then summarize the analysis of the survey results into a report. The socioeconomic factors identified in the report will inform the development of a Strategic Action Plan that will identify the restoration actions necessary to maintain flood-irrigated habitat on the landscape.

As water becomes increasingly limited, flood-irrigated habitats risk being lost as operators convert to alternative agricultural practices. Understanding operator motivations, operation limitations, and long-term planning, and identifying commonalities among landowners of varying operational scales, assets and liabilities is necessary to implement restoration actions aimed at improving water-use efficiencies in these highly managed systems at a watershed scale.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- This is an interesting proposal, with a unique approach towards community engagement and an understanding of how climate change and water use impacts the floodplain.
- Gathering the information that the partners are proposing might lead to new restoration possibilities in the area and beyond.
- A two-day symposium is proposed for the politically sensitive issues surrounding Lake Abert where common ground amongst the stakeholders may be achieved.

Weaknesses:

- The application states that a significant amount of capacity building funding will be used for social research that in turn would help develop a strategic action plan. While the research is intriguing, this is an ineligible cost (see page 3 of the instructions).
- The roles and responsibilities of the partners are unclear.
- The application would benefit from a better discussion as why maintaining flood-irrigation (which some see as inefficient) is the default solution to floodplain habitat restoration.

Issues of Concern:

- The application objectives do not seem like a good fit for the FIP capacity building application. The partners are encouraged to look at Oregon Water Resources Department Place Based Planning Grant Program as that may be a better fit for what is proposed.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 21

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12531

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Central Coast Coho Collaborative

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Central Coast Coho Collaborative is comprised of the MidCoast Watersheds Council, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and The Wetlands Conservancy. The capacity building funds will allow core partners to solidify current ad hoc partnerships focused on broad sense recovery of Coho Salmon and the ecosystem functions that support them on the Central Oregon Coast. Specifically, the key partners seek to work through a planning process to create population specific strategic action plans by updating existing assessments with new information, including restoration techniques to buffer populations against predicted climate change. In the strategic plan development, partners will undertake a data synthesis/update, geomorphic and physical habitat analysis, and density dependence analysis overlaid with predicted climate change models. Capacity building will support: 1) partner time to develop a memorandum of understanding and participate in a process to develop the strategic action plans; 2) local core team time and travel as necessary; 3) professional services for the partnership to seek outside expertise to facilitate the process, such as providing necessary background work, taking notes, and drafting the plan; and 4) technical assistance with assessment and modeling.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The goals and deliverables are clearly described as are the challenges and solutions.
- The thoughtful discussion on climate change was appreciated.
- The SAP appears to be based on the Coho Business Plan format, which is very technical in nature, and includes collection of new data and analysis of existing data.
- Partners have worked together for many years with several sharing office space, accounting, monitoring and technical teams.

Weaknesses

- No community engagement is planned for developing/enhancing the strategic action plan; this might impact the long-term success of the SAP and the capacity building effort.
- The application is lacking details on partnership staffing and governance.
- The budget lacks details on the justification of costs; the lump sum for the facilitator is unexplained and seems expensive.
- The potential involvement of the Wild Salmon Center is not well explained.
- One of the challenges in this area is engaging private landowners, which is not addressed as a problem in this proposal.

Issues of Concern:

- The Alsea Basin, which is not covered in the partnership, is a major river system within this landscape. Without the inclusion of this basin it is unclear how the SAP and future implementation efforts can be successful.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 11

Board Subcommittee Summary: The Board Subcommittee discussed why the application received a low ranking for readiness of the partnership. Staff explained that there was concern that the Alsea Basin was missing from the proposal and it was unclear how that portion of the watershed would be incorporated into future implementation.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12532

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Partnership for Coho Habitat Restoration on Family Forests and Farms

Requested Amount: \$143,000

Board Priority Addressed:

Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partners are Family Forests of Oregon, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Tree Farm System, and the Oregon Board of Forestry's Committee for Family Forestlands, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

This project will achieve improvements in coho habitat by achieving the following ecological outcomes:

- Increasing stream complexity;
- Improving riparian condition;
- Improving fish passage and road condition;
- Improving water quality.

This partnership and eventual project implementation will improve coho habitat, by targeting investments in areas of high intrinsic potential. Family forests and farms dominate the ownership (81%) along reaches with high intrinsic potential, with an estimated 45% of this area either non-forested or recently logged (Burnett et al. 2007). In Oregon's Coast Range, many landowners own a mix of forestland and pastureland. This partnership focuses effort on high intrinsic potential regardless of land use. Funds will be used to expand and enhance the existing partnership, target outreach to landowners, and develop a strategic action plan.

“Habitat management and improvement is key to protecting and enhancing coastal coho; much of the most important coho habitat is on private land; habitat improvement on private land is most likely to occur through incentive-based cooperative partnerships with landowners” (Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan 2007).

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is an excellent group of partners.
- The ecological objectives are appropriate, but the partners need to focus their efforts.
- The proposed activities are appropriate to achieve the desired outcomes.

- The partners have a history of working together, though there are no formal agreements related to this specific proposal.

Weaknesses

- The application appears to be for landowner outreach for future project implementation, which is not an eligible activity under the FIP Capacity-Building grant.
- The geographic scope of the proposal is huge; no map was included, which made it difficult to understand if there was any focus.
- Key partners are missing from the proposal to successfully overcome the described challenges.

Issues of Concern:

- The reviewers were very supportive of the concept of this proposal. However, many of the specific activities described are not eligible for this grant type. The reviewers hope the partnership will outreach to additional partners, such as watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, and continue to pursue project funding and implementation through other funding routes.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 22

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12533

OWEB Region: Region 3

Partnership Name: Clackamas Partnership

Requested Amount: \$137,696

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Clackamas Partnership include Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas Co. Water Environment Services, Clackamas Co. Parks, Clackamas River Basin Council, Metro, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Depart. of Environmental Quality, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, Portland General Electric, and US Forest Service, joined by Greater Oregon City, North Clackamas Urban, and Johnson Creek watershed councils, all of whom have extensive experience planning and completing restoration activities in partnership with one another with resulting benefits to the Clackamas populations of listed salmon and steelhead ("Clackamas Populations").

Ecological outcomes identified by the partnership will address limiting factors of degraded water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, migratory corridor connectivity and fish passage, and invasive species in priority areas presenting habitat for all life stages of Clackamas Populations and in the Clackamas River Basin.

The Clackamas Partnership will develop an enhanced strategic action plan for Clackamas Populations informed by the Lower Columbia River Conservation & Recovery Plan, as the baseline plan, which is organized by strata/population and incorporates other plan strategies. The partnership's strategic action plan will prioritize actions for the recovery of listed species and establish a process for working together to address the OWEB Board-approved Focused Investment Priority for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The partners have a track record of collaboration.
- The outcomes were clearly identified.
- The partners described how they have been working together on various types of projects, but they made a good case for the added-value the Capacity-Building funding will provide.
- A draft MOU was included with the application, demonstrating the partnership is serious and moving forward.

Weaknesses

- It appeared to be more agencies focused, rather than landowner focused. Reviewers were not sure how landowners would be engaged in the future.
- Reviewers recommend that rather than printing copies of the entire plan, the applicant post the plan on an appropriate website, develop a 2-4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan, and print copies of the summary as an outreach tool.

Issues of Concern:

- Reviewers were unclear why two facilitators are needed; it seems like an excessive expense. Reviewers request OWEB staff follow-up with the applicant to determine the need and if the facilitator costs could be reduced.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 5

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$137,696

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12534

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Umpqua Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$ 149,734

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Coastal Estuaries in Oregon
Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
Dry-type Forest Habitat
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Umpqua Basin Partnership consists of several nonprofit, private and agency organizations. The following are the core partners: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, Elk Creek Watershed Council, Smith River Watershed Council, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, Roseburg/Coos Bay/Medford BLM, Umpqua National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service. All of the organizations have extensive experience operating in the Umpqua Basin and possess the necessary resources and commitment to implement holistic watershed restoration activities in future.

The ecological outcomes identified by the Partnership include efforts that maintain or enhance holistic watershed processes that benefit: Aquatic habitat for all native species, Coho salmon population recovery, estuarine habitats for native species, Upland habitats for native species and Riparian habitats. -The Partnership seeks to develop an action plan for the entire basin that takes into account the long term ecological recovery of the system for native species. Funds will be used to hire a facilitator and technical contractor to complete the action plan. Additionally, funds will be utilized to pay for nonprofit and key partner staff time, action plan printing and mileage.

The development of the strategic action plan will identify and prioritized restoration efforts throughout the entire basin in a holistic approach, maximizing ecological benefits to the resource. This will allow for contiguous restoration across the checker boarded landscape of the Umpqua.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Seems like a strong committed partnership with a strong leader in the form of the applicant.
- The individual groups have been working together in some fashion for a long time and have been involved in the community.

- The applicant has made noteworthy adaptations to its oversight, governance, management, relationships with others, and role in the watershed.
- The partnership is actively searching for other sources of funding.
- The group has researched other successful groups who have developed a SAP and build partnership capacity. If funded they plan on using a similar process and established facilitator.

Weaknesses

- This is a new partnership with no formal agreements yet in place.
- The basin is large with many partners and moving parts, it is hard to predict the long-term success of this effort.
- Elevating the partnership seems key to its long-term success. The tasks associated with this activity were poorly described.
- Because the larger partnership is relatively new, reviewers wondered whether it will be able to achieve success over the long run.
- The cost for action plan and map printing (\$2,500) seems excessive; the partnership is encouraged to post the final plan on an appropriate website and to consider developing a companion 2–4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 9

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$149,184

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12535

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP)

Requested Amount: \$149,516

Board Priority Addressed:
Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP) core partners are: ODF, Fremont-Winema National Forests, NRCS, Lake and Klamath County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council and OSU) These organizations have extensive experience in restoration projects and outreach in Klamath and/or Lake Counties.

The ecological outcome identified by KLFHP is to increase the health, sustainability and productivity of dry-type conifer forests in Klamath and Lake Counties by implementing restoration treatments in high-priority watersheds. KLFHP will enhance the 2009-2011 Strategic Action Plan for Lake and Klamath Counties based on the components identified by OWEB. The KLFHP has identified the Greater Lobert Focus Area as the priority within the two counties. KLFHP will conduct landowner and community outreach and education; develop a broad communication network among agencies, landowners and other stakeholders; and identify site-specific projects with willing landowners in the Greater Lobert Focus Area. The FIP priorities identify dry-type forests to address habitat conservation and restoration at the landscape scale. Completion of the strategic action plan will allow implementation of treatments leading to ecological outputs on a greater scale than is likely without coordination by KLFHP.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The partnership has all the right entities and is seeking to reinvigorate dry-type forest restoration in the area.
- The proposal calls out roles and responsibilities of the partners. The integration with the Klamath Watershed Partnership is intriguing, and believed to be a good move for the partnership.
- This is a partnership that quietly is able to get work accomplished on the ground.

Weaknesses:

- The discussion of outcomes and metrics of success is lacking in detail.
- The project timeline is compressed (e.g., completing the strategic action plan in spring, 2016).

- There is concern that the application proposes to build the capacity of one organization (Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership) and not the group of partners that are collaborating in this effort. This is evident in the budget, where the bulk of the request is to pay for a single executive director.
- The application states that an existing strategic action plan is not utilized, and there is a concern that there is no mechanism for how an enhancement or revision of this plan would actually be used by the partners.

Issues of Concern:

- It should also be noted that the request for liability insurance (\$2,800) should not be in addition to the 10% grant administration rate as that is an example of an administrative cost.
- While the need for coordination is evident, there doesn't seem to be a plan to sustain the executive director position. In fact, it's mentioned in the application that a staff position has ebbed and flowed with available grant funding. As an alternative, the partnership could have requested funding for facilitation/enhancing the strategic action plan with some funding set aside for partner contributions to meeting and developing the plan. This could be done at a fraction of the cost and produce a plan that has partner buy-in that would be better utilized than the existing document.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 16

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12536

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Klamath Watershed Health Team

Requested Amount: \$107,425

Board Priorities Addressed:

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Klamath Watershed Health Team is made up of various stakeholders coming together with the same goal in mind; restore watershed health in the Klamath Basin to restore flows to springs, streams, and rivers to increase and improve water quality and quantity to benefit fish and wildlife and a way of life in the Klamath Basin. The core group includes Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Area Council. Our mission is to put water back in our rivers, streams, and wetlands and providing sustainable water to our agricultural communities.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The partnership identifies landowner outreach as an important first step in conducting effective watershed restoration.
- With reduced agency capacity, the partners have understandably come together to collaborate.

Weaknesses:

- The application does not provide clear information for all the application questions, at times the application is difficult to follow.
- The roles of the partners in the initiative are unclear. Nearly all of the tasks described by the partners in each budget line item are identical regardless if OWEB funding is requested or if it is a match contribution.
- Details of how a strategic action plan will be produced are lacking and not at all described in the initiative timeline.

Issues of Concern:

- The budget is almost entirely for contracted services, although much of what is included (~\$58,000) appears to better fit within salaries, wages, and benefits as it is for Klamath SWCD staff (the applicant).

- The application proposed to work in two OWEB Board Priority Area, Dry-type Forest Habitat and Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat; however the geographic area of the application does not fall within the Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat priority area.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 23

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12537

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: North Coast Collaborative- Riparian Restoration Strategy

Requested Amount: \$75,341

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The North Coast Collaborative (NCC) consists of three partner types: State and Federal agencies, watershed councils, and non-profit organizations. The councils include the Nestucca-Neskowin-Sand Lake, Tillamook Bay, Lower and Upper Nehalem, Necanicum, and the North Coast Watershed Association. The agencies include the Oregon Departments of: Forestry, Environmental Quality, Fish and Wildlife, and Agriculture; the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the US Forest Service. The nonprofits include the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, North Coast Land Conservancy, and Friends of Netarts Bay - Watershed, Estuaries, Beach and Sea (WEBS). The NCC has identified an area from the Necanicum to Neskowin watersheds as its project area. This also includes Nehalem, Tillamook Bay, Sand Lake, Netarts, and Nestucca watersheds. The NCC is focused on addressing two Focused Investment Priorities: Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast and Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. As a result, the NCC anticipates two long term ecological outcomes: improved water quality and aquatic habitats for native fish species, including Oregon Coast Coho. The first step in this effort is the development of a Strategic Action Plan and the NCC is seeking capacity-building funds to accomplish this.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Partnership appears to envision a reasonable process for completing a strategic action plan in terms of partner engagement, limited outreach, and data collection.
- Strong local partnership, which has a history of working well together, though no formal partnership agreements have been developed.
- Budget seems reasonable.

Weaknesses

- Geography is quite large and possibly unmanageable in a possible, future focused investment.
- The answer to Question 6 did not include a discussion of *why* a strategic action plan is needed, not just why it will be challenging to develop one.
- The budget requests funding for outreach, but the application had no discussion of it and how it will complement the development of a strategic action plan.

- No discussion of how governance documents will be developed.
- Partnership and geographic scope of the proposal felt very broad and reviewers were unsure of the likelihood of success.

Issues of Concern:

- The proposal did not address how the SAP would prioritize projects, development of a prioritization process seems like the biggest challenge this group would face in the development of the SAP.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 20

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12538

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

Requested Amount: \$41,250

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership consists of five core partners- Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, plus the recent addition of a secondary partner, US Forest Service. All of these partners have extensive experience operating in the Warner Basin and possess the resources necessary to implement programmatic conservation work in the future.

The ecological outcomes identified by the partnership include conserving and improving aquatic habitat by restoring habitat connectivity (passage) for native fish species in the Warner Basin, including the Warner Sucker, an ESA listed threatened species and the Warner Lakes redband trout (State of Oregon and BLM sensitive species). Our objective of developing a Strategic Action Plan is to provide guidance for all associated fish passage and screening activities in the Warner Basin that will improve aquatic habitat connectivity, and ultimately reach recovery goals for Warner sucker. The partnership will develop a Strategic Action Plan outlining priority areas and projects within the Basin. Capacity Building funds will be used to hire a contractor to organize meetings with the stakeholder groups and to write the strategic action plan. After the strategic action plan is completed, the partnership intends to apply for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation funding.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- Budget is modest and brings good leverage.
- The partners are well respected in the area and are doing meaningful work with landowners. This is informal at times, but works well in an area where a lot depends on building and maintaining relationships with landowners.
- The partners describe a good understanding of the challenges faced by the partnership.
- The partners have focused on one key issue in the basin, habitat connectivity.
- The process for developing the strategic action plan is well articulated, and identifies clear deliverables. It is obvious that the partners have spent time thinking about their needs.

Weaknesses:

- The budget contains lump sums for the facilitator/writer and it is not clear if this amount of funding will be sufficient.
- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.
- The development of a database is mentioned in the timeline, but not discussed elsewhere in the application.
- The project timeline seems rushed, it may take longer than anticipated to secure the right facilitator and develop an effective strategic action plan. The partners are encouraged to not rush this process in order to complete before the 2017-2019 FIP Implementation cycle.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 6

Board Subcommittee Summary: The Board Subcommittee (Subcommittee) discussed two aspects of the proposal, 1) the scope for the partnership's Strategic Action Plan (SAP), which appears to be focused on one limiting factor, fish barrier removal and 2) the informal nature of the partnership. The Subcommittee was concerned that completing a SAP focused on only one limiting factor did not meet the intent of the Focused Investment Partnership Capacity Building funding. The application seems like it would be a better fit for a technical assistance application through the Open Solicitation program. Staff clarified that the current partnership structure has been informal, but the partnership does propose to develop organizational documents with the FIP capacity building grant funds.

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12539

OWEB Region: Region 6

Partnership Name: John Day Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$149,613

Board Priority Addressed:
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) formed to accelerate the pace, scale, and impact of watershed restoration across the basin. Core partners that sit on the Steering Committee include the Warm Springs Tribe, Wheeler SWCD, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, The Freshwater Trust, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Land Management. In total, 20 organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as formal partners, and these groups represent the major basin restoration interests and possess the experience to execute programmatic restoration. Ecological outcomes include increased cold water and summer base flows in the system, and fully-functioning ecosystem processes that support a long-term trend of increasing populations of wild summer steelhead, spring chinook, bull trout, and other important native fish. Funds will be used to finish a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) that focuses on the watersheds that are most ripe for restoration and the actions that are most necessary to achieve outcomes. Funds will support contracting to select priority areas, design a monitoring scheme, and estimate costs and support partner capacity to compile data, set localized goals, and finalize the plan. With a complete plan, the JDBP will pursue FIP Implementation funding. Executing the plan will enable restoration in areas listed as highest and second highest priority by OWEB FIP for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is a very well written application and all the right partners are involved.
- The application indicates a mature partnership with broad support, including a Partnership Operations Manual and Partnership MOU.
- The engagement of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation is excellent, and the Tribes contribute substantially to this partnership.
- The process described for enhancing the SAP is well thought-out and should lead to a high quality SAP.
- The application and partnership are clearly focused; the partnership and SAP will concentrate on juvenile steelhead habitat restoration work.

Weaknesses

- It was unclear how this application relates to 216-8300-12540, Upper North Fork John Day Partnership.

- Output #7, estimate the cost and funding needs for an OWEB FIP, seems excessive and needs further clarification.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 2

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$149,613

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12540

OWEB Region: Region 6

Partnership Name: Upper North Fork John Day Partnership

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Upper North Fork John Day Partnership (UNFJDP), working together since 2011, consists of highly effective core partners who steward the sensitive headwaters in the northern branches of the John Day River. The group includes public, private, and tribal core partners: Bureau of Reclamation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Desolation Creek LLC, Malheur National Forest, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umatilla National Forest, and the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Additional partners will be added through Capacity Building. Together, these partners deliver ecologic outcomes, focused on the critical headwaters complex, particularly emphasizing juvenile steelhead, in alignment with OWEB's Aquatics priority. A secondary focus is the Dry Forest priority. The ecologic outcomes will: increase abundance of juvenile steelhead by 20%; replenish groundwater recharge and restore base flows for improved hydrography; measurably increase public understanding of restoration processes; share reports; and support Partners in their collective implementation of restoration actions aligned with area recovery plans. In order to achieve those ecologic outcomes, the Partnership seeks to build capacity, partially with funds sourced from OWEB, to:

1. Contract locally-based group Facilitation,
2. Hire one "Restoration Coordinator," and
3. Enhance the existing Draft Action Plan to form a final document.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The application was well written with clearly described outcomes and deliverables.
- The partnership is focusing on a very important area of the John Day Basin and a SAP would lead to future project implementation.
- The right partners are involved and seem committed to the process.

Weaknesses

- The hours and associated cost for the restoration coordinator and mileage (almost \$30,000) seem high; only costs for the position directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application did not clearly explain why the restoration coordinator could not be housed with other watershed council staff; the separate office location is not centrally located and could lead to communication challenges.
- The viability of the restoration coordinator position over the long term is unclear (i.e., how the position will be supported).
- It is unclear how this project and the restoration coordinator position fit into the overall plan for the watershed council.

Issues of Concern:

- Some proposed activities are ineligible under a FIP capacity building grant, including landowner recruitment for future restoration, design of future restoration projects, and collection of new data.
- The projects relationship to application 216-8300-12539, John Day Basin Partnership, was unclear.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 14

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: \$0

2015-2017 FIP Implementation Applications
 Focused Investment Subcommittee Funding Recommendation

Rank	Partnership	Requested amount	Percent reduction	Reduction	Subcommittee recommended amount
1	The Deschutes Partnership	\$ 4,000,000	10%	\$ 400,000	\$ 3,600,000
2	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group	\$ 2,550,000	7.8%	\$ 198,900	\$ 2,351,100
3	Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative	\$ 1,780,000	7%	\$ 124,600	\$ 1,655,400
4	Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties	\$ 2,171,000	7%	\$ 151,970	\$ 2,019,030
5	Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration	\$ 1,660,000	7%	\$ 116,200	\$ 1,543,800
6	Upper Grande Ronde Initiative	\$ 1,722,000	7%	\$ 120,540	\$ 1,601,460
7	Sandy River Basin Partners	\$ 2,810,000	N/A	\$ -	\$ -
8	Millicoma Forks Coastal Coho Restoration Partnership	\$ 1,780,000	N/A	\$ -	\$ -
9	McKenzie Collaborative	\$ 1,850,000	N/A	\$ -	\$ -
	Total	\$ 20,323,000		\$ 1,112,210	\$ 12,770,790
				FIP Implementation line item	12,750,000
				Difference	\$ 20,790

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:
The Deschutes Partnership
2. Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
3. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$4,000,000	\$5,750,000
Biennium 2	\$4,000,000	\$6,566,000
Biennium 3	\$4,000,000	\$3,887,000
Total	\$12,000,000	\$16,203,000

4. Phase II Application Strengths:
 - The proposed geography is reasonable, the partnership is experienced, and the application is well developed.
 - Outcomes align with those proposed in the strategic plan and support the Board priority.
 - The core partnership entities are capable of implementing and monitoring. The entities have the requisite expertise to deliver the proposed actions and strategies.
 - The partnership has good momentum and the proposal would build on their previous work.
 - Reviewers believe that many of the restoration actions presented should have long-term benefits (i.e., permanently conserved instream water and restoration on properties that have permanent protections).
 - Passage at Opal Springs, which is included in this proposal, is critical to reintroduction success in the basin.
 - Reviewers believe that accomplishment of the actions and strategies in this application can “move the dial” toward the achievement of the desired ecological outcomes.
5. Phase II Application Weaknesses:
 - Although the application itself was well written, the proposal lacked sufficient detail in the work plan and budget in order for the reviewers to fully consider the proposed activities.
 - In the initiative work plan, the outputs and metrics for water conserved instream, measured as cubic feet per second (cfs), do not align with the stated targets listed as proposed actions, nor do they align with the target of 18.9 cfs stated in the application.
 - The discussion of streamflow conservation and the associated cfs targets had Whychus Creek and Crooked River watersheds lumped together, making it difficult to ascertain what would be accomplished in each watershed.
 - Reviewers questioned why habitat restoration was not identified as an initiative action to be implemented in the Lower Crooked River.
 - The baseline conditions discussion (page 10) was not well developed. The limiting factors, baseline and needs were not tied directly to a planning document such that the statements could be verified. Reviewers could not understand what the overall needs are (i.e., streamflow) and how much progress this proposed initiative will make toward achieving those targets.
 - Reviewers believe that outreach needs to be targeted to landowners in critical sections of the basin rather than the proposed general community outreach.
 - The requested budget of this partnership continues to be the highest of all the proposals. Although it is acknowledged that the partnership’s strategies and actions are ambitious and expensive to

implement, reviewers noted that the proposed work plan focused exclusively on reintroduction of ESA-listed species, the success of which is dependent upon actions beyond the partnership's control, and lacked details regarding benefits to other native species.

6. Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):
 - Reviewers continue to have questions regarding the likelihood of successful reintroduction in relationship to impacts from outside of the initiative's proposed geography, particularly issues related to the operation and management of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric.
 - Reviewers continue to have questions related to reintroduction efforts within the proposed geography and how the partnership is adapting its strategies to remain current.
 - Monitoring and evaluation metrics need improvement. Reviewers would like to see a discussion in the application of how fish are responding in terms of density and abundance, and reviewers believe these types of metrics should be included in the partnership's monitoring strategies.
 - Reviewers would appreciate a more robust discussion of other species that use the system and that could benefit from these proposed actions (i.e., bull trout).
7. Rating of Phase II Application: HIGH (–)
8. Summary of Phase I Evaluation:

The application was well written, limiting factors are well identified, and the strategies and actions proposed are generally accurate to address those limiting factors. The partnership has a long and positive track record of developing sound project technical design, implementing restoration programs, and using effective monitoring strategies. Primary critiques revolved around the lack of specificity in the application for reviewers to adequately understand the likelihood of achieving significant ecological outcomes that can positively impact reintroduction efforts. These questions include but are not limited to: fish return data and how this information influences where restoration and conservation work occurs; federal legislation related to flows in the Crooked River; issues related to the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Complex; and how the partnership's work is strategized and coordinated with the specific reintroduction efforts occurring in the basin.
9. Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating: HIGH (–)
10. Board Subcommittee Discussion
 - The reintroduction of anadromous fish in the Upper Deschutes is significant.
 - Fish passage at Opal Springs is critical.
 - Articulated outcomes were excellent
 - Strong partnership and track record.
 - Concern over how management at Pelton-Round Butte will impact reintroduction efforts.
 - Concern about reducing the budget; Opal Springs should not be impacted.
 - Timing is a concern; maintain momentum to prioritize Opal Springs.
11. Board Subcommittee Ranking: 1 of 9
12. Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund at a reduced amount of \$3,600,000 for the 2015-2017 biennium.

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:

Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats (Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group)

2. Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

3. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$2,555,000	\$3,860,000
Biennium 2	\$2,430,000	\$2,090,000
Biennium 3	\$2,180,000	\$1,110,000
Total	\$7,160,000	\$7,060,000

4. Phase II Application Strengths:

- Application was well written.
- Strong organizational capacity and partnership; signed agreements; strong letters of support.
- Focus is on the highest priority anchor habitats determined through a Nature Conservancy multi-partner effort.
- Good momentum. Builds on previous work and tests whether an anchor habitat approach can produce measureable results/impact on such a large river system.
- Outcomes align with those proposed in the strategic plan and support the Board priority.
- Strong linkages with other, existing basin efforts.
- Incorporation of the SLICES framework into project identification, prioritization, and success tracking at the river reach scale is a plus.
- Solid multiple species benefits.
- Though west side tributaries may not be a priority, practitioners have done significant work at confluence sites.
- Independent review of their monitoring plan.
- Monitoring section lays out hypotheses, which helped reviewers "connect the dots."
- Many areas are already in protected status (e.g., state parks).

5. Phase II Application Weaknesses:

- Specific monitoring metrics and outcomes are lacking. There are no baseline metrics, and therefore, a lack of target setting for outputs. Simple metrics, which appear in the action plan, would have strengthened the application discussion.
- Specifics of the work plan deliverables are unclear.
- Fish monitoring is weak; doesn't appear to be coordinated with ODFW. Doesn't connect to trends in adult fish monitoring and instead seems to defer to what OSU/UO *might* develop.
- Unclear if working only on protected lands. Are all landowners lined up for the first biennium?
- Outreach is not focused on recruiting new landowners since projects are already in the pipeline. What is the opportunity for new projects that arise to enter the pipeline?

6. Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- Considerable work went into identifying the anchor habitats; a FIP investment would help see this work through. Consequently, there is a compelling need to document along the way what worked/did not work and lessons learned.
- Invasive fish species are a growing problem. Not all side-channel restoration is necessarily a good thing as those restored areas can attract invasive, as well as native fish. The partnership would do well to focus such efforts in cold water refuge sites and work to find other such areas.
- The partnership could consider a strategic focus on one anchor habitat, rather than actions spread across multiple anchor habitats.
- The individual practitioners are strong, but the partnership is relatively new and untested. The partnership is encouraged to deepen its working relationships, add new partners as appropriate over time, and put strategic interests above all. Organizational accountability and strong leadership will be key.
- The “right” funding sources are currently at the table and match is strong; however, work on the Willamette is complex and expensive. The basin is rich in resources and the partnership is encouraged to continue cultivating and developing new, significant funding partnerships and other types of partnerships.
- The partnership would benefit from opening a dialogue with private landowners to develop best approaches for a cohesive outreach strategy.

7. Rating of Phase II Application: HIGH -

8. Summary of Phase I Evaluation: The application outlined reasonable and appropriate measurable ecological outcomes that the partnership will pursue in addressing the Board-approved priority. The strategic action plan was strong, but neglected to identify SMART objectives, which the applicant remedied in Phase 2. On the strength of the Phase 1 application, the partnership was invited to submit a Phase 2 application.

9. Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating: HIGH (-)

10. Board Subcommittee Discussion

- Rich in data, SLICES is excellent; they know what they need to do and where.
- Strong partnership with a solid track record.
- Anchor Habitats as an organizing, prioritizing framework is a plus.
- Concern about how much the “ecological dial” will be turned in such a large geography.
- Appreciates that the partnership is not trying to tackle the entire mainstem, but instead, is focusing on the “necklace” of Anchor Habitats.

11. Board Subcommittee Ranking: 2 of 9

12. Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund at a reduced amount of \$2,351,100 for the 2015-2017 biennium

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:** Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):** Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,780,000	\$2,580,000
Biennium 2	\$1,970,000	\$2,290,000
Biennium 3	\$2,500,000	\$5,400,000
Total	\$6,250,000	\$10,270,000

4. **Phase II Application Strengths:**

- The scale of the initiative is appropriate with clear linkages to work on federal land (Malheur National Wildlife Refuge).
- Strong community outreach plan.
- The balance of the budget is well structured with initial focus on technical assistance leading to on-the-ground work as the partners gather information and prioritize work.
- The partners have identified the primary threat in the area (carp) and have clearly identified the actions necessary to control carp in a staged manner.
- The attached carp management plan that was requested with the Phase I evaluation highlights and discusses several actions that the partnership may take to address carp control.
- Good discussion of how adaptive management will be utilized for both carp control and enhancing wet meadow habitats.
- Landowner support for working lands easements appears to be high.
- Work plan is well thought out and clearly covers all elements.
- The partnership is diverse and has been working together for several years.
- The partnership is clearly thinking of the ecological, social, and economic outcomes of their initiative.
- Excellent leverage demonstrated, with innovative sources of funding (e.g., revenue from carp harvest).

5. **Phase II Application Weaknesses:**

- The request has increased ~\$750,000 from Phase I to Phase II, yet the acreage identified for wet meadow enhancement has decreased by 3,800 acres.
- A better discussion of why past efforts to control carp (e.g., rotenone treatments) failed would strengthen the application. Particularly lessons learned from these past efforts.
- Securing working lands easements is an important element of the work plan, yet it is not clear who will hold the easements.
- A discussion on accounting for drought in the project area was lacking.
- Installation of piezometers on private land is expensive. Vegetation health would be a preferable surrogate.

6. Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- There is a concern that high levels of methylmercury exist in the Great Basin, and that this may cause neurological problems with migratory birds (particularly shorebirds). Partners should be aware of this issue, and consider working with USGS to monitor methylmercury and potential impacts to birds in the focus area.
- The incentive for irrigators to transition to sprinkler systems versus updating flood-irrigation infrastructure is a challenge that the partnership faces to maintain surrogate wetlands.
- It will be important for partners to prioritize landowners that are utilizing flood irrigation on flat areas near streams.
- It will be important for the partners to contact the Oregon Water Resources Department Watermaster on all irrigation issues.
- This initiative has particularly strong economic linkages with agriculture and tourism. It would be beneficial for the partners to consider studying the economic value of the work proposed to the local community.

7. Rating of Phase II Application: High (-)

8. Summary of Phase I Evaluation: Strengths identified in the Phase I evaluation included a strong partnership with impressive on-the-ground accomplishments, demonstrated strategic thinking with the scope of the initiative, an excellent Strategic Action Plan, and clear momentum to continue complex work. Weaknesses identified in the Phase I evaluation included the difficulties associated with effective long-term carp control, the lack of a third-party conservation easement holder in the focus area, and some concern with the ability to make meaningful change given the nature of complex projects and drought associated with climate change. The partnership was invited by the Board Subcommittee to submit a Phase II application.

9. Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating: High (-)

10. Board Subcommittee Discussion

- Iconic wetland (Malheur) and an extremely important international flyway and waterfowl area. Any investment here will be beneficial.
- Science-based; targeted investments in priority areas.
- Public-private initiative is a plus; it could be a model for socio-economic success.
- Exceptionally strong partnership.
- Concern that the FIP might be premature based on how much is set aside in the budget for technical assistance. Would prefer to see a more "shovel-readiness."
- Carp removal has been challenging, long-term success for this type of work is uncertain.

11. Board Subcommittee Ranking: 3 of 9

12. Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund at a reduced amount of \$1,655,400 for the 2015-2017 biennium.

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:** Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):** Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$2,171,000	\$1,588,500
Biennium 2	\$2,355,250	\$460,000
Biennium 3	\$473,732	\$228,000
Total	\$5,000,000	\$2,276,500

4. Phase II Application Strengths:

- The geographic focus is improved from the Phase I application, and aligns with sage-grouse core areas and ongoing planning efforts.
- Work on private land will augment restoration efforts in adjacent federal land and address threats at a landscape scale.
- Good partnerships with relevant agencies and demonstrated landowner support in focus areas.
- The goals, objectives, actions, and deliverables are clearly defined in the initiative. Proposed restoration actions are appropriate for sagebrush/sage-steppe restoration efforts. The goals are ambitious, but believed to be achievable.
- Partners appear to have the organizational capacity to deliver in the narrowed focus areas.
- Diverse set of match funding is almost entirely secured and the partners have a proven track record at obtaining outside sources of funding.

5. Phase II Application Weaknesses:

- While the geographic focus is narrowed, the application would benefit from a better explanation as to why these areas were selected by the partnership as opposed to other priority areas in Lake, Harney, and Malheur counties.
- The stated goal of enrolling 40% of privately owned sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat in CCAAs by September 30th, 2017 has unclear ecological benefits, as the rationale for selecting 40% (as opposed to another percentage) was not clearly stated. It is also vague how these private lands will be prioritized.
- An analysis of baseline information is not well described in the application and it is unclear as to who is responsible for monitoring. A lot of monitoring information is available and was not included in the application.
- The description of adaptive management is weak in the application, as no threshold values are identified that would trigger adaptive management. Targets should be clearly defined so that trend monitoring is effective, and there is a way to measure success.
- The level of specificity for the actions should be finer. For example, will the 14,680 acres of juniper removal be spread across the focus areas or concentrated in discrete locations?
- It is unclear the role each partner plays in the initiative, a structural framework of the partnership would strengthen the application. There is also a concern about how the Districts that are not involved in the Phase II application, yet still listed in the Strategic Action Plan, will remain a part of the overall partnership.

- 6. Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):**
- Working lands easements are discussed as a tool in the Strategic Action Plan, but there is a question as to what entity would hold conservation easements in this area.
 - Will the determination by USFWS that protection for sage-grouse under the ESA is no longer warranted have an adverse effect on landowner enrollments and completing CCAAs?
 - Descriptions of what livestock grazing regimes are compatible with sage-grouse, and at what utilization rates, are important issues for the partners to consider.
 - Successful restoration in warmer, drier portions of the sagebrush ecosystem is challenging and the initiative should be structured in a way that high-risk habitats are protected, and knowledge gained from restoration in these areas is shared with other practitioners.
 - As the scale and scope of treatments in the sagebrush ecosystem increases, will there be sufficient contractor capacity to meet demand?
- 7. Rating of Phase II Application:** Medium (+)
- 8. Summary of Phase I Evaluation:** Strengths identified in the Phase I evaluation included the discussion of conservation needs and the approach towards developing and implementing CCAAs in the partnering counties. The partnership was seen as strong and involving the right entities. The Strategic Action Plan included a good discussion on monitoring, and significant match was secured for the initiative. Weaknesses identified in the Phase I evaluation included the lack of coordination with restoration efforts on federal land, the distribution of funding across the focus areas which appeared broad and not entirely strategic, the unclear process for how landowners will be recruited, and not distinguishing roles and responsibilities of the partners. The partnership was invited by the Board Subcommittee to submit a Phase II application. However, the Subcommittee also requested that certain identified weaknesses with the application be addressed in the Phase II application.
- 9. Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating:** Medium (+)
- 10. Board Subcommittee Discussion**
- Ecologically important and contributing to a big difference in the community.
 - Big improvement from the Phase 1 application to the Phase 2; this speaks well of the partnership.
 - Impressive turnout of partners at the subcommittee meeting.
 - The transition in the community from four years ago, when ODFW first started working on a sage grouse plan, is phenomenal; we need to continue to encourage the effort.
 - This is a science-based, historic effort that will provide regulatory certainty for all.
 - OWEB has made a commitment to the State and to the region; the partnership deserves our support.
 - The Fish and Wildlife Service's five-year review associated with the determination not to list sage grouse under ESA protections is the driver, and will keep the partnership on a steady course.
 - Strong model of collaboration.
- 11. Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 4 of 9
- 12. Board Subcommittee Recommendation:** Fund at a reduced amount of \$2,019,030 for the 2015-2017 biennium.

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:** Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):** Dry-type Forest Habitat
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,660,000	\$3,880,000
Biennium 2	\$2,340,000	\$1,740,000
Biennium 3	\$2,000,000	\$1,580,000
Total	\$6,000,000	\$7,200,000

4. **Phase II Application Strengths:**

- The Phase II application better describes how ecological outcomes will be met through forest restoration activities.
- Good utilization of existing conservation plans and strategies.
- The discussion of natural range of variability as it relates to fire in this area provides useful context.
- Excellent use of monitoring hypotheses that can be monitored and will lead to adaptive management.
- Tying oak restoration to conifer treatments in the target area is beneficial from an ecological and community outreach perspective.
- 1,000 private acres already enrolled in the initiative is an important first step, and if this level of landowner recruitment is sustained, the partners can easily meet their acreage goals.
- The secured contributions through the City of Ashland utility rate increases dedicated to watershed restoration are critical and demonstrate unusually high community support.
- The leverage from federal partners (e.g., Two Chiefs' Joint Landscape Initiative and U.S. Forest Service) show the initiative is working on a true "all-lands" approach.
- The work plan and budget contain a good mix of restoration action, project development, monitoring, and capacity building.

5. **Phase II Application Weaknesses:**

- Landowner and community outreach deliverables are vague. How many landowners need to be involved to make this initiative effective? Will the initiative target landowners with large acreages, numerous small acreage landowners, or both?
- The number of treatment acres funded through an OWEB FIP is unclear.
- While the applicant has reduced the OWEB request, the cost per acre remains high.
- There appears to be some misalignment between the work plan and the budget. For example GIS modeling and prioritization is listed as an action in the 1st biennium, but does not show up in the budget until the 2nd biennium. In the work plan, GIS modeling and prioritization is not listed as an action in the 2nd biennium.
- There are concerns that all the leverage in the 2nd and 3rd biennia are listed as secure and whether federal partners can commit to that.

6. Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- The tie in to aquatic health would benefit from further discussion. Specifically how will forest restoration in the target area lead to water quality or habitat improvements?
- Lomakatsi is a strong partner with community support. However, as the lead partner on the majority of actions, they will need additional capacity.
- If native seeding is utilized, the partners should monitor effectiveness as this is a controversial action which may not be needed.
- Treating 28% of the landscape is bordering on the threshold of effectiveness and the applicant did not address whether treatments would occur mainly near roads and trails, and minimize treating ridgetops as was suggested in the Phase I evaluation.
- It is encouraged that the partners monitor benefits to wildlife (e.g., Northern Spotted Owl and Pacific Fisher) in treatment areas.
- When prioritization efforts are underway, the initiative would benefit by prioritizing landowner outreach in a way that allows them to target landowners in high priority areas and not treat opportunistically.
- While the ecological focus is tighter in the Phase II application, concerns remain that symptoms are being treated with forest thinning, and the initiative needs to work toward restoring ecosystem functions, so that this work will not need to be repeated every 20 years.

7. Rating of Phase II Application: High -

8. Summary of Phase I Evaluation: Strengths identified in the Phase I evaluation included the high functioning partnership, high degree of community support, innovative match, and reasonable actions within the designated timeframe. Weaknesses identified in the Phase I evaluation included how forest treatments would lead to ecological outcomes, outreach details, overall cost per acre of the initiative, and whether the partnership could deliver on private lands in a strategic manner. The partnership was invited by the Board Subcommittee to submit a Phase II application.

9. Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating: High (-)

10. Board Subcommittee Discussion

- Impressive organization, leverage of resources.
- Significant community involvement; a potential model to restore dry-type forests and to be self-reliant over time.
- Strong partnership and good collaboration with a track record; good model for work across a large landscape.
- Not much from a fish and wildlife perspective, but we need to “test drive” some of these programs to determine if they are effective.

11. Board Subcommittee Ranking: 5 of 9

12. Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund at the reduced amount of \$1,543,800 for the 2015-2017 biennium.

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:** Upper Grande Ronde Initiative
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):** Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,722,000	\$9,381,000
Biennium 2	\$2,416,500	\$17,795,000
Biennium 3	\$2,777,000	\$17,803,000
Total	\$6,915,500	\$44,979,000

4. **Phase II Application Strengths:**

- Well-developed partnerships, including Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Columbian River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation, US Forest Service, and Bonneville Power Administration. The Freshwater Trust will assist with acquisitions/water leasing. Partners have been working collaboratively for over 20 years.
- Well-developed priorities that are based on limiting factor analysis and existing recovery plan documents.
- The Atlas document for Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde is an excellent tool. The Atlas utilizes existing scientific data, current research evidence, and current knowledge of local biologists to create a strategic, collaborative, and prioritized habitat implementation plan. The initiative focuses on Biologically Significant Reaches.
- Highly leveraged initiative.
- Good sustainability strategy: adequately fund maintenance and use conservation easements in key locations.
- Good adaptive management process through monthly partner meetings.
- The MOU clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of each of the core partners as they relate to implementation of the Upper Grande Ronde partnership.
- Implementing CHaMP (Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program) for site-scale monitoring and PHaMS (Physical Habitat Monitoring Strategy) for reach-scale monitoring.

5. **Phase II Application Weaknesses:**

- It is difficult to determine the context for this work. What has been accomplished to date and what does the monitoring data show? How has the previous work changed the baseline and what is the new baseline?
- Need to better connect the dots in the monitoring data and monitoring plan.
- It is not clear how many landowners are lined up for project implementation.
- The application mentions that BPA and BOR are unable to supply adequate design resources, yet the budget has very little design funds (\$85,000 in biennium 1).
- Need better linkage between proposed actions and limiting factors.

6. **Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):**
 - Outreach plan is vague; budget includes \$60,000 for 0.5 FTE outreach position.
 - It is unclear whether constructed alcoves will be self-sustaining.
 - Will water efficiency projects result in protected in-stream water rights?
7. **Rating of Phase II Application:** Medium (+)
8. **Summary of Phase I Evaluation:** Strengths identified in the Phase I evaluation included clearly defined partner roles and responsibilities, good leverage, clear and detailed objectives, and clearly defined priorities expressed by stream reach with respect to limiting factors. Weaknesses included success evaluation, adaptive management, and sustainability. The Phase I evaluation recommended, including PHaMS, which the partnership included in the Phase II application. The Board Subcommittee invited a Phase II implementation application.
9. **Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating:** Medium (+)
10. **Board Subcommittee Discussion**
 - Well-written application, the Atlas is an excellent tool for strategic prioritization and implementation.
 - Good structure/organization; exceptionally strong and disciplined partnership.
 - Strong partnership, track record, community engagement.
 - Excellent match funding that ensures the work will be accomplished with or without FIP funding; FIP funding will accelerate the pace of implementation.
 - Cost-benefit is terrific; the work will move the “ecological dial” better here than in other FIPs.
11. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 6 of 9
12. **Board Subcommittee Recommendation:** Fund at a reduced amount of \$1,601,460 for the 2015-2017 biennium.

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:**
Sandy River Fish Habitat Restoration (Sandy River Basin Partners)
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):**
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$2,810,000	\$1,770,000
Biennium 2	\$2,440,000	\$2,000,000
Biennium 3	\$3,700,000	\$1,720,000
Total	\$8,950,000	\$5,490,000

4. **Phase II Application Strengths:**
 - A clear stronghold for recovery of ESA-listed fish species.
 - Manageable geography, three priority areas.
 - Builds on prior and ongoing efforts.
 - Strong track record of putting work on the ground.
 - The proposed FIP provides a unique opportunity to finish a plan, identify the strengths/weaknesses of the Ecosystem Diagnostic and Treatment (EDT) approach to inform future strategic planning processes based on models, and provide information to establish realistic expectations for timeframes for restoring watersheds.
 - Proposed restoration and project prioritization are grounded in an accepted scientific tool (EDT).
 - The partners are clearly thinking about how to get at watershed restoration.
 - With the removal of Marmot Dam in 2007, this is now a mostly barrier-free system, potentially allowing for real fish gains.
5. **Phase II Application Weaknesses:**
 - EDT is a model whose outputs imply a greater degree of precision than can be reasonably expected of a model and should be applied in conjunction with follow-up monitoring
 - While the application includes robust modeling and analysis, it does not appear to “connect the dots” with respect to improving processes. For example, how do the many proposed in-stream wood placements affect sediment recruitment and habitat restoration in dynamic river segments?
 - Why are the current floodplain channels not currently activated, and how will the proposed actions affect floodplain activation?
 - Restoring year-round flow in side channels seems unrealistic given that side-channel flow is typically seasonal.
 - It is unclear, especially in the mainstem Sandy, what maintenance will be required for the proposed actions.
 - Unclear whether this is in fact a high-performing partnership or a loose consortium of independent players. The application does not provide much insight on how the partnership works together (e.g., governance, leadership, decision-making, etc.). What process is used by the subcommittee that identifies and prioritizes projects? How would it manage adaptively in the event of a budget reduction? In the event of a project setback?
 - The adaptive management discussion should include lessons learned, if any, from failed instream wood structures.

- The monitoring plan should include more robust temperature, fine sediment, fish, and in-stream wood effectiveness monitoring.
- The Outreach discussion should include what has occurred to date, especially in the lower watershed, and what lessons, if any, have been learned.

6. Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- Are the proposed actions the highest priority, the ones that will “move the dial” on fish recovery in this watershed? Reviewers expressed the following two concerns:
 - ~ The lower watershed (mainstem Sandy) is much more problematic from an ecological and social perspective than the upper watershed (Salmon and Still creeks), which is mostly intact. The lower watershed requires attention in the social realm of working to prevent further development in the floodplain and illegal water withdrawals.
 - ~ There appears to be a disconnect between the relative good health of the upper watershed and the needs identified by the EDT analysis.
- The application should address how levees and existing side channels affect river process issues. River dynamism has been important historically to fish production in the Sandy, and may preclude the need for instream wood in some locations.
- Effectiveness monitoring needs to be more rigorous. Past monitoring of instream structures has shown a rise in fish use, but this monitoring did not include fish productivity.
- Ultimately, the review determined that while this Sandy Basin has high potential as an important fish-recovery area, the proposed approach and activities appear to focus on addressing the symptoms, rather than the root causes of limiting factors.

7. Rating of Phase II Application: MEDIUM

8. Summary of Phase I Evaluation: The application outlined reasonable and appropriate measurable ecological outcomes that the partnership will pursue in addressing the Board-approved priority. The strategic action plan was strong. Leveraging capacity is high. On the strength of the Phase 1 application, the partnership was invited to submit a Phase 2 application. Though the partners have a long history of collaborating, the application is light on detail about partnership processes and lessons learned. The leadership element is vague.

9. Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating: MEDIUM

10. Board Subcommittee Discussion

- Strong partnership, good track record, potential to turn the “ecological dial.”
- Better bang for the buck elsewhere.

11. Board Subcommittee Ranking: 7 of 9

12. Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do Not Fund

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:**
Millicoma Forks Coastal Coho Restoration Partnership
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):**
Coho Habitat and populations along the Oregon Coast
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,780,000	\$1,870,000
Biennium 2	\$1,540,000	\$780,000
Biennium 3	\$2,660,000	\$1,130,000
Total	\$5,980,000	\$3,780,000

4. **Phase II Application Strengths:**
 - The proposal correctly references applicable plans, including the NOAA Fisheries' Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Recovery Plan.
 - The application materials demonstrate that the partnership has a good understanding of the system's limiting factors.
 - The prioritization methods used in the Supplemental Action Plan for the Millicoma River Forks are sound; in particular, the prioritization process for instream habitat complexity was well developed.
 - The partnership correctly identified Marlow Road as the key problem for addressing sediment in the West Fork Millicoma River. The application and SAP deal well with the sediment issue in the system. The actions presented in the application dealing with roads will begin to address the limiting factor for sediment.
 - Implementation of the actions in the proposal would move the Millicoma toward the tipping point in terms of high quality habitat. There is a lot of potential for getting the system closer to high intrinsic potential targets and thus significantly increasing coho.
 - The Coos Watershed Association has demonstrated good data collection, monitoring, adaptive management and the ability to implement. The expectation is that this would continue under a FIP Implementation Initiative, including the metrics and monitoring proposed in this application.
 - The budget is realistic and targeted almost entirely toward on-the-ground restoration. Substantial leverage will be brought to the initiative.
5. **Phase II Application Weaknesses:**
 - Experts felt that the application did not articulate how the proposed actions would address the broken natural processes in the system, and they felt this was particularly true for the limiting factor of instream complexity.
 - Engineered log jams in the mainstem of the east and west forks could be valuable for short term gains toward instream complexity as a limiting factor, but questions remain as to the longevity of the log jams. Reviewers question whether the restoration actions being proposed for instream complexity will address the underlying broken natural processes in a manner that would solidify the gains as long term.
 - There were questions related to the fish passage component of the proposal which were not as well developed compared to sediment and instream complexity discussions.

- The lead partner, Coos Watershed Association, lacks a permanent Executive Director, raising questions about the stability/capacity of the partnership.

6. Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):

- The forthcoming change in ownership related to some of the Common School Fund lands in the Elliot State Forest leaves uncertainty related to the potentially new or changed impacts to natural processes in the system.
- Concern remains that paving haul roads, such as Marlow Road, will result in increased timber harvest with unknown consequences to the Coos watershed, including increased sediment.
- There continues to be uncertainty as to why the East and West Forks of the Millicoma were prioritized over other portions of the Coos Watershed.

7. Rating of Phase II Application: MEDIUM (+)

- 8. Summary of Phase I Evaluation:** The proposed initiative is an appropriate scale, scope, and pace for the FIP program. The proposed initiative has the potential to measurably improve habitat for Coho and other fish and wildlife, and the partners have a long history of successful implementation. Concerns centered around the recent departure of the Coos Watershed Association's Executive Director, whether the partnership meets the requirements of the FIP program, and outstanding questions related to the projects that will underpin the initiative application. Additionally, because the SAP was a compilation of two separate documents written at different times and for different purposes, there were disconnects in prioritization rationale, particularly related to why the Millicoma Forks were selected over an area lower in the system and whether the initiative was a greater benefit to Coho or chinook.

9. Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating: MEDIUM

10. Board Subcommittee Discussion

- The scale may be too small, but it's a worthy project, focused on Coho.
- Strong partnership, even with the recent departure of their long-term executive director.
- Coos Watershed Association has a strong implementation record; projects provide a good cost/benefit.
- Good relationship with Weyerhaeuser; need to support such relationships where they occur.
- Concern that OWEB might be putting money into correcting "legal" harvesting activities in riparian areas.

11. Board Subcommittee Ranking: 8 of 9

12. Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do Not Fund

FIP Implementation Application Review Summary

1. **Name of Focused Investment Partnership Initiative:**
McKenzie River Native Fish and Water Quality Initiative (McKenzie Collaborative)
2. **Initiative connection to Board-identified Priority(ies):**
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
3. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Leverage
Biennium 1	\$1,850,000	\$3,550,000
Biennium 2	\$2,000,000	\$2,320,000
Biennium 3	\$2,000,000	\$2,800,000
Total	\$5,850,000	\$8,670,000

4. **Phase II Application Strengths:**
 - The link between limiting factors and proposed work is strong.
 - Good use of existing strategies (e.g., Oregon Conservation Strategy).
 - Match is excellent.
 - Partnership is motivated and diverse.
 - Application clearly calls out barriers (e.g., dams, fragmented landownership preventing Voluntary Incentives Program [VIP] from having significant impacts), and describes activities that present opportunities for the partnership.
 - The proposal offers an opportunity to test how linking drinking water and habitat restoration as dual benefits could engage landowners/communities more effectively.
5. **Phase II Application Weaknesses:**
 - Many partnership elements appear to be pending. The partnership is largely untested in the implementation of large-scale projects.
 - Some activities proposed in the application are already under way or are being implemented by others (e.g., hatchery carcass placement).
 - No information is provided on transport capacity, current imbalances, or how plans for instream wood will affect gravel augmentation.
 - A lot of activities are being proposed, which gives the application a shotgun feel, and detail on these activities and a rationale are generally lacking. For example, are there lasting benefits to loading wood into the good habitat above the dams? How valuable is it to augment gravel below Cougar Dam, only to have it trapped at Leaburg Dam lower in the system?
 - More discussion was needed of permanent protections – easements and fee title acquisitions.
 - There is no nexus in the application between watershed health and water quantity.
 - SLICES is an important tool, but probably not at this scale.
 - Outreach plan seems passive overall. Connection of youth-related outreach is vague and unclear how it is a critical element to achieving FIP outcomes.
6. **Phase II Application Issues of Concern (not weaknesses, but issues where additional information or discussion may be needed):**
 - Many of the proposed activities, while helpful, are non-sustaining (e.g., loading gravel, instream wood structures, carcass placement), and therefore, offer low confidence that real ecological gains can be had.

- While it is generally a good idea to restore habitat below dams, the goal of restoring 6,000-8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) below Cougar Dam is probably unrealistic. The goal is highly dependent on actions taken by the Corps of Engineers at the dam, which are unlikely to occur anytime soon.
- The VIP program is innovative, but it is unclear how the applicant arrived at the figure of 600 landowners the partnership expects to recruit. Since the program must rely on willing landowners, it seems quite opportunistic.
- The monitoring discussion does not seem to be well-connected to ecological outcomes (e.g., barrier removals). How does the proposed monitoring connect up to moving toward outcomes over time and space?
- The lower watershed is the area of real need where some fish rearing occurs; it should be the focus of all practitioners in the watershed.
- Reviewers felt that without fish passage, the “dial” cannot be moved far in this watershed. The proposed activities, while helpful, cannot restore vital processes; rather, they can only patch a hole.

7. Rating of Phase II Application: MEDIUM

8. Summary of Phase I Evaluation: The application outlined reasonable and appropriate measurable ecological outcomes that the partnership will pursue in addressing the Board-approved priority. The partnership has a long history of collaboration and landowner engagement through the VIP. The strategic action plan was strong. Leverage was very strong. On the strength of the Phase 1 application, the partnership was invited to submit a Phase 2 application.

9. Combined Phase I and Phase II Rating: MEDIUM

10. Board Subcommittee Discussion

- Strong partnership, trying to protect a unique ecosystem, creative Voluntary Incentives Program (VIP).
- The McKenzie River is a hugely important source of cold water to the Willamette.
- From a fisheries perspective, the ability to move the “ecological dial” is limited.
- The scale seems large (5 of 7 sub-watersheds) with lots of different work.
- No real stand-out element in this proposal compared to the others.

11. Board Subcommittee Ranking: 9 of 9

12. Board Subcommittee Recommendation: Do Not Fund



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Governor’s Priorities Funding Request
January 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting



I. Introduction

Staff request the Board approve investments totaling \$1 million from the Governor’s Priorities line item in the spending plan to support focused work on the Clean Water Partnership, Coast Coho Salmon Habitat, Sage Grouse/Sage Steppe Habitat (SageCon), and Working Farm and Ranch Long-Term Conservation Tools. Background on the spending plan line item and each of the requests is provided below.

II. Background on the Governor’s Priorities Spending Plan Line Item

As Oregon seeks to remain on the leading edge of voluntary conservation, there are often landscape-scale initiatives that warrant additional focus and attention. Oregon’s governors, including Governor Brown, recognize the importance of strong coordination and high level leadership to ensure these priority initiatives are implemented successfully.

To support this work, the OWEB Board has established a ‘Governor’s Priorities’ spending plan line item. Like any other investment, grants funded through this line item must comply with Oregon’s Constitution and statutes. The mechanism for selecting grants and grantees differs, however. Rather than soliciting grants through a responsive process, these grants are designed intentionally to spur either innovation or action around a priority issue for Oregon and the Governor. Past investments have helped to support a range of important priorities, including salmon strongholds, Oregon Plan monitoring, and forest collaborative development, among other key issues.

III. Clean Water Partnership

In the 2015 Legislative Session, the Governor’s Recommended Budget proposed a coordinated, multi-agency investment to direct existing federal and state conservation funding to areas where it will result in the greatest water quality and watershed health improvements. A number of initiatives are moving forward, including the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs), for which the OWEB Board approved funding in October, and increased water quality monitoring and interagency coordination. The CWP involves OWEB, the departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality, and Fish and Wildlife, and USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. To date, the Board has approved \$250,000 for the CWP.

To support the CWP, the Governor's Office requests \$300,000 from the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2015-17 spending plan. This funding will help to build a comprehensive framework that will directly support regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to improving water quality on agricultural lands in Oregon.

IV. Coast Coho Salmon and the Coast Coho Business Plan

In 2014, the Wild Salmon Center partnered with OWEB, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Restoration Center, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to envision a "Business Plan" for the conservation of Oregon's coast coho. The Business Plan is intended to:

- A. Aggregate the cumulative costs and anticipated outcomes of selected habitat protection and restoration projects on the Oregon coast;
- B. Market the potential to recover Oregon Coast (OC) coho to major funders, and communicate the critical role of these projects; and
- C. Leverage funding to accelerate implementation of both the OC Coho and Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho recovery plans.

Projects included in the Business Plan are generated through a one-year process. Local communities use a science-based framework to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for a local coho population. In 2015, OWEB funded the work for this framework to be applied in three pilot watersheds (Nehalem, Siuslaw, and Elk rivers).

The *Business Plan* is envisioned as a living document, in which new SAPs are incorporated as they are completed. Business plans are intended to link strongly to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Strategic Implementation Areas as well – providing a strong, local plan through which to address agriculture water quality improvements that support coho populations. The Governor's office is requesting \$250,000 to continue bringing the best science to local conservation efforts, while leveraging state, federal, and private funds to accelerate implementation.

V. SageCon – Sage Grouse/Sage-Steppe Habitat Conservation

On September 22, 2015, the USFWS determined that protection for greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act is no longer warranted and is withdrawing the species from the candidate species list. This decision was made in large part based on the commitments of states like Oregon to protect and restore key habitat.

Oregon's Sage Grouse Action Plan encapsulates the state's commitment to habitat protection and improvements. Following the no-list decision, Governor Brown's Natural Resources Office continues to work with landowners, counties, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations to implement the comprehensive plan that, when combined with updated Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management plans, will maintain and improve sage-grouse populations and habitat in Oregon. The Governor's long-term goal is to protect and restore sage-grouse populations and the ecological health of lands across southeast Oregon and other areas of the state and, in so doing, promote the stability and vitality of rural communities and economies.

The Board has provided \$650,000 in funding for this work since early 2013. Since that time, the Sage Grouse Action Plan has been completed (available at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/>). The Governor's office is requesting an additional \$300,000 to support early implementation actions related to the Plan in coordination with local communities and conservation organizations.

VI. Working Farm and Ranch Long-Term Conservation Tools

Working land easements do not have a formal definition, but have long been considered one option within a conservation easement program. OWEB has funded seven working land easements since the beginning of the acquisition program. In addition, the agency has also funded four fee title acquisition projects that have a working lands component. In either case, all or a portion of the property will continue to generate income through farming, forestry, or other natural resource-based opportunities.

While these projects have been funded through OWEB, Oregon is typically seen as funding fewer working land easement projects than surrounding states. The difference between Oregon's land use laws and those in other states is often identified as the reason that fewer projects are funded in this state. This difference has been recognized at the federal level, through USDA programs that fund working land easements. Oregon sees fewer requests for funding through those programs as well.

Governor Brown's office has convened a group to work with landowners, tribal governments, agencies, and interested organizations to identify voluntary tools to help landowners maintain working farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation benefits on those lands. The group includes staff from the Governor's office, state agencies, and representatives of the farming, ranching conservation, and land trust communities. New tools will focus on keeping working farms and ranches 'working' - for the economy, rural communities and the environment. Tools under consideration include long-term stewardship contracts, working land easements, tax incentives, grants, loans, and regulatory assistance.

Work Group Actions in 2016 include:

- Analyze available information regarding working lands trends;
- Talk to landowners to gain first-hand knowledge of challenge they face;
- Review working lands programs and how they may apply to Oregon;
- Assess landowner interest in a range of working lands protection tools and federal funding sources;
- Consult with a broad group including tribal governments, state, federal and local agencies, local governments, and agricultural and conservation stakeholders to get their input; and
- Develop recommendations for new statewide voluntary tools to conserve long-term agricultural productivity and healthy natural resources on Oregon's working lands.

The Governor's office is requesting \$150,000 to support the Working Farms and Ranches Work Group as they identify ways to increase long-term working land protection in Oregon that also supports native fish and wildlife habitat and improved water quality.

VII. Funding Request

To support these initiatives, staff request the Board consider the following investments and delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of grants:

Clean Water Partnership	\$ 300,000
Coastal Coho Business Plan	\$ 250,000
Sage Grouse Conservation	\$ 300,000
Working Farms and Ranches	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
Total	\$1,000,000

Clean Water Partnership

Conveners: Richard Whitman, Governor Brown's Natural Resources Director; Ron Alvarado, NRCS Oregon State Director; Dick Pedersen, Oregon DEQ Director; Katy Coba, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Director; Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB Director; Curt Melcher, ODFW Director

Big Table: Same as above, with other federal, local, state and stakeholder representatives

Core Team: GNRO, NRCS, DEQ, ODA, OWEB, ODFW, INR, Local Government, Farm & Ranch, Conservation partners

Technical Teams

- Data Collection, Management, Monitoring for Water Quality and Watershed Health
- ODA/OWEB/NRCS/DEQ Coordination around Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs)
- Further develop tools to improve water quality and streamside health on agricultural lands

Coordinate NRCS & OWEB Investments to Enhance SIA Results

- SIA selection coordinated with local capacity & coho/salmonid priority areas
- Stream Assessments/clarification of AgWQMP baseline requirements
- Outreach & technical assistance
- Public investments directed at legacy issues, not ongoing management
- Assure current management does not interfere with site potential vegetation
- Measure status and trends

Further Develop Tools to Improve Water Quality & Streamside Health

- Water Quality Trading
- Mitigation Banking
- Regulatory Assurances (State & Federal)
- Long-term stewardship contracts
- 2017 Policy/Budget Proposals

Coordinate State Data Collection, Management and Monitoring to Improve Effectiveness and Efficiency

- Stream Team
- Conservation Effectiveness Partnership
- 2017 Budget Proposals



Working Farms and Ranches Work Group

Background, Purpose and Participants



Overview

Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands have drawn people to the state for more than 150 years. These "working lands" are the cornerstone of the state's rural communities and provide myriad benefits to the natural environment. More than one quarter of Oregon's 63 million acres are private working lands that create agricultural production valued at \$5.4 billion—the state's second-largest economic driver.

Why is this important?

For forty years, Oregon's unique land use system has helped protect the working landscape. Even with a strong economic position and state protections, farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by rising production costs, loss of processing facilities, fragmentation through new land uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.

Governor Brown's office has convened a group to work with landowners, tribal governments, agencies and interested organizations to identify voluntary tools to **help landowners maintain working farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation benefits on those lands**. The group includes staff from the Governor's office, state agencies, and representatives of the farming, ranching conservation and land trust communities.

What voluntary tools are being considered?

Enhanced tools will focus on keeping working farms and ranches 'working' - for the economy, rural communities and the environment. Tools under consideration include long-term stewardship contracts, working land easements, tax incentives, grants, loans, and regulatory assistance.

<i>Goals of Voluntary Tools</i>	<i>Topics/Tools Not Being Considered by Work Group</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain agricultural production and provide incentives for conservation on farms & ranches • Flexible; tailored to individual landowners • Balance landowner and conservation needs • Leverage federal \$\$ mostly untapped in Oregon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition and conversion • Mandatory actions or new regulations • One-size-fits-all approaches

Work Group Actions in 2016

- Analyze available information regarding working lands trends in Oregon,
- Talk to landowners to gain first-hand knowledge of challenges they face,
- Review working lands conservation programs and how they may apply to Oregon,
- Assess landowner interest in a range of working lands protection tools and federal funding sources
- Consult with broad group including tribal governments, state, federal and local agencies, local governments, and agricultural and conservation stakeholders to get their input
- Develop recommendations for new statewide voluntary tools that complement Oregon's land use planning program, conserving long-term agricultural productivity and healthy natural resources on Oregon's working lands

For more information about the Working Farms and Ranches Work Group, contact Lauri Aunan (lauri.aunan@oregon.gov)





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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J: Willamette SIP Accomplishments Summary Report
January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will present the Willamette Special Investment Partnership (SIP) Accomplishments Summary Report to the Board and provide an opportunity for the Board, staff, and Willamette SIP funding partners to engage in a discussion about the report's results. A similar accomplishment summary report for the Upper Klamath SIP will be provided at the April 2016 Board meeting.

II. Background about the Willamette SIP

The Board approved the Willamette SIP at its March 2008 meeting. The goals of the SIP are to: 1) protect floodplain habitats; 2) restore floodplain and related side-channel habitats; and 3) restore floodplain and riparian forests. By enhancing and restoring habitats, the SIP is contributing to the recovery of native fish and wildlife species in the Willamette Basin. The program is a unique funding partnership of private (Meyer Memorial Trust), state (OWEB), and federal (Bonneville Power Administration) partners. All three funding partners have made significant investments in the SIP -- from initial investments in building local practitioner capacity and information gathering to ongoing investments in land protection and restoration. In addition, Bonneville Environmental Foundation works closely with local practitioners to provide program management and technical support to these implementers.

III. Willamette SIP Accomplishments Summary Report

In preparation for the transition from SIPs to Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs), it is important for the Board to hear accomplishments from the Willamette and other SIP investments, learn about success stories, and reflect on lessons learned over the period of the investment.

In January 2015, staff received Board input about the information that would be most relevant to better understand the SIP investments and accomplishments to date. At subsequent meetings of the Board's Monitoring Subcommittee, staff and the subcommittee discussed how to use this foundation as a framework for tracking and reporting progress of future FIPs. One goal of the SIP reporting is to contribute to standardized accomplishments reporting and effectiveness monitoring for future FIPs.

Based on Board and Subcommittee input, staff developed a template for the SIP accomplishments summary reports. An extensive amount of information is compiled in these reports, including the following:

- Partnership and Background Summary
- Map of Geographic Focus Area
- Desired Ecological Outcomes
- Applying a Scientific Framework
- Implementation Accomplishments
- Summary of Contributions
- Local Economy and Community Outcomes
- Reflections from the Funders' and Practitioners' Perspectives

The Willamette SIP Accomplishments Summary Report will be provided at the January 2016 Board meeting. Staff will present an overview of the report and Board members will have an opportunity to engage with the Willamette SIP funding partners in a discussion.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachment

- A. Willamette SIP Accomplishments Summary Report – To be provided at the January Board meeting



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item L: Legislative Update**
January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting



I. Introduction

This report provides the Board with an update to the 2015-2016 Legislative Interim and 2016 Legislative Session.

II. Legislative Update

Oregon Legislative interim committees met three times before the opening of the 2016 session -- September 28-30, November 16-18, and January 13-15. During Legislative Days, interim committees hold informational hearings on topics that may lead to legislation in future sessions and hear updates on the implementation of past legislation. Interim committees also hear reports from agencies and task forces, and keep current on subject areas of the committees. The Senate may convene during Legislative Days for the purpose of making executive appointments.

Attachment A contains a list of relevant natural resources committees, and includes chairs and members of each committee. During Legislative Days, OWEB did not have any issues come before these committees. On November 16th, Gary Marshall was confirmed to the OWEB Board by the Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments.

The 2016 Legislative Session is scheduled to begin February 1, 2016, and meet for approximately 35 days. OWEB did not introduce any agency legislative concepts for this session. However, two legislative concepts for the session have been introduced that are relevant to the agency. The first legislative concept is related to land use. Currently, the creation, restoration or enhancement of wetlands can occur in any area zoned for exclusive farm use. The introduced concept would result in the creation, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands on land zoned exclusive farm use being subject to county review.

The second legislative concept is related to landowner liability exemptions. Currently, Oregon statute provides immunity from liability for landowners who participate in certain habitat or water quality improvement projects. The introduced concept would remove aspects of this immunity, resulting in landowners potentially being held liable for damages resulting from restoration or enhancement projects that have occurred on their lands. Conversations are ongoing regarding this piece of legislation to determine most appropriate next steps

III. Recommendation

This report is for informational purposes only. No Board action is requested at this time.

Attachment

- A. Natural Resource Committee Membership

**Interim 2015-2016 Oregon Legislature
OWEB-Related Committee Assignments**

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Sen. Chris Edwards, Chair (D)	7	Eugene (Willamette)
Sen. Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair (R)	20	Canby (Willamette)
Sen. Michael Dembrow (D)	23	Portland (Willamette)
Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D)	4	South Lane and North Douglas Counties (Willamette/Umpqua)
Sen. Doug Whitsett (R)	28	Klamath Falls (Klamath)

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Rep. Brad Witt, Chair (D)	31	Clatskanie (Lower Columbia)
Rep. Wayne Krieger, Vice Chair (R)	1	Gold Beach (South Coast)
Rep. Susan McLain, Vice Chair (D)	29	Hillsboro (Willamette)
Rep. Greg Barreto (R)	58	Pendleton (Umatilla)
Rep. Sal Esquivel (R)	6	Medford (Rogue)
Rep. Lew Frederick (D)	43	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Chris Gorsek (D)	49	Troutdale (Sandy)
Rep. Caddy McKeown (D)	9	Coos Bay (South Coast)
Rep. Gail Whitsett (R)	56	Klamath Falls (Klamath)

House Energy and Environment Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair (D)	47	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Jeff Reardon, Vice Chair (D)	48	Happy Valley (Willamette)
Rep. Mark Johnson, Vice Chair (R)	52	Hood River (Hood River)
Rep. Cliff Bentz (R)	60	Ontario (Owyhee-Malheur)
Rep. Deborah Boone (D)	32	Cannon Beach (North Coast)
Rep. Dallas Heard (R)	2	Roseburg (Umpqua)
Rep. Ken Helm (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. Paul Holvey (D)	8	Eugene (Willamette)
Rep. Jim Weidner (R)	24	McMinnville (Willamette)

House Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Rep. Brian Clem, Chair (D)	21	Salem (Willamette)
Rep. Ken Helm, Vice Chair (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. Bill Post, Vice Chair (R)	25	Keizer (Willamette)
Rep. Mike McLane (R)	55	Powell Butte (Klamath/Rogue/Deschutes)
Rep. Vic Gilliam (R)	18	Silverton (Willamette)
Rep. David Gomberg (D)	10	Lincoln City (North Coast)
Rep. Brad Witt (D)	31	Clatskanie (Lower Columbia)

Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair (D)	19	Tualatin (Willamette)
Rep. Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair (D)	41	Milwaukie (Willamette)
Sen. Bill Hansell (R)	29	Pendleton (Umatilla)
Sen. Michael Dembrow (D)	23	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Brian Clem (D)	21	Salem (Willamette)
Rep. David Gomberg (D)	10	Lincoln City (North Coast)
Rep. Jodi Hack (R)	19	Salem (Willamette)
Rep. Julie Parrish (R)	37	Tualatin (Willamette)



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M: 2017-2019 Budget Development Update
January 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting



I. Introduction

This report updates the Board about budget preparation for the 2017 Legislative Session and budget proposal ideas that will be included in the Agency Request Budget (ARB) for Board consideration in April 2016.

II. Budget Preparations for the 2017 Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's current (or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with full policy narratives and justification of funds requested. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages." The Governor provides instructions to guide agency development of Policy Packages.

Agencies will submit their ARB to the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in Summer of 2016. The Governor's Office will then develop state budget recommendations in partnership with agencies, known as the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB). This budget proposal may also include additional Policy Packages that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives.

The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the session, agencies may advocate for their individual Policy Packages only to the extent that they are included in the GRB.

It is anticipated that, in early spring of 2016, Governor Brown will initiate the process for state agencies to prepare budget proposals for the 2017-2019 biennium.

In advance of that process, OWEB has internally discussed agency needs and ideas for budget requests, and are providing early thoughts to the Board for consideration and discussion at the January Board meeting. It is anticipated staff will continue discussions with the Board's Executive Committee following the meeting, and share budget proposals with key stakeholders for their feedback. Staff will come prepared with a budget proposal for Board consideration at the April 2016 meeting.

III. Budget Outlook

The recent economic forecast projects that the economy will continue to grow at a modest pace. Lottery revenues are expected to continue to grow at a similar pace. Though revenues are anticipated to increase, the amount is not expected to keep up with the increasing cost of state payroll costs. In particular, revenues are expected to be hard-hit by the impact of the roll-back of the PERS reform implemented last biennium.

It is not clear what the level of impact will be; however, DAS's Chief Financial Office has signaled revenues will not be sufficient to cover the combined current service level (base) expenditures and PERS reform roll backs. Therefore current service level expenditure reductions are anticipated for both General and Lottery funded agencies. These impacts will not affect federal funds.

Each biennium, agencies are required to submit a report that lists 10 percent reductions of current service level by priority; however, the reductions have not been taken in the past few budget cycles. This coming budget cycle may require the implementation of the 10 percent reductions depending on the revenue outlook and the level of remaining ending balances from the 2015-17 biennium.

III. OWEB Functions Analysis

Given the anticipated budget limitations, when considering budget needs for the 2017-19 biennium, staff focused on functions the agency needs to perform. First, staff considered how needed functions could be completed with existing staffing or contract resources. Attachment A provides the current agency organizational chart.

As a result of those conversations, the agency's Executive Team proposes that the Agency Request Budget include:

- A. Increased contracting dollars (staff are in the process of analyzing figures based on current biennium needs).
- B. Focused Investments: continued funding for Limited Duration Partnership Coordinator positions and requests they be made permanent. Both are federally funded positions.
- C. Clean Water Partnership: continued funding for limited duration Conservation Outcomes positions (NRS-3 and NRS-4). One is federally funded; the other is funded by Lottery.
- D. Administrative Coordination: continued funding for limited duration NRS2 Administrative Support position. This position is funded by Lottery.
- E. Adjustments for employees who are currently working out of class.

IV. Next Steps for Budget Development

Considerable budget development work lies ahead for OWEB staff. By the end of August, OWEB must submit its completed ARB, which will include budget and narrative details. Timelines have not yet been released by the Governor's office.

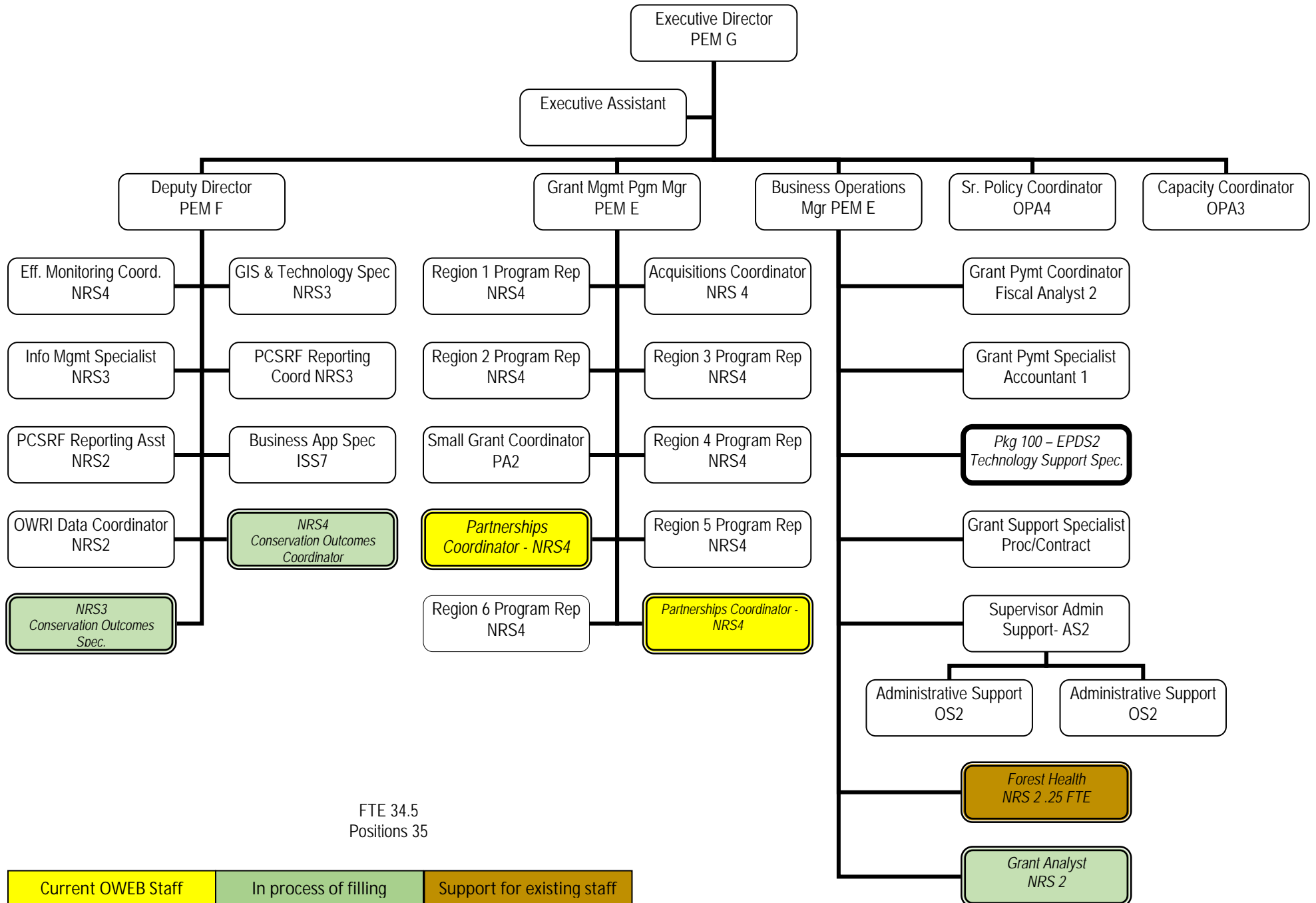
V. Recommendation

This report is for informational purposes only. No Board action is requested at this time.

Attachment

- A. OWEB Organizational Chart

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board 2015-2017 Legislatively Adopted Budget





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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Juniper Davis, Partnerships Coordinator
Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N: Tribal Involvement within OWEB Programs
January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting



I. Introduction

Staff will present the 2015 Annual Government-to-Government Report that was provided to the Governor and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) detailing the relationship between OWEB and Indian Tribes. The report is required by Oregon Revised Statutes at section 182.166 and OWEB's State/Tribal Government-to-Government Relations Policy. Staff will also brief the OWEB Board on recent outreach activities aimed at increasing tribal government participation in OWEB programs, policy development, grant-making, and on the OWEB Board.

II. Overview

OWEB engages with tribes at a variety of levels which are detailed in the report and are summarized below:

- The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. This position is currently filled by Eric Quaempts, representing the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, whose term will expire in January of 2017.
- OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes. During 2015, seven grants were awarded to the following tribes: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (\$49,985), Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation (\$525,000), Nez Perce Tribe (\$44,321), the Klamath Tribes (\$37,050, \$68,900, and \$29,487) and Burns Paiute Tribe (\$24,238). Since 2006, OWEB has awarded approximately \$4,000,000 to grants undertaken by tribal governments. This does not include grants for which a tribal government is a core partner but not the direct grantee.
- Currently, five tribal agency representatives participate on our Regional Review Teams which includes representatives from the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community.
- Tribal government representatives are members of local teams that award small grants of up to \$10,000 for watershed restoration purposes. In 2015, 10 tribal agency representatives served on these Small Grants Teams.
- OWEB provides notification to LCIS Tribal Key Contacts on all proposed water and land acquisition grant applications. In 2015, the OWEB Board approved funding for one acquisition that will be owned for conservation purposes by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

III. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachment

- A. OWEB 2015 Annual Government-to-Government Report provided to the Governor and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services



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Major Areas of Work

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency with statutory authority to administer constitutionally dedicated funds for the purpose of protecting and enhancing Oregon's watersheds and native 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 and supporting local infrastructure throughout the state to achieve voluntary cooperative conservation outcomes.

OWEB works with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis to address the watershed scale restoration efforts and through a grant program to fund watershed management, protection, and restoration projects.

OWEB is led by a 17-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public at large, federally recognized tribes, state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and five federal land management and natural resource agencies. The agency provides grants and services to citizen groups, organizations, 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.

Department Statement

In 2007, the OWEB Board unanimously adopted a Statement of Policy on State/Tribal Government-to-Government Relations. The policy, which is attached to this report,

contains provisions for tribal relations protocols and tribal government participation in OWEB policy.

Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes

OWEB involves tribes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency's involvement with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribal governments during 2015.

A. OWEB Board and Management

1. Board Membership. The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. The position currently is occupied by Eric Quaempts, Natural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. In September 2011, Mr. Quaempts was elected as a Board Co-Chair. In January 2013, he was re-elected as Co-Chair for a two-year term. Mr. Quaempts term on the Board expires in January of 2017 at which point the Governor will be looking to appoint a new representative of an Oregon tribe to participate as a voting member on the OWEB Board.

The tribal position on the Board has been extremely valuable in helping to identify opportunities for collaboration and making the OWEB Board and staff aware of its responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Mr. Quaempts has been an effective voice for tribal interests, and has improved awareness by OWEB staff of the significance of tribal issues associated with the grants and programs managed by the agency.

B. Grant Program

1. Small Grant Program. In OWEB's small grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35), tribes are identified as an eligible member of "Small Grant Teams" in each of the 28 Small Grant areas around the state. In this role, tribes are members of local teams that award grants of up to \$10,000 for watershed restoration purposes. (Other members of the teams include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.) In 2015, 10 tribal agency representatives served on these Small Grants Teams. In addition, OWEB has awarded 10 grants to tribal agencies through this program since 1999.

2. Regular Grant Program. OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Regular Grant Program. During 2015, seven grants were awarded to the following tribes: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (\$49,985), Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation (\$525,000), Nez Perce Tribe (\$44,321), the Klamath Tribes (\$37,050, \$68,900, and \$29,487) and Burns Paiute Tribe (\$24,238). In our most recent grant cycle, for which awards have not yet been made, nine applications were submitted by tribal agencies. Since 2006,

OWEB has awarded approximately \$4,000,000 to grants undertaken by tribal governments.

3. Regular Grant Program – Regional Review Teams. Applications received through OWEB's Regular Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprising state, federal and tribal natural resource professionals. Currently, five tribal agency representatives participate on our Regional Review Teams which includes representatives from the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community.

4. Land Acquisition Grant Program. OWEB's land acquisition grant program provides funding for projects that acquire an interest in land from a willing seller for the purpose of addressing the conservation needs of priority habitat and species. OWEB provides notification to tribes after an acquisition application is received. In 2015, OWEB provided information on five proposed acquisition projects to tribal natural resource agency directors. If a tribe expresses interest in a project, OWEB staff will complete a tribal consultation.

In 2015, the OWEB Board approved funding to the McKenzie River Trust to acquire a 125-acre forested property upstream of Tahkenitch Lake in Douglas County. Once acquired, the McKenzie River Trust will immediately transfer the property to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians which will manage the property for the protection of its natural resources.

5. Water Acquisition Grant Program. OWEB's water acquisition grant program provides funding for programs or projects that acquire an interest or interests in water from a willing seller for the purpose of increasing in-stream flow. OWEB provides notification to tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received. In 2015, OWEB provided information on one proposed acquisition projects to tribal natural resource agency directors. If a tribe expresses interest in a project, OWEB staff then will complete a tribal consultation.

In 2015, the Board provided supplemental funding for the Klamath water leasing program, which supports work being completed under the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement to which the Klamath Tribes are a signatory.

6. Focused Investment Partnership Program. The OWEB Board is in the process of completing its first solicitation for the newly created Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. This program will provide opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively in partnerships on ambitious, long-term programmatic initiatives aimed at creating measurable outcomes within priority areas to be identified by the OWEB Board. Five of the twelve FIP Phase 1 applications that were submitted included tribes in their core partnership

including the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and Klamath Tribes.

The predecessor to the FIP program, the Special Investment Program (SIP), has also had strong participation by tribal agency representatives. The SIP that operates in the Deschutes watershed has strong collaborative ties with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation. Bobby Brunoe, Brad Houslet, and Scott Turo have all participated on the Deschutes SIP Technical Review Team and have helped OWEB set strong restoration objectives in the basin.

The Klamath Tribes are a core member of OWEB's Upper Klamath SIP. Collectively, the core partners of the Upper Klamath SIP have a strong foundation working on restoration issues in the basin that will allow for significant progress related to habitat restoration and conservation, water use management, integrated strategic planning and monitoring.

7. Other Grant Program Involvements. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation is a key participant in the Middle Fork Intensively Monitored Watershed and is receiving additional funding for the current federal fiscal year and state biennium for their work.

OWEB staff participate on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation's John Day restoration review team.

OWEB staff participate in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with BPA for mitigation for 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 Community, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP as they all have historic hunting, fishing and trading areas in the Basin.

C. Grant Applicants. OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes. Tribes have no unique standing in the grant program, but are equal to any other applicant [ORS 541.375(1)].

In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of local watershed councils. Oregon statutes describing watershed councils, ORS 541.388, specifically identifies "federally recognized Indian Tribes" as potential members of local watershed councils. Watershed councils received approximately 37% of OWEB grant funds awarded in 2015.

Outreach to Tribes, Training, and Internal Tribal Relations

In 2015, OWEB initiated the first phase of a tribal outreach plan aimed at increasing the involvement of tribes in our grant programs and in our agency's policy development. Working closely with Board Co-Chair Eric Quaempts, OWEB developed a brief survey that was sent to natural resource tribal key contacts, our current and past tribal government grantees, and the tribal representatives which sit on our review teams. Mr. Quaempts and OWEB Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will attend the Natural Resources Workgroup and Annual Summit in Canyonville this December to garner additional survey responses and to provide information to interested individuals about our programs. This outreach effort will continue into 2016 and will include: appointment by the Governor of a new tribal representative to OWEB's Board, staff presentations to the Board on tribal involvement in our programs, and staff training on tribal sovereignty. After the compilation of 2015's survey results, OWEB will also consider additional training opportunities for tribal natural resources staff on key areas of OWEB policies and programs.

In conformance with OWEB's Tribal Policy, OWEB designates a staff person to operate as a Tribal Liaison for the agency. The Tribal Liaison is responsible for ensuring that OWEB's programs and policy development adheres to our Tribal Policy. This includes coordinating program and policy notices to tribal natural resource key contacts and providing training to staff as appropriate.

Partnerships Coordinator Juniper Davis continues to serve as OWEB's Tribal Liaison. In May Ms. Davis attended the LCIS 40th Anniversary Celebration at the Capitol, and in June, Ms. Davis attended the LCIS Natural Resources Workgroup on behalf of OWEB. As appropriate, OWEB's Tribal Liaison meets internally with management staff to provide updates on Government-to-Government activities, and communicates about tribal interests and issues at all-staff meetings and retreats. Ms. Davis will be presenting at OWEB's all-staff retreat on December 8, 2015, to update agency personnel on the outreach activities discussed above. Ms. Davis will also attend the Natural Resources Workgroup and Annual Summit in Canyonville in December.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

STATEMENT OF POLICY STATE/TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

PURPOSE

The Oregon Legislature adopted Senate Bill 770 in the 2001 Legislative Session. This bill directs state agencies to promote government-to-government relations with Oregon's Indian 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) policy is to involve and include tribal members and governments in the development of policies and programs administered by the agency. OWEB recognizes and respects the sovereign status of the Oregon federally recognized Tribes and their respective authorities on tribal lands.

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.
- Coordinating the efforts of watershed councils throughout the state.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency led by a 17-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public at large, federally recognized tribes, state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and six federal land management and natural resource agencies. The agency provides grants and services to citizen groups, organizations 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 a citizens' initiative in 1998, sales of salmon license plates since 1997, federal salmon funds, and other sources.

MISSION

The MISSION of OWEB is *"To help create and maintain 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 groups; Grant Management, Grant Fiscal, Policy and Oregon Plan Coordination, and Monitoring and Reporting. Each group is headed by a manager responsible for on-going staff-to-staff OWEB Tribal working relationships.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN OWEB POLICY

It is important to OWEB that Tribal concerns and interests are known and considered at the front end of policy and planning developments. OWEB will provide Tribal key contacts notice of policy and planning efforts, and consult with tribes as necessary in considering and addressing identified issues of concern. Issues of specific involvement will be; potential participation in Small Grant Teams, solicitation of information concerning proposed land or water acquisitions, participation in regional review groups, and changes or adoption of administrative rules.

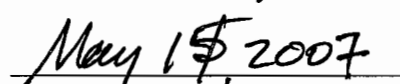
TRIBAL RELATIONS PROTOCOL

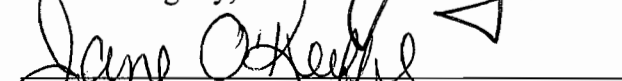
The following OWEB commitments describe the approach to be taken to create and maintain strong tribal relations:

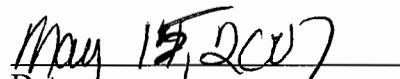
- OWEB will maintain a Tribal Liaison on Tribal Relations.
- The OWEB Director, Tribal Liaison and Board Tribal Representative will meet at least annually to discuss any known upcoming issues.
- The OWEB Tribal Liaison will actively participate as a member of the State Agency-Tribal Natural Resources Work Group.
- OWEB will maintain organization information and contact sources and will provide updates annually to the Tribal Key Contacts.
- OWEB will support the exchange of data collected by its staff or by tribal government.
- OWEB will ensure that regional staff are aware of the sovereign authority and self-government of Native American Tribes and of the organization structure of the tribal governments.
- OWEB will support and participate in cooperative efforts between the tribal government, federal, state, and local governments on environmental concerns that cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- OWEB will invite tribes to participate on advisory committees.
- OWEB will utilize advice and guidance when appropriate from the Legislative Commission on Indian Affairs and staff on tribal government matters.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Approval of this Statement of Policy:

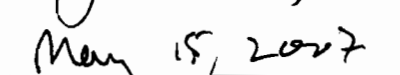

Daniel Heagerty, OWEB Board Co-Chair


Date


Jane O'Keefe, OWEB Board Co-Chair


Date


Thomas M. Byler, Executive Director


Date

January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #P-1: Long-Term Investment Strategy Update

In 2013, the Board adopted its Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation (LTIS), which included approval of a framework for grant investments and direction for the LTIS. This report updates the Board on two tasks associated with the LTIS: Online Grant Applications/Grant Agreement System and Continuous Improvement.

Background

As a result of the passage of Ballot Measure 76 in 2010, OWEB's primary source of funding was no longer time-limited in the Oregon Constitution. Since then, OWEB has been reviewing and updating its priorities, policies, programs and practices to position the agency as an effective and successful long-term funder of conservation in Oregon.

In June of 2013, the OWEB Board approved its Long-Term Investment Strategy Framework with four major areas of investment: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Effectiveness Monitoring. The LTIS is nested within the agency's mission and strategic plan goals, and touches on nearly all aspects of OWEB's responsibilities.

The LTIS items listed below involve a considerable amount of work for OWEB staff beyond the typical workload. Staff's goal is to carry out these efforts without diminishing the quality of services our stakeholders expect from the agency. Therefore, OWEB is utilizing internal cross-sectional teams for many of these tasks to inform agency direction on policies and processes.

Status of Work Items

The following lists the status of two priority work items—Online Grant Applications/Grant Agreement System and Continuous Improvement—during the 2013-15 biennium:

Develop online grant applications and grant agreements. OWEB's target is to launch an online grant application/agreement web interface during the 2015-17 biennium. The goal is to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's grant-making processes for applicants, grantees and OWEB staff. Online versions of three application types -- Restoration, Technical Assistance (TA) and Monitoring -- are in development. All three were 'streamlined' prior to developing the online applications to ensure these applications gather the key information necessary to review applications and support the grant-making process. The current version of the Outreach application will also be web-enabled. However, streamlining for this grant application will be delayed until a future date, following an assessment of OWEB's funding approach for outreach grants.

Early iterations, of restoration, TA and monitoring applications have been tested by both an external group of testers (i.e., grantees and reviewers) and an internal group of OWEB staff. Refinements to the system resulted from this testing. In late January of 2016, testing of all three application types will occur with a larger set of external and internal testers. In addition to planning for future rounds of testing, staff are preparing for outreach to OWEB applicants about the online grant application system, including demos of the system. Staff are looking into opportunities for outreach at upcoming meetings and gatherings (e.g., CONNECT 2016).

As part of the online system development, staff built an automated grant agreement (GA) tool, which was pilot tested with a subset of OWEB grant awards (both Open Solicitation grants and transition funding for Special Investment Partnerships [SIP]) made in Fall of 2015. This tool greatly reduces data entry and manual formatting by staff. Improvements to the tool were made based on the pilot testing, and the automated GA tool will continue to be refined as awards are made in 2016. The automated GA process will be launched as part of OWEB's online grant application/grant agreement system.

Continuous Improvement. The OWEB Executive Team has adopted a Continuous Improvement (CI) approach to create adaptive, human-centered, and high performance service excellence.

Since the last CI report, staff continue developing and testing improvements to the Regional Review Process to achieve the following target: "People submit high quality applications to get money for measurable watershed improvements....OWEB consistently and rigorously reviews and evaluates each application/project." Improvements include:

- Incorporating new facilitation techniques and tools into Regional Review Team (RRT) meetings to support consistent discussion for each project;
- Developing visual aids that effectively display information requested by RRT members to support a consistent review process; and
- Developing pre-application process steps to provide applicant support and further refine the review process.

To effectively identify and prioritize agency processes needing improvements, OWEB will implement techniques for **Measuring Our Mission** that facilitate learning and improvement based on measured results. Measuring Our Mission is found in Attachment B and has two distinct components. The first, **Measuring Mission Progress**, assesses how OWEB's business processes are aligned in support of OWEB's mission. Action measures will monitor process inputs and outputs to support an ongoing, methodical approach to improving process through evidence-based decision making, continuous organizational learning and focus on aligning community needs with agency process results.

Paired with this process is the agency's approach to measuring the impacts of our investments – **Measuring Mission Impact**. Results measures will assess outcomes and impact (i.e. what difference is made from OWEB investment) utilizing variety of tools such as effectiveness monitoring, accomplishments reporting, implementation monitoring and other approaches that measure accomplishments from OWEB investments. Together, **Measuring Mission Progress** and **Measuring Mission Impact** will provide a complete assessment of agency progress towards meeting legislative, stakeholder, staff and Board expectations in carrying out OWEB's mission.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@state.or.us or 503-986-0203, or Liz Redon at liz.redon@state.or.us or 503-986-0028.

Attachments

- A. OWEB Strategic Direction & Principles
- B. Potential Measurement Framework



OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

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

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

In 2010, the OWEB Board approved a strategic plan with five goals. With the passage of Constitutional Measure 76 and permanent Lottery funding, the Board continues to operate under the strategy.

Goal 1: Adaptive Investment

Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through program and project investments that enhance watershed and ecosystem functions and processes and support community needs.

Goal 2: Local Infrastructure Development

Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 3: Public Awareness and Involvement

Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Goal 4: Partnership Development

Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 5: Efficient and Accountable Administration

Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

In 2013, the Board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy that guides its investments of Lottery, federal and salmon plate funding. All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes also help build communities and support the local economy. The Board also approved a direction for the investments outlined below. They will continue operating capacity and open solicitation grants and continue focused investments with a gradual increase over time.

Operating Capacity

Operating Capacity Investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Councils and districts are specifically identified in OWEB's statutes.

Open Solicitation

OWEB offers responsive grants across the state for competitive proposals based on local ecological priorities.

Focused Investments

OWEB helps landscape-scale collaborative partnerships achieve collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.

Effectiveness Monitoring

OWEB evaluates and reports on the progress and outcomes of watershed work it supports.



OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

As the Board developed the Investment Strategy, they did so under established principles for how any changes in OWEB's programs would operate.

Build on accomplishments. The commitment and work of our local partners have resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB will build on this foundation.

Effective communication. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication of ideas, priorities, and results with its staff, partners, potential partners, and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy and successful cooperative conservation.

Transparency. OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

Maximize service, minimize disruption. The Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

Responsive. The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board, and local partners.

Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation. OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy. The Board shall adapt and modify the strategy as needed to meet its desired goals and outcomes and to improve overall investment success.

Phase-in Change. OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide future efforts, is designed to accommodate changes and adjustments made by stakeholders and OWEB staff, and will be periodically revisited.

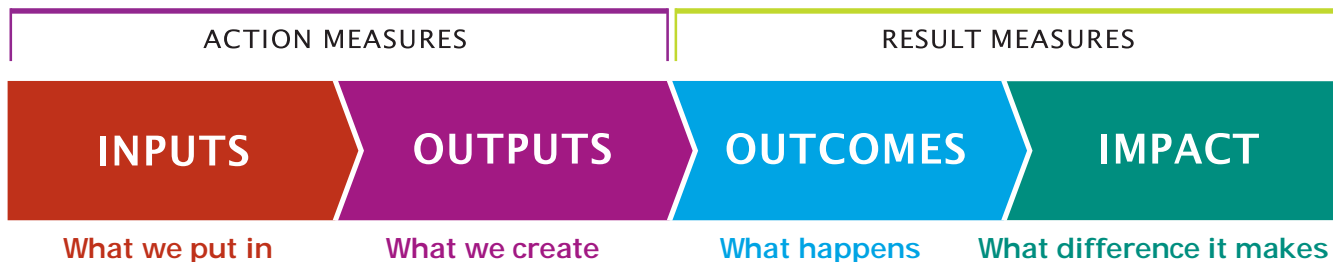
Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

We will do all we can, individually and as a group, to:

- **Use Good communication--at all levels and in all directions;**
- **Operate with a Team approach;**
- **Follow through on conversations in order to build and maintain needed trust;**
- **Empower staff wherever it is appropriate to do so; and**
- **Have fun while doing important work!**

A POTENTIAL MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK:



January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #P-2: Operating Capacity Grants Update

Background

Operating Capacity investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils (councils) and soil and water conservation districts (districts). Council Capacity grants help support the operations of councils that engage people and communities in their watershed to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration. Building Capacity grants support the goals and purposes of OWEB's Operating Capacity grant programs, to build capacity through resource sharing and organizational restructuring.

Council Capacity Grants

In July 2014, the Board adopted administrative rules and Guidance for Council Capacity grants, which help support the operating capacity of councils. The 2015-2017 Council Capacity grant cycle was the first time grants were awarded under the new rules and Guidance. Staff collected lessons learned throughout the process:

- Engage Small Grant Program Coordinator in Initial Review of councils.
- Require councils to submit budgets with applications.
- Provide better guidance for councils on how to keep work plans simple and informative.
- Create a more user friendly online work plan interface for Secondary Reviewers.
- Send regular reminders about Council Capacity project completion reporting requirements.
- Make a few small changes to the online work plan to better meet user needs.

Staff will be meeting with stakeholders in February, 2016 to seek feedback and recommendations for improvement for future Council Capacity grant cycles.

One concern raised during the 2015-2017 process was clarifying OWEB's expectations of councils and districts that work closely together. Staff worked with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) and the Operating Capacity Subcommittee to develop guidance for council and district partnerships, Attachment B. This guidance will be shared with councils and districts in early 2016.

The 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant application materials will be posted in August 2016, the full schedule can be found in Attachment C.

Building Capacity Grants

Building Capacity Grants provide resources for a group of councils or districts to build capacity through resource sharing and organizational restructuring. Staff have allocated \$140,000 for 2015-2017 Organizational Restructuring grants. The purpose is to support new or expanded strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, councils and districts that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

Staff will announce the 2016 Organizational Restructuring grant opportunity in January 2016 with applications due in May 2016. The one change from the previous Organizational Restructuring

grant cycle is to allow a group of districts to apply for these funds without having a council as a partner on the grant.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@state.or.us or 503-986-0046.

Attachments

- A. Council and District Partnerships: A Funders View
- B. 2017-2019 Council Capacity Grant Schedule
- C. Organizational Restructuring TA Grant: Overview and Guidance

Council and District Partnerships

Background

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) recognize watershed councils (councils) and soil and water conservation districts (districts) collaborate in a variety of ways to engage with local communities and achieve ecological outcomes. These relationships enable organizations to assess diverse skillsets, broaden community support, and build a statewide watershed restoration system that is resilient, sustainable and achieves ecological outcomes.

No matter how the relationships look, both partners need to be aware of funder expectations. OWEB evaluates councils against five merit criteria (effective governance, effective management, progress in planning, progress in restoration, and progress in community engagement). Councils must demonstrate they meet all five merit criteria to receive full funding. ODA works with soil and water conservation districts to ensure statutory requirements are met prior to the distribution of funds. Statutory requirements include an annual work plan, a long-range plan, an annual report, and an annual audit. In addition, districts submit a scope of work, which documents work tasks for the district-wide and Focus Area tasks. Tasks are tracked throughout the biennium through quarterly reporting.

What does partnership look like?

Partnership can take many different forms, from collaboration on administrative functions to combining organizational functions and even fully merging multiple organizations into one. The desired outcome is increased watershed restoration and community engagement led by resilient, sustainable organizations. Oregon has a strong tradition of recognizing that local organizations know best how this can be accomplished. As a result, it is up to local organizations to determine their local capacity needs and the nature of any local partnerships and associated agreements.

In the range of organizational partnerships, two overarching approaches exist: collaboration and consolidation. In collaboration, organizations maintain distinct functions (either administrative or service delivery); in consolidation, organizations fully merge to become one entity. Both are very viable options and can bring strong benefits to local communities. Each, however, must be approached differently by the funders to ensure accountability of public investments. On the next page is a description and characteristics of each, as well as the funder's approach to capacity funding in each case.

	Collaboration	Consolidation
Definition	When two or more organizations share staff and/or services, to build expertise and capacity across larger watershed communities, while still maintaining separate, distinguishable organizations.	When two or more organizations share staff, programmatic and administrative services, financial resources, and have collective restoration and community engagement goals and outcomes. There is not distinguishable difference between the two organizations.
Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each organization has a separate board, strategic and/or action plans. • Each organization has a clear niche within the watershed community. • Shared staff has clearly defined jobs and are able to track time and outcomes for each organization. • The financial resources of each organization are tracked separately. • When there are shared ecological objectives and outcomes, the role of each organization in achieving those outcomes is clearly defined and trackable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community engagement and restoration work for the watershed is shared collectively between the organizations without either organization having a distinguishable and separate niche. • Shared staff work collectively for each organization to achieve combined goals and outcomes. • The financial resources of each organization are managed collectively. • The organizations share the same community engagement and ecological objectives and utilize the same tools and resources to achieve those shared objectives.
Funder Perspective	Each organization may apply for an Operating Capacity grant from either OWEB or ODA. Groups must clearly document the organizational niches, staff roles and responsibilities, and collective and individual organization's ecological outcomes in order to continue to receive separate Operating Capacity grants.	The organizations operate as a consolidated organization and may apply for either a SWCD or a WC Operating Capacity grant, but not both.
Resources	<p>Councils and districts are encouraged to contact OWEB or ODA if they have questions or concerns about their organizational structure and how it might impact future operating capacity funding. Councils and districts interested in changing their organizational structure may have an opportunity for OWEB funding, contact Courtney Shaff for additional information. Councils and districts are also encouraged to contact the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC) or Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) if they need assistance in determining which organizational structure would work best to achieve the desired local restoration and community engagement outcomes.</p> <p>OWEB – Courtney Shaff – 503-986-0046 or courtney.shaff@state.or.us ODA – Manette Simpson - 503- 986-4715 or msimpson@oda.state.or.us NOWC – 971-701-6699 or admin@oregonwatersheds.org OACD –15 503-566-9157 or jerry.nicolescu@oacd.org</p>	

Attachment B

January 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update OWEB Board on 2015-2017 Lessons Learned and 2017-2019 grant schedule
February 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with stakeholders for feedback
March 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make any needed updates to the Guidance Document
April 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Guidance out for public comment
July 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board adopt updated Guidance
August 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Announce 2017-2019 Council Capacity Grant cycle
November 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 14, 2016: 2017-2019 Eligibility Deadline
December 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 5, 2016: Notify applicants results of Eligibility Review
January 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 13, 2017: Appeal Deadline• January 20, 2017: Notify councils of the results of the appeal process
March 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 6, 2017: 2017-2019 Application Deadline
July 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board award of 2017-2019 Council Capacity Grants

- Grant Offering:** Organizational Restructuring Technical Assistance Grants 2016
- ELIGIBILITY:** 1) Any watershed council that has received its own individual Council Support or Council Capacity grant from OWEB or 2) Any soil and water conservation district.
- PRE-CONSULTATION (Required)** Interested applicants **MUST** contact Courtney Shaff, OWEB's Capacity Coordinator, to discuss the proposed grant application by April 8, 2016.
- DUE DATE:** May 2, 2016.
- FUNDING:** Total Available: \$140,000 Max Request: \$75,000
- SUBMISSION:** Email: Courtney Shaff: courtney.shaff@state.or.us
Email subject: Organizational Restructuring TA Grant
- QUESTIONS:** Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator
503-986-0046, courtney.shaff@state.or.us

Once a pre-consultation is completed and application submitted OWEB will interview the applicants. Interviews will be held in Salem. Following the interviews, OWEB will notify applicants whether they are selected to receive an Organizational Restructuring grant.

I. Purpose

To support new or expanded strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities. Organizational restructuring may include 1) changing the operational structure of the organization(s) which may result in sharing of staff and services with other councils, districts or organizations, or 2) merger/consolidations of councils, districts, or councils and districts. The applicants must demonstrate that the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen the organizations impact and build resiliency and sustainability of the organization(s).

Mergers- full integration resulting in one organization being absorbed by another organization

Consolidation- two or more organizations unite to form a newly formed organization

II. Allowable Costs

It is expected that organizational restructuring will result in more effective and efficient implementation of projects to protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and restore natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows. To ensure such structures are sound allowable costs in organizational restructuring grants include:

- Legal and financial due diligence
- Staff and executive leadership time for planning
- Professional facilitation services
- Stakeholder engagement and outreach
- Development and legal review of the organizations new documents
- Board and staff costs for attending meetings
- Meeting room rentals, supplies, food, and beverages

Evaluation Criteria

OWEB is seeking applications that best demonstrate:

1. Consideration and understanding of how the existing organizational structure(s) limit capacity for community engagement and implementation of projects to protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and restore natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.
2. Openness to change.
3. Shared commitment of partnership, ability, and likelihood of success in changing the organizational structure of multiple organizations or merging or consolidating multiple organizations.
4. Preference will be given to applications that have already identified a consultant they plan to work with during the organizational restructuring or merger/consolidation process. At a minimum, applicants must have identified a clear solicitation process and criteria for selecting a contractor.

January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #P-3: Increase Technical Assistance Grant Cap

Background

Technical Assistance (TA) grants are critical tools for grantees to develop successful watershed restoration proposals. OWEB provides three types of TA grants:

- TA #1 Develop a technical design for a restoration project
- TA #2 Develop an implementation plan for restoration activities
- TA #3 Landowner recruitment for future restoration projects

TA grants are currently capped at \$50,000. The cap is appropriate for most TA projects, but has become increasingly inadequate for some TA proposals, particularly technical designs (TA #1). The reasons for this include: increased complexity of restoration projects, particularly those involving fluvial geomorphic processes and stream crossings; and increased hourly costs for qualified design consultants. Staff will also analyze requests for grants in the TA #2 and TA #3 categories.

OWEB routinely funds restoration projects in excess of \$250,000, particularly when leveraged funds are included. Of the 30 restoration awards made by the Board at the October 2015 meeting, eight were in excess of \$250,000 in OWEB funds.

Since design costs typically are about 20 percent of a project's construction costs, a cap of \$50,000 is inadequate for some TA proposals. Six of the 17 technical assistance awards made by the Board in October 2015 were for the maximum amount allowed.

Therefore, staff will request at the April Board meeting that the Board increase the cap to \$75,000 for TA #1 grants, and pending further analysis, for TA #2 and TA #3 grants, for the next open solicitation cycle in October 2016.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams at eric.williams@state.or.us or 503-986-0047.

January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #P-4: FIP Implementation Schedule 2017-2019

Background

In the midst of finalizing the 2015-17 Focused Investment Partnership awards, staff is preparing for the next biennial solicitation cycle. During the initial solicitation process, staff tracked proposed improvements and enhancements to make the next solicitation more efficient and effective for the Board, applicants, expert reviewers, and staff. The initial suggestions in this report are offered in advance of discussion at the April 2016 Board meeting and action at the July 2016 Board meeting. Staff will also meet with the FIP work group – convened to help develop the FIP process – to get their suggestions as well in advance of further Board conversations. The staff report in April will incorporate their suggestions.

Board Priorities

During the solicitation for priorities, the Board heard some additional issues for consideration. These were not adopted in the initial set of priorities. Staff will propose options to address these issues in April.

- Consideration of Lamprey in the native fish priority;
- Adding tribal plans to the list of conservation and recovery plans under priority ecological outcomes;
- Add newly finalized plans to the list of conservation and recovery plans under priority ecological outcomes;
- Reconsider the Walla Walla under the native fish priority.

Refinements for FIP 2017-2019 Process

1. *Improved feedback loop for Capacity grants.* The award process for 2015-2017 FIP awards was eight months and included two steps: a letter of intent (due July 1) and an application (due November 2). The letter of intent served to inform OWEB about who planned to submit applications, but there was no opportunity for formal application processing in the four months between the letter of intent and application submissions. Staff will develop options to replace the letter of intent with a required telephone consultation. This would provide opportunity for feedback to applicants that could strengthen their applications.
2. *Streamlined process for Implementation grants.* The implementation track included a consultation and a two-phase application. The expert review teams were convened twice – once for each application phase – as was the Board Focused Investment subcommittee. While the two-phase process provided focused time to address different application components, it lengthened the review time considerably, which affected OWEB's ability to put dollars to work as early in the biennium as possible.

Staff will develop approaches to combine the two phases into one application. This would allow for the same level of review of each application while decreasing the overall timeframe of the solicitation process. Applicants would still be required to participate in a consultation meeting (with phone-in option) prior to submitting an application.

Schedule for FIP 2017-2019

In order to provide a timely opportunity for initial FIP capacity building grantees to apply for implementation funding in FIP 2017-2019, grantees will need a minimum of one year to develop a draft strategic action plan, which is prerequisite to applying for implementation funding. With this in mind and taking the above changes into account, the proposed FIP 2017-2019 solicitation schedule follows. Staff will review this with the external Focused Investment Partnership Workgroup to get their feedback and will provide an update to the Board in April.

Date	Description
December 12, 2016	FIP Solicitation Released
February-March 2017	Required Consultations for Capacity Building and Implementation Applicants
May 1, 2017	FIP Implementation and Capacity Building Applications due to OWEB
June-July 2017	Expert Review, RPR Review, FIP Staff Review
September 1, 2017	Evaluations Posted
September 26-27, 2017	Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments Public Meeting
October 24-25, 2017	Board Awards

Second Biennium Awards for 2015-2017 FIPs

Staff will provide performance updates on the initial partnership awards at the April 2017 Board meeting. This should provide most partnerships with a full year operating under FIP partnership agreements and FIP grant agreements.

Second biennium funding requests (based on performance updates provided in April 2017) will be provided to the Board for consideration at the July 2017 meeting as part of 2017-2019 spending plan.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff for capacity building applications at courtney.shaff@state.or.us or 503-986-0046, or Eric Williams for implementation applications at eric.williams@state.or.us or 503-986-0047.

January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #P-5: Forest Collaborative Grants Update

Background

The Federal Forest Health Collaborative Technical Assistance Grants are intended to accelerate the effectiveness of local collaboratives by providing technical assistance funding to increase the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration. This includes engaging additional stakeholders, effective project monitoring and accounting for landscape-level restoration project outcomes.

In the 2013-2015 biennium OWEB received \$600,000 from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to award grants to Eastside Forest Collaborative groups. For the 2015-2017 biennium OWEB received \$700,000 from ODF to award grants to both Eastside and Westside Forest Collaborative groups over three grant cycles. Attachment A includes a map of all the current Forest Collaborative groups in Oregon. At the July 2015, OWEB Board meeting the Board delegated the authority to the Director to award these grants. The first grant awards were made in December 2015 (additional details below).

Grant Awards

The initial grant cycle was announced in September 2015, with applications due November 13, 2015. Ten applications were received requesting \$367,444. The Statewide Review Team, which consists of representatives from ODF, USFS, BLM, OWEB, The Governor's Office, OSU Extension and conservation groups, met on December 18, 2016, to review and make funding recommendations. Six of the ten applications were recommended for funding and staff were able to fund five of those applications for a total of \$210,355. The list of applications and the review results are provided in Attachment B.

Staff Contact

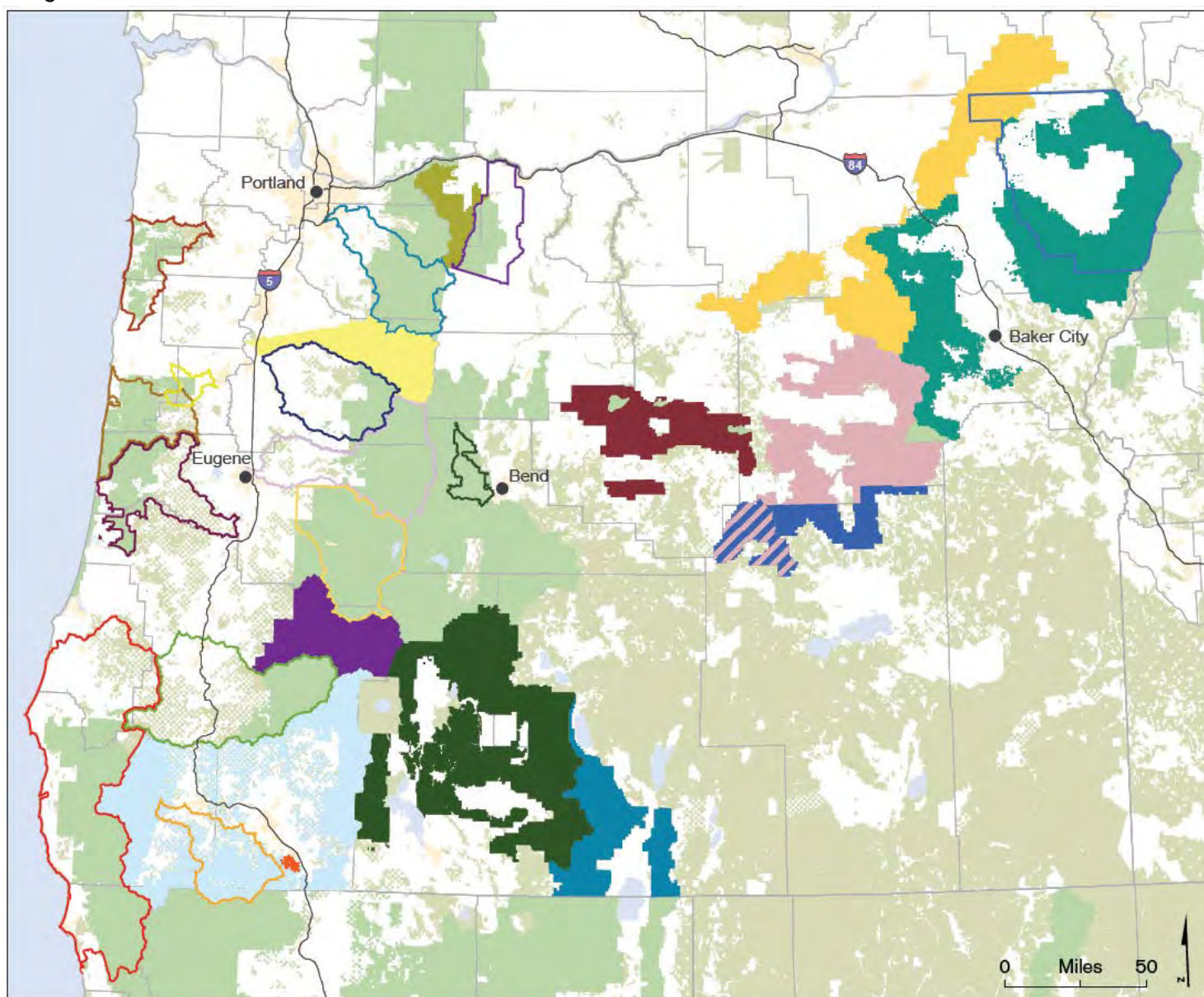
If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@state.or.us or 503-986-0046.

Attachments

- A. Map of Oregon Forest Collaborative Groups
- B. December 2015 Forest Collaborative Review and Funding Results

Forest collaborative groups

Oregon



Public Lands Collaboratives

All Lands Collaboratives

■ US Forest Service lands
■ BLM and other federal lands

Deschutes NF		 Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project
Fremont-Winema NF	■ Lakeview Stewardship Group ■ Harney County Restoration Collaborative	
Malheur NF	■ Blue Mountains Forest Partners ■ MSA on the Fremont-Winema NF	
Mt. Hood NF	■ Hood River Collaborative Stewardship Crew	■ Wasco County Forest Collaborative Group ■ Clackamas Stewardship Partners
Ochoco NF	■ Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative	
Rogue R.-Siskiyou NF	■ Ashland Forest Resiliency MSA ■ Southern OR Forest Restoration Collaborative	■ Applegate Partnership ■ Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative
Siuslaw NF		■ Alsea Stewardship Group ■ Hebo Stewardship Group ■ Marys Peak Stewardship Group ■ Siuslaw Stewardship Group
Umatilla NF	■ Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group	
Umpqua NF	■ Umpqua Forestry Coalition	■ South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
Wallowa-Whitman NF	■ Wallowa-Whitman Forest Collaborative	■ Wallowa County NRAC
Willamette NF	■ North Santiam Forest Collaborative	■ McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group ■ South Santiam All Lands Collaborative ■ Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative

Forest Collaborative Groups

Collaborative groups build agreement by engaging diverse stakeholders in fostering natural resource management and economic development. There are at least 25 collaborative groups in Oregon.

November 2015 Forest Health TA Grants

Attachment B

Grants Awarded by the Director are Highlighted in Gray					
Project Number	Region	Applicant	Project Name	OWEB \$ Requested	Priority
216-8008-12577	4	Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project	Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project	\$49,335	1
216-8008-12558	4	Hood River SWCD	Hood River Collaborative Stewards: Waucoma Project Development	\$49,759	2
216-8008-12563	1	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Siuslaw Facilitation, Monitoring & Dunes-Smith River Stewardship Group Development	\$40,455	3
216-8008-12566	4	Wasco SWCD	Wasco County Forest Collaborative Group	\$44,956	4
216-8008-12561	3	Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative	Middle Fork Willamette Stewardship Collaborative Process	\$25,850	5
216-8008-12564	3	South Santiam All Lands Collaborative	Trout Creek Resource & Cultural Landscape	\$49,967	6
Total Grants Awarded by the Director				\$210,355	
APPLICATIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING					
216-8008-12559	4	Lake County Resources Initiative	Lakeview Stewardship Group Technical Assistance Grant	\$4,503	DNF
216-8008-12560	3	Cascade Pacific RC&D	McKenzie River Collaborative Group Facilitation	\$43,450	DNF
216-8008-12562	3	Cascade Pacific RC&D	North Santiam Forest Collaborative: Building Forest Resiliency from the Headwaters to the Willamette	\$19,038	DNF
216-8008-12565	3	Clackamas River Basin Council	Upper Clackamas Volunteer Stewardship Project	\$40,131	DNF



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item Q: Other Business - Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction Grant Program Update and Funding Request**
January 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update to the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program and requests the Board allocate up to an additional \$400,000 of General Funds from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to the 2015-2017 Spending Plan. This additional funding will bring the total amount available through the grant program to up to \$1 million.

II. Background

For the 2015-2017 biennium, ODF has been provided \$1.2 million of General Funds in support of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs), greater sage grouse habitat and rural community vitality. Within this funding, ODF and OWEB have established the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program. At the July 2015 OWEB Board meeting, the Board approved a spending plan that set aside \$600,000 in General Funds for the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program. The grant funding is for eligible services, supplies, and equipment expenditures of rangeland fire protection associations (RFPAs) and counties in addressing rangeland wildfire management and suppression. The grant program is consistent with wildfire-related provisions of Oregon's plan for addressing the conservation of the greater sage grouse and rural community vitality. For the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program, ODF has developed a formula for determining how much funding each county and RFPA is eligible to apply for. The amount of funding available for counties is determined by the number of RFPAs that predominately reside in the county. The amount of funding available for RFPAs is determined by the size of the RFPA and the percentage of ODFW-identified sage grouse habitat found within the RFPA boundary.

III. Grant Cycles

It is anticipated that the majority of the \$1 million available for grant funding for RFPAs and counties will be allocated in one grant cycle. This grant cycle was announced in November, 2015 with applications due on December 15, 2015. Eight counties and 19 RFPAs submitted grant applications by the deadline (Attachment A). A review team consisting of representatives from ODF, OWEB, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Resources Conservation Service will evaluate the grant applications in February 2016. It is expected that this grant cycle will result in \$900,000 in awards made available in early March 2016. The remaining \$100,000

will be reserved for RFPAs that are currently in development, and made available through a small grant cycle later in the 2015-2017 biennium.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request the Board allocate up to \$400,000 of General Funds from ODF in support of the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program to the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements in project number 216-8009, with an award date of July 1, 2015.

Attachment

- A. December 2015 Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction Grant Applications

Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction Applications December 2015 Grant Cycle				
Project Number 216-8009 Project ID	Grantee	Project Name	OWEB \$ Requested	Project Amount
12586	Warner Valley RFPA	Warner Valley RFPA 2015	52,835	81,044
12587	Baker County	Baker County Rangeland Wildfire Treat Reduction Assistance Grant	30,000	0
12588	Gateway Rangeland Fire Protection Assn	Gateway Rangeland Fire Protection Association 2015	7,000	22,250
12589	Lake County	Lake County 2015	15,000	15,000
12590	Post-Paulina Rangeland Fire Protection Association	Post-Paulina RFPA 2015	27,470	49,338
12591	Crook County	Crook County 2015	15,000	15,000
12592	Jefferson County Emergency Management	Jefferson County 2015	30,000	30,000
12593	Burnt River RFPA	Burnt River RFPA 2015	15,010	33,763
12594	Malheur County Sheriff's Office	Malheur County 2015	75,000	75,000
12595	Ashbutte RFPA	Ash Butte RFPA 2015	7,000	22,250
12596	Juntura RFPA	Juntura RFPA 2015	44,380	70,475
12597	Wheeler County	Wheeler County 2015	30,000	30,000
12598	WC Ranches RFPA	WC Ranches RFPA 2015	7,000	21,750
12599	Twickenham Fire Protection	Twickenham Fire Protection	7,000	14,550
12600	Jordan Valley RFPA	Jordan Valley RFPA 2015	94,325	132,906
12601	Ironside Fire Protection	Ironside RFPA 2015	27,130	48,913
12602	Deschutes County	Deschutes County 2015	15,000	15,000
12603	Brothers-Hampton RFPA	Brothers-Hampton RFPA	38,150	62,688
12604	Blue Mountain RFPA	Blue Mountain RFPA 2015	54,615	83,269
12605	Crane RFPA	Crane RFPA	40,035	64,544
12606	Fields-Andrews RFPA	Fields- Andrews RFPA 2015	42,155	67,194
12607	Harney County	Harney County	90,000	90,000
12608	Lone Pine RPA	Lone Pine RFPA 2015	8,335	24,919
12609	Lookout Glasgow RFPA	Lookout Glassgow RFPA 2015	15,455	34,319
12610	Silver Creek RPA	Silver Creek Fire Protection	12,340	29,925
12611	Wagontire RFPA	Wagontire RFPA 2015	8,335	24,919
12612	Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Assn	Frenchglen Rangeland Fire Protection Association	62,625	92,781
27		Total	871,195	1,251,797

APPROVED BY THE BOARD April 26, 2016

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

January 26, 2016

OWEB Board Meeting

McMinnville, Oregon

Minutes

OWEB Members Present

Alan Henning
Bob Webber
Cindy Deacon Williams
Dan Thorndike
Debbie Hollen
Doug Krahmer
Eric Quaempts
Gary Marshall
John Roberts
Karl Wenner
Mike Haske
Morgan Rider
Randy Labbe
Rosemary Furfey
Stephen Brandt
Will Neuhauser

OWEB Staff Present

Cammi Hungate
Courtney Shaff
Darika Barnes
Eric Hartstein
Eric Williams
Ginger Loftus
Greg Ciannella
Juniper Davis
Karen Leiendecker
Katie Duzik
Ken Fetcho
Liz Redon
Mark Grenbemer
Meta Loftsgaarden
Renee Davis
Sue Greer
Wendy Hudson

Others Present

Aaron Shaw
Adam Meyer
Allen Childs
Allison Hensey
Amy Charette
Barbara Boyer
Barbara White
Brad Nye
Brenda Smith
Brett Brownstone
Brett Golden
Chris Chambers
Christina Watson
Conrad Gowell
Dan Bell
Dylan Kruse
Eric Riley
Esther Lev
Jeff Everett
Jerry Nicolescu
Jesse Steele
John Ward
Judy Wilcox
Justin Ferrell
Katie Frenyea Kelley
Beamer

Others Present

Ken Bierly
Kristen Larson
Laura Masterson
Lauri Aunan
Laurie Welch
Lee Russell
Linda Rowe
Luke Westphal
Maddy Sheehan
Manette Simpson
Marci Schreder
Marie Hicksta
Mark Trenholm
Marty Suter-Goold
Mary Starrett
Mike Gerel
Neysa Hays
Pam Wiley
Pat Welle
Paul Sheerer
Richard Whitman
Ryan Houston
Shawn McKay
Stan VandeWetering
Theresa Crain
Todd Reeve

A. Board Member Comments

Board Members provided comments from their respective areas and agencies.

B. Minutes

Minutes of the October 27-28, 2015 Board meeting in John Day were presented for approval.

Eric Quaempts moved to approve the minutes from the October 27-28, 2015 meeting in John Day. Seconded by Randy Labbe. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment

-Ken Bierly urged the state to take employee safety from barred owl attacks very seriously and provided a sign to keep passersby on alert .

-John Ward from Rogue Fly Fishers briefed the Board on Dodge Ridge. There are opportunities there for restoration that will benefit spring Chinook. He supports the acquisition of the Rogue River Preserve.

-Esther Lev from The Wetlands Conservancy thanked the Board for being a catalyst and in support of restoration. She gave an update on coastal grants that have led to acquisition for sloughs and went through the publication that The Wetlands Conservancy recently distributed.

D. Spending Plan Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden directed the Board to the 2015-17 spending plan in their folders as reference for decisions to be made throughout the meeting.

E. OWEB Key Performance Measures (KPMs)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden lead the Board in a discussion of revising OWEB's KPMs. The Board then considered approval of the revised KPMs.

General Comments on KPMs

-Stephen Brandt asked about how KPMs relate to continuous improvement measures. Meta Loftsgaarden explained the process of how KPMs are developed and how both KPMs and continuous improvement measures are valid gauges of agency progress. As necessary, additional measures in both areas will be developed to reflect additional appropriate measures for the agency. Stephen also wanted clarification on how "effectiveness" would be measured. Meta outlined various ways that effectiveness of both OWEB's investments and processes would be measured.

-Alan Henning asked about the metrics and if the outcomes were based on the metrics OWEB has now, specifically water quality. Deputy Director Renee Davis stated that those new outcome metrics are being established. She described how appropriate outcome measures will be established for specific types of investments (e.g., Focused Investment Partnerships) in order to bridge the space from restoration outputs to outcomes.

-Cindy Deacon Williams urged OWEB to think about a new monitoring KPM because of the one that was removed. She said that monitoring funds are the hardest to obtain. She also said that if there was a KPM attached to monitoring, the Legislature might be more willing to give more grant funds. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that the monitoring program is a key part of OWEB's organization and the broader Oregon Plan approach, and that monitoring is in need of longer-term goals. It remains a component of other KPMs, but would not have its own KPM.

Comments on Individual KPMs

KPM #1. Randy Labbe wanted to know where OWEB gets the species listings. Meta Loftsgaarden explained that OWEB gets them from other agencies. Stephen Brandt asked about what percentage would be the goal. Meta responded that staff will return in April, 2016 with specific numbers.

KPM #2. Dan Thorndike wanted to clarify that this KPM was for match. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that unless the grantee gives OWEB a receipt for each dollar of match they are providing, there is not a way to get an accurate representation of funds. Dan also said that the percent was hard to follow and suggested that the "amount" could work as a stand-alone metric.

-Will Neuhauser wanted clarification of PCSRF funds. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that this is pretty steady at 30%, and the Legislative Fiscal office asked that it not fall under leveraged funds.

KPM #3. Bob Webber asked if this is a measure that OWEB could control. Meta Loftsgaarden replied that the current KPM is reliant on federal reporting, which OWEB cannot control. What is proposed with the revised KPM is under OWEB's control.

KPM#4. No comments

KPM#5. Bob Webber asked about the definition of the number of stream miles enhanced. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that review teams consider the activities proposed relative to the proposed number of miles enhanced.

-Will Neuhauser liked that this is a KPM OWEB can control, and would ultimately gain stream miles.

KPM#6. Cindy Deacon Williams questioned why this KPM is fish-centric and not measuring wildlife. Meta Loftsgaarden explained why wildlife is not included and that a proposed KPM includes upland habitat restoration to address this issue.

KPM#7. Will Neuhauser asked about how communities are defined and how many there are in the state. Renee Davis stated that, per Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's similar KPM, there are approximately 120 communities in the state, and staff will be looking into how those communities are defined.

-Rosemary Furfey wanted to know what the baseline is and if OWEB is looking to increase the percentage by targeting underserved communities. Meta Loftsgaarden said OWEB is looking at a rolling 6-year measure of this. This is a quantitative measure, which helps us look behind the curtain to see if the percent missing is consistent and if there is something OWEB can do to help.

KPM#8. No comments

KPM#9. Gary Marshall asked who is "the customer" in the KPMs. Meta Loftsgaarden replied that, in the new measure, the customer is whoever receives OWEB services and will focus on grant applicants and grantees.

KPM#10. Karl Wenner thinks that this is an easy one to come up with and it would be helpful to the Board to have that data so the Board can see what has happened over time.

-Will Neuhauser wanted to know about the baseline for this KPM. Meta Loftsgaarden said that OWEB has a challenge comparing itself to other agencies because of agency size and staffing. She has found that foundations are the most appropriate comparable entities for this metric.

KPM#11. No comments

KPM#12. Cindy Deacon Williams asked why this KPM applied only for open solicitation. Meta Loftsgaarden explained that the other grant types had floating deadlines and delegated authority to award them. The open solicitation has hard deadlines that ultimately make them easier to measure.

-Morgan Rider wanted clarification of the metrics and offered some measurements to use. She wants to make sure OWEB is collecting the data and actually using it. She would like to see the legislative report. Meta Loftsgaarden said that the Board would see the report as it will be presented to the legislature.

Dan Thorndike moved to approve revisions, as amended – with KPM #2 revised to read: The percentage and amount of funding from other sources resulting from OWEB's grant awards to OWEB's Key Performance Measures as outlined in Attachment C as a proposal for legislative consideration during the 2017 Legislative Session. Seconded by Doug Kraemer. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Technical Assistance (CREP TA) -- Approval to Receive Program Funding

Partnerships Coordinator Juniper Davis provided the Board an update on the CREP TA grant program. Staff requested the Board consider awarding supplemental funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, allocating recaptured lottery funds in support of CREP TA, and delegating authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds.

-Karl Wenner has been involved in CREP on his property and believes in the program. The landowners could not do this on their own without Technical Assistance help. He feels that the rules around the state currently differ, and it would be good to be consistent on the rules.

-Alan Henning wanted to know how many acres have not re-enrolled. Juniper Davis stated that OWEB is working with the Farm Service Agency to get those numbers. Meta Loftsgaarden said these are 10-15 year contracts, and OWEB is just now starting to see the re-enrollment. Alan asked about the reduction to the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust proposal. Juniper stated that reviewers were concerned about a proposed expansion of the program to other counties given the transitions occurring at the organization.

Eric Quaempts moved to accept up to \$75,000 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for supplemental CREP TA funding (216-8100), allocate up to \$75,000 of recaptured lottery funds in support of CREP TA (216-8100), and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements with an award date of January 1, 2016. Seconded by Cindy Deacon-Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Focused Investments-Approval of 2015-2017 Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Implementation Initiatives and Capacity Building Awards and Public Comment

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, briefed the Board on the 2015-2017 FIP solicitation process.

-Will Neuhauser provided additional history of the program and his experiences on the Board Subcommittee. He applauded the subcommittee members on the extra time they spent reviewing and comparing the applications because this is a new program.

- Karl Wenner shared his perspective about FIP. This was a way to get more focused in order to approach these projects in a more strategic manner. It has allowed the organizations to create more robust proposals, and he is really happy to be a part of the process.

-Alan Henning gave kudos to the partners for submitting very comprehensive proposals and all of the hard work they have done.

Capacity Building:

Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator, provided background on the Capacity Building FIP process.

-Morgan Rider was concerned with how the effectiveness of these projects will be measured. Courtney Shaff stated those metrics are in the process of being developed, and there will be more information at the April Board meeting.

Public Comment on FIP Capacity Building Applications:

Warner Basin –

-Members from the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council asked the Board to support funding of the Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership. Justin Ferrell from the Lake County SWCD would like the Board to consider funding this project. Marci Schreder from Lake County Watershed Councils spoke to the subcommittee comments. She mentioned how her group may have left out the habitat component, and she wanted to clarify that they will be looking at habitat connectivity, specifically the headwaters. They have great landowner support in a very contentious area. What they need now is the action plan. Paul Sheerer from ODFW said the waters are in good condition, but the problem is that fish can't get there. They have done a lot of work to determine fish distribution and have also done effectiveness monitoring. There is excellent habitat there that would help some species come off the list. Dan Thorndike asked them to clarify why they wanted to move toward the FIP. Justin said that the open solicitation process could result in their projects competing against each other.

Board Consideration of FIP Capacity Building Applications

-Cindy Deacon Williams commented that the Warner Basin was high in readiness and has a high likelihood of success, stating it is in a region which needs more attention in order to take a strategic approach to dealing with passage barriers. She encouraged the Board to fund this project. She wanted to know if there would ever be a FIP eligible project for a Closed Lakes Basin. Staff clarified that an initiative from the Closed Lakes Basin priority area was being considered in the Implementation FIP slate of awards. Debbie Hollen stated that if they apply for a technical assistance grant, it would not preclude them from applying for a FIP.

-Rosemary Furfey liked that the partners for the Warner Basin addressed a downfall in their application during the public comment. Will Neuhauser stated that the issue the subcommittee saw with the application is that it appeared to be a better fit as a Technical Assistance proposal in the open solicitation grant program as this application did not quite rise to the scope of a FIP, given its focus on fish passage only.

-Alan Henning stated that the scope of the application was for fish passage, and this was perceived as a very narrow approach for a FIP.

-Karl Wenner stated that this is a very valuable project and there are different ways to fund this. He believes it is most likely a better fit as a Technical Assistance grant in the open solicitation grant program. He said Warner Basin is a smaller basin and it could have clear, measurable success within a short period of time.

-Dan Thorndike explained that there are FIP capacity building initiatives that could lead to either FIP implementation initiatives or to proposals to the open solicitation grant program.

-Mike Haske stated that the Warner Basin has been identified as a focused area for the Department of the Interior and NRCS.

Dan Thorndike moved to approve funding from the Focused Investments Capacity Building spending plan line item for the FIP Capacity Building applications identified by gray shading in Attachment A, with an award date of January 26, 2016. Seconded by Cindy Deacon Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Deacon Williams moved to approve funding for Project # 216-8300-12538 in Attachment A to the staff report. Seconded by Bob Webber. Motion failed. 8:3

Implementation:

Juniper Davis, Partnerships Coordinator, Wendy Hudson, Partnerships Coordinator, and Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, briefed the Board on the FIP Implementation applications, including the ranking of each application by the FIP subcommittee

Public Comment on FIP Implementation Applications The Deschutes Partnership –

-Ryan Houston, Brad Nye, and Brett Golden of The Deschutes Partnership thanked the board for investing in these types of programs and acknowledged the work that subcommittee and OWEB staff has put into the review. Bob Webber asked about the reduction in funding and how it would affect Opal Springs. Ryan said that Opal Springs is a very important project, and they will do everything possible to help keep that project going.

Oregon Sage Grouse –

-Jerry Nicolescu from the OACD said that this has been a good process and this has worked well for them. It will make a big difference to sage-grouse and to the communities. Shawn McKay from the Malheur County SWCD has been involved in the process for a year. He stated appreciation for the way Meta Loftsgaarden opened the Board meeting with a reminder about OWEB's mission because this is what the CCAA is all about. Judy Wilcox is a Malheur County SWCD Board member and rancher who has been involved in many restoration projects to benefit sage-grouse. Linda Rowe, Justin Ferrell, and Marty Suter-Goold thanked the Board and said they look forward to working together.

-Mike Haske acknowledged the partnerships between the SWCD's and other partners and the work they have done.

Harney Basin Wetlands –

-Brenda Smith from the High Desert Partnership and Esther Lev of the Wetland Conservancy gave their support for funding of the efforts in Harney County. This funding will be a strong investment for conservation, enhancing wildlife and migratory bird habitat in a sustainable way at the landscape scale. A science-based approach will be used to address water quality. They have a very high-performing partnership that has obtained excellent results.

Ashland Forest –

-Chris Chambers from the City of Ashland/AFAR Partners gave an update of projects in the Ashland Forest. They recognize that a dry forest investment is somewhat unusual for OWEB, but there are several tributaries in this area. This large landscape incorporates several partnerships. Many critical species are affected in this high-value habitat. This will also help to benefit air quality with smoke management. John Roberts asked about helicopter logging being involved in this project and Chris confirmed. He thanked the board for their consideration of funding the AFAR Initiative.

Upper Grande Ronde –

-Stephen Brandt asked about the Grande Ronde leveraged funds of approximately \$45M. Eric Williams provided clarification on the match of this project.

-Jesse Steele from the Union SWCD thanked OWEB staff and the Board subcommittee. They have been focusing their restoration efforts by developing project solicitation in a transparent process. Katie Frenyea from the Grande Ronde Model Watershed gave an update on the conservation and restoration efforts in the Grande Ronde. They have 15 major landowners that have committed to be involved in restoration through easements, etc. They are leveraging a variety of funds with great partnerships. Alan Childs with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation gave an update on the strategic plan and how they plan to address key limiting factors and long term targets. Their project meets several of OWEB's requirements. John Roberts asked about the \$85,000 for design. Jesse said that the design work on smaller scale projects will be done by the Bureau of Reclamation.

-Bob Webber wanted clarification on the funding sources for FIPs and is very concerned that OWEB has "promised" funding for the next two biennia. Meta Loftsgaarden and Renee Davis stated that the applicants were asked to have work plans for three biennia. They could ask for funding for the first biennium, but not for the second or third biennia because work plans for those biennia are not associated with the 2015-2017 biennium's spending plan. The Board has not committed funding for the FIPs for the next two biennia. That funding will rely on future spending plans, which will be updated as time goes on. Karl Wenner stated that the percentage of funding for FIPs in the spending plan will be dependent on how effective the FIPs are. Rosemary Furfey stated that the onus is on the applicants to show they are being successful.

-Mike Haske wanted clarification on the funding line reduction. Meta Loftsgaarden clarified that two of the applicants received transition funding this biennium with the Special Investment Partnerships, so those applications were recommended for a higher percentage budget reduction compared to others.

-Cindy Deacon Williams gave feedback on the evaluations. She felt they did not show what these focused investments hope to accomplish nor the context of those hoped-for accomplishments. Renee Davis and Meta Loftsgaarden explained that each partnership submitted lengthy applications, which were condensed to a short summary in the staff report and a brief PowerPoint presentation. Cindy clarified that she was wanting a thumbnail version of what kind of impact the project area will have in the watershed and how far the dial will be moved. Dan Thorndike said that a lot of time and work has gone into vetting these projects. Rosemary Furfey stated that through her experience with NOAA, these plans are aligned with priority areas. Various Board members gave brief synopses of the benefits of each of the implementation projects.

-Morgan Rider was concerned that the applications addressing Coastal Coho and Klamath were not funded. Renee Davis said that Klamath did submit a Phase I application, but chose not to submit a Phase II application. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that the coast was well-represented in FIP Capacity Building and that Coastal Coho Business Plans will build capacity in other watersheds on the coast.

Dan Thorndike moved to approve funding from the Focused Investments Implementation spending plan line item for the FIP Implementation applications recommended for funding in Attachment C, with exception to Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements with an award date of January 26, 2016. Seconded by Will Neuhauser. Motion passed 9:1

Dan Thorndike moved to approve funding from the Focused Investments Implementation spending plan line item for the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative FIP Implementation application recommended for funding in Attachment C, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements with an award date of January 26, 2016. Seconded by Eric Quaempts. Motion passed unanimously with one recusal.

Dan Thorndike moved to shift \$20,790 of unspent funds from the Focused Investments Capacity Building spending plan line item to the Focused Investments Implementation spending plan line item to cover additional FIP Implementation grant needs. Seconded by Cindy Deacon Williams. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Governor's Priorities

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, and Richard Whitman, Governor Brown's Natural Resources Policy Director, Lauri Aunan, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, and Brett Brownscombe Natural Resources Policy Advisor, described the Governor's Priorities, which include Working Farms and Ranches, Greater Sage-Grouse, Coastal Coho, and the Clean Water Partnership. The Board considered funding requests for these items.

Clean Water Partnership –

-Morgan Rider asked about how the Clean Water Partnership fared in the 2015 Legislative Session. Richard Whitman replied that certain pieces were funded in agency budgets and that a Clean Water Fund was also proposed, but not funded. He said work over the next nine months will inform a potential 2017 budget request.

-Eric Quaempts urged the Governor's office to focus on environmental outcomes and promote floodplain health.

Coastal Coho Business Plan –

-Morgan Rider asked how FIP Capacity Building grants will work with the Coastal Coho Business Plan. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that business plans are slightly different than the capacity grants, and that OWEB staff are keeping a close eye to ensure the two processes and associated products complement each other.

-Rosemary Furfey asked how the existing business plans link with the current strategic implementation areas. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that OWEB utilizes PCSRF funds to support work in some of these areas.

-Mike Haske wanted clarity on the focus of the business plans. Meta Loftsgaarden stated the plans are not based solely on the agricultural focus, but rather take a broader watershed view focused on coast coho habitat.

-Alan Henning asked how the business plans relate to Ag. Water Quality Plans. Richard Whitman replied that Ag. Water Quality Plans are more general, and business plans are more detailed (e.g., priority areas for work are identified). He noted a need to better coordinate between the various plans and initiatives occurring on the coast.

Sage Grouse Conservation –

-Karl Wenner asked about the mechanism of the funding and who it goes through. Meta Loftsgaarden stated these are OWEB grants, and they go directly to the partners. They cannot be granted to other state agencies, per OWEB's statutes. Meta said that funds are delegated to the Executive Director and allocated through grants.

-Mike Haske asked if this would count toward OWEB contributing \$10M for sage-grouse. Meta Loftsgaarden stated the agency is working with US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what would be eligible.

-Alan Henning asked about the time frame for these grants. Meta Loftsgaarden stated the timeframe could be up to six years, given the lifespan of Lottery funds.

-Cindy Deacon Williams asked how SageCon related to the recently awarded FIP. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that the FIP is directly related to on-the-ground projects. Brett Brownstone explained that this work is coordinating the various agencies and partners involving implementation, collecting data, and tracking progress and accomplishments, while the FIP contributes to telling the narrative of what is happening on the ground.

Working Farms and Ranches –

-Cindy Deacon Williams said this is for farms and ranches, and once the program is developed, they could expand for the small forest landowners. Lauri Aunan said this has entered into the discussion, and in the future, the small forest landowners may be invited into the program if there is interest.

Eric Quaempts moved to approve funding from the Oregon Plan/Governor's Priorities spending plan line item for the following investments, and to delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements with an award date of January 26, 2016:

1)	<i>Clean Water Partnership</i>	<i>\$ 300,000</i>
2)	<i>Coastal Coho Business Plan</i>	<i>\$ 250,000</i>
3)	<i>Sage Grouse Conservation</i>	<i>\$ 300,000</i>
4)	<i>Working Farms and Ranches</i>	<i>\$ 150,000</i>

Seconded by Morgan Rider. Motion passed unanimously.

I. Willamette River Report Card

Pam Wiley, former Willamette River Initiative Director, and Allison Hensey, current Willamette River Initiative Director, and Christina Watson, all from the Meyer Memorial Trust, provided the Board a presentation on the 2015 Willamette River Report Card.

-Morgan Rider felt this was a great result that helps the Board move forward, especially with the FIP program, and focus on areas that need more attention.

-Stephen Brandt asked if they have thought about applying the same metrics to other watersheds and developing a report card for those. Pam Wiley stated that each watershed is different and their metrics are different. That said, there could be a subset of rivers for which the report could be applicable.

-Alan Henning asked about TMDL in the Willamette. Pam Wiley stated that with the resources they had, Meyer could not comprehensively address the TMDL-related information needs. Alan said it would be interesting to work with other entities that are implementing TMDLs and coordinate efforts to track progress. Allison Hensey commented that the water quality grade was informed by a TMDL from DEQ.

-Randy Labbe extended thanks from himself personally, as well as from the Board, to the Willamette River Initiative and Meyer Memorial Trust because this will be a model of how partners can work together and improve the watershed.

J. Willamette Special Investment Partnership (SIP) Accomplishments Report

Renee Davis, Deputy Director, and Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, presented the Willamette SIP Accomplishments Summary Report to the Board, which highlights accomplishments made since SIP investments in the partnership began in 2008. In addition to Pam Wiley and Allison Hensey from Meyer Memorial Trust, Dorie Welch from the Bonneville Power Administration, Todd Reeve from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and Dan Bell from The Nature Conservancy were present to answer questions from the Board.

-Generally, this Willamette SIP is looking forward to continuing to work together via the FIP and beyond. There are many partners working together and looking at implementing more projects on the mainstem. This project helps the partners think about the long-term, decade-scale approach. Several of the 10-year targets for the tributaries are on track. The piecemeal

approach will not be as successful as aligning the efforts in the watershed. They have learned several lessons about timescale, complexity, and continuity. One of their goals is focusing on the functions of different groups working in the Willamette and determining how these contribute to broader restoration and conservation.

-Mike Haske gave kudos to them for their transparency and bringing awareness of the Willamette to the public. He asked if the SLICES framework could be applied to other watersheds. Pam Wiley stated that the protocol could be applied to other watersheds, it depends on if the conditions are right. Some of the SLICES elements can be put together much less expensively now than when originally implemented.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

January 27, 2016

OWEB Board Meeting

McMinnville, Oregon

Minutes

OWEB Members Present

Alan Henning
Bob Webber
Dan Thorndike
Debbie Hollen
Doug Kraemer
Eric Quaempts
Gary Marshall
John Roberts
Karl Wenner
Morgan Rider
Randy Labbe
Rosemary Furfey
Stephen Brandt
Will Neuhauser

OWEB Staff Present

Cammi Hungate
Courtney Shaff
Darika Barnes
Eric Hartstein
Eric Williams
Ginger Loftus
Greg Ciannella
Juniper Davis
Karen Leiendecker
Katie Duzik
Liz Redon
Meta Loftsgaarden
Renee Davis
Sue Greer

Others Present

Adam Mayor
Alex Sifford
Dan Roix
Jerry Nicolescu
Kelley Beamer
Larry Ojua
Lee Faro
Luke Westphal
Manette Simpson

K. Public Comment

-Jerry Nicolescu thanked the Board for their work in the FIP process, especially the sage-grouse project. They have over a million acres involved with numerous landowners.

L. Legislative Update

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, and Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, briefed the Board on emerging legislative issues, including Senate Bill 1517, which involves county review of proposed wetland projects and eliminating certain landowner liability protections.

-Alan Henning asked if the legislative concept was to protect neighboring landowners. Eric Hartstein confirmed that the issue of impacts to neighboring landowners relating to wetland restoration is one primary component of the bill. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that the current statute limiting landowner liability is to encourage landowners to participate in restoration projects directly tied to OWEB or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife projects. The bill was advanced by the Oregon Farm Bureau and involves county review of wetland projects, which are contentious in certain parts of the state.

-Morgan Rider is interested in the impetus for the bill. Meta explained that the major driver is neighboring properties, as well as land use patterns in certain parts of the state. Morgan wanted to make sure that, if the bill passes, OWEB review teams require county approval before grants are undertaken. Meta clarified that grantees cannot receive funds if any required approvals and permits (including those at the county level) are not received.

M. OWEB Agency Request Budget

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, led the Board in a discussion on the development of the 2017-2019 OWEB Agency Request Budget.

-Randy Labbe asked if the KPMs around administrative costs are measured with the limited duration positions. Meta Loftsgaarden explained that OWEB is asking other agencies and entities how they measure their KPMs and what measurements they do or don't include.

-Karl Wenner asked if a 10% reduction would apply to the operating budget. Meta Loftsgaarden stated the pots of money for grant funds and those for operating funds are separate. There has not yet been direction to develop a staff reduction scenario

-Stephen Brandt stated that OSU is undergoing a similar process in dealing with emerging PERS issues.

-Bob Webber asked about the sources of OWEB's funds. Meta Loftsgaarden stated the agency receives Lottery dollars and funding from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, but does not receive general funds.

-Eric Quaempts asked if this will include a strategic plan update. Meta Loftsgaarden said it is on the radar, and staff will look toward revising the plan in 2017. Contracting dollars would be used for that process.

N. Tribal Update

Juniper Davis, Partnerships Coordinator, and Eric Quaempts briefed the Board on the OWEB 2015 Annual Government-to-Government Report to Tribes, which highlights work the agency does with tribes in Oregon.

-Alan Henning asked about coordination between agency tribal coordinators. Juniper Davis replied that the state agencies have good coordination, however communication may not occur with federal agencies. Alan made a note to connect with the EPA tribal coordinator.

O. Partners Update to the Board

Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Alex Sifford of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, and Jerry Nicolescu of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts provided the Board an update on their representative organizations.

P. Executive Director Update

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, Liz Redon, Willamette Program Representative, Renee Davis, Deputy Director, and Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, updated the Board on additional agency business and late-breaking issues.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

-Karl Wenner asked if the online capacity grants were a time-saver. Courtney Shaff stated that, for the online work-plans for Council Capacity grants, a 50-100 page application was reduced to a much shorter format. This resulted in approximately 80% time savings to write and review.

Operating Capacity Grants

-Bob Webber said it appears that OWEB is punishing collaboration, based on the perspective that if groups work well, they are eligible for less funding. Courtney Shaff explained the criteria for the process and stated that OWEB is creating clear expectations of the councils.

-John Roberts asked what the savings are for the mergers. Courtney Shaff stated there are not usually cost savings in the short term, but much greater cost savings occur in the long-term. This means it may take time for the savings to be fully realized.

-Alan Henning is concerned that the new operational capacity grants are involving OWEB in the organizational structures of the soil and water conservation districts. Doug Krahmer responded that there are not a lot of places where soil and water conservation districts could merge.

Increase of the Technical Assistance Grant Cap

-Will Neuhauser asked why there is a cap on TA grants at all. Karen Leiendecker, Region 5 Program Representative, responded that it was a mechanism to stretch out limited amounts of funding for TA grants. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that many of the TA applications OWEB is receiving are at \$50,000, so OWEB knows there is an issue with the current cap.

-Morgan Rider suggested capping TA grants at a percentage of the anticipated restoration project. Meta Loftsgaarden replied that staff will return to the Board in April to discuss cap options as well as a further analysis of TA demand.

FIP Implementation Schedule 2017-2019

-Bob Webber asked how the funding for the recently awarded FIPs would work into the state biennia budgets. Meta Loftsgaarden replied that staff will work with the Focused Investment Board subcommittee and the FIP work group on this issue.

-Stephen Brandt suggested pushing back the process to allow more time for recently awarded FIPs to be reviewed.

-Rosemary Furfey would like to have their applicant's monitoring plan and approach included in the evaluation.

Forest Collaborative Grants

-No comments

Q. Other Business

Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, updated the Board and asked for funding of the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction Grant Program.

-Karl Wenner asked if this money is already appropriated for this program by the Legislature. He wanted to make sure this is not coming out of the lottery funds. Meta Loftsgaarden confirmed that it is additional money provided by Oregon Department Forestry to OWEB to run the grant program.

-Gary Marshall asked if Rangeland Fire Protection Associations were requesting training. Eric Hartstein stated that they are asking for training, as well as communication equipment.

Dan Thorndike moved to allocate up to \$400,000 of General Funds from the Oregon Department of Forestry in support of the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program to the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements in project number 216-8009, with an award date of July 1, 2015. Seconded by Bob Webber. Motion passed unanimously.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Meeting Agenda

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
April 26-27, 2016

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Blue Mountain Conference Center
404 12th St.
La Grande, OR 97850

Directions: See map at <http://www.unioncountychamber.org/blue-mountain-conference-center>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, E and F), anyone wishing to speak to the Board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

A. Board Member Comments

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update 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

The minutes of the January 26-27 meeting in McMinnville will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Board Co-Chair Election

Co-Chairs Eric Quaempts and Dan Thorndike will lead a discussion and vote by Board members to elect co-chairs for the Board. *Action item.*

D. Public Comment [approximately 8:55 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board. Note: specific public comment opportunities are provided within the Land Acquisition and Regular Grant Application agenda items for discussion.

E. Land Acquisition Grant Awards

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Hulst will request Board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the October 2015 grant cycle. The Board will hear public comment on land acquisition applications (at approximately 9:25 a.m.). *Action item.*

F. Pending Regular Grant Applications

Introduction

Prior to hearing public comment, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the October 2015 grant cycle.

Public Comment [approximately 11:00 a.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and outreach grant applications to be considered for funding by the Board. Only comments pertaining to these specific grant applications will be accepted during the meeting. The Board will not accept any written materials at this time. Any written comments pertaining to pending grant proposals must be received by agency staff by the April 12, 2016 deadline. ***The Board encourages speakers to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

Board Consideration of Pending Regular Grant Applications

The Board will consider grant applications submitted by the October 19-20, 2015 application deadline for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and outreach grants. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. *Action item.*

G. Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)—Request for Funding for Implementation Monitoring and Capacity Assessments

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will describe for the Board proposed approaches for monitoring FIP Implementation and Capacity Building initiatives. Staff will request the Board consider awarding funding for FIP implementation monitoring and capacity assessment, and delegating authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds. *Action item.*

Tour – 3:00 p.m.

The Board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of restoration projects along Catherine Creek. Transportation will be provided for OWEB Board members and staff. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation.

Informal Reception – 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception sponsored by local partners and stakeholders.

*Location: Cook Memorial Library
2006 4th St.
La Grande, OR 97850*

Wednesday, April 27, 2016**Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.**

During the public comment period (Agenda Item H), anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

H. Public Comment [approximately 8:00 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

I. OWEB Agency Request Budget (ARB)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis will lead the Board in a discussion on the development of the 2017-2019 OWEB ARB. The Board will then consider approval of the ARB. *Action item.*

J. OWEB Key Performance Measures (KPMs)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis will brief the Board on both revisions to, and targets associated with, OWEB's KPMs. The Board will be asked to approve the revised KPMs. *Action item.*

K. Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)—Proposed Schedule Revisions

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Chair of the OWEB Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments Will Neuhauser will describe for the Board proposed revisions to the schedule for the FIP program leading up to the 2017-2019 biennium. *Information item.*

L. Coastal Wetlands Grants—Program Update

Partnerships Coordinator Juniper Davis will update the Board on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Grant Program. *Information item.*

M. Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction (RWTR)—Grant Program Update and Funding Request

Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will brief the Board on the RWTR grant program, and request the Board consider awarding additional funding and delegating authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds. *Action item.*

N. Upper Klamath Special Investment Partnership (SIP) Accomplishments Report

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will present to the Board the Upper Klamath SIP Accomplishments Summary Report, which highlights accomplishments made since SIP investments in the partnership began in 2012. *Information item.*

O. Executive Director Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the Board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

P. Other Business — Funding Request to Add Recaptured Grant Funds to Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) Implementation Initiatives

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will request the Board consider awarding recaptured grant funding for FIP projects submitted through the Open Solicitation Grant cycle prior to FIP program approval. Note: If time allows, this agenda item will be moved to occur after Item F which takes place on Tuesday of the meeting. *Action item.*

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 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules: The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business – A general business **quorum is six 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 six** 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 eight voting** members present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if three or more voting members object** to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony: The Board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

A public comment period for pending grant applications will be held on Tuesday, April 26 at 11:00 a.m. The Board will not accept any written materials at that time. Any written comments pertaining to pending regular grant proposals must be received by the April 12, 2016 deadline. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

General public comment periods will be held on Tuesday, April 26 at 8:55 a.m. and Wednesday, April 27 at 8:00 a.m. for any matter before the Board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the Board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

Tour: The Board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to Board members and OWEB staff. If you wish to join the tour, be prepared to provide your own transportation.

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.

Questions? If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Darika Barnes, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes (503-986-0181) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

- Board of Agriculture member: *Laura Masterson*
- Environmental Quality Commission member: *Morgan Rider*
- Fish and Wildlife Commission member: *Bob Webber*
- Board of Forestry member: *Vacant*
- Water Resources Commission member: *John Roberts*
- Public member (tribal): *Eric Quaempts, Board Co-Chair*
- Public member: *Gary Marshall*
- Public member: *Will Neuhauser*
- Public member: *Randy Labbe*
- Public member: *Dan Thorndike, Board Co-Chair*
- Public member: *Karl Wenner*

Non-voting Members

- Representative of National Marine Fisheries Service: *Rosemary Furfey*
- Representative of Oregon State University Extension Service: *Stephen Brandt*
- Representative of U.S. Forest Service: *Debbie Hollen*
- Representative of U.S. Bureau of Land Management: *Vacant*
- Representative of U.S. National Resource Conservation Service: *Ron Alvarado*
- Representative of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: *Alan Henning*

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
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OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board– Darika Barnes

darika.barnes@oweb.state.or.us
503-986-0181

2016 Board Meeting Schedule

July 26-27 in Otter Rock
October 25-26 in Ashland

2017 Board Meeting Schedule

January 24-25 in Madras
April 25-26 in Salem
July 25-26 in Boardman/Hermiston
October 24-25 in Lebanon

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site: www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update O-3: Legislative Summary

Introduction

This report provides the Board with a wrap up of the 2016 legislative session and OWEB preparations for the 2017 legislative session.

2016 Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature met from February 1 to March 3 for the “short” session which is held during even-numbered years. OWEB did not have any agency bills before the Legislature, but one policy bill was passed, and is anticipated to be signed by the Governor, that relates to OWEB wetland investments in Tillamook County.

SB 1517 authorizes Tillamook County to adopt a pilot program for projects that create, restore, or enhance wetlands on land zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) in the county. The pilot program establishes two paths for site-specific wetlands projects. It also initiates a larger planning process for wetlands projects in the county.

The first site-specific path for a wetlands project applicant is to apply for a permit through the county that will evaluate the project under certain standards related to changes to land use patterns and impacts to neighboring properties. The second path for a wetlands project applicant is to enter a project-specific collaborative process including any person whose property may be adversely affected the proposed use and technical experts in the field of wetlands. The wetlands project applicant can discontinue the project-specific collaborative path by request and resume the permit application through the first path described above.

The broader planning process for Tillamook County to initiate is dependent on outside funding being made available, and would identify areas in the county zoned EFU which are suitable for wetland creation, restoration, or enhancement and which are priority areas for the maintenance of agricultural use. Once completed, the plan would allow for a process to deny permits or streamline the permitting process for wetland project applications.

The pilot program established by SB 1517 does not include wetlands projects that are related to mitigation banking, reclamation of lands affected by surface mining, associated with certain permit requirements, constructed prior to the adoption of the pilot program, or only involve planting vegetation in wetlands or riparian areas.

Preparations for 2017 Legislative Session

OWEB is currently developing two potential legislative concepts (drafts of ideas for legislation) for the 2017 legislative session.

- *Working Farms and Ranches Program.* This legislative concept would develop a program to help landowners maintain working farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation benefits on those lands. The incentives are intended to allow for flexibility for landowners, offer a balance between economic and conservation needs, and provide leverage for federal funding.

A Working Farms and Ranches Work Group has been meeting regularly. Although the group has begun discussing potential policy recommendations, meetings held in April

and May will fully flesh out this legislative concept with specific solutions for creating a Working Farms and Ranches program that will develop new voluntary tools that complement Oregon's land use planning program, conserve long-term agricultural productivity, and maintain healthy natural resources on Oregon's working lands.

- *OWEB Statute Clean-up*. This legislative concept would provide fixes to OWEB statutes, including the Oregon Plan, Oregon Plan Administration and Watershed Enhancement Program, and Program Funding and Programs. The expected revisions are expected to include additional language that will revitalize certain statutes and remove aspects of the statutes that are longer relevant.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden at meta.loftsgaarden@state.or.us or 503-986-0180, or Eric Hartstein at eric.hartstein@state.or.us or 503-986-0029.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E: October 2015 Land Acquisition Grant Cycle Awards
April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the October 20, 2015 land acquisition grant cycle and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards for the cycle.

II. Land Acquisitions – October 2015 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The October 2015 grant cycle is the first of two annual land acquisition grant cycles for the 2015-2017 biennium. The total spending plan amount for land and water acquisitions for this biennium is currently \$6.5 million.

Four land acquisition grant applications were received this grant cycle, requesting approximately \$3.1 million. One application was determined to be incomplete, and was not evaluated. The remaining three applications are summarized in Attachment A. Information contained in the attachment is further described in Section II.B of this staff report and in the application evaluations that are included as Attachment B.

Applications 216-9901 and 216-9903 are recommended for funding with conditions. Application 216-9902 was withdrawn by the applicant.

B. Review Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with the process adopted by the Board at its January 2013 meeting and refined by the Board in 2015. The process evaluates ecological outcomes, project soundness, organizational capacity, and community benefits and impacts. It also includes submission of public comment by interested parties.

Site visits were conducted by staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant, chosen by staff from Regional Review Teams, and other subject matter experts. Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and the input of all ecological reviewers was summarized by a contractor in consultation with staff.

Project soundness reviews were conducted by a team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice. The reviews included identifying project soundness concerns, which were described in terms of yellow and red flags. A yellow-flag concern is a matter that reviewers think is likely resolvable in the 18-month timeframe allowed for closing transactions after the Board awards funding. A red-flag concern is a matter that reviewers think is insurmountable in the granting timeframe.

Staff and the due-diligence contractor reviewed organizational capacity and community benefits and impacts. Public comment was solicited through notices and a public hearing held by staff for each of the complete applications received this cycle.

Staff summarized the review outcomes, including yellow and red flags, and scores for each project, calculated from specific sections of the grant application. The process by which projects were scored was described in advance to applicants. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

Using the revised review process approved by the Board in 2015, the Board Subcommittee for Acquisitions met with staff during the evaluation process for the October 2015 applications, discussed the applications and evaluation information gathered up to the time of the meeting, and asked for additional information to be included in certain evaluations to help the Board make sound funding decisions. The revised review process ensures that meetings comply with public meeting laws, as such, the Board Subcommittee for Acquisitions did not make funding recommendations to staff.

III. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the Board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C. The grants total \$2,342,755.

Attachments

- A. Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, October 2015 Grant Cycle
- B. Land Acquisition Project Evaluations
- C. Project-specific Conditions (to be provided at the April Board meeting)

**Land Acquisition Applications
October 20, 2015 Grant Cycle**

Staff Do-Fund Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Application #	Region	Project Name	Total OWEB Request	Total Amount Recommended	Score*	Flags ^o
216-9901	2	Rogue River Preserve [^]	1,385,255	1,385,255	56	yellow
216-9903	2	Mountcrest Working Forest Conservation Easement [^]	957,500	957,500	53	yellow
216-9902	6	Canyon Ranch Conservation Easement - WITHDRAWN	713,608			
Total Land Acquisition Applications Submitted in the October 2015 Cycle for OWEB Funding			\$3,056,363			
Total OWEB Funding Recommended			\$2,342,755	\$2,342,755		

* 60 Possible Points

^o Flags Are Explained in the Project Evaluation:

Yellow: concerning but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe

Red: insurmountable in OWEB's granting timeframe

[^] Fund as Specified in the Project Evaluation

October 2015 OWEB Grant Cycle Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	216-9901		
Project Name:	Rogue River Preserve		
Applicant:	Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	Region:	Southwest Oregon
Basin:	Rogue	County:	Jackson
OWEB Request:	\$1,385,255.00	Total Cost:	\$2,508,255.00

Application Description

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) is requesting funds for the purchase of a 352-acre property on the Rogue River in Jackson County, at river mile 139, downstream of Shady Cove. The property spans approximately 1.5 miles of one bank of the Rogue River, and includes a large island in the river. The property contains rare and threatened habitats, including a 140-acre floodplain gallery forest; an active, hydrologically-connected floodplain; 40 acres of vernal pool habitats; 88 acres of oak woodland; and 25 acres of chaparral. The property has been minimally used for many years, despite a road and several buildings on the property. Due to the low level of use of the property, its habitats are relatively intact and connected. SOLC proposes to protect and steward the property's conservation values, and allow the property to be used for structured educational activities and limited recreation that is consistent with protection of the property's resources.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the project is sound, with a high likelihood that the project can be completed within OWEB's granting timeframe, which is eighteen months from the award date to closing. Specifically, reviewers noted that SOLC has invested significant work in building momentum for the project, including developing a diverse fundraising strategy for purchase and stewardship funds, and mobilizing supporters for assistance with purchase preparations. SOLC has obtained an appraisal and an option for the property that includes a significant donation of the property's value by the seller. SOLC has conducted extensive surveys of the property to confirm its resources and their condition.

In addition to standard due diligence actions that will be necessary, confirmation of project soundness would entail a number of steps, including but not limited to, evaluating the compatibility of the property's title encumbrances with the ecological goals of the project. The encumbrances include several easements, federal deed reservations and a State-reserved mineral interest. Also, clarification will be needed regarding boundary matters such as possible fence and driveway encroachments in the northern portion of the Property. Finally, SOLC will need to coordinate with OWEB if any relocation obligations result from OWEB's involvement in the project.

Ecological Outcomes

The reviewers agreed that the proposed acquisition is an excellent opportunity to protect a large property with significant biodiversity and some of the best functioning and connected habitat left along this reach of the Rogue River. Reviewers felt that protection of the property would augment current and future conservation efforts in the area. The reviewers also agreed that the imminent

threats to the property, described in the application, are primarily posed by potential subdivision and development. The county's population is growing and there is a high demand for Rogue River property.

The property includes widely varying at-risk habitats, including floodplain gallery forest and associated sloughs, wetlands, streams, and springs; prairie and oak savanna and woodland; and chaparral. Reviewers felt that the size and quality of these systems are very impressive.

The reviewers noted that protection of the property would benefit a wide range of priority species and plant communities. SOLC has identified 22 special-status species on the property, including OWEB priority species such as coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Lewis's woodpecker, blue-gray gnatcatcher, oak titmouse, and northwestern pond turtle. The application states that the property's significant chaparral component, which has been mostly removed from the Rogue Valley floor elsewhere, provides critically important habitat for shrub-dependent species. Reviewers noted that the property's extensive network of floodplain channels is likely to serve as rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. The application also states that the property's vernal pools are suitable habitat for three species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The reviewers concluded that the management approach described in the application is appropriate for maintaining ecological processes and enhancing habitat conditions on the property. The application adequately describes the proposed future conditions for each of the major habitats on the property. Invasive species control, such as targeting exotic annual grasses and yellow starthistle, and post-control restoration of the plant communities will be critical to achieve desired ecological outcomes. Reviewers felt that managing access and minimizing trespass from the river corridor and upland areas will also be important for conserving the property's habitats. The reviewers noted that there is a need to establish adequate funding and staffing to ensure that the property's conservation values are preserved and restored over the long-term.

- Needs and opportunities: 15 out of 15 points possible
- Results and Benefits: 24 out of 25 points possible
- Conditions and Function: 9 out of 10 points possible

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that a variety of non-profits groups, such as The Freshwater Trust and the Rogue Valley Audubon Society are already using, or wish to use, the property for scientific study to further the community's understanding of ecology and conservation. With the property seller's permission, SOLC has begun arranging for studies such as butterfly surveys, western pond turtle surveys, and fire ecology assessments. The information gathered at the property will inform conservation efforts throughout the region. The application states that SOLC is exploring the potential for holding special events in the property's historic home, including youth and adult education classes. The application states that such use of the property would be carefully implemented, monitored and adapted to give the community opportunities to enjoy the property in a manner that is consistent with SOLC's primary objective of enhancing and protecting the property's conservation values.

SOLC has built a strong base of support for the project, including a project campaign called Heart of the Rogue Council which raises funds and project awareness. SOLC has held neighbor meetings and garnered the support of more than 20 organizations including the US Fish and Wildlife Service,

the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Cow Creek Tribe. SOLC has committed to keeping the property on the tax rolls to minimize the fiscal impact to Jackson County.

Organizational Capacity

The application states that SOLC is accredited by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), and has been in operation since 1978. SOLC holds conservation easements on nearly 10,000 acres, and owns one property in fee simple. SOLC's Vision 2020 initiative includes the goal of conserving 20,000 acres in primary focus areas, including the area where the property is located, by the year 2020. SOLC has four conservation easements within a three-mile radius of the property, and is well versed in the conservation and social issues of the area. The application states that SOLC has an adequate endowment to ensure perpetual stewardship of the property interests it holds, and hires an independent accounting firm every year to audits its financial records, which have been found to be in compliance with established standards.

Reviewers felt that the SOLC's application demonstrates SOLC's qualifications and capacity to acquire and manage the property. Reviewers noted SOLC's in-house acquisition and stewardship expertise, which includes a staff attorney and an experienced land steward. Further, reviewers believed that SOLC's conservation focus in the Rogue River Valley, including its role monitoring and enforcing a large portfolio of conservation easements, provides sufficient justification for SOLC to be considered the right organization to acquire the property and restore and steward it for the long term.

Reviewers noted that SOLC owns and manages only one 30-acre fee property, with the addition of another 352 fee acres, possibly stressing the organization's capacity to perform. However, reviewers also noted that SOLC's existing stewardship staff has proven to be adept and efficient at understanding the property's resources through extensive surveys, and making sound plans for management and enhancement of the resources. Further, reviewers appreciated that SOLC has committed to hiring additional stewardship staff, and felt that this should sufficiently address the concern.

- 8 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

OWEB staff conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition on January 21, 2016 at the Medford City Hall complex. The hearing was well-attended with approximately 50 people in attendance, and focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- Unique bio-diverse property, which has been preserved in its natural state for 75-100 years.
- Prevents residential development on privately owned property, which would likely cut off river access, while maintaining working lands.
- The Jackson SWCD Board wishes to work with SOLC to keep the property as a working site for:
 - Science based research and land management demonstration;
 - Youth/ adult education; and
 - The annual envirothon contest.

- Provides a key opportunity for conservation adjacent to the city, creating a legacy in an urban setting, particularly for youth.
- Property includes riparian land in good condition, which can serve as a benchmark for restoration.
- This is the best example of riparian land on the Rogue River.
- Provides connectivity between uplands and the river, providing a network of conservation property.
- SOLC has the capacity to manage the project and has competent staff.
- The project is compatible with private property rights and enhances the value of nearby properties.
- OWEB funding is less than half the purchase price.
- Structured public access to the Rogue River is needed and will be allowed on this project, supporting the important Rogue River fishery as a local economic resource.

Project Questions or Concerns

- Local residents have a more realistic view of land management than outside groups or government agencies.
- Project should not be thought of as a stepping stone for additional public lands; should keep from becoming a wild and scenic river or receiving a wilderness designation.
- Land is a source of wealth and should not be preserved as a park, which limits the ability to sell the property.
- All property is unique, and this one is no more deserving of government funds than any other.
- A recent dam removal caused the loss of 10 cottonwoods on private land due to water level drop, and there was no help from the conservation community to restore the property.
- Keep private property in private ownership; the desired ecological values of this property existed under private ownership.
- Generally opposed to public funds for private land.

Summary

Total Score: 56 points out of 60 points possible. The proposed project presents an excellent opportunity to achieve significant ecological outcomes. The project appears to be sound from a transactional standpoint. Reviewers identified yellow flags (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) regarding the property's title and potential boundary encroachments. Reviewers noted that the title report included with the application is relatively old, and that encumbrances will need to be mapped, further evaluated, and where necessary, resolved. Reviewers also noted the possibility of fence and driveway encroachments in the northern portion of the property. The encroachments need to be confirmed and, if necessary, resolved. Reviewers felt that the matters do not constitute significant yellow flags, and that SOLC appears to have the capacity to address the matters to OWEB's satisfaction within OWEB's granting timeframe.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award SOLC \$1,385,255.00 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with SOLC to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2016 meeting.

October 2015 OWEB Grant Cycle Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	216-9903		
Project Name:	Mountcrest Working Forest Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Pacific Forest Trust	Region:	Southwest Oregon
Basin:	Rogue	County:	Jackson
OWEB Request:	\$957,500.00	Total Cost:	\$3,567,500.00

Application Description

Pacific Forest Trust is requesting funds for the purchase of a working lands conservation easement on a 2,065-acre commercial forest property known as the Mountcrest Property located on the east slope of Mount Ashland, straddling the Siskiyou Crest divide between the Rogue River and Klamath River watersheds. The property is also at the interface of the Klamath Mountains and Cascade Range, and is adjacent to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and a national forest Late Successional Reserve. The property contains a range of diverse habitats: hardwood, mixed deciduous, and riparian forests; meadows; wetlands; and streams. The property includes the headwaters of Neil Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek that supports coho salmon and steelhead downstream.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

The reviewers felt that the project is sound, with a high likelihood that the project can be completed within OWEB's granting timeframe, which is eighteen months from the award date to closing. Specifically, reviewers noted that the draft conservation easement submitted with the application appears reasonably sound overall, with a clear purpose, clear protections for conservation values, and clear remedies in the case of a conflict. Reviewers also noted that PFT has conducted good initial research into the property's title and reasonably asserted that the title does not appear to present significant risks to a conservation investment.

In addition to standard due diligence actions that will be necessary (e.g., appraisal approval, environmental site assessment approval, etc.), confirmation of project soundness would entail a number of steps, including, but not limited to: (i) further evaluating the compatibility of numerous easements and rights-of-way that encumber the property; (ii) confirming legal and sufficient access to various parts of the property; and (iii) agreeing on the final-form conservation easement that will be granted by the property owner, including but not limited to language regarding the owner's reservation of carbon storage and sequestration rights, and performance goals for minimizing the impact of invasive plants and animals in accordance with the ecological outcomes review, below.

Ecological Outcomes

The reviewers agreed that the Mountcrest Property is one of the largest remaining intact holdings in a region of significant biodiversity and in an area with potential to provide connectivity between federal lands such as national forest Late Successional Reserve and other protected lands. The reviewers also agreed that the property as a whole has been well managed since the 1970s to include wildlife and sustainable forest values. The property's size, good condition, diversity of habitat types, and strategic location at the interface of the Cascade and Klamath Ecoregions support the

property's high conservation values. The reviewers thought that the property's connectivity to important habitat on adjacent properties, along with current and proposed future management of the property for conservation values, make it a highly significant conservation opportunity. The reviewers felt that the federal and private forestlands adjacent to the property are managed for uneven-aged stands and in a manner that reduces fire risks and maintains wildlife habitat connectivity.

The reviewers also noted that the property is important because it protects high-priority habitats cited in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Protection of the property would secure the opportunity to continue responsible forest stewardship and contribute to the recovery of northern spotted owl, provide important habitat for fisher, and protect headwaters for coho salmon and cutthroat trout.

The reviewers felt that the property's risk of development and its current conservation values were well documented in the application. Short-term threats include changes in the logging practices that could harm water and biological resources. The primary long-term threat is potential rezoning and subdivision of the property to develop the area for recreational home sites, particularly with a change in ownership. The property is located near a major tourist community and on the road to Mt. Ashland Ski Area.

The reviewers were supportive of the working lands conservation easement in concept. The reviewers felt that the conservation values described in the conservation easement are consistent with the habitat protections and ecological outcomes they identified in their review. The purpose of the conservation easement was determined to be in alignment with the reviewers' expectation that protection of conservation values will prevail over economic activities in the event of a conflict between the two, and that ecological outcomes will be achieved and sustained over time. Reviewers concluded that for the most part, the proposed conservation easement's restrictions on timber harvest and the performance goals for the property overall, including the special habitat management zones, will ensure that the resource values are protected and ecological functions and habitats are sustained over time. Furthermore, reviewers concluded that the current and future timber harvest management and other activities outlined in the easement, including fire management, are appropriate for maintaining and promoting healthy forest stand characteristics and ecological functions while reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires. However, the reviewers identified the potential for wildfire risks associated with recreational, trespass, and road uses. Reviewers also identified the need for performance goals for minimizing the impact of invasive plants and animals.

- Needs and opportunities: 14 out of 15 points possible
- Results and Benefits: 22 out of 25 points possible
- Conditions and Function: 9 out of 10 points possible

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that purchase of the conservation easement will ensure that the current benefits provided to the public by the Mountcrest Property will be preserved, including its aesthetic value, contribution to the tax rolls, input of sustainably harvested commercial timber to the market, and contribution of clean water to the Rogue and Klamath River systems. Further, continuing the current approach of managing the property will help to control wildfire risk in the community and store carbon to aid in climate stabilization.

A small area of the property contains a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), an outstanding recreational resource that is a benefit to the community and broader public. The application states that the owner of the property is considering conveying the portion of the property that contains the PCT to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) before selling the conservation easement on the remainder of the property. The sale to BLM, which would not entail the use of any OWEB funds, would help ensure that the trail is owned and managed appropriately for the public, and would not diminish the conservation objectives of the project. The conservation easement's restrictions on timber harvest will ensure that hikers have a scenic view from the applicable portion of the trail.

Organizational Capacity

The application states that PFT is accredited by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), has 23 years of experience in forestland conservation, and has been a leader in the development of the working forest conservation easement as a tool to conserve managed forestland for multiple public benefits. Reviewers felt that PFT has the demonstrated qualifications and capacity to complete the proposed acquisition and manage the conservation easement over time. PFT's in-house staff has negotiated the acquisition of over 100 forestland conservation easements, including Pacific Northwest conservation easements totaling over 85,000 acres managed by PFT. The PFT staff is guided by an accomplished board including conservation faculty at Duke University and the University of Washington.

Reviewers also agreed with PFT's opinion that the proposed easement would be a logical extension of its ten-year old Klamath-Cascade Conservation Initiative, which entails work in Northern California and Southern Oregon. PFT has worked closely with BLM for ten years to facilitate the addition of more than 5,000 acres to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

PFT has received and managed grant agreements for more than \$20 million in public funding to accomplish conservation work. The application states that PFT has LTA-recommended policies and procedures in place to ensure that each conservation easement it purchases has a succession plan, and adequate funding for stewardship, monitoring, and enforcement. The funds are maintained in restricted accounts, and have been independently audited, with PFT's other financial records, for 20 years.

8 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

OWEB staff conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition on January 21, 2016 at Ashland City Council Chambers. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- Connects with the 13,000-acre Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument; BLM has identified connectivity as a top priority for the monument since 2008.
- Enhanced trail protection for the PCT.
- Improved fire prevention in key locations.
- Protection of Rogue/ Klamath headwaters in this unique watershed divide.

- Good example of combining ecological and economic benefits. Private, non-industrial ownership is undervalued; this is a great example of forest management by a private, non-industrial entity.
- Prevents fragmentation into small ownerships, which often present management challenges.

Project Questions or Concerns

- Management is complicated by both ecological and social issues, particularly with regard to fire.
- Timing is important to keep large ownerships intact.
- Jackson and Josephine counties have the greatest fire management challenges.

Summary

Total Score: 53 points out of 60 points possible. The proposed project presents an excellent opportunity to achieve significant ecological outcomes. The project appears to be sound from a transactional standpoint. Reviewers identified several yellow flags (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) including: (i) numerous title exceptions that will need to be mapped, further reevaluated, and where necessary, resolved; and (ii) the need for PFT to negotiate final conservation easement language that is acceptable to OWEB and other parties to the easement. Reviewers felt that the issues do not present significant concerns because PFT appears to have the capacity to complete the title work, and because the conservation easement included with the application is a good initial draft.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award PFT \$957,500.00 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with PFT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2016 meeting.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F: October 2015 Open Solicitation Grant Awards
April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the October 2015 Open Solicitation grant cycle and funding recommendations. Staff request the Board consider the funding recommendations outlined in Attachments E-J to the staff report. Staff recommend funding 46 restoration projects, 18 technical assistance projects, 12 monitoring projects, and 12 outreach projects.

II. October 2015 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The October 2015 Open Solicitation grant cycle offered Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Outreach applications. A total of 187 grant applications seeking over \$19 million were received. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn or Determined Ineligible

1. Ineligible

One restoration application (216-3040) was determined to be ineligible because it was submitted with an incorrect form. One restoration application (216-5038) and one technical assistance application (216-5049) were determined to be ineligible under open solicitation because they met the criteria for funding under Focused Investment Partnership awards made by the Board in January. These applications will be routed to the applicable partnership for funding consideration.

2. Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, one restoration application (216-5034) was withdrawn by the applicant prior to review.

C. Review Process

Staff sent eligible grant proposals for review to the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled site visits to as many proposed projects as possible. Per OWEB process, all RRT members were invited on these visits.

Following site visits, OWEB facilitated RRT meetings in each region. Reviewers considered the ecological significance of the proposed project, technical merit, feasibility, likelihood of success, experience of the applicant, whether the budget supports the proposed work and the overall cost-benefit of applications. After classifying applications as “fund” or “do not fund,” the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRTs’ evaluations and recommendations in summary form are distributed to all applicants whose proposals were reviewed by that team. Prior to the Board meeting, staff forward to the Board all written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. October 2015 Grant Cycle and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

At the July 2015 Board meeting the Board adopted a Salmon License Plate Policy (Agenda Item I). Based on this policy, staff recommend distributing \$250,000 of Salmon License Plate funds for this cycle among four projects listed in Attachment B.

B. Sage Grouse Projects

At the April 2015 Board meeting the Board adopted a policy to make available at least \$10 million through its granting programs over the next ten years in support of projects located in Oregon’s sage steppe ecosystem directed to improve Greater Sage Grouse habitat. For the October 2015 Open Solicitation grant cycle, there are five projects recommended for funding that meet these criteria, totaling \$545,309 (Attachment C).

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the October 2015 Open Solicitation grant cycle are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2015-17 Spending Plan and October 2015 Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Application Type	Spending Plan Total	Previously Awarded	Staff Recommended	Grant Funds Remaining
Restoration	\$24,650,000	\$6,195,435	\$6,164,407	\$12,290,158
Technical Assistance	\$2,750,000	\$688,990	\$623,290	\$1,437,720
Monitoring	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$948,269	\$951,731
Outreach	\$600,000	\$0	\$309,634	\$290,366
TOTAL	\$29,900,000	\$6,884,425	\$8,045,600	\$14,969,975

Table 1

A. Development of Staff Recommendations

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations, the funding availability and the 2015-2017 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the Board. Attachment D contains the overall recommendations, details by region and

type, the number of applications recommended by the RRTs and staff, and the funding requests recommended by staff.

B. October Cycle 2015 – Regional Application Funding Recommendations

Staff recommendations for Board action are identified by region for the applications in Attachments E-J.

Attachments

- A. Grant Applications Submitted
- B. Salmon License Plate Projects
- C. Sage Grouse Projects
- D. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
- E. Region 1 Funding Recommendations
- F. Region 2 Funding Recommendations
- G. Region 3 Funding Recommendations
- H. Region 4 Funding Recommendations
- I. Region 5 Funding Recommendations
- J. Region 6 Funding Recommendations

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Types of Applications Received for October 2015

	Monitoring	Outreach	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	8	4	5	10	27
Region 2	10	4	8	23	45
Region 3	1	8	8	12	29
Region 4	1	1	6	9	17
Region 5	5	3	6	18	32
Region 6	4	3	7	23	37
Totals	29	23	40	95	187

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Monitoring	Outreach	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	506,638	82,087	179,265	2,519,322	\$3,287,312
Region 2	981,994	187,145	323,335	4,828,367	\$6,320,841
Region 3	24,025	270,393	285,695	2,025,777	\$2,605,890
Region 4	39,550	27,773	250,122	1,920,146	\$2,237,591
Region 5	286,270	69,233	223,579	1,653,519	\$2,232,601
Region 6	411,455	61,533	301,235	1,820,285	\$2,594,508
Totals	\$2,249,932	\$698,164	\$1,563,231	\$14,767,416	\$19,278,743

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October 2015 Grant Cycle Salmon License Plate Projects

Application #	Title	Project Objectives	Total Project Cost	Salmon License Plate Contribution
216-1034	Clatskanie Fish Passage Phase 3	Replaces two fish barriers opening up 3.4 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat for coho and steelhead.	\$330,000	\$72,336
216-2045	Ross Slough Channel & Riparian Habitat Restoration	Reestablishes side channels, removes fish passage barriers, and improves riparian habitat for Chinook, coho and steelhead.	\$335,031	\$66,119
216-3039	Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project	Reactivation of flow to 6 historic side channels, construction of 51 large wood habitat structures, restoration of two alcoves, and placement of additional large wood in side channels and on stream margins will improve habitat for Chinook, coho, and steelhead.	\$232,166	\$50,000
216-6055	Bull Run Large Woody Debris	Installs large wood in two miles of Bull Run Creek, improving spawning habitat for Chinook.	\$61,545	\$61,545
			Total	\$250,000

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October 2015 Grant Cycle Sage Grouse Projects

Application #	Application Type	Title	Project Objectives	Total Project Cost	Dedicated Sage Grouse Funding
216-4012	Restoration	Sabre Sage Steppe & Wetland Enhancement	Wetland and riparian habitat will be enhanced for brood-rearing sage-grouse.	\$272,413	\$272,413
216-4015	Technical Assistance	Crooked River Watershed Sage Grouse Conservation II	Will develop site-specific plans to improve and protect sage-grouse habitat under a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances.	\$49,995	\$49,995
216-4022	Monitoring	Assessing Juniper Re-Occupation Effects	Will provide a science-based understanding of the impacts that juniper control practices have on long-term watershed function and alternative land management options to consider for preventing juniper re-establishment.	\$39,550	\$39,550
216-5040	Restoration	Kill Medusahead in Lava Land	The project will address loss of sage-grouse rearing and hiding cover, as well as a loss of biodiversity by treating 475 acres of medusahead monoculture.	\$73,429	\$73,429
216-5037	Restoration	Coyote Creek Riparian and Upland Restoration	Improves sage-grouse habitat through juniper removal within ¼ mile of a lek.	\$109,922	\$109,922
Total				\$545,309	

Attachment D

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the October 2015 Grant Cycle

Number of Applications Recommended by Review Teams and Staff for Funding

Region	Restoration RRT	Restoration Staff	Restoration %	Technical Assistance RRT	Assistance Staff	Technical Assistance %	Monitoring RRT	Monitoring Staff	Monitoring %	Outreach RRT	Outreach Staff	Outreach %
Region 1	5	5	100%	2	2	100%	5	4	80%	4	3	75%
Region 2	20	7	35%	7	4	57%	9	2	22%	4	1	25%
Region 3	8	7	88%	5	3	60%	0	0	n/a	6	3	50%
Region 4	5	5	100%	4	2	50%	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
Region 5	14	11	79%	4	3	75%	5	3	60%	3	2	67%
Region 6	15	11	73%	6	4	67%	4	2	50%	3	2	67%
Total	67	46	69%	28	18	64%	24	12	50%	21	12	57%

Dollar Amounts by Application Type Recommended by Staff for Funding

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Monitoring	Outreach
Region 1	\$1,036,728	\$69,999	\$186,638	\$48,819
Region 2	\$1,236,622	\$148,854	\$246,619	\$44,186
Region 3	\$1,086,975	\$96,695	n/a	\$96,867
Region 4	\$705,835	\$64,724	\$39,550	\$27,773
Region 5	\$960,951	\$78,560	\$165,995	\$47,549
Region 6	\$1,137,296	\$164,458	\$309,467	\$44,440
Total	\$6,164,407	\$623,290	\$948,269	\$309,634

**Region 1 - North Coast
Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle**

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-1030	Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project Phase III Part 2 PE 26,850	161,481	1
216-1023	Little Rock Creek Riparian Restoration PE 12,740	51,858	2
216-1033	Boulder Creek Culvert Replacement ^	398,452	3
216-1031	Bummer Creek Riparian and Wetland Restoration Phase 2 PE 38,547 * ^	94,937	4
216-1034	Claskanie Fish Passage Phase 3	330,000	5
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$1,036,728	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$1,036,728	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^ Fund with Conditions PE = Plant Establishment

**Region 1 - North Coast
Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle**

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-1036	Cleveland Creek Highway 36 Culvert Replacement Design	50,000	1
216-1037	North Creek Road / Stream Crossing Design	19,999	2
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$69,999	
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$69,999	

Region 1 - North Coast
Outreach Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-1014	Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team	9,020	1
216-1015	Siuslaw Salmon and Watershed Studies (aka Stream Team Extension IX)	24,581	2
216-1016	Siuslaw Watershed Camps 2016	15,218	3
216-1040	Restoring Ecosystems and Educating Future ("REEF" Conservation Leaders Program)	33,268	4
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$82,087	
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$48,819	

Region 1 - North Coast
Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-1013	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership Bacteria Effectiveness Monitoring	27,863	1
216-1021	Youngs Bay Monitoring Network ^	7,384	2
216-1024	2016-17 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	21,393	3
216-1025	Mid Coast Monitoring Project	129,998	4
216-1026	2016-2017 Salmon-Drift Water Quality Monitoring * ^	30,311	5
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$216,949	
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$186,638	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^ Fund with Conditions

Region 1 - North Coast
Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-1017	Fiddle & Billy Moore Creeks Riparian Enhancement Phase 1 PE 26,400	253,091
216-1018	Oak Ranch Creek: Salmon Passage Improvement, Upper Crossing	625,803
216-1022	Siletz Bay NWR Tidal Marsh Restoration	77,833
216-1032	Crazy and Cougar Creeks Fish Passage Restoration	423,037
216-1035	Arresting Policeman's Helmet in the Necanicum Watershed	81,607

Region 1 - North Coast
Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-1019	North Fork Siuslaw Stream Bank Restoration Design	39,396
216-1038	Coastal Prairie Successional Stewardship Strategy	21,739
216-1039	Lower Drift Creek Floodplain Investigation	49,949

Region 1 - North Coast
Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-1020	Mid-Coast Basin Water Quality Trend Monitoring Stage III	149,301
216-1027	Salmonberry River Macroinvertebrate Monitoring	7,615
216-1028	Effectiveness of Fish Passage Restoration on the Salmon Superhighway	105,807

OWEB Grant Applications Funding Status October 2015 North Coast Region 1



Funding Status

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Do Not Fund, falls below funding line
- Previous Grants 1998-2015
- Region 1 Boundary
- Streams



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Revised: 03/04/09 (Map 10.1)
Map 10.1: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Map 10.1: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Map 10.1: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Map 10.1: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



Region 2 - Southwest Oregon
Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-2045	Ross Slough Channel & Riparian Habitat Restoration PE 66,119	335,031	1
216-2050	South Umpqua Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project - Phase V	91,575	2
216-2064	Rice Creek Restoration - 2016 ^	136,482	3
216-2036	Sugarpine Creek Habitat & Riparian Restoration Project PE 5,407 ^	123,159	4
216-2063	Mehl Creek Restoration 2016 ^	313,540	5
216-2061	Camp Creek Instream Restoration 2016 *	163,015	6
216-2059	LBW Water Quality Irrigation Conversion Project	73,820	7
216-2055	Willow Creek Watershed Restoration Enhancement PE 46,813	156,530	8
216-2062	Elk Tributaries Salmon & Steelhead Restoration ** ^	104,500	9
216-2046	Stock Slough Riparian Restoration & Noxious Weed Control Project PE 18,334 ^	98,607	10
216-2039	Big Creek 6th Field HUC Instream Restoration Phase I ^	151,635	11
216-2044	Lower Marlow Creek Channel & Riparian Restoration PE 12,662	91,233	12
216-2048	Powell Creek Restoration - Phase II *	135,200	13
216-2032	South Fork Steelhead Creek AOP	167,200	14
216-2038	Big Creek 6th Field HUC Instream Restoration Phase II (Mosetown Cr.) ^	96,808	15
216-2049	Applegate River Riparian Restoration PE 167,296 ^	429,948	16
216-2047	Beeson-Robinson Fish Passage Improvement *	82,272	17
216-2029	Plum Gulch Habitat Enhancement	19,261	18
216-2031	Lower Adams Creek Fish Passage & Sediment Abatement ^	50,316	19
216-2030	Shutters Left Fork Fish Passage	43,427	20
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$2,863,559	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$1,236,622	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ** Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Increase ^ Fund with Conditions PE = Plant Establishment

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon
Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-2040	Rogue Basin Flow Restoration & Feasibility Assessment	48,818	1
216-2051	New River Watershed Project Design	24,120	2
216-2043	Sandy Creek Sub-Basin Project Development ^	41,240	3
216-2060	Rogue Basin Riparian Restoration Recruitment	34,676	4
216-2071	Elk Creek Watershed Bioassessment, Stream Habitat Inventory, & Action Plan	49,940	5
216-2041	Coquille Watershed Action Plan 3.0	47,244	6
216-2042	Winchester Creek Coho Spawning Habitat Improvement TA	44,484	7
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$290,522	
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$148,854	

^ Fund with Conditions

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon
Outreach Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-2056	Master Watershed Stewards Youth Program: Connecting Schools and Communities	44,186	1
216-2070	Curry Watersheds Outreach Project 2016-17	49,004	2
216-2057	Stream Smart Youth Outreach Project	52,566	3
216-2058	Vital Signs Volunteer Monitoring Program	41,389	4
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$187,145	
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$44,186	

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon
Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-2068	Coho Life History in Tide-gated Lowland Coastal Streams, 2016-2018 ^	158,568	1
216-2069	Rice Creek Restoration Monitoring	88,051	2
216-2034	Continued WISE Pre-Project Effectiveness Monitoring	54,438	3
216-2065	Umpqua Basin Stream Flow/Temperature Monitoring Project	29,315	4
216-2066	Curry Watersheds Monitoring Program 2016	73,243	5
216-2053	Ni-les'tun Tidal Wetland Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring: Year 6 (2017)	215,237	6
216-2033	Tenmile Lakes Watershed Monitoring	134,497	7
216-2067	Canton Creek Salmonid Monitoring	8,275	8
216-2052	Evaluating 20 years of South Slough Restoration: Monitoring Plan Development	71,285	9
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$832,909	
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$246,619	

^ Fund with Conditions

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon
Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-2027	Big Creek Riparian Enhancement & Sediment Abatement	113,312
216-2028	Oak Street Water Conservation Project (OSWCP)	1,173,662
216-2037	Elk Creek High Flow Enhancement, Rivermile 5.6	214,932

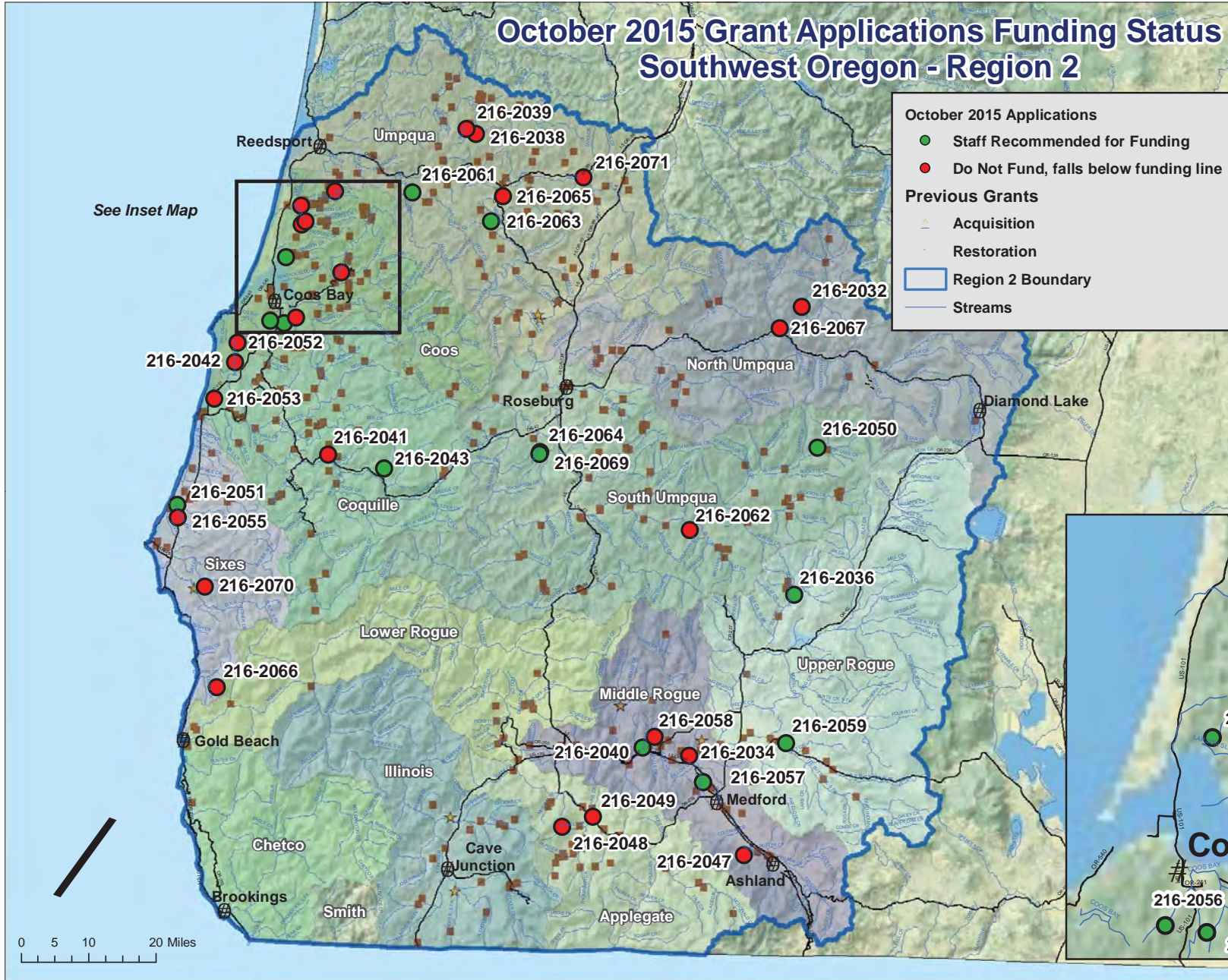
Region 2 - Southwest Oregon
Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-2035	Jackson Creek Restoration Plan	32,813

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon
Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

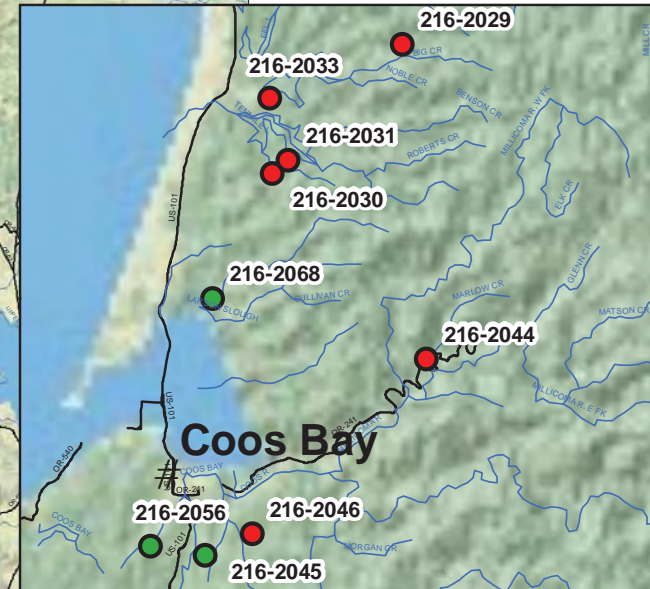
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-2054	West Fork Smith Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring	149,085

October 2015 Grant Applications Funding Status Southwest Oregon - Region 2



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Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-3039	Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project	232,166	1
216-3037	Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve Oak Habitat Restoration - Phase II **	150,630	2
216-3036	Hopkins Demonstration Forest: Wetland Enhancement	32,568	3
216-3024	Dart Creek Fish Passage Correction * ^	357,439	4
216-3038	Dorris Ranch Oak and Prairie Restoration and Enhancement	79,927	5
216-3030	Mt. Scott Creek Oak Bluff Reach Restoration *	131,940	6
216-3022	Marble Ranch Riparian Restoration PE 79,028	102,305	7
216-3045	East Fork Tryon Creek	114,931	8
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$1,201,906	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$1,086,975	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ** Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Increase ^ Fund with Conditions PE = Plant Establishment

Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-3029	Natural Resources Assessment and Strategic Action Plan	39,331	1
216-3020	Jont Creek Barrier Removal & Off Channel Habitat Improvement	13,859	2
216-3028	Molalla Strategic Side Channels Restoration Designs & Outreach	43,505	3
216-3027	Landowner Recruitment for Oak Conservation	42,182	4
216-3021	Mulkey Ridge and Joyce Carnegie Management Plans	25,300	5
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$164,177	
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$96,695	

Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Outreach Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-3034	South Santiam Youth Watershed Councils	43,153	1
216-3031	McKenzie Watershed Outreach Project	29,532	2
216-3032	Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Outreach Program	24,182	3
216-3033	Bald Hill Farm Student Restoration Pilot Project	28,805	4
216-3019	Kings Valley Watershed Stewards - Phase I	34,571	5
216-3046	Connecting Timberline to Troutdale * ^	26,575	6
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$186,818	
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$96,867	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^ Fund with Conditions

Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
	None were recommended for funding		
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$0	
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$0	

Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount
216-3035	Newell Creek Headwaters Restoration PE 65,986 EM 27,926	245,374
216-3026	Davis Creek Culvert Replacement - Creek Lane	156,187
216-3044	Fishers Bend Phase II Side Channel Restoration	266,466

Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-3041	Designing for Downstream: Voluntary Urban Water Quality Projects	48,765
216-3042	Prairie Soils for Sustainable Restoration	49,614
216-3043	Johnson Creek Lamprey Conservation and Restoration Plan	23,139

Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Outreach Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount
216-3025	Living Cully Walks - Phase II	30,000
216-3023	Teacher & Informal Science Educator Training in Watershed Mon.	49,325

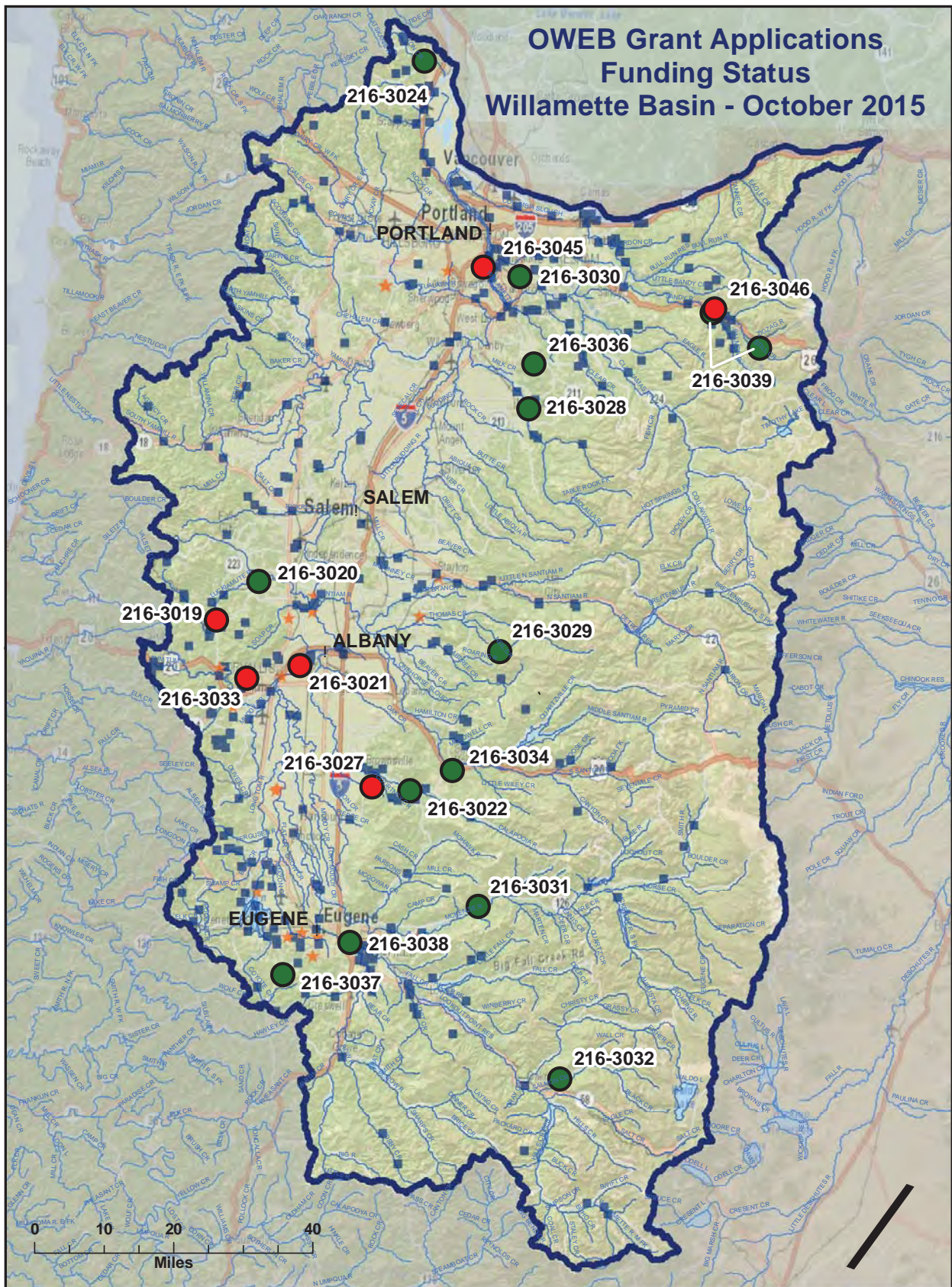
Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Monitoring Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount
216-3018	Southern Polk County Water Quality Analysis	24,025

Region 3 - Willamette Basin
Restoration Applications Ineligible for Funding Prior to the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-3040	Periwinkle Restoration & Research Project	34,374

OWEB Grant Applications Funding Status Willamette Basin - October 2015



- fund_status**
- Staff Recommended for Funding
 - Do Not Fund, falls below funding line
- Previous Grants**
- ▲ Acquisition
 - ▲ Restoration
- Region 3 Boundary**
- Region 3 Boundary
 - ~ Streams



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Region 4 - Central Oregon
Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-4012	Sabre Sage Steppe & Wetland Enhancement * ^	272,413	1
216-4017	Indian Ford Creek Restoration Project * ^	149,772	2
216-4026	Crooked Creek Restoration Phase IV	165,985	3
216-4011	Dry Creek Riparian Enhancement ^	25,213	4
216-4024	Lawson Creek Headwater Recovery Project	92,452	5
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$705,835	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$705,835	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^ Fund with Conditions

Region 4 - Central Oregon
Technical Assistance Application Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-4015	Crooked River Watershed Sage Grouse Conservation II ^	49,995	1
216-4020	Deschutes On-Farm IWM Pilot *	14,729	2
216-4018	Wasco County CRP Plans	49,999	3
216-4014	Lake County Sage Grouse Conservation	50,000	4
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$164,723	
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$64,724	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^ Fund with Conditions

Region 4 - Central Oregon
Outreach Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-4016	Hood River Irrigation Water Management Training	27,773	1
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$27,773	
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$27,773	

Region 4 - Central Oregon
Monitoring Application Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-4022	Assessing Juniper Re-Occupation Effects	39,550	1
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$39,550	
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$39,550	

Region 4 - Central Oregon
Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

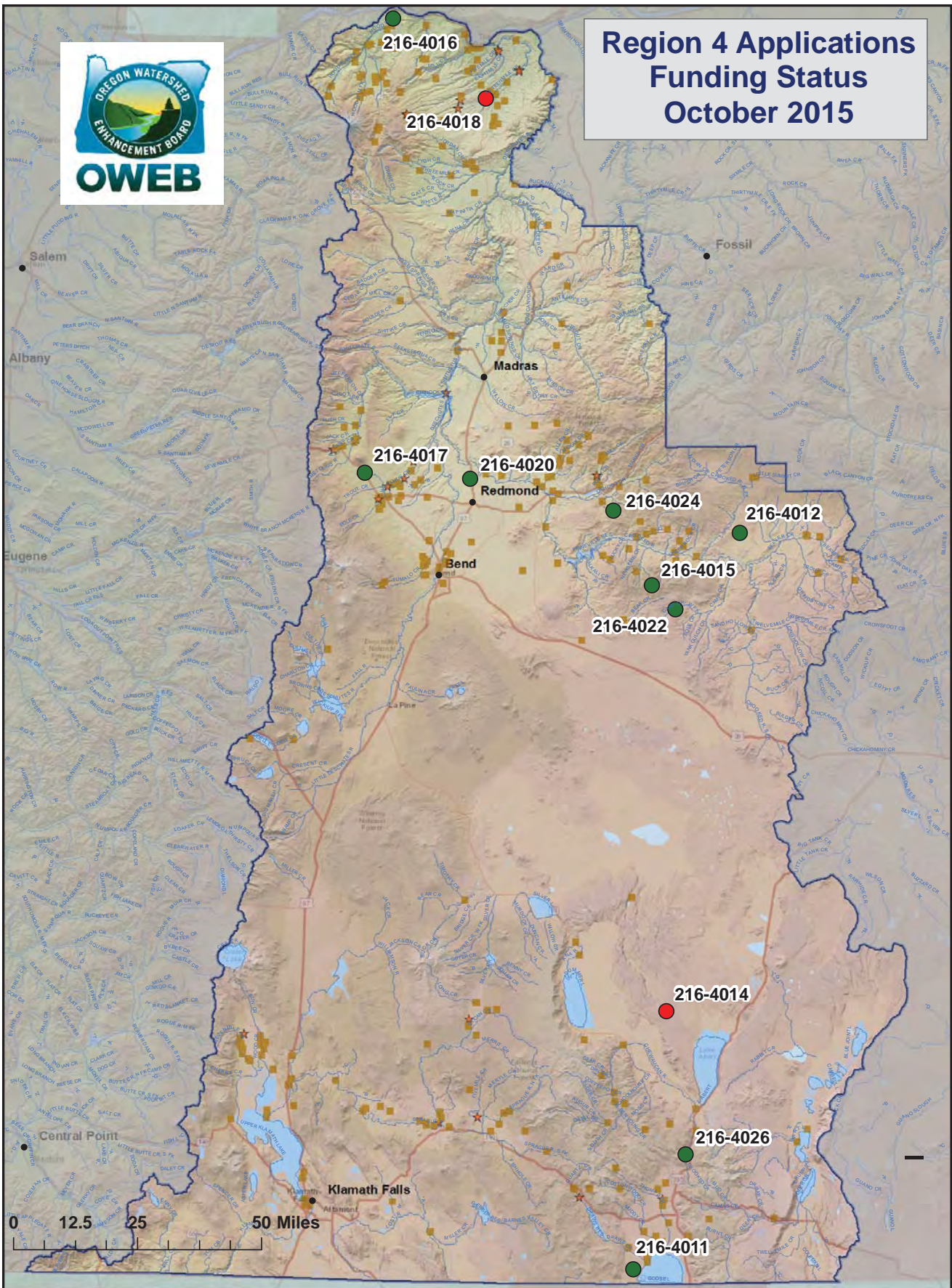
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-4013	Horsecamp/Bear Valley Juniper Removal	131,376
216-4021	Tumalo Feed Canal Phase 4	250,000
216-4023	Big Summit Prairie Restoration Phase 1	407,725
216-4027	Ish Tish Creek Restoration Phase 1	277,959

Region 4 - Central Oregon
Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-4019	Camp Creek Sediment Retention	4,485.50
216-4025	Bakeoven Watershed Technical Assistance Grant	38,241.50



Region 4 Applications Funding Status October 2015



October 2015 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Do Not Fund, falls below funding line

Previously Funded Grants

- ▲ Acquisition
- Restoration
- ~ Streams
- Region 4

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 WGS 1984 Oregon Statewide UTM
 OWEB - TW-06 April 2015

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Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-5035	Twilight WQ Improvement Phase II	159,502	1
216-5056	Crow Creek and West Fork Pine Creek-Krebs Restoration Project	89,809	2
216-5062	Reducing Sediment in Malheur River ** ^	35,706	3
216-5040	Kill Medusahead in Lava Land ^	73,429	4
216-5054	A Wetland in the Desert: Jonesboro Wetland Expansion Project EM 5,686 * ^	120,526	5
216-5055	Alder Slope Forest Health Improvement Partnership #2	133,200	6
216-5041	De-mudding Willow Creek	91,155	7
216-5038	Juniper Mountain Off-stream Water ±	0	8
216-5059	Private Lands Forest Network Fire Rehabilitation Landowner Assistance	106,380	9
216-5058	Grizzly Bear Complex Fire Restoration	41,322	10
216-5037	Coyote Creek Riparian and Upland Restoration	109,922	11
216-5060	Buck Mountain Medusahead *	54,570	12
216-5057	Wallowa River-Baker Project	214,037	13
216-5061	Sinker Creek Watering System	48,946	14
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$1,278,504	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$960,951	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ** Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Increase ^ Fund with Conditions EM = Effectiveness Monitoring

± Recommended for FIP Funding

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-5049	Hall Ranch Habitat Restoration ±	0	1
216-5047	Holstein-Moody Diversion Replacement	33,000	2
216-5039	Banks of Green	45,560	3
216-5050	Eastern Oregon Noxious Weed Partnerships	42,065	4
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$120,625	
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$78,560	

± Recommended for FIP Funding

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Outreach Application Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-5046	Wallowa Resources' Watershed Evaluation Teams (WET)	20,136	1
216-5044	Kids Club Outdoor Camp	27,413	2
216-5045	Pine Creek Off-Channel Watering Outreach	23,515	3
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$71,064	
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$47,549	

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-5065	Lostine River Spring Chinook Telemetry	20,190	1
216-5043	Monitoring Malheur Water *	121,550	2
216-5042	Phase IV- Wallowa Mountains Bull Trout Redd Monitoring (2016-2017)	24,255	3
216-5064	Powder Basin Macroinvertebrate and Flow Monitoring	41,478	4
216-5036	Harney Basin Aquatic Health Monitoring Phase II	35,860	5
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$243,333	
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$165,995	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-5052	Balm Creek Livestock Water	21,421
216-5053	Beaver Tables Medusahead	59,994
216-5063	Whiskey Creek Forest Health Improvement	87,870

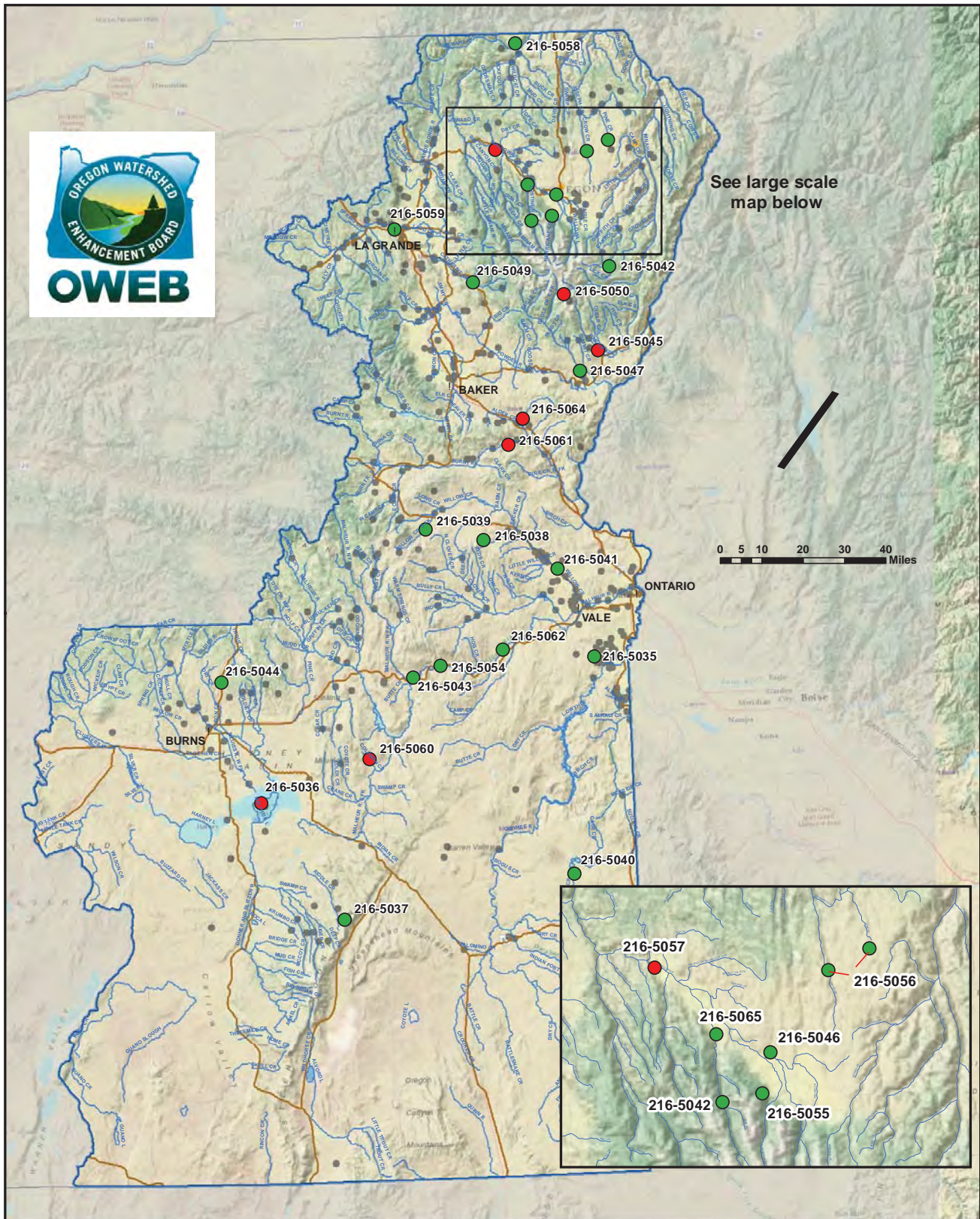
Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-5048	Prairie Creek Cut Banks	10,000
216-5051	End Creek Restoration	47,168

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Restoration Applications Ineligible Prior to the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-5034	Malheur Lake Restoration Threshold Project	88,392

OWEB Region 5 Grant Applications Funding Status, October 2015



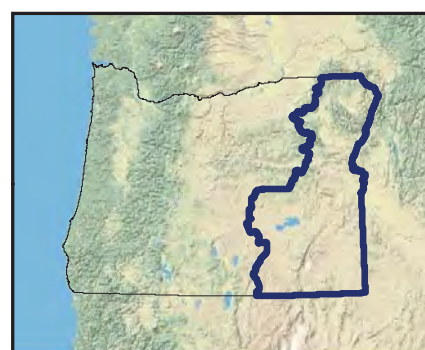
- October 2015 Applications**
- Staff Recommended for Funding
 - Do Not Fund, falls below funding line
- 1998-2015 Funded**
- Acquisition
 - Restoration
 - Region 5

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Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1
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Region 6 - Mid Columbia
Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-6057	John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Program	177,298	1
216-6041	Desolation Creek, LLC Wet Meadow Restoration ^	90,688	2
216-6048	Badger Creek Diversion #5 * ^	61,545	3
216-6039	Cavender Wetland Enhancement	171,810	4
216-6035	Moon Creek Restoration *	74,080	5
216-6027	Fields Peak Allotment Water Developments	34,884	6
216-6058	Ballance and Lick Creeks Riparian Enhancement	97,687	7
216-6043	Starr Habitat and Diversion Project	85,000	8
216-6052	White Ditch Piping and Telemetry Integration	167,973	9
216-6047	Upper Cherry Creek Restoration Project ^	72,919	10
216-6055	Bull Run Large Woody Debris * ^	103,412	11
216-6051	Upper Mountain Creek Forest Enhancement * ^	47,673	12
216-6042	Ritter Privatelands Aspen Restoration ^	82,944	13
216-6036	Sherman County Conservation Tillage Incentive	9,503	14
216-6029	Upper Rock Creek Watershed Enhancement	28,305	15
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$1,305,721	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$1,137,296	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^ Fund with Conditions

Region 6 - Mid Columbia
Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-6059	Rock Creek Reach Assessment	44,562	1
216-6031	South Fork John Day Passage Barrier Inventory	48,891	2
216-6060	Badger Creek Diversion #6 * ^	32,269	3
216-6061	Badger Creek Habitat #1 ^	38,736	4
216-6038	Kingery-Cottonwood Wetland Enhancement - Phase I	27,841	5
216-6032	Rock Creek Stream Restoration - Phase I	49,192	6
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$241,491	
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$164,458	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^ Fund with Conditions

Region 6 - Mid Columbia
Outreach Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-6046	Grant County Youth in Restoration - Phase II	22,000	1
216-6045	Sherman County Conservation Awareness Program Outreach	22,440	2
216-6064	Umatilla County Rural Living Handbook	17,093	3
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$61,533	
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$44,440	

Region 6 - Mid Columbia
Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Grant Award Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
216-6037	Evaluating the Influence of Riparian Conditions and Bass on Steelhead Parr ^	222,075	1
216-6044	Hydrology Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin	87,392	2
216-6030	Historic Data Compilation: Phase II	12,125	3
216-6063	Umatilla Basin - Water Quality Monitoring, TMDL Targeted Modeling * ^	22,922	4
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$344,514	
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$309,467	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^ Fund with Conditions

Region 6 - Mid Columbia
Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-6034	Broken Spur Crossing	51,957
216-6049	Lower Pine Hollow Restoration Project	122,415
216-6053	Deer Creek Large Wood Project	22,140
216-6054	Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement	111,661
216-6028	Smokey Creek Ranch Irrigation Improvement	21,200
216-6050	Upper Badger Pipeline	30,749
216-6033	Broken Spur Ranch - Phase III	61,768
216-6040	Kent Smith Grazing Management Project	22,746

Region 6 - Mid Columbia
Technical Assistance Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT
October 19, 2015 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
216-6062	Lower Middle Fork Jon Day River Assessment	57,897

OWEB Grant Applications Funding Status October 2015 Region 6 Mid-Columbia Region



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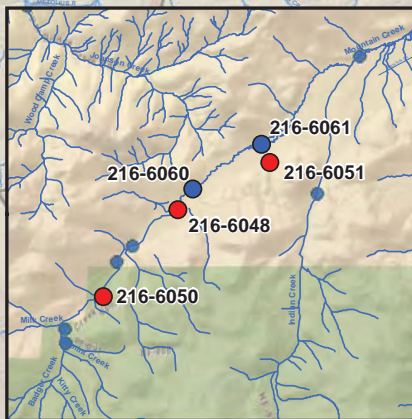
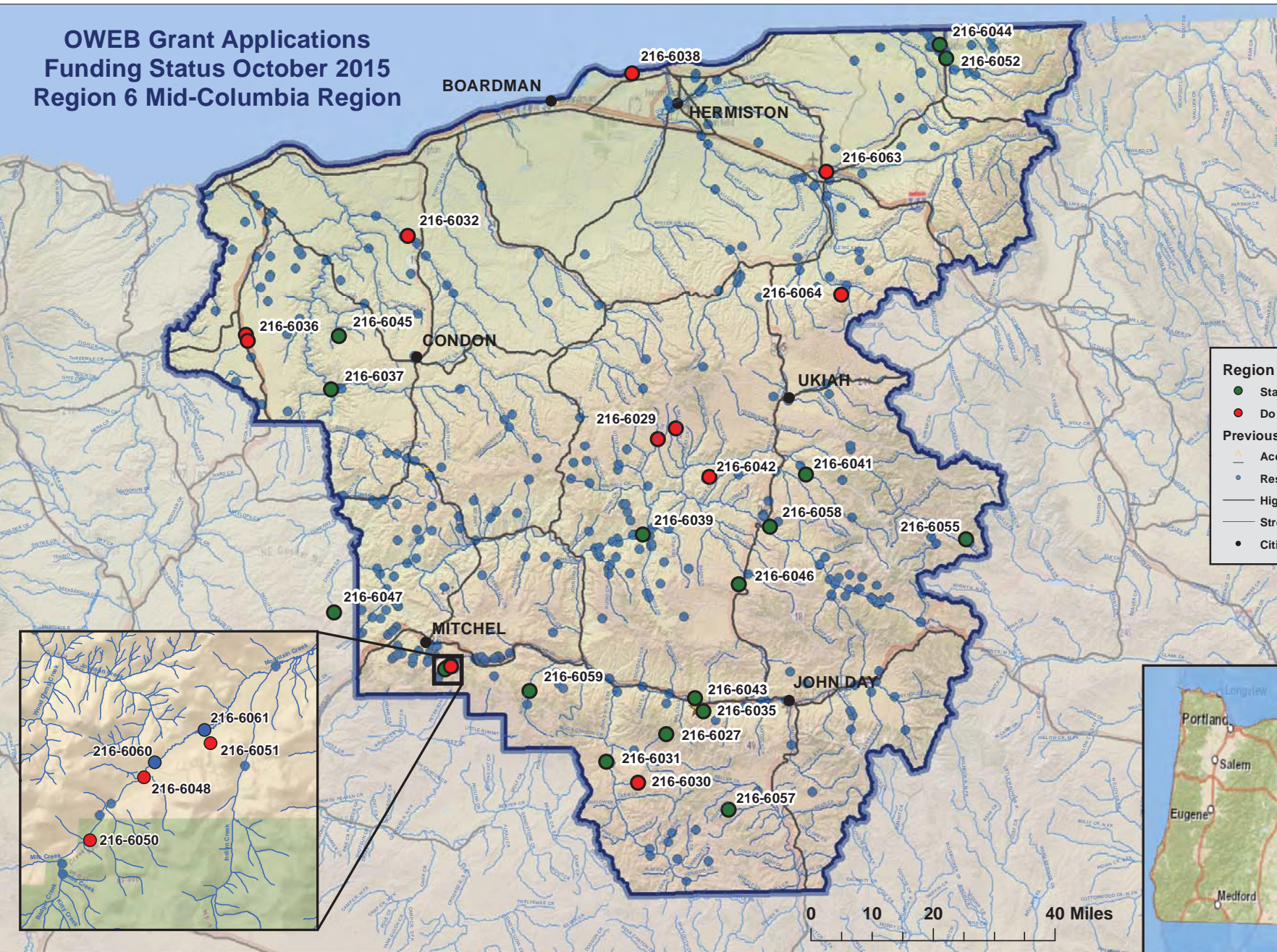
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Region 6 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Do Not Fund, falls below funding line

Previously Awarded Grants

- ▲ Acquisition
- Restoration
- Highways
- Streams
- Cities





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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Implementation and Capacity Building Program Evaluation

I. Introduction

This report updates the Board on the proposed FIP Implementation and Capacity Building evaluation processes and requests the Board delegate to the Executive Director the authority to execute grant agreements with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to measure progress and accomplishments of FIP Implementation initiatives, totaling up to \$200,000 for the first two phases of work, and Capacity Building initiatives, totaling \$102,823.

II. Background

In January 2016 the OWEB Board awarded \$12,770,790 for six FIP Implementation grants and \$937,369 for eight Capacity Building grants.

OWEB's investments in FIP Implementation and Capacity Building are approaches to support restoration at a strategic scale and build resilient, sustainable partnerships able to strategically plan and implement effective restoration projects. This approach provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments in Implementation partnerships, in addition to documenting lessons learned about partnership development. This information will be used by the OWEB Board and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments. OWEB staff have been meeting regularly with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) and have engaged in a series of conversations with BEF and other restoration and monitoring partners to discuss and collaboratively design evaluation opportunities.

III. Measuring Progress and Accomplishments of Implementation FIPs

This investment is intended to help the OWEB Board and staff better understand how FIP Implementation initiatives are achieving intended ecological and programmatic impacts, clearly identify lessons learned, and inform Board decisions to refine OWEB investments in the future. Funding will be provided to BEF to work with each Implementation FIP to gain a better understanding each partnership's existing monitoring approach and collaboratively identify additional monitoring and accomplishment-reporting opportunities. This analysis is intended to help facilitate a better understanding of each FIP and their individual and collective impacts.

A. Approach

BEF will first work with OWEB staff and Implementation FIPs to develop a framework for *Measuring Progress and Accomplishments of Implementation FIPs* that operates at the individual FIP and broader programmatic levels. It is assumed each Implementation FIP will proceed with its own planned monitoring, as described in its FIP application. This project will be complementary to that monitoring. The intent is to help the OWEB Board assess the effects—both ecological and programmatic—of its strategic investments in partnership with local implementers and other funders.

Phases I and II will be completed within approximately 12 months, from May 2016 through April 2017. A status report will be presented at the January 2017 OWEB Board meeting, and the final Phase II deliverables, including a proposal for the completion of Phases III and IV, will be presented at the April 2017 OWEB Board meeting.

B. Project Objectives

1. Collaborate with local FIP Implementation partners to develop and implement a common Progress Monitoring Framework that articulates progress and lessons learned from FIP Implementation investments. The framework will provide a basis for consistent and common understanding by OWEB, while honoring the uniqueness of each individual FIP's anticipated outcomes.
2. Provide direct capacity to help optimize FIP monitoring results, reports and systems to facilitate better understanding of FIPs—both individually and collectively—by OWEB Board and staff, stakeholders, and other funders.
3. Provide qualitative feedback to the OWEB Board about lessons learned to improve investment approaches and the return on investment (in terms of restoration strategy implementation and programmatic effects) from the Implementation FIPs.
4. Provide quality communication reports that tell the story of the overall FIP Implementation accomplishments and lessons learned.

C. Funding

The Spending Plan currently has \$500,000 available for FIP Effectiveness Monitoring. Staff request the Board award up to \$200,000 of this funding for Monitoring Implementation FIPs.

IV. Capacity Building Evaluation Proposal

A. Partnership Reflection

All FIP Capacity Building grantees will be asked to participate in a brief in-person conversation with BEF at the beginning and end of the grant. The objective is to work with grantees to reflect on the partnership's capacity building efforts beyond the outcomes described in the grants. At the completion of the grant, OWEB will have both the project completion report, which documents the completion of the deliverables described in the application, and the partnership reflection, which will provide basic qualitative information from each partnership describing the progress, challenges, and lessons learned during the grant period.

B. Partnership Assessment

A partnership assessment would be available to a subset of self-selected partnerships to work with BEF to provide a deeper analysis of the partnership to look beyond accomplishing the proposed grant outcomes, and assess the trajectory of their partnership over time. Out of this assessment, BEF will identify specific recommendations for the partnership to implement and enhance the partnership, and its ability to implement the strategic action plan.

At the conclusion of the assessment, each partnership will receive a detailed report on the partnerships capacity, strengths, and recommendations for areas of improvement. OWEB would receive a summary report of the overall assessment findings and the list of specific actions recommended for each partnership, but not the detailed individual reports. Each participating partnership would then be able to submit a request to OWEB staff for up to \$10,000 to implement one of the identified assessment recommendations.

C. Funding

The Spending Plan currently has \$42,000 available for FIP Capacity Building – funds which remained after approval of FIP Capacity Building grants in January 2016. In addition, the Board previously delegated funds to the Director (214-903-10638) in July 2013 for Building Capacity and Watershed Council Transition. \$60,823 was not spent in that offering. Staff request the Board recapture those funds and add that to the FIP Capacity Building line item in the Spending Plan, for a total of \$102,823.

V. Recommendation

- A. Staff request the Board award up to \$200,000 of funding from the FI Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2015-2017 Spending Plan for Monitoring Implementation FIPs, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements, with an award date of April 26, 2016.
- B. Staff request the Board recapture the remaining \$60,823 from 214-903-10638 and combine that with the remaining \$42,000 in the FIP Capacity Building Spending Plan line item. Staff request the Board allocate the total of \$102,823 to support the FIP Capacity Building Evaluation and delegate authority to the Executive Director to award grants, with an award date of April 26, 2016.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I: 2017-2019 Budget Development
April 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting



I. Introduction

This report updates the Board about budget preparation for the 2017 Legislative Session and requests the Board approve a budget proposal in advance of the agency's submission of the Agency Request Budget (ARB) in June 2016.

II. Budget Preparations for the 2017 Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's Current Service Level (CSL, or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with full policy narratives and justification of funds requested. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages." The Governor provides instructions to guide agency development of Policy Packages. All staff positions are included in Attachment A. Those positions that must be requested each biennium (called Limited Duration) are noted on the chart.

Agencies will submit their ARB to the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in June 2016. The Governor's Office will then develop state budget recommendations in partnership with agencies, known as the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB), to be released in December 2016. This budget proposal may also include additional Policy Packages that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives. The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the legislative session, agencies may advocate for their individual Policy Packages only to the extent that they are included in the GRB.

As a part of this process, OWEB has completed the following initial steps:

1. Met internally to identify agency needs and ideas for budget requests.
2. Presented a brief summary to the Board for discussion at the January 2016 Board meeting.
3. Received budget guidance from Governor Brown regarding process (see Section III).
4. Met with the Board's Executive Committee to review the revenue forecast and seek feedback on proposals to be presented to the Board at its April meeting.

5. Met with the Governor's Office to identify any priorities that should be included in the ARB. Based on strong movement of the Governor's Working Farms and Ranches Work Group (see Attachment B), staff and the Governor's Office are recommending a Policy Package for this work be included in OWEB's budget in addition to current service needs. The proposed funding level for the Working Farms and Ranches initiative is under discussion, and an update from staff will be provided at the April 2016 Board meeting.
6. Set a meeting to share a draft of recommendations with key stakeholders including the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and Oregon Association of Conservation Districts in advance of the Board meeting. An update of their feedback will be provided at the April 2016 Board meeting.

III. Budget Outlook

The recent economic forecast projects that the economy will continue to grow at a modest pace. Lottery revenues are expected to continue to grow as well, and Oregon's lottery forecast is outpacing national trends given new gaming options. Though revenues are anticipated to increase, they are not expected to keep up with the increasing cost of state payroll. In particular, revenues are expected to be hard-hit by the impact of the roll-back of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) reform implemented last biennium. Based on the size of this impact, the State has implemented a 'collaring' approach that will limit state budget impacts to five percent each biennium. It may take up to three biennia to absorb the full impact.

While it is not yet clear what the level of impact will be, DAS's Chief Financial Office has signaled revenues may not be sufficient to cover the combined CSL expenditures and PERS reform roll-backs. Impacts will not affect federal funds.

Each biennium, agencies are required to submit a report that lists ten percent reductions of current service level by priority; however, the reductions have not been taken in the past few budget cycles. This may change in the 2017-19 biennium, with the potential requirement for agencies to implement some level of reductions depending on the revenue outlook and the level of remaining ending balances from the 2015-17 biennium. However, ballot measures and ongoing revenue forecasts must also be taken into consideration as the budget is developed. So, at this time, while 10 percent cuts to CSL will need to be proposed, there is no cap on increases that can be proposed from agencies. That said, DAS is encouraging agencies to be very cautious with any proposals.

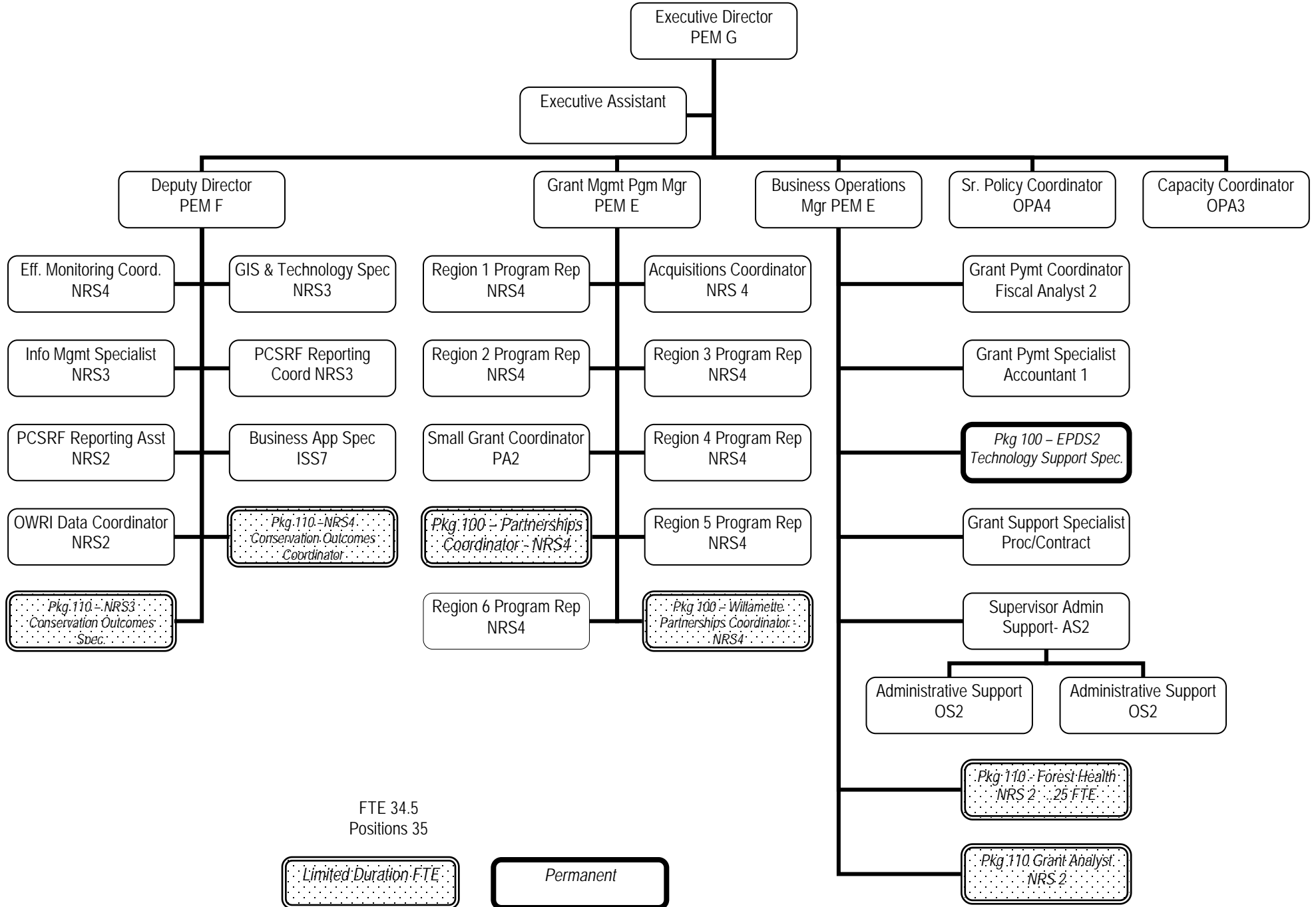
IV. Budget Recommendations

Based on the discussions identified above, direction from Governor Brown's office, and the budget outlook, OWEB's Executive Team proposes that the ARB include items outlined in Attachment C. Staff request the Board consider approval of Attachment C to this staff report, which will provide an outline the agency will use to submit its ARB.

Attachments

- A. OWEB Organizational Chart
- B. Working Farms and Ranches Work Group
- C. Proposed Budget Outline

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board 2015-2017 Legislatively Adopted Budget



FTE 34.5
Positions 35

Limited Duration FTE

Permanent



Working Farms and Ranches Work Group

Background, Purpose and Participants



Overview

Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands have drawn people to the state for more than 150 years. These "working lands" are the cornerstone of the state's rural communities and provide myriad benefits to the natural environment. More than one quarter of Oregon's 63 million acres are private working lands that create agricultural production valued at \$5.4 billion—the state's second-largest economic driver.



Why is this important?

For forty years, Oregon's unique land use system has helped protect the working landscape. Even with a strong economic position and state protections, farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by rising production costs, loss of processing facilities, fragmentation through new land uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.



Governor Brown's office has convened a group to work with landowners, tribal governments, agencies and interested organizations to identify voluntary tools to help landowners maintain working farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation benefits on those lands. The group includes staff from the Governor's office, state agencies, and representatives of the farming, ranching conservation and land trust communities.



What voluntary tools are being considered?

Enhanced tools will focus on keeping working farms and ranches 'working' - for the economy, rural communities and the environment. Tools under consideration include long-term stewardship contracts, working land easements, tax incentives, grants, loans, and regulatory assistance.

<i>Goals of Voluntary Tools</i>	<i>Topics/Tools Not Being Considered by Work Group</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain agricultural production and provide incentives for conservation on farms & ranches • Flexible; tailored to individual landowners • Balance landowner and conservation needs • Leverage federal \$\$ mostly untapped in Oregon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition and conversion • Mandatory actions or new regulations • One-size-fits-all approaches



Work Group Actions in 2016

- Analyze available information regarding working lands trends in Oregon,
- Talk to landowners to gain first-hand knowledge of challenges they face,
- Review working lands programs and how they may apply to Oregon,
- Assess landowner interest in a range of working lands protection tools and federal funding sources
- Consult with broad group including tribal governments, state, federal and local agencies, local governments, and agricultural and conservation stakeholders to get their input
- Develop recommendations for new statewide voluntary tools that complement Oregon's land use planning program, conserving long-term agricultural productivity and healthy natural resources on Oregon's working lands



For more information about the Working Farms and Ranches Work Group, contact Lauri Aunan (lauri.aunan@oregon.gov)

**OWEB 2017-2019 Agency Request Budget
Policy Option Package Proposals**

1. Program Continuity	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
<u>River Basins/Native Fish Partnership Coordinator (NRS4; Willamette Partnerships Coord. in LAB)</u> – Continues a limited duration position established in the 2011-13 biennium to manage the work associated with a federal grant from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The position coordinates restoration and protection work with the Willamette Focused Investment Partnership (FIP), along with FIP investments in the Deschutes and Upper Grande Ronde basins, approved by the OWEB Board.	\$275,000	1.00	Goals 1 and 4
<u>Coast Coho/Clean Water Partnership Coordinator (NRS4; Partnerships Coord. in LAB)</u> – Continues a partnerships position focused on coordination of four current programs: the Coastal Wetlands Grant program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program’s technical assistance work, the Board’s Coastal Coho Business planning efforts, and water acquisitions. The position also coordinates with Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Strategic Implementation Areas program. This position is requested to be made permanent.	\$275,000	1.00	Goals 1 and 4
<u>Office Rent</u> – This requests office rent for OWEB field staff in Region 1 to share office space with staff from the Department of Forestry in Toledo.	\$7,200	N/A	Goals 1, 3 and 5
<u>Administrative Support (OS1; Grant Analyst in LAB)</u> – Continues a limited duration position that provides a variety of office support for all agency program sections, including processing mail, general filing, scanning files and reports, answering and routing phone calls, scheduling meetings and organizing logistics, taking meeting notes, assembling board materials, and data entry. The position will serve as part of a support team for agency administrative support functions, able to provide backup for other support staff when they are on leave or traveling for the agency.	\$150,000	1.00	Goals 1, 2 and 5
<u>Conservation Outcomes Coordinator (NRS4)</u> – Continues a limited duration position that leads OWEB’s program to measure and report on the ecological, economic and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. The position coordinates with other state and federal agencies to determine priorities and carry out implementation efforts of the Clean Water Partnership, along with the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and other similar initiatives. The position also works with other agencies and local stakeholders to develop conservation outcome metrics, coordinate monitoring and data and ecosystem evaluation methods, and report results at the landscape level and statewide scales.	\$250,000	1.00	Goals 1 and 3
<u>Conservation Outcomes Specialist (NRS3)</u> – Continues a limited duration position to implement aspects of OWEB’s program to measure and report on ecological, economic and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. This position has a specific focus on measuring and reporting on salmon habitat and recovery activities across the state.	\$225,000	1.00	Goals 1 and 3

<p><u>Contracted Services</u> – OWEB Measure 76 grant funds are not eligible to use for contracting. There are certain work products and functions OWEB needs carried out that are most efficiently and effectively accomplished through personal services contracts. OWEB needs to ensure it has adequate funds available for contracting purposes next biennium. These funds will be used in lieu of hiring additional staff to provide training for effective watershed restoration and conservation; continuous improvement in program delivery; and long-term protection implementation (e.g., title and appraisal reviews, etc.).</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Goal 1-5</p>
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<p>2. Program Enhancement</p>	<p>Amount</p>	<p>FTE</p>	<p>OWEB Strategic Plan</p>
<p><u>Supplemental Contracted Services</u> – This request supplements the contracted services included in the Program Continuity Package. OWEB Measure 76 grant funds are not eligible to use for contracting. There are certain work products and functions OWEB needs carried out that are most efficiently and effectively accomplished through personal services contracts, for which OWEB has requested funds in the Program Continuity Package. However, that request does not fulfill all of the contracting needs for the agency. These supplemental funds will be used in lieu of hiring additional staff for activities such as effectiveness monitoring and analysis of economic outcomes of the agency’s investments.</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Goal 1-5</p>

<p>3. Working Farms and Ranches</p>	<p>Amount</p>	<p>FTE</p>	<p>OWEB Strategic Plan</p>
<p>This request is for voluntary tools that help farmers and ranchers maintain land as active farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation on those lands. Legislative concepts will be developed over the summer, and may include funding for land-based (working land easement and long-term contracts) as well as succession and estate planning tools. The request includes associated staff costs to design and implement the program.</p>	<p>\$4,000,000</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Goals 1 and 4</p>

<p>4. Carry Forward</p>	<p>Amount</p>	<p>FTE</p>	<p>OWEB Strategic Plan</p>
<p>This policy package proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2017-2019 biennium.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Goals 1-5</p>

5. Lottery Funds – Measure 76 Grant Funds	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package provides the budget vehicle for Measure 76 grant funds, which are the primary source of grant funds for OWEB and are used to support a wide variety of grants, including watershed council and soil and water conservation district capacity, restoration, acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring and outreach.	TBD	N/A	Goals 1-5

6. Additional Grant Funds	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend as grants for 1) collaboratives under the State’s Federal Forest Health Program, and 2) Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction, should this service be requested and if additional funds be appropriated by the Legislature for these purposes in 2017-2019.	TBD	N/A	Goals 1-5

OWEB Strategic Plan Goals

1. **Adaptive Investment** – Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through investments that enhance watershed functions and support community needs
2. **Local Infrastructure Development** – Support an enduring, high-capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation
3. **Public Awareness and Involvement** – Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds
4. **Partnership Development** – Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation
5. **Efficient and Accountable Administration** – Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments



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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J: Key Performance Measure Revisions
April 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting



I. Introduction

Based on Board approval and follow-up recommendations in January, staff and the OWEB Board Executive Committee propose final changes to the agency's Key Performance Measures (KPMs). In addition, staff will present the targets to be used for KPMs. With the Board's final concurrence, these will be presented to the 2017 Legislature as a part of the agency's budget presentation.

II. Background

As part of the agency's Annual Performance Progress Report to the Oregon Legislature, OWEB reports on a number of KPMs (Attachment A). These metrics are part of an approach to measure performance and outcomes of state government. Measures must:

- Gauge progress toward agency's goals and mission;
- Use standard terminology and definitions;
- Be few in number;
- Identify performance targets to be achieved during the two year budget cycle;
- Use accurate and reliable data sources;
- Measure customer satisfaction;
- Assign an organizational unit responsible for achieving the target; and
- Address comparable information, where possible.

During the budget deliberation process of each legislative session, the Legislature will approve, disapprove, or change/update each agency's proposed biennial performance measures.

As noted most recently at the January 2016 Board meeting, many of OWEB's KPMs and the targets associated with these metrics were developed more than five years ago. During the 2015 Legislative Session, OWEB staff notified the Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee that the agency will propose updates to its KPMs for the 2017 Legislative Session. Attachment B is the timeline for developing updated KPMs.

III. Proposal

In January, the OWEB Board approved a slate of KPMs. In addition, the Board asked staff to provide specific follow-up on KPMs related to 1) communities benefited and 2) funds leveraged. Based on this feedback, staff have updated their recommendation and now recommend the following KPMs:

- 1) To better describe the geographic distribution of OWEB's investments, a KPM that measures 'Percent of Oregon sub-basins within which Oregonians benefit from OWEB's grant programs.' There are 76 sub-basins (or 8-digit HUCs with more than 50% of the total HUC area within the Oregon state boundary) in the state.
- 2) To more accurately represent funds leveraged by OWEB grants, a KPM that measures 'Percent of funds contributed from other sources on OWEB-funded restoration projects.' Data to calculate this KPM will be drawn from the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory.

Attachment C provides the changes and recommendations in table format for Board final approval. At the April Board meeting, staff will review these elements with the Board. In addition, Attachment C provides a summary of the targets and methodologies for data collection and analysis that staff have determined are most effective in measuring the identified KPMs. These two categories are for information only to the Board.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board approve revisions to OWEB's proposed Key Performance Measures, as outlined in Attachment C, as a proposal for legislative consideration during the 2017 Legislative Session.

Attachments

- A. OWEB Current Key Performance Measures
- B. Key Performance Measures Revisions Timeline
- C. OWEB Proposed Key Performance Measures for 2017 Legislative Session

2013-2014 KPM #	2013-2014 Approved Key Performance Measures (KPMs)
1	OPERATIONS--The percentage of total funding used in agency operations.
2	OUTSIDE FUNDING--The percentage of funding from other sources resulting from OWEB's grant awards.
3	RESTORATION--The percentage of OWEB watershed restoration investments that address established basin and watershed restoration priorities.
4	PAYMENTS--The percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days.
5	FISH POPULATIONS--The percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance.
6	PLANT COMMUNITIES--The percentage of improved riparian stream miles of the total number of stream miles in Oregon.
7	WORK PLANS--The extent to which watershed councils funded by OWEB accomplish their work plans each biennium.
8	FISH MONITORING--The percentage of native fish, where monitoring needs have been quantified, that were monitored to a level considered adequate under the Oregon Plan Monitoring Strategy and ODFW's Native Fish Status Review.
9	SALMON HABITAT QUANTITY--The percentage of potential aquatic salmon habitat made available to salmon each year.
10	CUSTOMER SERVICE--Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information.

Key Performance Measure Revision Timeline

April 2015 Board	OWEB Board meeting -- Introduce KPM revision topic Director's Update
May 2015	Prepare materials for staff background and June all staff retreat
June 2015	Staff discussion at all-staff retreat providing ideas and feedback on KPM revisions/additions
June 2015	Legislature approves Agency budgets and KPMs for annual report
July 2015	Convene Executive Committee to begin discussing revisions to KPMs
July 2015 Board	OWEB Board meeting -- Discuss process, including having the Executive Committee as lead on KPM revision process
August 2015	Convene Executive Committee to advise on revisions to KPMs
Sept. 30, 2015	OWEB completes FY 2015 Annual Performance Program Report (APPR) with current KPMs
September	Convene Executive Committee for final review of draft KPMs
Oct. 2015 Board	OWEB Board meeting -- Discuss draft KPMs
December 2015	Executive Committee makes changes based on Board feedback
Jan. 2016 Board	OWEB Board meeting -- Board approval of final KPMs (with April 2016 Board meeting as back-up if needed)
April 30, 2016	OWEB submit revised KPMs and inform DAS/LFO
June 30, 2016	DAS/LFO Analysts provide feedback to agency on KPM revisions
September 15, 2016	OWEB completes FY 2006 APPR with current and new KPMs

OWEB Proposed Key Performance Measures for 2017 Legislative Session

CURRENT KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PROPOSED KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET	METHODOLOGY
A. Protect and Restore Healthy Watersheds and Native Habitats			
CURRENT KPM - The percentage of OWEB watershed restoration investments that address established basin and watershed restoration priorities.	REPLACEMENT: Percent of restoration, acquisition or technical assistance funding invested to address habitat for threatened, endangered or species of concern; or concerns identified on 303(d) listed streams.	90%	Online application will track projects that will address habitat for T&E and species of concern, and 303(d) listed streams.
CURRENT KPM - The percentage of potential aquatic salmon habitat made available to salmon each year.	REPLACEMENT: Miles of fish habitat opened as a result of completed fish passage projects funded through OWEB grants.	2.13 miles multiplied by the number of OWEB funded projects reported 7/1 - 6/30	Average miles opened/improved per project from 2000-2014 was used as an estimate to obtain the multiplier. Target will be set dynamically each year to control for number of projects reported to OWEB.
	NEW: Acres of upland habitat restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants.	229 acres multiplied by the number of OWEB funded projects reported 7/1 - 6/30	Median upland acres treated per project from 2000-2014 was used as an estimate to obtain the multiplier. Target will be set dynamically each year to control for number of projects reported to OWEB. Fencing and grazing management treatments excluded due to high variability in how these projects are reported.
CURRENT KPM - The percentage of improved riparian stream miles of the total number of stream miles in Oregon.	REPLACEMENT: Number of riparian stream miles restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants.	0.62 miles multiplied by the number of OWEB funded projects reported 7/1 - 6/30	Median miles of riparian area treated per project from 2000-2014 was used as an estimate to obtain the multiplier. Target will be set dynamically each year to control for the number of projects reported to OWEB.
CURRENT KPM - The percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance.	NO CHANGE: The percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance.	75%	Retain currently methodology used by ODFW to provide this information to OWEB.

CURRENT KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PROPOSED KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET	METHODOLOGY
B. Support Thriving Communities and Strong Economies			
	NEW: Percent of Oregon sub-basins within which Oregonians benefit from OWEB's grant programs.	90%	Percent of Oregon sub-basins that are at least 50% within the state that receive at least one OWEB grant within a biennium.
CURRENT KPM – The extent to which watershed councils funded by OWEB accomplish their work plans each biennium.	REPLACEMENT: Percent of OWEB-funded watershed councils that demonstrate effective organizational governance and management using OWEB merit criteria.	100%	The number of councils that meet both the effective government and management merit criteria as a percentage of the total number of watershed councils recommended for funding.

CURRENT KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PROPOSED KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TARGET	METHODOLOGY
C. Agency and Board Efficiency and Effectiveness			
CURRENT KPM – Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information.	NO CHANGE: Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information.	91%	Methodology will change to sampling only current grantees and those that have applied for a grant in the past year.
CURRENT KPM – Percent of total funding used for agency operations.	NO CHANGE: Percent of total funding used for agency operations.	15%	All operating costs, both direct and indirect, as a percentage of grant and other agreement payments made during a fiscal year, are used to calculate the agency operations percentage.
CURRENT KPM – The percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days.	NO CHANGE: The percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days.	100%	The total number of days elapsed between receiving a complete grant payment request from the field and finalizing the payment process in Salem.
	NEW: Percent of open solicitation grants agreements executed within one month after board award.	95%	Time elapsed between award date and grant agreement execution tracked within the online grant application system for the primary four types of Open Solicitation grants (i.e., restoration, technical assistance, monitoring and outreach).
CURRENT KPM – The percentage of funding from other sources resulting from OWEB's grant awards.	NEW: Percent of funds contributed from other sources on OWEB-funded restoration projects.	40%	Percent of funds contributed by other sources to OWEB-funded restoration projects reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory from 7/1-6/30.

D. Current KPMs proposed to be removed			
REMOVED - The percentage of native fish, where monitoring needs have been quantified, that were monitored to a level considered adequate under the Oregon Plan Monitoring Strategy and ODFW's Native Fish Status Review.		45%	Determined by ODFW.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item K: Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Proposed Schedule and Funding Options for Future Implementation Awards**
April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

As OWEB launches the first round of agreements resulting from the Focused Investment Partnership Implementation awards made by the Board in January, planning is underway for scheduling solicitations in future biennia. This staff report describes options for investment levels and cycling in of new FIP awards, and for a solicitation schedule. The options are presented for Board discussion in April leading to decisions in July.

II. Background

The initial FIP Implementation solicitation was released in May 2015 with a two-phase application process ending in November 2015. Following Board FIP Subcommittee applicant interviews and recommendations to the full Board, in January 2016 the Board awarded \$12.77 million to six partnerships for the first biennium of an anticipated six-year investment. Staff briefed the Board in January with a general outline of the next solicitation cycle, and met subsequently with the Board FIP Subcommittee in March. The size of future FIP investments, cycling of new FIP awards in with current six-year FIPs, and the solicitation schedule are interrelated.

Several factors affect the solicitation schedule, including overlap with the current FIP Implementation initiatives' start-up phase, the desire to have the award timing allow for work to begin as early in the biennium as possible, staff workload to support new FIPs, and allowing enough time for partnerships awarded FIP Capacity Building funds to complete enough of their work towards developing a strategic action plan and partnership decision-making process to prepare competitive Implementation applications.

III. Investment Amount and Cycling

The initial FIP Implementation investment is 18% of the total OWEB budget, and provided for six awards in the 2015-2017 biennium. Since FIPs are anticipated to be six-year investments, soliciting additional FIP Implementation initiatives within the next two biennia will require increased investment. Given that current FIPs will end in the third biennium (2019-2021), future investment scenarios should consider whether to cycle new FIPs in with an even or variable total dollar amount.

In the Board's Long Term Investment Strategy, the Board indicated they wanted to see a 'gradual increase over time' in the Focused Investment portion of the spending plan. To address that direction, in consultation with the Focused Investment Subcommittee, staff developed three future investment scenarios. These are examples only and are not intended as specific staff funding level recommendations. In the current spending plan (not accounting for inflation), a 1% increase equals approximately \$720,000.

The investment options presented in Attachment A are broken down as follows:

- Option 1 – increased investment from 18% to 20%;
- Option 2 – increased investment from 18% to 25%;
- Option 3 – increased investment from 18% to 30%.

These options are further subdivided into the following options:

- Option A – maintains a stable percent of spending plan investment over time, but has a variable funding amount for each biennial FIP solicitation (range \$0 to \$14 million per biennium);
- Option B – maintains a stable funding amount for each biennial FIP solicitation (\$4.75/biennium under Option 1, \$6 million under Option 2, \$7.25 in Option 3);
- Option C – similar to B, but includes a FIP solicitation in the 2017-19 biennium.

IV. Solicitation Schedule

Attachment B provides two solicitation options for future FIP Implementation cycles. Option 1 announces the solicitation in December 2016 for a Board award in October 2017. This is the earliest practical date given that the current FIP awards are just getting started. In order to provide for awards as early as possible, this schedule is compressed, with limited time between completion of the evaluation process and the Board Subcommittee public meeting and final Board award. While Option 1 allows for a Board award in the 2017-19 biennium, the compressed timeframe overlaps with current FIP start-up activities and will likely exclude FIP Capacity Building awardees from applying.

Option 2 provides more time in the solicitation schedule and results in a Board award in January, 2019 for the 2019-2021 biennium. This option allows for the Board to incorporate specific dollar amounts for new investments in the spending plan and provides time for staff to complete administrative processes allowing partnerships to execute grant agreements as soon as possible in the biennium. Option 2 allows for Board awards to occur prior to the biennium so that grant agreements can be executed at the beginning of each biennium. In order to synchronize this timing, Option 2 does not include a Board award for the 2017-19 biennium.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

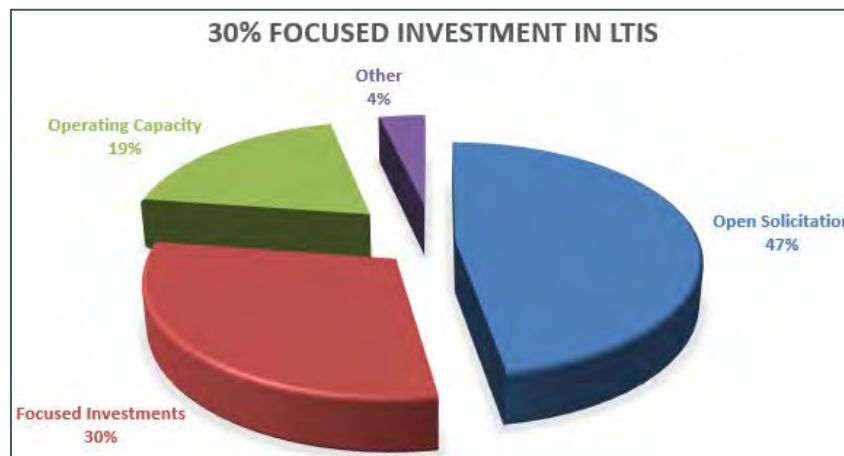
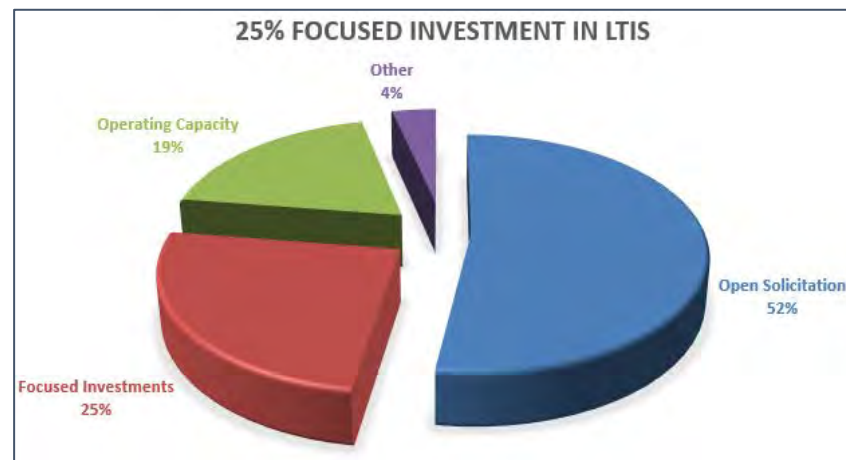
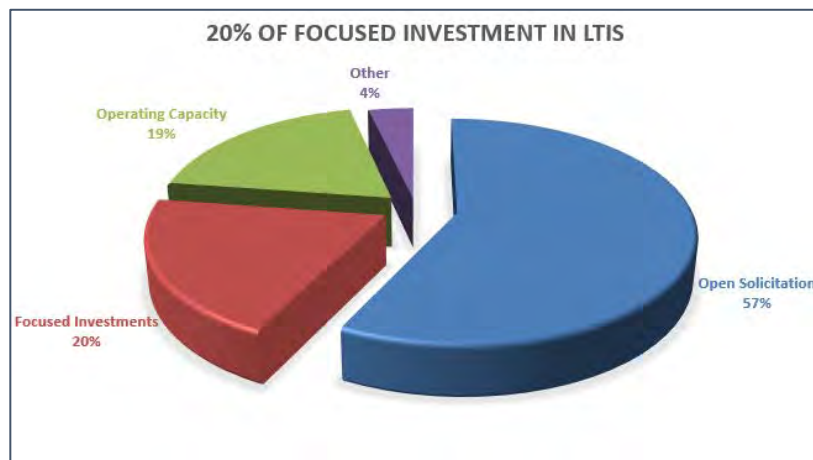
- A. Funding Options
- B. Solicitation Schedule Options

Long Term Investment Strategy Focused Investment Increase Funding Options

The current spending plan has 18% invested through Focused Investment programs. Options are outlined on subsequent pages.

- Option 1 increases that amount to 20%.
- Option 2 increases that amount to 25%.
- Option 3 increases that amount to 30%.

NOTE: in the current spending plan (not accounting for inflation), a 1% increase = approximately \$720,000. If the Board shifts funding from Open Solicitation to Focused Investments, this would result in an \$180,000 reduction in grants per cycle or \$30,000 per region per cycle.

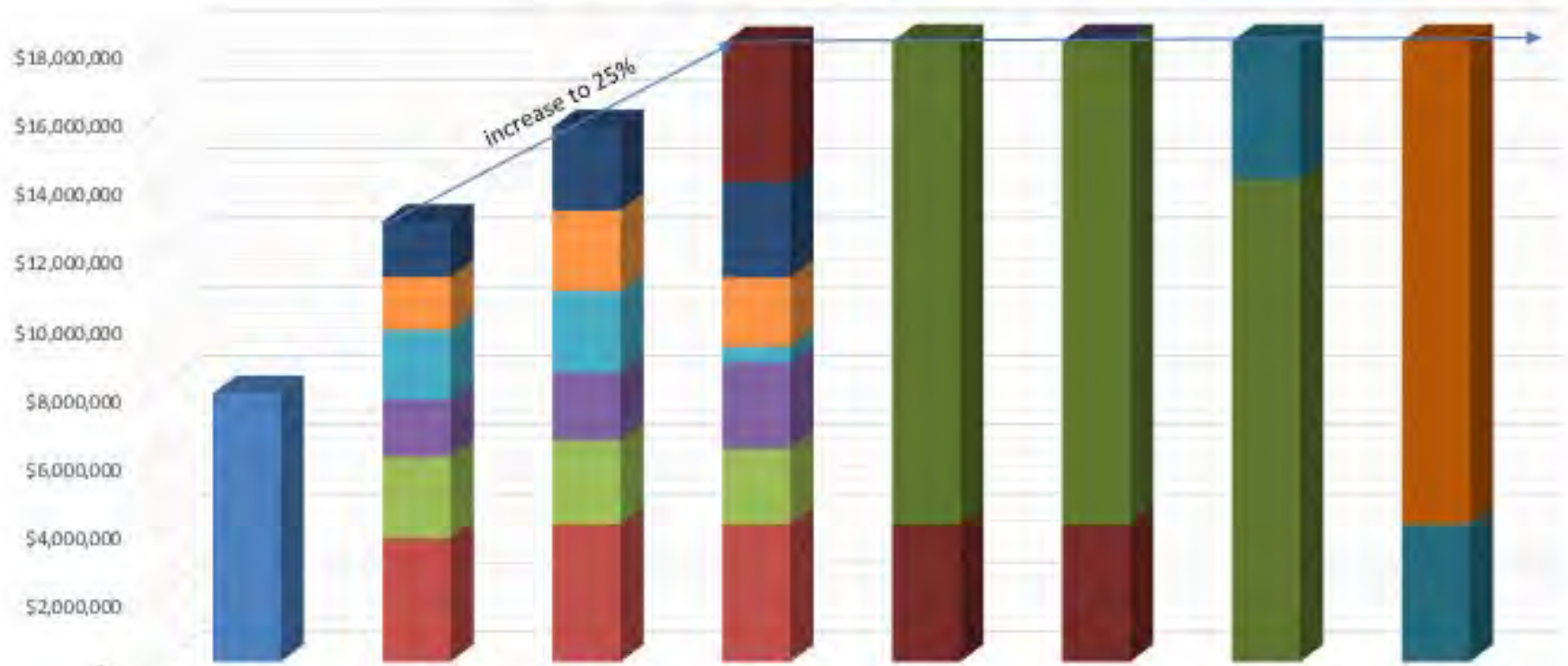


Funding Option A: Provides an overall increase of focused investments to 20%, 25% or 30% of the Board’s spending plan over the next three biennia. Reaches target percent in 2019; stays stable at that amount. To reach that stability, the 2019 recruitment would be much smaller than the 2021 recruitment and in 2023, there would be no recruitment for FIP. Then the three-biennia cycle would start over.

20% FIP Funding Option 1A

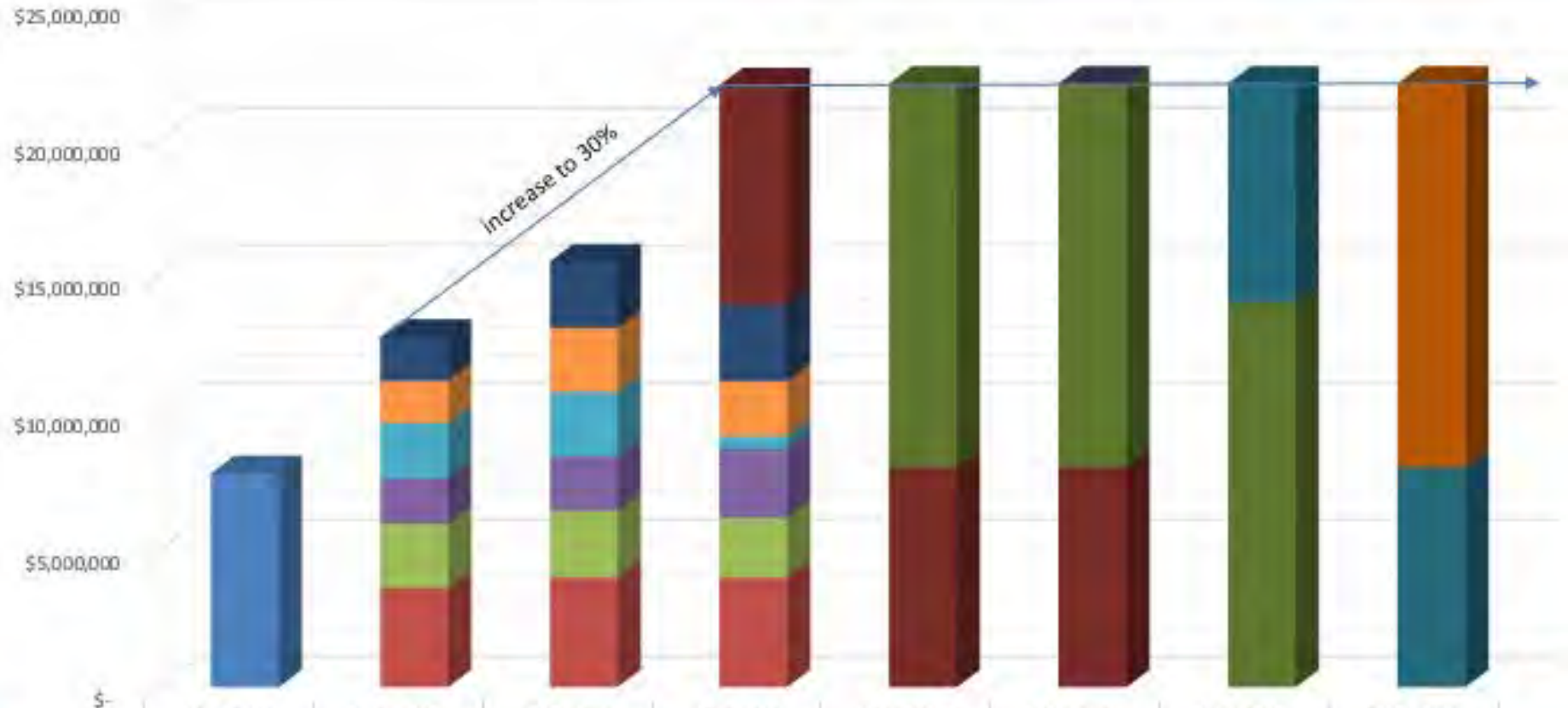


25% FIP Funding Option 2A



	2013-2015	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027	2027-2029
FIP 2027								\$14,000,000
FIP 2025							\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
FIP 2023						\$-	\$-	\$-
FIP 2021					\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	
FIP 2019				\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000		
Grande Ronde		\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000				
Asland Forests		\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000				
Sage-Grouse		\$2,019,030	\$2,355,250	\$473,732				
Harney Wetlands		\$1,655,400	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000				
Willamette		\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000				
Deschutes		\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000				
SIP	\$7,800,000							

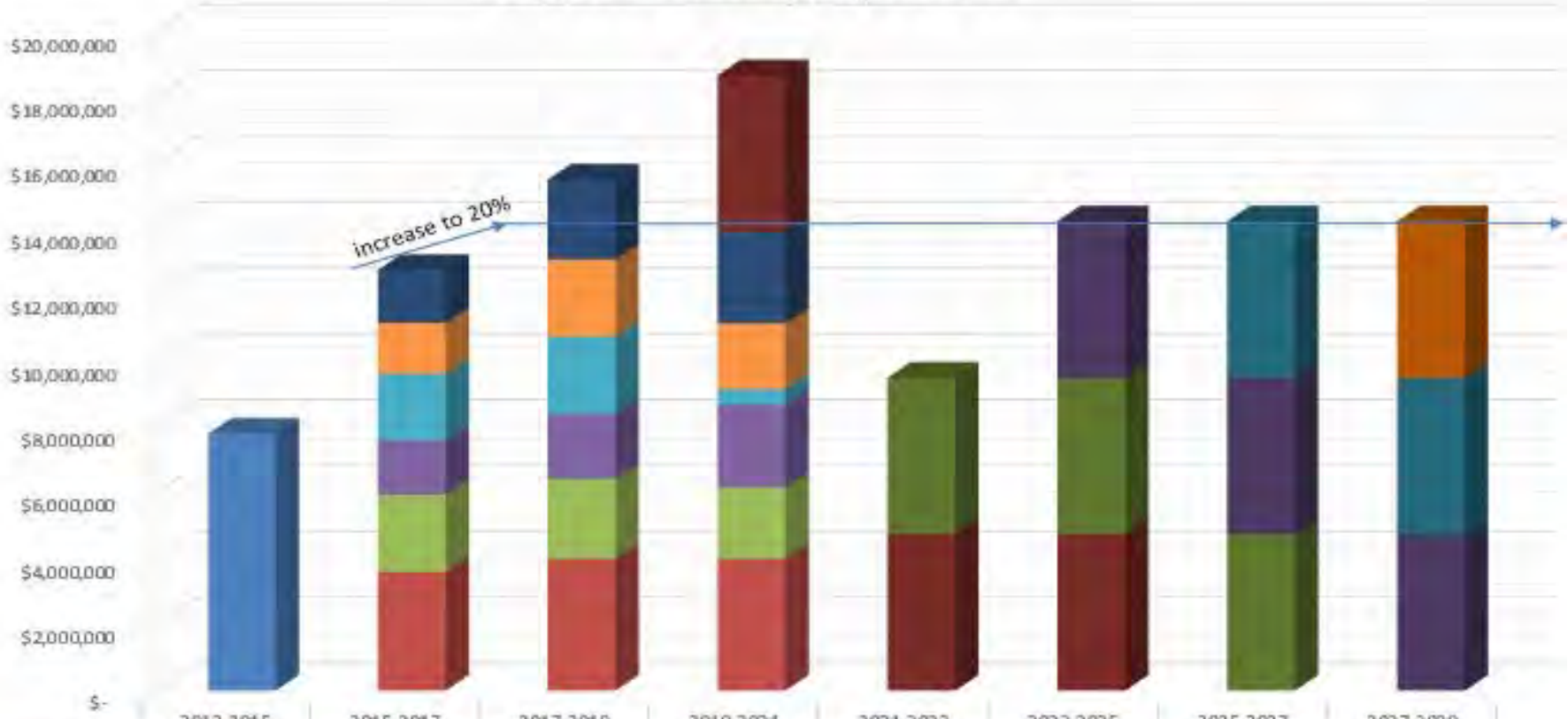
30% FIP Funding Option 3A



	2013-2015	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027	2027-2029
FIP 2027								\$14,000,000
FIP 2025							\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000
FIP 2023						\$-	\$-	\$-
FIP 2021					\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	
FIP 2019				\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000		
Grande Ronde		\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000				
Ashland Forests		\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000				
Sage-Grouse		\$2,019,030	\$2,355,250	\$473,732				
Harney Wetlands		\$1,655,400	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000				
Willamette		\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000				
Deschutes		\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000				
SIP	\$7,800,000							

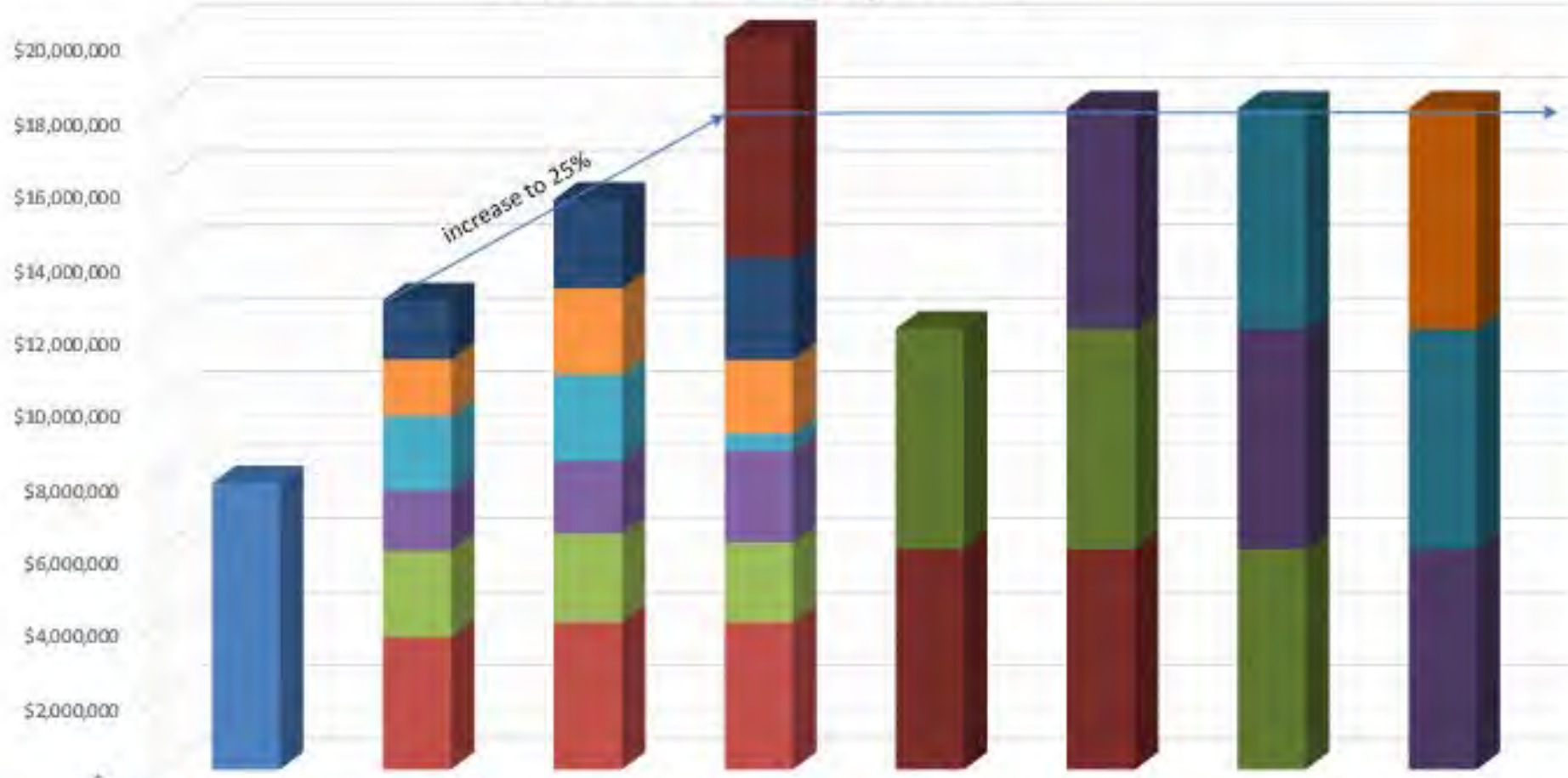
Funding Option B: Provides an overall increase of focused investments to 20%, 25% or 30% of the Board’s spending plan over the next three biennia. Reaches target percent in 2019. This option has a variable amount in the spending plan for two subsequent biennia to stabilize the amount of applications funded each biennium, rather than aiming for a stable total amount of funding. To achieve that goal, the 2019 and all subsequent recruitments would be a consistent dollar amount.

20% FIP Funding Option 1B



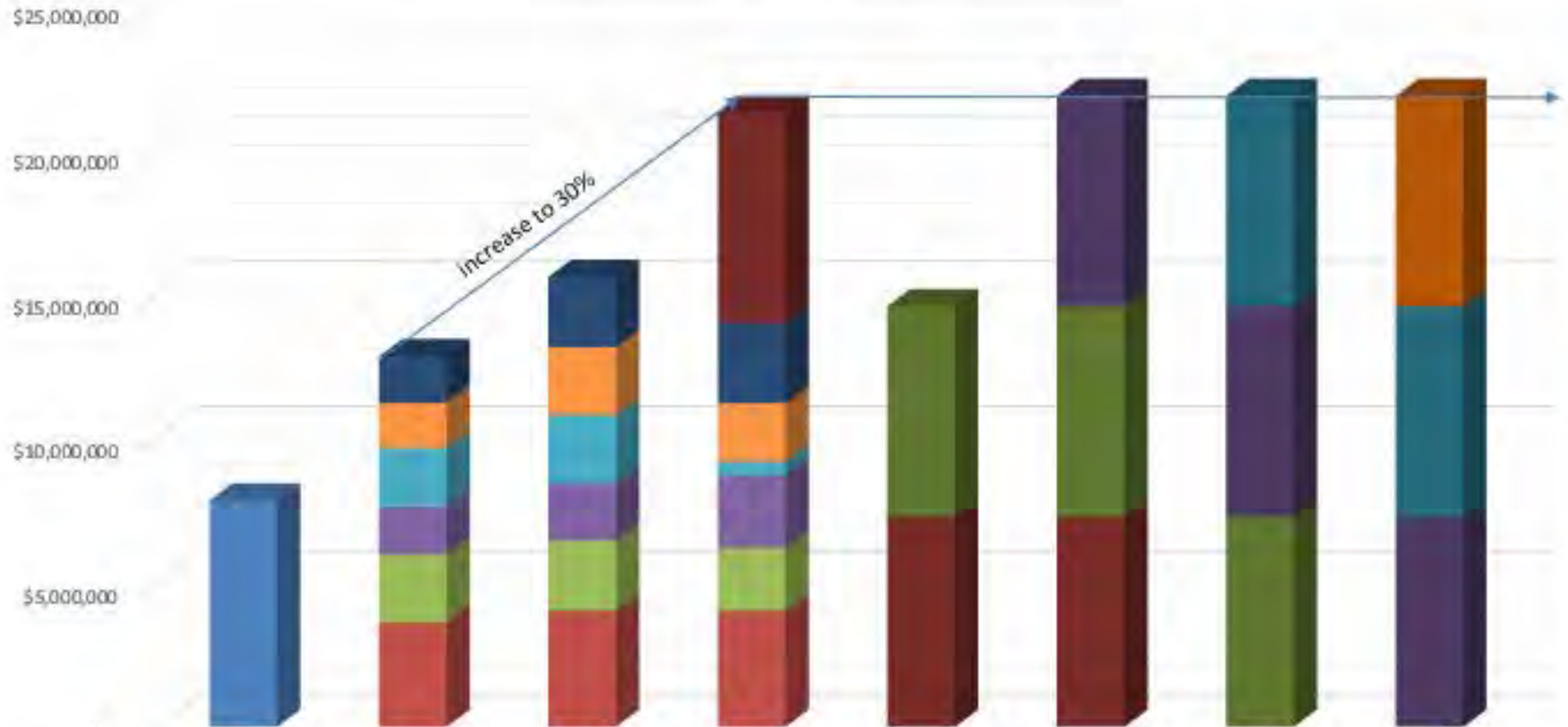
	2013-2015	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027	2027-2029
FIP 2027								\$4,750,000
FIP 2025							\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000
FIP 2023						\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000
FIP 2021					\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000	
FIP 2019				\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000		
Grande Ronde		\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000				
Ashland Forests		\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000				
Sage-Grouse		\$2,019,030	\$2,355,250	\$473,732				
Harney Wetlands		\$1,655,400	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000				
Willamette		\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000				
Deschutes		\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000				
SIP	\$7,800,000							

25% FIP Funding Option 2B



	2013-2015	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027	2027-2029
FIP 2027								\$6,000,000
FIP 2025							\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
FIP 2023						\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
FIP 2021					\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	
FIP 2019				\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000		
Grande Ronde		\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000				
Ashland Forests		\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000				
Sage-Grouse		\$2,019,030	\$2,355,250	\$473,732				
Harney Wetlands		\$1,655,400	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000				
Willamette		\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000				
Deschutes		\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000				
SIP	\$7,800,000							

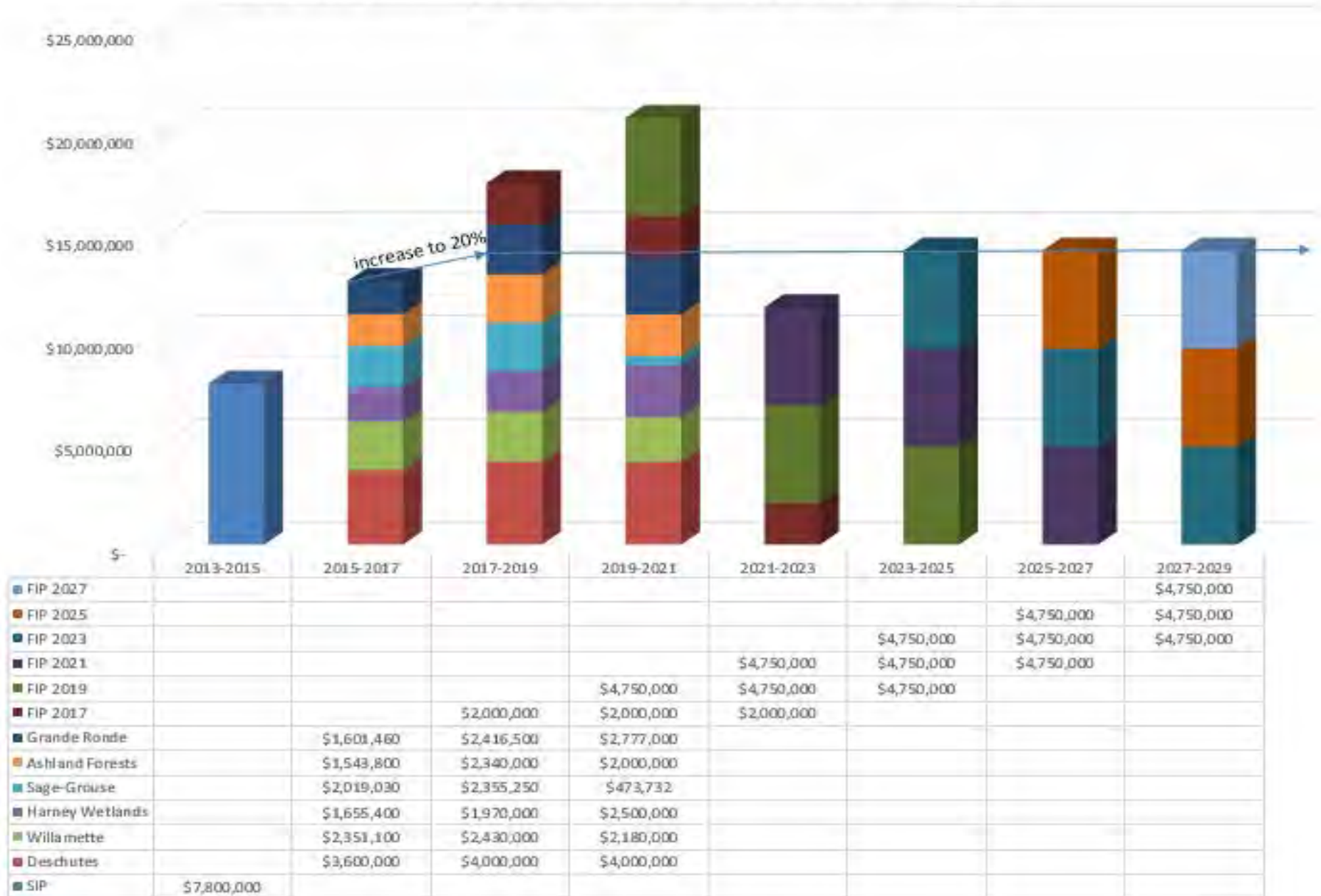
30% FIP Funding Option 3B



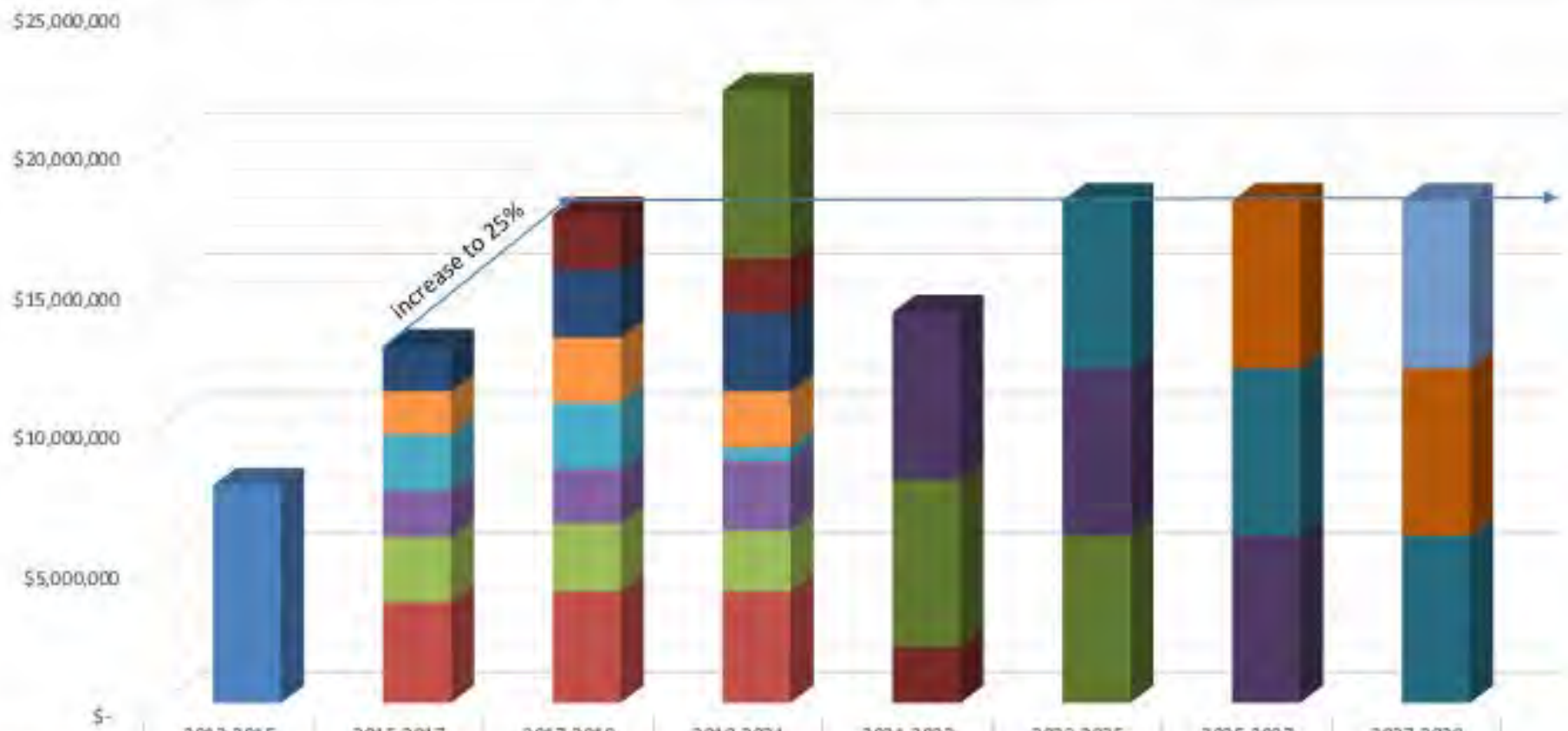
	2013-2015	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027	2027-2029
FIP 2027								\$7,250,000
FIP 2025							\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000
FIP 2023						\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000
FIP 2021					\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	
FIP 2019				\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000		
Grande Ronde		\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000				
Ashl and Forests		\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000				
Sage-Grouse		\$2,019,030	\$2,355,250	\$473,732				
Harney Wetlands		\$1,655,400	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000				
Willamette		\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000				
Deschutes		\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000				
SIP	\$7,800,000							

Funding Option C: The same as option B, but this option provides for solicitation of one FIP in 2017, resulting in shifting of funding amounts in subsequent biennia. To achieve that goal, the 2017 recruitment would be \$2,000,000; the 2019 and subsequent biennia would be revert back to their identified consistent amounts.

20% FIP Funding Option 1C - With FIP 2017 Selection

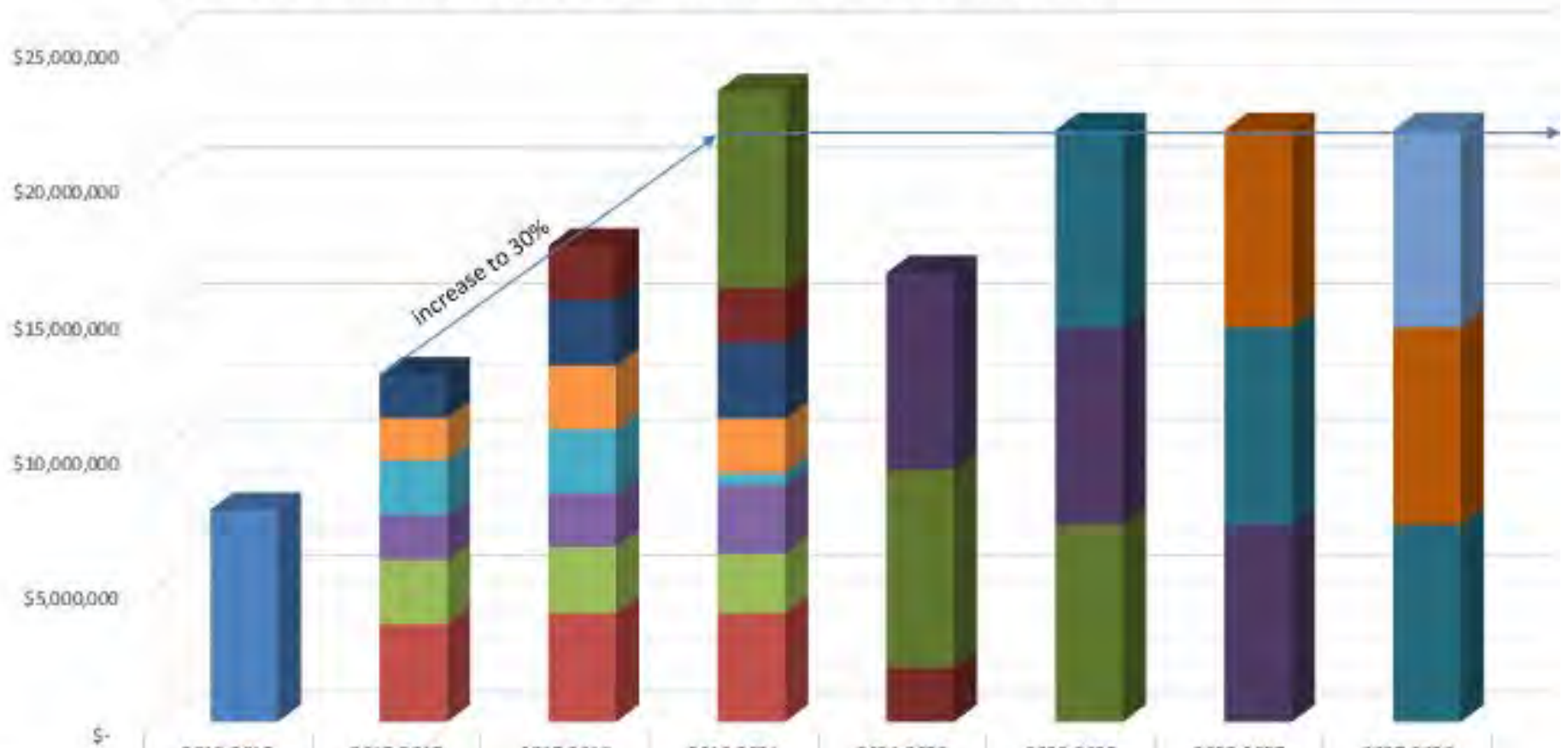


25% FIP Funding Option 2C - With FIP 2017 Selection



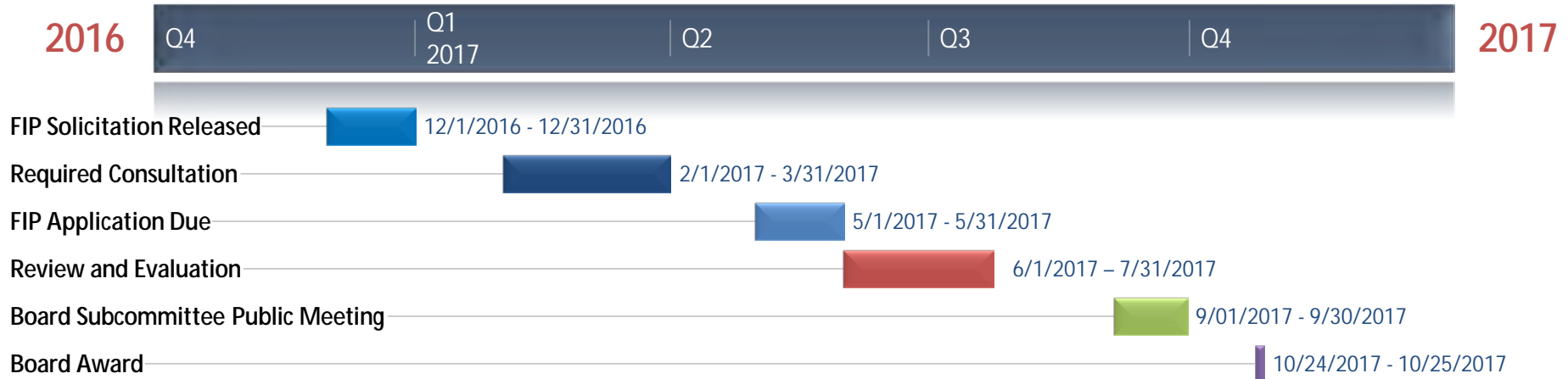
	2013-2015	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027	2027-2029
FIP 2027								\$6,000,000
FIP 2025							\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
FIP 2023						\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
FIP 2021					\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	
FIP 2019				\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000		
FIP 2017			\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000			
Grande Ronde		\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000				
Asland Forests		\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000				
Sage-Grouse		\$2,019,030	\$2,355,250	\$473,732				
Harney Wetlands		\$1,655,400	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000				
Willamette		\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000				
Deschutes		\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000				
SIP	\$7,800,000							

30% FIP Funding Option 3C - with 2017 FIP Selection

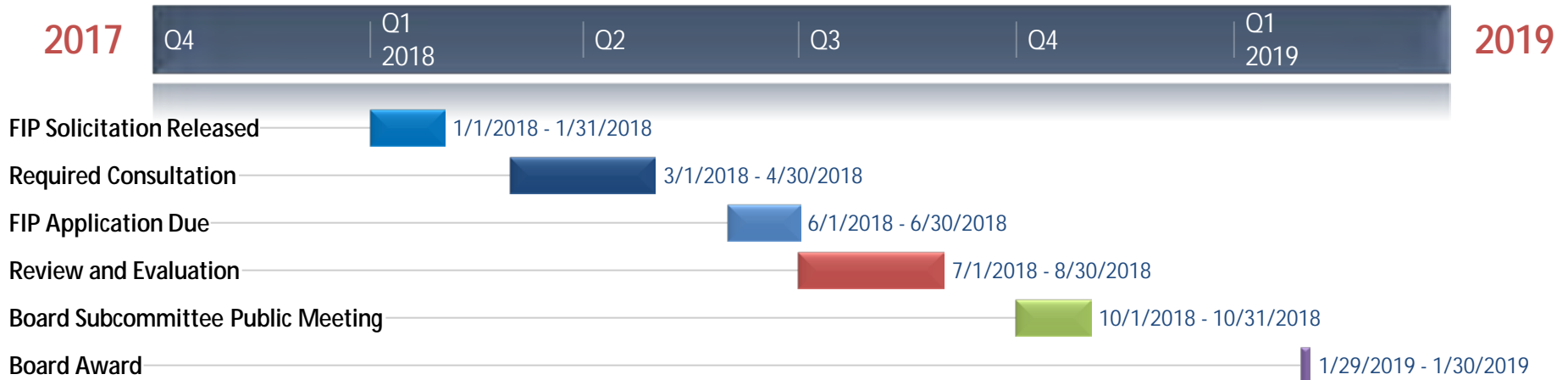


	2013-2015	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027	2027-2029
FIP 2027								\$7,250,000
FIP 2025							\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000
FIP 2023						\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000
FIP 2021					\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	
FIP 2019				\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000		
FIP 2017			\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000			
Grande Ronde		\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000				
Ashland Forests		\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000				
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Willamette		\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000				
Deschutes		\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000				
SIP	\$7,800,000							

Option 1



Option 2





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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Juniper Davis, Partnerships Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L: Coastal Wetlands Grants
April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the Board on the status of active, pending and proposed OWEB coastal wetland projects submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP).

II. Background

OWEB has been designated as an eligible state agency to submit applications to the NCWCGP. Applications from local implementers can only be submitted by a state agency, and OWEB is established as a trusted partner with the program. Any Oregon agency submitting a grant application for federal funding is required by state statute to receive legislative approval to submit the application and may also be required to obtain legislative authorization to receive and expend the funds if the grant is successful.

OWEB adopted a formal process for the intake of proposed NCWCGP applications in 2013 that requires submission of a Letter of Interest due in December, a Pre-Proposal due in February, site tours with a review team conducted in March, Board decision made in April, legislative review in May, and final submission of the NCWCGP application in June. Subsequent to these process steps, the local implementer must also fulfill all requirements of submission, review, and Board consideration of the project through the regular grant program or land acquisition program for the state funding match before a NCWCGP project will be considered approved by OWEB. If funding is not approved by the Board through this process, then staff will not recommend proceeding with receipt of the federal funds because associated match requirements will not have been met.

III. NCWCGP Funding Awarded in February 2016

In February 2016, the USFWS announced NCWCGP awards for project applications that were submitted in 2015. OWEB submitted one application in 2015 and that project was approved for funding under the NCWCGP:

[Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project](#) – This project is located east of the City of Cannon Beach in Clatsop County. The City proposes to acquire approximately 30 acres of estuarine and coastal freshwater forested and emergent wetlands immediately adjoining the existing Ecola Creek Forest

Reserve. Acquisition will allow the City to consolidate management and increase connectivity with the adjacent preserve. Once acquired, the City plans to undertake restoration activities aimed at improving fish passage and hydrologic connection in lower Ecola and Waterhouse Creeks.

- NCWCGP approved funding request: \$161,681; Total project cost: \$257,836; Local sponsor: City of Cannon Beach.
- Project Status: the City of Cannon Beach plans to submit a grant application into OWEB's Acquisition Grant Program in October of 2016 in order to secure the state match to the federal NCWCGP award.

IV. Status of NCWCGP Applications for 2016

On November 10, 2015, OWEB released a notice of deadlines for the 2016 application cycle. Two letters of interest were received, and in February, one pre-proposal was submitted. Based on expert review and subsequent discussions, the application will be resubmitted in 2017 when more details are in place for the transaction. As a result, OWEB will not be submitting a grant request for the program this year.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. Combined OWEB and USFWS NCWCGP Program Administration Timeline
- B. Status of OWEB NCWCGP Projects

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program
Program Administration Timeline

- *Deadlines of importance to local implementers are noted in **red** below*

DEADLINE Dec. 15, 2015: Local implementer submits Letter of Interest to OWEB

Jan. 21, 2016: USFWS announces FY2017 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) grant offering and sets the application deadline

DEADLINE Feb. 8, 2016: Local implementer submits Pre-Proposal to OWEB

Feb.-Apr. 2016: OWEB convenes a Coastal Wetlands Review Team to engage in programmatic vetting of the proposed NCWCGP application submission; OWEB conducts site tours with Coastal Wetlands Review Team and USFWS staff

Apr. 27, 2016: OWEB Board votes on decision to submit NCWCGP application at Board Meeting

DEADLINE May 2, 2016: Local implementer submits Draft NCWCGP application to OWEB

May 6, 2016: OWEB submits Draft NCWCGP application to USFWS for review

May 27, 2016: USFWS provides comments on Draft NCWCGP application to OWEB

May-Jun. 2016: OWEB seeks legislative approval to submit NCWCGP application

DEADLINE Jun. 20, 2016: Local Implementer submits Final NCWCGP application to OWEB

Jun. 29, 2016: OWEB submits Final NCWCGP application to the USFWS

DEADLINE Oct. 17, 2016: Local implementer submits acquisition, technical assistance, and/or restoration grant application to OWEB for state match funding

Dec. 2016-Feb. 2017: OWEB Acquisition and/or Regional Review Teams review OWEB grant applications through regular OWEB processes and make funding recommendations

Dec. 2016-Feb. 2017*: USFWS NCWCGP awards are announced

Mar. 2017: OWEB Management determines funding lines for all OWEB grant applications with consideration of Review Teams' funding recommendations and available funding

Apr. 26, 2017: OWEB Board makes final funding decision on OWEB grant application and final decision to move forward with NCWCGP award

Status of OWEB NCWCGP Projects

Project Name	Local Partners	Award Year	Grant Amount	Start Date	End Date
Active					
Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration	The Nature Conservancy	2011	\$ 1,000,000	01/15/11	12/31/17
Miami Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Project	The Nature Conservancy	2011	\$ 317,700	12/22/10	12/31/17
Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration	Tillamook County	2011	\$ 600,000	01/15/11	12/31/17
Waite Ranch Tidal Wetlands Restoration Project	Siuslaw WC and McKenzie River Trust	2014	\$ 592,735	01/15/14	01/31/17
China Camp Creek Project	Beaver Sough Drainage District and The Nature Conservancy	2015	\$ 1,000,000	---	12/31/16
Scholfield Creek Tidal Wetlands Conservation Project	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers and McKenzie River Trust	2015	\$ 630,577	09/09/15	09/30/17
Kilchis Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Project	The Nature Conservancy	2015	\$ 1,000,000	06/30/15	03/31/17
Pending					
Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project	City of Cannon Beach	2016	\$ 161,681	---	---
Proposed					
Pistol River Estuary Wetlands Acquisition	Wild Rivers Land Trust	---	\$ 900,000	---	---



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M: Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction Grant Program Funding Request

I. Introduction

This report requests the Board allocate up to an additional \$200,000 of General Funds from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to the 2015-2017 Spending Plan. This additional funding will bring the total amount available through the grant program to up to \$1.2 million.

II. Background

For the 2015-2017 biennium, ODF has been provided \$1.2 million of General Funds in support of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs), greater sage grouse habitat and rural community vitality. Within this funding, ODF and OWEB have established the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program. At the July 2015 and January 2016 OWEB Board meetings, the Board allocated a combined total of \$1 million in General Funds for the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program. The grant funding is for eligible services, supplies, and equipment expenditures of rangeland fire protection associations (RFPAs) and counties in addressing rangeland wildfire management and suppression. The grant program is consistent with wildfire-related provisions of Oregon's plan for addressing the conservation of the greater sage grouse and rural community vitality. For the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program, ODF has developed a formula for determining how much funding each county and RFPA is eligible to apply for. The amount of funding available for counties is determined by the number of RFPAs that predominately reside in the county. The amount of funding available for RFPAs is determined by the size of the RFPA and the percentage of ODFW-identified sage grouse habitat found within the RFPA boundary.

III. Grant Awards

At completion of the initial grant cycle \$900,000 in awards were made to 8 counties and 19 RFPAs. It is anticipated that the remaining \$100,000 of the initial allocations will be reserved for RFPAs that are currently in development, and made available through a small grant cycle later in the 2015-2017 biennium.

In addition to the amounts referenced above, ODF had intended to cover some costs for training and insurance directly from their agency to the local organizations. However, it was determined that the legislative intent was all funding go through OWEB. As such, OWEB and ODF have determined a process to distribute these additional funds into the existing grant agreements.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request the Board allocate up to \$200,000 of General Funds from ODF in support of the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program to the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements in project number 216-8009, with an award date of July 1, 2015.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N: Upper Klamath Special Investment Partnership (SIP) Accomplishments Summary Report
April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will present the Upper Klamath SIP Accomplishments Summary Report to the Board and provide an opportunity for the Board, staff, and Upper Klamath SIP implementation partners to engage in a discussion about the report's results.

II. Background about the Upper Klamath SIP

The Board approved the Upper Klamath SIP at its January 2012 meeting. The Upper Klamath SIP implementation partners are known as the Upper Klamath Conservation Action Network.

When funding the Upper Klamath SIP, OWEB joined with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Upper Klamath Basin Keystone Fisheries Initiative, which had been operating since 2008. The overarching goal of the Upper Klamath SIP is to contribute to chemical, thermal, and physical aquatic conditions that will benefit fish populations and water quality in the Upper Klamath Basin by reestablishing, improving, and sustaining the ecological and hydrologic connectivity of aquatic ecosystems.

III. Upper Klamath SIP Accomplishments Summary Report

As the agency transitions from SIPs to Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs), it is important for the Board to hear accomplishments from past SIP investments, learn about success stories, and reflect on lessons learned over the period of the investment.

In January 2015, staff received Board input about the information that would be most relevant to better understand the SIP investments and accomplishments to date. At subsequent meetings of the Board's Monitoring Subcommittee, staff and the subcommittee discussed how to use this foundation as a framework for tracking and reporting progress of future FIPs. One goal of the SIP reporting is to help inform standardized accomplishments reporting and effectiveness monitoring for the newly funded FIPs.

Based on Board and Subcommittee input, staff developed a template for the SIP accomplishments summary reports. An extensive amount of information is compiled in these reports, including:

- Partnership and Background Summary
- Map of Geographic Focus Area
- Desired Ecological Outcomes
- Applying a Scientific Framework
- Implementation Accomplishments
- Summary of Contributions
- Local Economy and Community Outcomes
- Reflections from the Funders' and Practitioners' Perspectives

The Upper Klamath SIP Accomplishments Summary Report will be provided at the April 2016 Board meeting. Staff will present an overview of the report and Board members will have an opportunity to engage with the Upper Klamath SIP partners in a discussion.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. Upper Klamath SIP Accomplishments Summary Report – To be provided at the April Board meeting

April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #O-1: Long-Term Investment Strategy Update

In 2013, the Board adopted its Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation (LTIS), which included approval of a framework for grant investments and direction for the LTIS. This report updates the Board on two tasks associated with the LTIS: Online Grant Applications/Grant Agreement System and Continuous Improvement.

Background

As a result of the passage of Ballot Measure 76 in 2010, OWEB's primary source of funding was no longer time-limited in the Oregon Constitution. Since then, OWEB has been reviewing and updating its priorities, policies, programs and practices to position the agency as an effective and successful long-term funder of conservation in Oregon.

In June of 2013, the OWEB Board approved its Long-Term Investment Strategy Framework with four major areas of investment: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Effectiveness Monitoring. The LTIS is nested within the agency's mission and strategic plan goals, and touches on nearly all aspects of OWEB's responsibilities.

The LTIS items listed below involve a considerable amount of work for OWEB staff beyond the typical workload. Staff's goal is to carry out these efforts without diminishing the quality of services our stakeholders expect from the agency. Therefore, OWEB is utilizing internal cross-sectional teams for many of these tasks to inform agency direction on policies and processes.

Status of Work Items

The following lists the status of two priority work items—Online Grant Applications/Grant Agreement System and Continuous Improvement:

Develop Online Grant Applications and Grant Agreements. OWEB's target is to launch an online grant application/agreement web interface during the 2015-17 biennium. The goal is to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's grant-making processes for applicants, grantees and OWEB staff. Online versions of four application types—Restoration, Technical Assistance (TA), Monitoring, and Outreach—are in development. Content of the restoration, TA and monitoring applications was 'streamlined' prior to developing the online applications to ensure these applications gather the key information necessary to review applications and support the grant-making process. The current version of the outreach application also is being transitioned to online; however streamlining for this grant application will be delayed until a future date, following an assessment of OWEB's funding approach for outreach grants.

External testing by both grantees and reviewers throughout the state has occurred for the restoration, TA and monitoring applications. In addition, internal testing by OWEB staff has occurred. Most of the feedback from testing relates to clarifying content and providing better guidance for applicants. Staff are in the process of addressing all the comments, continuing to improve the guidance document, and developing a template of the grant applications for use by applicants. Concerns expressed by testers (e.g., moving to less narrative emphasis in the applications; use of a fully online budget template) will be addressed in external communications and trainings that are in development. These resources will help familiarize

applicants with the refined approach being used for online applications. Outreach opportunities include hosting an in-person meeting with an external work group of grantees and reviewers, and presenting at the CONNECT conference in April, 2016.

Continuous Improvement. The OWEB Executive Team has adopted a Continuous Improvement (CI) approach to create adaptive, human-centered, and high performance service excellence.

Since the last CI report, staff continue developing and testing improvements to the Regional Review Process to achieve the following target: "People submit high quality applications to get money for measurable watershed improvements...OWEB consistently and rigorously reviews and evaluates each application/project." Improvements include:

- Incorporating new facilitation techniques and tools into Regional Review Team (RRT) meetings to support consistent discussion for each project;
- Developing visual aids that effectively display project information requested by RRT members to support a consistent review process; and
- Moving to a consistent evaluation format that captures RRT comments into a uniform structure for each project application.

Moving forward, OWEB staff will continue developing improvements collaboratively with the Board Open Solicitation subcommittee and report back to the committee on the results of actions implemented.

To effectively identify and prioritize agency processes needing improvements, OWEB will implement techniques for **Measuring Our Mission** that facilitate learning and improvement based on measured results. Measuring Our Mission has two components. The first, **Measuring Mission Progress**, assesses how OWEB's business processes are aligned in support of OWEB's mission. Action measures will monitor process inputs and outputs to support an ongoing, methodical approach to improving process through evidence-based decision making, continuous organizational learning and focus on aligning community needs with agency process results. Currently, OWEB is looking for a summer Hatfield Fellow through Portland State University to pilot progress measures development for selected business processes, and using lessons learned to propose a plan for scaling progress measures up to an agency-wide scale. Paired with this process is the agency's approach to measuring the impacts of our investments – **Measuring Mission Impact**. Results measures will assess outcomes and impact (i.e. what difference is made from OWEB investment) utilizing variety of tools such as effectiveness monitoring, accomplishments reporting, implementation monitoring and other approaches that measure accomplishments from OWEB investments. Together, **Measuring Mission Progress** and **Measuring Mission Impact** will provide a complete assessment of agency progress towards meeting legislative, stakeholder, staff and Board expectations in carrying out OWEB's mission.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@state.or.us or 503-986-0203, or Liz Redon at liz.redon@state.or.us or 503-986-0028.

April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #O-2: OWEB Subcommittees

Background

OWEB has been formalizing its committee structure over the past four years. The intent of subcommittees is to allow a subset of the 17-member board to analyze policy-level issues at a deeper level than is allowed for during board meetings. This deeper work helps subcommittees guide staff as they develop recommendations for board consideration. Each committee has a lead staff person who serves as the staff point of contact for the committee, and others who assist as needed.

Currently, in addition to meetings with the co-chairs, OWEB has six subcommittees, detailed in the table included as Attachment A. Based on feedback received from the OWEB Board in a 2015 survey, and subsequent conversations with board members and staff, the following items are recommended:

- 1) Continue with the subcommittee structure as outlined
- 2) Based on board membership changes, provide the opportunity for board members to re-identify committee membership preferences and to shift committees
- 3) Provide specific topics that subcommittees will address. It was also noted that some committees have not yet met, while others have had extensive policy interactions
- 4) Consider a more consistent meeting schedule for committees
- 5) Incorporate committee chairs into the discussion at board meetings about topics from the committee and/or have specific committee reports at meetings
- 6) Additional committees may be needed if a Working Farms and Ranches and/or Clean Water Fund program are established in the 2017 legislative session

Next Steps

In coordination with the Executive Committee, staff are preparing a survey to gain a better understanding from each board member of the following items:

- Committees of interest for each board member (see attached list and description);
- Board member willingness to serve as a committee chair, which would also require serving on the executive committee; and
- Timing for committee meetings (consistent vs. ad hoc)

Once feedback is received, the co-chairs will work with staff to identify board members for each committee. Staff will then work with committees to establish meeting times/dates per the group's preference. The goal is for committees to begin meeting with a revised roster this summer.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden at meta.loftsgaarden@state.or.us or 503-986-0180 or Eric Hartstein, eric.hartstein@state.or.us or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

- A. Board Committee Structure, Membership and Meeting Recommendations

Board Committee Structure, Membership and Meeting Recommendations

OWEB Committee	Membership Structure	Current Membership	Staff recommendation for meeting frequency
Co-Chairs	Two; elected by board	Eric Quaempts Dan Thorndike	Meet ahead of board meetings and other policy decisions as appropriate (typically 1 hour each)
Executive Committee	Co-Chairs Chair of each subcommittee	Eric Quaempts Dan Thorndike Monitoring (vacant) Debbie Hollen (Operating Capacity) Will Neuhauser (Focused Investments) Open Solicitation member (vacant)	2-3x/year (4x-5x/year during 2017 strategic planning process) (typically 1-2 hour meetings)

Examples of topic areas: Agency Request Budget; Key Performance Measures; Biennial Report; Strategic Plan

Operating Capacity	Five board members	Debbie Hollen (chair) John Roberts Vacant Karl Wenner Randy Labbe	Quarterly; in 2017 may need two additional meetings for new Council Capacity solicitation (typically 90 minutes)
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Examples of topic areas: Watershed Council Capacity Program; Monitoring of Capacity Investments; Building Capacity; SWCD's; NOWC/OACD

Open Solicitation	Five board members	Morgan Rider (chair) Vacant Stephen Brandt Vacant (prev. Mike Haske) Rosemary Furfey	Quarterly; additional meetings may be needed to set outreach grant strategy (typically 1-2 hours)
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Examples of topic areas: Regular Grant Program; Outreach Grants; Small Grants (CREP, Weeds, etc.); Regional Review Teams; Prog. Effectiveness Monitoring

Focused Investments	Five board members	Will Neuhauser (chair) Bob Webber Randy Labbe (audit) Alan Henning Ron Alvarado	Quarterly (typically 1-2 hours)
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Examples of topic areas: Focused Investment Criteria, Process & Effectiveness Monitoring; Strategic Investments Program; WWRI; Land/Water Acquisitions

Monitoring	Two members from OC, OS, FI	Karl Wenner (OC) Debbie Hollen (OC) Alan Henning (FI) Vacant (FI) Vacant (OS) Rosemary Furfey (OS)	Quarterly (typically 1-2 hours)
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Examples of topic areas: Effectiveness Monitoring for Focused Investments & Open Solicitation; Biennial Report; Strategic Guidance for Monitoring Applications

Acquisitions	No set number; determined by who volunteers	Alan Henning John Roberts Bob Webber Randy Labbe Will Neuhauser	1-2x/year; once to receive update on grant process; may need additional policy meeting (typically ½ day)
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Examples of topic areas: Policy Changes; Grant Updates

April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update #O-4: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update

Background

In January 2016 the OWEB Board awarded \$12,770,790 for six FIP Implementation grants and \$937,369 for eight Capacity Building grants. A map of both the Implementation and Capacity Building grants can be found in Attachment A. OWEB staff will provide the Board with a brief update on the progress of both programs at each Board meeting.

FIP Implementation

A kick-off meeting with representatives of each of the six implementation FIPs was held March 30, 2016 to discuss the following:

- Clear expectations of OWEB staff and the partnerships;
- Review team membership and timelines;
- Communication processes with OWEB staff and review teams;
- Measuring and reporting outcomes;
- Partnership decision-making;
- Content of the Partnership Agreements, which constitute memoranda of agreement between OWEB and each partnership;
- Grant application types and applicability; and
- Next steps and timeline.

With input from the meeting, staff are drafting Partnership Agreements in order to get them in place prior to executing grant agreements, which will begin as early as summer.

FIP Capacity Building

The eight Capacity Building grants are located around the state and include a broad diversity of partners. A short list of program accomplishments is listed below.

- Grant agreements have been executed for all awards.
- OWEB staff held a conference call for all partners in late February. Staff reviewed the purpose of the program, answered questions, and discussed the assessment opportunities presented in Agenda Item G.
- OWEB staff developed an online shared folder for the partnerships in order to facilitate the sharing of information and documents among the partners. Examples of shared documents include RFPs and governance documents.
- Staff developed and sent to all grantees a pre-project survey. This is a short, seven question survey, with multiple choice questions. The same questions will be asked at the conclusion of the project. This survey will also be used for implementation FIP partners.
- Many partnerships have posted RFPs and have begun the process to hire a facilitator.

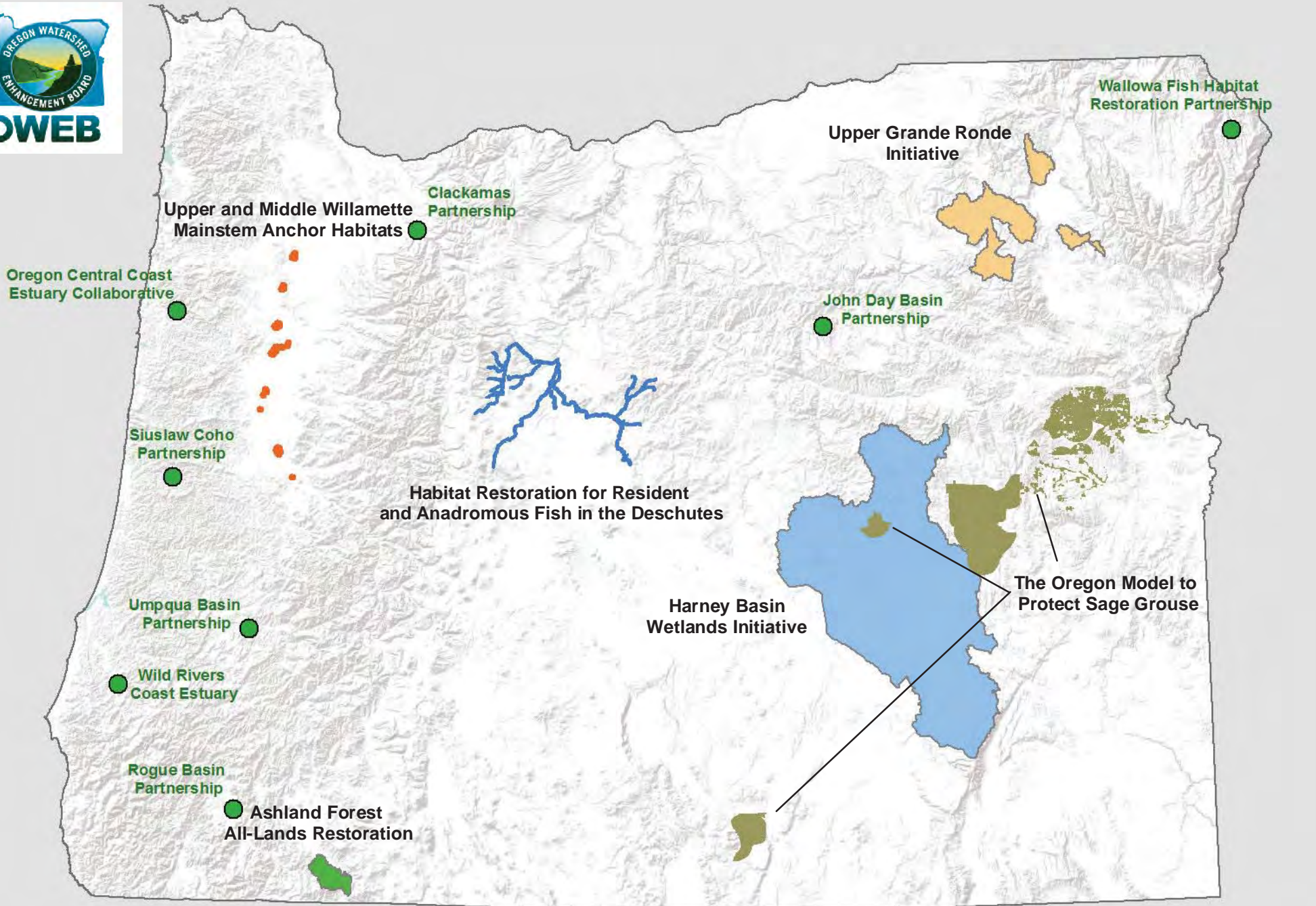
A more detailed update will be provided at the July Board meeting, including a summary of the pre-project survey responses.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information on FIP Implementation grants please contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at eric.williams@state.or.us or 503-986-0047; for questions or additional information on FIP Capacity Building grants please contact Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator, at courtney.shaff@state.or.us or 503-986-0046.

Attachments

- A. FIP Implementation and Capacity Building Partnerships Map



● Capacity Building FIPs

OWEB Focused Investment Partnerships: Implementation and Capacity Building Initiatives 2015-2017

April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update #O-5: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Background

On an annual basis since Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2000, OWEB has applied for and received funding from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), as the designated grant recipient for the State of Oregon. This funding is an important complement to the Board's investment of dedicated lottery funding and Salmon License Plate revenue. Over the previous 15 years, PCSRF has contributed just over \$200 million to Oregon for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. The OWEB Board and the state's Legislature have used the funding to support watershed restoration related actions and for staffing in state agencies. PCSRF has significantly enhanced OWEB's expenditures through grants in salmon and steelhead recovery areas around the state.

FFY 2016 Funding Opportunity

In early February 2016, NOAA announced the latest funding opportunity of \$65 million for the FFY 2016 PCSRF program. The solicitation included a two-step application process: submission of an optional, but recommended pre-application by March 4, 2016 for review by NOAA staff; and submission of a final application by April 10, 2016.

In 2012, NOAA developed new priorities for the program, with further slight modifications occurring in 2013-2014. The priorities reflect an emphasis for PCSRF funds to 'hit-the-ground' supporting high-priority projects benefiting salmon and steelhead that are called for in recovery plans for those two species. This change in emphasis is intended to result in an increased ability to directly address factors limiting the productivity of ESA-listed salmon. Beginning with FFY 2012, capacity funding, planning, and outreach activities were de-emphasized as funding priorities.

As with the last three federal fiscal years, NOAA's grant solicitation and awards for FFY 2016 will reflect the use of these modified priorities. The priorities are in rank order and the majority of funding will be provided to grant recipients for the first priority, implementation of on-the-ground habitat actions. In addition, large-scale effectiveness monitoring and critical monitoring for population viability assessments for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead is budgeted by NOAA such that approximately 10 percent of any given year's funding is made available for this second program priority.

The PCSRF solicitation also includes several emphasis areas that align well with OWEB programs and priorities. The PCSRF emphases include:

- The restoration and protection of riparian habitats in priority areas for salmon and steelhead;
- Use of large-scale strategies that maximize benefits through the implementation of coordinated projects that address multiple priority limiting factors;
- Achievement of lasting benefits through the restoration of self-sustaining natural ecosystem functions and processes; and

- Maximized benefits by leveraging of additional coordinated investments from other entities and programs.

OWEB, on behalf of Oregon, is requesting \$25 million, the maximum amount of funding possible. This request will provide a required 33% match, which in the past has come from lottery funding, salmon license plates and match from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Consistent with the last few years, funding received from NOAA will be used to satisfy both OWEB's and ODFW's budget needs if the Legislature approves the use of these funds in both of the agencies' budgets later this summer. The leadership of both agencies have worked together to outline principles and provisions for how the funding would be split between the agencies. This information is being used in development of the grant application to NOAA and, if the funding request is successful, will be used to determine grant award amounts for each agency.

Status of Other PCSRF Related Efforts

OWEB staff continue to work with NOAA to address issues associated with data and information reported under PCSRF grants. PCSRF reporting requirements have evolved during the program's existence, and review of the information reported by PCSRF grantees is increasing. From NOAA's perspective, accuracy of the information that OWEB and other state and tribal grantees report is important for several reasons: 1) NOAA uses this information to respond to questions about PCSRF program performance from Congress and the Executive Branch (including the Office of Management and Budget) regarding the use of PCSRF funds to recover at-risk and ESA-listed salmon species along the West Coast; 2) Proposed accomplishments for projects being funded with PCSRF dollars are used to estimate PCSRF program performance for the next fiscal year; and 3) Proposed and actual metrics for project accomplishments are compared to track program performance through time. OWEB is working diligently to address reporting questions and issues, with the intent of supporting NOAA's ability to have quality data and information to meet the aforementioned needs.

In addition to this ongoing work on reporting improvements, OWEB and NOAA staff are coordinating on such topics as organizing visits for NOAA staff to PCSRF funded restoration projects, and aligning the two agencies' information systems to more efficiently and effectively gather data about salmon and steelhead recovery in Oregon.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@state.or.us or 503-986-0203.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item P: Other Business – Funding Request to Add Recaptured Grant Funds to Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) Implementation Initiatives**

April 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests the Board add \$174,548 of recaptured grant funds to the FIP Implementation line item of the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, and outlines specific FIPs within which to distribute those funds based on grants that were submitted through the Open Solicitation grant cycle that should have been identified and routed previously through the respective FIP programs.

II. Background

The 2015-2017 FIP Implementation grant solicitation cycle included two application phases. Phase I applications were submitted by July 1, 2015 and Phase II applications were submitted by November 2, 2015. At its January 2016 meeting, the Board approved funding for six FIP Implementation partnerships totaling \$12,770,790.

Prior to the FIP Phase II application due date and Board award, OWEB solicited for the October 2015 Open Solicitation grant cycle. In this grant cycle, two applications were submitted and recommended for funding by the Region Five Regional Review Team, where the geography, actions, and ecological outcomes aligned with FIP Implementation Initiatives:

- The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program submitted a Technical Assistance application, Hall Ranch Habitat Restoration (#216-5049), seeking \$49,610 to design a habitat restoration project on Catherine Creek. The project aligns with the Upper Grande Ronde FIP (#216-8205).
- The Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District submitted a Restoration application, Juniper Mountain Off-stream Water (#216-5038), seeking \$124,938 to implement a project enhancing wet meadow habitat for brood-rearing sage-grouse. The project aligns with the Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse FIP (#216-8203).

III. FIP Eligibility in the Open Solicitation Grant Program

It was OWEB policy during the Special Investment Partnerships (SIP) that projects which align with awarded partnership's geographies, actions, and ecological outcomes are required to be

submitted through the SIP process and were ineligible for an award through the Open Solicitation grant program. OWEB intended this policy carry forward into the FIP program as well. Therefore, the two projects described above were deemed ineligible by staff for funding through the October 2015 Open Solicitation grant cycle and moved to the respective FIP Implementation Initiatives.

However, in the course of receiving FIP applications at the same time the Open Solicitation cycle was occurring, OWEB did not provide clear guidance to potential FIP implementation partners of this policy. As a result, FIP budgets were not built to incorporate projects in these two cases. Staff acknowledge that the overlapping FIP and Open Solicitations grant cycles led to confusion, and propose to add \$174,548 in recaptured grant funds to the FIP Implementation line item of the 2015-2017 Spending Plan in order to fund the two projects. Recaptured grant funds are monies that have been previously allocated to other projects but were unspent and thus recaptured for reallocation. The current balance of recaptured funds is over \$1.2 million, which exceeds estimates for the spending plan. Staff will propose the remaining recaptured funds be added to the spending plan, along with new Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds, as a part of the spending plan update at the July 2016 Board meeting.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request the Board add \$174,548 of recaptured funds to the FIP Implementation line item of the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for project number 216-8203 for up to \$124,938 and an agreement for project number 216-8205 for up to \$49,610 with award dates of April 27, 2016.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD July 26, 2016
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

April 26, 2016
OWEB Board Meeting
La Grande, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Quaempts, Eric
Roberts, John
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Juniper
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Hulst, Miriam
Leiendecker, Karen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Harper, Craig
Beamer, Kelley
Wayburn, Laurie
Jones, Bob
Morris, Christo
Rieck, Ken
Morton, Winston
Baker, John

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Eric Quaempts.

A. Board Member Comments

Board representatives provided an update on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions or from their represented state and federal natural resource agencies.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 26-27, 2016 Board meeting in McMinnville were presented for approval.

John Roberts moved to approve the minutes from the January 26-27, 2016 Board meeting in McMinnville. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed with Laura Masterson abstaining due to absence at the January meeting.

C. Board Co-Chair Election

Co-Chairs Eric Quaempts and Dan Thorndike led a discussion and vote by Board members to elect co-chairs for the Board. Dan Thorndike's seat was opening for a two-year term, and Randy Labbe expressed interest in occupying that seat. Eric Quaempts had one year remaining in his term, but opted to step down as Co-Chair for the remainder of his term. Dan Thorndike expressed interest in taking over Eric's Co-Chair position.

Dan Thorndike moved the Board elect Randy Labbe to serve as OWEB Board Co-Chair for a two-year term. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. Randy Labbe abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Webber moved the Board elect Dan Thorndike to serve as Co-Chair, filling the one-year remainder of Eric Quaempts' term as OWEB Co-Chair. The motion was seconded by Eric Quaempts. The motion passed unanimously.

Dan Thorndike acknowledged the contributions of Eric Quaempts, as both a Board member and co-chair, to the fundamental importance of the activities of the OWEB Board.

D. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

E. Land Acquisition Grant Awards

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Hulst presented information on land acquisition grant applications received during the October 2015 grant cycle. Two applications recommended for funding were presented and recommended for Board action.

Rogue River Preserve (#216-9901)

Board Member Questions/Comments:

-Dan Thorndike mentioned there was a local public hearing for this proposed acquisition with most people speaking favorably about the project. He said those few who spoke in objection appeared to have a misunderstanding that this land was going to become a government acquisition for public property. He also discussed characteristics of the long-time family of ownership and their desire for this project to go through, with the support of neighbors.

-Laura Masterson inquired about the development potential and fair market value of the property. Miriam Hulst replied that the appraised value expresses development potential of up to six homes.

-Gary Marshall asked about the historical use of this property. Miriam Hulst said this property has been owned by the same family for 72 years, using it as a vacation home with light grazing. She said they worked over the last few years to get it ready to be sold to Southern Oregon Land Conservancy(SOLC), including making a \$600,000 donation of part of the property's value. Dan Thorndike noted there are only two cabins on the property. He said it has been very lightly used, and the third generation is now mostly on the East Coast and does not use the property much; hence, their decision to sell it to SOLC.

-Alan Henning asked for clarification of encumbrances, particularly for mineral rights, which were explained by Miriam Hulst. He also asked about what he perceived to be a dam removed on that property, as mentioned in the written comments. Eric Williams clarified that there was not a dam removal project connected with this property.

Mountcrest Conservation Easement (216-9903):

Board Member Questions/Comments:

-Dan Thorndike asked whether OWEB has funded a forest working lands acquisition in the past. Miriam Hulst answered this is a new investment type for OWEB with the size of the property

and specific emphasis on forestry. She added that this is an example of a working land easement where the goal is to protect what this owner-family has been able to achieve over decades of sustainable forest management, rather than trying to bring a property back from a degraded state.

-Alan Henning asked about the guidelines for prescriptions used to manage riparian areas. Miriam Hulst stated that Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) has a lot of experience in administering working lands easements for forests and has worked with some thought leaders in the nation on how to administer these easements in general and to lay out the proposed prohibitions on this property, including buffer, weave tress, etc. She added that Laurie Wayburn from PFT would address the Board in the public comment period to explain further.

-Laura Masterson said that timber harvest often helps pay for conservation. She asked if OWEB is asking for a significant reduction in harvest. Miriam Hulst said the family had self-restricted their harvest, which would be considered a great reduction from the maximum harvest possible under law. She said the value of the easement is expected to be several million dollars, which speaks to the fact that there will be significant restrictions on timber harvest. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden clarified that OWEB does not set those restrictions.

There was more discussion about OWEB's ability to review the proposed management plan, especially when talking about riparian management (buffer widths). Miriam Hulst said once OWEB receives a draft management plan, she works with a reviewer to make sure it contains the components consistent with OWEB's established guides for management plans, and that the actions in the management plan are consistent with the desired ecological outcomes and the terms of the conservation easement. Rosemary Furfey asked if there would be further information provided to the Board based on the finalization of the management plan. Meta Loftsgaarden clarified that, under OWEB's administrative rules and the associated process for land acquisitions, approval of final management plans is not brought before the Board. She said, however, that Pacific Forest Trust will be asked to provide an update with a specific explanation of riparian buffers for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Forestry. Alan Henning stated that he is not trying to hold off the process for acquisition, and can provide riparian buffer standards that may be incorporated into a management plan. Will Neuhauser also expressed interest in increasing the Board's understanding of how working lands easements work, making sure the Board has a better understanding of what to consider when voting to approve/disapprove for funding.

Public Comment on Land Acquisition Grant Applications:

Mountcrest Conservation Easement –

Laurie Wayburn from Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) came to represent the landowner, Judd Parsons, who was not able to be at the meeting. She discussed how PFT works with willing private landowners to help them protect their land and steward PFT's mission. She stated that PFT been working on the Cascade-Siskiyou Crest for 15 years, Citing the Mountcrest property as the largest non-industrial, private timber ownership in the area, providing direct connectivity between U.S. Forest Service property and the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. She said it is representative of the most highly diverse conifer forest globally, is used by Pacific fisher and Northern spotted owl, and houses the headwaters of six creeks supporting Cutthroat Trout and Coho Salmon. She mentioned how this is a different way to approach conservation of private

lands for the benefit of the public, wildlife, and water, without encumbering full fee title ownership. She said it is about half the cost of a fee-title acquisition, with outcomes achieving full public benefit.

Laurie addressed Alan Henning's question of riparian buffers in the management plan, stating PFT places 100-foot restrictions on non-fish bearing streams and 150-foot restrictions on fish-bearing streams, year round. She stated that twenty percent of this property is in special habitat management areas. She also said they are working on maintaining a mature forest on this property.

Laurie invited anyone interested to come out this property, and to another easement property near Corvallis, to see how this kind of approach works in practice for the restoration and maintenance of mature forests over time.

Board Member Questions/Comments:

-Alan Henning had a question about whether buffer distances included selective cuts, and if there is management in the riparian area. Laurie Wayburn clarified that PFT holds the conservation easement. She also said there is a riparian management plan developed as part of the easement, and there will be harvest allowed to promote the ecological integrity of streambanks.

-Karl Wenner stated he had many questions and clarified the terms, as he understood them: OWEB purchases the easement; the landowner retains the property and is able to carry out certain activities, logging being one of them. Karl was unclear about the definition of limits. Laurie Wayburn explained how the limits of the easements are very well defined, and explained some of the metrics of the limits. Karl also said it would also be helpful to know what the value of the properties are, specifically what OWEB is getting for this purchase, and what the properties are worth if there is no easement. Meta Loftsgaarden said every property is appraised, and OWEB can only pay according to the appraisal, but the final amount of the grant will not be known until much later. Karl requested access to the appraisal, and Meta Loftsgaarden said it would be provided when complete. She discussed why appraisal may not happen until after the Board approves the acquisition, but also talked about protections in place since OWEB is only allowed to pay 75% of appraised value. Laurie said the reference point for value is roughly 55% of fee title value, based on other lands of the same type. She also stated the family would be donating up to one third of the property's value.

-John Roberts asked if the family would continue to be involved. Laurie said there are two other family members who are involved in this property ownership, and are in favor of this easement; regardless, the easement travels with the deed. She ensured the Board that PFT has staff to move things along according to plan.

-Bob Webber said he sees a big difference between a fee purchase and an easement. He requested a way to have a little more information before approving funding of an easement. Meta Loftsgaarden explained that OWEB staff will work in the future with the Acquisitions Subcommittee to get additional information into the staff report.

-Stephen Brandt asked who gets access through the easement. Laurie Wayburn said the general public has access through the Pacific Crest Trail, but this is an ecologically focused easement.

Rogue River Preserve

Craig Harper from the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) spoke on behalf of the Rogue River Preserve easement acquisition. He said he is thankful to the MacArthur Family for selling this property at a \$600,000 discount. He talked about how they have been working together since the 1990s and now have a purchase agreement that runs through 2016. He stated the primary goal is to conserve the 352-acre property as one large intact natural area that provides ecological and public benefits in perpetuity. He listed the unique qualities of the property: It measures 1.5 miles from north to south with an island, inlets and sloughs with 2.2 miles of streambank; there is a high-quality and diverse floodplain forest with very little non-native growth; it has exceptional biodiversity; and it is in an area with several other protected properties. He said it has many important ecological components and is consistent with OWEB's acquisition criteria.

Craig stated SOLC has tracked 70 volunteers, donating more than 400 volunteer hours in the last 18 months, with over 20 organizations working toward the preservation of this property. He said local neighbors are in favor and have formed "Heart of the Rogue" Foundation to raise funds. He mentioned that SOLC owns only one other property, but manages 62 conservation easements. He said the OWEB grant will make or break this project; SOLC can leverage that funding and they have pre-applications in for matching funds.

-Laura Masterson asked about maintaining working lands as one of the property benefits. Craig Harper said the only work has been light grazing, and SOLC wants to enhance the meadows thereby increasing spot-grazing to help deal with some invasive species (e.g., medusahead).

-Gary Marshall questioned whether there is restoration work to do on the property. Craig Harper said there are some invasives (e.g., blackberry, scotch broom), but the best they can do is to enhance what is already there.

Kelley Beamer, executive director for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), spoke on behalf of the Rogue River Preserve easement acquisition. She mentioned that PFT and SOLC are members of COLT.

Kelley spoke to the big-picture importance and impact of the OWEB Acquisitions Program. She stated that land trusts purchase properties and/or easement properties in perpetuity and take on the responsibility to steward and monitor them for their ecological outcomes forever. She expressed COLT's strong support for both acquisitions to protect the land. She said COLT would be happy to share the details of conservation easements, particularly working lands easements, and the potential they have in Oregon.

Randy Labbe moved the Board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A to the Land Acquisition Grant staff report, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by John Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

F. October 2015 Open Solicitation Grant Awards

Introduction

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB's Regional Program Representatives presented the proposed grant awards in each region using a unifying theme: Ecological Uplift. Eric Williams provided an overview of 187 applications submitted in the grant cycle, which included four grant categories: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring. He talked about how six regional review teams perform an initial evaluation for the OWEB Board, vetting and reviewing each application and visiting sites. Following the review team meetings, staff provided funding recommendations.

Eric Williams said OWEB had grant award requests totaling over \$19 million. This amount is more than double what is available to award in this cycle, making the decision process very challenging.

Region 1 – Attachment E

Region 1 Program Representative Katie Duzik introduced ecological uplift as an effective description of what OWEB's Open Solicitation Grant Program is attempting to achieve. She said OWEB's Open Solicitation Grant program is looking for projects with a lift for species and habitats over baseline conditions. She talked about how this translates to the increase or uplift of habitat availability by the removal of a physical barrier or impediment, restoring floodplain connections, etc., and many other unique ways beyond these basic examples. She provided an example of ecological uplift happening in Region 1, using the four-phase Fivemile Bell Creek project.

Region 2 – Attachment F

Region 2 Program Representative Mark Grenbemer spoke about coastal estuaries as one of OWEB's focused investment priorities. He said estuaries and small tributaries are among the most important coastal features, mentioning how many estuaries and tributaries have been heavily impacted by land use patterns, including diking, filling, channel simplifications, culverts, and tidegate placements. He said this has resulted in habitats' historic patterns of use being limited, and relegating many species to much smaller areas in order to survive, which has negatively affected their ability to flourish. He presented two monitoring and restoration projects from Region 2 that demonstrate ecological uplift, citing how local partners are using assessment and monitoring to determine key limiting factors, and to pinpoint areas where restoration activities can result in meaningful improvement of watershed conditions.

Region 3 – Attachment G

Region 3 Program Representative Liz Redon presented a technical assistance example from the Willamette Basin that demonstrates how OWEB grants can lead to significant large-scale uplift. She presented the Oregon Parks Willamette Portfolio, which is a planning effort sponsored by several cooperating partners. She said strong working relationships among groups such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, and other non-profits have increased the pace and scale of restoration at these Willamette park sites. She stated some challenges to this increase, then outlined how a relatively small investment in technical assistance will result in restoration and stewardship funding being put on the ground at specific locations will have the greatest impact and, therefore, the greatest ecological uplift at a Willamette Basin scale.

Region 4 – Attachment H

Region 4 Program Representative Greg Ciannella presented an outreach example project from the Hood River Basin. He said streamflow is the biggest limiting factor and, at the same time, the highest priority for Hood River Basin. He highlighted the importance of streamflow to protect and restore habitat while also supporting a \$1 billion orchard industry, particularly in summer months. He said on-farm fixes (particularly micro-sprinkler systems) can conserve 32 cubic feet per second of water basin-wide. He talked about the biggest roadblock to efficient irrigation management being that on-farm laborers need outreach and training to use these new systems. With five pilot farms on Board, he believes many more would follow across the Hood River Basin. He said the ecological uplift of this project is to conserve water; however, with an outreach grant, there is also a societal uplift, which inspires change.

Region 5 – Attachment I

Region 5 Program Representative Karen Leiendecker presented a unique project in northeast Oregon, acquiring seed and seedlings to restore forests damaged by recent wildfires. She described several wildfires from the past few years and cited the thousands of acres that need to be reforested. She discussed the process of fire rehabilitation through replanting and reseeding with many considerations, including elevation, slope, soil type, tree species, etc. She talked about how nurseries today are not able provide seed that match these criteria, and then explained in detail the necessary and cumbersome process of seed collection and propagation. She stated this project's ecological uplift is a restored forest. She added that by providing the funding to collect seed and purchase seedlings, the restoration process will be accelerated.

Region 6 – Attachment J

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented for Region 6 Program Representative Sue Greer, using Mountain Creek Watershed as an example of ecological uplift. He provided a brief history of the completed projects in this basin. He also briefly discussed the proposed projects for the current grant cycle, citing how collective planning to create basin-scale uplift in Region 6 will result in ridgetop to ridgetop protection of this watershed and habitat.

Public Comment on Pending Regular Grant Applications with Board Consideration:

WISE Pre-Project Effectiveness Monitoring (216-2034) -

-Bob Jones from Prospect, Oregon spoke to urge the Board to consider funding this application. Bob said he is a Board member of the Rogue River Watershed Council, the chair of the WISE Project, and an employee of the Medford Water Commission. He provided information about why he felt it is important to provide baseline funding for this -WISE project, citing background and history of the project, and committed funding. He stated this is a collaborative project with an integrative resource strategy, and with high benefit to the Oregon Plan.

- John Roberts asked when monitoring would be cut off if the project was not funded. Bob Jones said they had enough to get through the end of 2016, but will have to stop monitoring unless other funding is identified.

-Board Rosemary Furfey wondered if this project is seen as a test for irrigation practices and efficiencies that could be applied elsewhere, with greater benefit beyond the given project. Bob Jones said yes, the WISE project could be implemented in other areas around the state with great conservation potential.

Tumalo Feed Canal Phase 4 (216-4021) -

-Ken Riek from Tumalo Irrigation District (TID) and Kevin Crew from Black Rock Consulting spoke in support of project #216-4021. Ken thanked the Board for OWEB's participation in funding 20% of their projects over the years. Kevin briefly reviewed his history with the watershed, the participating partners in all phases of this project, and the historical funding provided by partners statewide. He said Tumalo Creek is one of only two gravel bearing, cold-water streams in the watershed. He conceded their application was confusing, and thanked the Board for their continuing support. He added that their Phase 5 will be very important for funding and is hopeful the Board will be receptive when that application comes through.

- Karl Wenner asked for clarification about what was in the application regarding amounts being asked for. Kevin explained a history of their applications, what the Board agreed to, and how the regional review team interpreted the history.

- John Roberts asked what would happen if OWEB did not fund the project and whether that additional piping is built into Phase 5. Ken stated the district is carrying that balance right now out of previous land sales, but that it will affect money available to spend on future phases. He said TID owns an additional 600 acres of land, which the District has committed to use to pay for pipe assets. Their goal is to be fully piped with 100% efficiency, a commitment they have had since establishing their first conservation goal in the 1990s.

Pine Creek Off-Channel Watering Outreach (216-5045) -

-Christo Morris, the executive director for the Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) in Baker City came to speak to the merits and concerns of the application. He talked about how livestock grazing is the most widespread land use in the drier portions of the west, and the need to engage livestock producers directly to establish clear links between grazing practices and watershed health. He discussed opportunities to motivate landowners and influence livestock producers by educating them about the impacts from livestock grazing in riparian areas, including loss of pasture from lateral erosion and loss of forage. He addressed a couple of concerns raised by review panel and answered questions from Board members.

-Alan Henning said outreach is often a soil and water conservation district (SWCD) role. He asked whether PBWC is partnering with their local SWCD. Christo said there is no official connection with the SWCD for this application.

-Dan Thorndike asked whether funding needs to happen now or if it could be accomplished in the next cycle, and whether a reduced amount would be effective. Christo said it would be very helpful if this grant came through to help with continuity of staff in terms of timing. He said in terms of a reduced amount, PBWC could accomplish the basics of outreach and do a lot of good with trimmed activities.

-Rosemary Furfey asked if Christo had set up indicators of success. Christo said the ultimate measure will be how many landowners participate. He said PBWC would also produce brochures and they would be tracking demand for these printed materials as a measure of success.

Wallowa River – Baker Project (216-5057) -

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Fish Biologist Winston Morton asked the Board consider funding this restoration project. He said the project design was funded with an OWEB Technical Assistance grant and it is ready for implementation. He said the goal of this

project is to restore watershed process and ecological function, addressing limiting factors for summer Steelhead and Chinook Salmon by increasing habitat complexity. He stated the project has secured match through various restoration partners and that additional OWEB funding is required for implementation.

-John Baker also addressed the Board as a supporting landowner. He said he and his wife are both conservation-minded owners of this 60-acre property and talked about the history of their conservation efforts, in conjunction with the efforts of many agencies involved. He noted their enthusiasm for this project has been dulled by a long and drawn out process for funding.

-John Roberts asked why a 15-year conservation easement is being offered by the landowner instead of a longer or permanent easement. Winston addressed the Board on behalf of ODFW, citing that 15 years has been the amount of time most comfortable for landowners and how this length of term has been commonly used by ODFW for easements in recent years.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden explained the logistics of voting to fund a project below the funding line. She also discussed moving to the next agenda item (P), including \$1.2 million in "recaptured funds," with recalculations and more to consider for a vote after lunch.

P. Other Business

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented a request to allocate \$174,548 in recaptured funds for two Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) projects (#216-8205 and #216-8203). Eric Hartstein explained how the timing of the FIP awards at the January 2016 meeting occurred after the grant applications were submitted during the October 2015 grant cycle. He said it is OWEB's policy that projects in a FIP geography with actions and outcomes similar to a designated FIP are ineligible for an Open Solicitation grant award. He explained how the policy was not communicated well to FIP applicants, which led to confusion over project eligibility.

Board Member Questions/Comments:

-John Roberts asked what will happen if the Board does not fund these two FIP requests. Eric Hartstein stated the focused investment could be completed without this funding, but would reduce funding for other projects under the two relevant FIPs.

-Karl Wenner asked where the recaptured funds came from. Eric Williams explained that recaptured funds are from projects statewide that either were incomplete or were completed under budget.

-Rosemary Furfey asked for clarification about why staff is coming to request the use of these funds for those two FIPs, and not to open it more broadly to other project types. Eric Williams explained that this was an issue of timing: the applications were submitted in October, three months before the applicants knew whether the FIPs would be awarded by the Board. Eric Williams said that adding recaptured funds would make these FIPs whole so they would not have to fund these projects out of other parts of their budget. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden explained that this situation is not likely to happen again. She also talked about how this request is not a trade-off, and that Board members have the opportunity to vote to use the recaptured funds in any way, including other projects being heard about at this meeting.

There was more discussion about how to determine if future Open Solicitation proposals should instead be addressed through a FIP. Meta Loftsgaarden said that FIP solicitation cycle revisions may help fix this issue. There was also discussion about having all of the opportunities for allocating the recaptured funds on the table at once, instead of deciding one or two at a time.

Discussion and Board Action on Agenda Item F and Agenda Item P

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented options to the Board for allocating recaptured funds. Meta asked the Board to consider whether there were any projects they heard about at the meeting which they would like to suggest for funding, and any other project or issue they would like to have on the table for conversation.

-Rosemary Furfey found two projects compelling, #216-2034 and #216-5057. Both projects were discussed during public comment.

-Alan Henning thought project #216-5045 was valuable.

Meta Loftsgaarden asked the Board whether there were any other proposals for the Board to consider.

-Karl Wenner said he felt the process for allocating recaptured funds was too arbitrary, and he suggested a longer-term proposal to figure out a better way to deal with this kind of situation. He said he would feel better about allocating this recaptured money if there was a uniform approach. He also commented about the hard work of the regional review teams to discern funding lines. As a shorter-term solution, he said it is the goal of the Board to get that money out into the community. He suggested using recaptured funds to fund one project below the funding line for each region.

Meta addressed how funding lines are drawn, reminding the Board there are still valuable projects below the line. She said anything that is recommended for funding, above or below the line, would be supported by staff for Board approval. Eric Williams also discussed the regional review team process and how recommended projects are ranked and funding lines are drawn.

Different scenarios were discussed, including dropping the line to the first recommended project below the line for a total additional funding of \$875,768. Meta clarified that the discussion at this time would lead to a decision by the Board for how to allocate the \$1.2 million in recaptured funds. She said the money was recaptured in this biennium, and she would ask Business Operations Manager Cindy Silbernagel whether it must be spent in this biennium or if it may be spent in the next biennium.

-Will Neuhauser said it would be good to have a discussion about what to do with \$1.2 million instead of a series of single issues on their own. He suggested using some of the recaptured funds to fully fund the Implementation FIPs, which were asked to take a reduction at the January 2016 Board meeting. He also clarified that these recaptured funds do not have to be spent now since there are other grant cycles this biennium in which these funds can be spent.

-Debbie Hollen shared Karl's concern about making arbitrary decisions based on compelling stories of applicants. Debbie stated support for a broader process that takes into consideration how projects across the state relate to one another in the evaluation process.

-John Roberts suggested funding the projects already in progress, particularly the WISE project, where instruments are in place and they are in the middle of collecting data. He felt the Board's objective is to get money to useful projects around the state.

Dan Thorndike moved to approve the staff funding recommendations as shown in the gray-shaded sections of Attachments E to J of Agenda Item F the "October 2015 Open Solicitations Grant Awards" staff report. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser and passed unanimously.

The Board continued their discussion of different options for spending the recaptured funds. There was debate about the rationale for selecting certain types of projects, and the arbitrary nature of making these decisions without a more formal process.

-Laura Masterson asked if lines would have moved if staff had an additional \$1.2 million added to the budget. Meta Loftsgaarden explained the review process used by regional review teams and noted that it is the job of staff to set the line based on funding available, and that there is not enough funding to support all recommended projects. She said this would require staff to complete the exercise again and come back in July with a request for a new set of funding recommendations. She encouraged the Board to think about letting the Open Solicitation Subcommittee consider and propose a solution to address this issue, rather than making a one-time decision and potentially setting a precedent to hold Board funding recommendations until the July meeting.

John Roberts moved to fund the WISE monitoring grant project #216-2034 for \$54,438. Bob Webber seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Karl Wenner moved to adjust the funding line down to projects recommended for funding, but were one below the line across all grant types and regions. He added a recommendation to fully fund the two projects that were reduced in funding. Laura Masterson seconded the motion. There was discussion about projects and funding requested. There was also discussion of setting up a deliberate process for allocating recapture dollars and avoiding a reactionary decision. The motion failed.

Will Neuhauser moved to add \$174,548 of recaptured funds to the FIP Implementation line item of the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, and delegate to the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for project 216-8203 for up to \$124,938 and an agreement for project number 216-8205 for up to \$49,610, with award dates of April 27, 2016. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. There was further discussion and the motion passed 7-2.

Meta Loftsgaarden said the staff would come back in July with options for distributing additional recaptured funds, which the Board will allocate into the spending plan with newly awarded Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds.

G. Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)—Request for Funding for Implementation Monitoring and Capacity Assessments

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff described for the Board proposed approaches for monitoring FIP implementation initiatives and evaluating FIP capacity building grants. Renee Davis recalled the Board's January award of nearly \$13 million to six

implementation FIPs and nearly \$1 million to eight capacity building FIPs. She said the intention has always been to build monitoring and evaluation into the work of the FIPs, harking back to OWEB's Long Term Investment Strategy. Given the difference between the implementation and capacity building FIPs, they are being viewed as two different tracks and the same approach to monitoring is not applied to both. She said OWEB needs to be tracking and monitoring these investments over time in a way that will enable the Board to implement adaptive management of these projects. She said staff specifically reached out to Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to help with how to structure this progress tracking through time for the two different types of investments, emphasizing BEF's extensive experience around the West in tackling these kinds of issues.

Renee Davis walked the Board through the monitoring request for implementation FIPs, to develop the framework for how OWEB will do this tracking through time. She explained that the intent is to provide the right information to the Board to enable adaptive management of its investments, capturing how much progress these groups are able to make in a 6-year timeframe and establish reasonable expectations.

She explained the first two phases of the implementation FIP monitoring: Phase I to develop a progress-monitoring framework and analyze the proposed monitoring of each FIP; and Phase II to crosswalk that information between the current monitoring proposed and the progress-monitoring framework needed by the Board. She said these first two phases of implementation will be completed by April 2017 with interim reports to the Board, and emphasized the need to have the products of these phases completed in a timely fashion to allow current implementation FIPs enough time to get any complementary and necessary monitoring underway within their 6-year timeframe. She reminded the Board that \$500,000 is allocated for FIP effectiveness monitoring for the biennium, and requested the Board allocate up to \$200,000 to cover the first two phases of this work.

Courtney Shaff presented the Board with information on the capacity building portion of the request. She said the goal statewide is to achieve strong, resilient partnerships that can compete for FIPs and other funding, and implement strategic approaches to on-the-ground restoration and engage communities. She explained a two-step approach to assessing what happens beyond completing the documents, including interviews with BEF to capture the lessons learned. She said all capacity building FIPs would participate in the interview process.

Courtney Shaff requested the Board consider reallocating recaptured funds (\$60,823 from 214-903-10638) and combining them with \$42,000 of unspent funds in the FIP Capacity Building Spending Plan line item, for a total of \$102,823 to support the FIP Capacity Building Evaluation.

Renee Davis emphasized the strong partnership OWEB has with BEF, who will be able to gather objective and high-quality information on the capacity building side.

Board Member Questions/Comments:

-Dan Thorndike asked if the process could help identify a missing partner in Capacity Building FIPs. Courtney Shaff responded that it could.

-Alan Henning further discussed the role of BEF as a neutral party and the idea of having them come into the process in the beginning and for periodic check-ins. Courtney Shaff confirmed that an intermediate check-in during the process is a part of the grant agreement. Alan asked if

BEF could check in midway with the Capacity Building grantees that are not engaging in a “deep dive”. Courtney Shaff agreed to look into this.

-Bob Webber had questions about the funding request and the origin of funds being recaptured instead of coming from the monitoring budget. Renee Davis explained the opportunity to use recaptured funds to address the FIP capacity building evaluation needs offered an opportunity to provide the Board with the quantitative information it needs for adaptive management.

Staff requested the Board consider awarding funding for FIP implementation monitoring and capacity assessment, and delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds.

Randy moved the Board award up to \$200,000 of funding from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2015-2017 Spending Plan for Monitoring Implementation FIPs, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements, with an award date of April 26, 2016. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser and passed unanimously.

Randy moved the Board recapture the remaining \$60,823 from 214-903-10638, and combine that with the remaining \$42,000 in the FIP Capacity Building Spending Plan line item, for a total of \$102,823 to support the FIP Capacity Building Evaluation, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to award grants, with an award date of April 26, 2016. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser and passed unanimously.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

April 27, 2016
OWEB Board Meeting
La Grande, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present

Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Rider, Morgan
Quaempts, Eric
Roberts, John
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Juniper
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Leiendecker, Karen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Hendrickson, Heather
Scott, Nell
Lehman, Bill
Beamer, Kelley
Oveson, Jeff

H. Public Comment

No public comment.

I. OWEB Agency Request Budget (ARB)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis led the Board in a discussion on the development of the 2017-2019 OWEB ARB. Meta provided background about OWEB's standing in terms of revenues and OWEB's forecast for the next budget. She explained the forecast process and the challenges facing the State with the expected Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) reforms. Meta and Renee explained the details outlined for items 1 - 6 in the Policy Option Package Proposals (Attachment C) and how they align with the goals of OWEB's Strategic Plan. They then accepted inquiries from Board members as they considered approval of the ARB.

There was a lengthy discussion around package item 3, "Working Farms and Ranches." Board members asked for clarification about the source of funds for this program. Meta Loftsgaarden replied that the funding source has not yet been identified, but the three sources likely to be used are general fund, non-Measure 76 lottery funds, and lottery bonds.

-John Roberts asked if OWEB is the lead agency, and Meta Loftsgaarden explained OWEB has been asked to place this package into OWEB's budget request because of OWEB's expertise in managing granting programs.

-Debbie Hollen mentioned that this program appears to be heavily weighted toward agriculture. Meta Loftsgaarden acknowledged the forest community is not included at this time, but also clarified those lands have not been excluded from the process.

-Laura Masterson talked about how grateful she is for this topic becoming more important to the state, also saying how there are federal matching funds that are not used for this work on farms and ranches. She expressed some frustration that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has not been involved in the process. Meta Loftsgaarden responded that it is expected that a broader array of agencies will be included in discussions soon.

-Rosemary Furfey asked whether the Board would be getting a briefing this fall with regard to that process, and what would be the next steps with the legislature. Meta Loftsgaarden said the Board will continue to hear updates about the policy option packages at every meeting. She also discussed the legislative process and how the Governor's Office will ultimately determine whether the agency moves forward with this request during the legislative session. She explained how there is still a long way to go, and she is hopeful to have a good package in September so the participating organizations can be working with the legislature well in advance of session.

Randy Labbe moved the Board approve Attachment C to the 2017-2019 Budget Development staff report, which will provide an outline the agency will use to submit its Agency Request Budget. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously.

J. OWEB Key Performance Measures (KPMs)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis briefed the Board on both revisions to, and targets associated with, OWEB's KPMs. In January, the Board approved a full slate of KPMs, asking OWEB staff to adjust two of them. Renee Davis discussed OWEB's struggle with KPMs being an accurate measure of OWEB's agency progress. She provided examples; specifically, she discussed how OWEB borrows data from other agencies and organizations over which OWEB has little or no influence. She then requested Board action to approve the two revised KPMs.

Dan Thorndike moved the Board approve revisions to OWEB's proposed Key Performance Measures, as outlined in Attachment C to the Key Performance Measure Revisions staff report, as a proposal for legislative consideration during the 2017 Legislative Session. The motion was seconded by John Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.

The conversation moved to a discussion of targets and methodology for the listed KPMs. Renee Davis identified the targets as aspirational, but also achievable for OWEB staff and grantees. She talked about tightening up the first and third KPMs to include only OWEB projects, instead of the broad metrics of all restoration actions in Oregon. She explained the importance of being able to tell the OWEB restoration story, understanding this KPM is an output, rather than an outcome measure. She also said ODFW is looking at methods to transition from output to outcome metrics to help report the data on the ground. OWEB hopes to pair its restoration information with information from ODFW to tell a much more comprehensive story. She then reviewed each KPM, and she explained the process and criteria used for setting the targets on each KPM.

K. Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)—Proposed Schedule Revisions

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Will Neuhauser, Chair of the OWEB Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments, described for the Board proposed revisions to the schedule for future FIP program awards leading up to the 2017-2019 biennium.

Will Neuhauser outlined the policy discussion from the Focused Investment Subcommittee meeting. He thanked the staff for taking a complicated and multi-factor problem, and creating some options for the Board to review. He said the objective is not to come to a final decision, but to engage in conversation to learn if the Board is considering the right set of options; and if not, to inform the staff where the Board would like to make adjustments. He highlighted the discussion from the last Board meeting about the dollar allocation for future FIPs and how it would work, including how to get to a regular rolling cycle. Eric Williams proceeded to explain the graphs and grant cycle for Options A, B and C, noting the variations from biennium to biennium.

There was a lengthy discussion by various Board members of how these options would possibly affect the FIP process in the future. Meta Loftsgaarden said her understanding from the discussion is that the Board wants staff to work around option B for possibilities to bring before the Board in July. Will Neuhauser stated he was also hearing from other Board members to take Option C off the table, and Meta clarified this was the case for the Implementation FIP cycle, but there was support for a Capacity-Building FIP cycle in 2017-2019.

Will invited Board members with a passion for this issue to join the subcommittee.

L. Coastal Wetlands Grants—Program Update

Partnerships Coordinator Juniper Davis updated the Board on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, which provides grant funding to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands in coastal states. She said this is a program for long-term conservation projects with a minimum 20-year benefit, which usually means it involves an acquisition or easement. She added that local partners working through OWEB need to bring a minimum of 25% matching funds.

Juniper Davis said OWEB has been one of the primary applicants to this program in Oregon, even though several other agencies apply. She added that OWEB has been successful in receiving funding of approximately \$14 million, which has funded 21 projects ranging from \$100,000 to \$1 million. She described how the complexity of projects has been increasing, and she provided an update of active and pending grants, with closed projects not included.

M. Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction (RWTR)—Grant Program Update and Funding Request

Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff briefed the Board on the RWTR grant program, and requested the Board consider awarding additional funding and delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds.

Courtney Shaff reminded the Board that they already gave staff permission for OWEB to accept \$1 million in general funds from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to be used to support the RWTR grants. She said OWEB has completed a grant application review process with ODF and awarded \$900,000 to 19 Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs) in eight counties. She explained that these funds are for equipment and personal protective gear to fight fires

happening in rural Oregon. She said the remaining \$100,000 will be awarded later in the biennium to RFPAs in development right now.

Courtney Shaff addressed the request for an additional \$200,000 to pay for additional insurance and training. Meta Loftsgaarden clarified that the legislature directed the funds be managed by OWEB for distribution directly to programs on the ground.

Randy Labbe moved the Board allocate up to \$200,000 of General Funds from ODF in support of the Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction grant program to the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements in project number 216-8009, with an award date of July 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

N. Upper Klamath Special Investment Partnership (SIP) Accomplishments Report

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho presented to the Board the Upper Klamath SIP Accomplishments Summary Report, which highlights accomplishments made since SIP investments in the partnership began in 2012.

Renee Davis gave an overview of the project and the process, acknowledging partners and staff who contributed to the SIP Accomplishments Report. She reminded the Board that this is the newest of the three SIPs awarded, and that funding for this SIP was quite different and much lower than other SIPs. She also talked about how the Klamath Basin can be a challenging place to work, and how local implementers have done an incredible job of getting high-quality restoration completed on the ground.

Ken Fetcho gave a presentation on the key components of the SIP, its accomplishments, and lessons learned. He provided background discussion of strategic partners, technical partners, and private consultants. He then talked about the desired ecological outcomes, including the three priorities of this SIP: fish passage and barrier removal, habitat restoration, and water quality and stream flow. He then reviewed each SIP priority and the corresponding ecological accomplishments as described in the Upper Klamath SIP report, while citing the important lessons learned in this process on this project.

Renee Davis discussed how the scale of geography originally included the entire upper basin, and how the project was refined to maximize results. She said this SIP was a model to the FIP process, and talked about how the Klamath Basin collaboration continues.

Implementation partners traveled from the Klamath Basin to field questions from the Board about the specific details of this SIP and its progress. Heather Hendrickson represented The Nature Conservancy, Nell Scott represented Trout Unlimited, and Bill Lehman came to represent the Klamath Watershed Partnership.

O. Executive Director Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the Board on agency business and late-breaking issues.

ITEM #1: She encouraged the Board to review the Director's Update in their binders, as not everything would be reviewed in detail at the meeting.

ITEM #2: She reviewed OWEB subcommittee structures and membership. She asked for questions about the subcommittees and touched on what they would each be addressing. She informed Board members of a survey coming soon from staff regarding their interest and participation, and provided instructions about how to complete the survey. She said it will help to have consistency of meeting dates set by each subcommittee, and welcomed any Board member to serve on any of the subcommittees.

-Rosemary Furfey suggested staff reports could include a summary of the subcommittee topics discussed, which could also be provided ahead of the quarterly Board meeting. Laura Masterson asked if subcommittee meetings are considered public meetings, and whether minutes are recorded. Meta Loftsgaarden clarified that these are not public meetings and no minutes are recorded, but that discussions are reported to staff and are then included in the staff report.

Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed the standard committee structure and the option to also serve on the Monitoring Committee, or to be a committee chair and also serve on the Executive Committee. Gary Marshall asked if there were any potential future committees. Meta Loftsgaarden said the only additional ad hoc committee may be a working farms and ranches committee.

ITEM #3: Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided a legislative update, discussing a wrap up of the 2016 legislative session, particularly Senate Bill (SB) 1517 around the Tillamook wetlands pilot program, and preparations for the 2017 legislative session.

-Will Neuhauser asked whether there is funding to make sure the pilot project happens. Meta Loftsgaarden addressed this, informing the Board that Tillamook County does not currently have funding available to implement the pilot project. She said, however, that OWEB is working with a number of state agencies and foundations that will contribute funding, and she is very confident the funding will come together. She said the process emerging from SB1517 will be formally adopted into Tillamook's county plan.

Eric Hartstein and Meta Loftsgaarden then presented and discussed the two potential legislative concepts OWEB is planning to present to the 2017 legislative session: Working Farms and Ranches and revisions to OWEB statutes.

ITEM #4: Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff provided an update on the FIP Implementation and Capacity Building Programs since the awards were approved in January 2016. Eric Williams summarized a FIP Implementation meeting of all partners held in Sisters in March to standardize the processes for executing partnership agreements, for technical review of grant applications, and for execution of grant agreements with each of the partnerships. He said he plans to report back a year from now on the progress achieved.

-Rosemary Furfey asked if there would be other check-ins or milestones with the partners in the meantime. Eric Williams said continued check-ins would be handled by OWEB staff partnership coordinators on a regular basis. He confirmed that there is constant communication between staff and partners, including site visits and technical review team meetings, in working toward executing the first round of grant agreements.

Courtney Shaff reported on a conference call among the eight Capacity Building grantees to discuss expectations of the program, the process for finalizing getting grant agreements, and how OWEB hopes they will collaborate and work together. She said the group decided to create a shared drive for documents and resources so they can problem-solve and work together. Courtney reported that all grant agreements were complete and sent out, and that most grantees had started to post requests for proposals to hire facilitators and hit the ground running. She also informed the Board that a survey was sent to all grantees at the beginning of the process to gather data, and that grantees would be surveyed again at the end of the process to see how situations have changed and what lessons were learned.

ITEM #5: Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an update to the status of OWEB's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) request. She summarized the history of funding received from NOAA since 2010, citing how PCSRF has contributed over \$200 million to Oregon, which accounts for one-third of OWEB's budget. She said that NOAA expects to see 90% of funding being spent on on-the-ground restoration, with the other 10% going into monitoring. She provided a bullet list of NOAA's areas of emphasis as listed in the Director's Update, and identified how they align to OWEB's programs and priorities. She said OWEB is anticipating a funding decision from NOAA in June and that staff will provide an update at the July Board meeting.

Renee Davis discussed a more recent increased scrutiny and project reporting, mentioning how Oregon is a huge contributor to PCSRF metrics and claimed accomplishments. She highlighted the importance of the accuracy of information being critical so targets set for the next year's funding requests to Congress are realistic. She noted that NOAA staff has expressed interest in working with OWEB and other local partners on organizing a field trip with NOAA Headquarters staff and federal Office of Management and Budget staff from Washington, D.C., which will happen later in the summer. She said this kind of field trip helps to "make real" the PCSRF-funded projects, when federal staff can see these in person.

-Rosemary Furfey stated how important the local field visits are to understanding what is happening on the ground. She said the time commitment is high for local staff to conduct those visits, but there is a huge long-term benefit to federal headquarters staff understanding your process and projects.

NEW BUSINESS: Meta Loftsgaarden talked about her trip with Co-Chairs Randy Labbe and Dan Thorndike to Washington D.C. in the next week. She said they had 14 meetings scheduled with federal agencies and Oregon's congressional delegation. She mentioned the limited topics they would be speaking about with the delegations, and the broader topics for discussion with federal agencies to promote OWEB's objectives. She expressed her thanks to the federal representatives on the Board for helping to coordinate with the right staff in D.C., stating the importance of good, high-level relations with agencies to get things accomplished

Dan Thorndike suggested the idea of adding a representative from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the OWEB Board. Meta Loftsgaarden said this is a potential statutory clean-up and certainly something that has been raised enough times to discuss it with the Governor's Natural Resources Office, particularly since this position is non-voting.

As a final request to prepare for the next Board meeting, Meta Loftsgaarden asked Board members to declare any options they would like staff to present for the allocation of funds in the updated spending plan that will be brought to the Board in July. Alan Henning said it would be good to see where the recaptured funds came from before deciding where to spend them. He also reminded the Board there are two Open Solicitation Grant Cycles coming up before end of the biennium. Laura Masterson asked for clarification about the timing of spending these funds in the current biennium, and Meta Loftsgaarden confirmed they must be spent in this biennium. With no strong opinion forthcoming, Meta Loftsgaarden offered to bring all three options before the Board to the July meeting.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Dan Thorndike at 12:14 p.m.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

July 26-27

Tuesday, July 26, 2016
Lodge at Otter Crest
301 Otter Crest Drive
Otter Rock, OR 97369

Directions: <http://www.innatottercrest.com/html/directions.html>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment period (Agenda Item C), anyone wishing to speak to the Board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.*

A. Board Member Comments

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update 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

The minutes of the April 26-27 meeting in La Grande will be presented for approval. In addition, a technical correction to a Board award from April will be requested. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment [approximately 8:45 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

D. 2015-2017 Spending Plan Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the Board on the agency's 2015-2017 Spending Plan, including information about the 2016 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Board will be asked to refine the current spending plan based on the PCSRF award and recaptured grant funds, which are unspent monies that were previously allocated to other projects. *Action item.*

E. Intensively Monitoring Watershed – Funding Request

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will request funding for a socio-economic study associated with the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed. *Action item.*

F. Intensively Monitored Watershed – Funding Approval

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will request the Board approve Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding for the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed. *Action item.*

G. Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring – Funding Request

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will request funding for a compilation of lessons learned through the implementation and effectiveness monitoring of tidegate restoration projects. *Action item.*

H. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will describe for the Board an action item on proposed revisions to the FIP schedule beginning in the 2017-2019 biennium. As a discussion item, the Board will evaluate FIP funding options for future biennia. *Action item.*

Tour – 1:45 p.m.

The Board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of restoration efforts at the former “Pixieland” site on the Salmon River. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

Informal Reception – 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception sponsored by local partners and stakeholders.

Location:
Lodge at Otter Crest
301 Otter Crest Drive
Otter Rock OR 97369

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment period (Agenda Item I), anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.*

I. Board Subcommittees Updates

Representatives from the Executive, Focused Investments, and Monitoring subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full Board. *Information item.*

J. Public Comment [approximately 8:20 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

K. OWEB Strategic Plan

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the Board on the process and schedule for updating OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan. *Information item.*

L. Governor's Priorities Updates

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, Governor Brown's Natural Resources Policy Advisor Lauri Aunan, Wild Salmon Center Salmon Stronghold Senior Program Manager Mark Trenholm, and Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Policy Specialist Sheila Marcoe will update the Board on the Governor's Priorities, which include the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, the Greater Sage-Grouse, the Clean Water Partnership, and Coastal Coho Business Plans. *Information item.*

M. OWEB Statute Revisions-Legislative Concept

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update to the Board on the 2017 Legislative Concept associated with revisions to OWEB's statutes. *Information item.*

N. Executive Director Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the Board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

O. Other Business

Grant Program Coordinator Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request the Board make an adjustment to awards associated with the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project. *Action item.*

P. 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 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **six 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 six 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 eight voting members** present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if three or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony

The Board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

General public comment periods will be held on Tuesday, July 26 at 8:45 a.m. and Wednesday, July 27 at 8:20 a.m. for any matter before the Board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the Board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.

Tour

The Board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to Board members and OWEB staff. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

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 Darika Barnes, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes (503-986-0181) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Q. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Laura Masterson, *Board of Agriculture*
Ed Armstrong, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
John Roberts, *Water Resources Commission*
Eric Quaempts, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Dan Thorndike, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Karl Wenner, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Rosemary Furfey, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Kathy Stangl, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. National Resource Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
503-986-0178
Fax: 503-986-0199
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meta.loftsgaarden@oweb.state.or.us

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board– Darika Barnes
darika.barnes@oweb.state.or.us
503-986-0181

2016 Board Meeting Schedule

October 25-26 in Ashland

2017 Board Meeting Schedule

January 24-25 in Madras
April 25-26 in Salem
July 25-26 in Boardman/Hermiston
October 24-25 in Lebanon

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site:
www.oregon.gov/OWEB.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item D – Approval of Spending Plan Additional Funding
July 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This report provides two options for the Board's consideration to add funds to the 2015-17 Spending Plan. Options are provided based on direction given by the Board when they approved the spending plan in July 2015 regarding Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding. In addition, the Board provided direction for options at the April 2016 Board meeting regarding funds that have been recaptured from grants that were canceled or under budget. Staff will seek a Board decision between the two spending plan additional funding options.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the Board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the Board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plate revenues, with the bulk from Measure 76 and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). PCSRF funds have been a significant component of OWEB's budget since 2000, accounting for approximately one-third of OWEB's total funds. The Oregon Legislature routinely allocates PCSRF funding based on estimated federal grant awards over two years.

At its June 2015 meeting, the Board adopted a 2015-2017 Spending Plan totaling \$74.664 million. Attachment A shows the approved spending plan, including recommendations for additional PCSRF funding if those funds became available. The Board's approval was specific only to the funds available at the time.

III. Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding

Since 2000, approximately one-third of OWEB's funding (both for grants and operations) has been provided through the competitive PCSRF grant process, which is offered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. PCSRF has contributed just over \$200 million to Oregon for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. The OWEB Board and the state's Legislature have used PCSRF funding to support watershed restoration related actions and for staffing in state agencies. PCSRF has significantly enhanced OWEB's expenditures through grants in salmon and steelhead recovery areas around the state.

On an annual basis, OWEB, as the designated grant recipient for the State of Oregon, applies for PCSRF funding. The PCSRF solicitation included a two-step application process. OWEB, on behalf of the State of Oregon, requested \$25 million, the maximum amount of funding possible. This request included a required 33% match, which in the past has come from lottery funding, salmon license plate revenues, match from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), along with additional leverage contributions.

For the FFY 2016 PCSRF solicitation, Oregon was the highest ranked applicant. In their review, NOAA noted Oregon's strong delivery system and match for on-the-ground projects, along with investments in high-priority areas via initiatives such as Focused Investment Partnerships and the coastal coho business plan development. As a result, NOAA awarded the state \$14.8 million in PCSRF funding this year. This amount is a slight increase over the FFY 2015 award amount. Of that amount, \$5.1 million is available for grants in the 2015-17 spending plan, with the remainder invested in support of OWEB staff costs, distributed to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or held in reserve for future biennia spending plans. Attachment B to the staff report outlines the categories in which PCSRF funding can be expended and recommends a distribution of those funds based on the Board's direction at the July 2015 meeting.

For this funding, staff recommends \$2.9 million be added to the Open Solicitation Restoration line item, \$1.2 million be added to the Open Solicitation Technical Assistance (Restoration) line item and \$1 million be added to the Open Solicitation Land and Water Acquisitions line item. These three categories most closely align with NOAA's top priorities for its investments. They also match with categories the Board identified at its July 2015 meeting as areas for additional investment.

IV. Recaptured Grant Funds

In addition to the \$5.1 million available from PCSRF funding, OWEB regularly recaptures funds that have been either returned because a project came in under budget, or returned if a project was canceled. At the April 2016 Board meeting, staff reported that amount was approximately \$1 million. With subsequent dollars recaptured, that amount is now \$2 million. In conversations with the Board at that time, they requested staff come back with three options for use of recaptured funds for a Board spending plan decision at the July meeting. These included:

1. Distribute all funding in Open Solicitation categories
2. Distribute all funding to Focused Investments
3. Place recaptured funds back into the category from which they were recaptured.

Attachment B responds to this request. Option 1 is provided as outlined. For Option 2, only \$1.113 million is needed to fully fund each of the existing Focused Investment Partnerships based on the reductions they received in their funding request to the

Board at its January 2016 meeting. As a result, staff placed only that amount into the Focused Investment line item, adding the remainder into Open Solicitation.

In conversations with the agency's fiscal staff, Option 3 became a challenge because not all funding is recaptured just from Open Solicitation or Focused Investments. Some comes from Operating Capacity as well, which has no established mechanism for redistributing funds back to councils or districts. This would require development of new processes. The same holds true for Small Grants, CREP Technical Assistance in Open Solicitation, and current and prior biennia delegations to the Director. To establish processes for each of these grant programs would take an extensive amount of time and effort to ensure all factors relating to equitability across grantees were evaluated. As a result, Attachment B to the spending plan only includes Options 1 and 2.

Attachment B to the staff report outlines both options for Board consideration. Generally, staff propose to provide additional funding in the Restoration, Technical Assistance (Restoration) and Monitoring Categories under Open Solicitation. Staff will review options in detail at the July Board meeting.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board first approve distribution of PCSRF funding in the identified categories. Staff then recommend the Board select and approve either Option 1 or Option 2 as included in Attachment B to the staff report for investment of funds recaptured from existing grants.

Attachments

- A. 2015-2017 Approved Spending Plan
- B. Board Options for Investment of Additional Funding

**OWEB 2015-17 Spending Plan
for the July 2016 Board Meeting**

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	July 2016 additions to spending plan	July 2016 Spending Plan	TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan for July 2016 awards	July 2016 Proposed Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of July 2016
Open Solicitation:						
Restoration**		21.750	12.354	9.396		9.396
Technical Assistance						
Restoration TA**		1.750	1.312	0.438		0.438
CREP TA		1.050	1.050	0.000		0.000
Monitoring grants**		1.900	0.954	0.946		0.946
Outreach**		0.600	0.310	0.290		0.290
Land and Water Acquisition**		6.500	2.343	4.157		4.157
Weed Grants		2.500	2.500	0.000		0.000
Small Grants		2.800	2.800	0.000		0.000
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500	0.101	0.399	0.093	0.306
TOTAL	0.000	39.350	23.724	15.626	0.093	15.533
% of assumed Total Budget		56.59%				

**if more funding becomes available, will go to these areas)

Focused Investments:						
Implementation FIPs		12.945	12.945	0.000		0.000
Capacity-Building FIPs		1.039	1.039	0.000		0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500	0.200	0.300		0.300
TOTAL		14.484	14.184	0.300	0.000	0.300
% of assumed Total Budget		20.83%				

Operating Capacity:						
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		12.500	12.500	0.000		0.000
Statewide organization partnership support		0.300	0.300	0.000		0.000
Building Capacity Grants		0.400	0.400	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	0.000	13.200	13.200	0.000	0.000	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget		18.98%				

Other:						
CREP		0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
Oregon Plan/Governor Priorities		1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000
Strategic Implementation Area's		1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	0.000	2.500	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget		3.60%				

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	0.000	69.534	53.608	15.926	0.093	15.833
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OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION						
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF		9.512	9.512	0.000		0.000
USFW-Coastal Wetlands		0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.660	0.500	0.160		0.160
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF		1.200	1.200	0.000		0.000
PSMFC-IMW	0.291	0.591	0.300	0.291	0.291	0.000
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.300	0.300	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	0.291	12.263	11.812	0.451	0.291	0.160

OWEB 2015-17 Spending Plan Additions
for the July 2016 Board Meeting

Attachment B

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Apr 2016 Spending Plan	PCSRF \$5.1m addition	Option 1 - OS Only	Option 2 - OS & FI
Open Solicitation				
Restoration**	21.750	2.900	1.250	0.557
Technical Assistance				
Restoration TA**	1.750	1.200	0.250	0.110
CREP TA	1.050			
Monitoring grants	1.900		0.500	0.220
Outreach	0.600			
Land and Water Acquisition**	6.500	1.000		
Weed Grants	2.500			
Small Grants	2.800			
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500			
TOTAL	39.350	5.100	2.000	0.887
% of assumed Total Budget	56.59%	59.56%	60.61%	59.16%

** Eligible for PCSRF

Focused Investments				
Implementation FIPs	12.945			1.113
Capacity-Building FIPs	1.039			
FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500			
TOTAL	14.484	0.000	0.000	1.113
% of assumed Total Budget	20.83%	19.41%	18.90%	20.35%

Operating Capacity				
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	12.500			
Statewide organization partnership support	0.300			
Building Capacity Grants	0.400			
TOTAL	13.200	0.000	0.000	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget	18.98%	17.69%	17.22%	17.22%

Other				
CREP	0.500			
Oregon Plan/Governor Priorities	1.000			
Strategic Implementation Area's	1.000			
TOTAL	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget	3.60%	3.35%	3.26%	3.26%

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	69.534	5.100	2.000	2.000
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Other Distributed Funds in Addition to Spending Plan Distribution				
ODFW - PCSRF	9.512			
USFW - Coastal Wetlands	0.000			
ODF - Forest Health Collaboratives	0.660			
ODF - Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc.	1.200			
PSMFC - IMW	0.300			
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.300			
TOTAL	11.972	0.000	0.000	0.000

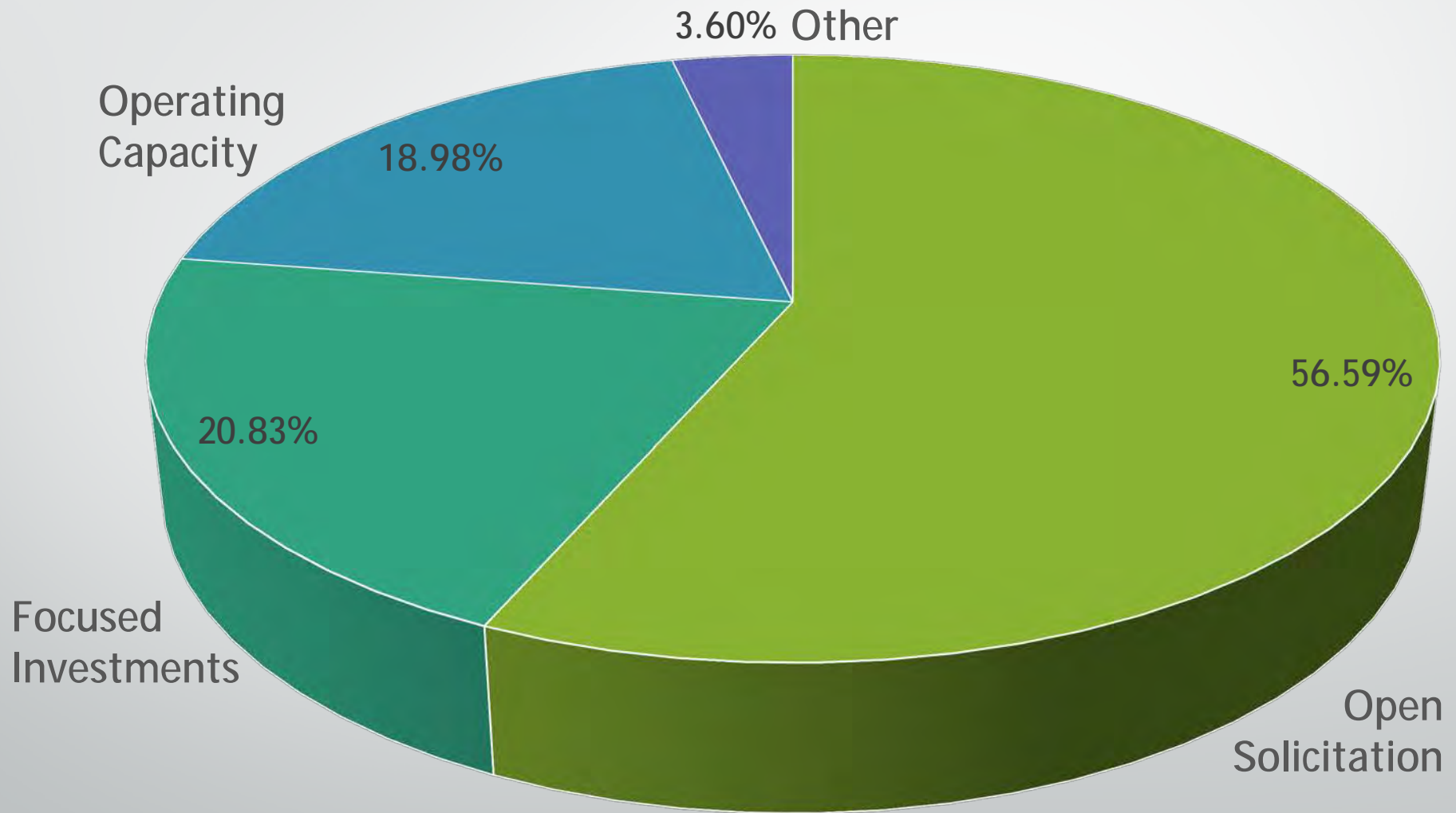
TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	81.506	5.100	2.000	2.000
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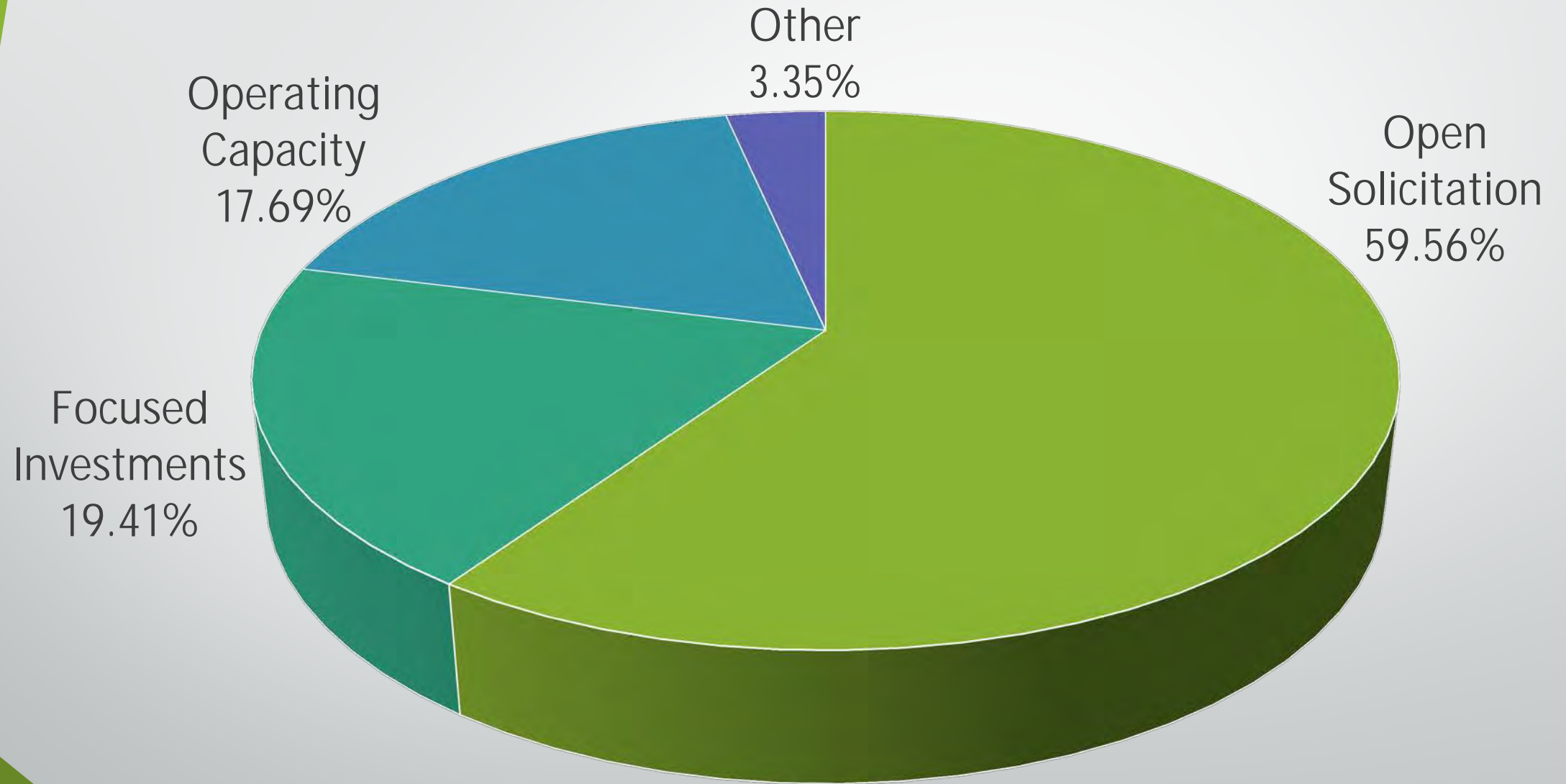
OWEB Spending Plan

2016 Additions

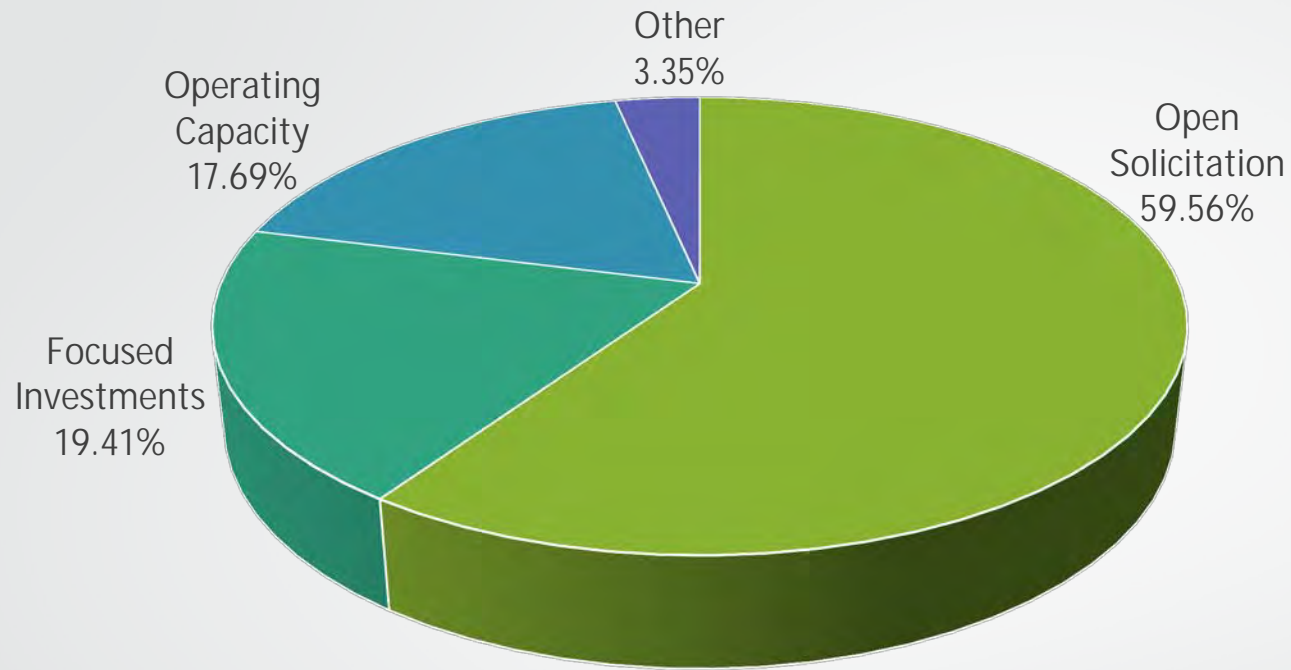
2015-17 Spending Plan - Approved July 2015



2015-17 Spending Plan - PCSRF Additions

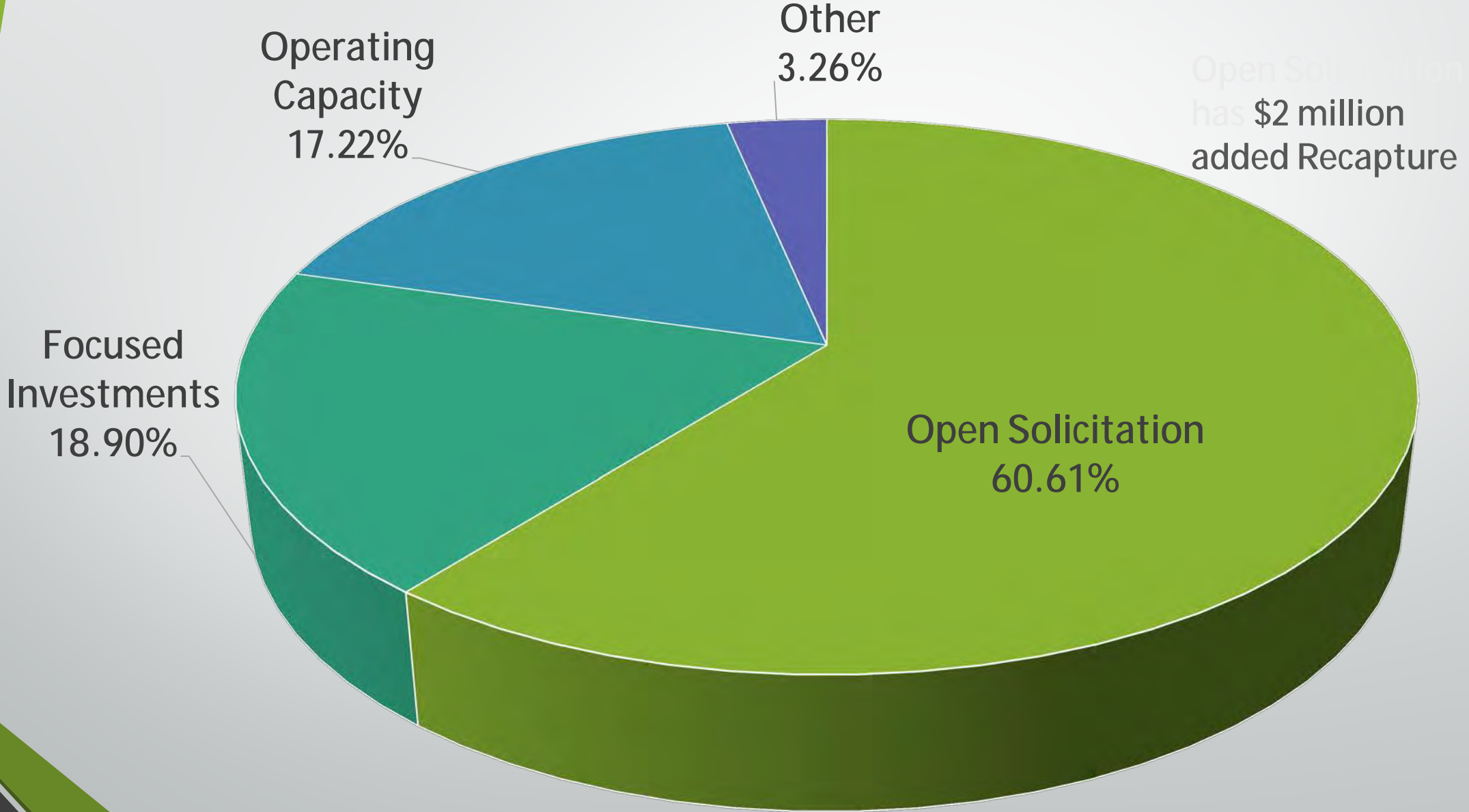


2015-17 Spending Plan - PCSRF Additions

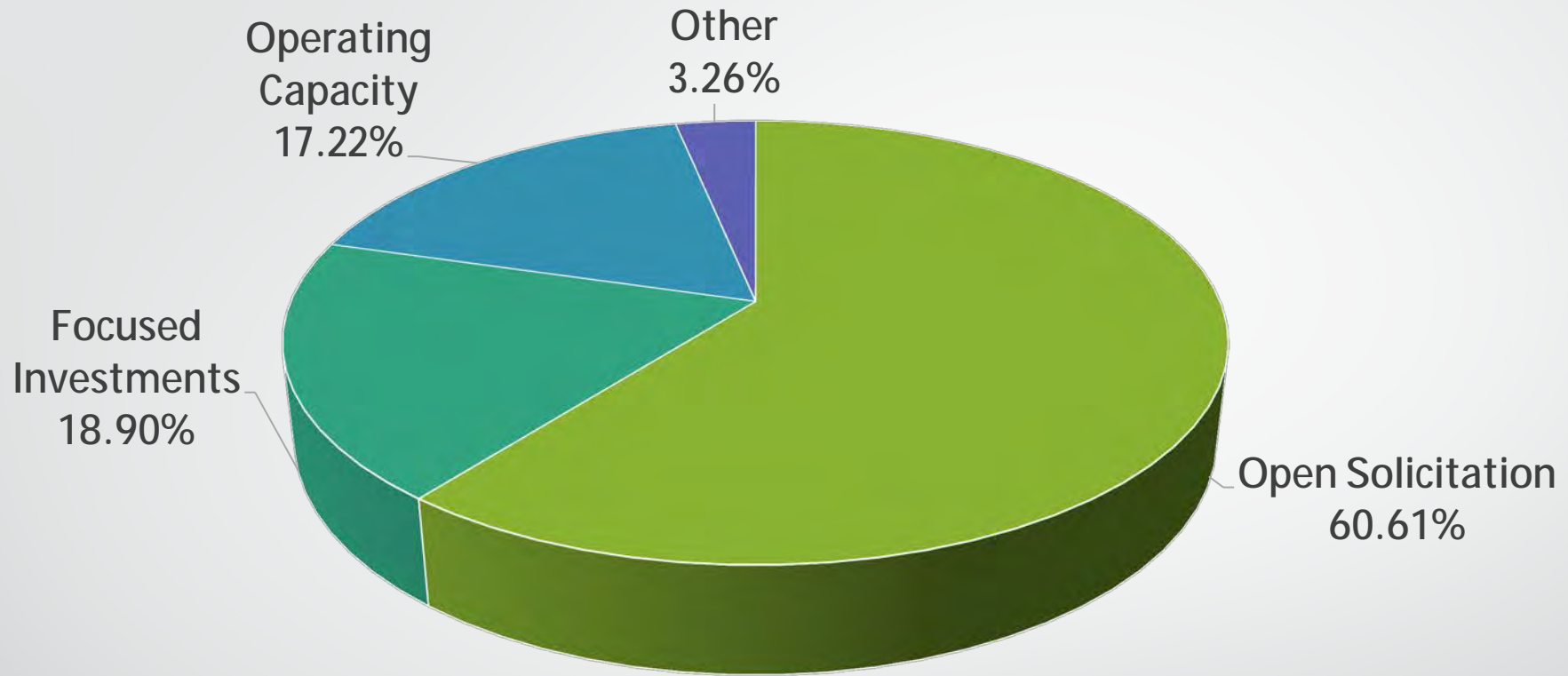


- Restoration - \$2.9 million
- Technical Assistance (Restoration) - \$1.2 million
- Acquisition - \$1 million

2015-17 Spending Plan - Option 1

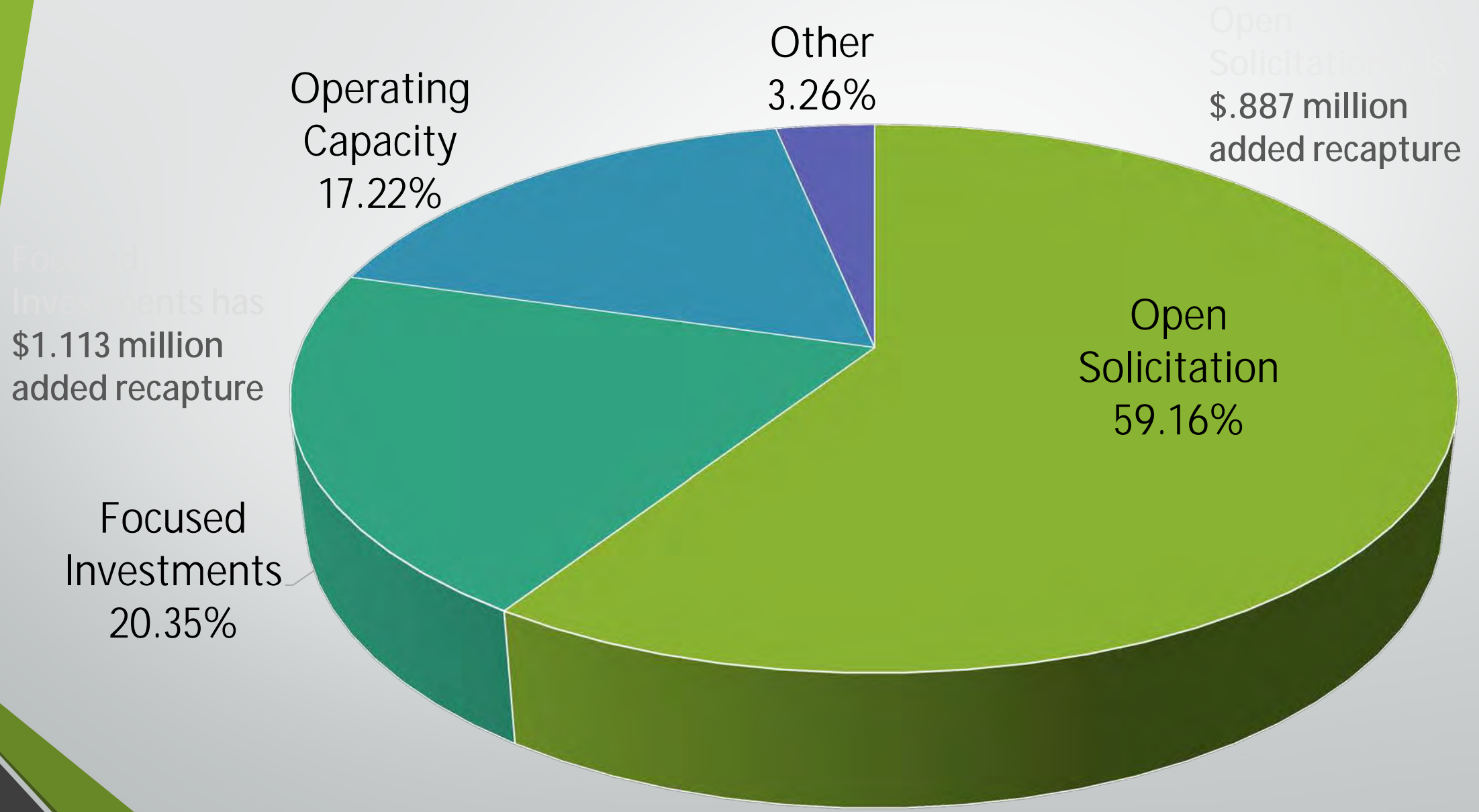


2015-17 Spending Plan - Option 1

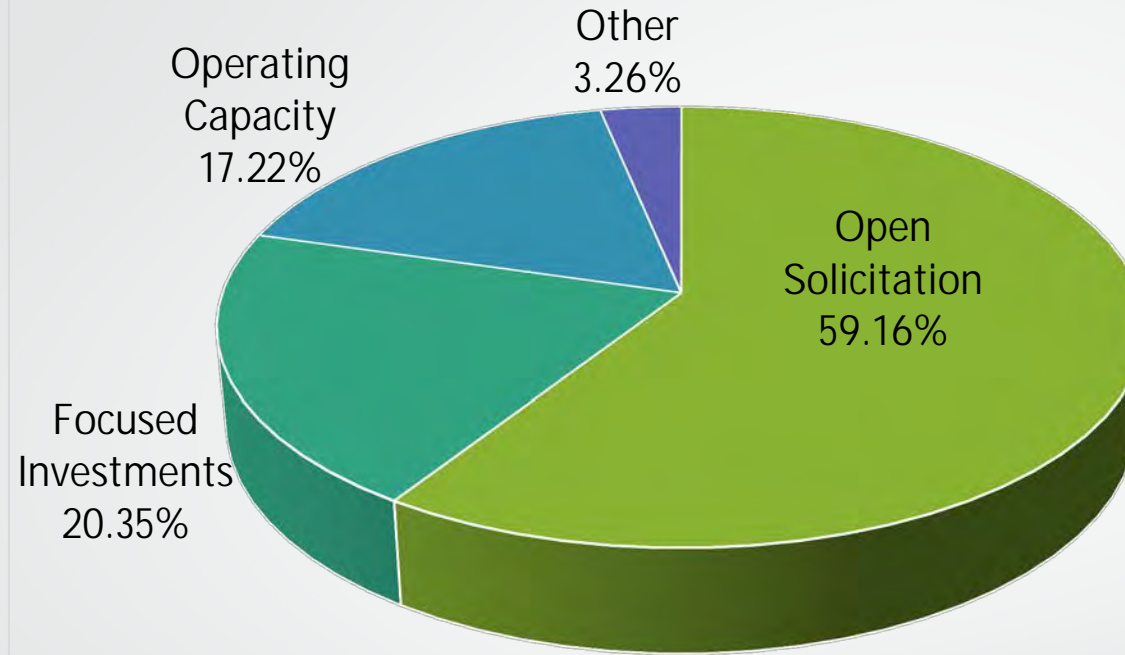


- Restoration - \$1.25 million
- Technical Assistance (Restoration) - \$.25 million
- Monitoring - \$.5 million

2015-17 Spending Plan - Option 2



2015-17 Spending Plan - Option 2



- Deschutes – \$400,000
- Willamette – \$198,900
- Grande Ronde – \$120,540
- Harney Basin Wetlands – \$124,600
- Ashland – \$116,200
- Sage Grouse – \$151,970
- Restoration - \$.557 million
- Technical Assistance (Restoration) - \$.110 million
- Monitoring - \$.220 million



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: **Agenda Item E: Funding Request for Socio-economic Monitoring in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed July 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This report outlines a staff request for the Board to approve \$52,708 for socio-economic monitoring activities as part of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW).

II. Background

Since 2008, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) has provided funding to OWEB in support of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW. These funds support the ongoing biological, geomorphic, and physical monitoring, data analysis, and reporting as part of this 10-year study. During the same period, the Board has provided additional funding for critical aspects of this large study to supplement limited PSMFC funds.

A unique component of this IMW is the monitoring of socio-economic effects of restoration actions to the local community. In the past, the Board has made investments in the IMW to a team of economists and social scientists led by the University of Oregon to develop metrics that can be used to monitor the socio-economic effects on the local community, and to collect a first round of data shortly after the beginning of the IMW. A panel of Grant County opinion leaders and residents helped develop the metrics to reflect locally specific issues and interests.

III. Funding Request

As the IMW is reaching its 10-year milestone, partners are initiating work on the synthesis report to OWEB, PSMFC and NOAA Fisheries - the source of the PSMFC pass-through funding. Additional information about the reporting process is contained in Agenda Item F. The requested funding will support follow-up work led by the University of Oregon to assess the socio-economic impact of the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW project on the local community. The scope of work for this project is provided in Attachment A. The researchers will examine socio-economic impact using two types of metrics:

- Outcome measures will estimate the contribution of IMW restoration work to the local economy, based on an inventory and analysis of completed projects; and
- Community indicators (e.g., population, employment, earnings) will be used to assess the overall socio-economic well-being of Grant County over time based on existing measures that are sensitive to the effects of restoration work.

To ground truth the quantitative findings, researchers will convene a local expert advisory committee to help interpret the outcome measures and trends shown in the indicators. Findings from this second round of socio-economic monitoring are part of the overall 10-year assessment of the IMW and will be included in the synthesis report to funders and interested parties as a complement to the biogeophysical monitoring results.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board award up to \$52,708 in support of socio-economic monitoring in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with an award date of July 26, 2016.

Attachment

- A. Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW Socio-Economic Impact Scope of Work

Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW Socio-economic Indicators Follow-up Study

Michael Hibbard and Susan Lurie

University of Oregon

Introduction

This study will assess the socio-economic impact of the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW project on the local region. It is one aspect of an overall ten-year assessment of the IMW and will be included in the planned “synthesis document.”

Conceptually, the study will follow our previous (2008-09) IMW socio-economic study (Hibbard and Lurie) by examining socio-economic impact in two ways.

- Outcome measures will estimate the contribution of IMW restoration work to the local (Grant County) economy, based on an inventory and analysis of completed projects.
- Community indicators will assess the overall socio-economic well-being of Grant County over time, based on existing measures that are sensitive to the effects of restoration work.

Because the numbers never speak for themselves, we will convene a local expert advisory committee to help us interpret the outcome measures and the trends shown in the indicators.

Products and methodological issues

1. Outcome measures: Analyze the socio-economic contribution (dollars and jobs) to the local economy (Grant County) from IMW restoration projects
 - Create an inventory of all projects in the IMW area for the ten-year period of interest by interviewing landowners and IMW working group members
 - To address the challenge of getting information on where and how the funds were used, we propose to:
 - use a surrogate (i.e., OWEB-funded projects, including any match involved)
 - test the validity of the surrogate through a small purposive sample of projects funded from other sources
 - Results will be reported in terms of
 - Direct effects (money spent directly on and jobs created by the projects)
 - Indirect effects (money spent on and jobs created by project suppliers – local and non-local; local = Grant County)
 - Induced effects (the multiplier effect on the local economy)

2. Indicators: Measure changes in the socio-economic health of the area (Grant County) for the ten-year period of the IMW using publicly available measures that can be clearly tied by social science theory and research findings to the processes and outcomes of restoration work (i.e., that respond to changes in restoration investments)
 - The county is the smallest geographic unit for which these sorts of data are readily available so Grant County as a whole will stand in for the IMW area.
 - The metrics developed in the previous study will be reviewed with an expert advisory council created for purposes of this study, and revised as appropriate.
 - The result will be a set of 4-6 metrics populated with data from the full period of the IMW project.
3. Final report: The data – outcome measures and indicators – and a discussion of their meaning, informed by input from the local expert advisory committee.

Preliminary Work Plan/Timeline

Month 1

- Site visit #1, to inform local community of the project
 - Consult with key contacts among IMW working group, agencies, landowners, and contractors
 - Organize expert advisory committee (~5-7 members)
- Review and confirm/disconfirm existing indicators and possible new ones; decide what to consider adding and dropping (phone meeting with advisory committee)
- Preliminary exploration of IMW contracting approach through follow-up phone interviews with funders, land owners, and contractors

Month 2

- Site visit #2, to conduct inventory of projects and finalize indicators
 - Finalize indicators
 - Prepare “preliminary final” list
 - Field test with advisory committee
 - Develop final list of indicators
 - Conduct inventory of projects
 - Survey all upper Middle Fork landowners (or their representatives) about restoration work on their property (e.g., nature of project, source and amount of funds, who did the work, when work was done, etc.)
 - Purposive interviews with different types of contractors, to try to understand the different types of operations – labor or equipment

intensive, where inputs (materials, equipment, workers) are sourced (local or not), etc.

Months 3-4

- “Populate” the final list of indicators, from the time the IMW project began to the most recent available data
- Collect data on the socio-economic contribution (dollars and jobs) to the local economy (Grant County) from IMW restoration projects – all OWEB-funded projects as well as a purposive sample of other projects
 - Dollar amount of project
 - Type of project (using the Nielsen-Pincus and Moseley typology)
 - Contractor (local or non-local)
 - Where money was spent (local, non-local but in Oregon, outside Oregon)
 - Jobs created (based on the Nielsen-Pincus and Moseley model)

Month 5

- Prepare draft report
 - Analyze data and write up preliminary report
 - Site visit #3
 - Present preliminary report to IMW working group members for discussion and comment
 - Critique of the preliminary report by the advisory panel, using modified focus group or nominal group process

Month 6

- Carry out any needed additional data analysis, prepare final report, and transmit to OWEB and IMW working group



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item F: Approve Receipt of Funding from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed July 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This report requests the Board approve receipt of \$291,000 from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into agreements with partner organizations implementing the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) project.

II. Background

The Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and a 10-year study period, with the intent of describing the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. OWEB's role in the IMW is to provide overall direction and guidance to the study through linkage to OWEB's Effectiveness Monitoring Program, and to assist with securing funding for several monitoring aspects of the program.

Partners in the IMW have been conducting work in a coordinated fashion to evaluate and document watershed restoration actions and ecological conditions since 2008. The partners that receive funding from PSMFC and OWEB to perform monitoring in the IMW include: the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, and Washington State University. This IMW is unique in that it also evaluates socio-economic measures of success as informed by the local communities in the study area (see Agenda Item E).

III. 2016-2017 Funding

This is the tenth year that OWEB has received funding from PSMFC in support of the biogeophysical monitoring. This funding will enable the partners to continue to perform priority monitoring activities, in addition to focusing a significant amount of time on analyzing and compiling their research into a comprehensive synthesis report for OWEB, PSMFC and NOAA Fisheries, which provides the PSMFC pass-through funding. This report will address the following questions:

- 1) Does the collective effect of restoration and/or management actions result in improved watershed condition and fish response?
- 2) Why or why not?
- 3) If a response(s) is(are) detected, what is(are) the causes of the response(s)?

In addition, the summary report will provide lessons learned from the restoration actions that were implemented and an assessment of how well the monitoring study design was able to measure the effects of restoration actions. Finally, the report will describe future monitoring needs in the IMW in an adaptive management framework. This report will also have broad applicability to a wide audience of practitioners, decision makers and community members.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve receipt of \$291,000 in funding from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the projects associated with the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute these funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of July 26, 2016.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Request for Funding for Tidegate Restoration and Monitoring Literature Review and Compilation
July 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff and the Board's newly reconfigured Monitoring Subcommittee have initiated a review of past and current monitoring investments by the Board (see Agenda Item N-4). This review will help ensure results of the work will inform policy and program direction for the agency. Related to that review, staff seek Board approval of funding in the amount of up to \$40,000 to initiate the first phase of programmatic effectiveness monitoring on tidegate restoration projects.

II. Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee and staff have identified tidegate removal and replacement investments as a priority area to investigate via programmatic effectiveness monitoring. Tidegate restoration projects are relatively expensive and can be complex to design and implement. In addition, natural-resource experts have raised concerns about the aging tidegate infrastructure in the state. Oregon has seen an increasing number of failing tidegates and a growing need for tidegate restoration projects. Since 2007, OWEB has directly funded 11 tidegate replacement/removal restoration projects totaling \$3,387,858, and 10 tidegate removal or replacement effectiveness monitoring grants in the amount of \$1,181,442.

III. Tidegate Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring

In response to the need for additional information to inform the investment in tidegate removal and replacement projects, OWEB staff have been working on a concept to further investigate the collective lessons learned from tidegate projects. This proposed project, which will be led by Oregon State University (OSU), will articulate the ecological benefits realized from these projects, and will help provide information to applicants, review teams, and Board members to develop and evaluate grant applications, and ultimately inform investments in tidegate restoration projects. Initial work will examine the outcomes of tidegate removal and replacement actions in three ways:

- Perform a literature review of existing materials from the Pacific Northwest that describes effects of tidegate replacement and removal projects;

- Provide a summary of the tidegate replacement and removal restoration projects OWEB has funded and lessons learned from these projects; and
- Provide a summary of the tidegate replacement and removal effectiveness monitoring projects OWEB has funded to date and findings associated with the ecological effects of the restoration projects being monitored.

OSU will develop a report that describes these findings and highlights important information and issues to be considered during OWEB's grant-making process. The document will provide recommendations to address data gaps and future next steps for programmatic effectiveness monitoring of tidegate restoration projects.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award up to \$40,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan to Oregon State University in support of Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements with an award date of July 26, 2016.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program
Solicitation Schedule Approval and Funding Options Discussion
July 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At its April 2016 meeting, the Board reviewed and discussed options for future FIP solicitation schedules and funding options based on the proportion of the spending plan allocated to FIP Implementation awards. This staff report requests the Board consider a FIP solicitation schedule and process for Board action. The report also provides background for continued Board discussion regarding funding options to be included in the 2017-19 and future spending plans.

II. Background

Initial FIP Capacity-Building and FIP Implementation awards were made in January 2016, seven months into the current biennium. FIP Capacity-Building grantees are developing or completing strategic action plans and partnership governance structures, which are necessary for partnerships to be eligible to apply for FIP Implementation funding. In many cases, this work will not be completed until February 2018, which is eight months into the 2017-2019 biennium.

FIP Implementation grantees recently executed partnership agreements and are just beginning to work on the initial project grant agreements funded under the FIP, requiring significant FIP and partner staff resources during this start-up period.

For these reasons, the Board expressed a desire to begin the next FIP Implementation solicitation during the 2017-2019 biennium such that partnership agreements and start-up actions can take place in advance of a Board award in July 2019 for the 2019-2021 biennium. Subsequent awards would be made in July of future biennia. Staff are also presenting an option for soliciting FIP Capacity-Building applications for Board award in the 2017-2019 biennium and future biennia.

III. FIP Capacity-Building Solicitation

a. Solicitation Schedule

Attachment A proposes a schedule that would complement the proposed FIP Implementation schedule discussed at the April 2016 Board meeting, with a \$1 million solicitation to take place in the 2017-19 biennium. The schedule would allow

future FIP Capacity-Building grantees approximately seven months between the end of the capacity building grant and the deadline for the FIP Implementation grant. This proposed schedule would be continued into future biennia.

b. Proposed Process Changes

Staff propose two changes to the FIP Capacity-Building process, shown in the attached schedule. The first is removing the Letter of Intent and replace it with a pre-application consultation between possible applicants and the Capacity Coordinator. The purpose of the conversation would be to ensure possible applicants understand the purpose of the grant offering and answer questions.

The second proposed change is to shift the FIP Capacity-Building recommendation to the Board from the FIP Subcommittee to staff. FIP Capacity-Building grants are similar to other grants OWEB offers (e.g., Council Capacity, Organizational Restructuring). Staff will keep the FIP Subcommittee apprised prior to Board action, but a formal FIP Subcommittee recommendation to the OWEB Board is not needed. Additional minor changes to the application will be proposed as well and reviewed with the FIP Subcommittee prior to application release in January 2017.

IV. FIP Implementation Solicitation

a. Solicitation Schedule

Attachment B provides a proposed solicitation schedule based on discussions at the April 2016 Board meeting. The proposed schedule will allow ample time for proposal evaluation, Board FIP Subcommittee deliberation, and a Board decision by January 2019. Successful applicants would then have six months to execute partnership agreements and complete project prioritization so that partnerships are ready to execute grant agreements as soon as the Board funding award is made in July 2019 for the 2019-2021 biennium.

b. Spending Plan

The FIP Implementation solicitation schedule outlined above will allow the Board to solicit an equal dollar value for new FIP Implementation partnerships each biennium. FIP Implementation awards currently comprise about 20% of the current biennium spending plan. Attachment C presents funding options at 20%, 25%, and 30% of the spending plan for consideration in future biennia. These will be discussed at the meeting to provide direction as staff begin to develop the 2017-19 Spending Plan.

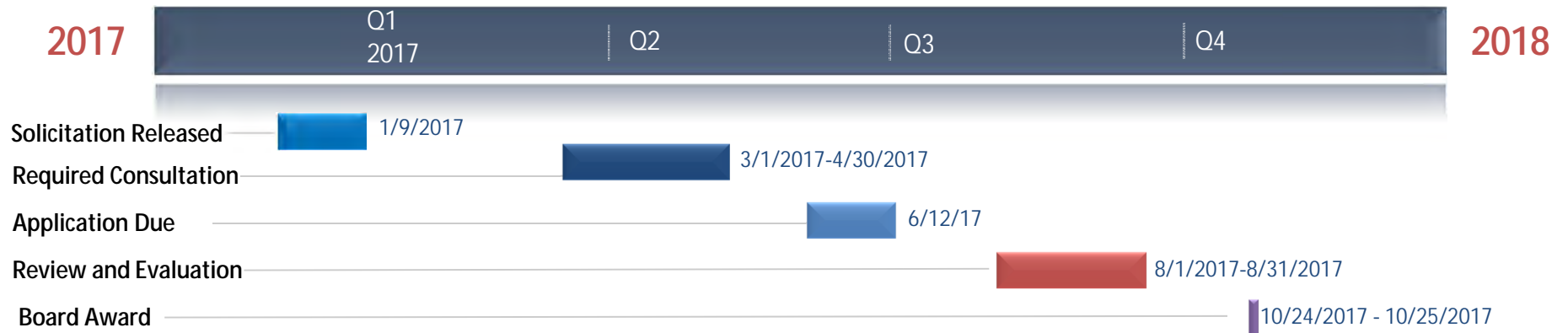
V. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board approve the proposed solicitation schedules for FIP Capacity-Building and FIP Implementation awards.

Attachments

- A. Proposed Capacity Building FIP Schedule
- B. Proposed FIP Implementation Schedule
- C. Future FIP Funding Options

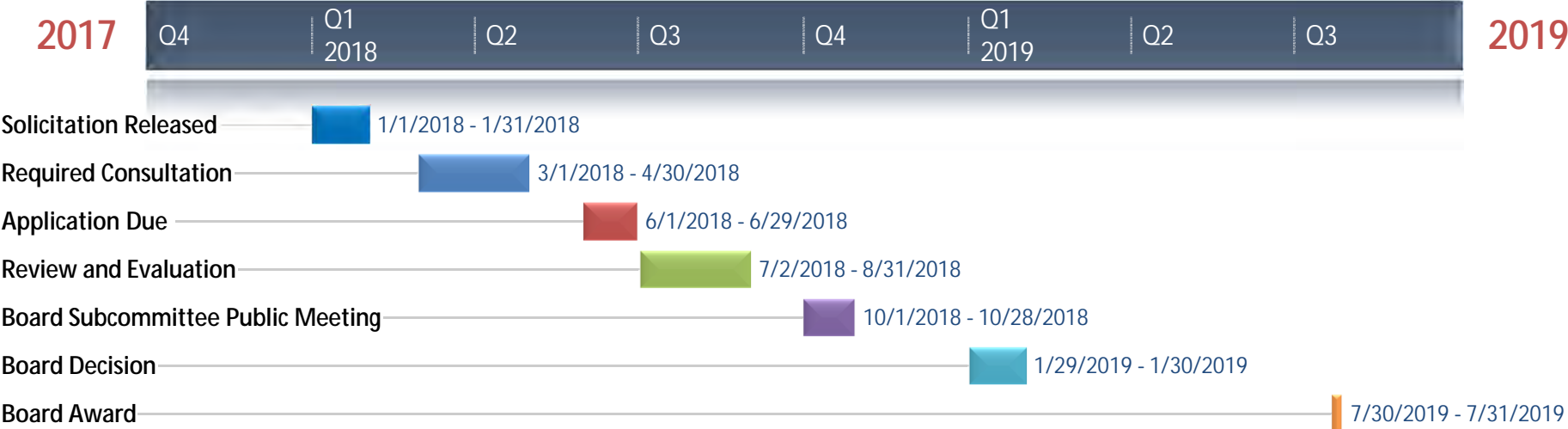
Proposed Capacity Building FIP Schedule



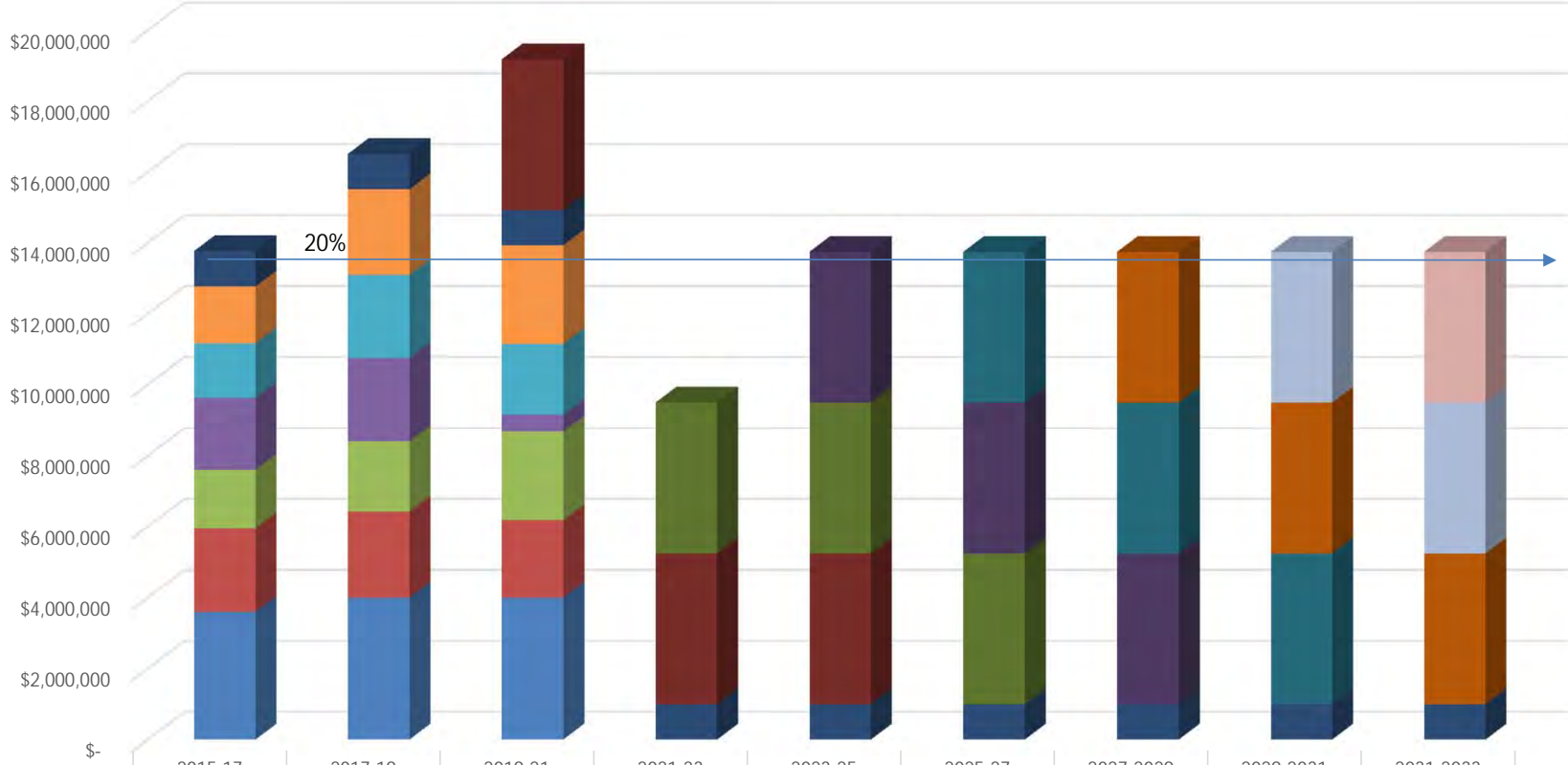
2017-2019 C-FIP grants would be open November 2017-November 2019, allowing potential 2021-2023 I-FIP applicants about 7 months from the end of the C-FIP grant until the application deadline for the I-FIP grant, which would be June 2020.

ATTACHMENT B

Proposed Implementation FIP Schedule

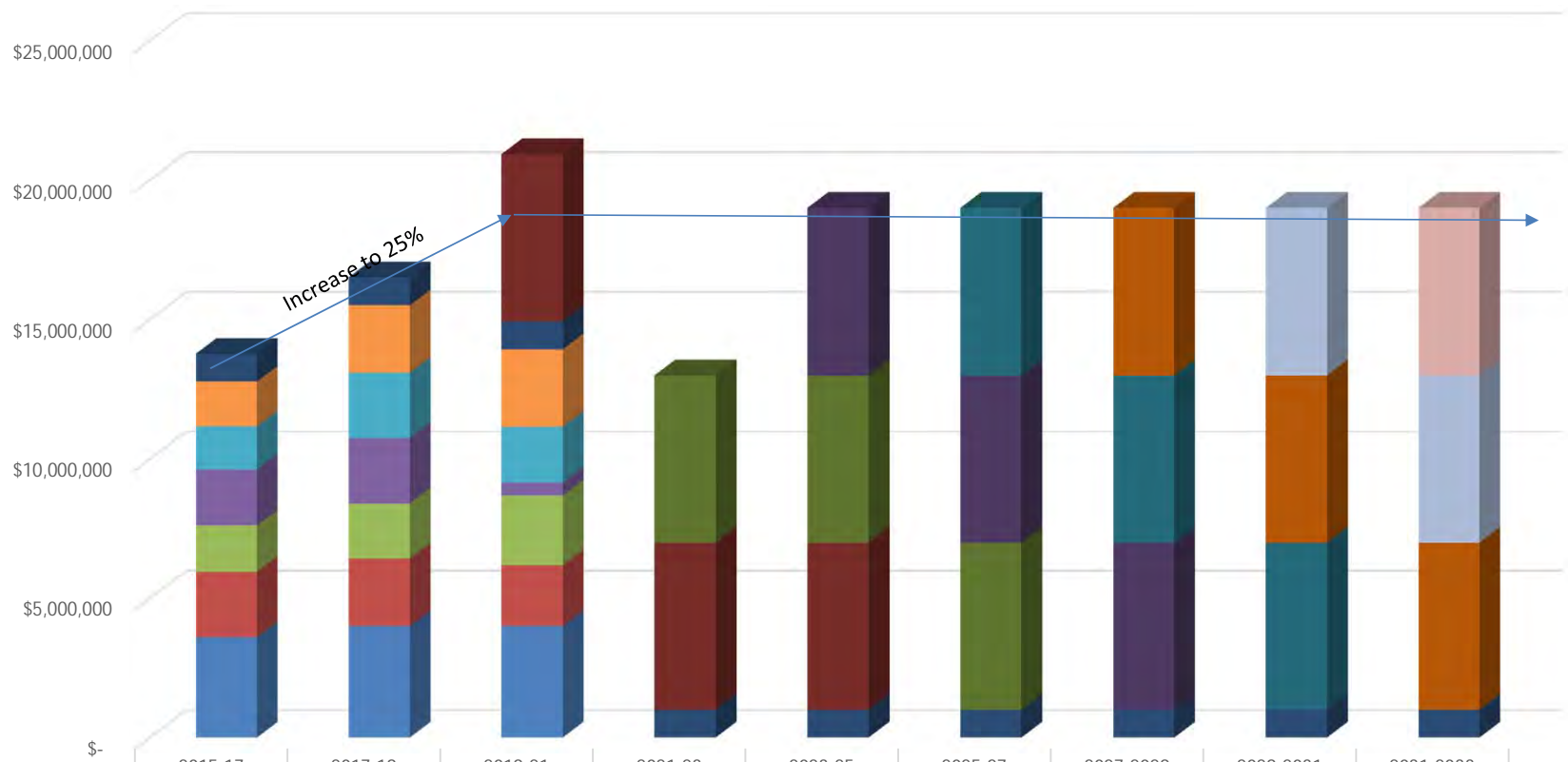


20% Focused Investments



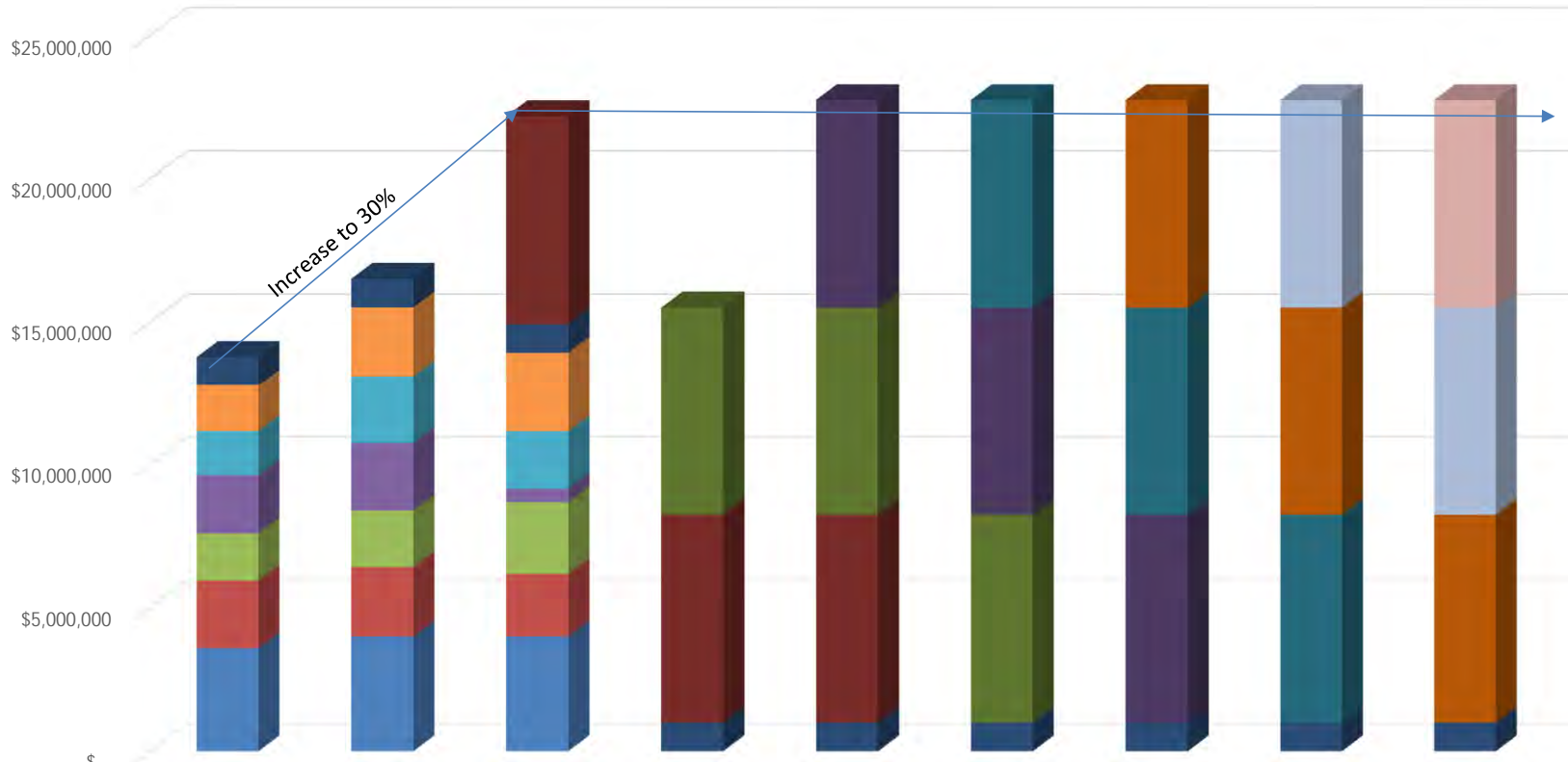
	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-2029	2029-2031	2031-2033
FIP 2031 (20%)									\$4,250,000
FIP 2029 (20%)								\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000
FIP 2027 (20%)							\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000
FIP 2025 (20%)						\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	
FIP 2023 (20%)					\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000		
FIP 2021 (20%)				\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000			
FIP 2019 (20%)			\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000				
FIP Capacity	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Grande Ronde	\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000						
Ashland Forests	\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000						
Sage-Grouse	\$2,019,030	\$2,355,250	\$473,732						
Harney Wetlands	\$1,655,400	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000						
Willamette	\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000						
Deschutes	\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000						

25% Focused Investments



	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-2029	2029-2031	2031-2033
FIP 2031 (25%)									\$6,000,000
FIP 2029 (25%)								\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
FIP 2027 (25%)							\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
FIP 2025 (25%)						\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	
FIP 2023 (25%)					\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000		
FIP 2021 (25%)				\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000			
FIP 2019 (25%)			\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000				
FIP Capacity	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Grande Ronde	\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000						
Ashland Forests	\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000						
Sage-Grouse	\$2,019,030	\$2,355,250	\$473,732						
Harney Wetlands	\$1,655,400	\$1,970,000	\$2,500,000						
Willamette	\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000						
Deschutes	\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000						

30% Focused Investment



	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-2029	2029-2031	2031-2033
FIP 2031 (30%)									\$7,250,000
FIP 2029 (30%)								\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000
FIP 2027 (30%)							\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000
FIP 2025 (30%)						\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	
FIP 2023 (30%)					\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000		
FIP 2021 (30%)			\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000			
FIP 2019 (30%)				\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000	\$7,250,000			
FIP Capacity	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Grande Ronde	\$1,601,460	\$2,416,500	\$2,777,000						
Ashland Forests	\$1,543,800	\$2,340,000	\$2,000,000						
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Willamette	\$2,351,100	\$2,430,000	\$2,180,000						
Deschutes	\$3,600,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000						



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – OWEB Strategic Plan Update
July 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report outlines a proposed timeline for OWEB's strategic planning process. This is an informational item only.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010; included as Attachment A to the staff report. This plan was completed during a time when the agency and its associated funding were set to sunset in 2015. However, at the same time, a campaign had begun to make the agency's funding permanent through Constitutional Ballot Measure 76. After the strategic plan was completed, Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 76.

As a result of the approval of permanent funding, the Board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy (LTIS) for granting, provided as Attachment B. This extensive process engaged stakeholders from across Oregon to set a vision for how the agency's strategic plan would be 'operationalized' through its granting investments. The LTIS was approved by the Board in 2013, and has become the framing through which the Board develops and approves its two-year spending plan in support of the strategic plan.

III. Development of Strategic Plan

It has now been six years since the Board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after approval of the LTIS. To assist the Board in its process for development of a new strategic plan, staff and the Board's executive committee are proposing a timeline and general process.

The proposal is contained in Attachment C and will be reviewed with the Board at the July Board meeting for discussion and feedback. Specifics will be developed in more detail once a facilitator is hired to assist with the process.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

- A. OWEB Strategic Plan
- B. OWEB Long-Term Investment Strategy
- C. Proposed Timeline for 2018 Strategic Plan Development



OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

WORKING TOGETHER *for* HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

STRATEGIC PLAN

JANUARY 2010

MISSION

TO HELP PROTECT AND RESTORE HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AND NATURAL HABITATS
THAT SUPPORT THRIVING COMMUNITIES AND STRONG ECONOMIES.

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No matter where you live in Oregon, you're in a watershed.

Introduction

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) recently marked ten years as a state agency helping local communities take care of Oregon's streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. During that period, OWEB grants have funded thousands of projects to protect clean water and restore fish and wildlife habitat across the state. These projects involve voluntary partnerships that empower people to work together to solve problems in ways that create local jobs and result in healthier watersheds.

The OWEB Board has updated its strategic plan to guide grant investment priorities and deliver effective and accountable programs for our partners and the public. We encourage you to read our latest strategic plan. The five goals and nine strategies that follow represent high priority strategic guidance to continue our work on behalf of Oregon citizens.

Oregonians from many different walks of life are helping keep watersheds healthy—giving us clean water, healthy habitats and jobs. OWEB is proud to support this part of Oregon's ongoing conservation legacy.

We invite you to get involved in improving watershed health in your community.

www.healthywatersheds.org



About Us

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) operates a grant program that helps Oregonians restore and protect rivers and wetlands – providing clean water and healthy habitat for native fish, wildlife and people. OWEB also monitors investments, manages watershed information, supports research, tracks progress in protecting clean water and restoring habitat, and reports on implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

OWEB is led by a 17-member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes, and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

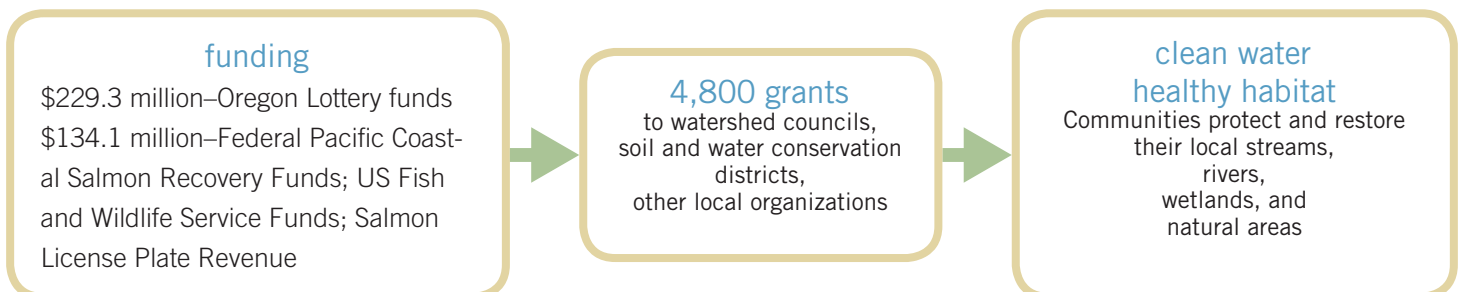
OWEB grants are funded with a small portion of Oregon Lottery dollars, federal dollars and salmon license plate revenue. By collaborating with citizens, volunteers and landowners in communities throughout the state, OWEB helps Oregonians care for Oregon's watersheds. Grant funds support projects that employ local contractors and labor crews and utilize local resources to create community and provide maximum value for public dollars.

Vision

OWEB is a leader in the conservation of Oregon's natural resources and enjoys strong public support for its contributions to community-based conservation, watershed health, and local economies.

OWEB supports voluntary efforts that result in:

- Projects that restore and protect natural processes and functions of watersheds;
- A statewide network of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other local groups that develop and implement restoration projects;
- Citizen awareness of watershed issues and participation in restoration and protection actions;
- Strong and lasting partnerships to address complex natural resources issues; and
- Jobs and the purchase of goods and services in local communities.



Data from 1999-2010.



Goals and Strategies

The OWEB Board has established the following goals and strategies in support of OWEB's mission and vision. The five goals and nine strategies that follow represent high priority strategic guidance to continue our work on behalf of Oregon's citizens. In order to effectively consider and implement the strategies and actions identified below, OWEB staff have developed work plans and aligned staff workload to achieve vision-driven priorities. Measures of progress and success will be developed, and aligned with currently required reporting measures.

Goal 1

Adaptive Investment

Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through investments that enhance watershed functions and support community needs.

Strategies

1. Maintain and enhance restoration and protection programs that focus on watershed and ecosystem functions and processes, support sustainable working landscapes, and empower community-based conservation to address economic, social and environmental health.
2. Implement monitoring and research programs to build knowledge and strengthen feedback about OWEB investments and critical uncertainties to support adaptive management for outcome improvements.

OWEB funds a mix of programs and projects across the state with many partners. Population growth and climate change will affect communities around the state and the watershed processes and functions upon which those communities (and fish and wildlife) depend. These driving forces are significant and their impact is uncertain. The key to achieving OWEB's vision is an adaptive, principled and well-structured investment strategy. OWEB has developed tools to assist partners in the strategic development of restoration or conservation projects, such as the priorities for land acquisition developed in 2004. In 2003, the Board adopted a far-reaching and long-term strategy to guide coordinated monitoring efforts under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, which led to the implementation of effectiveness monitoring. OWEB also manages the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), which has tracked completed restoration work since 1995. OWEB will continue to improve its data systems with a specific focus on data sharing with project partners and the public.



Goal 2

Local Infrastructure Development

Support an enduring, high-capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Strategies

1. Establish and articulate policies related to the support and development of a diverse local infrastructure for watershed restoration.
2. Evaluate and adjust watershed council support grant review and funding processes to build local capacity, provide base funding, and promote strategic partnerships.
3. Provide technical assistance to build capacity, secure additional funding and increase local organizational resilience.

Watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, and other non-governmental organizations are key partners in implementing OWEB programs. They play a critical role in working with interested landowners to design projects, apply for grants, implement projects, monitor results, and provide local watershed education. The work of all these partners also provides significant community and economic benefits. Success of OWEB's mission and vision requires these partners to have sufficient capacity and funding to continue and enhance their work. OWEB continues to explore the best ways to help support a high-capacity infrastructure.

Goal 3

Public Awareness and Involvement

Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Strategies

1. Make Oregonians aware of the importance of healthy watersheds and inform them, in broad strokes, of what has been accomplished on their behalf through the work of OWEB and others.
2. Encourage and facilitate greater exploration and knowledge for those Oregonians who seek greater involvement in watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

All Oregonians appreciate and recognize the value of clean, abundant water. Few Oregonians recognize that clean, abundant water depends on functioning watersheds or identify the critical link between investments in watershed conservation and clean, abundant water and healthy populations of fish and wildlife. It is important to expand the awareness that land and water management actions can improve and/or protect water quality. Healthy watersheds require an informed public that supports fish and wildlife habitat protection, well-managed river corridors, agricultural and forest land stewardship and urban land and water management. OWEB has over a decade of projects and programs that illustrate the linkages between ecosystem health and community and economic sustainability. The more people know about the public investments in watershed health and the benefits of those investments, the more they will value them and support continued funding of those efforts.



Goal 4

Partnership Development

Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Strategy

1. Identify new and expand existing strategic partnerships that leverage OWEB funds and knowledge to achieve healthy watershed and community outcomes.

OWEB complements the regulatory and land management programs of state and federal agencies and local governments with voluntary watershed restoration by private landowners and others. OWEB's grant-based, non-regulatory program requires a high level of coordination and collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, and organizations. Partnerships are a required element for all OWEB investments. Partnerships range from the matching funds for individual grants to institutional arrangements to implement federally developed programs. Criteria for evaluating formal partnerships has been developed and adopted by the Board.

Goal 5

Efficient and Accountable Administration

Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Strategy

1. Continue to evaluate, explore and implement grant administrative processes to maintain and enhance efficiencies at all levels.

OWEB's core function is the administration of a competitive grant program, which has experienced significant growth in the number of grants and funding award amounts over the past ten years. The timely, accurate, and transparent administration of all aspects of the program is an everyday activity for all OWEB staff. This approach benefits the agency and its partners by providing streamlined processes and necessary resources to carry out watershed and habitat restoration and conservation in a prompt and responsible manner. OWEB will continue to focus on this important goal and look for opportunities for advancement and improvement while balancing and supporting flexibility, innovation, and adaptive management. OWEB is in constant communication with staff to determine the most effective ways to carry out its business. A staff review is conducted following each grant cycle to develop recommended improvements. In addition to internal processes, OWEB also benefits from third-party reviews of its work. OWEB's grant process, files, and expenditures are audited every other year by the Secretary of State, and OWEB has received a favorable audit each time.



More Information

What is a watershed?

A “watershed” is an area of land that drains into a lake, wetland, stream or river. In Oregon, no matter where you live, you’re in a watershed.

Watersheds even exist where water doesn’t flow into a stream or river. In desert areas, watersheds drain into lakes and wetlands providing important habitat for plants and animals. Throughout Oregon, healthy watersheds are vital to people, fish and wildlife. What happens upstream has a direct impact on all of the water downstream.

Oregon’s Conservation Legacy — A Unique Approach

Oregonians should be proud of their unique approach to enhancing and maintaining the state’s watersheds. Their collective care and appreciation for the state’s natural places and working landscapes has created a strong and enduring legacy of conservation in Oregon. Looking back, Oregon’s conservation legacy is embodied in milestone actions involving incentives for recycling (the bottle bill), protecting unique and special places for the public to enjoy (the beach bill), and the development of land use planning laws to protect important land uses and prevent unchecked urban sprawl.



OWEB’s investments are the critical link between investments in watershed conservation and clean abundant water and healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

Cooperative Voluntary Conservation

The most recent expression of Oregon’s conservation legacy has been quietly and effectively taking place in communities around the state for over a decade. Local groups—primarily watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts—are engaging farmers, ranchers, foresters, and other landowners to voluntarily work with other partners to take actions on their properties that help restore and protect our natural environment. Together, these local cooperative actions are writing the most recent chapter to Oregon’s conservation legacy.



OWEB

*No matter where you live in Oregon, you're in a watershed.
Our lakes, rivers and streams are the lifeblood of our environment.
OWEB helps Oregonians restore and protect our watersheds.*

WWW.OREGON.GOV/OWEB

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Developing the Proposed Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation



Guiding Principles

for the development and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation

1. Build on accomplishments

OWEB values the commitment and work of our local partners, which has resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB wishes to build on this foundation while working toward the future.

2. Effective communication

OWEB realizes that successful cooperative conservation can only occur when ideas, priorities and results are communicated with all partners and potential partners. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication with its staff, partners and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy.

3. Transparency

OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

4. Maximize service, minimize disruption

In developing the Long-Term Investment Strategy, the Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

5. Responsive

The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board and local partners.

6. Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation

OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy to assure it is meeting the Board's desired goals and outcomes. As needed, the Board shall adapt and modify the strategy to improve overall investment success.

7. Phase-in Change

OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide us in our future efforts and will be periodically revisited. It is designed to implement any changes over a reasonable period necessary to phase-in any changes and allow adjustment by stakeholders and OWEB staff.



OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD Proposed Direction for OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

OWEB invites public feedback and discussion on its proposed direction for the Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation. OWEB's Board will consider public input prior to making a decision, currently planned for the June 2013 Board meeting. For more information, please visit our website www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

Background

Mission

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

About Us

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. Community members and landowners use scientific criteria to decide jointly what needs to be done to conserve and improve rivers and natural habitat in the places where they live. OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon Lottery, federal dollars and salmon license plate revenue. The agency is led by a 17 member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

What is the Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation?

The purpose of the Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation is to identify how OWEB desires to structure its grant portfolio to achieve its mission, priorities and ecological outcomes.

Please refer to pages 3 and 4 for more information about the proposal.

Why a Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation?

With the passage of Measure 76, the time is right for OWEB to evaluate our course and seek ways to improve. Until recently, it was unclear whether OWEB's principle source of funding would be available after 2014. Permanent funding under Measure 76 creates the opportunity to look long-term.

The investment strategy will guide the Board's programs and granting decisions.

Framework for Grant Investments

The Three Pillars



All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes have helped build communities and support the local economy. The draft investment strategy is based on the three key pillars which have been the foundation of OWEB's investments as described below.

Operating Capacity Investments

These grants

- Support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.
- Are performance and outcome-based.
- Contain high standards for eligibility, reporting and accountability.

Reason for this investment

Councils and districts are identified specifically in OWEB's statutes because they are essential leaders in the development and implementation of voluntary collaborative conservation projects to protect native fish and wildlife habitat, watersheds and water quality.

Currently:

Watershed councils are locally established voluntary organizations; OWEB may provide grants for council operating capacity.

Soil and water conservation districts are local government entities overseen by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). District operating capacity grants are administered by ODA, but funded with OWEB dollars.

Open Solicitation Investments

These grants

- Respond to locally selected ecological priorities based on local, state, and regional conservation strategies and plans.
- Are competitive.
- Are offered in regular cycles with ongoing availability across the state.

Reason for this investment

- Encourage a statewide culture of voluntary, collaborative conservation.
- Support a wide variety of ecological outcomes in all parts of the state.

Currently include:

- Regular Grants (Restoration, Land and Water Acquisition, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, Outreach, Watershed Assessment)
- Small Grants
- ODA Weed Grants
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- CREP Technical Assistance

Focused Investments

These grants

- Support collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes selected by the OWEB Board.
- Are outcome-based and outcome-measured.
- Commit funding for multiple years.
- Move around the state as ecological priorities and leveraging opportunities intersect.

Reason for this investment

- Provide greater certainty for OWEB and partners in making progress toward collaboratively identified and prioritized ecological outcomes.
- Better leveraging of private, federal and other state/local funding for a longer, more sustained time frame.

Currently include:

- Ecosystem Services
- Effectiveness Monitoring
- Research
- Special Investment Partnerships
- Whole Watersheds Restoration Initiative

Proposal for OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation

Operating Capacity Investments

Continue this investment area.

Proposed changes

- OWEB is updating its council capacity grant program, and plans to propose changes for Board decision in 2014.
- ODA is revising its grant administration for the soil and water conservation districts.

Reason for proposal

Continue to hold grantees to high standards of effectiveness with the expectation of continual improvement.

Open Solicitation Investments

Continue this investment area.

Proposed changes

- **Small grants:** increase funding and expand types of grants beyond restoration (for example, outreach and monitoring small grants).
- **Regular restoration grants:** caps on individual applications as a way to fund more projects across the state.
- Develop a new process for "big ticket, large cost" restoration projects.
- Develop an **outreach grant strategy**, including partnering with other outreach funders to leverage additional investment.

Reason for proposal

Maintain or expand the grant opportunities for local projects, even if the amount of funding for Open Solicitation Investments does not increase, or is reduced over time.

Focused Investments

Continue this investment area.

Proposed changes

- Phase-in a gradual **increase in this investment area over time**.
- Develop criteria and process for Board selection of collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.
- Update criteria and process and improve transparency of Board decisions around Focused Investments, including clear time limits.

Reason for proposal

With committed funding over multiple years, Focused Investments provide greater certainty for OWEB and partners in making progress toward collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes. The increased state emphasis on 10-year outcomes makes it important for OWEB to invest in more certain progress, and to develop clear criteria and process for prioritized ecological outcomes.

Potential Benefits & Consequences of OWEB's Proposed Direction

While OWEB's funding now has long-term status, grant funds will vary over time and will be affected by state and federal budget decisions.

Depending on funding availability, increases in investments in one area may have impact on other areas of investment.

OWEB is interested in your thoughts on the benefits and consequences of these proposed changes.

Investment in the following areas provides support and accountability to the above:

Competitive Offering for Emerging Issues

New grant offering.

- Develop criteria, structure and process.
- Consider activities appropriate for one-time/short term funding that are consistent with OWEB's mission, but do not qualify under OWEB's other grant programs.
- Examples include conservation efforts that require short-term assistance for planning or research, and pilot funding for innovative approaches to natural resources management.

Reason for proposal:

OWEB has invested in emerging issues in the past. It is important to have clear structure, criteria and process to guide decisions on funding requests.

Focused Effectiveness Monitoring & Reporting

Continue to conduct board-directed effectiveness monitoring for selected types of Open Solicitation grants.

Proposed change

- Include effectiveness monitoring in all of OWEB's Focused Investments.

Reason for proposal

Outcomes are foundational to sound investments and adaptive management. It is important to tell the story of accomplishments from OWEB's investments.

Contact Us

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Governor’s Priorities Update
July 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting



I. Introduction

The Governor’s Office, partners and OWEB staff will provide updates on four Governor’s Priorities that receive OWEB funding.

II. Background on the Governor’s Priorities Spending Plan Line Item

As Oregon seeks to remain on the leading edge of voluntary conservation, there are often landscape-scale initiatives that warrant additional focus and attention. Oregon’s governors, including Governor Brown, recognize the importance of strong coordination and high level leadership to ensure these priority initiatives are implemented successfully.

To support this work, the OWEB Board has established a ‘Governor’s Priorities’ spending plan line item. Like any other investment, grants funded through this line item must comply with Oregon’s Constitution and statutes. The mechanism for selecting grants and grantees differs, however. Rather than soliciting grants through a responsive process, these grants are designed intentionally to spur either innovation or action around a priority issue for Oregon and the Governor. Past investments have supported a range of priorities, including salmon strongholds, Oregon Plan monitoring, and forest collaborative development, among other key issues.

III. Coast Coho Salmon and the Coast Coho Business Plan

In 2014, the Wild Salmon Center partnered with OWEB, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Restoration Center, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to envision a “Business Plan” for the conservation of Oregon’s Coast Coho. The Business Plan is intended to:

- A. Aggregate the cumulative costs and anticipated outcomes of selected habitat protection and restoration projects on the Oregon coast;
- B. Market the potential to recover Oregon Coast (OC) Coho to major funders, and communicate the critical role of these projects; and
- C. Leverage funding to accelerate implementation of both the OC Coho and Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho recovery plans.

Projects included in the Business Plan are generated through a one-year process, in which local communities use a science-based framework to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for an independent Coho population. In 2015, OWEB funded the development of this and its application in three pilot SAPs (for the Nehalem, Siuslaw, and Elk River watersheds). These plans are now underway and projected for completion in December 2016.

The Business Plan is envisioned as a living document, in which new SAPs are incorporated as they are completed. Following completion of the three pilot SAPs, the Business Plan Team will circulate a 'Request for Letters of Interest' among coastal partners and select three additional populations from the pool of applicants. This second round of SAPs will be completed in 2017.

The Business Plan is intended to link to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Strategic Implementation Area efforts as well – providing a strong, voluntary plan (the SAP) that ensures local agriculture water quality improvements also benefit Coho and other salmon populations.

IV. SageCon – Sage Grouse/Sage-Steppe Habitat Conservation

On September 22, 2015, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that the greater sage-grouse was not threatened with extinction and thus not warranted for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) across its 11-state western range. The USFWS's previous review (2010) had determined the greater sage-grouse was "warranted" for ESA listing but precluded for other reasons, with USFWS placing the species on the ESA's candidate species list at that time. This turn of events and decision not to list the bird was made in large part based on the commitments of states like Oregon to protect and restore key habitat.

Oregon's Sage Grouse Action Plan encapsulates the State's commitment to habitat protection and improvements. The Plan has been advanced through an Executive Order (E.O. 15-18) from Governor Brown, administrative rules related to land use and mitigation adopted by the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission and Fish and Wildlife Commission (and actions of local counties), coordination agreements with other state agencies, 2015-17 biennial funding advanced by OWEB as well as the Oregon State Legislature via the Governor's budget, along with associated state agency and local-partner implementation work. OWEB funding has played a central role in the successful development of the Action Plan.

Following the USFWS's 2015 decision, Governor Brown's Natural Resources Office continues to work with landowners, counties, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations to implement the comprehensive plan that, when combined with updated Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management plans, will maintain and improve sage-grouse populations and habitat in Oregon. The Governor's long-term goal for the Plan is protection and restoration of sage-grouse populations and the ecological health and resilience of lands across southeast Oregon and other areas of the state. This outcome—and the Plan's approach and actions to achieve it—is also relevant to the Governor's goal of promoting the stability and vitality of rural communities and economies. Robust implementation of the Plan is critical to the achievement of these goals. In addition, USFWS will again review the status of greater sage-grouse across its 11-state western range in 2020, with particular focus on how whether states have followed through on commitments and how effective those state commitments have been in ameliorating threats to the bird and its habitat between now and then.

In January 2016, the Board approved an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership with to support Sage-Steppe Habitat Conservation in Harney, Lake and Malheur counties. The investment totals \$2,143,968 in the first biennium as part of a six-year request of \$5,000,000. OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership funding is complementary to NRCS investments

through the Sage Grouse Initiative and Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Together, these funds are focusing large-scale investments in priority areas across sage-steppe habitat.

In addition to this investment, over the past three biennia, the Board has provided \$950,000 in funding for the development of Oregon's Sage Grouse Action Plan since early 2013. The completed Sage Grouse Action Plan can be viewed at:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/>

The Sage Grouse Action Plan, together with the Governor's Executive Order, directs state agencies to work together with NGOs, private, local and federal partners to develop cooperative agreements, coordinated investments and the tools necessary for successful plan implementation, including monitoring and evaluation. This work is underway, including:

- A comprehensive development registry coordinated with the BLM and counties built on the USGS Surface Disturbance and Reclamation Tracking Tool (SDARTS) to track development and its potential impacts on sage grouse habitat, with additional relevance in the context of mitigation;
- Close engagement by the State in the BLM's development of its mitigation strategy, working to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach across land ownership boundaries in Oregon;
- An MOU between Oregon, the BLM and local entities related to mitigation and coordinated implementation of the Plan (in the draft stage);
- Implementation of on-the-ground actions on state and private land by Oregon agencies as well as local partners (SWCD's, NGO's, RFPAs, private landowners) with funding from the 2015 legislative session, OWEB, as well as NRCS. In federal public domain land, the BLM has also seen budget increases and is implementing actions.

V. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands have drawn people to the state for more than 150 years. These "working lands" are the cornerstone of the state's rural communities and provide myriad benefits to the natural environment. More than one quarter of Oregon's 63 million acres are private working lands that create agricultural production valued at \$5.4 billion—the state's second-largest economic driver.

For forty years, Oregon's unique land use system has helped protect the working landscape. Even with a strong economic position and state protections, farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by rising production costs, loss of processing facilities, fragmentation through new land uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.

Governor Brown's office has convened a group to work with landowners, tribal governments, agencies and interested organizations to identify *voluntary tools to help landowners support both agricultural values and values that maintain or enhance fish, wildlife or other natural resources on working lands*. Called the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Work Group (Attachment A), this group is developing proposals and will seek feedback on the proposals over the summer and fall.

The OWEB Board has invested \$150,000 to support facilitation of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, informational meetings, and listening sessions with stakeholders. At the July Board meeting, Governor's Office staff will provide an update on progress to date and summarize early concepts that will be discussed at informational meetings over the summer and listening sessions in the fall.

VI. Clean Water Partnership

In the 2015 Legislative Session, the Governor's Recommended Budget proposed a coordinated, multi-agency investment to direct federal and state conservation funding to areas where it will result in the greatest clean water and watershed health improvements. The legislature partially funded these investments. A number of initiatives are moving forward, including the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs), for which the OWEB Board approved \$1 million funding in October. Attachment B to the staff report is a specific report and update on the SIA process.

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) will focus on increased coordination and partnerships for clean water improvements, including monitoring and reporting on water quality trends in areas of coordinated partnership investments. The CWP's initial focus is on agricultural water quality. Convened by the Governor's Office, key state agencies involved in this work are OWEB and the departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality, and Fish and Wildlife. The CWP team is now engaging additional partners including NRCS, non-governmental conservation, agricultural, and ranching organizations. Further outreach to tribal governments and other potential partners will occur this summer and fall. An update will be provided at the Board meeting. To date, the Board has approved \$550,000 for the CWP.

VII. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

- A. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Work Group
- B. Agenda Item L1. SIA Staff Report



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Work Group



Overview

Oregon’s rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands have drawn people to the state for more than 150 years. These “working lands” are the cornerstone of the state’s rural communities and provide myriad benefits to the natural environment. More than one quarter of Oregon’s 63 million acres are private working lands that create agricultural production valued at \$5.4 billion—the state’s second-largest economic driver.



Why is this important?

For forty years, Oregon’s unique land use system has helped protect the working landscape. Even with a strong economic position and state protections, farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by rising production costs, loss of processing facilities, fragmentation through new land uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.



Governor Brown’s office has convened a group to work with landowners, tribal governments, agencies and interested organizations to identify voluntary tools to help landowners maintain working farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation benefits on those lands. The group includes staff from the Governor’s office, state agencies, and representatives of the farming, ranching, conservation and land trust communities.



What voluntary tools are being considered?

Enhanced tools will focus on keeping working farms and ranches ‘working’ - for the economy, rural communities and the environment. Tools under consideration include long-term stewardship contracts, working land easements, tax incentives, grants, loans, and regulatory assistance.

<i>Goals of Voluntary Tools</i>	<i>Topics/Tools Not Being Considered by Work Group</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain agricultural production and provide incentives for conservation on farms & ranches • Flexible; tailored to individual landowners • Balance landowner and conservation needs • Leverage federal \$\$ mostly untapped in Oregon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition and conversion • Mandatory actions or new regulations • One-size-fits-all approaches



Work Group Actions in 2016

- Analyze available information regarding working lands trends in Oregon
- Talk to landowners to gain first-hand knowledge of challenges they face
- Review working lands conservation programs and how they may apply to Oregon
- Assess landowner interest in a range of working lands protection tools and federal funding sources
- Engage with tribal governments, state, federal and local agencies, local governments, and agricultural and conservation stakeholders to get their input
- Develop recommendations for new statewide voluntary tools that complement Oregon’s land use planning program, conserving long-term agricultural productivity and healthy natural resources on Oregon’s working lands



Contact: Meta Loftsgaarden, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, 503-986-0180 meta.loftsgaarden@state.or.us



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360

Salem, OR 97301-1290

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FAX (503) 986-0199

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Oregon Department of Agriculture Strategic Implementation Areas Update
July 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting



I. Introduction

This report provides an update on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) program and OWEB's recent grant offering for restoration projects aimed at improving water quality arising from the SIA process.

II. Background

ODA's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program works to develop Agricultural Water Quality Plans and regulations to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities. The regulations, also referred to as Area Rules, are tailored for 38 management areas in Oregon and apply to lands engaged in agricultural activity, regardless of size.

ODA has developed and is implementing the Strategic Implementation Area process to prioritize, conduct outreach, and ensure rule compliance in small watersheds throughout Oregon. SIAs were developed during the 2013-2015 biennium, and tested in cooperation with the Clackamas County and Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Based on the success of the initial SIA tests, ODA has introduced SIAs in small watersheds found in Wasco, Polk, Yamhill, Columbia, Jackson, East Multnomah, and Deschutes counties. Watershed selection was done in coordination with local soil and water conservation districts in those areas.

At its October 2015 meeting, the Board received an update from OWEB and ODA regarding the SIA program. The Board received and unanimously approved a funding request to add \$1 million to the 2015-2017 spending plan to be utilized for Strategic Implementation Area grants in coordination with ODA. The Board delegated authority to the Executive Director to enter in appropriate agreements with an award date of October 27, 2015. This request was a result of the 2015 legislative directive for OWEB to coordinate with ODA on an initiative to improve water quality on working agricultural

lands and to provide grants for technical assistance and restoration projects that restore riparian function, improve watershed health, and increase water quality in the SIAs.

III. SIA Grant Program

Staff worked during the fall and winter of 2015 to develop an SIA grant offering in coordination with ODA staff. The focus of the program is restoration and technical assistance that leads directly to water quality improvements. Projects are expected to include riparian and wetland process and function, erosion and sediment control, manure and waste management, and livestock management.

The first grant offering closed in January, 2016. No applications were submitted at that time due to the local partners' need for additional time to develop landowner relationships and restoration projects on properties identified as having moderate or significant water quality concerns. The second grant offering closed in May, 2016. Five applications were received from five separate SIA geographies. OWEB convened a technical review team comprised of OWEB Regional Program Representatives and ODA staff. The OWEB Executive Director awarded funding to two of the five applications, totaling \$375,651. The three remaining applications were recommended for resubmission in order to afford the local partners with additional time to strengthen landowner relationships and restoration design concepts.

ODA is working with ODFW, DEQ, and OWEB to coordinate selection criteria and prioritize additional SIA geographies for the 2016-2017 SIA operational year and beyond. OWEB will conduct two more grant cycles tentatively slated for January and May of 2017.

The new SIA process heavily relies on our relationships with our partners, which have been cultivated to seek assistance and support of the ODA Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. Our primary agency partners include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Services Agency, Oregon DEQ, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, and the many SWCDs and Watershed Councils statewide.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. No Board action is required.



Oregon

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – OWEB Statute Revisions-Legislative Concept
July 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report updates the Board on a legislative concept under development for the 2017 Legislative Session that seeks to update OWEB's statutes found at ORS 541.890 - 541.972. In addition, OWEB is working with a team to develop legislative concepts related to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. An update on that process is provided separately under Agenda Item L – Governor's Priorities.

II. Background

The last comprehensive update to OWEB's statutes occurred in the 2011 Legislative Session in response to approval of Ballot Measure 76 in 2010. After review, staff have found other sections of OWEB's statutes that warrant revision, and submitted a placeholder legislative concept in April 2016 that was subsequently approved by the Governor's Office for consideration in the 2017 Legislative session. In June 2016 OWEB submitted additional information for review and drafting of a draft bill by Legislative Counsel. The proposed legislative concept would provide cleanup and updates to sections of OWEB statutes including the Oregon Plan, Oregon Plan Administration, Watershed Enhancement Program, and Reports. The statute revisions are intended to include additional language that will revitalize certain statutes and remove aspects of the statutes that are longer relevant. Some statutes for which repeal or revisions are recommended no longer apply due to statutory changes made by the legislature in previous years, while others reflect the changes to the way OWEB serves the public.

In addition to general statutory cleanup, staff are proposing two substantive changes related to 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as an ex-officio member to the OWEB Board, and 2) removing language that allows the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide liability coverage for watershed councils, based on the fact that OWEB is putting in place stronger requirements for all grantees.

III. Proposed Revisions

OWEB staff has proposed the following revisions to OWEB statutes:

- Adding a representative of the USFWS as a non-voting member of the OWEB Board. USFWS plays an important role in funding and implementing watershed enhancement and restoration projects across the state, and the

addition of a USFWS representative to the Board will provide important guidance to the agency on a broad array of issues.

- Repealing language in statute that DAS may provide liability coverage for watershed councils at the expense of OWEB. This liability coverage is limited, and OWEB staff is working with stakeholders to develop guidance for watershed councils to obtain appropriate levels of liability insurance commensurate with watershed council activities.
- Repealing language in statute referencing agencies or entities that no longer exist (e.g., State Service Center for Geographic Information Systems).
- Repealing the requirement for other natural resource agencies to provide written reports related to the enhancement or restoration of riparian areas or associated uplands to OWEB to assist in developing and maintaining a centralized repository. The widespread use of the Internet has made this requirement unnecessary, as reports are posted on agency websites and other information clearinghouses found online.
- Eliminating “a person” from being an eligible entity to apply for grant funding. OWEB rarely receives requests directly from a landowner to receive a grant directly from the agency, and when requests are received, staff direct them to local organizations that do conservation work. OWEB’s granting processes require close tracking of project costs, billing, and compliance with state and federal statutes regarding use of funds, including indirect costs through the federal Office of Management and Budget, and the new requirements for liability insurance coverage for restoration projects, as just two examples. Landowners can work directly with local organizations (e.g., soil and water conservation district, watershed council, land trust or other local non-profit organizations) to complete their identified projects with assurance that such organizations must meet the identified grant requirements.
- Repealing elements in OWEB statutes related to Oregon Plan reporting for which the agency lacks the information and scientific/technical expertise to report, thus relying upon the reporting of other agencies.
- Other minor technical corrections that provide statutory “clean-up”.

IV. Next Steps

The proposed revisions to OWEB statutes will be drafted by Legislative Counsel over the summer. After the draft is completed, staff will have one opportunity to provide revisions. Legislative concept drafting is completed by November 1, 2016 and with approval by the Governor, agency concepts are filed by December 9, 2016 for the 2017 Legislative Session. An update on this process will be provided to the Board at the October 2016 meeting.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

July 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update N-1: Online Grant Applications System

In 2013, the Board adopted its Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation (LTIS), which included approval of a framework for grant investments and direction for the LTIS. Since then, OWEB has been reviewing and updating its priorities, policies, programs and practices to position the agency as an effective and successful long-term funder of conservation in Oregon. The need for an online grant application system was one business-practice improvement that was identified. The goal of the system is to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's grant-making processes for applicants, grantees and OWEB staff. This report updates the Board about OWEB's online grant applications system.

Status of Online Grant Applications System

The online grant application system includes online versions of OWEB's primary four application types—Restoration, Technical Assistance (TA), Monitoring, and Outreach. Content of the restoration, TA and monitoring applications was 'streamlined' prior to developing the online applications to ensure these applications gather the key information necessary to review applications and support the grant-making process. The current version of the outreach application also has been transitioned to online application system. However, streamlining for this grant application is being delayed until a future date, following work by OWEB Board and staff regarding the agency's approach for outreach grants.

External testing by both grantees and reviewers throughout the state has occurred for all application types. In addition, internal testing by OWEB staff has occurred. The feedback from testers has been incredibly valuable to ensure the online grant application system is intuitive for and usable to applicants. Companion materials to assist with the use of the online grant application system include a guidance document that walks users through the system and provides helpful hints and Microsoft Word templates of the grant applications for use by applicants during any collaborative grant-writing prior to input of application content in the online system.

The online grant application system is scheduled to launch on July 18, 2016. In preparation for the launch, trainings for OWEB staff on the online system have occurred. Trainings for potential applicants will be held at eight locations around the state in August and September. In addition, several webinars instructing applicants about use of the new online system will occur in September and October. See Attachment A for additional information.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@state.or.us or 503-986-0203.

Attachments

- A. Online grant application system one-pager



OWEB's Online Application

Beginning in July 2016 the following Open Solicitation and Focused Investment Partnership grant types can be applied for online: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Outreach projects. OWEB will provide two types of training: in-person trainings that are described below, and webinars that are described on page two of this document. Additional information on training opportunities will be posted on OWEB's website at <http://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Pages/index.aspx>.

In-Person Training Opportunities

These trainings will provide a general overview of all application types and provide opportunities for general Q/A. You are encouraged to bring your OGMS log-in and a laptop, if possible, to follow along during the training.

Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly: [Kristi Cederburg](mailto:kristi.cederburg@state.or.us), kristi.cederburg@state.or.us, 503-986-0202

For general questions regarding the online application contact your OWEB project manager.

August 8, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

OSU North Willamette Research/Extension
Main Conference Room
15210 NE Miley Rd
Aurora, OR 97002

August 9, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Bureau of Land Management
Oregon Room A
3040 Biddle Rd
Medford OR 97504

August 10, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Central Oregon Community College, Madras
Campus
Don Reeder Community Room, MDR 117
1170 E Ashwood Rd
Madras OR 97741

August 11, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Pendleton City Hall Building
Community Room
500 SW Dorion Ave
Pendleton OR 97801

September 12, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Port of Tillamook Bay
Main Conference Room, Building 19
4000 Blimp Blvd #100
Tillamook OR 97141

September 13, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Red Lion Hotel Coos Bay
Rogue Room
1313 N Bayshore Dr
Coos Bay OR 97420

September 14, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Harney County Community Center
Conference Room
484 North Broadway
Burns OR 97720

September 15, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Outpost Pizza Pub and Grill
Meeting Room
201 West Main Street
John Day OR 97845

Webinars

These trainings will provide a 1-hour “deep dive” into each application type and 1 hour for questions and answers related to that application type. The webinar details will be posted on OWEB’s website at <http://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Pages/index.aspx> by the end of August.

Monitoring Application

September 27, 9 AM – 11 AM

October 11, 9 AM – 11 AM

Technical Assistance Application

September 27, 1 PM – 3 PM

October 11, 1 PM – 3 PM

Restoration Application

September 29, 9 AM – 11 AM

October 6, 9 AM – 11 AM

July 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update N-2: Council Capacity Update

This Director's Update provides information on the upcoming 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant cycle.

Background

In July 2014, the Board adopted administrative rules and Guidance for Council Capacity grants, which help support the operating capacity of effective watershed councils. The 2015-2017 Council Capacity grant cycle was the first time grants were awarded to councils under the new rules and Guidance. This staff report updates the Board on the lessons learned from the 2015-2017 grant cycle and provides information on the upcoming 2017-2019 grant cycle.

2015-2017 Council Capacity Grants Lessons Learned

At the conclusion for the 2015-2017 Council Capacity grant cycle staff collected lessons learned and sought feedback from stakeholders. Feedback was very positive, specifically that the process was simpler, eligibility and merit criteria expectations were clear, and communication was frequent and relevant. A full list of lessons learned and feedback, including the resulting program improvements, is provided in Attachment A.

Preparation for the 2017-2019 Cycle

OWEB staff made minor changes to the 2017-2019 Operating Capacity Grant Guidance document to reflect lessons learned from the 2015-2017 cycle and other staff recommended changes. The suggested changes were shared with the Operating Capacity Subcommittee in April 2016. Staff provided stakeholders the opportunity for public comment May 1-31, 2016, no comments were received.

Included in the changes was the removal of the reference to a possible sixth merit criterion to evaluate strategic collaboration. During the summer of 2014 OWEB worked with an Oregon Fellow to begin investigating opportunities for a sixth merit criterion around strategic collaboration. The key recommendation from this work was OWEB should not create a sixth merit criterion around strategic collaboration. The concept was not supported by the literature and would likely lead to unintended consequences. OWEB staff and the Operating Capacity Subcommittee agree with this assessment and removed the reference from the Guidance document.

OWEB staff will continue to build a culture of collaboration for not only watershed councils but also for all of our local delivery partners.

Opportunities include:

1. Building Capacity Grants for councils and districts (Organizational Restructuring, Merger Implementation)
2. FIP Capacity-Building Grants
3. Working with the NOWC, OACD, and OCEAN for messaging and programs at CONNECT and The Gathering

Schedule

The 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant cycle will be announced in August 2016, with eligibility materials due in November 2016 and application materials due in March 2017. The OWEB Board will award Council Capacity grants in July 2017.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator at courtney.shaff@oweb.state.or or 503-986-0046.

Attachments

- A. Council Capacity Lessons Learned and Follow-up

2015-2017 Council Capacity Grants Staff Lessons Learned and Stakeholder Feedback

Staff Lesson Learned	Follow-up Action
Engage Small Grant Program Coordinator in Initial Review of councils.	Guidance updated to include Small Grant Program Coordinator in the Initial Review process.
Require councils to submit budgets with applications.	Guidance and online application system updated to require budget be submitted at the time of application.
Provide better guidance for councils on how to keep work plans simple and informative.	In progress.
Improve online work plan interface for Secondary Reviewers.	Options are being considered.
Send regular reminders about Council Capacity project completion reporting requirements.	Emails are being sent on a regular basis this biennium.
Make a few small changes to the online work plan to better meet user needs.	Complete.
Feedback from stakeholders	
Communication was great, really appreciated the regular emails about deadlines and requirements, keep them up.	No change necessary.
Getting ready for the eligibility review process was a struggle, but in the end it was worth it. Our councils are in a better place organizationally than they were before.	No change necessary.
During the Secondary Review and Interview process, let the applicants know who will be on the interview panel prior to the interview.	Built into process for the 2017-2019 cycle.
Simplify the work plan update, consider whether you really need to have the challenges and opportunities fields updated with the work plan update.	Updated the online work plan and no longer require the challenges and opportunities fields to be completed when the grantees submit the updated work plan.
Build the PCSRF question into the online application instead of having it due as a progress report.	Complete.
Continue to work to make the online work plan more user friendly.	In progress.

July 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update N-3: Existing FIP Implementation and Capacity Building Awards

In January 2016 the Board made its first Focused Investment Partnership awards: \$12.7 million for FIP Implementation and \$1 million for FIP Capacity-Building. This report provides and update on the status of the initial FIP awards.

Background

The following FIP Capacity-Building awards were made in January 2016:

Applicant	Project Name	OWEB Award Amount
Siuslaw Watershed Council	Siuslaw Coho Partnership	\$86,020
Confed Tribes Warm Springs	John Day Basin Partnership	\$149,613
South Coast WC	Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries	\$144,106
Rogue Basin Coordinating Council	Rogue Basin Partnership	\$144,483
Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership	\$137,696
The Nature Conservancy	Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative	\$42,777
Grande Ronde Model WS Program	Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership	\$83,490
Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Partnership	\$149,184
TOTAL		\$937,369

The following FIP Implementation awards were made in January 2016:

Partnership	OWEB Award Amount
The Deschutes Partnership	\$3,600,000
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group	\$2,351,100
Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative	\$1,655,400
Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties	\$2,019,030
Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration	\$1,543,800
Upper Grande Ronde Initiative	\$1,601,460
TOTAL	\$12,770,790

Status of Work Items

FIP Capacity-Building

Grantees have been meeting on a regular basis and many have hired facilitators. In order to capture baseline information a Survey Monkey was sent to all FIP Capacity-Building grantees in

March 2016. Grantees were asked six questions and will be asked the same questions at the conclusion of the FIP Capacity-Building grant. The questions, and a summary of the responses, are provided below.

1. On a scale of 1-5, how much impact do you think this FIP Capacity-Building grant will have on strengthening collaboration among key partners?
2. On a scale of 1-5, how much impact do you think this FIP Capacity-Building grant will have on increasing the pace and scale of restoration?
3. Please select the three biggest challenges you expect regarding working collaboratively with the project team.
4. Please select the three biggest benefits you expect from the FIP funding.
5. Please identify the things you expect you will need at the end of the program to be able to fully leverage the potential achieved through your FIP Capacity-Building work.
6. How many core partner organizations does the partnership have?

One theme throughout the survey responses was the value of a restoration prioritization process developed and utilized by all of the partners. With this knowledge, staff will work with grantees throughout the grant period to provide assistance wherever possible and connect grantees to additional resources for developing prioritization tools.

Highlights

- Almost 90% of the grantees thought the FIP Capacity-Building funding would have a strong or very strong impact on collaboration among key partners.
- Almost 60% of the grantees thought the funding could have a strong impact on increasing the pace and scale of restoration.
- Three biggest challenges for working collaboratively were, 1) size and complexity of the project area, 2) enough time to build and sustain trust, 3) (tie) development of a prioritization process and lack of commitment from all partners.
- Three biggest benefits from FIP Capacity-Building funding: 1) Coordination with partners to develop implementation strategies, 2) Restoration priorities to guide future actions, 3) Clear roles between partners for future restoration and stakeholder outreach.
- What will be needed at the end of the program to fully leverage FIP Capacity-Building funding: 1) Implementation funding, 2) Facilitation, 3) Capacity building funding.
- 55% of the grantees have more than 10 core partners participating in the partnership and 44% of the grantees anticipate between 3-5 funding partners.

Implementation

Partnership Agreements governing the process for technical project review and grant awards have been executed for all of the Implementation FIPs.

Pre-applications have been received for the first round of Willamette FIP grant awards. Proposals are currently undergoing technical review and full applications are due August 8.

Grant applications have been received and are undergoing technical review for the Sage-Grouse and Harney Basin Wetlands FIPs.

The Deschutes Partnership FIP submitted its partnership capacity application and plans to submit its first round of restoration grant applications August 5.

In order to capture baseline information on the partnership a Survey Monkey was sent to all FIP Implementation grantees in March 2016. Grantees were asked seven questions, and will be asked the same questions at the conclusion of the FIP Implementation grant. The questions, and a summary of the responses, are provided below.

1. On a scale of 1-5, beyond implementing landscape-scale restoration, what level of impact do you think this FIP Implementation grant will have on strengthening collaboration among key partners?
2. On a scale of 1-5, beyond implementing landscape-scale restoration, what level of impact do you think this FIP Implementation grant will have on strengthening collaboration among key partners?
3. On a scale of 1-5, beyond implementing landscape-scale restoration, what level of impact do you think this FIP Implementation grant will have on strengthening collaboration among key partners?
4. Aside from increased pace and scale of restoration, what do you expect to be the three biggest benefits of the FIP funding?
5. What do you expect you will need at the end of the program to be able to fully leverage the potential achieved through your FIP Implementation work?
6. How many core partner organizations does the partnership have?
7. How many funders do you anticipate will support the partnership during the life of the FIP Implementation grant? (Consider secured and pending funding requests)

Highlights

- Almost 60% of the grantees thought the FIP Implementation funding would have a strong impact on collaboration among key partners.
- Almost 60% of the grantees thought the funding could have a strong impact on increasing the pace and scale of restoration.
- Three biggest challenges for working collaboratively were, 1) Coordination with external partners, 2) Community and stakeholder outreach, 3) (tie) size and complexity of project area and lack of partner capacity.
- Three biggest benefits from FIP Implementation funding: 1) Increased partner commitment and trust, 2) (tie) increased clarity of restoration actions, partner coordination and development of integrated restoration strategies, clear roles between partners for future restoration and stakeholder outreach.
- All groups indicated that additional implementation funding would be needed at the end of the FIP Implementation period to fully leverage the current investment.
- 85% had 3-6 core partners and had 3-5 funding partners.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff for FIP Capacity-Building at Courtney.shaff@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0046, or Eric Williams for FIP Implementation at eric.williams@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0047.

July 26-27, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update N-4: Effectiveness Monitoring

Staff and the Board's newly reconfigured Monitoring Subcommittee have initiated a review of past and current monitoring investments by the Board. The review will help ensure results of the work will inform policy and program direction for the agency. This Director's Update provides an overview of programmatic effectiveness monitoring investments by the Board to date.

Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Initiatives

In September of 2004, the Board authorized the initial concepts of an effectiveness monitoring program, which included an effectiveness monitoring workshop and initiation of the independent review of completed restoration projects. OWEB's Effectiveness Monitoring Program has been very successful at evaluating past investment areas at several geographic and temporal scales. Much of this work was designed to create a base level of understanding about project performance and restoration challenges and successes in order to build a foundation for future policy and program decisions.

The bulleted list below provides a summary of the major effectiveness monitoring initiatives that have been completed and/or are underway (also see Attachment A):

- Western Juniper Removal Project Evaluation
- Wetland Monitoring (with the Department of State Lands and Xerces Society)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Riparian Enhancement (non-CREP)
- Fish Passage Improvement
- Coastal Storm Assessment
- Small Dam Removal
- Irrigation Efficiency/Protected Water Assessment
- Livestock Exclusion (Riparian protection and recovery)
- Intensively Monitored Watersheds
- Special Investment Partnership (SIP) Accomplishments Reporting
- Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Effectiveness Monitoring Framework

For those projects that have been completed, reports and/or summaries can be found at http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/MONITOR/effective_monitoring.shtml.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, at ken.fetcho@state.or.us or 503-986-0035.

Attachments

- A. Overview of OWEB's effectiveness monitoring projects

Past (2005-2015) OWEB Effectiveness Monitoring Project Summary		
Project Name	Study Years/ General Location	Summary
Western Juniper Management (completed)	2004-2007 Central and South Central Oregon	Evaluation of Juniper management projects and response of native vegetation to removal activities. Developed a "Western Juniper Management Field Guide Conducted juniper management training workshops and developed outreach materials.
Wetlands (completed)	2008-2011 Willamette Valley	Partnership with Department of State Lands and Xerces Society developed a framework for monitoring wetland restoration and mitigation performance using three monitoring tiers. Improve information exchange and tracking of wetland investments. Helped contribute to standardized monitoring protocols for wetland restoration and mitigation projects.
Riparian Enhancement -- non-CREP (completed)	2008-2010 South Coast and Grand Ronde Basins	Monitored riparian restoration projects for plant survival Included reference sites and cumulative impact bonus buffers. Informed development of plant establishment grant application insert into restoration grant applications.
Fish Passage Improvement (completed)	2008-2010 South Coast and Rogue Basins	Monitored the effectiveness of fish passage improvement projects. OWEB continues to work with OFRI to host fish passage workshops with private forest landowners.
Coastal Storm Assessment (completed)	2008 North Coast	Evaluate past and current restoration practices and their relative survival during the significant wind-and-rain storm events. Disseminated findings and integrated into grant program reviews.
Irrigation Efficiency-Protected Water Assessment (completed)	2010 Upper Deschutes Basin and Willow Creek in Malheur Basin	Evaluation of instream improvements associated with irrigation efficiency projects. Disseminated findings and integrated into grant program reviews. Informed rule revisions for water acquisition grant program.
Small Dam Removal (completed)	2007-2014 Brownsville, Marmot, Gold Hill, Savage Rapids and Gold Ray Dam	Monitoring of sediment transport, water quality parameters, and various biological indicators after dam removal using before and after project sites. Information from some of these projects were incorporated into recent studies and published in a journal article describing longer term effects after dams are removed.

Current (2015-17) OWEB Effectiveness Monitoring Project Summary

Project Name	Study Years/ General Location	Summary
Livestock Exclusion (ongoing)	2006-2012, 2017? Statewide	Coordinated effectiveness monitoring with the State of Washington to evaluate success of livestock exclusion fencing projects. Coordinating with WASRFB to continue work to complete final round of monitoring and report findings.
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) (ongoing)	2015-Current Statewide	The goals of this study plan are to: 1) Report on the status and condition of previously implemented CREP projects; and 2) Establish a long-term monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of CREP projects implemented across Oregon on a reoccurring basis. The study design consists of three tiers of effectiveness monitoring. In-depth field measurements will be taken to examine vegetation structure, canopy cover, presence of invasive plant species, streambank erosion and presence of livestock within the riparian buffer.
Intensively Monitored Watershed (ongoing)	2008-Current Middle Fork John Day	Uses a watershed scale approach to determine the effectiveness and level of stream restoration needed to record a measurable increase in salmon populations and habitat. Future work includes funding for socio-economic data gathering and analysis in 2016.
Tidegate Replacement and Removal (new)	Pending Coastal areas	Investigate tidegate replacement and removal restoration and monitoring projects that OWEB has invested in to articulate the ecological benefits realized from them. This work will help OWEB provide information to our applicants, review team members and OWEB Board members to develop and evaluate grant applications and ultimately inform which restoration projects the agency will invest.
SIP Reporting (completed)	2014-Current Various	OWEB staff worked with the partners and the Board to develop a framework for the Board to understand and evaluate the extent of progress made by the Deschutes, Willamette and Upper Klamath Special Investment Partnerships (SIPs). This framework also helped guide how Focused Investment Partnership progress is assessed and reported to the Board in the future.
FIP Progress Monitoring (ongoing)	2016-Current Various	Working with six newly selected implementation FIPs (Grande Ronde, Deschutes, Willamette, Ashland Forest, Sage-Grouse and Harney Wetlands) and Bonneville Environmental Foundation to develop sufficient monitoring approach to measure and report progress towards outcomes.
Monitoring / EM Guidance (new)	Pending Statewide	Work with the Monitoring Subcommittee of the OWEB Board and staff, external experts and grantees to improve monitoring grant solicitation guidance to identify specific types of monitoring the Board is interested in funding through the Open Solicitation grant program. This guidance will also highlight important components of a successful grant application.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O -1 Tillamook Southern Flow Corridor - Restoration Grant Adjustment
July 26-27, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests the Board make an adjustment to the April 2015 Board actions in support of tidal restoration activities for the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project by adjusting the state and federal award amounts for the acquisition and restoration portions of the Southern Flow Corridor – Landowner Preferred Alternative.

II. Background

At the April 2014 Board meeting, the Board approved \$1,620,152 for grant 214-9903-11013 (Southern Flow Corridor – Landowner Preferred Alternative (SFC) – Acquisition) to acquire 121 acres. At closing the acquisition came in at only \$1,396,596.55. This was \$223,556.45 less than budgeted.

At the April 2015 Board meeting, the Board delegated authority to the Executive Director to distribute up to \$600,000 from 2011 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (Coastal Wetlands), Award Number FP11AP00490, for the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project (Grant No. 215-8007-12713) to support tidal restoration activities.

The Coastal Wetlands grant program requires the grantee – in this case OWEB – maintain the same percentage of match as proposed in the original application. In this case, the match requirement is 73% state, 27% federal. The acquisition was funded with state Lottery funding, so with the acquisition coming in at the reduced amount, the match percentage was directly impacted. The dollar impact to the federal Coastal Wetlands grant would result in reduced funding of approximately \$85,000 – from \$600,000 to \$515,000. As a result, the local partner would not have the funding needed to fully complete the restoration.

III. Restoration Grant Adjustment

Since both the restoration and acquisition funds are used to support the same project, staff propose to shift a portion of the acquisition balance to the restoration grant. This will allow the project to maintain the match required to receive the full federal funding needed to complete the project and will reduce the financial burden on the grant partner, Tillamook County, allowing the restoration grant to proceed as scheduled. This

shift from the acquisition grant to the restoration grant requires action by the Board to award a portion of the Acquisition funds to the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request the Board amend the April 2015 award to allow a combination of OWEB funding sources. Specifically, the award is requested to be amended as follows: Delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute up to \$600,000 in support of tidal restoration activities for the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD October 25, 2016

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

July 26, 2016

OWEB Board Meeting

Otter Rock, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present

Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Neuhauser, Will
Quaempts, Eric
Thorndike, Dan
Wenner, Karl

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Davidson, Ian
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Lobby, Sam
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Hayduk, Evan
Morford, Shawn
Nicolescu, Jerry
Phipps, Lisa
Robertson, Paul
Running, Mike
Schreiner, Ann
Siebert, Paul
VandeWetering, Stan
Voelke, Katie

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike at 8:04AM. He observed there was no voting quorum and announced a follow up meeting of the Board on August 2nd at 3:00PM via conference call.

A. Board Member Comments

Board representatives provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from their represented state and federal natural resource agencies.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 26-27, 2016 Board meeting in La Grande were presented for approval. There was no discussion.

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was offered. Board members indicated support to approve the minutes with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden briefly presented a request for a technical correction to the April 2016 Board actions in support of Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Implementation and Capacity Building evaluation processes to provide efficiency by merging two separate awards into a single award.

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was offered. Board members indicated support to approve the technical correction with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members.

C. Public Comment

Lisa Phipps from the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership addressed the Board about SB1517, which was signed into law during the 2016 Legislative Session. She said this bill established a pilot program in Tillamook County to address and balance conflicts between agriculture and tidal wetland restoration. She talked about the site-specific permitting process, and that the county is planning on conducting an inventory to assess which lands are best suited for wetland restoration and those that are most appropriate to remain in agricultural production. She said an advisory committee of stakeholders was formed and is working well together, led by the County Planning Department. They will evaluate current data, identify gaps, and hire a consultant to analyze data and fill in gaps. Phipps asked the Board to support them in this work because the outcomes may force a different look at the issues, including working lands on a smaller scale. She said if this works, it is a model that could be transferable up and down the coast, and possibly inland. Phipps sees this pilot program as an opportunity to break down barriers and advance the common mission of all groups involved. She will keep the Board apprised of developments and hopes for their support in the future, and she recognized Executive Director Loftsgaarden for her role in developing the pilot.

Loftsgaarden said that OWEB has already committed \$30,000 from its operating budget to assist the process, which is expected to cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in total, and that OWEB and the Governor's office are helping the county find other sources of funding for the remainder.

Phipps said this pilot was part of the comprehensive county plan, and that it would result in modifications to the county plan. There was discussion about the importance of cataloging the inventory of land to assess conservation needs and how this fits in well with OWEB restoration activities. There was also discussion about lessons learned from Coast Coho recovery and incentives for landowner participation. Phipps said it will be important to have large public involvement, including agencies. She said Tillamook County is "land poor", and once agricultural land taken out of production, it cannot be replaced. Inventories will help understand how to balance agriculture uses and develop economic incentives. She said this project is about reconciling restoration and agriculture; they are quite compatible. She also said once the inventory is complete and there is a vision of what the land can look like, then the economic incentives for landowners will kick in, which will be both necessary and useful. She invited each Board member to participate in the process.

Mike Running from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) provided copies of COLT's 2015 State of the Lands Report. He walked the Board through some highlighted projects. A discussion ensued on the topic of best management practices on working lands easements. Running stated that each property is unique, including the landscape, funding sources and landowners. He said a gap analysis, partially funded by OWEB, is looking at working land easements and what other states are doing, including best practices and communications with landowners.

Katie Voelke from the North Coast Lands Conservancy (NCLC) talked about a recent conservation success story, which she said began in the 1920's with the work of Sam Boardman, Founding Director of Oregon State Parks. Katie provided a brief history of Sam Boardman's career, starting with his time as an employee of ODOT's Wayside Program where he planted trees for shade to help cool down cars. He was inspired by the Oregon coastal landscape and so

he went up and down the coast talking to landowners, sharing his vision to bring land into protection for the benefit of all the public. Voelke suggested that many state parks are the result of this work, and land trusts are now building off that foundation. She said in 2011 a landowner came to NCLC and asked if they would be interested in purchasing Boneyard Ridge, which is directly adjacent to Ecola State Park and provides additional access to the park. It is also adjacent to Circle Creek, another NCLC conservation property. The three contiguous parcels create a landscape-scale conservation corridor for Oregonians for all time. She thanked the Board for their commitment to conservation and for helping NCLC continue the legacy. She closed her comments with an announcement of the Boneyard Ridge property closing (8/28/16), with the help of a \$500,000 OWEB grant.

D. 2015-2017 Spending Plan Update

Executive Director Loftsgaarden provided a brief history of the 2015-2017 Spending Plan and presented two requests for the Board's consideration to add funds to the spending plan. The first request was for Board approval for distribution of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding (PCSRF) award available for grants in the spending plan categories identified in Attachment B, totaling \$5.1 million. Deputy Director Renee Davis explained the eligible uses of these funds, and Loftsgaarden described distribution of these funds in the Open Solicitation grant program: \$2.9 million in Restoration, \$1.2 million in Technical Assistance, and \$1 million in Land and Water Acquisition. There was discussion about the way OWEB's fiscal office conservatively tracks and controls the funds with the option for a ramp down of up to five years should the PCSRF ever cease. This was followed by discussion of the complementary work of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife utilizing PCSRF to conduct monitoring. Will Neuhauser asked if PCSRF funding could be used for Focused Investments and Loftsgaarden described that only FIPs with anadromous fish are eligible.

The second request concerned funds recaptured from grants that were either canceled or completed under budget. Loftsgaarden reminded the Board of their request at the April 2016 Board meeting that staff come to the July meeting with three options for use of recaptured funds for a Board spending plan decision, and explained that an additional \$1 million was added to recaptured funds since the April Board meeting. Loftsgaarden described Option 1 as the distribution of the recaptured funding into Open Solicitation grant categories. Loftsgaarden described that the Board requested to review an Option 2 in order to fund Implementation FIPs that received a reduced award in January, 2016. Now that recaptured funding is \$2 million, Option 2 allowed for FIPs to be fully funded with the remainder of recaptured funding going to Open Solicitation. Meta described Option 3 as the placement of recaptured funds back into the category from which they were unspent. OWEB staff determined Option 3 was challenging to implement and would require a long process to map recaptured funds back to the original sources and develop a process for re-granting funds, but would proceed with making the calculations if the Board members wanted to see the figures.

There was a general sense from the Board that they did not want to pursue Option 3.

Loftsgaarden explained Options 1 and 2 in more detail and fielded questions from the Board. There was discussion about what percentage of the total budget FIPs should be and how that impacts the Open Solicitation grant program. There was further discussion about the benefits

of restoring each of the six Focused Investment Implementation awards to the amount they had initially requested.

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was offered. Board members indicated support to reserve \$5.1 million of additional PCSRF funds to the 2015-2017 spending plan for the purposes described in Attachment B of the staff report with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members.

In addition, Board members indicated support to distribute recaptured funds as outlined in Option 2 in Attachment B to the staff report with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members. Specifically, two non-voting members supported Option 1, and five voting members and one non-voting member supported Option 2.

E. Intensively Monitored Watershed – Funding Request

Deputy Director Renee Davis presented to the Board a request to approve \$52,708 for socio-economic monitoring activities as part of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW). Davis provided a background of the region and presented the intent of the IMW to conduct monitoring over a larger geography and longer time period to determine a trajectory of change in salmon and steelhead populations and their habitat. This request would study the socio-economic impact of the IMW. Davis pointed out this project is the only one in the region looking in detail at the social-economic metrics, asking the Board to fund the next step to support University of Oregon researchers to accomplish the work. There was discussion about collaboration with other agencies. There was also discussion about whether the work would be peer reviewed. Eric Quaempts suggested that 1/3 of OWEB's mission is economic, and that it might be a good idea to incorporate this into the strategic plan update.

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was offered. Board members indicated support to award up to \$52,708 in support of socio-economic monitoring in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members.

F. Intensively Monitored Watershed – Funding Approval

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho and Deputy Director Davis presented to the Board a request to approve receipt of \$291,000 from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into agreements with partner organizations implementing the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) project. Fetcho listed the partnering agencies and explained how funds are received from NOAA and then provided to OWEB for projects.

Rosemary Furfey asked if there is sharing of information among all of the IMWs. Fetcho cited the past and upcoming Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) IMW workshops as providing opportunities to share information. A November 2016 workshop is being organized among the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho with a focus to contribute to a synthesis report. Board members asked questions about factors external to the watershed

and how they affect the outcomes. Alan Henning asked if there was any benefit to merging this report with the socio-economic report discussed during the previous agenda item, and Davis said that is the intent.

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was offered. Board members indicated support to receive \$291,000 in funding from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the projects associated with the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members.

G. Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring – Funding Request

Deputy Director Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Fetcho discussed the recent activities of the Board's newly reconfigured Monitoring Subcommittee in their review of past and current monitoring investments to help ensure results of the work will inform policy and program direction for the agency. They provided a brief summary of the tidegate projects funded by the Board. They requested Board approval of funding in the amount of up to \$40,000 to initiate the first phase of programmatic effectiveness monitoring on tidegate restoration projects. Rosemary Furfey asked about future phases and for a sense of what is coming to keep the whole project in perspective. Davis responded that this first phase of the project is scoping and literature review that will help inform what future phases may involve. . Randy Labbe asked about the length of time expected for the first phase. Fetcho identified the team leading the project and the work expected through a literature review and summary of OWEB-funded projects. He said the timeline will be laid out, but would likely be approximately six months.

Alan Henning asked if the project scope could be expanded to include lessons learned. Fetcho said it would be easy to do if lessons learned are included in the literature review, but would be more difficult if researchers had to be contacted for lessons learned. Karl Wenner suggested that tidegates are a growing concern, with an equally growing effort to address the concerns. He wanted to know if OWEB could play a role in the coordination of the data-gathering efforts to ensure there is not a duplication of efforts. Fetcho and Davis discussed how this is the first foray into understanding the issue, and foresee the need to develop an advisory committee on the issue. Eric Quaempts talked about the responsibility to prioritize based on biological performance. Debbie Hollen said she is hearing from Board members a request for a "preamble" that puts tidegates in context and how they fit into the ecological landscape, thinking it will help to answer some of the questions held by the Board.

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was offered. Board members indicated support to award up to \$40,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan for Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members.

Karl Wenner recommended going to Leo Kuntz's website for a great presentation on tidegates and how they work. (<http://www.nehalemmarine.com/west-coast-salmon-summit/>)

H. FIP Program Solicitation Schedule Approval

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff reviewed and discussed options for future FIP solicitation schedules and funding options. Shaff described a FIP Capacity-Building solicitation schedule that would begin in January 2017 with a Board award in October 2017. Shaff presented two proposed changes to the application process. The first change would replace a letter of intent with a pre-application conversation between staff and potential applicants to ensure an understanding of the grant purpose and answer questions. The second change would shift the responsibility of making a recommendation to the OWEB Board from the FIP Subcommittee to OWEB staff.

Williams presented a revised FIP Implementation schedule that would offer the next solicitation beginning in January, 2018 with a Board award in July, 2019. There was Board discussion on how this may impact potential FIP Implementation applicants that may have wanted to apply for the 2017-2019 biennium. Williams and Executive Director Loftsgaarden described that outreach to potential applicants has occurred and no comments opposing the proposed solicitation cycle have been submitted.

A Board discussion followed on how FIPs fit into the overall spending plan, with attachment C of the staff report providing graphs for different funding options for the Board to consider in their discussions.

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was offered. Board members indicated support for the proposed schedules for FIP Capacity-Building in Attachment A to the staff report and FIP Implementation awards as outlined in Attachment B to the staff report with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members.

M. OWEB Statute Revisions-Legislative Concept

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein informed the Board about a legislative concept under development for the 2017 Legislative Session which seeks to update OWEB's statutes with approval of the Governor. He provided an overview concept which includes general statutory clean-up and discussed two proposed substantive changes: 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an ex-officio member to the OWEB Board, and 2) removing language that allows the Department of Administrative Services to provide liability coverage for watershed councils. He said the proposed revisions to OWEB statutes would be drafted by Legislative Counsel over the summer with staff providing revisions, and he pledged an update to the Board on this process at the October 2016 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at noon by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD October 25, 2016

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

July 27, 2016

OWEB Board Meeting

Otter Rock, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present

Armstrong, Ed
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Neuhauser, Will
Quaempts, Eric
Thorndike, Dan

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Davidson, Ian
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Lobby, Sam
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Aunan, Lauri
Blake, Haley
Carpenter, Dan
Hayduk, Evan
Hoffman, Wayne
Marcoe, Sheila
Morford, Shawn
Nicolescu, Jerry
Phipps, Lisa
Pickering, Debbie
Rankin, Ann
Robertson, Paul
Running, Mike
Schmeirer, Ann
Siebert, Paul
Trenholm, Mark
Westgate, Dave
Wozniak, Owen

The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike. Ed Armstrong was introduced as a new member of the OWEB Board representing the Environmental Quality Commission. He spoke briefly about his background and experience.

I. Subcommittee Updates

Rosemary Furfey spoke about the recent activities of the Monitoring Subcommittee, including reconstitution of its membership. She discussed the approach of the committee and described the conversations at its last meeting. She presented four questions the committee will use to evaluate monitoring: 1) How do we gauge whether programs are effective? 2) How do we characterize what OWEB has done? 3) How do we assist long-term monitoring for FIPs? 4) How do we define monitoring goals and indicators of success?

Will Neuhauser spoke about the Focused Investments Subcommittee's work, which was discussed at the Board meeting yesterday.

Randy Labbe spoke on behalf of the Executive Committee. He said the Strategic Plan timeline has been discussed and would be presented to the Board in Item K. He then recapped some highlights from his May trip to Washington D.C. with Co-Chair Dan Thorndike and Executive Director Loftsgaarden to visit with Oregon's congressional delegations and federal agency representatives.

J. Public Comment

Debbie Pickering addressed the Board on behalf of the Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative, which ranges from Tillamook Bay to Siuslaw. She talked about this partnership of 25 participating groups to advance conservation activities and share goals. She thanked the Board for providing a technical assistance and a FIP Capacity-Building grant to the collaborative.

Paul Robertson introduced himself as the President of an 80-member organization, the Oregon Lakes Association. He invited interested parties to a fall gathering October 14-16 at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, and to visit the website www.oregonlakes.org. He said this association was founded to promote lake-watershed ecosystems in Oregon and is working with connect with watershed councils and soil & water conservation districts.

Haley Blake addressed the Board as the Council Coordinator for the Nestucca, Neskowin, and Sand Lakes Watershed, and as a partner from the Salmon Superhighway Project. With support from Lisa Phipps, she talked about the Salmon Superhighway as a broader ecosystem approach to reconnect historic habitat, reduce chronic flooding, and improve recreation opportunities. She explained how this collaborative project has listed 93 vetted and prioritized barrier removal projects that will open 178 miles of habitat for six major rivers of Oregon's North Coast. She said they are working with many partner agencies to leverage state funds with private funds. She thanked the Board for their past support and wanted to inform them of this new project partnership.

Dan Carpenter from the Siuslaw Watershed Council provided the Board a summary of recent conservation work with statistics about the productivity of the Siuslaw basin. He talked about the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, which is a focused strategic action plan combining 150 years of experience from BLM, SWCDs, WCs, NOAA, USFWS, and Tribes. He was grateful for the OWEB investment that he said will make this partnership stronger than ever as they develop a new strategic action plan with a focus on Coho recovery.

Jerry Nicolescu (OACD), Shawn Morford (NOWC), and Mike Running (COLT) addressed the Board about their commitment to the Oregon Conservation Partnership (OCP), promoting collaboration and cooperation. Nicolescu thanked the Board for making it possible to enter the partnership, citing the increase in value of the partnership as their numbers increase in the future. He also thanked the Board for their discussion of Item D, and how to spend recaptured funds. Nicolescu said he appreciates the thought and effort put into the discussion.

Morford introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Network, and provided background on her experience and history. She talked about making contact with watershed councils and districts and shared her early observations from the first few months in her position. She said the main message she is hearing is "don't forget us" -- the lower capacity, small offices that still need resources. She said they would like help coordinating insurance, large purchases, templates for contracts, RFP's, and more. Morford said her focus will continue to be sharing knowledge and resources. Rosemary Furfey thanked Shawn for coming and encouraged her to return to Board meetings with reports from Watershed Councils, which are the foundation of the restoration work happening in the state.

Running talked about the composition of the OCP and the 150 groups they work with and represent around the state. He said this group formally became the Oregon Conservation Partnership, which also includes the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network

(OCEAN). He said COLT secured a grant to hire a consultant to help the partnership develop a partnership agreement. He said three themes came out of this initial meeting to help them work together more effectively: understanding the policy arena, coordinating better training for staff and member organizations, and expanding funding to support existing and future voluntary conservation efforts.

Owen Wozniak came to thank the Board for their contribution toward the purchase of Hayden Island, which was acquired in December 2015 after a 4-year effort. The property, almost 300 acres on the main stem Willamette River just upstream from Salem, was acquired by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife in April and was named the "Gail Achterman Natural Area." He presented a framed photo of the area to the Executive Director and Board in gratitude for their support and funding.

Esther Lev from the Wetlands Conservancy talked about a 1,500 foot dike removal on a local slough property purchased with OWEB funds. She talked about the complexity of estuary work and some of the challenges of meeting the requirements of many different agencies, using this dike removal project as an example. She then provided an update on the Harney County FIP and talked about how the recent occupation has brought the FIP partners together. She talked about an 8-minute video clip from PBS about the collaborative, which she promised to share with Executive Director Loftsgaarden. She thanked the Board for their continued investments and commitment to conservation.

K. OWEB Strategic Plan Update

Executive Director Loftsgaarden introduced Sam Lobby, OWEB's Hatfield Fellow from Portland State University, who assisted the development of the timeline for the Strategic Plan. Loftsgaarden discussed the history of OWEB's Long Term Investment Strategy and the background on the development of the last Strategic Plan in 2010. She walked the Board through a timeline for OWEB's strategic planning process and the scheduled update of the Strategic Plan. Loftsgaarden said there will be at minimum three opportunities to hear about the plan before it becomes final. She said more detailed information will be developed once a facilitator is hired to assist with the process, with the goal of a final strategic plan being adopted in April 2018. However, there will be an opportunity to do more work on it if needed, and vote in October 2018 if the need is indicated in the planning process. In the meantime, as indicated in the timeline, there will be several retreats scheduled outside of regular Board meetings, multiple public listening sessions, and six stakeholder advisory group sessions, which will include representative members from across the state identified once a facilitator is hired.

Rosemary Furfey asked about a subcommittee for the strategic plan, and whether there were any lessons learned from the last strategic plan process. Loftsgaarden explained the Executive Committee, which is made up of members from each committee, could fill that role and did not recommend forming a new committee. Regarding lessons learned from development of the 2010 Strategic Plan, Loftsgaarden replied that ensuring an adaptive management process was a lesson learned and the timeline before the Board reflects that.

L. Governor's Priorities Update

Lauri Aunan from the Governor's Natural Resources Office provided updates on four of the Governor's Priorities that receive OWEB funding. She thanked the Board members on behalf of

Governor Kate Brown for supporting Oregon's continued leadership in voluntary cooperative watershed protection and restoration, particularly in the areas identified as priorities by the Governor. She said funding provided by the Board has been critical in the accomplishments that have happened under the Governor's initiatives.

1. **SageCon – Sage Grouse/Sage-Steppe Habitat Conservation**

Aunan talked about the success of Oregon's Sage Grouse Action Plan and how this plan encapsulates the State's commitment to habitat protection and improvements. She talked about how the Action Plan exemplifies the "power of partnership" between state agencies, federal agencies, and local partners. She said we should continue to see this power of engagement and leveraging of resources now that this plan is in implementation phase.

2. **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)**

Aunan provided an update on the progress to date for the OAHP Work Group, identifying the current partner organizations and summarizing the experience and expertise contributed by current team members. She said this team will work with and seek input from landowners, tribal governments, agencies, and other interested organizations to identify additional voluntary tools to keep Oregon's working farms and ranches working. She said the Board's funding of this project has been essential to moving this effort forward. Communication is critical and a facilitator has been hired to also help move things forward in the most constructive way. Aunan identified a suite of tools to support OAHP's dual goals of keeping the working lands productive while supporting fish, wildlife and natural resources, including Working Lands Conservation Easements, stewardship agreements, long-term contracts, and integrating working lands conservation with Oregon's land use laws, which do more to reduce development threats to working lands than laws in most other states. She also talked about a schedule of informational meetings over the summer and listening sessions around the state in the fall to seek input on the concepts and tools that will help landowners with succession planning and relevant tax and financial issues.

3. **Clean Water Partnership (CWP)**

Aunan spoke briefly about the history of the CWP initiative and its focus on increased coordination and partnerships for clean water improvements. She said this includes identifying priorities, engaging the broader community, and monitoring and reporting on water and habitat quality trends in areas of coordinated partnership investments. She reported on the addition of Jamie Damon as the project manager for the CWP, bringing leadership and experience from the Sage-Con project. Aunan said key state agencies involved in this work are OWEB and the departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality, and Fish and Wildlife. The CWP team is now engaging additional partners including other state agencies, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and non-governmental conservation, agricultural, and ranching organizations with further outreach to tribal governments and other potential partners this summer and fall. She said the CWP is about to embark on a series of external meetings to engage this broader partnership and leverage the work and experience of each group involved.

Alan Henning asked for a description of the connection between the OAHP and CWP. Aunan explained that while there will be similar groups in both efforts; OAHP is more about providing leverage and tools for landowners related to working lands. The CWP is focused on water quality. She agreed there needs to be collaboration and sharing of information.

Randy Labbe mentioned other states with established partnerships similar to the CWP. He wanted to know if there had been outreach for best practices. Aunan said the partner agencies will be able to provide some of that insight in the future.

Will Neuhauser talked about his perception of the struggle between the small family farm and industrial farming, and the economic pressure the smaller farmer is facing. He asked to what extent, if any, the opposing dynamics and needs will be addressed. Aunan said the group is focused on common needs and goals; however, this will evolve and the issue may be part of a larger conversation in the future.

Eric Quaempts asked, in reference to "voluntary tools," what the untapped federal funds are and what will be done to compete for those. Executive Director Loftsgaarden said federal funding for working lands easements is through the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, and OWEB is not always a good match for those funds as the mandate of Lottery funding is conservation of native fish and wildlife habitat and not working lands. An additional challenge is the lack of capacity of local organizations to deliver those projects.

Rosemary Furfey asked about Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA's) Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA), which OWEB is funding, and how this is feeding into the CWP, particularly for Coho on the coast. Aunan replied that ODA will get into SIA specifics in the following presentation.

Ed Armstrong asked if part of the work of the OAHP will be to help develop the local markets for small local farmers. Aunan said the discussion at this time is focused on working lands with conservation values. In the long term, this may be an issue that the program can address.

Dan Thorndike said the Governor's regional priorities process in SW Oregon addresses this issue in creating opportunities for smaller farms to get into other markets, which has ties with conservation benefits.

Will Neuhauser asked about whether the large amount of funding OWEB provides for water quality/irrigation efficiency projects ties into the CWP. Aunan replied that the Water Resources Department's (WRD) Integrated Water Resources Strategy involves local planning and prioritization of projects. WRD also has new funding for piping projects. While piping projects impact water quality, they have not been a high priority for ODA. This may change with the CWP, as it may be well positioned to address multiple issues. Loftsgaarden added that through WRD programs, CWP, SIA, and FIP programs, there is a deliberate focus on locally prioritizing projects, including irrigation. Loftsgaarden also noted that the cost for these rural infrastructure projects is large, and it is important for the state to address.

Eric Quaempts asked if there would be an opportunity to address the Governor's green energy portfolio of agricultural lands that are marginal quality or with water supply problems. He offered the idea of converting them to solar arrays, among other possibilities, as a way to help owners do something productive with their land. Aunan appreciated the creativity of this idea.

4. **Strategic Implementation Areas**

OWEB Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy introduced Sheila Marcoe, ODA's Water Quality Program's Natural Resource Policy Specialist, to provide the Board an update on the SIAs and the grant program at ODA for water quality. Sheila spoke briefly about the voluntary aspect of the program with compliance backstops to maintain trust with landowners, and discussed outreach and technical assistance programs conducted by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in small, focused geographic areas. She walked the Board through a presentation of the SIA selection process, with seven SIAs currently identified in the state. She said \$1 million was received through OWEB and the legislature for this process, and discussed the most recent grant cycle through which five grants were received. Two of the grants were fully funded and three were asked to resubmit within 90 days with additional information. Following this, the next grant cycle will be held in January 2017.

Alan Henning asked about the difference between the SIA projects and SWCD funded projects. Marcoe replied that the SIA projects are similar to other projects completed by SWCDs in focus areas, although there is different prioritization. It is also important to acknowledge that there is a regulatory firewall between focus areas and SIAs. With SIAs, there is a regulatory component and focus areas are broader. Executive Director Loftsgaarden added if a grantee is placed into an enforcement action, they are no longer eligible to utilize OWEB grant funding. Henning noted challenges he sees in the scope of the SIA process and how the program might fit into SB 1010 plans. Marcoe replied that the updates to the SB 1010 plans are occurring, with a focus on measuring outcomes of work.

Rosemary Furfey said she appreciated the data layers identified on the map, but was surprised to find so few agricultural areas identified on the coast, which are necessary for the success of the Oregon Coast Coho Recovery Plan. Marcoe said there has been discussion with the Governor's Natural Resource Office and the Clean Water Partnership regarding where ODA should move in and focus their outreach and resources at this time. Loftsgaarden added that a lot of rural land on the coast is not necessarily identified as being in agriculture and that there are other ways to conduct work on these lands (e.g., Coast Coho Business Plan).

5. **Coast Coho Partnership and the Coast Coho Business Plan**

Mark Trenholm, Senior Program Manager from the Wild Salmon Center came to speak on behalf of a number of agencies and organizations (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, OWEB, and the Wild Salmon Center) who put together the Oregon Coast Coho Business Plan. He presented many challenges of the program, and a number of shared goals. He talked about how OWEB funding was utilized to develop a framework of goals, and then test it in three areas: the Nehalem, the Siuslaw, and the Elk watersheds. He walked the Board through the Business Plan approach, the timeline, and the priorities for a second round of Business Plan development.

Randy Labbe asked Trenholm to make his presentation available to Board members. Loftsgaarden assured the Board that all presentations will be made available online.

Dan Thorndike asked about the project prioritization exercise and how it might impact grant applications submitted to OWEB. Loftsgaarden said that the applicant can point to the strategic action plan, and how it identified the project as high priority.

Rosemary Furfey asked about fish population diversity, and whether it was from the perspective of hatchery fish or life history diversity. Trenholm said that one criterion was life history diversity. Furfey also wanted to know if there were lessons learned from the three completed projects. Trenholm said because the capacity of SWCDs and watershed councils is so limited and the geographic scope is so large, they are guiding each project to have a laser-sharp strategic focus and then build a partnership around that focus, rather than a scattershot approach towards project selection. Some groups utilize a more opportunistic approach towards restoration, and are not as comfortable with such a tight focus. The other lesson learned is on the data side. There were a number of sources they thought would be applicable and easy to use, but the data sets turned out to be disparate and in poor shape. The last lesson learned was that it was a large process and they need more project managers.

Randy Labbe mentioned The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) development of a survey for an inventory of tidegates coast-wide and wondered if the Coast Coho Partnership would be coordinating with them on that opportunity. Trenholm said he will and would follow up with TNC to check on the specific status of the survey to bring the information into the partnership's strategic action plans.

Alan Henning asked about whether the partnerships are also looking at habitat loss that may be occurring. Trenholm said no, this plan is focused on restoration and the net benefit it will provide. He said those regulatory questions definitely need to be asked in the right forum where these issues can be looked at systemically, but the Coast Coho Business Plan is not the right forum.

Randy Labbe said he hoped that eventually a consortium of partners would meet to brainstorm the incentive packages and the benefits would be articulated to working landowners. Trenholm said the strategic action plans will address the systemic challenges by looking at landowner incentives, and not from the regulatory side.

N. Executive Director's Update

Executive Director Loftsgaarden introduced the topics of discussion in the Director's Update and the presenting staff.

1. Online Grant Applications Systems

Deputy Director Davis provided an update about the launch of OWEB's online grant applications system, which was made available to grantees on July 18 for OWEB's four primary application types: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Outreach grants. She walked the Board through the online application process and said internal testing by staff and external testing by grantees and reviewers throughout the state provided valuable feedback to ensure the system is intuitive and usable. She also talked about companion materials to assist grantees in the application process, including a guidance document for all applicants and Word templates for those applicants who use a collaborative grant-writing process prior to the entry of data into the system. Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff further described efforts of the application to improve

consistency. She referred the Board to Attachment A for a list of eight training dates and locations around the state over two weeks which have been scheduled in August and September, along with 2-hour webinars for applicants in September and October. The webinars will be recorded for use by those unable to attend.

Loftsgaarden acknowledged OWEB's information technology staff that implemented the system and all OWEB staff had contributed in some way to the final product.

Ed Armstrong asked if examples of grant applications will be available. Davis replied that the information buttons/guidance documents will provide this information initially, but good examples may be available after the October Open Solicitation grant cycle.

Alan Henning asked about technical support for grantees, including weekends. Davis said they will get a better feel for work needs after the trainings provide some feedback. She also identified a feedback mechanism within the program.

Eric Quaempts suggested this program; in addition to being helpful to applicants, has a lot of potential to be a good reporting tool. Davis agreed and talked about continued scoping and prioritizing within the agency.

2. Council Capacity Update

Loftsgaarden said that after analysis from OWEB's 2015 PSU intern, it was decided, in cooperation with the Operating Capacity subcommittee, to drop from the guidance document for the 2017-19 grant cycle the idea of a sixth merit criteria related to strategic collaboration.

3. Existing FIP Implementation and Capacity Building Awards

Loftsgaarden talked about the six-question online survey sent to all FIPCapacity-Building grantees to capture baseline information, and said these same questions will be asked at the conclusion of the grant. She said many grantees are hiring facilitators and are excited to move forward. She talked about a similar survey for FIP Implementation grantees sent to each partnership, and said these same survey questions will be asked at the conclusion of the grant. The OWEB Board is doing some very innovative investing. Staff want to be able to capture, for purposes of adaptively managing OWEB investments, how investments are working in those partnerships. This model is very interesting to other grant-makers, who have expressed interest in hearing about successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

4. Effectiveness Monitoring

Loftsgaarden directed the Board to Attachment A, explaining the list of monitoring initiatives that are moving forward. She said OWEB's Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Fetcho could answer specific questions from the Board on any project in the list.

O. Tillamook Southern Flow Corridor – Restoration Grant Adjustment

Partnerships Coordinator McCarthy presented a request to the Board for an adjustment to April 2015 Board actions in support of tidal restoration activities for the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project by adjusting the state and federal award amounts for the

acquisition and restoration portions of the Southern Flow Corridor – Landowner Preferred Alternative.

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was offered. Board members indicated support for a transfer of \$85,000 of recaptured Lottery funds from acquisition grant #214-9903-11013 to restoration grant #215-8007-12713 and reduce \$85,000 of Federal Coastal Wetlands funds from award #FP11AP00490 in support of tidal restoration activities for the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project with a vote to be held during the scheduled conference call to include a quorum of the members.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike at 11:35AM.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360

Salem, OR 97301-1290

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www.oregon.gov/OWEB



Special Meeting Notice

August 2, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

**State Lands Building
Third Floor, Conference Room 303
775 Summer Street NE, Salem**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will meet on Tuesday, August 2, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. via telephone conference call to take action on funding decisions discussed at the Board meeting in Otter Rock on July 26-27.

Due to the absence of a Board quorum at its meeting, voting on action items will be postponed until a later date when a Board quorum would be available via telephone conference call. The agenda items to be discussed are:

- Agenda Item B. Review and Approval of Minutes
- Agenda Item D. 2015-2017 Spending Plan Update
- Agenda Item E. Intensively Monitored Watershed – Funding Request
- Agenda Item F. Intensively Monitored Watershed – Funding Approval
- Agenda Item G. Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring – Funding Request
- Agenda Item H. Focused Investment Partnership Program – Solicitation Schedule Revisions
- Agenda Item O. Other Business – Tillamook Southern Flow Corridor-Restoration Grant Adjustment

Staff reports on the agenda items to be discussed are available on OWEB's web site at <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Pages/boardmtgs/boardmtg-SR-Jul2016.aspx>

Board members will participate in this meeting by telephone from multiple locations. The public may attend this meeting at the location listed above. Members of the public may comment only on the agenda items listed above during a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. The Board encourages persons to limit comments to no more than five minutes.

For further information about the meeting, contact Darika Barnes, the Board's Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 29, 2016.

Board decisions on the agenda items will be posted on the web site after the meeting.



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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Board Actions

August 2, 2016 Conference Call

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board met via telephone conference call on August 2, 2016 to take action on funding decisions discussed at the Board meeting in Otter Rock on July 26-27. An absence of quorum at the Otter Rock meeting necessitated the telephone conference call, where quorum was reached. Staff reports on the agenda items are available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Pages/boardmtgs/boardmtg-SR-Jul2016.aspx>

The Board made decisions on the following items:

Agenda Item B. Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board passed a motion to approve the minutes from the April 26-27, 2016 Board meeting in La Grande. The Board also passed a motion to retroactively merge Grant #216-8390 and Grant #216-8301 into a single grant. The funding sources, delegation authority, and award date for this grant remain the same as outlined in the April 2016 Board Action for Agenda Item G.

Agenda Item D. 2015-2017 Spending Plan Update

The Board passed a motion to reserve \$5.1 million of additional PCSRF funds to the 2015-2017 spending plan for the purposes described in Attachment B of the staff report. The Board also passed a motion to approve distribution of recaptured funds as outlined in Option 2 in Attachment B to the staff report, and for those funds designated for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation awards, delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with an award date of January 26, 2016.

Agenda Item E. Intensively Monitored Watershed – Funding Request

The Board passed a motion to Board award up to \$52,708 in support of socio-economic monitoring in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with an award date of August 2, 2016.

Agenda Item F. Intensively Monitored Watershed – Funding Approval

The Board passed a motion to approve receipt of \$291,000 in funding from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the projects associated with the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute these funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of August 2, 2016.

Agenda Item G. Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring – Funding Request

The Board passed a motion to award up to \$40,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan in support of Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements with an award date of August 2, 2016.

Agenda Item H. Focused Investment Partnership Program Solicitation Schedule Approval

The Board passed a motion to approve the proposed schedules for FIP Capacity-Building and FIP Implementation awards as outlined in Attachments A and B to the staff report.

Agenda Item O. Tillamook Southern Flow Corridor – Restoration Grant Adjustment

The Board passed a motion to transfer \$85,000 of recaptured Lottery funds from acquisition grant #214-9903-11013 to restoration grant #215-8007-12713 and reduce \$85,000 of Federal Coastal Wetlands funds from award # FP11AP00490 in support of tidal restoration activities for the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD October 25, 2016

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

August 02, 2016

Special Meeting of the OWEB Board

Salem, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present

Armstrong, Ed
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Quaempts, Eric
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Silbernagel, Cindy
Williams, Eric

Others Present

McGinnis, Cheryl
Meyer, Adam

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike at 3:05PM.

A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved to approve the minutes from the April 26-27, 2016 Board meeting in La Grande. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Director Renee Davis briefly reviewed the request for a technical correction to the minutes to facilitate grant management efficiency by merging a FIP implementation award with a related FIP capacity award.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the Board retroactively merge Grant #216-8390 and Grant #216-8301 into a single grant with the funding sources, delegation authority, and award date for this grant remaining the same as outlined in the April 2016 Board Action for Agenda Item G. The motion was seconded by Ed Armstrong. The motion passed unanimously.

D. 2015-2017 Spending Plan Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden summarized a request for the Board to approve additional PCSRF funds in the 2015-2017 spending plan.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the Board reserve \$5.1 million of additional PCSRF funds to the 2015-2017 spending plan for the purposes described in Attachment B of the staff report. The motion was seconded by Eric Quaempts. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed for Board members their request from the April meeting that OWEB staff bring three options to the July meeting for the distribution of over \$1 million in recaptured funds. Since the April meeting, an additional \$1 million in recaptured funds has become available, bringing the total amount to over \$2 million. Option 1 would add \$2 million of recaptured funds to the Open Solicitations grant program. Option 2 would add \$1.13 million of recaptured funds to the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program, to fully fund Implementation FIP grantees that received a reduced award at the January, 2016 Board meeting. Option 2 would add \$887,000 to the Open Solicitations Grant Program. She explained that Option 3, returning recaptured funds back to the category from which they were unspent, was challenging and recognized the sense from the Board at the July meeting was that it was not a viable option.

There was discussion to clarify FIP award reductions from the January meeting, which included explanations about Special Investment Partnership transition funding for certain partnerships.

Discussion moved to the progress-to-date of the FIPs and their ability to spend their current allotment. Grant Program Manager Eric Williams explained the general progress of the six Implementation FIPs and that updates will be provided at future Board meetings. Finally, there was discussion about the option of holding funds in reserve. Meta explained that the Open Solicitation subcommittee would be addressing this philosophical issue and would bring specific proposals before the Board in the future.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved to approve distribution of recaptured funds as outlined in Option 2 in Attachment B to the staff report, and for those funds designated for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation awards, delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with an award date of January 26, 2016. The motion was seconded by Eric Quaempts. There was a brief discussion regarding many projects recommended by Regional Review Teams in the Open Solicitations grant program that are falling below the funding line. The motion passed with seven supporting votes and one dissenting vote.

E. Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) – Funding Request

Deputy Director Renee Davis briefly reviewed the request for funding to follow up on IMW work already complete in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River. She explained this funding would support an analysis to determine if the last 10 years of restoration funding has had socio-economic impact in Grant County and on broader community indicators. Renee said there has been reporting on this and she would share with anyone interested the past report and a peer-reviewed publication from University of Oregon researchers.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved to award up to \$52,708 in support of socio-economic monitoring in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with an award date of August 2, 2016. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) – Funding Approval

Deputy Director Renee Davis briefly reviewed the request for receipt of funding from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the final year of the IMW, which would assist with limited field work, along with data analysis and development of a synthesis report.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved to approve the receipt of \$291,000 in funding from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the projects associated with the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute these funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of August 2, 2016. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring – Funding Request

Deputy Director Renee Davis briefly summarized the request for funding for effectiveness monitoring in the emerging area of interest of tidegate restoration work. Renee said this proposal would fund an initial phase of effectiveness monitoring to compile available information to inform the next steps of the Board and staff in this area.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved to award up to \$40,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan in support of Tidegate Effectiveness Monitoring, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements with an award date of August 2, 2016. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously.

H. FIP Program Solicitation Schedule Approval

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams reviewed the options presented at the July meeting for future FIP Capacity Building and FIP Implementation grant solicitations schedules. He said the Board expressed a preference at the April meeting to include a solicitation for Capacity Building FIPs in January 2017 with a Board award in October, 2017. Solicitation for Implementation FIPs would begin in January, 2018 with a Board award in July, 2019 which would allow current Capacity Building FIPs to complete their grant and prepare to apply for an Implementation award. The schedule would also allow for an equal amount of funding to be distributed to the FIP program in future biennia.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved to approve the proposed schedules for FIP Capacity-Building and FIP Implementation awards as outlined in Attachments A and B to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously.

O. Tillamook Southern Flow Corridor

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy briefly reviewed the request for an adjustment to fill a gap in federal funding between a coastal wetlands land acquisition and the restoration work to be completed on the land.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved to transfer \$85,000 of recaptured Lottery funds from acquisition grant #214-9903-11013 to restoration grant #215-8007-12713 and reduce \$85,000 of Federal Coastal Wetlands funds from award # FP11AP00490 in support of tidal restoration activities for the Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Project. The motion was seconded by Ed Armstrong. The motion passed unanimously.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike at 3:53 p.m.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

October 25-26

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Ashland Hills Hotel
2525 Ashland St.
Ashland, OR 97520

Directions: <http://ashlandhillshotel.com/map-directions/>

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D and F), anyone wishing to speak to the Board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.*

A. Board Member Comments

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update 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

The minutes of the July 26-27 meeting in Otter Rock and the August 2nd conference call will be presented for approval. *Action item.*

C. Board Subcommittees Updates

Representatives from the Executive, Focused Investments, Monitoring, Open Solicitation, and Operating Capacity subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full Board. *Information item.*

D. Public Comment [approximately 9:15 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board. (Note: A separate public comment period is available within Agenda Item F for Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications.)

E. Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitoring Watershed (IMW) – Funding Request

Deputy Director Renee Davis will provide an update to the Board on the monitoring activities of the IMW. The Board will consider a funding request for this program from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring for Open Solicitation line item in the 2015-2017 Spending Plan and delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds. *Action item.*

F. Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

Introduction

Prior to hearing public comment, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the April 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle.

Public Comment [approximately 11:05 a.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration and technical assistance grant applications to be considered for funding by the Board. Only comments pertaining to these specific grant applications will be accepted during this portion of the meeting. The Board will not accept any written materials at this time. Any written comments pertaining to pending grant proposals must be received by agency staff by the October 11, 2016 deadline. *The Board encourages speakers to limit comments to three to five minutes.*

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The Board will consider grant applications submitted by the April 18-19, 2016 application deadline for restoration and technical assistance grants. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. *Action item.*

Tour – 2:30p.m.

The Board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of dry-type forest restoration efforts associated with the Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Project. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please dress for an outside tour and be prepared to provide your own transportation.

Informal Reception – 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception sponsored by local partners and stakeholders.

Location:
Ashland Hills Hotel
2525 Ashland St.
Ashland, OR 97520

Wednesday, October 26, 2016***Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.***

During the public comment period (Agenda Item G), anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.*

G. Public Comment [approximately 8:00 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

H. Authorize Interagency Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for Fish Passage Projects

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and ODOT Statewide Fish Passage and Aquatic Biology Leader Bill Warncke will request the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with ODOT in the amount of \$250,000, and to delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with eligible grantees on a project by project basis under the terms of the Master Funding Contribution Agreement. *Action item.*

I. OWEB Rulemaking

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will update the Board on the process and schedule for rulemaking that is planned to occur within Oregon Administrative Rules Division 5 (OWEB Grant Program) and Division 10 (Restoration Grants). *Action item.*

J. Approval of Board Recommendations for 2015-2017 Biennial Report

Deputy Director Renee Davis will update the Board on the agency's development of the 2015-2017 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The Board will be asked to adopt recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office. *Action item.*

K. OWEB Strategic Plan

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update to the Board on developments that have occurred in the process to update OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan. *Information item.*

L. Executive Director's Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the Board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

M. Other Business

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 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **six 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 six 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 eight voting members** present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if three or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony

The Board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

A public comment period for **pending Open Solicitation grant applications** will be held on *Tuesday, October 25 at 11:05 a.m.* The Board will not accept any written materials at that time. Any written comments pertaining to pending regular grant proposals must be received by the October 11, 2016 deadline. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.

General public comment periods will be held on *Tuesday, October 25 at 9:15 a.m.* and *Wednesday, October 26 at 8:00 a.m.* for any matter before the Board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the Board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.*

Tour

The Board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to Board members and OWEB staff. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

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 Darika Barnes, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes (503-986-0181) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Laura Masterson, *Board of Agriculture*
Ed Armstrong, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
John Roberts, *Water Resources Commission*
Eric Quaempts, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Dan Thorndike, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Karl Wenner, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Rosemary Furfey, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Kathy Stangl, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. National Resource Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Contact Information

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OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board– Darika Barnes
darika.barnes@oweb.state.or.us
503-986-0181

2017 Board Meeting Schedule

January 24-25 in Madras
April 25-26 in Salem
July 25-26 in Boardman/Hermiston
October 24-25 in Lebanon

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, location TBD
April 24-25, location TBD
July 24-25, location TBD
October 30-31, location TBD

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site:
www.oregon.gov/OWEB.



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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Board Actions October 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board met in Ashland on October 25-26. The agenda and staff reports for the meeting are available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Pages/boardmtgs/boardmtg-SR-Oct2016.aspx>

The Board made decisions on the following items:

Agenda Item B. Review and Approval of Minutes

The Board approved both the minutes from the July 25-26, 2016 meeting in Otter Rock and the minutes from the August 2, 2016 special meeting held by conference call.

Agenda Item E. Funding Request for Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed

The Board awarded up to \$18,897 from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring for Open Solicitation line item in the spending plan in support of Oregon State University's work as part of the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegated authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements, with an award date of October 25, 2016.

Agenda Item F. April 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Awards

The Board approved the staff funding recommendations as shown in Attachments E-J to the April 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle staff report.

Agenda Item H. Authorize Interagency Agreement with ODOT for Fish Passage Projects

The Board authorized the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide grant-making services for habitat restoration projects up to \$250,000, and delegated authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement.

Agenda Item I. OWEB Rulemaking

The Board authorized rulemaking to amend the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants (Division 10) administrative rules.

Agenda Item J. 2015-2017 Oregon Plan Biennial Report: Update and Approval of Board Recommendations

The Board adopted as final the draft Board recommendations, for inclusion in the 2015-2017 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds including recommendations for modification of the Clean Water Partnership segment and the working farms and ranches segment, and capturing key staff positions as outlined in this Board meeting.

Agenda Item M. Other Business

The Board approved all Plant Establishment and Effectiveness Monitoring splits as indicated in the evaluations for approved restoration grants.

October 25-26, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Committee Update

Background

The Executive Committee is currently engaged in assisting with the development of Board messages for the biennial report, initiation of the strategic planning process, and receiving periodic updates on legislation to be proposed by OWEB during the 2017 Legislative Session.

Summary of Committee Work this Quarter

The Subcommittee met on September 9. The committee worked with staff to refine a series of messages and recommendations from the Board for use in OWEB's biennial report to the Legislative Assembly, due in advance of the 2017 Session. Committee recommendations have been provided electronically to the Board and are slated for review and approval at the October Board meeting as part of Agenda Item J.

The Executive Committee also discussed preparations for the 2017 Strategic Plan, including timing for the first Staff and Board retreat. The retreat is planned for the last week of November. Details about the strategic planning process are provided under Board meeting Agenda Item K.

The Executive Committee received an update from staff on upcoming legislation for the 2017 session. Specifically, OWEB is proposing a series of updates to the agency's current statutes, including the addition of a new member to the OWEB Board – a nonvoting member representing the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

OWEB is also sponsoring legislation for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program as a result of extensive work over the last year by a group of agricultural and conservation organizations. This working lands program will be summarized as a part of the Director's Update at the Board meeting.

Submitted by:

Randy Labbe and Dan Thorndike, Co-Chairs

Staff Contact:

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Meta.loftsgaarden@state.or.us or (503)986-0180.

October 25-26, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Subcommittee Update

Background

Since the Board awarded funds to Implementation and Capacity-Building FIPs in January, the Subcommittee's focus has shifted to monitoring the early progress of the FIPs and planning for future biennium awards and solicitations.

Summary of Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The Subcommittee met on September 9 and discussed progress made by Implementation FIPs, the overall FIP effectiveness monitoring project the Board awarded in July, and plans for staff and partnership reporting to inform the Board's decision-making process for second biennium Implementation awards.

Staff provided updates on the status of project grants awarded under each of the six Implementation FIPs. Overall, the Implementation FIPs have proceeded at a healthy pace, with agreements in place or drafted for more than half of the awarded funds. Attachment A provides the project breakdown and status for each Implementation FIP.

Staff provided an update on the FIP effectiveness monitoring project awarded by the Board in April. Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) has begun this work by reviewing and evaluating reporting frameworks developed for other large-scale investments around the country. Staff and the FIP and Monitoring Subcommittees will review a summary of this work and provide feedback to inform the FIP reporting framework. BEF will then test the framework with one Implementation FIP. Meanwhile, BEF has begun outreach to each FIP to inform them about this work and has scheduled interviews to begin collecting information.

The Subcommittee then discussed what types of information will be needed for the Board to make informed decisions about second biennium awards for Implementation FIPs. A reporting template will be developed and released to allow adequate lead time for the Implementation FIPs to report to the Board in January and April regarding the status of each partnership and its funding request for biennium 2. Staff will assess and report on project level progress and the partnerships will report on the challenges and successes of the FIP model to date.

Submitted by:

Will Neuhauser, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0047.

Attachments

- A. FIP Initiatives Update

FIP Initiatives Update

Date: September 9, 2016

Deschutes Partnership

Project List	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Proposed Leverage	Status
Deschutes Partnership Capacity	Capacity	\$95,000	\$23,860	Grant agreement executed
Opal Springs Dam Volitional Fish Passage Phase 2	Restoration	\$1,765,000	\$6,754,911	In technical review
Three Sisters Irrigation District Main Canal Phase 8	Restoration	\$258,695	\$1,196,084	In technical review
Bradley Property Acquisition	Land Acquisition	\$1,000,000		Proposal expected 10/18/16
	SUBTOTAL	\$3,118,695	\$7,974,855	
	TOTAL AWARD	\$4,000,000		
	BALANCE	\$881,305		

Table 1

Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group

Project List	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Proposed Leverage	Status
Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation, Phase 4	Restoration	\$295,420	\$436,040	In technical review
Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation Phase 4 - Channel Monitoring	Monitoring		\$75,854	
Snag Boat Bend Floodplain Restoration, Phase 3	Restoration	\$200,000	\$294,872	In technical review
Sam Daws Landing, Phase 3 Restoration Design	Technical Assistance	\$60,000	\$5,247	In technical review
Bowers Rock Restoration, Phase 1	Restoration	\$94,000	\$49,242	In technical review
Green Island Floodplain, Phase 4	Restoration	\$117,850	\$376,665	In technical review
Willamette Confluence Middle Fork Restoration	Restoration	\$675,001	\$547,909	In technical review
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group Partnership Coordination	Capacity	\$70,005	\$17,690	In technical review
	SUBTOTAL	\$1,512,276	\$1,803,519	
	TOTAL AWARD	\$2,550,000		
	BALANCE	\$1,037,724		

Table 2

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

Project List	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Proposed Leverage	Status
Aquatic Health Basin-Wide Baseline	Monitoring	\$55,619	\$64,776	Grant agreement for grantee signature
Silvies River Irrigation Diversion Structure Replacement 1 – Tyler	Technical Assistance	\$61,276	\$16,218	Grant agreement executed
Carp Biomass Threshold Project	Technical Assistance	\$100,996	\$28,098	Grant agreement executed
Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative	Capacity	\$153,890	\$85,000	Grant agreement for grantee signature
Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative	Outreach	\$48,961	\$64,800	In technical review
	SUBTOTAL	\$420,742	\$258,892	
	TOTAL AWARD	\$1,780,000		
	BALANCE	\$1,359,258		

Table 3

Sage Grouse

Project List	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Proposed Leverage	Status
Juniper Mountain Off-Stream Water	Restoration	\$124,938	\$40,588	Grant agreement executed
Honey Creek Sage-Steppe	Restoration	\$232,806	\$366,896	Grant agreement executed
In the Shadow of Ironside	Restoration	\$445,144	\$173,092	Grant agreement in DOJ review
Model to Protect Sage-Grouse – Landscape CM Implementation	Restoration	\$846,918	\$504,958	Grant agreement in DOJ review
North Warner Medusahead Control	Restoration	\$40,972	\$148,500	Grant agreement executed
TA Conservation Objective	Technical Assistance	\$55,612	\$16,992	Grant agreement executed
	SUBTOTAL	\$1,746,390	\$1,251,026	
	TOTAL AWARD	\$2,171,000		
	BALANCE	\$424,610		

Table 4

Ashland Forest All-Lands

Project List	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Proposed Leverage	Status
Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration	Technical Assistance	\$407,511	\$139,475	Grant agreement in DOJ review
	SUBTOTAL	\$407,511	\$139,475	
	TOTAL AWARD	\$1,660,000		
	BALANCE	\$1,252,489		

Table 5

Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

Project List	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Proposed Leverage	Status
Hall Ranch Habitat Restoration	Technical Assistance	\$49,610	\$130,259	In technical review
Restoration Outreach Coordinator	Capacity	\$29,772	\$39,560	Grant agreement for grantee signature
Grande Ronde Basin Monitoring	Monitoring	\$81,872	\$30,098	Grant agreement in development
	SUBTOTAL	\$161,254	\$199,917	
	TOTAL AWARD	\$1,722,000		
	BALANCE	\$1,560,746		

Table 6

October 25-26, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee's recent focus is to gain a strong familiarity with past and current monitoring efforts to help guide the agency's future monitoring investments.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The Subcommittee met on September 8 and discussed the following topics:

- Categories and definitions of OWEB's various types of monitoring investments;
- Intent of OWEB-funded monitoring and effectiveness monitoring;
- Overall investments through time in different restoration actions and the associated effectiveness monitoring work that has been or is informing those investments; and
- Emerging priorities for OWEB's monitoring investments.

Staff outlined high-level categories of monitoring investments: 1) monitoring grants to local organizations; 2) OWEB-initiated effectiveness monitoring; and 3) monitoring by other natural resource agencies supported by Measure 76 operating funds and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). Staff also reviewed a crosswalk between past restoration investments and OWEB's effectiveness monitoring work (Attachment A).

The subcommittee discussed the value of both broader data gathering (e.g., grants in support of status and trends monitoring) and more targeted/prioritized monitoring actions intended to address internal OWEB information needs (e.g., as occurs with programmatic effectiveness monitoring) and scientific or technical questions.

They also discussed the importance of maximizing effective use of limited monitoring funds. The subcommittee will be initiating a process to gather information from OWEB staff, technical experts from partner agencies, and monitoring grantees that will be used to establish more clearly defined expectations and guidance for monitoring grants. As part of this process, the subcommittee will explore whether OWEB should consider developing priorities for some of its monitoring investments.

The subcommittee will convene again in 6-8 weeks to continue discussion of the monitoring guidance topic.

Joint Subcommittee Update about FIP Monitoring

On September 21, a conference call was held for members of the Monitoring and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) subcommittees to learn more about the new FIP monitoring initiative. At its April 2016 meeting, the Board awarded funding to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to assist with this initiative. Work by BEF has two components: 1) develop and begin implementation of a progress-monitoring framework to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments in FIP Implementation partnerships, and 2) document lessons learned about partnership development associated with the FIP Capacity Building investments.

During the conference call, BEF staff provided a status update about both the Partnership Learning (Capacity Building FIPs) and Progress Monitoring Framework (Implementation FIPs) components. The discussion included review and feedback on a conceptual model and generic 'results chain' (or a schematic that describes the anticipated connection between an action and the ultimate desired impact via expected intermediate results) for the Progress Monitoring

Framework. The subcommittee members who participated in the call engaged in a dialogue with the BEF team and OWEB staff, provided feedback about the initial work, and expressed support for the approach to both components of the FIP monitoring. BEF has begun outreach to the FIPs and will be scheduling meetings with each FIP in the coming weeks.

The Monitoring and FIP subcommittees will continue to receive updates about the progress on FIP monitoring, as will the full Board during future meetings.

To Be Presented at the October 2016 Board Meeting by:

Alan Henning, Subcommittee Member

Staff Contact:

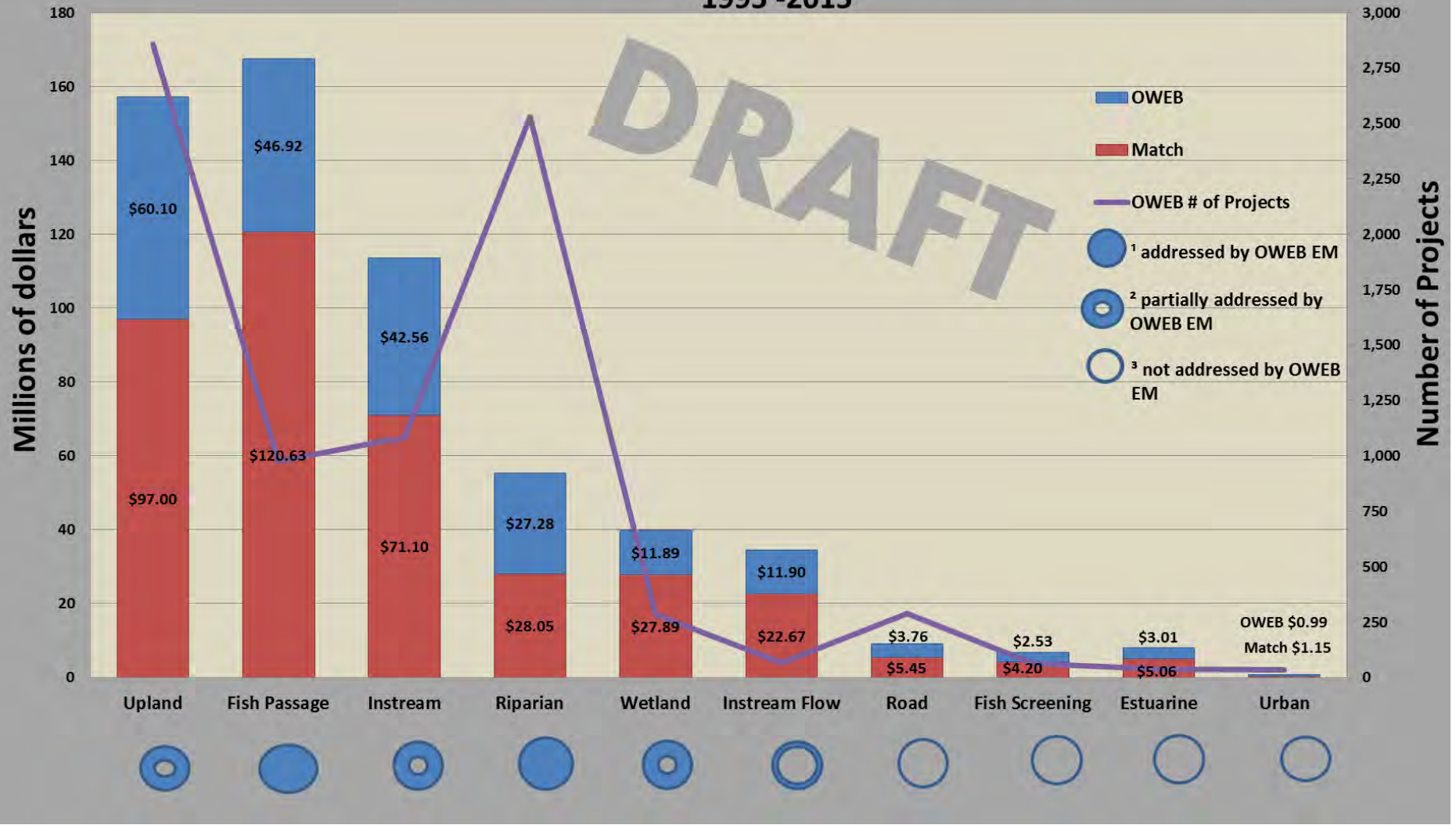
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@state.or.us or 503-986-0203

Attachments

- A. Crosswalk of OWEB's Restoration Investments with Effectiveness Monitoring Work

OWEB Restoration Investments and Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) 1995 -2015



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DEFINITIONS

Definitions:

¹ "**Addressed by OWEB EM**" - OWEB Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) has been completed in the past or is currently underway to better understand the outcomes associated with this restoration activity type

² "**Partially addressed by OWEB EM**" - OWEB Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) has been completed in the past or is currently underway to better understand the outcomes associated with some of the restoration activities associated with this category. For example, upland restoration activity type is broad and includes many restoration activities. OWEB's Programmatic EM has not covered all of those activity types. In other instances, past Programmatic EM either has not yet been summarized sufficiently to ensure that the monitoring is fully comprehensive or the monitoring that was done did not adequately address the ecological outcomes associated with a specific restoration activity. Line thickness indicates the degree to which the restoration category has been addressed.

³ "**Not addressed by OWEB EM**" - Programmatic EM has not been done by OWEB on this restoration activity type.

October 25-26, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Background

The Open Solicitation Committee met for the first time on August 31, 2016. Given the breadth and depth of issues associated with open solicitation programs, the Subcommittee decided to tackle Outreach grants first, followed by Small Grants, the funding line process, and the review team process.

Summary of Subcommittee Work this Quarter

At its inaugural meeting, the Subcommittee discussed the change in constitutional language from Measure 66 to Measure 76 in 2010, which narrowed the focus of eligible Outreach grants to only those “necessary for carrying out” eligible acquisition and restoration projects. Prior to that, Measure 66 had more broadly defined outreach to include increasing awareness, knowledge, or skills regarding watershed restoration and protection as well as professional development.

The Subcommittee discussed the importance of stakeholder engagement, which includes two-way communication between and among project proponents and stakeholders. Following a discussion about the kinds of outreach projects OWEB has funded since the change in constitutional language, the Subcommittee directed staff to review projects funded since 2012 to determine how well they align with current outreach criteria.

The Subcommittee then discussed the kinds of information they would like to see in Outreach applications that would better reflect the current criteria. Staff will work with stakeholders to review approaches that both meet constitutional and statutory requirements and make sense for applicants. Staff will use feedback from the committee and stakeholder groups to develop a new Outreach application and inform stakeholders in time for the Fall 2017 solicitation.

Submitted by:

Bob Webber, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0047.

October 25-26, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Operating Capacity Subcommittee Update

Background

The Operating Capacity Subcommittee focuses on issues related to watershed council and soil and water conservation district operating capacity grants, monitoring of capacity investments, support for the statewide partnership organizations and organizational restructuring grants. The Subcommittee is beginning to shift its focus to the 2017-2019 council capacity grant cycle.

Summary of Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The Subcommittee met via phone on October 5 and discussed 2017-2019 council capacity grants, changes to several OWEB policies that impact watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, organizational restructuring grants and the FIP Partnership Learning project (which is reported on in detail in the FIP Subcommittee report).

Staff reminded the Subcommittee about the council capacity eligibility review process and the upcoming deadlines. All watershed councils interested in applying to a 2017-2019 operating capacity grant must submit eligibility materials by the November deadline. Staff will review those materials and notify councils of the results in December. Any councils that are determined to be ineligible may appeal to OWEB's Executive Director, not the OWEB Board. Watershed councils that appeal will be notified of the results of the appeal by January 20, 2017. 2017-2019 operating capacity grants will be awarded at the July 2017 OWEB Board meeting. Staff also proposed spending plan numbers for the 2017-2019 operating capacity budget, including a slight increase in watershed council and soil and water conservation district operating capacity grants.

Staff updated the Subcommittee on changes to OWEB's budget categories and grantee insurance requirements. Budget category changes have increased the flexibility of operating capacity grant funds. Discussion around project liability has resulted in OWEB requiring all grant recipients to have a minimum amount of general liability and auto liability insurance. Those grantees that are implementing more complex projects will have to complete an insurance risk assessment to determine if additional insurance coverage is needed beyond OWEB's basic requirements. Both changes take effect for all grants submitted to OWEB after January 1, 2017.

Staff provided updates on the current organizational restructuring grants, including the grant award to four partners in Benton County to explore a shared space and shared services model and the merged Rogue River Watershed Council. Along with board and staff from the Rogue River Watershed Council, OWEB staff will present lessons learned from the merger at a GrantMakers for Oregon and SW Washington event in October.

Submitted by:

Debbie Hollen, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator
courtney.shaff@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0046



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Funding Request for Upper Middle Fork John Day
Intensively Monitored Watershed
October 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update regarding the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) and requests the Board approve \$18,897 for ongoing monitoring activities of the IMW.

II. Background

The Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and a 10-year study period, with the intent of describing the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. IMW partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, Oregon State University (OSU), University of Oregon, and Washington State University.

Since the 2007 inception of the IMW, the Board has provided additional funding in support of critical aspects of this large monitoring study. These funds complement contributions from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) and have been necessary to meet the monitoring needs of this large-scale monitoring project. The Board's investment has allowed priority monitoring work to occur that helps answer important watershed-scale questions that are being addressed by the study objectives. Examples of activities funded with past Board investments include:

- Geomorphology and groundwater monitoring;
- Water-quality sampling using fiber optic cables;
- PacFish/InFish Biological Opinion (PIBO) landscape-scale systematic surveys; and
- Spatial and temporal analyses of macroinvertebrate results.

At its July 2016 meeting, the Board approved receipt of funding in the amount of \$291,000 that had been provided by the PSMFC to OWEB in support of the IMW. The funds will support the vast majority of ongoing monitoring activities from October 2016 through September 2017. This time period comprises the tenth year

of the IMW. The PSMFC funding will provide the resources needed for the partners to continue to perform priority monitoring activities, in addition to focusing a significant amount of time on analyzing and compiling their research into a comprehensive synthesis report for OWEB, PSMFC, and NOAA Fisheries, which provides the PSMFC pass-through funding.

III. Funding Request for 2016-2017

A modest amount of funding, which will complement the PSMFC funding, is requested from the Board in support of OSU's work during the 2016-2017 period. The funding will support OSU's multiple roles in the project: monitoring a set of reaches for temperature dynamics during the low-flow season with fiber-optic cables; monitoring floodplain phreatic (i.e., aquifer) elevations; assisting in flow measurement in the mainstem river and selected tributaries; monitoring micro-meteorological conditions along the IMW reaches; and managing and interpreting data collected in these efforts. Specific information about OSU's scope of work is found in Attachment A.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board award up to \$18,897 from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring for the Open Solicitation line item in the spending plan in support of Oregon State University's work as part of the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegate authority to the Director to enter into appropriate agreements, with an award date of October 25, 2016.

Attachments

- A. Oregon State University 2016-2017 Scope of Work for the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW

Attachment A

Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitoring Watershed (IMW) 2016-2017 OSU SCOPE OF WORK

Oregon State University

During the period of October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, the scope of work is dedicated to wrapping up this 10-year project. The primary activities surround filling critical data gaps and synthesizing the datasets from OSU with the work done by the larger IMW team. The OSU team will continue to visit the Oxbow Conservation Area for data downloading from all wells and well-depth data loggers. Data downloading also will occur at the three weather stations run by OSU that are located in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Basin. These data, along with complete datasets that span the entire project, will be published on the IMW's Egnyte data site.

The OSU team has filled several roles in the project: monitoring a selected set of reaches for temperature dynamics during the low-flow season; monitoring floodplain phreatic elevations; assisting in the measurement of flow in the mainstem John Day River and selected tributaries; monitoring of micro-meteorological conditions along the IMW reaches; management for the data collected in these efforts; and interpretation of these data.

Synthesis efforts will be the core of two parallel graduate theses that will be completed during this period. Brendan Buskirk, M.S. candidate, will develop a synthesis of all of the distributed temperature sensing (DTS) temperature data for the duration of the project. In addition, he will employ the special data collected in the summer of 2016 regarding bed permeability of the mainstem to explain the notably low hyporheic exchange seen in the river over the past 8 years. Mark Rogers, Ph.D. candidate, will focus on synthesis of the macro-invertebrate data with the stream morphology and fish growth data, as well as stream temperature, to validate a physiologically based model of environmental controls on salmon growth.

Also during the year, the team will participate in monthly teleconference calls and the biannual face-to-face meetings. Administratively, the team will continue to provide quarterly reports and biannual website updates, and commit to providing a final completion report for the project.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – April 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle
October 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the April 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle and funding recommendations. Staff request the Board consider the funding recommendations outlined in Attachments E-J to the staff report. Staff recommend funding 52 restoration projects and 28 technical assistance projects.

II. April 2016 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The April 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle offered Restoration and Technical Assistance applications. A total of 144 grant applications seeking over \$17 million were received. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, two restoration applications (217-2008 and 217-4000) and one technical assistance application (217-6029) were withdrawn by the applicant prior to review. Two restoration applications (217-1007, 217-6031) were withdrawn after review.

C. Review Process

Staff sent eligible grant proposals for review to the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled site visits to as many proposed projects as possible. Per OWEB process, all RRT members were invited on these visits. Following site visits, OWEB facilitated RRT meetings in each region. Reviewers considered the ecological significance of the proposed project, technical merit, feasibility, likelihood of success, experience of the applicant, whether the budget supports the proposed work and the overall cost-benefit of applications. After classifying applications as "fund" or "do not fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type. New this cycle, OWEB staff introduced the use of "clickers" to implement more efficiently confidential voting on funding recommendations. RRT feedback on the use of clickers has been positive.

The RRTs' evaluations and recommendations in summary form are distributed to all applicants whose proposals were reviewed by that team. Prior to the Board meeting, staff forward to the Board all written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. April 2016 Grant Cycle and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

At the July 2015 Board meeting the Board adopted a Salmon License Plate Policy (Agenda Item I). Based on this policy, staff recommend distributing \$250,000 of Salmon License Plate funds for this cycle among four projects listed in Attachment B.

B. Sage-Grouse Projects

At the April 2015 Board meeting the Board adopted a policy to make available at least \$10 million through its granting programs over the next ten years in support of projects located in Oregon's sage steppe ecosystem directed to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (Agenda Item D). For the April 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle, there are two projects recommended for funding that meet these criteria, totaling \$60,796 (Attachment C). Note that the Board's January 2016 award of \$2,171,000 for the *Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties* Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative resulted in fewer sage-grouse projects eligible for Open Solicitation awards.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the April 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2015-17 Spending Plan and April 2016 Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Application Type	Spending Plan Total	Previously Awarded	Staff Recommended	Grant Funds Remaining
Restoration	\$25,207,000	\$12,359,842	\$6,458,869	\$6,388,289
Technical Assistance	\$3,060,000	\$1,312,280	\$912,745	\$834,975
Monitoring	\$2,120,000	\$948,269	\$0	\$1,171,731
Outreach	\$600,000	\$309,634	\$0	\$290,366
TOTAL	\$30,987,000	\$14,930,025	\$7,371,614	\$8,685,361

Table 1

A. Development of Staff Recommendations

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations and the funding availability in the 2015-2017 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the Board. Attachment D contains the number of applications recommended for funding by RRTs and staff by region and type, and the funding requests recommended by staff by region and type.

B. April 2016 Cycle – Regional Application Funding Recommendations

Staff recommendations for Board action are identified by region for the applications in Attachments E-J.

Attachments

- A. Grant Applications Submitted
- B. Salmon License Plate Projects
- C. Sage-Grouse Projects
- D. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
- E. Region 1 Funding Recommendations
- F. Region 2 Funding Recommendations
- G. Region 3 Funding Recommendations
- H. Region 4 Funding Recommendations
- I. Region 5 Funding Recommendations
- J. Region 6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Types of Applications Received – April 2016

	TA	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	4	12	16
Region 2	4	21	25
Region 3	5	15	20
Region 4	15	8	23
Region 5	5	20	25
Region 6	7	28	35
STATEWIDE	0	0	0
Totals	40	104	144

Table A 1

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	TA	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	\$139,508	\$2,823,882	\$2,963,390
Region 2	\$127,432	\$3,640,856	\$3,768,288
Region 3	\$130,081	\$2,063,083	\$2,193,164
Region 4	\$567,526	\$2,548,304	\$3,115,830
Region 5	\$148,292	\$2,464,764	\$2,613,056
Region 6	\$243,894	\$2,726,247	\$2,970,141
STATEWIDE	0	0	0
Totals	\$1,356,733	\$16,267,136	\$17,623,869

Table A 2

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

April 2016 Grant Cycle Salmon License Plate Projects

Application #	Title	Project Objectives	Total Project Cost	Salmon License Plate Contribution
217-1001	Walker Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project	Replaces one fish barrier and improves in-stream habitat, improving fish passage to 1.5 miles of coho spawning and rearing habitat.	\$260,837	\$75,000
217-2013	Butcherknife Creek Culvert Replacement	Replaces a fish passage barrier culvert, opening 2.5 miles of cool water "high value" coho habitat.	\$153,731	\$50,000
216-3012	Fishers Bend – Phase II Side Channel Restoration	Reconnects almost one mile of a historic side-channel, providing critical off-channel rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids.	\$186,854	\$50,000
216-3013	Middle Crabtree & Upper Thomas Cr Riparian Restoration	Restores 25 acres of floodplain forest, addressing limiting factors for spring Chinook.	\$148,834	\$75,000
			Total	\$250,000

Table B 1

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

April 2016 Grant Cycle Sage Grouse Projects

Application #	Application Type	Title	Project Objectives	Total Project Cost	Dedicated Sage Grouse Funding
217-4017	Technical Assistance	Lake County Sage-Grouse Conservation	Develop site-specific plans in areas outside of the Sage-grouse FIP geography to improve and protect sage-grouse habitat under a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances.	\$50,000	\$50,000
216-5020	Technical Assistance	High Desert Drought Resilient Restoration	Work with landowners to develop 10 conservation plans that address drought resiliency affecting sage-grouse, spotted frog, and redband trout.	\$32,388	\$10,796
Total					\$60,796

Table C 1

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the April 2016 Grant Cycle



Region	Restoration RRT	Restoration Staff	Restoration %	Technical Assistance RRT	Technical Assistance Staff	Technical Assistance %
Region 1	8	7	88%	2	2	100%
Region 2	17	7	41%	4	4	100%
Region 3	9	9	100%	2	2	100%
Region 4	4	3	75%	13	12	92%
Region 5	15	13	87%	4	4	100%
Region 6	18	13	72%	5	5	100%
Total	71	52	73%	30	28	93%

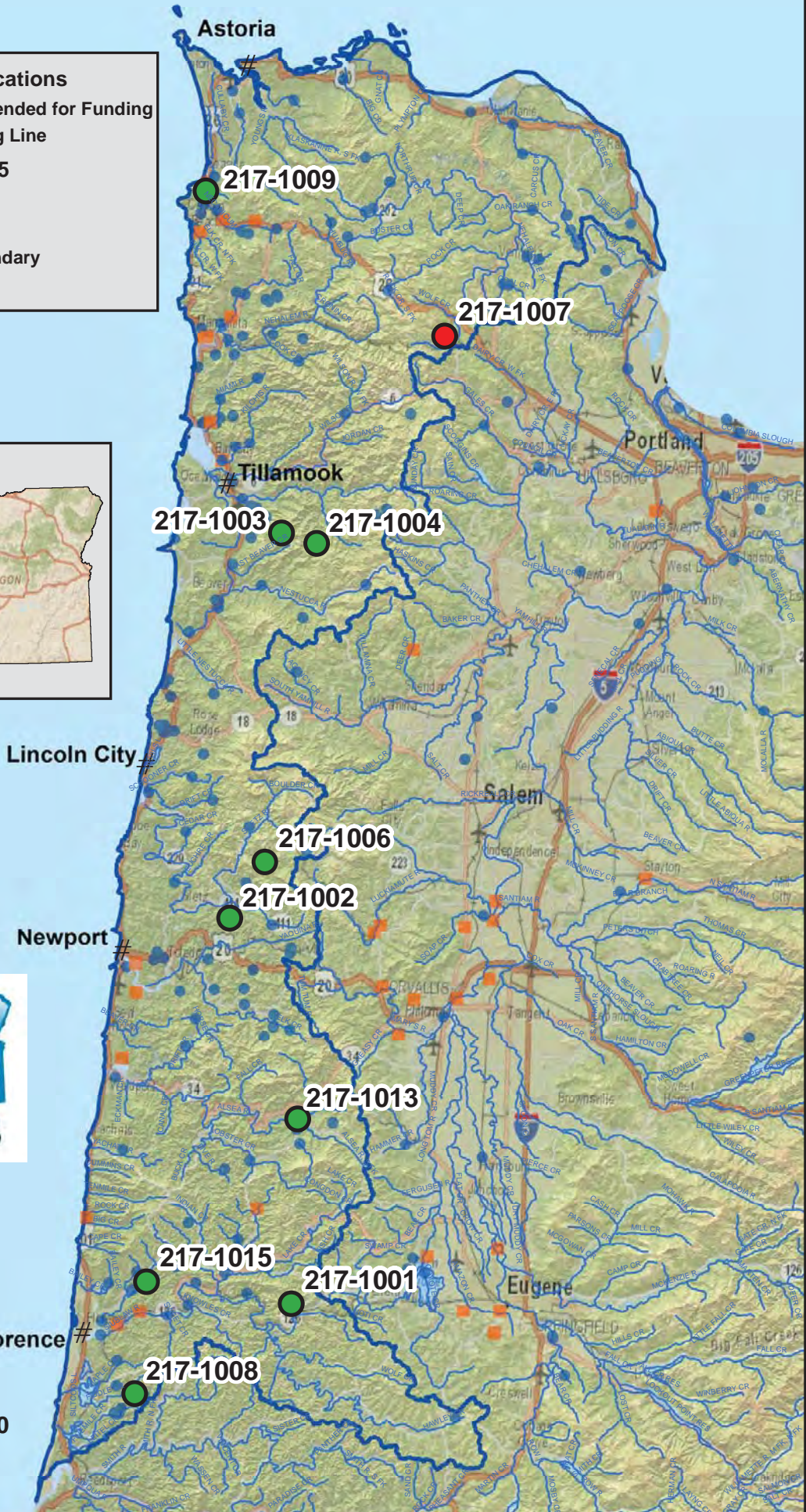
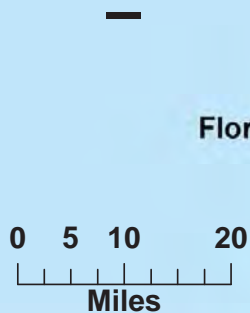
Table D 1

Region	Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by Staff	Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by Staff
Region 1	\$1,020,847	\$54,643
Region 2	\$1,220,295	\$127,432
Region 3	\$1,256,784	\$36,574
Region 4	\$694,400	\$423,091
Region 5	\$1,087,118	\$120,792
Region 6	\$1,179,425	\$150,213
Total	\$6,458,869	\$912,745

Table D 2

Application Funding Status North Coast Region - April 2016

- April 2016 Applications**
- Staff Recommended for Funding
 - Below Funding Line
- Grants 1998-2015**
- Acquisition
 - Restoration
-  Region 1 Boundary
 Streams



Region 1 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Region 1 - North Coast					
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-1003	Tillamook Bay WC	Skookum Reservoir - Dam Breach	An earthen dam on Fawcett Creek will be breached and access restored for salmon to 2 miles of habitat and other natural systems in the Tillamook Bay watershed. The project will restore habitat for Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, Cutthroat Trout, and lamprey.	264,198	Tillamook
217-1008	Siuslaw SWCD	Fiddle & Billy Moore Creeks Riparian Enhancement - Phase I	A culvert replacement will restore access to 2 miles of fish habitat, large wood will be added to the stream, and livestock exclusion fence constructed on agricultural property at the confluence of Fiddle and Billy Moore Creeks in the Siuslaw watershed.	139,632	Lane
217-1006	Lincoln SWCD	Fourth of July Creek Large Wood Aquatic Habitat Restoration	Large wood will be placed along 1.2 miles of Fourth of July Creek in the Siletz watershed. This project will improve habitat in a reach with high intrinsic potential for Oregon coast Coho Salmon and other aquatic species.	64,038	Polk
217-1002	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Sams Cr Watershed Restoration - Part 1: Long Prairie Cr LWD	Large wood will be placed to improve habitat complexity in 5.2 miles of Long Prairie Creek in the Siletz watershed. The project will improve habitat for Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, Cutthroat Trout, and lamprey.	119,117	Lincoln
217-1004	Tillamook Bay WC	South Fork Trask Road Obliteration and Large Wood Project	A section of road in the floodplain will be obliterated, cross drains removed, large wood structures installed, and riparian area planted with conifers to improve fish habitat and restore channel processes on the S. Fork of the Trask River in the Tillamook Bay watershed.	91,365	Tillamook
217-1001	Siuslaw WC	Walker Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project	An undersized and failing culvert on Walker Creek in the Siuslaw watershed will be replaced and passage restored for aquatic species to 1.5 miles of high quality Coho Salmon spawning and rearing habitat.	260,837	Lane
217-1009	Necanicum WC	Arresting Policeman's Helmet in the Necanicum Watershed	A watershed-scale effort will be implemented to control Policeman's helmet, an invasive plant that degrades riparian habitat along the Necanicum River. The plant will be systematically surveyed and treated and treatment areas replanted with native riparian vegetation.	81,660	Clatsop
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				1,020,847	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				1,020,847	
Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
217-1000	MidCoast WC	Crazy and Cougar Creeks Fish Passage Restoration	396,699	Lincoln	
217-1005	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Thompson Creek Fish Passage Restoration	363,061	Lincoln	
217-1007	Upper Nehalem WC	Lousignont - Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Project (Withdrawn by Applicant after Review)	18,743	Washington	
217-1010	Upper Nehalem WC	Oak Ranch Creek - Salmon Passage Improvement - Upper Crossing	648,903	Columbia	
217-1011	Columbia SWCD	McBride Creek Fish Passage	265,527	Columbia	

Region 1 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-1015	Siuslaw SWCD	Bessey's North Fork Siuslaw Riparian Restoration Design	Designs will be developed to address degraded in-stream and riparian habitats along the North Fork Siuslaw River and McLeod Creek. The resulting project will improve habitat for Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, Cutthroat Trout, and Pacific lamprey.	36,350	Lane
217-1013	MidCoast WC	Bummer Creek Floodplain and Relict Oxbow Technical Assistance	This project will develop designs to restore 16 acres of floodplain, as well as improve hydrologic connectivity within a wetland complex on Bummer Creek in the Alsea River watershed.	18,293	Benton
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				54,643	
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				54,643	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
217-1012	Upper Nehalem WC	Fishhawk Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement	49,500	Clatsop	
217-1014	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Curl Creek Culverts Design	35,365	Lincoln	
Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				1,075,490	15%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				7,371,614	

Application Funding Status Southwest Region April 2016

Fund_Status

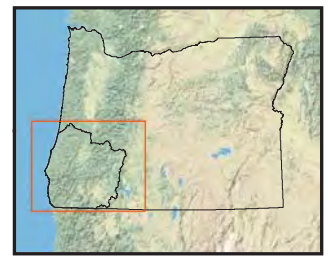
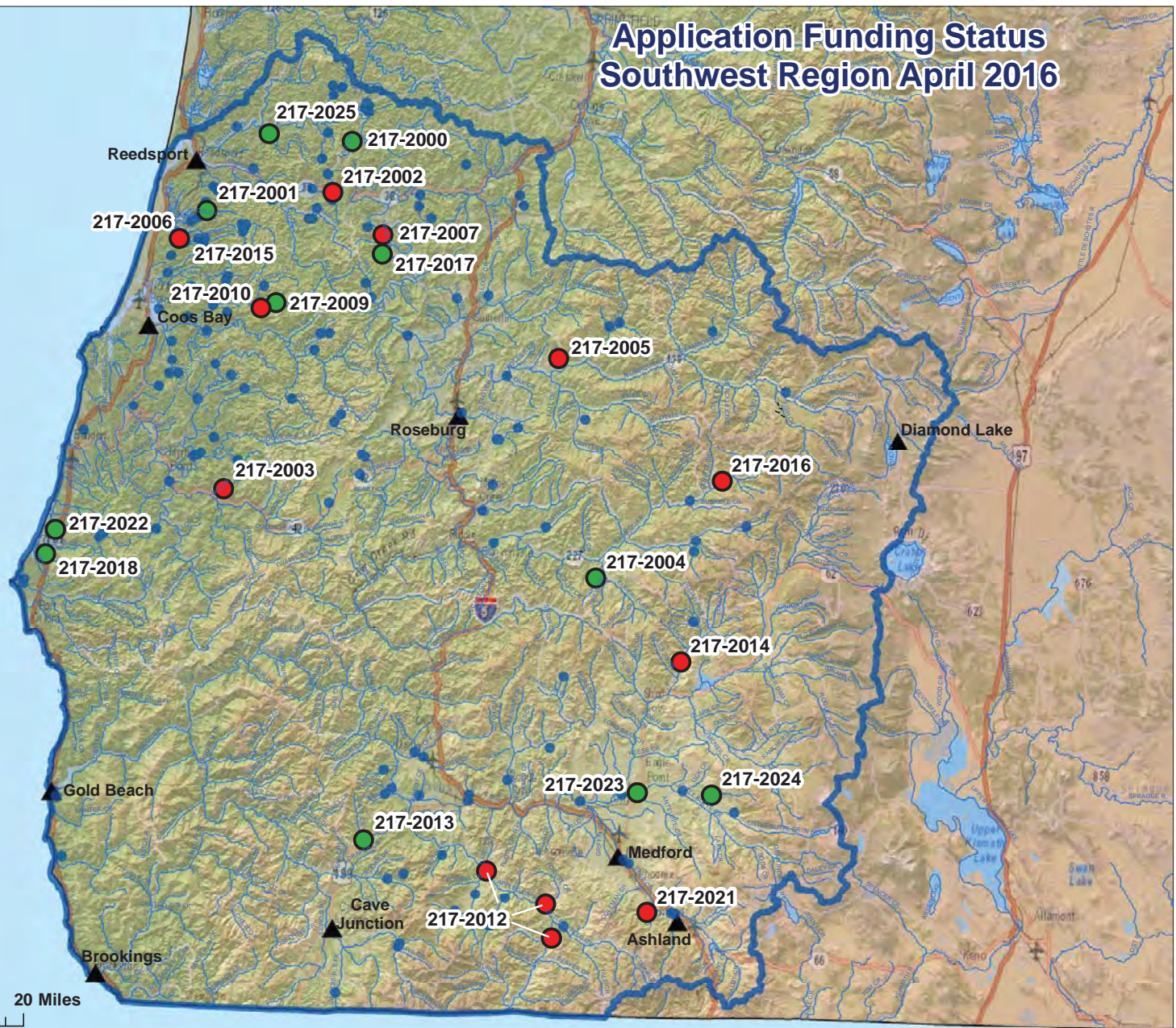
- Staff Recommended for funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2015

- Restoration

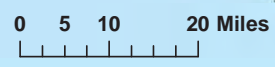
○ Region 2 Boundary

~ Streams



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Region 2 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon					
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-2013	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Butcherknife Creek Culvert Replacement	A fish passage barrier culvert will be replaced with a 14'x36' bridge on Butcherknife Creek, a tributary to Waters Creek in the Applegate River watershed, which will restore access to more than 2.5 miles of cool water "high value" Coho Salmon habitat.	153,731	Josephine
217-2004	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Elk Tributaries Salmon and Steelhead Restoration	Large wood will be placed instream in Drew, Hatchet and Callahan Creeks, three tributaries to Elk Creek and the Upper South Umpqua River, located near Tiller. Approximately 95% of the riparian corridors were burned during the Stouts Fire of 2015.	104,500	Douglas
217-2018	Curry SWCD	Willow Creek Watershed Restoration Enhancement 2016	Sections of Willow Creek, a tributary in the Floras Creek/New River watershed located near Langlois will be restored by adding large wood to the stream channel, reducing sediment inputs from a road drainage gully, restoring the riparian area with plantings and fencing, and establishing upland watering sources.	159,543	Curry
217-2017	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Waggoner Creek Instream Restoration - Phase II	84 logs and 1200 tons of boulders will be placed along an 0.8 mile reach of Waggoner Creek, a direct tributary to the Umpqua River, located 8 miles south of Elkton, building on previous work.	115,381	Douglas
217-2000	Smith River WC	Big Creek 6th Field HUC Instream Restoration	Large wood and boulders will be placed on Big Creek and Mometown Creek, tributaries to the Smith River, which enters the Umpqua River estuary near Reedsport to improve instream habitat. Big Creek will be treated with 291 logs and 1,060 boulders and Mometown Creek will be treated with 318 logs and 58 root wads and 115 boulders.	236,255	Douglas
217-2001	City of Lakeside - Watershed Council	Big Creek Riparian Enhancement	Fencing, tree planting, stream bank stabilization, and development of off-channel watering sources will be completed on Big Creek, a tributary to North Tenmile Lake, located near Lakeside. Project work includes 5 bank stabilization sites, approximately 13,000 feet of exclusion fencing, 3 off-channel watering source improvements, and planting 3,000 willows.	120,549	Coos
217-2009	Coos Watershed Association	Upper East Fork Millicoma River Instream Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Improvements	Two culverts that block fish passage will be replaced and two failing culverts will be replaced with larger capacity culverts, as well as place large wood and boulders in the upper section of the East Fork Millicoma River located near Coos Bay. Up to 350 whole trees with root wads and 375 cubic yards of boulders are proposed for installation.	330,336	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				1,220,295	

Region 2 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-2006	City of Lakeside - Watershed Council	Lower Adams Creek Fish Passage and Riparian Enhancement	Two undersized culverts, which are barriers to fish passage, will be replaced with open bottom, concrete box culverts to open over 2.1 miles of resident trout habitat. Also proposed is the installation of up to 350 whole trees with root wads to create 50 large wood structures in order to increase spawning gravel quantity, increase both summer and winter rearing habitat, and decrease stream temperature.	129,889	Coos
217-2012	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Applegate River Riparian Restoration	Two culverts will be replaced with 15' x 28' bridges specifically designed for each site. By addressing the two culvert issues that restrict fish passage of juvenile Coho Salmon to important summer rearing stream habitat, access will be improved to approximately 2 miles of high-quality fish stream habitat.	451,207	Jackson
217-2005	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	French Creek Instream Restoration	Large wood and boulders will be placed at 57 sites throughout 2.25 miles of French Creek using 135 logs, 8 whole trees and 1,470 boulders to improve instream habitat complexity in French Creek, a tributary to the North Umpqua River near Glide.	127,003	Douglas
217-2002	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Butler and Lutsinger Creeks Instream Restoration	The project will place 424 logs, 61 whole Douglas fir trees, and 103 whole Douglas fir trees with root wads attached to improve instream habitat conditions on Butler and Lutsinger Creeks, tributaries to the lower Umpqua River.	230,209	Douglas
217-2016	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project - Phase IV	Construction of four rock weirs, adding 1,200 cubic yards of spawning gravel and placing large trees near the weirs will help restore spawning and rearing opportunities for Spring Chinook other salmonids on the upper South Umpqua River near Tiller.	101,070	Douglas
217-2010	Coos Watershed Association	Middle East Fork Millicoma River Instream Habitat Restoration and Road Sediment Reduction	Logging roads in the middle section of the East Fork Millicoma, located near Coos Bay, will be upgraded and storm proofed to reduce sediment. In addition, 350 whole trees with root wads and 375 cubic yards of boulders will be added to the stream.	337,793	Coos
217-2007	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Mehl Creek Instream Restoration - Phase II	500 boulders and 112 logs at 15 sites log and boulder structures will be placed and an undersized culvert will be placed on Mehl Creek, a tributary to the Umpqua River near Elkton.	166,997	Douglas
217-2003	Coquille Watershed Association	Fall Creek Fish Passage Restoration	A culvert will be replaced with a 15' open bottom arch plate pipe on Fall Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork Coquille River near the town of Myrtle Point which blocks juvenile salmonid passage.	143,280	Coos

Region 2 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

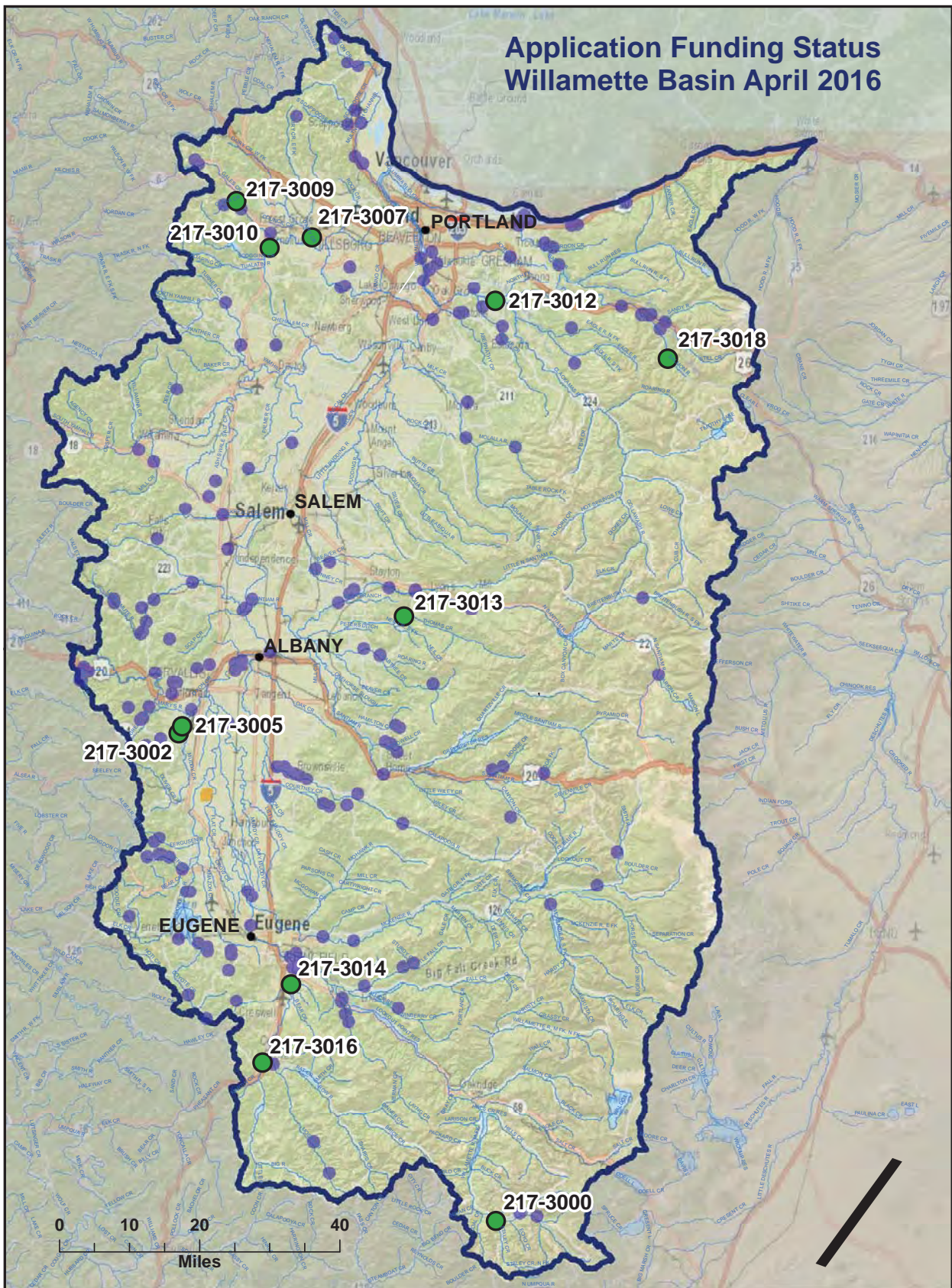
Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order (Continued)					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-2021	Rogue River WC	Beeson-Robinson Fish Passage Improvement	A dam will be removed, a 160-foot long, 5% gradient re-profiled stream channel will be built, an irrigation water collection box will be installed and the water conveyance system will be extended on the Beeson-Robinson Diversion Dam, located on Wagner Creek, 2.3 miles upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek near Talent to address fish passage issues.	83,921	Jackson
217-2014	Rogue River WC	Elk Creek High Flow Enhancement - RM 5.6	A stream channel will be connected to an historic channel disconnected by a levee on Elk Creek, 5.6 miles from the confluence with the Rogue River near Shady Cove.	161,085	Jackson
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				3,152,749	

Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
217-2008	City of Lakeside - Watershed Council	Plum Gulch Habitat Enhancement (Withdrawn by the Applicant Prior to Review)	22,758	Coos	
217-2011	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Forest Creek Barrier Project	90,839	Jackson	
217-2015	City of Lakeside - Watershed Council	Left Fork Shutters Fish Passage and Sediment Abatement	51,023	Coos	
217-2019	Elk Creek WC	Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat and Riparian Improvement	102,228	Douglas	
217-2020	Elk Creek WC	Jack Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement	145,065	Douglas	

Region 2 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-2023	Rogue River WC	Little Butte Creek Floodplain Rehabilitation Design and Permitting	This project will develop and permit a restoration project on Little Butte Creek to restore the riparian area and create a more stable functioning stream channel.	20,375	Jackson
217-2022	Curry SWCD	Morton Creek Channel Restoration	An engineered channel reconstruction design and restoration plan will be developed for a 2,400 foot reach of Morton Creek, a tributary in the New River System located near Langlois.	49,536	Curry
217-2025	Smith River WC	Lower Wasson Creek Instream Restoration Assessment, Design and Prioritization	An assessment, design and prioritization will be completed for instream habitat restoration actions for Wasson Creek, a tributary to the Smith River located near Reedsport.	7,537	Douglas
217-2024	Rogue River WC	Salt Creek Fish Passage Improvement	Designs will be completed for approaches to water withdrawal to replace the seven existing, difficult-to-pass, diversion structures in order to provide passage for adult and juvenile native fish. By improving fish passage at these sites, 7.5 miles of cool water will be more accessible on Salt Creek, a tributary to the North Fork of Little Butte Creek, located near Eagle Point.	49,984	Jackson
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				127,432	
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				127,432	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
NONE					
Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				1,347,727	18%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				7,371,614	

Application Funding Status Willamette Basin April 2016



ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB-T, Wirth, May 2016

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- Staff Recommended for Funding Grants 1998-2015
- Acquisition
- Restoration
- Region 3 Boundary
- ~ Streams



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Region 3 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Region 3 - Willamette Basin					
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3000	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Staley Creek Floodplain Restoration	Floodplain roads and berms will be removed and 450 pieces of large wood installed to reconnect 42 acres of floodplain in the lower mile of Staley Creek. Floodplain restoration will benefit aquatic species, including Chinook Salmon, Bull Trout, and western pond turtle; as well as terrestrial species including beaver, native and migratory bird species, and other floodplain-dependent species.	258,608	Lane
217-3002	Benton SWCD	100 Acre Wood Habitat Project	Livestock related Best Management Practices will be implemented on a 101 acre property located south of Corvallis to benefit a mosaic of priority habitat types, including Oregon white oak savanna and woodlands, wetland prairie, and riparian forest associated with the Muddy Creek floodplain.	125,582	Benton
217-3005	Marys River WC	Muddy Creek Fish Passage Restoration	An undersized culvert blocking all upstream fish migration will be replaced with a bridge to open approximately 300 miles of stream habitat for native fish during low stream flow periods in the Marys Watershed near Corvallis.	37,452	Benton
217-3010	Institute for Applied Ecology	Nelson's Checkermallow Recovery - Phase III	Nelson's checkermallow, a Willamette Valley wet prairie plant species on the Endangered Species Act list, will be reintroduced in areas with previous and concurrent habitat restoration efforts to move this species toward delisting.	237,632	Washington
217-3009	Tualatin River WC	Gales Creek Clear Creek Confluence Project	Stream restoration will reconnect an extensive matrix of historic side-channel habitat on four acres to increase habitat complexity and provide water quality benefits to native fish in the Tualatin River Watershed.	49,366	Washington
217-3014	Coast Fork Willamette WC	My Brothers Farm Riparian Enhancement Project	Streamside native trees and shrubs will be restored on approximately 40 acres in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed to provide water quality and habitat benefits for native fish and wildlife.	117,002	Lane
217-3007	Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve	Oak Island Marsh - Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve	A multiple-partner effort will restore the remaining 270 acres of degraded floodplain wetland habitat at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, a 635-acre wildlife preserve in an active floodplain of the Tualatin River near Hillsboro, Oregon.	95,454	Washington
217-3013	South Santiam WC	Middle Crabtree and Upper Thomas Creek Riparian Restoration	Native vegetation will be restored on 25 acres adjacent to two South Santiam River tributaries that are important spawning and rearing habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed spring Chinook Salmon and winter Steelhead, which will benefit water quality in addition to improving fish habitat.	148,834	Linn
217-3012	Clackamas River Basin Council	Fishers Bend - Phase II Side Channel Restoration	A multi-stakeholder cooperative effort will create off-channel habitat for threatened salmonids on the lower Clackamas River, which is a priority migration corridor and rearing habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and Steelhead.	186,854	Clackamas
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				1,256,784	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				1,256,784	

Region 3 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

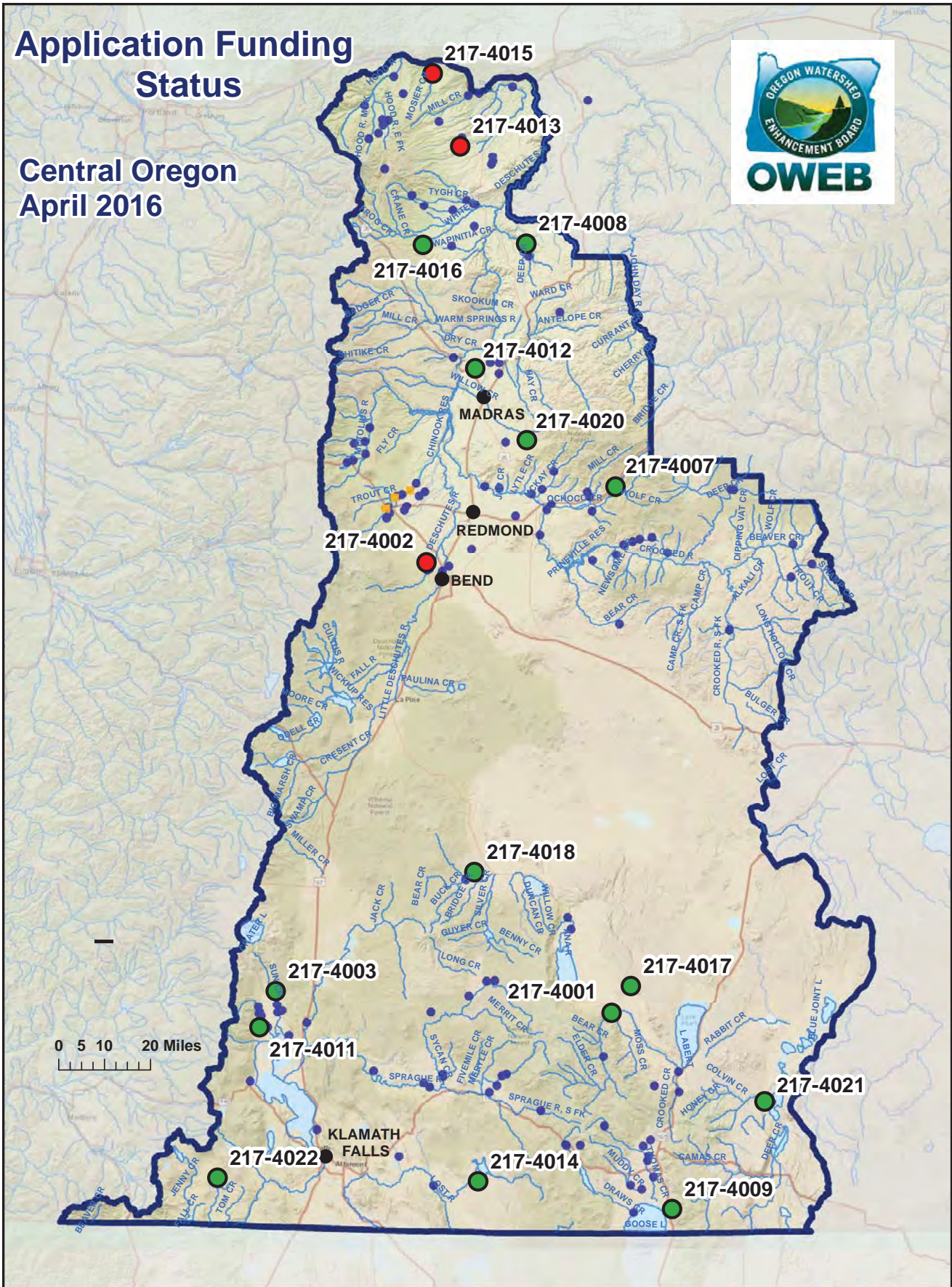
Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT				
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3001	Ocean Blue Project Inc.	Periwinkle Creek Enhancement Project	56,207	Linn
217-3003	Tryon Creek Watershed Council	East Fork Tryon Creek	128,457	Multnomah
217-3004	Cascade Pacific RC&D	North and South Valentine Creek Model Watershed Riparian Restoration	271,815	Marion
217-3006	Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District	Fanno Creek Floodplain Fix	116,380	Washington
217-3008	Calapooia WC	Oak Creek Open Space - Phase I Restoration	140,337	Linn
217-3011	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Dehne Riparian Enhancement Project	93,103	Lane

Region 3 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3016	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Action Plan 2017-2027	A ten-year watershed action plan will be developed in cooperation with partner agencies, organizations, stakeholders, and the public to strategize actions that will conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat, monitor and protect water quality, and provide educational and stewardship opportunities for the community.	21,197	Lane
217-3018	The Freshwater Trust	Planning Documents for Restoration of Salmon River Tributaries	Future restoration projects will be developed on four Salmon River tributaries located within federally-designated Wilderness areas in the Sandy River Watershed, which require low-impact restoration approaches. The resulting suite of Wilderness-appropriate actions will restore fish habitat in these ecologically-significant tributaries for of wild winter Steelhead, Coho Salmon, and spring Chinook.	15,377	Clackamas
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				36,574	
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				36,574	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
217-3015	Greater Oregon City WC	Abernethy Creek Assessment & Action Plan		36,318	Clackamas
217-3017	Willamette Partnership	Willamette Valley Oak Treaty		25,000	Benton
217-3019	Johnson Creek WC	Lower Johnson Creek Habitat Enhancement		32,189	Clackamas
Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				1,293,358	18%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				7,371,614	

Application Funding Status

Central Oregon
April 2016



ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WID: 2992 Authority EPSG: OWEB: TWith May 2016

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April 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2015

- Acquisition
- Restoration
- Region4
- ~ Streams

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Region 4 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Region 4 - Central Oregon					
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4001	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Paisley Town Weir Fish Screen - Baffle Installation	This project will upgrade the Paisley Town Weir along the Chewaucan River to fully pass fish, debris, and sediment.	27,128	Lake
217-4003	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Sun Creek Irrigation Piping	This piping project will relocate the point of diversion and pipe irrigation flows to points of use while the Sun Creek channel is re-aligned and restored so the Creek will no longer serve as an irrigation ditch.	476,446	Klamath
217-4007	Crooked River WC	Marks Creek Riparian Meadow Restoration	A one mile stretch of Marks Creek will be re-aligned to improve habitat and functionality. Riparian areas and floodplains will receive large wood additions and native plantings.	190,826	Crook
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				694,400	
Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4002	Tumalo Irrigation District	Tumalo Feed Canal - Phase V	This is a continuation of previous piping efforts which will include 5,500 feet of piping of the Tumalo Feed Canal.	1,000,000	Deschutes
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				1,694,400	
Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
217-4000	Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area	North Warner Medusahead Control (Withdrawn by Applicant Prior to Review)	40,972	Lake	
217-4004	Crook SWCD	Hidden Falls Steelhead Habitat Restoration	149,641	Crook	
217-4005	Klamath SWCD	Becklin Juniper Removal Project	251,273	Klamath	
217-4006	Crooked River WC	Big Summit Prairie Restoration - Phase I	407,725	Crook	

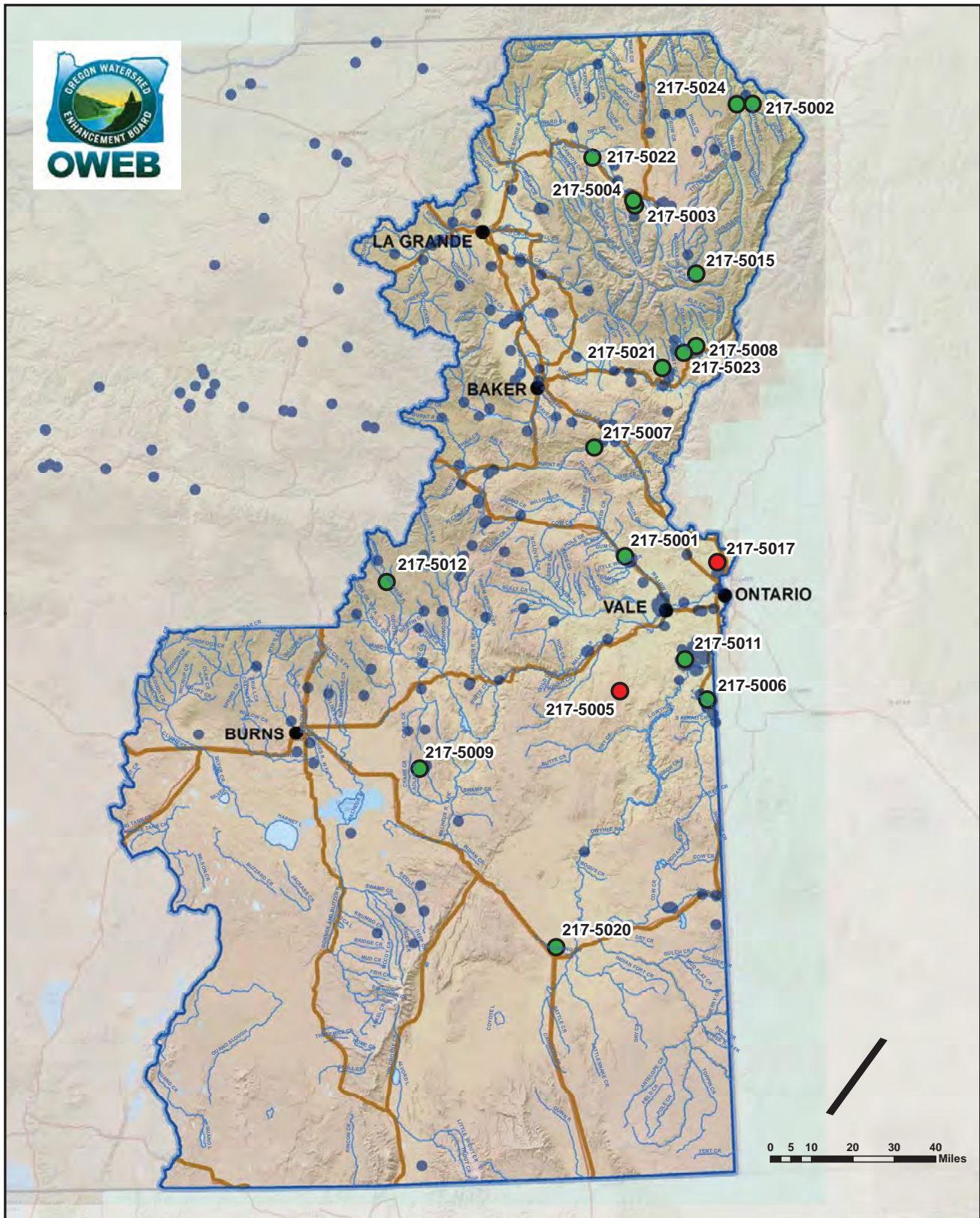
Region 4 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4021	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership Strategic Plan and Conceptual Design	This partnership effort will plan, prioritize and conceptually design the highest priority actions to address limiting factors for the recovery of the Warner Basin sucker.	49,927	Lake
217-4017	Lakeview SWCD	Lake County Sage-Grouse Conservation	This grant will allow SWCD staff to work with landowners to develop Site Specific Plans (SSP) that will be guiding documents to restore sage-grouse habitat.	50,000	Lake
217-4018	Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD	Shaw Diversion Replacement Design	A 60% design will be completed for addressing fish passage along Buck Creek, this is the 5th diversion being addressed (four have already been complete). After this diversion is addressed, there is only one more barrier to be addressed.	12,600	Lake
217-4009	Lakeview SWCD	Cogswell Creek Stream Reconnaissance and Fish Passage Design	This reconnaissance effort will survey all barriers along Cogswell Creek to develop conceptual designs and priority for correcting fish passage through all the private property prior to releasing into Goose Lake.	48,575	Lake
217-4022	Klamath Watershed Partnership	KWP - Beaver Management Project	This project is a continuation of previous efforts to assist landowners in mitigating beaver damage, while providing capture and release of beavers to more desirable and prioritized habitat.	34,883	Klamath
217-4014	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Langell Valley Restoration Action Strategy	This planning effort will get all the necessary parties in the Langell Valley together to strategize restoration efforts to improve stream flow, instream habitat, riparian function, and upland conditions.	30,326	Klamath
217-4012	Jefferson SWCD	Agency Plains Water Quality and Irrigation Efficiency Landowner Recruitment	The SWCD seeks landowner involvement to develop projects that will improve water quality conditions in the Agency Plains area prior to releasing into the Middle Deschutes River.	11,544	Jefferson
217-4011	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Lower Threemile Creek Reconnection and Restoration Planning	Trout Unlimited will engage local and federal partners to improve Bull Trout habitat connectivity on Lower Threemile Creek.	50,000	Klamath

Region 4 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued)					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4020	Jefferson SWCD	Upper Willow Creek Landowner Recruitment	Middle Deschutes Watershed Council will engage landowners in the Upper Willow Creek drainage to improve resource and habitat conditions along riparian corridors and uplands.	10,995	Crook
217-4016	Juniper Flats District Improvement Company	Juniper Flats District Improvement Company Water Conservation Feasibility Study	This study will evaluate current Juniper Flats District irrigation infrastructure to develop and prioritize projects to conserve water.	36,000	Wasco
217-4008	Wasco SWCD	Bakeoven Watershed Technical Assistance Grant	This project will survey upland conditions in the Bakeoven watershed to identify and provide plans for the highest priority restoration projects to address upland functionality.	38,241	Wasco
217-4013	Wasco SWCD	Fifteenmile Watershed Managed Underground Storage Feasibility	This feasibility study will investigate potential underground water storage opportunities in the Fifteenmile watershed to address the largest limiting factor affecting listed Mid-Columbia summer Steelhead, streamflow.	50,000	Wasco
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				423,091	
Technical Assistance Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4015	Mosier WC	Mosier Groundwater Restoration Evaluation	This evaluation will investigate 25 wells within an identified area in the Mosier Creek watershed which will develop plans to address the existing problem of co-mingling wells.	50,000	Wasco
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				473,091	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
217-4010	Upper Deschutes WC	Bend Area Riparian Restoration Planning	50,000	Deschutes	
217-4019	Crook SWCD	Camp Creek Sediment Reduction	44,435	Crook	
Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				1,117,491	15%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				7,371,614	

Application Funding Status, Eastern Oregon April 2016



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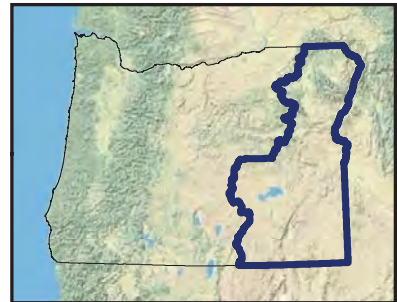
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- Staff Recommended for Funding
 - Below Funding Line
 - Restoration
 - Streams
 - Region 5 Boundary
- Grants 1998-2015

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Region 5 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon					
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5015	Wallowa Resources	Lick Creek Culvert Replacement Project	An existing partial-barrier culvert will be replaced with a 4.5' by 50' culvert with a precast concrete 40' span by 17.5' bridge on Lick Creek, a tributary in the Imnaha, that provides rearing habitat for spring Chinook Salmon, summer Steelhead and Bull Trout.	78,780	Wallowa
217-5000	Malheur SWCD	Last Chance Sediment Pond	A sediment pond will be constructed near Owyhee Junction to treat runoff from 3,000 acres of row crops on the Bishop Drain to remove 1,500 tons of sediment annually from entering the Snake River.	55,669	Malheur
217-5009	Malheur WC	Alder Creek Wetland Restoration Phase II	Located in the South Fork of the Malheur, the project will increase floodplain connectivity, riparian habitat, and channel complexity by installing 38 structures; 300 willow bundles in Alder Creek to stabilize eroding banks, improve fish and Columbia spotted frog habitat and enhance a wet meadow.	131,033	Harney
217-5006	Owyhee WC	Woodbridge Water Quality Improvement	98 acres will be converted from gated-pipe/furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation by installing 3 pivots and solid-sets to improve water quality in the Snake River by installing 2,250' of cable-con for electrical power service; and 4,200' of 4, 6 and 8-inch pipe.	45,971	Malheur
217-5003	Wallowa SWCD	Ruby Peak Pipeline	Will install 25,390' of various size pipe to improve irrigation conveyance on Alder Slope.	181,399	Wallowa
217-5011	Owyhee WC	High Bar Water Quality Improvement	Converts 69 acres from furrow to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2 pivots and handlines. Connects to an OWEB-funded lateral conveying irrigation water to 850 acres.	36,656	Malheur
217-5004	Wallowa SWCD	Parker - Flood to Sprinkler	Will improve irrigation efficiency by reducing the amount of water diverted from Hurricane Creek by installing a diversion box, 6,110' of pipe, and two 10-horsepower pumps and wheel lines.	104,979	Wallowa
217-5012	Malheur WC	Upper Malheur River Restoration	Project components include placing 250 wood structures in a 2.5 mile section of critical Bull Trout habitat in the Upper Malheur. Aspen, willow, cottonwood, dogwood and alder will also be planted.	217,457	Grant
217-5024	Wallowa Resources	Imnaha Weed Control	Project will treat 500 acres of starthistle, Medusahead and whitetop; seed 30 acres by hand or with a rangeland drill; and use bio-control on whitetop. Sheep fescue, Sherman's big bluegrass, intermediate wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass and rye with the site-specific species mix will be planted.	56,908	Wallowa
217-5001	Malheur SWCD	Dirt Can't Heid	73 acres in the Willow Creek drainage will be converted from furrow-flood irrigation to sprinkler to improve water quality. A headgate, screen, 2,830' of pipe, and 2 pivots will be installed.	47,023	Malheur

Region 5 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued)					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5007	Burnt River SWCD	Sinker Creek Watering System	An upland watering system will install 4 troughs; 5,035' of 2-inch pipe and 800 feet of wildlife friendly fence. The dependable water source for wildlife and livestock will improve distribution, resulting in improved upland vegetation.	21,215	Baker
217-5002	Wallowa Resources	Zumwalt Prairie Medusahead Rye Re-Seeding	This project requests funds to apply <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> , a new soil bacterial amendment, to at least 200 acres of medusahead rye and use an approved seed mix to re-vegetate 600 acres of previously treated medusahead sites.	46,772	Wallowa
217-5008	Eagle Valley SWCD	Dry Creek Irrigation Improvement	This project converts 142 acres from furrow-flood irrigation to sprinkler by installing 2,980' mainline, 2,050 cable con and a booster pump to improve irrigation efficiency and reduce tailwater runoff adversely affecting water quality and Bull Trout habitat.	63,256	Baker
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				1,087,118	
Restoration Projects Recommended but Not Funded in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5005	Malheur SWCD	Hoodoo Restoration	The project provides upland water for livestock and wildlife, and PGH sage-grouse habitat in a remote part of Malheur County through spring development; installing 2 miles of 3-inch pipe and three 300-gallon troughs; and seeding the area.	50,983	Malheur
217-5017	Malheur SWCD	Fully Loaded	The project converts 50 acres from furrow-flood irrigation to sprinkler to eliminate runoff and improve water quality in Coyote Drain Priority area by installing 4,100 feet of 4, 6 and 8-inch mainline; 2 pivots; electrical wire to power the pivots; flowmeter and two pumps.	28,668	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				1,166,769	
Restoration Applications Not Recommended for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
217-5010	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Wallowa River-Baker Project - Phase II	253,759	Wallowa	
217-5013	Harney SWCD	Soldier Creek Wet Meadow & Sage-Grouse Habitat Restoration	116,495	Harney	
217-5014	Eagle Valley SWCD	Subsurface Drip Irrigation Conversion	615,766	Baker	
217-5016	Powder Valley Water Control District	Powder Valley Connector	134,000	Union	
217-5018	Baker Valley SWCD	Smith Ditch Tunnel	89,114	Baker	

Region 5 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

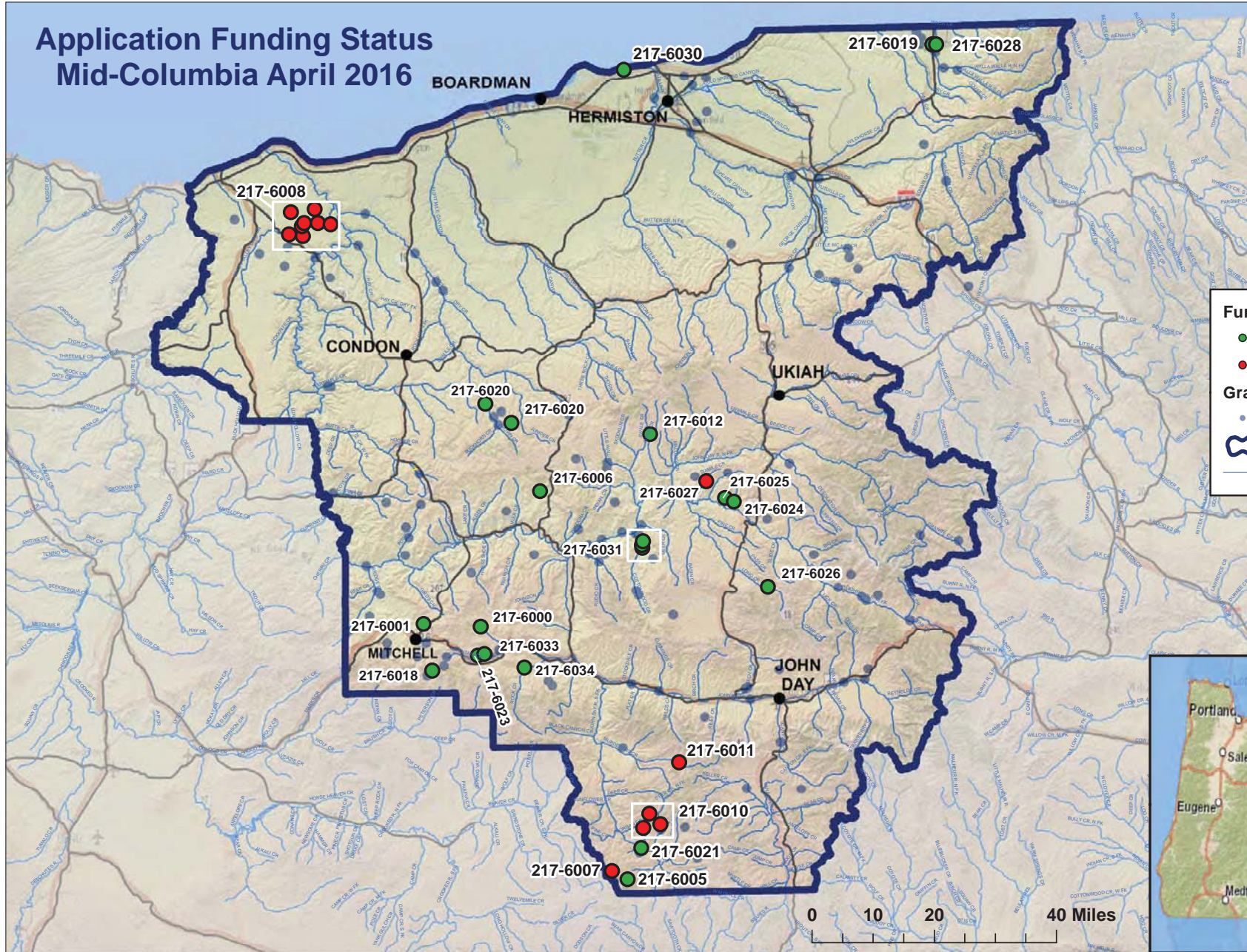
Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5022	Nez Perce Tribe	Wallowa River/Tamkaliks Side Channel Project	Designs will be developed for a side channel to increase channel complexity and create juvenile fish-rearing and spawning habitat in the middle Wallowa River, supporting spring Chinook Salmon, summer Steelhead and Bull Trout.	49,718	Wallowa
217-5020	Owyhee WC	High Desert Drought Resilient Restoration	Partners will improve landowner education and develop projects to improve habitats impacted by drought through the High Desert Drought Resilient Ranching Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP). The focus will be landowner education and project development to improve habitats impacted by drought.	32,388	Malheur
217-5021	Eagle Valley SWCD	Newt-Young to the Finish Line	Partners will complete a design to repair the diversion at Newt-Young ditch on Eagle Creek and provide needed fish passage. Survey data, streambed simulation materials, drawing and final costs will be completed. The final design will include construction-ready designs for the diversion, as well as the fish screen.	14,291	Baker
217-5023	Powder Basin WC	Pine Creek Off-Channel Watering Landowner Recruitment Project	The project will recruit local landowners in the Pine Creek basin who own streamside property to install off-channel water systems to keep livestock out of Pine Creek.	24,395	Baker
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				120,792	
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				120,792	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title		Amount Requested	County
217-5019	Baker Valley SWCD	Lewis Pushup Dam		27,500	Baker
Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				1,207,910	16%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				7,371,614	

Application Funding Status Mid-Columbia April 2016



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Fund_Status

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2015

- Restoration
- Region6
- Streams



Region 6 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia					
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-6020	Gilliam SWCD	Lonerock Ridge Juniper Project	This project will conduct an 8,588 acre prescribed burn to remove encroaching juniper in the Lonerock Creek basin. This project complements previous juniper removal work done on over 3,000 acres on adjacent properties.	112,872	Gilliam
217-6019	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Roloff Farms Irrigation Efficiency Project	Located in the town of Milton Freewater, this project will convert flood irrigation to an efficient sprinkler system and integrate a winter aquifer recharge project. Water savings realized will be protected instream on the Walla Walla River as a part of the State Conserved Water Program.	53,881	Umatilla
217-6001	Wheeler SWCD	South Sixshooter Upland Restoration	This project will remove 1,100 acres of invasive juniper, reseed 150 acres of range, and prescribe burn 90 acres of stage one juniper.	76,522	Wheeler
217-6021	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Upper South Fork John Day Riparian Vegetation	Located near Izee, this project will install high-density riparian plantings along both fenced sides of four miles of the Upper South Fork John Day River. Several sites will have beaver analog posts installed to encourage beaver re-establishment.	152,028	Grant
217-6000	Wheeler SWCD	Fopiano Reservoir Protection Project	This project will install exclusion fence 4.3 miles along two creeks and 1.43 miles around the Fopiano Reservoir, develop four off-channel livestock water sources, and implement multiple reaches of riparian planting.	72,569	Wheeler
217-6018	Wheeler SWCD	Upper Badger Creek Pipeline	This project will convert 6,400 feet of open ditch to buried irrigation mainline and install a flow measuring device.	24,864	Wheeler
217-6024	Grant SWCD	Tom Colvin Ranch Middle Fork JDR Riparian Improvements	Located near Ritter along the Middle Fork John Day River, this project will install over four miles of exclusion fencing along the Middle Fork, develop four upland livestock water sources, and map and treat invasive weed species.	54,858	Grant
217-6006	Bridge Creek WC	Kahler Creek Watershed Improvement	Located in the Kahler Creek basin near Spray, this project will remove 699 acres of invasive juniper, reseed 220 acres of range, and treat 383 acres with medusahead bacteria biocontrol.	165,136	Wheeler
217-6025	Grant SWCD	Twelvemile Creek and Middle Fork JDR Riparian Enhancements	Located near Ritter along the Middle Fork John Day River, this project will install riparian fencing along 1.6 miles of Twelvemile Creek and 3 miles of the Middle Fork, develop nine upland stock water sources, remove 182 acres of invasive juniper, and map and treat invasive weed species.	171,494	Grant
217-6012	Morrow SWCD	Upper Rock Creek Watershed Enhancement	Located in the headwater basin of Rock Creek, OWEB funds will support removing 125 acres of juniper, as part of a total project scope of over 950 acres of encroaching juniper removed.	28,305	Morrow

Region 6 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (Continued)					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-6023	Wheeler SWCD	Mountain Creek Passage - Marx Bridge	Located on Mountain Creek, this project will replace two undersized and fish barrier culverts with a steel bridge, opening up passage to all life stages of summer Steelhead and other fish species.	65,807	Wheeler
217-6005	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Izee Allotment Improvement 2016	Located in the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, this project will build one and a half mile of riparian exclusion fence along Spoon Creek, protective fence around Outhouse Spring, and strategically fell and place small conifers along two miles of Spoon Creek to open up the canopy for riparian hardwoods and protect from livestock.	34,556	Grant
217-6026	North Fork John Day WC	Long Creek Headwaters Habitat Restoration Project	Located along Long Creek, this project will rehabilitate the stream channel by placing large wood and boulder structures, removing or breaching berms, constructing pool and riffle sequences, side channels and alcoves for added habitat, exclusion fence and plant riparian area and install a solar pump for an off-channel livestock water.	166,533	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				1,179,425	

Region 6 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Restoration Projects <i>Recommended but Not Funded</i> in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount	County
217-6007	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Kee Property Restoration	This project, located on private land in the South Fork John Day River basin, will be used to remove encroaching juniper and conifer from aspen stands, upland bitterbrush communities and riparian areas.	26,173	Grant
217-6008	Sherman SWCD	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Upland Restoration	This project involves six properties bordering the Lower Grass Valley Canyon Creek and will improve the water quality by installing terraces, water and sediment control basins, wildlife watering, off-channel livestock water sources, and rangeland reseeding.	157,462	Sherman
217-6011	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Tex Creek Aspen Protection	This project, located within the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area, would thin conifers and fence three acres of single age class aspen community, protecting the clones from the large feral horse herd. The site is also at a junction of two heavily used USFS roads and is ideal for an educational kisok on restoration.	25,101	Grant
217-6010	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Rosebud Spring Protection	Located in the SW corner of the Blue Mountain Ranger District, this project proposes to protect several spring sites by strategically falling and placing trees or constructing buck and pole or wire exclusion fencing, and developing and protecting a fourth spring site for both livestock, wildlife, and feral horses.	22,401	Grant
217-6027	North Fork John Day WC	Ritter Private Lands Aspen	Located on multiple private properties near Ritter in the lower Middle Fork John Day River, this project would fund contractors to fence identified, high-priority aspen stands with eight-foot high woven-wire fencing and reduce competing vegetation where it exceeds tolerances.	105,871	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				1,516,433	

Restoration Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
217-6002	Gilliam SWCD	Harper Diversion Removal and Channel Restoration	19,777	Gilliam	
217-6003	Gilliam SWCD	Harper Rock Creek Stream Restoration	248,410	Gilliam	
217-6004	Gilliam SWCD	Hewes Diversion Removal and Channel Restoration	22,059	Gilliam	
217-6009	Gilliam SWCD	Olex Diversion Fish Passage Improvement	46,006	Gilliam	
217-6013	Gilliam SWCD	Weatherford Rock Creek Stream	195,073	Gilliam	
217-6014	Gilliam SWCD	Wilkins Rock Creek Stream Restoration	197,823	Gilliam	
217-6015	Wheeler SWCD	Upper Mountain Creek Forest Enhancement	42,532	Wheeler	
217-6016	Wheeler SWCD	Rock Creek Bridge	88,275	Wheeler	
217-6017	Wheeler SWCD	Bridge Creek Flow Augmentation	201,554	Wheeler	
217-6022	Wheeler SWCD	Heflin Creek Restoration	68,162	Wheeler	

Region 6 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Restoration and Technical Assistance April 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-6030	Morrow SWCD	Kingery-Cottonwood Wetland Enhancement - Phase I	Located near Irrigon along the Columbia River, this project will provide 90% engineering designs for restoration of wetland habitat in the Irrigon Wildlife Management Area.	19,841	Morrow
217-6034	Wheeler SWCD	Pine Hollow TA	This project would result in 90% designs for the full reach restoration of Pine Hollow Creek, including replacing fish barrier culverts with a bridge; replacing a non-screened/non-measured irrigation diversion; converting an instream pond bulge back into a functioning stream channel; and installing multiple diverse instream habitat enhancements.	48,284	Wheeler
217-6028	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Eastside ARR Feasibility Study	Located in Milton Freewater, this technical assistance project will quantify aquifer characteristics such as transmissivity, hydraulic conductivity, storativity, and others to determine the feasibility of utilizing the eastside aquifer for recharge and recovery to improve stream flows during low flow months in the Walla Walla River.	43,788	Umatilla
217-6033	Wheeler SWCD	Mountain Creek Diversion - Collins	Located on Mountain Creek, this technical assistance project will result in construction-ready engineered designs to relocate and replace an irrigation diversion that currently blocks juvenile Steelhead fish passage with one that allows for all life stages to pass under all level of flows.	38,300	Wheeler
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				150,213	
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				150,213	
Technical Assistance Applications <i>Not Recommended</i> for Funding by RRT					
Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County	
217-6029	North Fork John Day WC	North Fork John Day eDNA Analysis (Withdrawn by the Applicant Prior to Review)	8,993	Grant	
217-6031	Monument SWCD	Lower Cottonwood Fish Passage - Phase III Design (Application Withdrawn After Review)	34,711	Grant	
217-6032	Monument SWCD	RLMT Strategic Implementation Plan	49,977	Grant	
Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				1,329,638	18%
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				7,371,614	



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Authorize Interagency Agreement with ODOT for Fish Passage Projects
October 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

On occasion, partner agencies have available funds to accomplish watershed restoration and seek assistance from OWEB to efficiently distribute the funding. This report requests that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in the amount of \$250,000, and to delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with eligible grantees on a project-by-project basis under the terms of the Agreement.

II. Background

ODOT manages a \$4.2 million per year Fish Passage Program to improve fish habitat in streams impacted by state transportation infrastructure. This program is in addition to, and falls beyond the scope of, required mitigation and banking programs. Under the program, ODOT can allocate resources internally, hire contractors, or work with partner agencies to implement projects. Occasionally, the most suitable entity to carry out a habitat improvement project is the local watershed council. Since ODOT does not have granting authority to provide funds to councils, it has requested to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with OWEB to provide grant-making services on a case-by-case basis.

Under the Contribution Agreement, ODOT and OWEB will execute individual project work order authorizations for each fund transfer. OWEB will then request a grant application, complete technical review, and award funds to the local watershed council. ODOT will execute separate Cooperative Improvement Agreements with the grantees to address programmatic needs.

Cleveland Creek, a tributary of the Siuslaw River, is an example project that could be executed under the Contribution Agreement. The creek has been identified as providing cool water refugia for mainstem Siuslaw River salmonids and contains approximately 1.5 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat above a crossing under Highway 36 which is currently a barrier to juvenile fish. The Siuslaw Watershed Council has recently completed the replacement of a barrier culvert under the railroad crossing 400' upstream of the Highway 36 culvert, with full passage restored to coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Upgrading the downstream Highway 36 culvert would

restore full fish passage to Cleveland Creek for all life stages of salmonids. While not all proposals that come from ODOT will have a related OWEB funding component, this project has a direct nexus with previous OWEB funds. At its April 2016 meeting, the Board awarded Siuslaw Watershed Council a \$50,000 technical assistance grant to design a replacement crossing. ODOT is providing in-kind engineering services to review the designs and provide guidance on design elements relating to aquatic species passage and watershed health. In order to reach project implementation, additional engineering services are required to complete the project design, which could be provided through OWEB to the Siuslaw Watershed Council under the Contribution Agreement.

III. Recommendation

Staff request that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation to provide grant-making services to watershed councils for habitat restoration projects in the amount of \$250,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – OWEB Rulemaking
October 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report seeks Board authorization to initiate rulemaking to update the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants (Division 10) administrative rules.

II. Background

ORS 183.405 requires administrative rules adopted after January 1, 2006 to be reviewed no later than five years after adoption. In accordance, during the spring and summer of 2016, staff initiated a five-year rule review on the following administrative rules for OWEB:

- Watershed Enhancement Program (Division 4)
- OWEB Grant Program (Division 5)
- Restoration Grants (Division 10)
- Education and Outreach Grants (Division 15)
- Assessment and Action Plan Grants (Division 30)
- Small Grant Program (Division 35)

After completing the rule reviews, staff recommended changes to several of the administrative rules. Staff proposed changes in the OWEB Grant Program rules (Division 5) in the purpose section, application requirements, grant agreement conditions, and distribution of funds. Attachment A provides details on these recommended changes to the OWEB Grant Program administrative rules. In the Restoration Grants rules (Division 10), substantial changes are recommended to the evaluation criteria. Attachment B outlines these recommended changes to the Restoration Grants administrative rules.

For the Education and Outreach Grants (Division 15) and the Small Grant Program (Division 35), the Board Open Solicitation subcommittee and staff will be conducting a more substantive evaluation of the programs over the next year. Once those evaluations are complete, the rules will be evaluated to determine if additional rulemaking is necessary.

The five-year rule review process did not identify any suggested changes in the Watershed Enhancement or Assessment and Action Plan Grants administrative rules.

III. Proposed Rulemaking Process

Staff propose to revise and develop OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grant administrative rules to present to the Board for adoption at the April 2017 meeting. Staff propose to convene a rules advisory committee of grantees, stakeholders, and staff to review the staff proposed rule amendments. The proposed rule development schedule is described in the following table.

Proposed Rulemaking Schedule

Rulemaking Action	Dates/Deadlines
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	October 2016
1 st Rules Advisory Committee Meeting	November 2016
Solicit staff feedback on RAC input	November 2016
2 nd Rules Advisory Committee Meeting	December 2016
Notice Filed with Secretary of State	January 15, 2017
Draft Rules Finalized	January 15, 2017
Public Comment Materials posted online	February 1, 2017
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	February 1, 2017
Secretary of State's Bulletin	February 1, 2017 (published)
Public Comment Period	February 1-22, 2017
Public Hearing – Salem	February 24, 2011
Board Adoption of Rules	April 25-26, 2017

Table 1

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Board authorize rulemaking to amend the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants administrative rules.

Attachments

- A. Division 5 Five-Year Rule Review Memo
- B. Division 10 Five-Year Rule Review Memo

MEMORANDUM

August 9, 2016

To: OWEB Management Team
From: Ian Davidson, Rulemaking and Legislative Concept Project Manager and
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
RE: Division 5 Five-Year Rule Review (OWEB Grant Program)

I. Introduction

ORS 183.405 requires administrative rules to be reviewed no later than five years after adoption. The Division 5 rules were first adopted by the Board in February 2005 and subsequently reviewed in January 2009 and are subject to this requirement at this time. This memo completes the required rule review. Only minor changes to Division 5 rules are recommended at this time.

II. Background

In 1998, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 66, which dedicated a portion of state Lottery Funds for grants to restore and protect water quality and habitat for native fish and wildlife throughout the state until 2014, when the law would sunset if not reapproved by voters. In 1999, a year after the passage of Ballot Measure 66, the Oregon Legislature, with the passage of House Bill 3225, created the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, an independent state agency to handle the dedicated funds for fish and wildlife habitat protection and restoration.

ORS 541.906 gives authority to OWEB to “adopt rules and standards to carry out the watershed enhancement program,” including grant application requirements and process and the criteria for distributing funds. Division 5 of the Oregon Administrative Rules governing OWEB does just that.

The purpose of the Division 5 rules is contained in OAR 695-005-0010:

These rules guide the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in accepting applications and considering grant proposals for funding under the provisions of ORS 541.890, et seq. The regular Board grant program includes grants for watershed restoration, monitoring, watershed assessment and action planning, watershed council support, watershed education and outreach, land and water acquisition, and small grants. In addition, the Board may from time to time, as funds are available, request proposals for technical assistance and research.

III. Five-Year Rule Review Requirement

ORS 183.405 requires new rules to be reviewed no later than five years after adoption. The review must determine:

- A. Whether the rule has had the intended effect;
- B. Whether the anticipated fiscal impact was underestimated or overestimated;
- C. Whether subsequent changes in the law require the rule to be repealed or amended;
and
- D. Whether there is continued need for the rule.

OWEB first adopted administrative rules for OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) in February 2005 and several of the sections of Division 5 were updated in January 2009. While only the sections that were updated in 2009 are subject to the five-year review requirement, the whole division has been reviewed. The review process required minimal staff and stakeholder time. The following sections evaluate the Division 5 rules consistent with the five-year rule review requirements in ORS 183.405.

A. Intended Effect

OWEB's intent in creating OWEB Grant Program rules was to have clear guidelines for OWEB staff and the public on the management and implementation of the agency grant program.

B. Fiscal Impact Estimate

Division 5 rules were not intended to have, and did not have, a fiscal impact on the agency.

C. Impact from Law Changes

In 2010, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 76, which constitutionally dedicated a portion of state Lottery Funds for grants to restore and protect water quality and habitat for native fish and wildlife throughout the state. Measure 76 eliminated the use of lottery funds for educational purposes, which was previously permitted in statute. In its current form, Division 5 does not allow for the use of grant funds for watershed education. The updated version of Division 5 should reflect the constitutional changes.

D. Continued Need

Division 5 continues to serve as the publicly accessible written procedure for grant program and as such is needed.

Based on this evaluation, staff has concluded that changes are needed which are specifically detailed below. Recommended changes will need to be brought before a rules advisory committee that will be formed with stakeholders that regularly apply through OWEB's grant program.

IV. Proposed Process

A. Rule Changes

Several changes to the Division 5 rules are recommended at this time:

- It is recommended that the sentence describing the "regular Board grant program" in 695-005-0010 be changed to read "The Board grant program includes grants described in 695-005-0020 et seq." In the event that other grant types are created a rule change will not be needed in Division 5. Additionally, we propose removing the word "regular" because the use of that word creates ambiguity because OWEB staff and others often refer to the Open Solicitation grant program as the "regular grant program." Given that this applies to more than just Open Solicitation grants we recommend removing the word "regular."
- It is recommended to remove "person" from the list of eligible "regular grant applicant[s]" in 695-005-0040(3). While OWEB has had the authority to award grants to individuals for some time it rarely does so. Further, with the increased complexities associated with developing and implementing grant proposals, it is strongly recommended that landowners partner with entities that have experience in developing grant proposals and administering grant awards. If, in the rare instance,

the work of a corporation—which is a subpart of the legal definition of person—would be beneficial to OWEB’s goals then a rule waiver from the Executive Director could accommodate this.

- It is recommended to delete 695-005-0030(5) which is related to fiscal administration costs. Federal guidance has rendered the term “fiscal administration” obsolete in OWEB grants, and replaced it with “grant administration”. The federal guidance also specifies different grant administration rates that the applicant may apply towards the application, which include negotiated rates that are above 10%.
- It is recommended to add language to 695-005-0050(6) that expands the list of eligible entities that may retain equipment purchased with OWEB funding. It is suggested that “non-profits” be added to the list or simply rephrase to, “Following project completion, equipment purchased with Board funds shall reside with the grantee or another approved entity”.
- It is recommended to remove the language in 695-005-0060(1) that states, “the Board will not reimburse the Grantee for any expenditure incurred prior to the signing of the grant agreement by all parties.” Currently, a blanket rule waiver is applied to grant agreements that allow for costs to be incurred starting with the date of the Board award or delegation of authority to the Executive Director.
- It is recommended to revamp the statement in 695-005-0060(6) to read, “Funds will be released upon presentation of a completed fund release request form accompanied by documents as determined by the executive director, and proof of completion of specific work elements of the project as identified in the Grant Agreement”. This changed language better reflects the current policies of the agencies and allows greater flexibility to future document changes, if they occur.
- It is recommended that language in 695-005-0060(8) be changed to, “The executive director shall retain up to ten percent of the project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved.” As currently written, the rule is problematic for certain grant types, including projects with multi-year plant establishment activities and projects with water rights transfers that require lengthy regulatory review after the activities associated with the grant have been completed.
- Finally, it is recommended to remove the requirement to include a fax number when applying for an OWEB grant found in 695-005-0030(2)(a). With the use of fax machines in decline in recent years it is no longer necessary to *require* the use of a fax by applicants; however, applicants may voluntarily include their fax numbers.

B. Procedural Changes

If the proposed changes are put into effect, certain changes would be required to modify grant applications and potentially requests for release of funds.

MEMORANDUM

September 27, 2016

To: OWEB Management Team
From: Ian Davidson, Rulemaking and Legislative Concept Project Manager and
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
RE: Partial Division 10 Five-Year Rule Review (Restoration Grants)

I. Introduction

ORS 183.405 requires administrative rules to be reviewed no later than five years after adoption. The sections of Division 10 that are being reviewed here were made effective in January 2009 and October 2011. This memo completes the required rule review.

II. Background

In 1998, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 66, which dedicated a portion of state Lottery Funds for grants to restore and protect water quality and habitat for native fish and wildlife throughout the state until 2014, when the law would sunset if not reapproved by voters. In 1999, a year after the passage of Ballot Measure 66, the Oregon Legislature, with the passage of House Bill 3225, created the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, an independent state agency to handle the dedicated funds for fish and wildlife habitat protection and restoration.

With the 2014 sunset looming, a coalition of conservation groups drafted a ballot measure that would eliminate the sunset and make changes to the funding distribution approach for OWEB in 2010. Voters approved Ballot Measure 76, which made the 15% allocation of lottery revenue for State Parks and Salmon and Watershed a permanent part of the state constitution, in every county of the state with 69% of the vote. During the next legislative session, in 2011, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 342, which made statutory changes to implement Measure 76.

ORS 541.906 gives authority to OWEB to “adopt rules and standards to carry out the watershed enhancement program,” including grant application requirements and process and the criteria for distributing restoration grant funds, which Division 10 of the Oregon Administrative Rules governing OWEB does.

The purpose of the Division 10 rules is contained in OAR 695-010-0010:

The Board shall provide grants, as funds are available, for watershed projects that protect or restore watershed functions.

III. Five-Year Rule Review Requirement

ORS 183.405 requires new rules to be reviewed no later than five years after adoption. The review must determine:

- A. Whether the rule has had the intended effect;
- B. Whether the anticipated fiscal impact was underestimated or overestimated;
- C. Whether subsequent changes in the law require the rule to be repealed or amended;
and
- D. Whether there is continued need for the rule.

OWEB first adopted administrative rules for OWEB Restoration Grants (Division 10) in February 2005 and several other sections of Division 10 were either added or updated in January 2009 and October 2011. Only the sections that were updated in 2009 (695-010-0100 and 695-010-0110) and 2011 (695-010-0030 and 695-010-0060) are subject to the five-year review requirement and as such only they will be reviewed. The review process required minimal staff and stakeholder time. The following sections evaluate the Division 10 rules consistent with the five-year rule review requirements in ORS 183.405.

A. Intended Effect

OWEB's intent in creating OWEB Restoration Grants rules was to have clear guidelines for OWEB staff, and the public on the management and implementation of restoration grants by the agency.

B. Fiscal Impact Estimate

Division 10 rules were not intended to have, and did not have, a fiscal impact on the agency.

C. Impact from Law Changes

No updates in state law have occurred that impact the sections of Division 10 that are being considered.

D. Continued Need

Division 10 continues to serve as the publicly accessible written procedure for the distribution of restoration grants and as such is still needed.

Based on this evaluation, staff has concluded that substantive changes are needed which are specifically detailed below. Recommended changes will need to be brought before a rules advisory committee that will be formed with stakeholders that regularly apply for restoration grants.

IV. Proposed Process

A. Rule Changes

Several changes to the Division 10 rules are recommended at this time.

- It is recommended to change the language of 695-010-0060 (3d), which indicates that projects must meet criteria found in the *Oregon Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guide*, which does not include projects with an uplands focus. In its place it is proposed that this language is adopted: "The project meets the requirements found in generally accepted restoration standards."
- It is recommended the subsections (4) and (5) of 695-010-0060 be removed and replaced with language that requires that all watershed restoration project proposals be evaluated on criteria that fall within the following categories:
 - Clarity
 - Technical soundness
 - Cost effectiveness
 - Watershed context
 - Capacity



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – 2015-2017 Oregon Plan Biennial Report: Update and Approval of Board Recommendations
October 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about the agency's development of the 2015-2017 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The Board will be asked to approve recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office by January 15, 2017.

II. Background

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 to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislative Assembly. The report must address each drainage basin in the state and include information about watershed and habitat conditions, voluntary restoration activities, Board investments, and recommendations from the OWEB Board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan, among other topics.

III. Refinements to the 2015-2017 Biennial Report

Staff maintained some aspects of framework used for past Oregon Plan Biennial Reports. For example, as required by the Legislature, there will be a two-page Executive Summary available both electronically and in hard copy (Attachment A). Also, many aspects of the report will rely on web-based maps and tools that provide access to data and information about all of the 15 Oregon Plan reporting basins and are made available through the OWEB website.

Other aspects of the biennial report will be changed from previous biennia in order to maximize efficient use of OWEB staff time and to comply with new publications guidance from the State of Oregon, which provides direction on use of a web page versus a PDF document and encourages use of a "mobile first content strategy". Following guidance from the E-Governance Board, OWEB now intends to publish the report as a PDF with links to a number of permanently maintainable webpages or tools, which will create a more streamlined structure for both the online components of the biennial report and the overall OWEB website.

IV. OWEB Board Recommendations

Adhering to the same approach as was used for the last biennial report, staff have been working with the Board's Executive Committee for the last several months to review and consider past biennial report recommendations by the full OWEB Board and draft recommendations for the 2015-2017 Biennial Report. The Executive Committee supported the concept of first reflecting on Board recommendations from past biennial reports and providing brief progress updates about these. The committee also continued the past approach of outlining prospective recommendations about both anticipated future investments by the Board and collaboration and coordination among agencies and partners to address state priorities.

At the time of writing this staff report, staff have revised the initial recommendations based on input from the Executive Committee. The revised draft recommendations have been circulated to the full Board for preliminary input. This input will be incorporated into near-final draft recommendations that will be presented to the full Board for consideration at the October meeting (Attachment B).

V. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board adopt the final draft recommendations, as developed by the Board's Executive Committee and to be provided at the October 2016 Board meeting, for inclusion in the 2015-2017 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Attachments

- A. [2013-2015 Oregon Plan Biennial Report Executive Summary](#) (PDF online)
- B. Proposed OWEB Board recommendations for the 2015-2017 Oregon Plan Biennial Report – TO BE PROVIDED AT THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Strategic Plan
October 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on the Request for Proposals process for a strategic plan facilitator and provides a summary of the current agency strategic plan and long-term investment strategy.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010, included as Attachment A to the staff report. This plan was completed during a time when the agency and its associated funding were set to sunset in 2015. However, at the same time, a campaign had begun to make the agency's funding permanent through Constitutional Ballot Measure 76. After the strategic plan was completed, Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 76.

As a result of the approval of permanent funding, the Board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy (LTIS) for granting, provided as Attachment B. This extensive process engaged stakeholders from across Oregon to set a vision for how the agency's strategic plan would be 'operationalized' through its granting investments. The LTIS was approved by the Board in 2013, and has become the framing through which the Board develops and approves its two-year spending plan in support of the strategic plan.

It has now been six years since the Board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after approval of the LTIS. To assist the Board in its process for development of a new strategic plan, in July, the Board reviewed a timeline and general approach to the plan. The proposal is contained in Attachment C.

III. Facilitator

In September, OWEB staff initiated an RFP process for a facilitator. The process will be complete in October with a selection prior to the Board meeting. Staff will provide an update on the selection process as a part of the October presentation.

IV. Strategic Plan Review

At the October Board meeting, staff will review the current strategic plan and long term investment strategy with the Board as a first step in the development of a new plan.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. OWEB Strategic Plan
- B. OWEB Long-Term Investment Strategy
- C. Strategic Plan Timeline and Proposed Process



OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

WORKING TOGETHER *for* HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

STRATEGIC PLAN

JANUARY 2010

MISSION

TO HELP PROTECT AND RESTORE HEALTHY WATERSHEDS AND NATURAL HABITATS
THAT SUPPORT THRIVING COMMUNITIES AND STRONG ECONOMIES.

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No matter where you live in Oregon, you're in a watershed.

Introduction

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) recently marked ten years as a state agency helping local communities take care of Oregon's streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. During that period, OWEB grants have funded thousands of projects to protect clean water and restore fish and wildlife habitat across the state. These projects involve voluntary partnerships that empower people to work together to solve problems in ways that create local jobs and result in healthier watersheds.

The OWEB Board has updated its strategic plan to guide grant investment priorities and deliver effective and accountable programs for our partners and the public. We encourage you to read our latest strategic plan. The five goals and nine strategies that follow represent high priority strategic guidance to continue our work on behalf of Oregon citizens.

Oregonians from many different walks of life are helping keep watersheds healthy—giving us clean water, healthy habitats and jobs. OWEB is proud to support this part of Oregon's ongoing conservation legacy.

We invite you to get involved in improving watershed health in your community.

www.healthywatersheds.org



About Us

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) operates a grant program that helps Oregonians restore and protect rivers and wetlands – providing clean water and healthy habitat for native fish, wildlife and people. OWEB also monitors investments, manages watershed information, supports research, tracks progress in protecting clean water and restoring habitat, and reports on implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

OWEB is led by a 17-member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes, and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

OWEB grants are funded with a small portion of Oregon Lottery dollars, federal dollars and salmon license plate revenue. By collaborating with citizens, volunteers and landowners in communities throughout the state, OWEB helps Oregonians care for Oregon's watersheds. Grant funds support projects that employ local contractors and labor crews and utilize local resources to create community and provide maximum value for public dollars.

Vision

OWEB is a leader in the conservation of Oregon's natural resources and enjoys strong public support for its contributions to community-based conservation, watershed health, and local economies.

OWEB supports voluntary efforts that result in:

- Projects that restore and protect natural processes and functions of watersheds;
- A statewide network of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other local groups that develop and implement restoration projects;
- Citizen awareness of watershed issues and participation in restoration and protection actions;
- Strong and lasting partnerships to address complex natural resources issues; and
- Jobs and the purchase of goods and services in local communities.



Data from 1999-2010.



Goals and Strategies

The OWEB Board has established the following goals and strategies in support of OWEB's mission and vision. The five goals and nine strategies that follow represent high priority strategic guidance to continue our work on behalf of Oregon's citizens. In order to effectively consider and implement the strategies and actions identified below, OWEB staff have developed work plans and aligned staff workload to achieve vision-driven priorities. Measures of progress and success will be developed, and aligned with currently required reporting measures.

Goal 1

Adaptive Investment

Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through investments that enhance watershed functions and support community needs.

Strategies

1. Maintain and enhance restoration and protection programs that focus on watershed and ecosystem functions and processes, support sustainable working landscapes, and empower community-based conservation to address economic, social and environmental health.
2. Implement monitoring and research programs to build knowledge and strengthen feedback about OWEB investments and critical uncertainties to support adaptive management for outcome improvements.

OWEB funds a mix of programs and projects across the state with many partners. Population growth and climate change will affect communities around the state and the watershed processes and functions upon which those communities (and fish and wildlife) depend. These driving forces are significant and their impact is uncertain. The key to achieving OWEB's vision is an adaptive, principled and well-structured investment strategy. OWEB has developed tools to assist partners in the strategic development of restoration or conservation projects, such as the priorities for land acquisition developed in 2004. In 2003, the Board adopted a far-reaching and long-term strategy to guide coordinated monitoring efforts under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, which led to the implementation of effectiveness monitoring. OWEB also manages the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), which has tracked completed restoration work since 1995. OWEB will continue to improve its data systems with a specific focus on data sharing with project partners and the public.



Goal 2

Local Infrastructure Development

Support an enduring, high-capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Strategies

1. Establish and articulate policies related to the support and development of a diverse local infrastructure for watershed restoration.
2. Evaluate and adjust watershed council support grant review and funding processes to build local capacity, provide base funding, and promote strategic partnerships.
3. Provide technical assistance to build capacity, secure additional funding and increase local organizational resilience.

Watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, and other non-governmental organizations are key partners in implementing OWEB programs. They play a critical role in working with interested landowners to design projects, apply for grants, implement projects, monitor results, and provide local watershed education. The work of all these partners also provides significant community and economic benefits. Success of OWEB's mission and vision requires these partners to have sufficient capacity and funding to continue and enhance their work. OWEB continues to explore the best ways to help support a high-capacity infrastructure.

Goal 3

Public Awareness and Involvement

Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Strategies

1. Make Oregonians aware of the importance of healthy watersheds and inform them, in broad strokes, of what has been accomplished on their behalf through the work of OWEB and others.
2. Encourage and facilitate greater exploration and knowledge for those Oregonians who seek greater involvement in watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

All Oregonians appreciate and recognize the value of clean, abundant water. Few Oregonians recognize that clean, abundant water depends on functioning watersheds or identify the critical link between investments in watershed conservation and clean, abundant water and healthy populations of fish and wildlife. It is important to expand the awareness that land and water management actions can improve and/or protect water quality. Healthy watersheds require an informed public that supports fish and wildlife habitat protection, well-managed river corridors, agricultural and forest land stewardship and urban land and water management. OWEB has over a decade of projects and programs that illustrate the linkages between ecosystem health and community and economic sustainability. The more people know about the public investments in watershed health and the benefits of those investments, the more they will value them and support continued funding of those efforts.



Goal 4

**Partnership
Development**

Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Strategy

1. Identify new and expand existing strategic partnerships that leverage OWEB funds and knowledge to achieve healthy watershed and community outcomes.

OWEB complements the regulatory and land management programs of state and federal agencies and local governments with voluntary watershed restoration by private landowners and others. OWEB's grant-based, non-regulatory program requires a high level of coordination and collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, and organizations. Partnerships are a required element for all OWEB investments. Partnerships range from the matching funds for individual grants to institutional arrangements to implement federally developed programs. Criteria for evaluating formal partnerships has been developed and adopted by the Board.

Goal 5

**Efficient and
Accountable
Administration**

Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Strategy

1. Continue to evaluate, explore and implement grant administrative processes to maintain and enhance efficiencies at all levels.

OWEB's core function is the administration of a competitive grant program, which has experienced significant growth in the number of grants and funding award amounts over the past ten years. The timely, accurate, and transparent administration of all aspects of the program is an everyday activity for all OWEB staff. This approach benefits the agency and its partners by providing streamlined processes and necessary resources to carry out watershed and habitat restoration and conservation in a prompt and responsible manner. OWEB will continue to focus on this important goal and look for opportunities for advancement and improvement while balancing and supporting flexibility, innovation, and adaptive management. OWEB is in constant communication with staff to determine the most effective ways to carry out its business. A staff review is conducted following each grant cycle to develop recommended improvements. In addition to internal processes, OWEB also benefits from third-party reviews of its work. OWEB's grant process, fees, and expenditures are audited every other year by the Secretary of State, and OWEB has received a favorable audit each time.



More Information

What is a watershed?

A “watershed” is an area of land that drains into a lake, wetland, stream or river. In Oregon, no matter where you live, you’re in a watershed.

Watersheds even exist where water doesn’t flow into a stream or river. In desert areas, watersheds drain into lakes and wetlands providing important habitat for plants and animals. Throughout Oregon, healthy watersheds are vital to people, fish and wildlife. What happens upstream has a direct impact on all of the water downstream.

Oregon’s Conservation Legacy — A Unique Approach

Oregonians should be proud of their unique approach to enhancing and maintaining the state’s watersheds. Their collective care and appreciation for the state’s natural places and working landscapes has created a strong and enduring legacy of conservation in Oregon. Looking back, Oregon’s conservation legacy is embodied in milestone actions involving incentives for recycling (the bottle bill), protecting unique and special places for the public to enjoy (the beach bill), and the development of land use planning laws to protect important land uses and prevent unchecked urban sprawl.



OWEB’s investments are the critical link between investments in watershed conservation and clean abundant water and healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

Cooperative Voluntary Conservation

The most recent expression of Oregon’s conservation legacy has been quietly and effectively taking place in communities around the state for over a decade. Local groups—primarily watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts—are engaging farmers, ranchers, foresters, and other landowners to voluntarily work with other partners to take actions on their properties that help restore and protect our natural environment. Together, these local cooperative actions are writing the most recent chapter to Oregon’s conservation legacy.



OWEB

*No matter where you live in Oregon, you're in a watershed.
Our lakes, rivers and streams are the lifeblood of our environment.
OWEB helps Oregonians restore and protect our watersheds.*

WWW.OREGON.GOV/OWEB

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OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Proposed Direction for OWEB's

Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

OWEB invites public feedback and discussion on its proposed direction for the Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation. OWEB's Board will consider public input prior to making a decision, currently planned for the June 2013 Board meeting. *For more information, please visit our website www.oregon.gov/OWEB.*

Background

Mission

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

About Us

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. Community members and landowners use scientific criteria to decide jointly what needs to be done to conserve and improve rivers and natural habitat in the places where they live. OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon Lottery, federal dollars and salmon license plate revenue. The agency is led by a 17 member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

What is the Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation?

The purpose of the Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation is to identify how OWEB desires to structure its grant portfolio to achieve its mission, priorities and ecological outcomes.

Please refer to pages 3 and 4 for more information about the proposal.

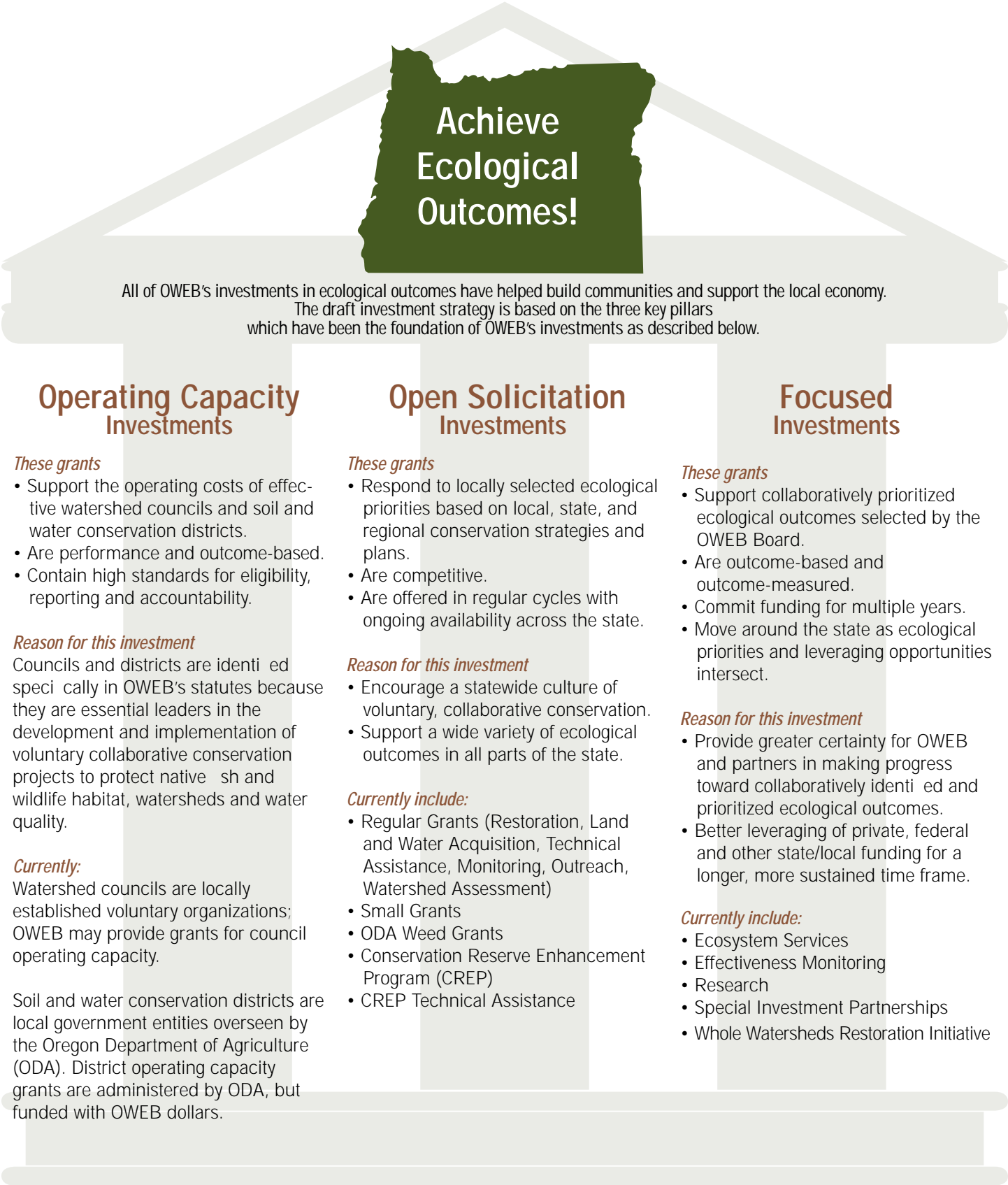
Why a Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation?

With the passage of Measure 76, the time is right for OWEB to evaluate our course and seek ways to improve. Until recently, it was unclear whether OWEB's principle source of funding would be available after 2014. Permanent funding under Measure 76 creates the opportunity to look long-term.

The investment strategy will guide the Board's programs and granting decisions.

Framework for Grant Investments

The Three Pillars



Achieve Ecological Outcomes!

All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes have helped build communities and support the local economy. The draft investment strategy is based on the three key pillars which have been the foundation of OWEB's investments as described below.

Operating Capacity Investments

These grants

- Support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.
- Are performance and outcome-based.
- Contain high standards for eligibility, reporting and accountability.

Reason for this investment

Councils and districts are identified specifically in OWEB's statutes because they are essential leaders in the development and implementation of voluntary collaborative conservation projects to protect native fish and wildlife habitat, watersheds and water quality.

Currently:

Watershed councils are locally established voluntary organizations; OWEB may provide grants for council operating capacity.

Soil and water conservation districts are local government entities overseen by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). District operating capacity grants are administered by ODA, but funded with OWEB dollars.

Open Solicitation Investments

These grants

- Respond to locally selected ecological priorities based on local, state, and regional conservation strategies and plans.
- Are competitive.
- Are offered in regular cycles with ongoing availability across the state.

Reason for this investment

- Encourage a statewide culture of voluntary, collaborative conservation.
- Support a wide variety of ecological outcomes in all parts of the state.

Currently include:

- Regular Grants (Restoration, Land and Water Acquisition, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, Outreach, Watershed Assessment)
- Small Grants
- ODA Weed Grants
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- CREP Technical Assistance

Focused Investments

These grants

- Support collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes selected by the OWEB Board.
- Are outcome-based and outcome-measured.
- Commit funding for multiple years.
- Move around the state as ecological priorities and leveraging opportunities intersect.

Reason for this investment

- Provide greater certainty for OWEB and partners in making progress toward collaboratively identified and prioritized ecological outcomes.
- Better leveraging of private, federal and other state/local funding for a longer, more sustained time frame.

Currently include:

- Ecosystem Services
- Effectiveness Monitoring
- Research
- Special Investment Partnerships
- Whole Watersheds Restoration Initiative

Proposal for OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation

Operating Capacity Investments

Continue this investment area.

Proposed changes

- OWEB is updating its council capacity grant program, and plans to propose changes for Board decision in 2014.
- ODA is revising its grant administration for the soil and water conservation districts.

Reason for proposal

Continue to hold grantees to high standards of effectiveness with the expectation of continual improvement.

Open Solicitation Investments

Continue this investment area.

Proposed changes

- **Small grants:** increase funding and expand types of grants beyond restoration (for example, outreach and monitoring small grants).
- **Regular restoration grants:** caps on individual applications as a way to fund more projects across the state.
- Develop a new process for **“big ticket, large cost” restoration** projects.
- Develop an **outreach grant strategy**, including partnering with other outreach funders to leverage additional investment.

Reason for proposal

Maintain or expand the grant opportunities for local projects, even if the amount of funding for Open Solicitation Investments does not increase, or is reduced over time.

Focused Investments

Continue this investment area.

Proposed changes

- Phase-in a gradual **increase in this investment area over time.**
- Develop criteria and process for Board selection of collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.
- Update criteria and process and improve transparency of Board decisions around Focused Investments, including clear time limits.

Reason for proposal

With committed funding over multiple years, Focused Investments provide greater certainty for OWEB and partners in making progress toward collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes. The increased state emphasis on 10-year outcomes makes it important for OWEB to invest in more certain progress, and to develop clear criteria and process for prioritized ecological outcomes.

Potential
Bene ts & Consequences
of
OWEB's Proposed Direction

While OWEB's funding now has long-term status, grant funds will vary over time and will be affected by state and federal budget decisions.

Depending on funding availability, increases in investments in one area may have impact on other areas of investment.

OWEB is interested in your thoughts on the bene ts and consequences of these proposed changes.

Investment in the following areas provides support and accountability to the above:

Competitive Offering for Emerging Issues

New grant offering.

- Develop criteria, structure and process.
- Consider activities appropriate for one-time/short term funding that are consistent with OWEB's mission, but do not qualify under OWEB's other grant programs.
- Examples include conservation efforts that require short-term assistance for planning or research, and pilot funding for innovative approaches to natural resources management.

Reason for proposal:

OWEB has invested in emerging issues in the past. It is important to have clear structure, criteria and process to guide decisions on funding requests.

Focused Effectiveness Monitoring & Reporting

Continue to conduct board-directed effectiveness monitoring for selected types of Open Solicitation grants.

Proposed change

- Include effectiveness monitoring in all of OWEB's Focused Investments.

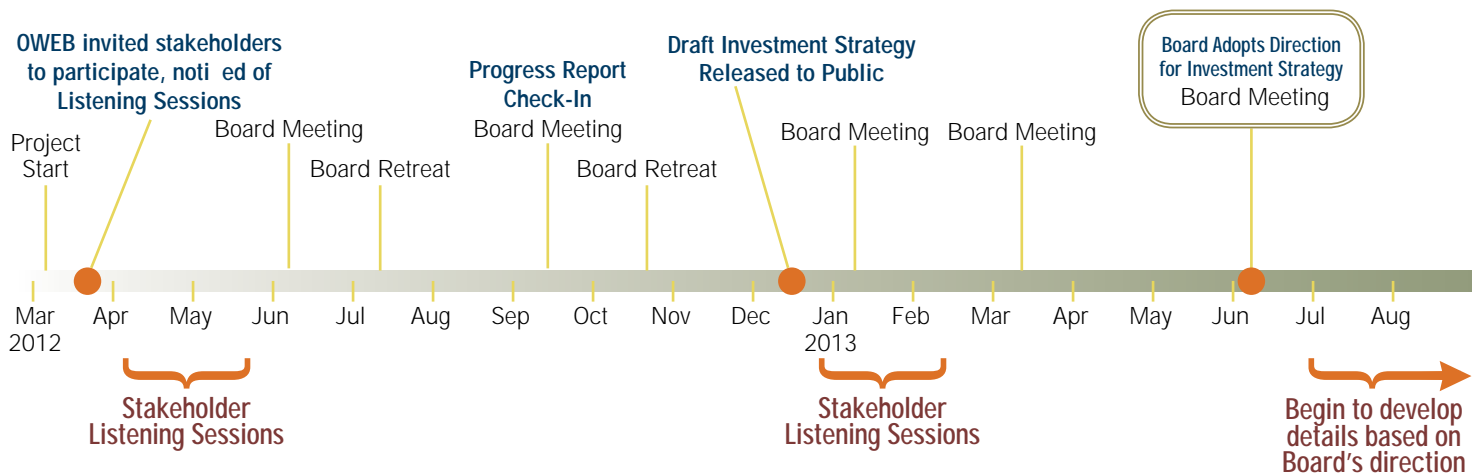
Reason for proposal

Outcomes are foundational to sound investments and adaptive management. It is important to tell the story of accomplishments from OWEB's investments.

Contact Us

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Developing the Proposed Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation



Guiding Principles

for the development and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation

1. Build on accomplishments

OWEB values the commitment and work of our local partners, which has resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB wishes to build on this foundation while working toward the future.

2. Effective communication

OWEB realizes that successful cooperative conservation can only occur when ideas, priorities and results are communicated with all partners and potential partners. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication with its staff, partners and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy.

3. Transparency

OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

4. Maximize service, minimize disruption

In developing the Long-Term Investment Strategy, the Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

5. Responsive

The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board and local partners.

6. Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation

OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy to assure it is meeting the Board's desired goals and outcomes. As needed, the Board shall adapt and modify the strategy to improve overall investment success.

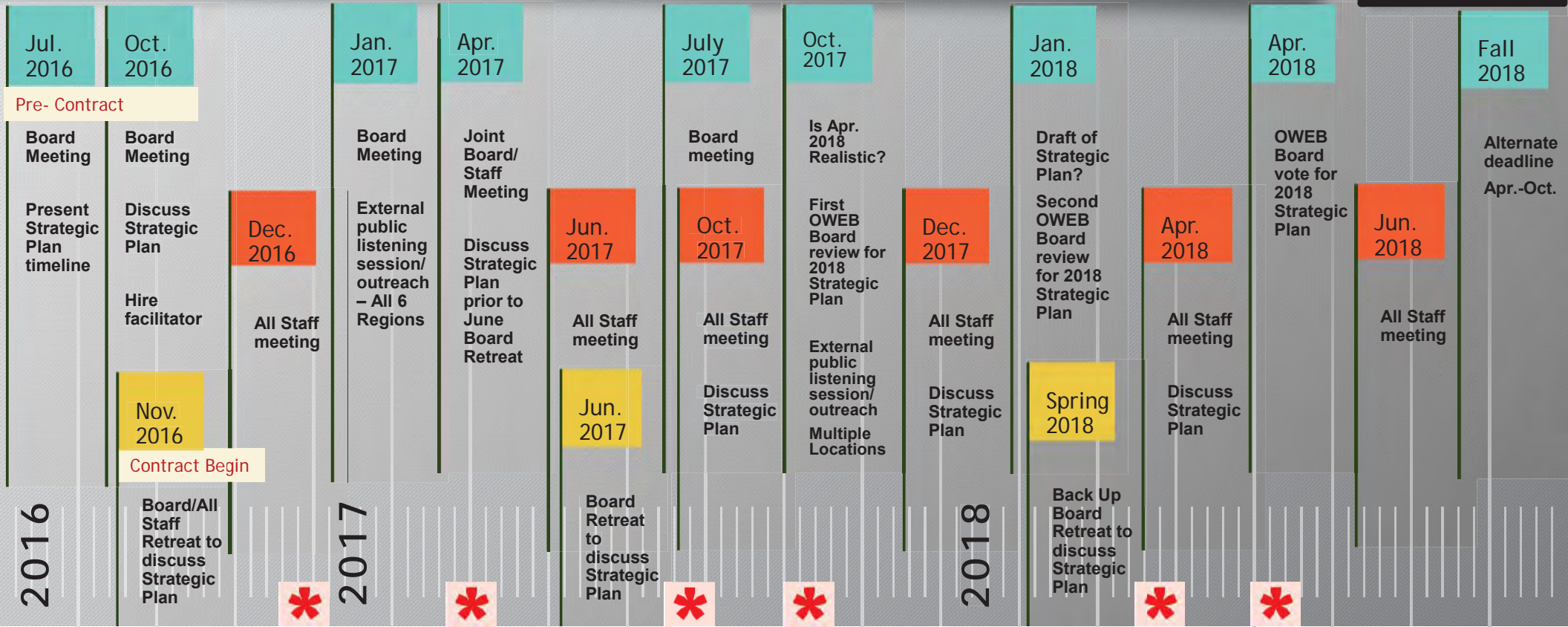
7. Phase-in Change

OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide us in our future efforts and will be periodically revisited. It is designed to implement any changes over a reasonable period necessary to phase-in any changes and allow adjustment by stakeholders and OWEB staff.



Strategic Plan Timeline

Board Meeting
All Staff Meeting
Strategic Plan Retreat
✳ Opportunity for Kitchen Cabinet Meeting



2016

2017

2018

Pre- Contract

Contract Begin

Board Meeting, Board Meeting, Present Strategic Plan timeline, Discuss Strategic Plan, Hire facilitator, Dec. 2016, All Staff meeting, External public listening session/ outreach – All 6 Regions, Joint Board/ Staff Meeting, Discuss Strategic Plan prior to June Board Retreat, Jun. 2017, All Staff meeting, Board Retreat to discuss Strategic Plan, July 2017, Board meeting, Oct. 2017, All Staff meeting, Discuss Strategic Plan, External public listening session/ outreach Multiple Locations, Is Apr. 2018 Realistic?, First OWEB Board review for 2018 Strategic Plan, Dec. 2017, All Staff meeting, Discuss Strategic Plan, Jan. 2018, Draft of Strategic Plan?, Second OWEB Board review for 2018 Strategic Plan, Spring 2018, Back Up Board Retreat to discuss Strategic Plan, All Staff meeting, Discuss Strategic Plan, Apr. 2018, OWEB Board vote for 2018 Strategic Plan, All Staff meeting, Jun. 2018, All Staff meeting, Fall 2018, Alternate deadline Apr.-Oct.

October, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-1: Spending Plan Update

This Director's Update provides information on the timeline for the 2017-19 Spending Plan.

Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the Board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the Board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plate revenues, with the bulk from Measure 76 and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). PCSRF funds have been a significant component of OWEB's budget since 2000, accounting for approximately one-third of OWEB's total funds. The Oregon Legislature routinely allocates PCSRF funding based on estimated federal grant awards over two years.

At its June 2015 meeting, the Board adopted a 2015-2017 Spending Plan totaling \$74.664 million. In July 2016, the Board revised the spending plan to include additional recapture and PCSRF funding.

Since 2000, approximately one-third of OWEB's funding (both for grants and operations) has been provided through the competitive PCSRF grant process, which is offered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. PCSRF has contributed just over \$200 million to Oregon for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. The OWEB Board and the state's Legislature have used PCSRF funding to support watershed restoration-related actions and for staffing in state agencies. PCSRF has significantly enhanced OWEB's expenditures through grants in salmon and steelhead recovery areas around the state.

2017-19 Spending Plan Timeline

The 2017-19 Spending Plan will be approved by the Board in July 2017. In preparation for that approval, the following steps will occur:

- In January 2017, the Board will provide an indication of the percentages it would like to include for Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other grant categories.
- Between the January and April Board meetings, staff and the subcommittees will convene to discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.
- In April 2017, staff will present on each of the grant types within each category (e.g., restoration, FIP capacity-building, etc.) and propose an investment amount for each grant type based on the overall percentages indicated by the Board in January. At that time, the Board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.
- In July 2017, staff will present as the 2017-19 Spending Plan a slate of final recommendations for the Board's approval.
- In July 2018, the Board will consider additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recapture, similar to the approval at the 2016 July Board meeting.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden at Meta.Loftsgaarden@state.or.us or 503-986-0180.

Attachments

- A. Spending Plan Approved July 2016

**OWEB 2015-17 Spending Plan
for the October 2016 Board Meeting**

Attachment A

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Oct 2016 additions to spending plan	Oct 2016 Spending Plan	TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan as of July 2016 awards	Oct 2016 Proposed Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of Oct 2016
Open Solicitation:						
Restoration**		25.207	12.354	12.853	6.460	6.393
Technical Assistance						
Restoration TA**		3.060	1.312	1.748	0.913	0.835
CREP TA		1.050	1.050	0.000		0.000
Monitoring grants**		2.120	0.954	1.166		1.166
Outreach**		0.600	0.310	0.290		0.290
Land and Water Acquisition**		7.500	2.343	5.157		5.157
Weed Grants		2.500	2.500	0.000		0.000
Small Grants		2.800	2.800	0.000		0.000
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500	0.194	0.306	0.019	0.287
TOTAL	0.000	45.337	23.817	21.520	7.392	14.128
% of assumed Total Budget		59.16%				

**if more funding becomes available, will go to these areas

Focused Investments:						
Implementation FIPs		14.058	14.058	0.000		0.000
Capacity-Building FIPs		1.039	1.039	0.000		0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500	0.200	0.300		0.300
TOTAL		15.597	15.297	0.300	0.000	0.300
% of assumed Total Budget		20.35%				

Operating Capacity:						
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		12.500	12.500	0.000		0.000
Statewide organization partnership support		0.300	0.300	0.000		0.000
Building Capacity Grants		0.400	0.400	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	0.000	13.200	13.200	0.000	0.000	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget		17.22%				

Other:						
CREP		0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
Oregon Plan/Governor Priorities		1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas		1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	0.000	2.500	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000
% of assumed Total Budget		3.26%				

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	0.000	76.634	54.814	21.820	7.392	14.428
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OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION						
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife-PCSRF		9.512	9.512	0.000		0.000
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.660	0.500	0.160		0.160
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF		1.200	1.200	0.000		0.000
PSMFC-IMW		0.591	0.591	0.000		0.000
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.300	0.300	0.000		0.000
ODOT	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.000
TOTAL	0.250	12.513	12.103	0.410	0.250	0.160

TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	0.250	89.147	66.917	22.230	7.642	14.588
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October, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-2: Legislative Update

This Director's Update provides information on preparations for the upcoming 2017 Legislative Session.

Background

The 2017 Legislative Session will begin on February 1 and is constitutionally mandated to adjourn by July 10. OWEB has two legislative concepts approved by the Governor's office for consideration during the legislative session. Over the summer of 2016, the concepts have been drafted by Legislative Counsel, with one opportunity for revisions provided to the agency. Legislative concept drafting will be completed by November 1, 2016 and with approval by the Governor, agency concepts will be filed by December 9, 2016.

OWEB Statute Revisions

In June 2016 OWEB submitted additional information for review and a draft bill by Legislative Counsel. The proposed legislative concept would provide cleanup and updates to sections of OWEB statutes including the Oregon Plan, Oregon Plan Administration, Watershed Enhancement Program, and Reports. The statute revisions are intended to include additional language that will revitalize certain statutes and remove aspects of the statutes that are no longer relevant. Some statutes for which repeal or revisions are recommended no longer apply due to statutory changes made by the legislature in previous years, while others reflect changes to the way OWEB serves the public.

In addition to general statutory cleanup, staff are proposing two substantive changes related to 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as an ex-officio member to the OWEB Board, and 2) removing language that allows the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide liability coverage for watershed councils, based on the fact that OWEB is putting in place stronger requirements for all grantees.

In August, 2016 Legislative Counsel completed a first draft of the concept, and staff were allowed one opportunity to provide revisions, which were submitted in late August.

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program work group has met since November 2015 to develop a program to support working farms and ranches while at the same time supporting fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and other natural resource values. Attached is a 4-page summary of the group's current legislative concept which is in the process of being reviewed by both Legislative Counsel and work group member organizations. Staff will provide an update on the program at the October board meeting.

Next Steps

Legislative Counsel will complete drafting of all agency concepts by November 1. By November 16, the final concepts and associated materials will be sent to the Governor's Office and Department of Administrative Services for final review and approval. Agency concepts approved by the Governor's Office will be filed for the 2017 Legislative Session on December 9.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden at Meta.Loftsgaarden@state.or.us or 503-986-0180 or Eric Hartstein at eric.hartstein@state.or.us or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

- A. OAHP Legislative Concept Summary



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Summary of Legislative Concepts



Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands have drawn people to the state for more than 150 years. These "working lands" are the cornerstone of the state's rural communities and provide myriad benefits to the natural environment. More than one quarter of Oregon's 63 million acres are private working lands that create agricultural production valued at \$5.4 billion—the state's second-largest economic driver. At the same time, well-managed agricultural lands support valuable fish and wildlife habitat as well as enhancing other natural resources.

For forty years, Oregon's unique land use system has helped protect working landscapes. Even with a strong economic position and state protections, farms and ranch productivity is increasingly challenged by rising production costs, loss of processing facilities, fragmentation through new land uses, conversion to non-farm uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.

Governor Brown's office convened a group of landowners, conservation and agricultural organizations and agencies to work with landowners, tribal governments, agencies and interested organizations to identify voluntary tools to **help landowners maintain working farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation benefits on those lands.**

Called the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Work Group, they are developing a new program for consideration in the upcoming legislative session. The following pages contain a summary of an early bill draft. The work group will be traveling around the state this fall to get feedback on the tools outlined below to ensure the correct concepts are included in advance of the 2017 Legislative Session.

What does the draft of the bill do?

- 1) Establishes the **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund** to provide a source of revenue to implement the tools outlined in the remainder of the bill. It also allows interest to be earned and used by the fund, as well as allowing for outside contributions that support the identified tools. Funds can be used to:
 - Assist landowners with succession planning;
 - Offer tools that include permanent conservation easements, term conservation covenants, and conservation management plans to protect working farms and ranches while also maintaining or enhancing fish and wildlife habitat or other natural resource values;
 - Conduct a study to determine implications of Oregon's tax structure on succession planning and a landowner's ability to transfer lands to future generations and provide recommendations;
 - Allow the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to charge administrative expenses, limited to 12% after the first biennium.

continued



Awards must:

- Have matching contribution from other program funds, in-kind services or other investment in the project;
- Using ranking criteria (identified below), be reviewed by technical committees that are established jointly by OWEB staff and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (defined below);
- Be reviewed and recommended for funding by Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to the OWEB Board for concurrence based on availability of funding.

- 2) Establishes the **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission** to oversee the program and recommend funding to the OWEB board. Members include:
- Four members representing farming and ranching interests from different areas of the state and representing a diversity of commodities recommended by the Board of Agriculture. All farm or ranch representatives shall be actively engaged in or retired from active farming or ranching;
 - Four members representing natural resource values:
 - Two with expertise in fish and wildlife habitat recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Commission;
 - One with expertise in agricultural water quality recommended by the Board of Agriculture; and
 - One recommended by the OWEB Board;
 - One member representing OSU Extension recommended by the Director of the OSU Extension Service;
 - One member recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission with expertise in conservation easements and other similar land transactions;
 - One tribal representative recommended by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.
 - The OWEB Board shall appoint one of its members to serve as an ex-officio liaison to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

The commission's roles include:

- Serve as rules advisory committee to the agency. The commission is allowed to add specific technical expertise to the initial rules advisory committee if needed;
 - Adopt policy and priority recommendations for use by the agency in evaluating both agricultural values and values that maintain or enhance fish or wildlife habitat, improve water quality or other natural resource values on working lands;
 - Review recommendations made by technical committees;
 - Provide recommendations to the OWEB Board for the board's concurrence based on availability of funds.
- 3) Provides funding to **assist landowners with succession planning training and support**. The commission can recommend funding be provided directly to OSU Extension and/or establish new program to provide grants for training and support.
- 4) Establishes a series of **investments and/or grant opportunities** detailed below. The commission and OWEB staff will consult to design program requirements jointly that allow flexibility and responsiveness to program participants and ensure compatibility with federal working lands conservation easement programs. Participants can receive financial assistance, rental or easement payments, tax benefits, or other payments from other organizations; however, program funds cannot duplicate payments with any other program.



5) Establishes **Technical Assistance grant program** to improve the capacity of and provide technical assistance support for eligible entities who would receive funding to work with farmers and ranchers to develop working lands conservation easements, conservation management plans, and conservation covenants.

6) Establishes **grants for permanent working land conservation easements, termed working land conservation covenants** and development of **conservation management plans**. Grants can be provided for:

- Acquisition of permanent working lands conservation easements;
- Acquisition of termed working lands conservation covenants;
- Other costs directly associated with acquiring, stewarding or monitoring the working lands conservation easement or covenant and development of the associated conservation management plan.

Notes that holders of easements, or covenants are identified in ORS 271.715, excludes state agencies for this program. In addition to easements or covenants, farmers/ ranchers and holders can cooperatively establish a conservation management plan developed cooperatively between farmer or rancher and eligible entity. All plans must:

- Meet standards identified in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund rules;
- Be specific to property and account for farmer or rancher's individual needs;
- Be agreed to by farmer or rancher and eligible entity;
- Be flexible and allow for regular modification if practices or circumstances change, as mutually agreed upon by farmer or rancher and eligible entity;
- Be adhered to by farmer or rancher, including an agreement to regular monitoring by an eligible entity.

7) Establishes **grant program for developing and implementing a conservation management plan**. Costs calculated as an annual payment to farmer or rancher based on annual implementation of management plans. Management plans must meet the same requirements as outlined above, and can last for a period of 20 to 50 years. At any time, a farmer or rancher can sell a working lands conservation easement or covenant. Entities eligible to receive grants under this section include:

- Soil and water conservation districts and other easement 'holders'; not including state agencies
- Watershed councils
- Other non-profit organizations as defined under 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code.

8) Establishes **ranking criteria** to evaluate working land conservation easements, covenants and conservation management plans. Requires commission to consider criteria that:

- Protects, maintains or enhances working farms and ranches,
- Protects, maintains or enhances fish or wildlife habitat, improve water quality or other natural resource values;
- Ensures protection of agricultural outcomes, benefits or other investment gains and that all types of agricultural land are considered equitably;
- Ensures easement, covenant or agreement-holding entity has capacity to hold, monitor and enforce easement, covenant or agreement over time;
- For easements and covenants, maximizes the state's investment consistent with the purposes of this program, including leverage with other resources. Commission shall also consider duration and strength of agreement and associated management plan;

- For management plans, maximizes state’s investment consistent with purposes of this program, including leverage with other resources. Commission shall also consider duration and strength of management plan.

- 9) Requires study by Departments of Revenue and Agriculture to examine **financial incentives and barriers to land transfer and succession planning** to identify mechanisms that improve ability to maintain agricultural lands while conserving natural resource values, as well as identifying where reductions, phase out or elimination of taxes may be recommended. Requires researchers to consult with other state agencies and interested members of the public to identify and propose potential tax incentives and other financial mechanisms. Requires report submitted with accompanying recommendations for legislation to Legislature by September 15, 2018.



Oregon Association of Conservation Districts



Relevant definitions:

“**A conservation management plan**” may be composed of multiple components addressing different natural resource priorities. The plan must be specific to the land and account for the needs of the farmer or rancher. A conservation management plan must be for the purpose of developing and implementing conservation measures or other protections for maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values in a manner consistent with the social and economic interests and abilities of the farmer or rancher. The plan may include provisions for addressing particular priorities related to natural resource values, including but not limited to soil, water, plants, animals, energy and human need considerations.

“**Working land**” means land that is in active agricultural use by the owner or a designee of the owner and that includes, but need not be limited to, use as a farm or ranch.

“**Working land conservation covenant**” means a nonpossessory interest in working land for a fixed term that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations for purposes that must include, but need not be limited to, supporting the use of the land for agricultural production and for the maintenance or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality or support of other natural resource values.

“**Working land conservation easement**” means a permanent nonpossessory interest in working land that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations for purposes that must include, but need not be limited to, supporting the use of the land for agricultural production and for the maintenance or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality or support of other natural resource values.

October 26, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-3: 2017-2019 Agency Request Budget

This update provides information about the status of OWEB's 2017-2019 Agency Request Budget (ARB).

Background

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's Current Service Level (CSL, or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with full policy narratives and justification of funds requested. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages." The Governor provides instructions to guide agency development of Policy Packages.

Status of 2017-2019 ARB

After receiving Board approval in April 2016, OWEB began submitting information associated with the ARB to the Governor's Office and Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in June 2016. This submission focused on financial information submitted to the DAS statewide budgeting and accounting system. OWEB submitted the full narrative for its ARB prior to the September 1, 2016 due date. The budget narrative describes the agency's core mission, objectives, and program priorities, and provides budget information on past, current, and future biennia. The ARB reflects packages approved by the Board in support of OWEB's policy agenda and the financial plan that the agency would like the Governor to recommend to the Legislature. Attachment A outlines the Policy Packages included in OWEB's ARB.

In addition, each biennium agencies are required to submit a report that lists 10 percent reductions of CSL by priority; however, the reductions have not been taken in the past few budget cycles. This may change in the 2017-19 biennium, with the potential requirement for agencies to implement some level of reductions depending on the revenue outlook and the level of remaining ending balances from the 2015-17 biennium. However, ballot measures and ongoing revenue forecasts must also be taken into consideration as the budget is developed. At this time, while 10 percent cuts to CSL have been proposed, there was no cap on increases that could be proposed from agencies. That said, DAS is encouraging agencies to be very cautious with any proposals, and OWEB followed this guidance.

OWEB staff have engaged in early conversations with the agency's budget analyst from DAS to answer clarifying questions about the ARB content.

Next Steps

The Governor's Office will develop state budget recommendations in partnership with agencies, known as the Governor's Budget (GB), to be released in December 2016. In preparation for its development, agencies will have an opportunity to engage in discussions with the Governor's Office and DAS about specific items that have been requested in the ARB and their importance and relevance to state priorities. Ultimately, the GB may also include agency-proposed policy packages, along with additional policy packages that reflect the Governor's initiatives. The GB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the legislative session, agencies may advocate for their individual policy packages only to the extent that they are included in the GB.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0203.

Attachments

- A. Policy Option Packages included in OWEB's 2017-2019 ARB

OWEB 2017-2019 Agency Request Budget

Policy Option Package

1. Program Continuity

	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
<u>River Basins/Native Fish Partnership Coordinator (NRS4; Willamette Partnerships Coord. in LAB)</u> – Continues a limited duration position established in the 2011-13 biennium to manage the work associated with a federal grant from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The position coordinates restoration and protection work with the Willamette Focused Investment Partnership (FIP), along with FIP investments in the Deschutes and Upper Grande Ronde basins, approved by the OWEB Board. This position is requested to be made permanent.	\$271,143	1.00	Goals 1 and 4
<u>Coast Coho/Clean Water Partnership Coordinator (NRS4; Partnerships Coord. in LAB)</u> – Continues a partnerships position focused on coordination of four current programs: the Coastal Wetlands Grant program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program’s technical assistance work, the Board’s Coastal Coho Business planning efforts, and water acquisitions. The position also coordinates with Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Strategic Implementation Areas program. This position is requested to be made permanent.	\$242,397	1.00	Goals 1 and 4
<u>Office Rent</u> – This requests office rent for OWEB field staff in Region 1 to share office space with staff from the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in Newport.	\$12,000	N/A	Goals 1, 3 and 5
<u>Administrative Support (OS1; Grant Analyst in 2015-17 LAB)</u> – Continues a limited duration position that provides a variety of office support for all agency program sections, including processing mail, general filing, scanning files and reports, answering and routing phone calls, scheduling meetings and organizing logistics, taking meeting notes, assembling board materials, and data entry. The position will serve as part of a support team for agency administrative support functions, able to provide backup for other support staff when they are on leave or traveling for the agency.	\$128,131	1.00	Goals 1, 2 and 5
<u>Conservation Outcomes Coordinator (NRS4)</u> – Continues a limited duration position that leads OWEB’s program to measure and report on the ecological, economic and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. The position coordinates with other state and federal agencies to determine priorities and carry out implementation efforts of the Clean Water Partnership, along with the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and other similar initiatives. The position also works with other agencies and local stakeholders to develop conservation outcome metrics, coordinate monitoring and data and ecosystem evaluation methods, and report results at the landscape level and statewide scales.	\$225,109	1.00	Goals 1 and 3

<u>Conservation Outcomes Specialist (NRS3)</u> – Continues a limited duration position to implement aspects of OWEB’s program to measure and report on ecological, economic and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. This position has a specific focus on measuring and reporting on salmon habitat and recovery activities across the state.	\$207,897	1.00	Goals 1 and 3
<u>Contracted Services</u> – OWEB Measure 76 grant funds are not eligible to use for contracting. There are certain work products and functions OWEB needs carried out that are most efficiently and effectively accomplished through personal services contracts. OWEB needs to ensure it has adequate funds available for contracting purposes next biennium. These funds will be used in lieu of hiring additional staff to provide training for effective watershed restoration and conservation; continuous improvement in program delivery; and long-term protection implementation (e.g., title and appraisal reviews, etc.).	\$100,000	N/A	Goal 1-5

2. Program Enhancement

	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
<u>Supplemental Contracted Services</u> – This request supplements the contracted services included in the Program Continuity Package. OWEB Measure 76 grant funds are not eligible to use for contracting. There are certain work products and functions OWEB needs carried out that are most efficiently and effectively accomplished through personal services contracts, for which OWEB has requested funds in the Program Continuity Package. However, that request does not fulfill all of the contracting needs for the agency. These supplemental funds will be used in lieu of hiring additional staff for activities such as effectiveness monitoring and analysis of economic outcomes of the agency’s investments.	\$100,000	N/A	Goal 1-5

3. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
This request is for voluntary tools that help farmers and ranchers maintain land as active farms and ranches while providing incentives and support for conservation on those lands. Legislative concepts will be developed over the summer, and may include funding for land-based (working land easement and long-term contracts) as well as succession and estate planning tools. The request includes associated staff costs to design and implement the program.	\$4,250,000	2.5	Goals 1 and 4

4. Carry Forward

	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2017-2019 biennium.	\$16,400,000	N/A	Goals 1-5

5. Lottery Funds – Measure 76 Grant Funds

	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package provides the budget vehicle for Measure 76 grant funds, which are the primary source of grant funds for OWEB and are used to support a wide variety of grants, including watershed council and soil and water conservation district capacity, restoration, acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring and outreach.	\$65,985,494	N/A	Goals 1-5

6. Additional Grant Funds

	Amount	FTE	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend as grants for collaboratives under the State's Federal Forest Health Program, if additional funds be appropriated by the Legislature for these purposes in 2017-2019.	\$750,000	N/A	Goals 1-5

OWEB Strategic Plan Goals

- 1. Adaptive Investment** – Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through investments that enhance watershed functions and support community needs
- 2. Local Infrastructure Development** – Support an enduring, high-capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation
- 3. Public Awareness and Involvement** – Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds
- 4. Partnership Development** – Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation
- 5. Efficient and Accountable Administration** – Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments

October 26, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-4: Key Performance Measures

This update describes the current status of the proposed revised Key Performance Measures (KPMs) for the agency and the 2016 Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR).

Background

As part of the agency's Annual Performance Progress Report to the Oregon Legislature, OWEB reports on a number of KPMs. These metrics are part of an approach to measure performance and outcomes of state government. Measures must:

- Gauge progress toward agency's goals and mission;
- Use standard terminology and definitions;
- Be few in number;
- Identify performance targets to be achieved during the two year budget cycle;
- Use accurate and reliable data sources;
- Measure customer satisfaction;
- Assign an organizational unit responsible for achieving the target; and
- Address comparable information, where possible.

During the budget deliberation process of each legislative session, the Legislature will approve, disapprove, or change/update each agency's proposed biennial performance measures.

Many of OWEB's current KPMs and the targets associated with these metrics were developed more than five years ago. During the 2015 Legislative Session, OWEB staff notified the Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee that the agency will propose updates to its KPMs for the 2017 Legislative Session.

Status of KPM Revisions

At its January 2016 meeting, the Board approved an initial slate of revised KPMs, with direction to staff to refine two KPMs. In April 2016, the Board approved a final set of proposed revised KPMs for consideration by the Legislature during the 2017 session.

Following Board approval of the proposed revised KPMs in April and as is required as part of the KPM revision process, staff consulted with OWEB's budget analysts from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Legislative Fiscal Office. The analysts recommended minor revisions to the revised KPMs to better clarify intent and focus of the measures for discussion with the Legislature.

The proposed revised KPMs that now have been uploaded to DAS's online KPM system for consideration during session are:

- Native Species Habitat and Water Quality – Percent of restoration, acquisition or technical assistance funding invested to address habitat for threatened, endangered or species of concern, or water-quality concerns identified on 303(d) listed streams
- Streamside Habitat – Number of riparian miles restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants
- Native Fish Habitat Quantity – Miles of fish habitat opened as a result of OWEB-funded grants
- Upland Habitat – Acres of upland habitat restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants
- Fish Populations – Percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance

- Funding from Other Sources – Percent of funds contributed from other sources on OWEB-funded restoration projects
- Grant-Making Across Oregon – Percent of Oregon's 76 sub-basins (defined as 8-digit hydrologic unit code areas) within which Oregonians benefit from OWEB's grant programs
- Watershed Council Governance – Percent of OWEB funded watershed councils that demonstrate effective organizational governance and management using OWEB merit criteria
- Operations – Percentage of total funding used in agency operations
- Timeliness of Grant-Making – Percent of open solicitation grant agreements executed within one month after Board award
- Payments – Percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days
- Customer Service – Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise, and availability of information

Status of 2016 APPR

Staff have completed the 2016 APPR and submitted it to DAS. This year's APPR utilizes the current set of KPMs, given that the Legislature has not yet reviewed OWEB's proposed revised KPMs. The 2016 APPR does reference proposed changes to various current KPMs.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0203.

October 26, 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-5: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Tour

The update provides an overview of the recent PCSRF tour, organized by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) staff, in which OWEB and several local partnerships around the state participated.

Background

NOAA staff from the West Coast Regional Office in Portland have begun hosting tours for NOAA and OMB staff from Washington D.C. The intent of these tours is to provide administrative staff based in headquarters and offices in Washington D.C. an opportunity to see first-hand the results of on-the-ground PCSRF investments. The first tour was held in 2014 in Washington state. This year, NOAA staff asked OWEB to partner in organizing a tour in Oregon for Washington D.C. staff.

2016 Oregon PCSRF Tour

The tour occurred September 12-15, 2016, and involved, among others, the NOAA Chief Financial Officer (CFO), the NOAA Fisheries CFO, the Examiner from the Environment Branch of the Natural Resources Division in OMB, budget analysts from both NOAA and NOAA Fisheries, and staff from NOAA's Protected Resources Division. During the 4-day tour, stops included:

- Meacham Creek, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation;
- Fifteenmile Creek, hosted by Wasco SWCD, the Freshwater Trust, and several local partners;
- Opal Springs, hosted by the Crooked River Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other local partners;
- Whychus Creek, hosted by the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Three Sisters Irrigation District, Deschutes River Conservancy, and other partners; and
- Sodom Channel (previously the location of Sodom Dam), hosted by the Calapooia Watershed Council, Oregon Parks and Recreation, and local partners.

The tour provided a tremendous chance not only to highlight the high-quality restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and outreach work that is occurring in Oregon that contributes to salmon recovery, but also to create a forum for NOAA and OMB staff to talk directly with local partners about their successes, lessons learned, and future restoration needs to address limiting factors for salmon and steelhead and contribute to recovery.

OWEB staff are grateful for the strong network of local partners in Oregon, and deeply appreciative of NOAA and OMB staff taking time out of very busy schedules to visit the state and learn more about the excellent work enabled by PCSRF investments in Oregon.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0203.

October 2016 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update L-6: Update Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Capacity-Building Grants

In January 2016 the Board awarded \$1 million for FIP Capacity Building. This report provides an update on the status of the awards.

Background

The following FIP Capacity-Building awards were made in January 2016.

Applicant	Project Name	OWEB Award Amount
Siuslaw Watershed Council	Siuslaw Coho Partnership	\$86,020
Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	John Day Basin Partnership	\$149,613
South Coast Watershed Council	Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries	\$144,106
Rogue Basin Coordinating Council	Rogue Basin Partnership	\$144,483
Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership	\$137,696
The Nature Conservancy	Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative	\$42,777
Grande Ronde Model WS Program	Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership	\$83,490
Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Partnership	\$149,184
TOTAL		\$937,369

Program Accomplishments

The FIP Capacity-Building grants are all making progress toward program goals. OWEB staff recently completed brief check-ins with all grantees to discuss accomplishments, unforeseen challenges, and overall progress. Staff have also held three conference calls with all the FIP Capacity-Building grantees. The purpose of the calls has been to connect the partnerships with each other, provide opportunities for information sharing, and to discuss a topic of relevance to the partnerships. The topics of the calls have included:

- Kick-off and introduction to program expectations.
- The importance of outreach and engagement with local partners in relation to Strategic Action Plan development and introduction of the Partnership Learning Project.
- Developing the Strategic Action Plan: narrowing down the options and prioritizing the actions.

Each call has also included the sharing of “ah-ha” moments which has facilitated the groups learning from each other. We will continue to hold these calls quarterly throughout the life of the grants to facilitate peer-to-peer learning.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator, at courtney.shaff@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0046.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD January 25, 2017

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

October 25, 2016

OWEB Board Meeting

Ashland Hills Hotel, Cosmos Ballroom

2522 Ashland Street

Ashland, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present

Alvarado, Ron
Armstrong, Ed
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Quaempts, Eric
Stangl, Kathy
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leiendecker, Karen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Beamer, Kelley
Bish, Daniel
Dunlevy, Janelle
Garcia, Diane
Harper, Craig
Haynes, Shavon
Hillers, Pam
Hillers, Ron
Klock, Clair
Morford, Shawn
Rice, Marilyn
Ruiter, Terry
Scott, Nell

The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike.

A. Board Member Comments

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from their represented state and federal natural resource agencies.

Eric Quaempts announced his appointment to the Water Resources Commission and its Drought Task Force. Quaempts said he will be leaving the OWEB Board in January, which is a few months before his term is scheduled to end. He is working with OWEB's Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden on developing a pool of replacements to be considered for the Tribal Representative to the Board.

Kathy Stangl was introduced as a new member of the OWEB Board representing the Bureau of Land Management. She spoke briefly about her background and experience.

Loftsgaarden introduced Audrey Hatch, OWEB's new Conservation Outcomes Coordinator.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the July 26-27, 2016 Board meeting in Otter Rock were presented to the board for approval. Minutes of the August 2, 2016 special meeting of the board held by conference call were also presented to the board for approval. Rosemary Furfey had one correction to the August minutes. She said her name was missing among the list of those present for the August conference call.

Co-Chair Thorndike moved the board approve both the minutes from the July 25-26, 2016 meeting in Otter Rock and the minutes from the August 2, 2016 special meeting held by conference call, with the correction noted. The motion was seconded by Ed Armstrong. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Board Subcommittees Updates

Representatives from the Executive, Focused Investments, Monitoring, Open Solicitation, and Operating Capacity subcommittees provided updates to the full board on subcommittee topics.

Executive Committee: Co-Chair Randy Labbe said the Executive Committee met by teleconference on September 9. The committee members reviewed with OWEB staff their proposed biennial report to the Legislature, which will convene in February. They discussed the Strategic Planning process and the coordination of the first meeting to launch the process. The committee also talked about preparation for the upcoming legislative session with OWEB proposing to sponsor the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) and the addition of an 18th member to the board from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with other statute revisions.

Focused Investment Committee: Will Neuhauser said the Focused Investment subcommittee also met by phone on September 9. He said the FIPs awarded in January are all in progress with no staff concerns. He said they also discussed effectiveness monitoring for FIPs with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF), particularly their "results-chain" reporting mechanism. He said they are looking at the reporting-out mechanism for reporting FIP progress effectively.

Monitoring Committee: Alan Henning said the Monitoring Committee met twice since the last board meeting. One of those meetings was a joint meeting with the FIP Committee and Bonneville Environmental Foundation, where BEF talked about its monitoring approaches in both the FIP Capacity Program and FIP Implementation Program. He said the Monitoring Committee is becoming more active than it has been in the past. At their first recent meeting they discussed fundamentals in monitoring at OWEB, including where OWEB grant funds go, effectiveness monitoring programs established by the board to track its overall progress toward the board's intent within specific programs, and monitoring of projects carried out by other agencies. Henning said staff presented a chart to the committee demonstrating OWEB investments and the effectiveness monitoring that has been applied to each type of investment. He said the committee discussed the value of status and trends monitoring and the monitoring that is necessary to address scientific questions. They started a conversation about how to maximize the effective use of monitoring grants by getting input from staff and field professionals to build sideboards on expectations for future grants, especially because those funds are limited. Finally, they talked about whether there is a need to prioritize where OWEB

offers monitoring grants. Rosemary Furfey agreed to become chairperson for the Monitoring Committee going forward.

Open Solicitation Committee: Bob Webber said the Open Solicitation committee met by teleconference in August to map out the goals of the committee regarding outreach grants, small grants, the funding line process, and the review team process. Webber talked about the changes to the criteria for outreach grants brought about by Measure 76 (M76). He said there was consensus among the committee that addressing outreach grants was a priority to be addressed for the benefit of applicants.

Operating Capacity Committee: Debbie Hollen said the Operating Capacity Committee met in early October to look at the 2017-2019 grant cycle for Operating Capacity. She said staff explained the grant process and deadlines, and the eligibility review process for watershed councils that happens in early November. She said grantees will be notified of eligibility in January, and awards will be granted in July. Hollen also talked about the next Operating Capacity cycle and the funding cycle, which may include cost of living increases. She also mentioned the issue of liability and insurance requirements going into effect on January 1 for watershed councils, which require minimum coverage for all projects and expanded coverage for larger or complex projects. They discussed organizational restructuring grants and success around Benton County Partners, and the merger of the Rogue River Council, and how OWEB wants to continue to support those potential mergers and conversations about partnering through capacity grants.

D. Public Comments

Diane Garcia from the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) addressed the board to thank them for a grant received to purchase a 352-acre property on the Rogue River just north of Medford. The grant was the vision that started their process in fundraising for this property. SOLC raised an additional \$1.7 million, which includes a stewardship endowment for the property so SOLC can manage it in perpetuity. This is one of the largest intact riparian properties on the valley floor with two miles of river frontage and a mosaic of habitats. SOLC is excited to complete their fundraising campaign by end of the year and proceed with acquisition in 2017. Garcia said this is SOLC's first acquisition and feels the process is changing the way they can protect land in Southern Oregon. Garcia presented a 2-minute video.

Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trust (COLT) provided an update from the stakeholder perspective on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. She thanked the board for its support and staff involvement in helping the process along. It has been about one year since the Governor's Office convened a group of stakeholders who work with landowners across Oregon to explore opportunities to provide incentives and tools to assist conservation and succession issues for working farms and ranches. The group includes COLT, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Sustainable Northwest, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Farm Bureau, and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, who collectively work with thousands of landowners around the state. She is excited about the program being included for consideration in the Governor's Budget as an OWEB policy option package because this is a vital tool that Oregon needs. Beamer said Portland State University and Oregon State University conducted a study that showed 64% of Oregon's farmland (10 million acres) will change hands

in the next 20 years, which makes this a critical conversation. Land trusts have been getting more calls on this issue from landowners who are having conversations about who is taking over their operations and what are their conservation options. At this time, land trusts struggle with matching USDA's Agricultural Land Easement Program, which is administered by National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and this 2-year pilot program is a great opportunity to help leverage those federal funds that will benefit landowners. Beamer expressed her appreciation to OWEB for being part of moving this program forward.

Alan Henning asked if the work being done by SWCDs is being brought under this program or accounted for in this program, and about the relationship of OAHP with conservation programs that already exist. Beamer said there is a representative from OACD on the OAHP workgroup who helps inform what kind of tools are still needed. She believes the OAHP work is complementary to existing conservation programs...

Dan Thorndike mentioned his participation in a recent tour of a working lands easement on a large cattle ranch with a different model having over 30 owners. He said it is important to look at the broader experience of OWEB and other organizations to discover lessons learned in generational land transfers.

E. Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitoring Watershed (IMW) – Funding Request

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an update to the board on the monitoring activities of the IMW. Davis requested consideration by the board for funding for the final component of this program from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring for Open Solicitation line item in the 2015-2017 Spending Plan. She summarized the purpose of the IMW project as an evaluation of the effects of collective restoration efforts at a fairly large scale in the Upper Middle Fork John Day watershed over a 10-year period, tracking the effects on salmon and Steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. She pointed out the broad partners in the IMW provide robust science to assess the effects of restoration work. The bulk of funding has come as a pass-through from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), which grants to various entities. She notes that the board has contributed supplemental funding. The board approved in July the receipt of final funding from PSMFC. Davis requested nearly \$19,000 to complete the project in 2017. She asked the board to delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds. She said funding would specifically support work by Oregon State University on data collection, analysis, and synthesis reporting, with the final report due to NOAA and PSMFC in October of 2017.

Karl Wenner stressed the importance of this monitoring project and asked how the report will be used in a meaningful way. Davis said it will be brought back to the board and shared in light of three important components: how restoration is put into place and the adaptive management "lessons learned", the monitoring necessary for an effective study, and some of the communication coordination needs around this issue. She said that information from this 10-year study can help guide how we do monitoring in the future. She also noted that the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Program (PNAMP) is organizing a workshop including all of the IMWs around the region to come together to discuss monitoring design, lessons learned,

and plans for disseminating results. Rosemary Furfey said the community has wanted to understand the information coming from all IMW's across the west. She feels there has been a collective question about what has been learned, how it should be reported, and how other organizations make use of that information. Wenner requested an update of ongoing programmatic effectiveness monitoring projects at every board meeting. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden said the Monitoring Subcommittee will be receiving such updates, but staff will be glad to add additional updates for the board as needed. Wenner also suggested recalling the questions first asked with these projects to see if they have been answered.

Eric Quaempts suggested providing the information to other project proponents to be able to benefit from lessons learned when developing their proposals. Davis agreed and stated the Technical Services Program and Grant Program have an opportunity to work together to determine the salient pieces of the report that can inform other entities that are engaging in restoration.

Gary Marshall asked if this IMW was the only one in the state. Davis said it is the only one funded by PSMFC, but there are others in the state revolving around other issues with different structures (e.g., funding, timeframe, geographic scale).

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award up to \$18,897 from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring for Open Solicitation line item in the spending plan in support of Oregon State University's work as part of the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements, with an award date of October 25, 2016. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives presented background information on the April 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle, and the award recommendations from OWEB staff. He said there were 144 applications submitted. Each of these was reviewed and site visits conducted by the regional review teams in all six regions. He said review team members vote whether to "fund," "do not fund," or "fund with conditions" at the review team meetings, and then rank the recommended projects in priority order.

Williams highlighted the process of the review team meetings, which now includes a co-facilitation model with the Grant Program Manager guiding the meeting, allowing the Regional Program Representatives to focus on content, and the use of clickers to vote on projects. Williams said the clickers streamline the voting process and allow for completely anonymous voting. He has received positive feedback on the clicker process from the review team members. Williams said he will be sending the board the schedule of regional review team meetings for the upcoming cycle, and invited them to attend at least one so they can see firsthand what the process looks like.

Will Neuhauser asked for a running total of funds spent toward the \$10 million Sage Grouse board commitment. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that staff would add a line item indicating what the FIPs have added to the total. Neuhauser also said he appreciates the consistency provided by the new review format, particularly in the summaries, and uniformity across regions.

Ron Alvarado asked for clarification of the term “urgent” in the decision-making quadrant graphic found in Attachment A. Williams explained several different criteria used to measure urgency, including landowner willingness and partner participation. Williams then briefly reviewed the packet of public comment letters and their subject projects, and introduced the Regional Program Representatives, who highlighted projects within their regions that illustrate the strategic nature of the projects (i.e., the project is the right action at the right time at the right location).

REGION 1: Katie Duzik, Regional Program Representative for the North Coast Basin, presented background information about the Skookum Dam and Fiddle & Billy Moore Creek Confluence projects, demonstrating their strategic nature and ecological uplift.

Alan Henning asked about a reduction and change in the amount of funding and work hours proposed for project 217-1001. He said it was a lot of work hours for a comparatively small amount of dollars. Duzik explained the reduction in project management hours was a recommendation from the review team.

Henning also asked to what extent the properties are contributing to the large wood replacement on project 217-1002. Duzik said there are some donations of materials and time, but the bulk of the cost is covered by other partners. Henning wanted clarification about adding large wood to private harvested land. Duzik explained that this is a complex topic on the North Coast with a historical context. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden explained this is an ongoing policy-level conversation around the coordination of a regulatory baseline with voluntary conservation efforts and investments. OWEB is working with what is available and the willingness of landowners to achieve conservation goals as quickly as possible. Will Neuhauser asked how recently the land was harvested. Duzik said it spans 5 ½ miles of stream, so past harvest activity is varied and patchwork, but she estimates harvesting at 20 years ago based on her site visit.

REGION 2: Mark Grenbemer, Regional Program Representative for Southern Oregon, presented project details about Salt Creek fish passage improvement, a technical assistance project identifying and assessing several barriers. He then presented Butcherknife Creek culvert replacement in the Applegate watershed to open two and a half miles of cold water refugia and Coho habitat. He discussed the rich history of the Rogue Basin with strategic planning and prioritization of fish passage barriers for removal, with over 50 barriers removed.

Karl Wenner asked if there has been monitoring to identify any changes since the barriers have been removed. Grenbemer said monitoring is difficult to obtain funding for, but monitoring is occurring, particularly on some of the largest dam removals (e.g., Gold Ray Dam). Wenner stated this is the type of project OWEB needs to push because the outcomes can and should be quantified. Loftsgaarden said that at the January board meeting, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will present on monitoring related to Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding.

Bob Webber asked if there are any downstream passage issues on these two projects. Grenbemer said there are Coho up to these barriers, but no Coho are found above the barriers.

Debbie Hollen and Eric Quaempts also commented on the importance of measuring the outcomes and tracking progress toward OWEB’s long term goals.

Alan Henning asked about two Coos Bay Oxbow projects (217-2009 and 2010). Both were recommended for funding but one fell below the funding line. Henning asked if these were both components of the Coos Bay FIP. Grenbemer confirmed they were.

REGION 3: Liz Redon, Regional Program Representative for the Willamette Basin, presented an upland project called Nelson's Checkermallow Recovery Phase 3. She said the results of this project could establish habitat to de-list the Checkermallow flower from the Endangered Species List. She then presented Middle Crabtree and Upper Thomas Creek Riparian Restoration, which is a project that demonstrates the momentum of landowner interest in riparian restoration along this waterway. This project creates continuity of projects with a common vision, which has been a theme of this region's projects this cycle.

Gary Marshall asked for clarification about exactly what plans are to restore the site in project 217-3007. Redon explained this project is complicated because they have so many different funding streams coming into this site (Jackson Bottom). For OWEB's part, this is a wetland restoration of a degraded floodplain which has recently been overrun by noxious weeds.

Alan Henning asked about before and after monitoring for project 217-3002. Redon explained that monitoring is an explicit component of this project, but that funding for detailed monitoring is difficult to obtain. Henning suggested photo-points as an effective method. Redon said that maps and photo points have been incorporated as a requirement for first payment.

REGION 4: Greg Ciannella, OWEB's Regional Program Representative in Central Oregon presented the main components of the Sun Creek Irrigation Piping project (217-4003). He said this is a strategic action plan project in Klamath County designed to control invasive Brook Trout and provide benefits to Bull Trout and for water conservation. He then presented a strategic opportunity project called Marks Creek Riparian Meadow Restoration (217-4007) east of Prineville, and highlighted the exemplary partnership between the Crooked River Watershed Council and the Ochoco National Forest.

Dan Thorndike asked if the Sun Creek channel would ultimately reconnect with the Wood River. Ciannella said the channel restoration would hydrologically reconnect Sun Creek with the Upper Wood River. He said the new channel is 90% carved out, and expects reconnection to the Wood River to be completed in the spring. He also mentioned NRCS has provided the funds to purchase 250 acres of water rights.

Rosemary Furfey asked if they are seeing positive results in stream temperature, flow, and other indicators of improvement on the Marks Creek project. Greg said the riparian vegetation has greatly improved, and this has been captured with before and after photos. He also said there have been positive physical changes in the channel. This project will help connect the pieces of this project that have formerly been fragmented.

Alan Henning had a question about project 217-4002. He said the \$1 million request from Tumalo Irrigation District seems high and wondered if they could have come in with a more scaled approach. Greg explained he did discuss the proposal with the applicant, and whether the project could be scaled accordingly. However, the applicant has a \$2 million match, so they decided to stay with the higher requested dollar amount. Eric Williams explained that there are no limits on requests, and projects are measured by their merit in ecological gain for the

investment. Eric Quaempts pointed out the value of the substantial increase in acre-feet of water storage in Tumalo Creek and Crescent Lake. Ron Alvarado said it is critical to build this kind of resiliency, especially if Oregon keeps experiencing severe droughts, and acknowledged the merit of this project. Bob Webber requested clarification about where projects fit inside or outside of the FIP geographies. It was noted that the project fell outside of the scope of the Deschutes FIP, and Loftsgaarden noted that staff can provide this information.

Karl Wenner talked about the value of the Beaver project, 217-4022, in light of the historic elimination of beavers in the Klamath.

Alan Henning asked about project 217-4010, which was not recommended for funding. He asked why this project would not be covered by the FIP and wondered if there is a way to indicate when a project is covered by a FIP. Loftsgaarden said staff screen every project and make the determination ahead of the meeting. She said the board will never see a project presented for funding that is found in a FIP geography and seeks to address the FIP-identified outcomes.

REGION 5: Karen Leiendecker, Regional Program Representative for Eastern Oregon, first presented Alder Creek Wetland Restoration (217-5009) to increase floodplain connectivity, provide habitat features, and add channel complexity. She also presented Ruby Peak Pipeline (217-5003) in Enterprise, which is a partnership between the Wallowa SWCD with NRCS addressing one of three pipelines on Alder Slope.

Alan Henning asked if there are grazing rights on the Alder Creek property. Leiendecker said there is a grazing allotment, but the meadow is protected.

Ron Alvarado mentioned this area was recently awarded 2016 RCPP funding as well.

REGION 6: Sue Greer, Regional Program Representative for the Mid-Columbia Basin, presented Lonerock Ridge Juniper Project (217-6020) and provided context and background on the basin and on the strategic planning that went into this watershed. With additional grants being applied for, including a monitoring component, this will be a basin-scale project when it is complete. Greer also presented Tom Colvin Ranch and Twelvemile Creek Middle Fork John Day River Riparian Improvements 217-6024). She highlighted that there are 31 participating and motivated landowners with good momentum.

Karl Wenner asked for clarification about spring development. Greer said the livestock water developments are off-channel because they want to protect the spring site and be able to completely fence off the rivers.

Eric Quaempts inquired about a study for conducting pumping tests included in project 217-6028. He wanted to know how many tests would be conducted and for how long, and asked if there is a report that will be provided as a result of the project. Greer said there will be a deliverable on the results in two years. He also asked for clarification about protecting stream flows once they hit the state line, mentioning the inability to protect water flows in Oregon that are currently being tapped into by junior users in Washington. Greer said the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has been doing restoration work on both sides of the state border and the conversation is ongoing.

There was no public comment on pending Open Solicitation grant applications.

Co-Chair Labbe moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as shown in Attachments E-J to the April 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle staff report. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Approval of Board Recommendations for 2015-2017 Biennial Report

Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board on the agency's development of the 2015-2017 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. She provided background on the past and current requirements for report format. She said there are new State requirements for reports like this to have a web-friendly and mobile-friendly format. Per statute, a 2-page executive summary is required. She reviewed the list of proposed recommended items found in Attachment B to the staff report, including reference to the upcoming strategic planning process on which OWEB is embarking. Davis asked the board to adopt the recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office.

Alan Henning suggested capturing the development of key staff positions that have happened this biennium, and then suggested mentioning working lands efforts, whether forest or agriculture.

Rosemary Furfey drew on the importance of monitoring. She suggested adding an example to the Clean Water Partnership item to provide more detail and support.

Eric Quaempts suggested more graphics and less text on the two-pager, particularly with regard to distribution of funding to programs. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden said that OWEB is challenged by the limit of two pages for the Executive Summary, but said staff would incorporate more graphics into the detailed pdf on the website.

Co-Chair Labbe moved the board adopt as final the Draft Board Recommendations, for inclusion in the 2015-2017 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds including the recommendations for modification of the CWP segment and the working farms and ranches segment, and capturing key staff positions, as outlined in this board meeting. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. OWEB Rulemaking

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on the process and schedule for rulemaking that is planned to occur within Oregon Administrative Rules Division 5 (OWEB Grant Program) and Division 10 (Restoration Grants). Over the summer OWEB initiated a required five-year rule review on several of OWEB's administrative rules. Hartstein said there were no recommended changes to the administrative rules for the Watershed Enhancement Program and Assessment & Action Plan. He said there were also no suggested changes to the rules for the Education and Outreach and Small Grant programs since OWEB will be doing a more extensive review in the upcoming year. Hartstein cited several suggested changes to the

administrative rules for the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5 rules) and Restoration Grants (Division 10 rules). He directed the board's attention to Attachments A and B, which are the Rule Review Memos for each division and discussed examples of suggested changes. Hartstein asked the board to authorize rulemaking to amend the administrative rules for OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants.

Regarding equipment purchased with OWEB funding, Alan Henning asked for clarification about the current rules surrounding equipment ownership relative to the proposed changes. Hartstein stated the equipment currently must be retained by certain agencies and organizations. The suggested change would expand the permission to retain equipment to other approved non-profit or organizational grantees.

Rosemary Furfey asked for clarification about using lottery funds for education and outreach, and whether this issue rises to the level of a rule change. Hartstein clarified that these rules are broad, and can potentially involve funding sources outside of lottery. He also stated that these are the rules used by the regional review teams, stating there is currently no score or weight attached to each criterion, but that a weighting system may be applied in the future.

Alan Henning stated he is not comfortable with "generally accepted requirements" as a threshold criterion for restoration proposals. He feels this is opening it up to broad discretion for aquatic restoration work. He stated, however, that he is comfortable relying on "generally accepted requirements" for the upland portion only. Hartstein said there is an in-progress effort to look at what generally accepted restoration standards are out there, which may lead to a staff-directed policy that is more specific with detailed options. Dan Thorndike suggested including some language to make sure the standards are high enough and not the lowest common denominator. Will Neuhauser said he appreciated having a general rule with control over the more specific policy. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden said that the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) and staff will be discussing this issue.

Hartstein talked about the proposed schedule and process for rulemaking, and said he will come back to the Board in January with an update and will look for board adoption of the amended rules at the April meetings. Neuhauser asked who is on the RAC. Eric said it is a group of eight stakeholders from a tribe, watershed councils, and SWCDs across the state. Dan Thorndike said those initial recommendations would be run through the appropriate subcommittee before coming back to the board.

Co-Chair Thorndike moved the board authorize rulemaking to amend the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants (Division 10) administrative rules. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

Eric Hartstein provided information and logistics for the afternoon tour to the Ashland Forest. The meeting was adjourned at 1:38PM by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD January 25, 2017

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

October 26, 2016

OWEB Board Meeting

Ashland Hills Hotel, Cosmos Ballroom

2522 Ashland Street

Ashland, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present

Alvarado, Ron
Armstrong, Ed
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Quaempts, Eric
Stangl, Kathy
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

OWEB Staff Present

Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leiendecker, Karen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present

Morford, Shawn
Jackson, Kate
Klock, Clair
Rice, Marilyn

The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike. He thanked the sponsors of the reception from the previous night and recapped the tour to the Ashland Forest.

G. Public Comment

Shawn Morford, executive director of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (the Network), spoke about the partnership between the Network and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD). She said they renewed a Memorandum of Agreement in a cake-cutting ceremony at their joint Annual Fall Networking Event in the prior week. She said they were preparing to submit their second year of the biennium funding proposal and discussed some of the new features in the proposal. Morford discussed their planned use of GoTo Meetings as a method of effective networking that reduces costly and time-consuming travel. Dan Thorndike mentioned that in rural areas the use of technology like webinars is an effective method of communication and helps provide for continuing education. Morford agreed that

webinars are highly convenient and cost-effective ways to disseminate information when a face-to-face meeting is not convenient or possible. Karl Wenner said the fiscal benefits that organizations like OACD and the Network can provide to local watershed councils and SWCDs should be considered, particularly insurance packages. Morford said that during the facilitated discussion at their conference in the previous week, insurance – particularly health insurance – was a prime concern. Morford said she would be at the January meeting with another update. She thanked the Board for their commitment to continue to fund the Network and OACD partnership to help facilitate the human side of these restoration projects, and she and pledged to continue providing reports to the Board.

Clair Klock from Corbett came to represent his conservation district in Multnomah and as a retired Oregon farmer. He discussed conservation education for adults and supported “Outdoor School for All” under Measure 99. Klock then recognized OWEB as one of the leaders in helping landowners achieve conservation goals through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and said he hopes this will include small landowners to maintain farmland in the State of Oregon. He is presently in a working conservation easement; he has the land, but not the \$50-75,000 it will take to get to a conservation easement. He mentioned the board’s tour of Ashland Forest as an example of the best way to learn about the scientific value of these projects in order to be able to discuss them with legislative committees.

H. Authorize Interagency Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for Fish Passage Projects

OWEB Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and ODOT Statewide Fish Passage and Aquatic Biology Leader Bill Warncke presented the Board with an opportunity to work together on fish passage projects in a more formal capacity. Warncke provided an overview of ODOT’s existing Fish Passage Program, the type of partners involved, and some of the challenges encountered in identifying these barriers and funding their removal. ODOT is interested in helping watershed councils by contributing funds to the design and construction of fish passage projects, but they have limitations on their authority to enter into agreements with watershed councils that would provide funds for this purpose. Williams requested the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with ODOT in the amount of \$250,000, and to delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with eligible grantees on a project by project basis under the terms of the Master Funding Contribution Agreement.

Alan Henning asked if the funds were for one year. Dan Thorndike asked if the \$250,000 was for each project. Williams said the funds being requested would cover 8-10 projects over 5-10 years, but that amount may need to be adjusted with board approval. Henning also asked about targeting priority projects and whether OWEB would be involved in deciding which projects are the highest priorities. Warncke said watershed councils would approach ODOT with requests, which would be discussed with OWEB and compared with ODOT’s high-priority fish passage projects. Williams noted that all applications would be subject to technical review, as required by OWEB rules. Williams then clarified that the \$250,000 funding is actually ODOT funding that would come through OWEB to distribute as grants to watershed councils. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden mentioned encouragement of past and present

Governors for agencies to share services and she praised ODOT for approaching OWEB with this project. Williams said ODOT draws from a \$4.2 million program to do projects on their own and this smaller amount of \$250,000 per year is to help watershed councils who are not eligible to receive funding directly from ODOT. Warnke said he feels ODOT will maximize their investment with these low-cost projects, which will actually be large impact projects relative to habitat benefit. Eric Quaempts mentioned his appreciation and support of ODOT's work. He wanted to raise awareness and emphasize the importance of the continued involvement of the state historic preservation office to protect cultural resources and ancestral burial grounds when considering projects.

Co-Chair Labbe moved the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide grant-making services for habitat restoration projects up to \$250,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously.

K. OWEB Strategic Plan

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the board on developments that have occurred in the process to update OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan. Loftsgaarden talked about the kick-off process and schedule of future dates, and the subset of staff that would be part of the steering process along the way. She also talked about an external stakeholder team that would also act as advisors to the Board.

Loftsgaarden announced the selection of a contractor for strategic plan facilitation called Dialogues in Action (DIA). She highlighted DIA's new and innovative approach to reaching out to and interviewing stakeholders. She also talked about how they maximize board engagement to help understand what is truly important to stakeholders. Rosemary Furfey asked about the deliverable reports and who would be responsible for writing the plan. Loftsgaarden said that DIA would contribute to developing the plan; however, the board will be very involved in setting the direction and the tone, and staff will be heavily engaged in identifying the implementation components. She also talked about the evaluation component DIA provides in this process and tracking progress toward the achievement of goals, which is missing from OWEB's current strategic plan.

Eric Quaempts asked about how the stakeholder group will be formed. Loftsgaarden said that will be something discussed in the future after the facilitator has been brought into the discussion. Stephen Brandt said a strategic plan is often broad like the one we currently have, with an accompanying implementation plan that is more detailed with specific and measurable goals. He asked if OWEB will develop two plans, or roll them into one. Loftsgaarden said it is likely that OWEB will have both kinds of documents, but those decisions will also be made in conjunction with the facilitator.

Loftsgaarden explained how the current strategic plan was developed prior to the passing of M76, which meant trying to create a plan with an unknown funding future for the agency. She then reviewed each goal in the Strategic Plan and the major strategies to support them, and

then explained how OWEB has achieved or exceeded each goal. Where goals were not achieved, Loftsgaarden explained how components of the plan became obsolete because the language of M76 excluded them from funding.

There was discussion around Goal 3 (provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds), prompting Loftsgaarden to clarify that OWEB's role is not to be the face of conservation, but to support and assist local organizations in being the face of conservation in Oregon. Randy Labbe suggested OWEB needs to find creative ways to present top-down results of OWEB's work to the citizens and Legislature because he feels there is not a strong understanding of how OWEB works. Bob Webber also feels that OWEB needs to do a better job of communicating to the public OWEB's role in conservation and restoration. Dan Thorndike said this highlights the slim difference between outreach and education. He suggested that people who are unaware of OWEB may be equally unaware of their local watershed council. He agrees there is value in communicating to the public the role of OWEB in local conservation efforts around the state. Loftsgaarden responded that promotion of the work OWEB accomplishes through local partnerships might be something best-accomplished through local groups, which is happening more through press releases and local stories about projects. Rosemary Furfey agreed that diffusing implementation down to local groups was the correct avenue, but advocated for a greater role in providing the whole story at the state level. She believes OWEB has the responsibility to tell the story, analyze it, and move it forward in the public perception. Loftsgaarden replied that this will be an excellent topic of conversation for the strategic planning process starting in January. Karl Wenner talked about how monitoring can provide for public awareness of the restoration work that has been accomplished. Ed Armstrong talked about how OWEB can benefit from members of the media which can help communicate with the public in an effective manner that speaks to work at the local level. Rosemary Furfey said we should look at the biennial report with fresh eyes as an important vehicle to see if it is telling the story we want to tell. Loftsgaarden talked about the materials and publications OWEB uses to communicate with legislators and the congressional delegation, and how these have not yet been shared with the board.

Alan Henning commented that OWEB tracks more than 1,100 open grants. He encouraged inviting other "invisible" OWEB staff who manage or support the grant programs to come to a board meeting to talk about what they do. Loftsgaarden stated that staff are designing and running a very efficient system, and would come to speak with the Board when appropriate.

Dan Thorndike directed the board members to consider whether there are any key changes they want to see in the new strategic plan, which may or may not be driven by the language of M76. He also questioned how to set it up to deal with a potential generational gap. Loftsgaarden said. For the new plan, the board can either work from the original plan or start with a clean slate. Eric Quaempts warned about the complacency that may come with the security of the passing of M76 and permanent funding. He encouraged board and staff to keep setting high standards and continue challenging themselves so future board and staff members will also follow a pattern of high performance. He also recognized the importance of gathering a stakeholder group for the strategic plan that is diverse and includes university-aged youth.

Will Neuhauser noted that the strategic plan will be complete in 2018 which coincides with the 20th anniversary of the passage of Measure 66. He suggested an approach for the new strategic plan based on another 10-20 years.

L. Executive Director's Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues.

1) Spending Plan: Executive Director Loftsgaarden called the board's attention to the timeline for the Spending Plan. She said the board will have a conversation in January about where the board wants to be in very broad terms regarding percentages allocated to each of the grant programs. In April, OWEB staff will bring each of the line items before the board and recommend what those amounts should be based on the budget forecast. Finally, in July the board will approve the new spending plan for the next biennium. Eric Quaempts suggested considering how the strategic plan and the spending plans are linked and how to communicate that to stakeholders. Loftsgaarden said it has been very helpful to have the spending plan built around the Long Term Investment Strategy so stakeholders can see how the board's actions reflect the strategies OWEB is trying to implement.

2) Legislative: Executive Director Loftsgaarden presented the OAHP legislative concept and walked the board through nine points in Attachment A. She provided a brief history of the formation of the work group and talked about their schedule of meetings, public listening sessions, and a future timeline through program implementation in July 2017 if the legislative concept is passed in the 2017 legislative session. She said the workgroup is refining the concepts and then bringing forward any amendments to the legislative draft if it has a hearing in the legislative session. Loftsgaarden explained the focus of the OAHP workgroup is to develop voluntary tools that keep working lands in farming and ranching that are supporting the economy, healthy rural communities, and healthy fish and wildlife and other natural resources. She said the projects that fit this program are different than those funded through M76, but that is by design. She said that agriculture is the second largest economic driver and the cornerstone for rural communities; however, these lands also support valuable fish and wildlife habitat. She covered the goals of the program, then the details of the program, highlighted in the attachment.

Loftsgaarden explained how the OAHP would work and the role of the OWEB Board to approve the receipt of funding for OAHP projects. OAHP first establishes a separate fund (non-M76) using lottery bonds. Then the OWEB Board establishes OAHP representatives as a commission, composed of a mix of conservation and agriculture representatives, with a tribal representative and an OWEB Board representative. These members will be appointed and guided by the OWEB Board to oversee the investments. Funding approval will always come from the OWEB Board, but individual project investments would be decided by the commission. Karl Wenner asked where staff will come from, and Loftsgaarden said that funding from the program would provide for new staff.

Loftsgaarden talked about the suite of tools being made available for landowners under OAHP. Alan Henning asked if succession planning is the trigger to get landowners involved. He also

asked about when project goals overlap with M76 viability and how to qualify a project for OWEB funds or OAHP funds. Loftsgaarden said succession planning is one element of the program that can help recruit landowners. She clarified that most of the projects in working lands easements do not meet the bar for M76 funds. However, if a project meets that bar, it would come through an OWEB grant program. She said there is a proposal for a dedicated staff person who would be working in both programs to counsel and direct landowners to the right program since there may be some overlap.

Will Neuhauser asked for clarification about the definition of a working lands easement from a land use perspective. Loftsgaarden said an easement is normally a document that takes away rights, and sometimes also provides affirmative obligations, and landowners are compensated accordingly. Landowners may have a management plan, but it is not a requirement of the program. The goal is to keep the lands in agricultural production, providing habitat values even at a minimum level, such as non-development restraints. Ron Alvarado talked about the investments that have been made to protect habitat in terms of improvements, and now the NRCS Agricultural Land Easements program is being implemented to sustain the conservation and on-farm improvements. Loftsgaarden agreed that this is what OAHP is designed to do. She said that the program would help sustain current conservation work that is being completed.

Karl Wenner asked who will hold the easement. Loftsgaarden said local land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and others will hold them because it is very important to landowners to continue working with local organizations. OWEB will not hold easements, but will always have third party rights of enforcement. Wenner suggested that there would need to be some capacity building for non-profit land trusts, and Loftsgaarden acknowledged that this has clearly been identified as a need based on gap analysis funded by OWEB and NRCS.

Loftsgaarden emphasized how there is some sensitivity to giving up development rights for perpetuity. There is an option in the OAHP for termed working land conservation covenants (20-50 years). Dan Thorndike compared the potential success of this type of easement with the success of termed water leases, versus the full transfer of water rights which can make right holders more reluctant to participate.

Loftsgaarden talked about planned grant programs and the ability to leverage with NRCS for match funding. Ron Alvarado reflected on the more strategic approach of OWEB with FIPs, and NRCS's approach with RCPPs, as more landscape-scale level conservation. He said OAHP is another tool in the toolbox for the agricultural community and will help to capture what has been improved together on a more landscape-scale. He believes NRCS may have an opportunity to provide match for this program.

Rosemary Furfey asked if there had been conversation among staff that participation in this program would affect OWEB's mission and strategic plan with regard to being linked to programs that may not meet M76 goals. Loftsgaarden said that OWEB already supports projects through different programs that have different requirements than those found in M76 (e.g. Forest Collaboratives, Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction, and PCSRF). She said this program fits well with the triple bottom line of the strategic plan, but the funding source is different. She sees it as the equivalent of another grant program.

Alan Henning asked about the dichotomy of funding projects that do not meet M76 goals, and thereby do not meet OWEB goals. Loftsgaarden emphasized that the OAHP program is seeking a different funding source because its projects will not meet M76 funding goals. She clarified that these projects would still provide for fish and wildlife habitat, but they would be doing conservation in parallel with working lands.

Randy Labbe said he feels the OAHP program would complement the M76 goals, but the task of educating people about it is difficult. He said Oregon has one of the highest estate taxes in the country, which is a huge dilemma because it makes properties valuable for investors... Gary Marshall said he sees the potential for conflict with M76 goals, but we need to weigh the potential complement we can provide for the state that may be larger even than what we're thinking of now. Loftsgaarden said the states that have this in place already have a tremendous value added.

Eric Quaempts asked about assisting families with alternate uses, citing the example of areas with ground water issues and if this program would cover conversion to other enterprises, such as solar farms. Loftsgaarden said this program would probably not fit for that purpose, but it might help with succession planning.

Rosemary Furfey asked if the board will get a staff report and an analysis of how the program will work and its implications (e.g., staffing, budget, timing, etc.). Meta Loftsgaarden said the budget has already been presented to the board for this program, and that staff will be happy to provide these items again. However, but those figures are not available now because they are not yet in the Governor's Budget. If the concept is not in the Governor's Budget OWEB will no longer be authorized to promote the program. The workgroup could carry it forward with the legislature if it is not in the Governor's Budget.

OWEB Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented to the Board OWEB's other legislative concept that involves statute revisions. The legislative concept would provide cleanup and updates to certain sections of OWEB statutes. He said final approval of all agency concepts from the Governor's Office will occur in December in order for concepts to move forward in the 2017 legislative session.

Gary Marshall asked about when action would be taken on the decision to add a member from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hartstein replied that, if the concept passes, July would be the earliest date for an appointment.

3) Budget: Executive Director Loftsgaarden provided a brief overview of the budget forecast and lottery revenues. The \$1.4 Billion deficit requires all agencies to submit a budget cut at 5% and 10% of current service level. State revenues will not be able to keep up with the deficit, including the impact of PERS costs, even if the economy continues to grow. OWEB developed its budget with both best-case and worse-case scenarios in mind, relative to ballot measures pending in the upcoming election. Attachment A is the proposed best-case budget.

Dan Thorndike asked for clarification about the difference between general funds and lottery funds and whether both are affected by the cuts. Loftsgaarden explained that both kinds of operating funds are impacted when developing the requested budget cuts, but that grant funds are not affected.

Deputy Director Renee Davis walked the board through the specifics of the Agency Request Budget, directing the board to Attachment A. She said additional requests above and beyond current service level are described as Policy Packages and reminded the board they reviewed and approved these packages in April. Davis talked about the Program Continuity package, which includes several limited duration positions that OWEB would like to continue, along with contracting funds that facilitate such work as acquisitions due diligence. Alan Henning asked whether it was more feasible to hire a part-time employee to handle the duties listed under Contracted Services for acquisitions. Davis stated that a simple analysis shows this is more cost-effective because it's difficult to predict what the workload will be in acquisitions. She said this has been a more strategic way to target what OWEB needs based on applications that come in. Bob Webber asked if the Strategic Plan facilitator contract fees were included in Contracted Services. Loftsgaarden replied that it falls in OWEB's base budget.

Davis talked about the Program Enhancement request being additional contracting funds that would support such activities as Monitoring.

Loftsgaarden reviewed the request of \$4.25 million for the OAHP and walked the board through the duties of 2.5 designated employees and the distribution of the remainder of funds to the different grant programs under that initiative. Randy Labbe asked if the workgroup has calculated how much federal funding we are forgoing by not having match. Loftsgaarden said we forgo all match funding at this time. With the program, we could bring in \$2.25 million. The goal of the program is to grow to \$8-10 million, and we would match that with federal funds. She said if OAHP is in the Governor's Budget, then OWEB will work with the legislature and the workgroup to push it as hard as we can. Conversely, if OAHP is not in the Governor's Budget, it will be the job of the workgroup to get a legislator to support the program and OWEB can no longer promote it.

4) Key Performance Measures (KPMs): Deputy Director Davis updated the board about the Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) submitted to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and the Legislative Fiscal Office, and discussed the status of the proposed revised KPMs. She provided a broad overview of the KPM process and purpose to gauge progress toward mission and goals while measuring customer satisfaction. She reviewed the board's approval of proposed revised KPMs over time since January. Davis offered to send the APPR out to board members by e-mail and said that staff will keep the board apprised at future meetings about the conversations around the new slate of KPMs.

Eric Quaempts said he has advocated for a greater focus on floodplain process as it relates to riparian work, and he wondered if it was too late to make that change. Davis said it is too late to add it to this slate, but it could be on the radar for future KPM updates.

5) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Tour: Deputy Director Davis summarized the events of a recent tour, in partnership with the NOAA Portland office, to highlight some OWEB investments funded under PCSRF and OWEB's M76 funds. This tour was organized on behalf of NOAA Headquarters staff and staff from the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to see first-hand the on-the-ground results of PCSRF investments. The tour also created a forum for visiting staff to talk directly with local partners about their successes, lessons learned, and future restoration needs to address limiting factors for salmon and steelhead.

Eric Quaempts expressed his appreciation for Meacham Creek being selected as a stop on the tour. He talked about his conversation with OMB staff about floodplain processes and buffering the effects of climate change. Loftsgaarden said this OMB staff person was the same person she and the co-chairs met with at the Washington D.C. meetings in May.

6) FIP Capacity Building: Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff addressed the board about FIP Capacity-Building grants, stating are all making progress toward program goals. She said OWEB staff recently completed brief check-ins with all grantees to discuss accomplishments, unforeseen challenges, and overall progress. Staff have also held three conference calls with all of the FIP Capacity-Building grantees. The purpose of the calls has been to connect the partnerships with each other, talk about challenges and “ah-ha moments,” and provide opportunities for information sharing.

Shaff also talked about how these grant funds are being leveraged by grantees and thereby increasing the capacity of the partnerships and individual partners to complete work.

Karl Wenner asked whether each partner, as part of this, will develop a strategic action plan for coordination or a plan for actual restoration activities. Shaff said there were four activities they could apply for in this biennium: 1) enhance an existing strategic action plan, 2) develop a new strategic action plan, 3) develop partnership materials, or 4) do community outreach related to their strategic action plan. All existing FIP Capacity-Building grantees are either developing or enhancing a strategic action plan.

M. Other Business

Fiscal Manager Cindy Silbernagel discovered a technical issue that needed to be addressed by the board. The board-approved funding tables were missing Plant Establishment or Effectiveness Monitoring splits because staff need to prepare separate grant agreements for those amounts. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided an example of what one of these splits looks like from the funding tables and project summaries. She said the board needed to approve those splits as a technical fix, and it would not change the amount awarded.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the Board approve all Plant Establishment and Effectiveness Monitoring splits as indicated in the evaluations for approved restoration grants. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Labbe at 11:00AM.